

# The Mainichi



## Annual Selection 2015

### Judge's comments: Three essential ways to make a better haiku

*Selections and comments by Isamu Hashimoto*

Stick to the following steps to gain a better understanding of haiku and to make better ones:

- 1) Depict things as plainly as possible.
- 2) Add a seasonal element according to your own circumstances.
- 3) Check if your haiku discovers something new.

The haiku selected in the year of 2015 are grouped by author and sorted according to the publication date. My short comments follow. The asterisks signify my estimation of the level the haiku. Thanks very much to readers for their submissions in 2015. We await your next haiku masterpieces in the year of 2016.

“Haiku peacefully goes with the world.”

**Bruce Ross** (Bangor, ME, USA)

\*\*\*

almost sunset... the pilot whales follow the tide's path	a little blue in the day moon spring begins...
January 1 Comment: The grand scale of the sea with the whales following the tide's path.	June 1 Comment: A subtle perception.

desert wash... the sound of hail hitting the boulders	one of them passes through two still stars Perseids
Aug. 1 Comment: A “newness”: new finding.	Nov. 2 Comment: Perseids < Perceus.

**Abraham Freddy Ben-Arroyo** (Haifa, Israel)

\*\*

the first one and one more over there— city lights	not enough snow I board Shinkansen to Akita
January 2 Comment: Commanding a nice view of the city lights. He must be on a hill in the evening.	March 2 Comment: The author can really be a man of taste.

I push myself up and push again and again... my life on the swing
October 3 Comment: “Childlikeness has to be restored with long years of training in the art of self- forgiveness.” — D. T. Suzuki (1870-1966)

**Gergana Yaninska** (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)

\*

sleepless night my neighbor’s baby with one more tooth
January 3 Comment: The author is getting on well with her neighbors.

**Robert Henry Poulin** (Micco, FL, USA)

\*\*

my grandfather dunks his jelly toast in coffee back to olden days	trumpet flower: sound of buzzing in my ear
January 5 Comment: With the expression “dunks,” we can see your grandfather’s stout fingers.	April 18 Comment: I understand you can have synesthesia.

blind sells pencils seated on sidewalk his head follows her long legs	crying loon shivering in its wake moon
August 18 Comment: The fake peddler must have had an eye for girls.	September 11 Comment: As “loon” and “moon” rhyme, we are able to perceive the two shivered at the same time.

**David Jacobs** (London, UK)

\*\*

after the views stumbling off the London Eye	strumming away as if he really means it subway busker
January 6 Comment: I myself had the same experience after having safely returned to the ground from the “Eye.”	May 29 Comment: He will have a good time as a stage artist.

**Angelica Seithe** (Wettenberg, Germany)

\*\*

dusty painting... great-grandma gets younger and younger	spring slumber warm shadows sweeping over my skin
January 7 Comment: Happening in the dark and dusty attic.	June 10 Comment: A secret scene.

waterfall— the thundering silence in us	evening glow a single fish— yet in a golden net
August 26 Comment: Another secret scene.	December 17 Comment: A good “haikuic” sketch.

**Angelee Deodhar** (Chandigarh, India)

\*

canal cruise—  
passing Anne Frank's house  
the first diary entry

January 8

Comment: Everybody in the world, look up at the sky, which cannot have borders between countries.

**Smajil Durmisevic** (Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

\*\*

Greenland is small  
as it could settle...  
in your chest!

January 9

Comment: She seems so charming in a T-shirt. This is a new angle for a haiku depiction.

I do not feel the winter,  
the current of the life flows  
on my shoulder!

January 22

Comment: The third line is unexpected and lively.

**Bernhard Kopf** (Vienna, Austria)

\*\*

The shadow I cast  
amid falling leaves  
red

January 10

Comment: It's a new color sense.

cat leaves  
leaves  
remaining

March 9

white butterfly  
my hair  
whiter still

April 27

old pond  
the stillness  
visible

August 12

Comment: "Visible" is the merit here.

sunny day  
smiling  
they refuse my credit card

September 3

Comment: The punch line is superb.

with one click  
rosy cheeks  
rosier

December 14

Comment: Oh, impossible.

**Eva Limbach** (Saarbrücken, Germany)

\*\*\*

crows in the dust how little we know about each other	forget-me-not just enough for a poem
January 12 Comment: A keen observation.	June 24

overdose the scent of white lilies	sudden autumn quite scrubby my shadow and me
July 30 Comment: "Try to find it from your inner bowels." (Basho)	October 21 Comment: Superb. A keen insight into the deep abyss of the human heart.

meteor shower the slight dizziness coming from the neck
November 9 Comment: The last word is unexpected.

**Arvinder Kaur** (Chandigarh, India)

\*

grandpa's stick in the scarecrow's hand another winter
January 13 Comment: Your beloved grandpa is now up in heaven and is looking down for your next haiku.

**Lavana Kray** (Iasi, Romania)

\*\*

family tea party— mom asks who is everyone	flock of cranes dwindling in a funnel shape cloud
January 14 Comment: Sorrowful, but this is happening everywhere in this floating world.	October 30 Comment: The second line comes from the eyes of a haijin.

**Robert Kania** (Warsaw, Poland)

\*

couple in the cafe  
their fingers touch  
the touch keyboards

January 15

Comment: Contrary to our expectations...

