

Fourth 2003 HSA Quarterly Meeting San Francisco, Calif., December 6, 2003

[as reported in the *HSA Newsletter*, Vol. XIX, No. 1, February 2004]

The meeting was opened by Rich Krivcher, California regional coordinator, at 10:30 A.M. in Room C 235 at Fort Mason. Rich welcomed everyone and offered a brief introduction to HSA-its history, purpose, activities, and publications. Those present then introduced themselves and, if inclined, read one of their own haiku.

The results of the HSA elections were conveyed to the group [Please see the "Secretary's Report" following this report]. The winners of the Haiku Poets of Northern California's 2003 contests (in haiku, senryu, tanka, and renga) also were announced.

The day's first speaker was Jack Foley, a charter member of HPNC and a major force in the Bay Area poetry scene. Jack hosts the radio show Cover to Cover on Berkeley station KPPA, 94.1 FM, every Wednesday at 3:30 P.M. He also authors the *Alsop Review*. Jack delivered a well-researched and involving paper on the haiku of the Beats, with particular emphasis on Kerouac's understanding and approach to the form. Here is an enticing one-sentence excerpt: "Haiku for Beat Generation writers was not only a poetic form but an emblem of their problematical quest for freedom."

The paper can be viewed online at www.alsopreview.com.

June Hopper Hymas then spoke on the history of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society, which was founded in 1974 by Kiyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi. The Society encourages the practice of writing haiku in English in accordance with traditional Japanese guidelines, such as the use of a kigo and a 5-7-5 structure. June, a longtime member and past president, recalled her visits to the Tokutomis and the many wonderful gatherings, including the annual retreats at Asiomar. June talked about Young *Leaves: An Old Way of Seeing New*, a

anniversary anthology of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society that contains essays, history, reminiscences, photographs, and poems. She passed around some memorable photos and concluded by inviting everyone to attend future gatherings of the Society.

The next presenters were Patricia Machmiller and Fay Aoyagi, who discussed how they worked together to translate the poetry of Kiyoko Tokutomi for the book *Kiyoko's Sky*. Their primary objective in translating Kiyoko's work was to retain the lightness, grace, and clarity that characterized her style. Patricia and Fay provided some edifying examples of the stages of translation. For example,

urokoguino hosoki penji no tegami kuru

cirrocumulus/thin line/characters written using a
pen/'s/letter/come

began in English as

Cirrocumulus
thin line of the pen used
for this arriving letter

but after five refinements became

Horsetail clouds—
a letter arrives
in her frail hand

After demonstrating the progression of other interesting poems from literal translation to finished product, Patricia and Fay read a number of their favorites, among them

White camellia—
my father loves this garden
now so forlorn

Chemotherapy
in a comfortable chair—
two hours of winter

Rich Krivcher ended the morning with a tribute to the late Earl Johnson, a Lutheran minister and peace activist whose haiku is not widely known. Rich read favorite poems that were not included in *Still Singing*, the Two Autumns chapbook of 2002 featuring some of Earl's work. Rich concluded with a haibun-like piece that told of Earl's life and his love of haiku.

Following a break for lunch, Carolyn Hall, the featured reader, took the podium. She began with a short haibun about writer's block, then read a number of delightful poems about Alpine Valley, a rural part of Sonoma County where she spends half of each week. The poems are part of a collection that Carolyn put together for her neighbor on the other side of the creek for his sixtieth birthday. Here are some samples:

slatted deck chair

a yellowjacket stings me
where I sit

nightfall—
neighbors' voices carry
clear across the creek

falling acorns
the deer's
ears

twilight
the poultry truck returns
with empty cages

Next, Paul O. Williams conducted a workshop entitled "Enlarging That Grain of Poetic Dust until It's a Raindrop." The purpose of the workshop was to penetrate to the insights that cause poems to write themselves. Paul provided us with about fifty first lines, some from the latest issue of *Mariposa*, and asked us to choose three or four. To each of these first lines we were to add two original lines and thus complete each poem. Here are two of the noteworthy:

the pulse in his neck
I reach for a book
of vampire stories

—Yvonne Cabalona

Halloween midnight
blowing out the candle
through the pumpkin's nose

—Garry Gay

As a final exercise, Paul asked us to write five potential first lines of our own on an index card. Then he instructed us to complete the poems. The consensus of the group was that completing someone else's first line was easier than completing our own.

A panel discussion on haibun followed. Garry Gay was the moderator of the panel, which consisted of Ebba Story, Paul Williams, and w. f. owen. Jerry Kilbride also was invited to be on the panel but was unable to attend. Jerry did provide, however, some extemporaneous thoughts on haibun, which Paul read to the group. Panel members responded to questions from Çarry, such as 'When composing a haibun, do you usually write the prose or the haiku first?,' 'Who has most influenced your style?,' and 'What inspires you to write a haibun?' The audience also contributed questions and opinions.

