

First 2004 HSA Quarterly Meeting Fort Worth, Texas, March 9–21, 2004

[as reported in the *HSA Newsletter*, Vol. XIX, No. 2, May 2004]

The Fort Worth Haiku Society hosted the Haiku Society of America's March Quarterly Meeting on a most appropriate date: spring officially arrived around midnight on the 19th and early morning of the 20th.

A common observation from our out of town guests was the surprise of leaving anywhere from 4 to 7 inches of snow behind and arriving to near 80 degrees, flowers blooming, and green everywhere. There were guests from New York, Massachusetts, Ohio, Utah, Arkansas and from all over Texas here for the day long event.

The weekend began with FWHS' vice president Helen Jones and her friend Nancy picking up president Cliff Roberts and heading for the DFW airport to pick HSA president Charles Trumbull then later, picking up Carmen Sterba, who comes to us fresh from over 15 years of living in Japan.

After a gathering for a meal at Don Pablos near the Ridgniar Mal], everyone returned to the hospitality suite at the hotel to discuss the plans for the next day.

The HSA Executive Committee had a four-hour breakfast meeting starting at 7 am at the Four Star Coffee Bar while the rest of us went at 9:00 A.M. to the Japanese Gardens for a haiku walk (*ginko*). We were joined at the gardens by Michael Moore of Desoto, who has had a few minutes of fame with his haiku for his teaching of the topic in the Desoto schools and for a picture of him, (taken in chilly October, he tells us) in his koi pond with only his face showing among the lily pads. Michael is a fascinating new addition to our FWHS group and he joined as a member to the HSA during the afternoon workshops.

The meeting was opened by Helen Jones and Cliff Roberts performing the "Haiku Slam," written by Cliff as a teaching tool. Then Treasurer and acting Secretary Brenda Roberts read a letter welcoming the Haiku Society of America to Fort Worth from the Mayor of Fort Worth.

Following the business meeting, conducted by President Trumbull, Dr. Susan Delaney presented a program comparing seasonal events in North Texas to the corresponding five-day periods called Spells in Japan. Where we have 4 seasons, the Japanese have 72 five-day Spells, identified by an occurrence in nature such as butterflies arriving, fireflies, iris blooming, thunderstorms, etc. Dr. Delaney has been working on this project for over 5 years and is planning to publish this project when finished.

Bonnie Frederick, Latin American Studies chair at TCU, presented a program on the Hispanic influence on Haiku which included several of the more famous Latin American poets complete with translations into English.

Charles Trumbull presented a program on Native American haiku, touching on the spoken language and the translated by various poets including Ezra Pound.

The last program of the day was a workshop entitled “the road to revision,” presented by Tom Painting, 2nd VP of HSA, and Pamela Miller Ness, HSA *Newsletter* editor. Along with samples from students from Tom’s classes and from classes that Pamela teaches to teachers, the attendees were given an opportunity to write a fresh haiku of their own on transparency sheets and then put them up on the overhead projector and work through the steps used to revise the work starting with a list of reaffirming questions such as: “what makes this a haiku” and then going on to *decide what* if anything could be dropped, added or changed to make the image stronger.

After the workshop ended, the Fort Worth Haiku Society’s certificates for the winning entries of their four contests: haiku, senryu, tanka and haibun were read and presented to those in attendance. The FWHS presented their speakers with certificates of appreciation and then everyone adjourned to eat in the Oak Leaf restaurant at the Green Oaks Hotel, which hosted the event. After the meal, many of us went back to the hospitality suite and read our own haiku and senryu in a round robin style until exhaustion and a thunderstorm encouraged us to call it a halt and go to bed.

— Brenda Roberts

Secretary’s Report

I. First Quarterly Meeting of 2004, Fort Worth, Texas, March 19–21

The business meeting was held on Saturday, March 20. President Charles Trumbull presided. After thanking our hosts, Brenda and Cliff Roberts, and Regional Coordinator, Marlene Egger, Charlie gave a report of the Executive Committee meeting. He announced that First Vice President Michael Dylan Welch will now oversee all nonperiodical publications, e.g. the Members Anthology; Connie Post will be the editor for the 2004 Members Anthology. Second Vice President Tom Painting will serve as coordinator for the Teachers’ Packet, in addition to his oversight of contests and other outreach aspects, e.g. other groups, schools.

The Secretary reported that as of 3/18/04, we had 717 members. She informed the group that although it appears on our website, the definition of what constitutes publication for the purposes of HSA contests was inadvertently omitted from the insert “2004 Information” in the last *Newsletter*. It reads as follows:

Publication is defined as an appearance in a printed book, magazine or journal(sold or given away) or in any online journal that presents edited, periodic content. The appearance of poems in online discussion lists or personal websites is not considered publication.

The President reported that the Executive Committee decided to go ahead with the 25th anniversary anthology of *Frogpond*. Led by the First Vice President, the EC as a whole will serve as the editorial board. In addition, an index to *Frogpond*, prepared by Charles Trumbull and donated to HSA, will be published in conjunction with the anniversary anthology, but in a separate volume.

Garry Gay has finished photographing the *shikishi*, which are currently in the American Haiku Archives in Sacramento, Calif. The Executive Committee discussed the possibility of a second archive on the East Coast. Since the relationship with the Japan Society has become more tenuous, it seems an appropriate time to think about a permanent, geographical home and address for HSA, perhaps at a university or library.

The Report of the Definitions Committee was officially received and copies were distributed at the meeting. This Report will be voted on by the membership at the national meeting in New York City on September 18, 2004. It is posted on the HSA website and at http://wjhigginson.home.attnet/HSA/HSA.Definitions_2004.htmj. Those who do not have internet access and who wish to read the Report may write to the Secretary at 686 Massachusetts Avenue, #404, Cambridge, MA 02139-3346 and request a copy be mailed to them.

On behalf of HSA, the President sent greetings to the WHA in Sofia, Bulgaria.

II. Membership Update

As of 4/19/04, we have 737 members, of which 107 are new members in 2004. I appreciate any thoughts and comments members might wish to send me as to how we're doing on communications and what could be better.

Respectfully submitted,

—Karen Klein