**Helen Buckingham** (Wells, Somerset, UK)

\*\*\*

young ex-soldier  
selling  
door-to-door

Voting Day...  
wind  
or rain

January 16

Comment: The discussion will come if the first line has strong poetic power or not. I think this has it.

February 16

Comment: This may be from the nation-dividing dispute over the independence of Scotland.

open market  
a blue and white kimono  
flying high

garden larder  
fat balls peck  
at fat balls

June 27

Comment: We can easily imagine the scene of an antiques fair.

August 27

sundown  
her red balloon  
too

geraniums back  
with the lipstick  
indian summer

September 16

Comment: It's time for her grandchild to go home.

October 31

Comment: Basho's haiku: safflower is / like an eyebrow / puff (tr. by Isamu Hashimoto).

new moon  
scything through  
the cloud

December 23

Comment: An excellent fantasy.

**Tyrone McDonald** (Brooklyn, NY, USA)

\*\*\*

creeping dawn shoveling snow to its tempo	the perfect word eludes me...postcard of a mountain peak
January 17 Comment: I can imagine the author was half asleep in bed.	July 4 Comment: I want to see the words on the beautiful postcard.

so easily summer's gone... sari-coloured leaves	day moon my hunch begins somewhere
September 2 Comment: "So easily" is "haikuic."	October 5

**oana boazu** (Galati, Romania)

\*

calligraphy: two wild hawthorns completely leafless	polar vortex— spinning the whirligig near the fireplace
January 19	February 4

dramatic makeup— over a ruined building the sunrise	sea storm the fishery lantern barely blinks
May 13	August 10 Comment: The best of the four pieces.

General comment: How about trying juxtaposition in a new piece. "Explanation or interpretation spoils the haiku" is the primary haiku maxim.

**Tomasz Szymczak** (Rome, Italy)

\*

old frog still there
January 20 Comment: An interesting minimum parody. Cf. Basho: into an ancient old pond / a frog is jumping — / the sound of water (tr. by Isamu Hashimoto)

**minami eto** (Ibaraki, Japan)

\*\*

imagine the land where beautiful people live wintry sunset	long shadows of sasanquas towards a retiring man
January 21 Comment: Implying the Japanese archipelago and its people, I hope.	February 23 Comment: “Shadow” and “retiring”: It’s better not to put two unrelated things too close or too far from each other. This is often said.

winter sun climbing down the slope of middle age	weeding but leave hairy tares in bloom
April 4	July 24

Japan airplane noses down towards reflecting rice fields
September 14 Comment: Excellent.

**Irena Szewczyk** (Warsaw, Poland)

\*

birthday party first through the front door a falling leaf	boundless fog from the other shore returns only the carrier
January 23	May 27 Comment: The author is gazing into the deep well of human life.

**Toshio Matsumoto** (Osaka, Japan)

\*\*

twins in the incubator synchronized yawn	The New Year’s morning sun shot a kingfisher
January 24 Comment: (See below)	February 3 Comment: (See below)



temple Gargoyle through his iced contact lens looking at the full moon	Caterpillar, which one you choose? The sun loves butterfly The moon loves moth
April 7 Comment: (See below)	July 25

When focusing on the centipede legs How beautiful they are!
September 17 Comment: They are so beautiful, indeed. This is not new, but seems new.

General comment: Mr. Matsumoto has produced a lot of excellent professional haiku.

### **Alegria Imperial** (Vancouver, BC, Canada)

\*

first snow in a child's palm white fireflies	mountain lake a full moon of divorce forms
January 26	May 8 Comment: Beyond our normal understanding.

### **Goda V. Bendoraitiene** (Klaipeda, Lithuania)

\*\*\*

a toddler climbs onto father's shoulders to reach the kite	snow fortress slowly turns to wings of angel
January 27	February 11

a glow of sunset on the sidewalk mime closes imaginary door	first buds... the only wish to stay longer
May 18 Comment: It's fantastic and at the same time, so real. We have a famous "imaginary door" in the comic strips of the "Doraemon" series.	June 3

a sudden downpour brings us to the doorstep of an open church	cumulus cloud just like a duck resting on the lake
August 15 Comment: The author knows how to make a good haiku. "Open church" is the best phrase.	October 19

coming of autumn I recall the melody of distant carillon	childhood theatre... the heroes—mossy twigs on the wild cherry
November 18	December 19

**Tony Lewis-Jones** (Bristol, UK)

\*\*\*

red sun white fields Winter	one night in spring mist and rain— the ghosts swirl
January 28 Comment: A dynamic and beautiful minimalistic haiku.	June 11

blonde statue at the traffic lights— then she moves
September 24 Comment: "Then" has good humor.

**Nadine Chen** (Reno, NV, USA)

\*

Eyes slowly closing body curls, night black as ink computer light dims
January 29 Comment: The third line is so effective.

**Ramona Linke** (Beesenstedt, Germany)

\*\*\*

bald ginkgo tree— I wipe saliva from mother's chin	snowflakes the shine in the eyes of the old lady
January 30 Comment: The two related factors are a bit too close.	February 6 Comment: Better or not replace "the old lady" with "Grandma."

canceled flight the pleasant taste of red tea	thundery front the purple flowers of potatoes
June 20 Comment: Why is red for tea?	August 29 Comment: Excellent juxtaposition.