The next presenter was Gerald Yuri, a professor of music from Southern Utah University, who performed on the shakuhachi (traditional Japanese flute) and talked about the origins of the instrument. He demonstrated short pieces of the honkyoku tradition, which emphasized the playing of shakuhachi as spiritual practice. He showed how the shakuhachi imitates nature, as in the call of a crane or a rush of wind, and posited its similarities to haiku. He asked for individual responses to his playing. When Carolyn Hall said she heard overtones in the notes, Gerard appeared surprised. Then to everyone's delight he spontaneously sang tonal chords li la the Gyuto monks of Tibet and the throat singers of Tuya. Gerard's performance seemed to enliven the gathering of haiku poets (as evidenced by the large number of haiku about shakuhachi that were shared between local HSA members the next day).

The final presentation of the day was by haiku poet Laurie Stoelting and nature photographer Paul McKown, both of whom live in Marin County. Their slideshow, "Where We Live," was a dance with words and pictures: For each stunning picture of the Marin landscape that Paul projected, Laurie supplied an apt haiku that took the viewer deeper into the scene. Both the pictures and poetry were inspired by their hikes along Marin's many trails.

The meeting concluded at 4:50 P.M. Despite the pouring rain, quite a few poets made their way to La Barca Mexican restaurant on Lombard Street for dinner and the Haiku Poets of Northern California Christmas party.

— *Paul O. Williams and Rich Krivcher*

Secretary's Report

I. Elections

200 members voted in the election for Officers and Regional Coordinators for 2004.

The total numbers for each candidate, however, do not always add up to 200 because members often did not cast a vote for every office and left some blank. The results are:

OFFICERS

President:	
Charles Trumbull	197 votes
1st Vice President:	
Michael Dylan Welch	185 votes
2nd Vice President	
Tom Painting	193 votes
Secretary	
Karen Klein	195 votes
Treasurer	
Paul Miller	145 votes
Tom Borkowski	48 votes
<i>Frogpond</i> Editor	
Jim Kacian	187 votes
<i>Newsletter</i> Editor	
Pamela Miller Ness	197 votes
Electronic Media Officer	
Curtis Dunlap	195 votes

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Northeast:	
Larry Rungren	23 votes
Northeast Metro:	
Efren Estevez	36 votes
Southeast:	
Wyman Rousseau	23 votes
South:	
Howard Lee Kilby	ii votes
Midwest:	
Joe Kirchner	23 votes
Plains and Mountains:	
Lynn Fawcett	5 votes
Southwest:	
Marlene Egger	9 votes

California:	
Yvonne Cabalona	26 votes
Northwest:	
Marilyn Sandall	24 votes
Alaska -	
Cindy Zackowitz	1 vote
Hawaii/Pacific:	
Darold Braid	3 votes
Japan:	
Sosuke Kanda	5 votes

1 abstention

Write-in votes were cast for the following: For Officers: Stanford Forrester, Tom Borkowski, Paul Miller, Jim Kacian, John Stevenson, Dee Evetts, Billie Wilson, Maggie Chula. For Regional Coordinators: Ellen Compton, Mark Brooks, Kanematsu Satoru

II. Membership

Our renewals for 2004 are coming in at a steady pace. As of January 22, 2004 we have 525 renewals for 2004, 28 paid in advance for 2005, 48 new members for 2004. There are, however, 223 active members from 2003 who have not yet renewed. As there is a considerable time lapse between the time this report goes to press and the time you receive the *Newsletter*, by the time you read this, there will undoubtedly be many more renewals.

III. Dues and Don'ts

In 2003, the Executive Committee decided to endorse the Membership Form for 2004 in the August issue of the *Newsletter* in the hopes that members would renew early. Many did. Then the Membership Form for 2004 was included in the Annual Mailing, which reached members in early November. Quite a few members who had already renewed their 2004 memberships sent in a second check, in effect renewing again. I have communicated with all who did that and straightened things out, but I am wondering whether having two appearances of the Membership Form first in the August *Newsletter*, then in the Annual Mailing, was confusing to members. If you have some thoughts about this, please communicate with me.

In past years, the first *Frogpond* and the first *Newsletter* of the new year have been sent to all members from the previous year even if they have not yet renewed. In practice, this has meant that many members who did not ever renew received an issue of *Frogpond* and of the *Newsletter* free, at considerable cost to the Society. This year, the Executive Committee has implemented a different policy. Your secretary sent reminder emails and snailmails to all those members from 2003 who, by the middle of January, had not yet renewed for 2004. This reminder informed them that if their renewals were

not received by the time that mailing labels need to be prepared, they would not receive their first *Frogponds* and *Newsletters*. Many folks immediately sent in their renewals or communicated their intent to do so. Because we value our members, we provide two options for those who decide to renew later:

1) Send in your renewal and we will send the first issue of *Frogpond* and first *Newsletter* when we send you and the entire membership the second issue of *Frogpond* and the second *Newsletter*.

2) Send in your renewal plus \$5.00 to cover the cost of postage and we will send you *Frogpond* and the *Newsletter* immediately. The additional \$5.00 represents the increased cost of postage when we need to mail our publications to individual subscribers rather than to the entire membership at one.

We hope this new practice will save HSA money and encourage members to send in their renewals for the upcoming year in the fall months or no later than early January of the year for which they are renewing.

IV. Messages to the Secretary

I am enormously grateful to all of you who renewed in a timely way and special thanks to those of you who sent encouraging messages and warm greetings.

—*Respectfully submitted, Karen Klein*