

Fourth 1998 HSA Quarterly Meeting

[as reported in the *HSA Newsletter*, Vol. XIV, No. 1, winter 1999]

Executive Committee Meeting. The HSA Executive Committee Meeting was held in New York, Saturday, December 5, 1998, at the Japan Society, preceding the Fourth Quarterly Meeting. The meeting was chaired by Kristen Deming, President. Other officers present were Jerry Ball (Vice President), Dee Evetts (Secretary), Raffael de Gruttola (Treasurer), and Jim Kacian (Frogpond Editor). Also present in a non-voting capacity was Paul O. Williams, the HSA President-elect.

The EC heard a report that the first meeting of the Education Committee, chaired by Pamela Miller Ness, resulted in broad agreement to proceed with the preparation of an HSA package of resources for teachers, in collaboration with the Japan Society, using materials already available. Ideas for enlarging and improving such a package were discussed.

Charles Trumbull's draft proposals for guidelines in judging the Merit Book Awards were noted, and it was agreed that further discussion is needed before voting on these. William J. Higginson made a formal representation to the EC with some objections and proposals regarding the administration of the Awards. The EC agreed to take these into careful consideration. A motion to confirm the \$10 administration fee, determined at the previous EC meeting, was approved.

The EC voted to honor Bernard Lionel Einbond, a Charter Member of the HSA recently deceased, by renaming the HSA Renku Contest as the Bernard Lionel Einbond Renku Contest.

After considerable discussion, and realization of our managerial limitations, it was decided to leave the Kayfa Roshi Award under Mrs. Kay F. Anderson's able direction, while continuing to give recognition and support by the HSA.

The EC voted unanimously to honor Prof. Kazuo Sato for his unique and important role in supporting and encouraging haiku poets around the world.

Treasurer Raffael de Gruttola gave copies of his report to all Officers present. Secretary Dee Evetts reported that in the HSA annual elections all candidates had been duly elected or reelected.

— *Dee Evetts, Secretary*

General Meeting. The Fourth HSA Quarterly Meeting of 1998, hosted by the Northeast Metropolitan Region, was held from 1:00–5:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 5, a weekend of the full moon. Thanks to the generosity of Ambassador Clark of the Japan Society and the efforts of President Kristen Deming, we were able to honor the HSA's 30th anniversary in the elegant facilities of the Japan Society in New York City.

About 60 regional, national, and international members and guests attended the meeting. Kristen opened with introductions and thanks to all those responsible for contributing to this program, especially Ms. Yoko Takanawa of the Japan Society who was responsible for overseeing all the advance arrangements and final details on the

day of the program. Kristen also thanked many people who have supported the HSA over the past years: Yasko Karaki, Mari Eijima, Daniel Meloy, John Miele, Lilli Tanzer, and Junko Tozaki. Dee Evetts presented the Secretary's report, shared a brief overview of the first meeting of the newly established Education Committee, and read the results of the Henderson contest. Kristen then introduced President-elect Paul O. Williams, who also welcomed the group.

The program continued with a memorial tribute to Bernard Lionel Einbond, with his widow Linda, daughter Julia, and several friends in attendance. Leroy Kanterman and L.A. Davidson spoke and read a few haiku by Bernard:

for miles and miles
and miles the sameness of
fields of dry grass

the thousand colors
in her plain brown hair —
morning sunshine

Joined by Raffael de Gruttola and Penny Harter, they read "Another Season," a renku written by Bernard, L.A., and Elizabeth Searle Lamb. Kristen concluded by announcing the Executive Committee's decision to name the HSA annual renku contest in Bernard's memory.

Kristen continued with a special tribute to Prof. Kazuo Sato, Director of the International Division of the Museum of Haiku Literature, who traveled all the way from Japan for the occasion. Professor Sato was honored for his contributions to the advancement of international haiku. He was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the president, officers, and founders who attended. He, in a Japanese gesture of thanks, presented the HSA with a donation from the Museum of Haiku Literature.

To honor the charter members of the HSA on this occasion of our 30th anniversary, the next event was a Founders' Panel. L.A. Davidson opened by tracing the development of A Haiku Path, which she called "a miracle book," compiled over several years through the collaboration of 16 poets. Leroy Kanterman, the first president of the HSA, discussed his early collaboration with Harold G. Henderson and the founding of the Society. Alfred Marks reflected on the connection of tanka and haiku; Bill Higginson discussed the early officers of the HSA; and Edythe Polster shared recollections of the journey of haiku from Japan to the West. Kristen concluded by sharing a letter from Elizabeth Searle Lamb and presenting each founder with a certificate and a photograph of the HSA cherry tree planted in their honor last year in Washington, D.C.

The group adjourned for conversation, refreshments, book browsing, and viewing a display of the magnificent *shikishi* given to the HSA in 1978 by the Museum of Haiku Literature in Tokyo. The *shikishi* will eventually be sent for safekeeping to the American

Haiku Archive in California and will be exhibited from time to time for HSA members or museums.

Following the break, Hiroaki Sato gave an informative and interesting lecture on “Arii Shokyu (1714–1781): A Woman who Followed Bashô’s Way,” tracing the journey she took modeled on Bashô’s.

Jim Kacian concluded the program with a workshop in which he invited participants to think back on some occasion in their lives when they felt recognized or appreciated. He then asked everyone to swap stories with someone whom they didn’t know well. The next step was to write a haiku or senryû inspired by — here came the twist! — the other person’s story. This exercise produced a buzz of conversation, followed by a good deal of scribbling. Many of the resulting poems were read aloud, among them these four:

a spring morning
the face of the single mother
in algebra class

— Jerry Ball

from the center
to the quarterback
his face upside down

— Arlene Teck & Leroy Kanterman

together to work —
not needing a reason
the second time

— Andrea Missias

e-mail friends
all viewing the moon
on the same night

— Jaxon Teck

Following the formal program, many participants enjoyed the hospitality of Hiro Sato at his annual December party and dinner afterwards at a local restaurant.

— *Pamela Miller Ness*