Oyama magnolia how fragile our togetherness	apple harvest a flock of birds cuts up the sunset light
November 3 Comment: Excellent juxtaposition.	December 21 Comment: A fresh moment of beauty.

**Gexter Lacambra** (Milan, Italy)

\*

leaves change color then fall like stars do
January 31 Comment: Save our planet, Superman, Iron Man, Spider-Man ...

**Alexis Rotella** (Arnold, MD, USA)

\*\*\*

First snow the Dalmatian loses some of its spots.	Leaving the light on for the wind
February 2	March 24

General comment: A technique in the last line.

**Ana Drobot** (Bucharest, Romania)

\*\*\*

Victorian fireplace— her shadow and his running about the room	morning train— someone starts peeling an orange
February 5 Comment: I wish I had such a gorgeous Victorian fireplace. Now I am using a movable foot warmer.	March 3 Comment: The author takes a train for work and regains some fresh power with the splash of the fruit.

spring-time— how fast the river goes into the mill	his eyes look into mine— therapy
May 4	July 3

I dive into the swimming pool... silence	about to land crawling through the fields the plane's shadow
August 7 Comment: The one word "silence" in the deep water is appropriate.	September 15 Comment: This is a good example of the shadow in a haiku making the object more clear and vivid.

bright morning— the light bulb still on in my orange juice
November 21

**Natalia Kuznetsova** (Moscow, Russia)

\*

one moon for all— it will rise over his home at daybreak here	spellbound listening to the silence— supermoon
February 31 Comment: A love story between those far from each other.	December 4 Comment: "Spellbound" is a good choice of word, but I suggest you have a second thought about the second line.

**Namiko Yamamoto** (Kawasaki, Japan)

\*\*

heavy snow— steam locomotive passing through my autofocus camera	the owl turned his head time passes...
February 9	October 23 Comment: A masterpiece ... the last line, especially, shows a new awareness of time.

**Judit Katalin Hollos** (Budapest, Hungary)

\*

blood moon the first crampon prints in the glacier's snow
February 10 Comment: She must be an alpinist.

**jerry ball** (Walnut Creek, CA, USA)

\*\*\*

doctor's office with out of date magazines and new calendars	book of winter haiku I use the payment receipt as a bookmark
February 12 Comment: The author used to be president of the Haiku Society of America. Now he is having a good time in a gorgeous home with friendly roommates.	March 11 Comment: I often use a receipt from 7-Eleven.

I follow the path of the fallen plum blossoms connecting the dots	chasing an owl the spring moon rises over Mt. Diablo
April 30	May 12 Comment: The charm and strength of the proper name. Mt. Diablo may carry a nuance of diabolism.

the joke teller pretends he cannot jump over the electric cord	the joke teller seems to be happiest when his dog howls
July 31 Comment: (See below)	November 26 Comment: (See below)

Comment: Originally haiku dealt with comic or fun incidents. The author may also be called a haiku humorist.

### **Stephen A. Peters** (Bellingham, WA, USA)

\*\*

my footsteps in the snow deeper	at the candy store between my child and me spring breeze
February 13 Comment: "Deeper" contains many phases of life.	May 16 Comment: Best suited is the third line. You will understand it if you change seasons one by one.

spring drizzle the other side of the fairytale
June 25 Comment: This haiku shows the gentle nature of the author.

### **Horst Ludwig** (St. Peter, MN, USA)

\*\*\*

Icy rain. Shouts on land and aboard the last ferry
February 14 Comment: I can hear the tones of the shouts realistically.

**K. Ramesh** (Chennai, India)

\*\*\*

winter evening... the old dog opens one eye to see he is around	winter night... dialogues sound around the small town theatre
February 17	March 7 Comment: Excellent. "Dialogues" refer to the speech of movie stars.

mountain cabin... a snake's skin by the door	roar of lions in the night... circus in town
June 13 Comment: That can be used as an amulet or something.	August 21 Comment: I will soon be tempted into the night of Chennai town.

**Shloka Shankar** (Bangalore, India)

\*

cold day... the way you no longer look at me
February 18 Comment: This is a new approach to "cold day."

**Paul Chambers** (Newport, Wales, UK)

\*\*

storm clearing the leaves grow heavy with stars	a dead hare in the hunter's grip autumn darkens
February 19 Comment: This is a haiku with the last word, "stars." "Heavy" in the second could be changed, for example with "greener."	October 17 Comment: The last line is necessary for this haiku.

**Lily Tayag (PSC 76)**

\*\*

The slender bamboo notches like my fingers	A white carnation its center a maze
February 20	May 9 Comment: A good haijin's gaze.

Evening glow I close my eyes to feel the breeze
July 29

General comment: She is so "haikuic."

**Rudi Pfaller (Remshalden, Germany)**

\*\*

harsh snow under the boots crunching words	full moon half the world struggling
February 21	June 29 Comment: Lifting their chins, everybody in the world can see the same beautiful skies without any borders.

