

## Fourth 1997 HSA Quarterly Meeting

[as reported in the *HSA Newsletter*, Vol. XIII, No. 1, winter 1998]

Towpath haiku society was the host for the final quarterly meeting of the Haiku Society of America for 1997. Once again we had the use of the wonderful space provided by the Japan Information and Cultural Center, a department of the Embassy of Japan, in downtown Washington, D.C. People attended from as far away as Florida, Arkansas, and Illinois as well as Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Attendees included Stephen Addiss, Ed Barth, Roberta Beary, Alexius Burgess, Maureen Collins, Ellen Compton, Kristen Deming, Fred Donovan, Dee Evetts, Yoriko Fujisaki, Lee Giesecke, Lee Gurga, Josh Hockensmith, Jim Kacian, Howard Lee Kilby, Joe Kirschner, Karen Klein, Kenneth C. Leibman, Andrea Missias, Pamela Miller Ness, Marian Olson, Tony Sweet, R. Paul Tucker, Anita Sadler Weiss, Richmond D. Williams, and Laquita Wood.

The **Business Meeting** was chaired by HSA President Lee Gurga. The other Officers present were Dee Evetts, Secretary, and Kenneth Leibman, frogpond Editor. Officers-elect present in a nonvoting capacity were Kristen Deming, 1998 HSA President, and Jim Kacian, 1998 Frogpond Editor. (The President later polled the Officers not present, for their votes on the motions proposed.)

After further discussion of the proposals for an HSA logo and T-shirt, it was agreed: that the search for a logo design should not be continued; that the search for a graphical representation of the Society's name should be continued, and additional designs solicited; that Michael Dylan Welch be asked to submit additional designs; and that any official HSA T-shirt should carry the Society's name and Web site address.

Dates and venues for the 1998 quarterly national meetings were considered, and Kristen Deming undertook to finalize the details during the coming weeks, in coordination with the Secretary.

It was agreed that incoming HSA Officers should routinely be invited to attend the last quarterly Executive Committee meeting of the year, in order to facilitate the transfer of responsibilities.

— *Dee Evetts*

For the **General Meeting** an urban Christmas ginko was held in the morning, organized by Ellen Compton and including the White House seasonal decorations. The business meeting of the Executive Board of the HSA met during this time at the site. The general meeting was convened at 1:00 p.m. by outgoing Southeast Region Coordinator Jim Kacian, who introduced the outgoing President of the HSA, Lee Gurga. Lee welcomed the group, announced the results of the recent elections as well as the HSA Merit Book Award winners, and then spoke briefly on the topic "Can Haiku Matter?," raising several interesting points. He then introduced HSA President-elect Kristen Deming, who regaled

the audience with an account of some of the highlights of her 13 years in Japan, especially among the major poets and other artists with whom she trafficked.

Andrea—better known as A.C.—Missias, one of the most accomplished and best-known haiku practitioners on the Internet, next spoke on access to haiku on the Internet, previewing the column she will have in upcoming issues of *frogpond*. Dee Evetts brought the meeting to its recess with a discussion of the gray area of certain poems that might be seen as either haiku or *senryū*.

towpath haiku society sponsored the intermission refreshments, and, following the recess, had an opportunity to exhibit some of their writing skills. Lee Giesecke, Treasurer of the towpath society, gave a brief and informative talk on the history of the society and then introduced several members of the society, including Fred Donovan, Ellen Compton, and Alexius Burgess, who read briefly from their own work. This gave us the opportunity to express our appreciation to all who had helped to make the meeting possible, especially Fred Donovan, who chaired the Hospitality Committee, arrived early and stayed late, and made certain that everyone who came enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

The remainder of the meeting was given over to the enjoyable workshop provided by lame-duck *frogpond* editor Ken Leibman, who, with his usual panache, made the trip enjoyable for all. The meeting adjourned only a few minutes past the time we were to leave, and nearly all adjourned to the Kawasaki Restaurant to continue the celebration.

We are all looking forward to the next quarterly HSA meeting in the Southeast Region — the March 1999 meeting is tentatively scheduled for the University of Richmond.

— *Jim Kacian*