

Second 2004 HSA Quarterly Meeting 2004
Boston, Mass., June 18–20, 2004

[as reported in the *HSA Newsletter*, Vol. XIX, No. 3, August 2004]

The Second Quarterly Meeting took place on June 19, 2004 at the Kaji Aso Studio in Boston, Mass. Following the business meeting (see Secretary's Report), Pamela Miller Ness coordinated a reading from the recent *Tanka Anthology* published by Red Moon Press. Poets whose tanka were read include Fay Aoyagi (read by Jim Kacian), Stanford M. Forrester, Sanford Goldstein (read by Pamela Miller Ness), Jim Kacian, Larry Kimmel, Laura Maffei (read by Stanford Forrester), Pamela Miller Ness, Carol Purington (read by Larry Kimmel), John Stevenson, George Swede (read by John Stevenson). After a short break to view books and cards, the MetroWest Renku Association (MWRA poets Raffael De Gruttola, Paul David Mena, Brett Peruzzi) performed "Country Blues, "a multimedia renku with accompaniment of blues singer and dobro player Lloyd Thayer and visuals by Mary Melodee Mena.

The final event of the afternoon was a reading by the Haiku Poets Society of Western Massachusetts from their recently published anthology, NAML The reading was coordinated by Wanda D. Cook and Linda Porter, founding members of the Society.

After supper at a nearby sushi restaurant, the attendees returned for a sumi-e workshop by Kaji Aso, founding director of the Kaji Aso Studio. Mr. Aso, a world renowned calligrapher and stinti-e artist, illustrated haiga from haiku that were written in the afternoon by the haiku poets in attendance. Mr. Aso graciously gave his haiga renderings to members of the audience who were present.

—Raffael de Gruttola

Secretary's Report

President Charles Trumbull opened the business meeting by greeting the 24 persons present and thanking all for coming; he wished all a happy summer solstice. Special thanks to Kaji Aso, our host, and to Raffael de Gruttola who coordinated the meeting. He reminded us of the deadlines for the HSA Members' Anthology and for the Henderson and Brady Contests. We were all saddened to learn of the death of Lenard Moore's daughter, Matisha LaShawn Moore; Stanford Forrester circulated a card to Lenard and his wife and we all added our condolences.

The President reported on the meeting of the Executive Committee. Some of the current officers will not run for another term and a Nominating Committee will be formed. [Prior to the meeting, Stanford M. Forrester had agreed to chair that Committee]. The slate will be ready for presentation at the Annual Meeting in New York on September 18, 2004.

At the meeting in Fort Worth, the Definitions Committee Report was presented. It will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. The full report can be viewed at: <<http://wjhigginson.home.att.net/HSA/HSA.Definitions2004.htm>>. The User ID is "HSA" and the

password is "Def2004"; this password is case sensitive, so be sure to capitalize the "D." If you want a hard copy, please write to the Secretary and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with two 37 cent stamps.

At the Executive Committee meeting there was a lengthy discussion about the effectiveness of the organizational structure of the HSA. The primary benefits of membership are the association with other members and the subscription to *Frogpond*. Can we strengthen the membership contact through meetings? Through the Internet? What is the best way to encourage contact and energize communities? Questions were raised about the role of Regional Coordinators and the relation of active, smaller groups to the regional structure. Should we revamp the regions and redefine the responsibilities of the coordinators? As a first step, Charlie will write to local groups and invite them to put notices of their meetings in the *Newsletter* and on the Web site. If they wish, Pamela will list them and their contact information (person, schedule, meeting place) in the Newsletter under the appropriate region.

Because our connection to the Japan Society in NYC is tenuous, the EC continues to think about a permanent base for the HSA, which could provide a place for archives and serve as a focal point for meetings and perhaps for teaching about haiku and related arts. Members' suggestions for such a venue are welcome.

The responsibility for the Education Packet has now been passed from Pamela Miller Ness to Tom Painting to Raffael de Gruttola. The current packet could be more effective in terms of coverage and content. Judges for contests have noted that there is insufficient awareness of how to write haiku; usually the winners have haiku poets as their teachers. Two steps are being taken to strengthen educational outreach: 1) as much of the current packet as possible will be put on our Web site to be available free if charge to teachers. 2) we will develop our own material, possibly for a book with individual chapters written by some of the leading haiku teachers, which can be marketed widely.

The EC raised many questions about the feasibility of a 251 Anniversary *Frogpond* anthology, which is under the purview of Michael Dylan Welch. Among the issues are copyright, content (e.g., should poetry and prose be included, should they be in separate volumes, selection process, marketability). Charlie Trumbull has produced an index of the first 25 years of *Frogpond* which could be published separately. Another publishing question: should we reprint *A Haiku Path*?

The final EC item involved allowances for travel to the meetings for officers. The President, for example, is expected to attend all four meetings which presents a considerable expense. Also the coordinators for the meetings incur expenditures. Charlie will check with the Treasurer and will propose reasonable amounts at the Annual Meeting.

Membership Update: As of 8/04/04, we have 793 members, of which 151 are new members in 2004. Our organization is growing and we can probably reach a goal of 800 members, if not more, by the end of 2004.

Last year there was some confusion when we sent out Renewal Forms both in the August Newsletter and in the Annual Mailing. This year, they will go out only in the Annual Mailing which will be mailed in October. The ballot will be included in that mailing. Please remember to vote and to send your renewal before December 31, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

—Karen Klein