**tommy ichimiya (Oita, Japan)**

\*\*\*

way to the pass, saw many women wear nursery coats	snowfield people faraway shimmering at a bonfire
February 24 Comment: He is an excellent haiku sketcher and encountered an appropriate haiku scene, indeed.	March 27



a shrine maiden bows  
her hands wet with  
spring rain

April 29

**Heike Gericke** (Chemnitz, Germany)

\*\*

Winter hike...  
how low we sink  
from our childhood

February 25  
Comment: I found a "newness" here.

cherry blossoms...  
So much has happened  
in the course of a year

April 28  
Comment: We have Basho's version:  
remembering / a lot of things / cherry blossoms  
(tr. by Isamu Hashimoto)

**Zelyko Funda** (Varazdin, Croatia)

\*\*

winter landscape  
a snow plough is drawing  
a black line

February 26  
Comment: The author has a good technique of  
drawing a haiku scene.

**Lyudmila Hristova** (Sofia, Bulgaria)

\*

blizzard  
the moon too  
lost its way

February 27  
Comment: Expecting a new one.

**Takashi Sato** (Mie, Japan)

\*\*

first snow  
change the canvas dark  
first of all

February 28

Comment: The first snow can be so delicate that the painter needs a dark canvas. I understand.

**Doris Lynch** (Bloomington, IN, USA)

\*\*

another inch of snow  
doe and yearling  
nibble the silence

the great blue heron  
leans into the Ohio  
splintering sun

March 4

Comment: She perhaps hit the jackpot at the third line.

July 13

Comment: The State of Ohio is also called the buckeye state. "Splintering" may have some relationship with the trees.

**Marie Jeanne Sakhinis-de Meis** (Avignon, France)

\*

Ah, snow...  
the light of silence  
and vast expanse

March 5

Comment: Expecting a new one.

**Cezar-Florin Ciobica** (Botosani, Romania)

\*\*

ice fishing...  
the hole too small  
for the full moon

Orion...  
the old hound  
groans in sleep

March 6

April 21

Comment: The third line is an excellent haiku punch line.

spring dreams  
mom remembers  
who I am

June 16

Comment: Congratulations! Mom's consciousness will be clearer, I hope.

**Sheila K. Barksdale** (Gainesville, FL, USA)

\*\*\*

not until  
the cranes have passed over  
the prairie

March 10

Comment: "Not until" is a professional expression and a bit ambiguous for non-natives.

cut in half  
by the branch of the pine—  
the pearl moon

May 15

Comment: She has a talent for haiku.

Neutrino passing through  
two sea otters floating  
and holding hands

December 24

Comment: The word "neutrino" here has the kind of "newness" Basho advocated.

**Michael Henry Lee** (St. Augustine, FL, USA)

\*\*

freeze warning  
the shape of a  
snapdragon's roar

March 12

Comment: A good piece with synesthesia.

to be  
continued...  
mayfly

August 6

Comment: To be frank, I can't access the meaning.

**Jacek Kielich** (Wieliczka, Poland)

\*

mat or pat weather in Scotland skirt	on the bridge moonlight shadow without end
March 13	April 3

General comment: Expecting a new piece.

**Semih Ozmeric** (Istanbul, Turkey)

\*

early morning fog The Bosphorus is wearing an oriental veil	summer moon I can see it by my side on a paddy field
March 14 Comment: "Oriental": a "haikuic" expression.	July 22 Comment: "by my side": a "haikuic" expression.

**Rahadian Tanjung** (Jakarta, Indonesia)

\*

Clouds of steam from the hot springs the wind scent	Javanese women plucking the finest tea leaves before summer rains fall
March 16	June 23

General comment: Find "newness."

**Don Hansbrough** (Seattle, WA, USA)

\*\*\*

in the shadow's shadow I light a candle	face to face with april moon never unfriendly
March 17 Comment: A "newness." I can clearly imagine the two shadows.	May 28

**Silva Trstenjak** (Strigova, Croatia)

\*

midnight bubbles of champagne colors of the fireworks
March 18 Comment: Construct another haiku with the same materials.

**Philip Noble** (Inverness, Scotland)

\*\*\*

hunched over his desk the old man makes Ms and Ws with his eyebrows	moonlit takeoff stork folds long legs into itself
March 19 Comment: I haven't met the author, but I can easily imagine his personality through the haiku.	November 23 Comment: Perfect. This is an orthodox way of depicting a haiku scene.

**Dusko Radovanovic** (Novi Sad, Serbia)

\*

Peeking from the lake Like a lotus flower Top of the swan's tail
March 20 Comment: Expecting your new one.

**C. Ronald Kimberling** (South Elgin, IL, USA)

\*\*

Fat tree overshadowing flat tree	Thumb-sized baby mud frogs zig-zagging under tomato plants
March 21	September 21

Seen from the skyscraper trees on rooftops Chicago Loop
October 1 Comment: A masterpiece. "Chicago Loop" is so effective.

**Origa** (Lansing, MI, USA)

\*\*

midwinter dawn... the garage door goes up squeaking faintly	a titmouse— only two notes in the sky
March 23 Comment: “Faintly”... “haikuic.”	May 22 Comment: It seems like the last line could be changed with a better phrase.

**Joseph Salvatore Aversano** (Ankara, Turkey)

\*\*

snowmelt... the mosque dome in green	the Noh stage stomped in the end this world
March 25 Comment: A beautiful mosque dome.	April 17 Comment: By the last two words we suddenly came back from the Noh fantasy to reality.

a frog jumps in jumps in jumps in

July 9

Comment: Three frogs jumped in in a one liner.

**Priyanka Shivadas** (Uttar Pradesh, India)

\*\*

the path  
narrow and never-ending  
begins at my doorstep

March 26

Comment: “Doorstep” is effective. It would be much better to add a seasonal element.

**Artur Lewandowski** (Sieradz, Poland)

\*\*\*

the blacksmith how softly he touches the baby	port tavern a mermaid on the sailor's arm full of scars
March 28 Comment: Excellent. We have the same kind of short poem: sumo wrestler is softly / parting the crowd / with today's victory. (tr. by Isamu Hashimoto)	September 29 Comment: The author has a keen sensibility of haiku.

**Ben Moeller-Gaa** (St. Louis, MO, USA)

\*\*

cigars lighting up a conversation
March 30 Comment: The plural form of the first word depicts two human beings.

**Alan Summers** (Bradford-on-Avon, England)

\*\*\*

garden chores I dig another timezone from the backyard	fleeting rain the scarecrow leans back against his gatepost
March 31 Comment: A new tunnel to the future, he only knows.	April 15

the sound dome of bees how many shades of color can a human see
July 7 Comment: This dome gives us an illusion of looking into the kaleidoscope of synesthesia.

**Francis Attard** (Marsa, Malta)

\*\*

“Marzipan moon,”  
says drunk binging on cider,  
“it’s green.”

April 1

Comment: Marzipan: almond paste and egg whites.

**Mab Jones** (Cardiff, Wales, UK)

\*\*

young girl running  
hair like a comet  
darkness after

April 2

Comment: Please, send in more submissions.

**Dubravko Korbus** (Ivanic Grad, Croatia)

\*

street lamps  
enlivened by  
my shadow

April 6

Comment: Find a more appropriate word for “my.”

**Anna Goluba** (Warsaw, Poland)

\*\*

After meditation  
In front of me the mountain  
Of pistachio shells

April 8

Comment: This is some unexpected humor.

twilight—  
cat stares into  
the empty hall

May 14

Comment: This writer has a keen sensibility for haiku.



**jkh** (Hamburg, Germany)

\*\*

twilight  
the two  
never get closer!

April 9

Comment: The writer has a delicate touch for haiku.

**Bruce England** (Santa Clara, CA, USA)

\*

Cloudy  
with a chance of  
lights turning on

April 10

Comment: The author is on the right track for haiku. Please make more haiku.

**Valeria Barouch** (Geneva, Switzerland)

\*\*

Patchwork quilt—  
the pattern of  
neck pain

April 11

Comment: The author has a humorous and “haikuic” character.

**Keith A. Simmonds** (Rodez, France)

\*\*

little by little  
the mist gobbles up  
the village

April 13

A hummingbird  
reflecting the sunlight  
motionless

September 28

Comment: “Motionless” is a finely selected word that penetrates into this entity.

**Ken Sawitri** (Central Java, Indonesia)

\*\*\*

crescent moon my country friends visit one by one	the mosque microphone makes the silence louder
April 14	June 4

Squid ink pasta my morning newspaper stains with typos	9/11 before leaving the mosque we flatten our wrinkled pray mat
October 14 Comment: My reconstruction with the same raw materials: newspaper stains / with squid-ink / pasta.	November 6

sketching Hitchcock the black kitten walks down to the lowest piano keys
December 15 Comment: This sounds unrealistic, but is very good.

**Janina Kolodziejczyk** (Pavullo N/R, (MO) Italy)

\*

awakening between life and life short sleep	empty temple so many questions unanswered
April 16	August 19

General comment: Looking forward to having your next piece.

**S. Abburi** (Bangalore, India)

\*

setting sun— young woman blushes unaware	thick fog... she lifts her veil in fear
April 20	December 10

General comment: Look into the object more severely. The third line comes from your ordinary impressions.

**Mike Dillon** (Indianola, WA, USA)

\*

blue violet beneath the wind a green and white sea
April 22 Comment: There seem to be disorderly colors.

**Mario Massimo Zontini** (Parma, Italy)

\*\*

the sky train— a monk in saffron smiles at me	before and after the fragrance of wisteria for passers-by
April 23 Comment: The sky train goes up to the monastery. His smiling face must be so friendly.	July 16

**Ramesh Anand** (Tamil Nadu, India)

\*\*

mouth open... the dentist checks for my payment mode
April 24 Comment: This has good humor. Send us your next one.

**Barbara A. Taylor** (Nimbin, Australia)

\*\*

equipoise...  
only the constant  
murmur of birds

April 25

Comment: Ms. Taylor, how about erasing "constant?" I am a bit uneasy having these two closely related words: "equipoise" and "constant."

**Beate Conrad** (Waterford, MI, USA)

\*\*\*

Haiku...I hear  
with one hand the beat  
on the water

May 1

Autumn rain—  
all these lonely dogs  
on Broadway

November 19

Comment: The "autumn rain" arouses my loneliness, too: I too have / a shame bone / end of autumn. (Isamu Hashimoto)

**Reiss McGuinness** (Bath, UK)

\*

left behind  
I wander the streets  
with a train ticket

May 2

Comment: A sentimental journey.

**Brent Goodman** (Rhineland, WI, USA)

\*

childhood  
under a milkweed leaf  
monarch eggs

May 5

insomnia  
the bedside glass  
fills with moonlight

October 24

General comment: Look at the surrounding objects intensely and as long as possible.

**Elke Bonacker** (Duisburg, Germany)

\*

In the lime tree on the branches sitting stars	springtime flapping in the wind again the laundry
May 6	June 12 Comment: If it were a Japanese haiku...: spring wind / flapping again /in the laundry.

On the balcony table the coffee cup filled with summer rain
November 4

**Richard Jodoin** (Montreal, Canada)

\*\*

Spring rain in the potholes a blinking starry sky	August heatwave visiting Nagasaki a fat man
May 7 Comment: Pothole: a deep hole that is formed in rock, especially by the action of water.	September 4 Comment: Visit Hiroshima next time.

**Christine Horner** (Lafayette, CA, USA)

\*\*

spring rain only the Canada geese on the golf course
May 11 Comment: I like this scene. The other birds have already flown north. "The golf course" is a very good choice.

**Alexey Golubev** (Saint Petersburg, Russia)

\*\*

leaden sky  
no elephants  
at the zoo

May 19

Comment: Something important in life exists here. You can't make this kind of piece easily.

**Lothar M. Kirsch** (Meerbusch, Germany)

\*\*

On the map China  
And Germany are light orange  
Russia is green

Hot summer day  
Thermic lifts the hawk high up  
Then diving down

May 20

Comment: A new approach to world peace. Mr. Kirsch is really the man of haiku.

September 26

Comment: A good mere description of the surroundings.

**Marie-Louise Montignot** (Saulxures, France)

\*\*

spring lights  
I need to hike  
to the next haiku

farm scent  
the animal  
in me

May 21

Comment: "The spring lights" is a very big seasonal phrase in Japanese. Thanks, French haikuist.

July 11

Comment: Human beings are just a part of nature.

**Andrius Luneckas** (Vilnius, Lithuania)

\*\*

kite show  
in the dandelion field  
mom paints lips

May 23

Comment: This is a beautiful haiku construction, and the haiku punch is very impressive. Give us more submissions.

**John Zheng** (Itta Bena, MS, USA)

\*\*

quiet temple  
the spring rain pit-a-pat  
on the bell

May 25

Comment: This is a typical one, but favorable.  
Give your next submission, please.

**David J Kelly** (Dublin, Ireland)

\*

midwinter landscape  
painted kanji characters  
on a white background

May 26

Comment: I'm expecting your next haiku.

**Anna Cates** (Wilmington, OH, USA)

\*\*\*

cat-tails—  
my eye just missing  
the splash of a frog

acorn seedling  
thrusting through damp loam—  
wood thrush

May 30

Comment: Some effective “objective correlatives”: cat-tails; frog. And there is a slight hint of Basho’s “old pond.”

September 18

Comment: The writer must be a naturalist, as she makes a naturalistic mere description of the surroundings.

**Jose del Valle** (Rockville, RI, USA)

\*\*

dark matter  
the wind blows the door  
barely open

June 2

Comment: Dark matter: it is invisible (does not absorb or emit light) and does not collide with atomic particles but exerts gravitational force. This haiku shows it as concrete matter.

**Ashraful Musaddeq** (Dhaka, Bangladesh)

\*\*

shirt is unable  
to hold my body inside  
odd man is out

June 5

Comment: A unique portrait of the author, funny and realistic.

**Martin Cohen** (Egg Harbor, NJ, USA)

\*\*

window sill  
spring moonlight gathers  
on the dust

June 6

Comment: An expressive, subtle picture.

**Stelianna Cristina Voicu** (Prahova, Romania)

\*\*

dawning...  
the lighthouse alone  
supporting the sky

June

Comment: An excellent mere description of the surroundings. "Supporting" is the best choice of word.

**Romano Zeraschi** (Parma, Italy)

\*\*\*

meandering fog  
on meandering river...  
early morning

June 9

each of them moving  
I know  
...countless stars

July 23



swish of shoji deep in the summer night... someone is back	moon hide and seek... medina
August 4 Comment: The author might have had such an experience in a typical Japanese house.	October 22 Comment: Another haiku reconstruction with the same materials: medina moon / hide / and seek

shaking sound on a dusty plain... buffaloes
December 7 Comment: Another haiku: buffalo / shaking / on the dusty plain

**Patrick Peronne** (Nice, France)

\*

Heads on the left heads on the right to whom the match points
June 15 Comment: I don't like noisy tennis matches. They are too much for my sensitive ears.

**tzetzka ilieva** (Marietta, GA, USA)

\*\*\*

withering hyacinth— each day a little bit closer to Buddha's lap	the professor's wife— the way she greets the girls in long skirts
June 17 Comment: "Buddha's lap" is so impressive that I can't find a substitute expression.	November 30 Comment: The last line has a new finding.

**Maria Tomczak** (Opole, Poland)

\*\*

night fishing oars shove aside the moon	riptide the lingering silence after diagnosis
June 18 Comment: A beautiful haiku scene.	November 25 Comment: The “riptide” is a contrastive object to the serious situation.

meandering river ribbons in her hair mimic the wind
December 18

**John Hamley** (Marmora, ON, Canada)

\*\*

Time has stopped deep beneath the lake all the million stars	Black sky blackbird black
June 19 Comment: A fantastic third line.	December 26 Comment: The author’s way of gazing is unique and true.

**Heinz Schneemann** (Berlin, Germany)

\*\*

even more than forty shades of spring outside
June 22 Comment: “Forty” is not a haphazard number.

**Lynne Rees** (Offham, Kent, UK)

\*\*

all the small things  
I see  
midges in sunlight

June 26

Comment: It's a very difficult theme for haiku. My mentor's one: floating whites / might have heart and mind / in the winter air (Tenkou Kawasaki; tr. by Isamu Hashimoto)

**Dan Iulian** (Bucharest, Romania)

\*\*

long twilight—  
the cry of the last crane  
suspended in the air

June 30

Comment: The first line is effective and irreplaceable, though we have lots of these "suspended cries."

**Marietta McGregor** (Wollaston Place, Stirling, Australia)

\*\*\*

lighthouse  
the black around us  
sliced

a flash of white wings  
in the corner of my eye  
gone in one blink

July 1

Comment: The most beautiful lighthouse is clearly depicted slicing the darkness at a regular interval. This has a supreme reality and the first class of "newness."

August 13

Comment: I esteem highly the author's ways of making haiku.

our measure  
of summer days  
inchworm

aircraft landing  
a sparrow hops  
aside

September 10

December 16

Comment: The above (except #3) are all masterpieces. Please give us your personal history or career.

**Pravat Kumar Padhy** (Gujarat, India)

\*\*

summer breeze—  
a dragonfly above  
the old helipad

July 2

Comment: A high quality nature haiku.

**Urszula Wielanowska** (Kielce, Poland)

\*\*

another lightning  
sight the monks  
down

July 6

Comment: The monks are proceeding in a line  
for training and begging.

**R. K. Singh** (Dhanbad, India)

\*\*

hitching up the skirt  
she fills her pockets with  
unripe mangoes

squatting  
in the middle of the field  
a woman with child

July 8

November 27

Comment: The author has a keen eye for haiku.

**Evgeny Ivanov** (Moscow, Russia)

\*\*

Excursion in zoo—  
crocodiles under a lamp  
opened mouths

July 10

Comment: I understand crocodiles in the zoo  
sometimes open their mouths as if they were  
welcoming schoolchildren. But, that is not haiku.  
It would be better to depict objects specifically,  
using the singular forms of “crocodiles” and  
“mouths.”

**PY Daniel** (Orly, France)

\*

the dumb canary  
and I  
at the lunch table

July 14

Comment: One silent cut of the daily life of France.

**Gwilym Williams** (Vienna, Austria)

\*

The cuckoo is back  
I hear you  
I hear you

July 15

Comment: You are so glad to hear the same song again this year...really the same voice.

**Ishita Bhaduri** (Kolkata, India)

\*\*

on camel back—  
dawn's first rays  
upon golden sands

July 17

Comment: A masterpiece on the golden sands.

**Wieslaw Karlinski** (Namyslow, Poland)

\*\*

a harvest soon  
miller's wife washes  
white shirts

July 18

rural alehouse  
over a tinpot beer  
beautiful stories

October 6

Comment: Personally I like my stout black. The conversation will soon move on to ancient bouts with neighboring countries.

incorrect address  
a love letter  
from me to me

November 24

**Tim Gardiner** (Manningtree, Essex, England)

\*\*

peacock butterfly  
the offshore breeze  
takes flight

July 20

Comment: A beautifully constructed piece.

**Priscilla H Lignori** (Montgomery, NY, USA)

\*\*

Slipping a green stone  
inside my empty pocket  
turns my luck around

July 21

Comment: You will be happier for the rest of your life, I foresee.

The tiger lily—  
once it opens its mouth  
has at least six tongues

October 8

Comment: A delicate description. "At least" is an expression of haijin.

**Klemens Antusch** (Regensburg, Germany)

\*

arrival  
follow the sound of  
the conch horn

July 27-

Comment: Conch: We have the same horns, blown by practicing priests (in a religion called "shugendou").

**Shrikaanth Krishnamurthy** (Birmingham, UK)

\*\*

soft drizzle...  
the car park full  
of pink petals

July 28

Comment: The cherry blossoms are falling on the roofs of the cars, naturally. "Soft" is a good choice of word.

**Branka Vojinovic Jegdic** (Podgorica, Montenegro)

\*\*

lightning—  
the clouds still hung  
in rugs

August 3

Comment: "In rugs" makes a good portrait.

**Helene Duc** (Bichancourt, France)

\*

spider web...  
our time on earth  
so fragile

August 5

Comment: So agreeable.

**Nicholas Klacsanzky** (Kief, Ukraine)

\*\*

crescent moon in mist—  
I make excuses not to sing  
to a one-person audience

August 8

Comment: On stage you must endure that kind of solitude. It's a great delight to sing to a single audience.

touching the radio  
its signal gets better  
family attic

October 16

Comment: "Touching," or knocking...

**Christiane Ranieri** (Wittenheim, France)

\*\*

without luggage over the clouds a kite	Alsatian plain— the shriek of an eagle tears off the morning haze
August 11 Comment: The proper name “Alsatian” is effective to make the plain feel vast.	September 8

new mattress and always this old dream
October 7 Comment: How about saying this incantation for a nice new dream: nakaki yo no too no nefuri no minamesame naminorifune no oto no yoki kana. This is a Japanese waka made as a palindrome, like “Madam, I’m Adam.”

**tommy e-ichimiya** (Oita, Japan)

\*

shell mound left by the legendary giant glimmering green leaves
August 14 Comment: This haiku may need a concrete name for the giant.

**Andrea Cecon** (Cividale del Friuli, Italy)

\*

gazing at each other— the Milky Way
August 17 Comment: So lovely.



**Deborah P Kolodji** (Temple City, CA, USA)

\*

online family reunion  
no need to find  
the walnut pie recipe

August 20

Comment: You can never eat that tasty pie at the nearby chain restaurant.

**M. Shayne Bell** (Rexburg, Idaho, USA)

\*\*

At dusk  
one train south  
twelve geese north.

August 22

Comment: The numbers “one” and “twelve” are deliberately selected, and are not movable. This must be the vast potato fields of Idaho.

**Ernesto P. Santiago** (Athens, Greece)

\*\*

rushing to  
the nearest ATM—  
heat wave

August 24

Comment: We well know the difficult conditions of your country.

**Sandip Chauhan** (Great Falls, VA, USA)

\*\*

from the ridgeline  
to the Caribbean sea...  
bougainvillea scent

August 25

Comment: So vast, the extent of the fragrant areas.

**Gary P. Newell** (Ct. Gowen, Michigan, USA)

\*\*

no music playing  
but still the moth  
dances with the flame

August 28

Comment: The first line will not be born in the Japanese language, because we abhor the logical expressions by which this haiku is made. Using mere description: but still / the moth dances / with the flame //

**Jade Pisani** (Woodend, Victoria, Australia)

\*\*\*

shapely cloud  
she eats a doughnut  
on the cabin steps

August 31

Comment: A lovely trip with the girl with a doughnut.

**Adrian Bouter** (Gouda, The Netherlands)

\*\*

summer rain  
almost crushing the turtle  
as I rush inside...

September 1

Comment: It has an elegant humor to it.

**Ann-Marie McHarg** (London, UK)

\*\*

Beauty of the world  
Lies in the unfolding  
Of a morning glory

September 5

A scarf is thrown—  
In kaleidoscopic colours  
A rainbow is born.

November 11

Comment: Comment: An excellent new haiku scene.

My world is—  
Swallows  
In flight

December 28

**Patrick Sweeney** (Misawa, Aomori, Japan)

\*\*

as if to say  
it will be okay  
roadside cosmos

the ripening peach  
takes the room  
hostage

September 7

Comment: A first-class haiku. I find a newness in there.

November 13

Comment: Misawa base, where the author lives, is said to be one-third an American town.

**Anusha Tennakoon** (Kandy, Sri Lanka)

\*

muddy puddles  
little girl jumps  
over a cloud

September 9

Comment: Not new, but still amiable.

**Willie R. Bongcaron** (Manila, Philippines)

\*\*

Manila by night  
crickets lulling me  
to sleep

highway...  
I used to be lonely  
up there

September 12

Comment: There lurks the charm of the place name: haiku is very simple, but in this case "Manila," is very expressive.

November 28

Comment: I feel that sometimes.

**Anna Maris** (Tomelilla, Sweden)

\*

southern winds  
foreign sea weed  
covers the beach

September 19

Comment: I wonder if she is thinking about something with the use of “foreign.”

**James Roderick Burns** (Edinburgh, UK)

\*\*\*

Wild wind  
plunges its hands  
in the saplings' hair

Winter rosehips—  
cleaner, more delicate  
in decay

September 22

December 5

General comment: Excellent descriptions. The author is very good at depicting little things. He will make a great deal of haiku masterpieces from now on, too.

**paul m.** (Bristol, RI, USA)

\*\*

bright star  
I don't need  
to be reincarnated

September 23

Comment: I think, self-righteously, that I was reborn as the second Basho.

**Simon Hanson** (Allendale, Australia)

\*\*\*

kelp forest  
weaving moonlight  
weaving shadows

seven suns  
shining in a row  
of icicles

September 25

October 20

General comment: Mr. Hanson has a gorgeous haiku talent, all right.

**Noel King** (Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland)

\*\*

thin sky lines  
spinning suns  
on hospital blankets

September 30

Comment: The author has a keen observational eye for haiku. "Hospital blankets" has an inevitable newness.

**Teiichi Suzuki** (Osaka, Japan)

\*\*

rice reaping—  
a farm tractor surfs  
yellow waves

October 2

Comment: A very good use of "surfing."

**minami e-ichimiya** (Ibaraki, Japan)

\*\*

songs of cicadas  
every time  
train doors open

October 9

Comment: At the small rural stations.

let a cicada go  
a wind of life  
on my finger tips

October 9

Comment: Another masterpiece born of a cicada.

**Charlie Smith** (Raleigh, NC, USA)

\*

after storm  
bright double rainbow  
many smiles

October 10

Comment: I wish all the world would see the peaceful double rainbows.

**Raj K. Bose** (Honolulu, HI, USA)

\*\*

thinking of granny  
I sit in her rocking chair  
reading fairy tales

October 12

Comment: There are no more comfortable rockers.

**Andrea D'Alessandro** (Bruchsal, Germany)

\*

falling star—  
and once again  
the same wish

October 13

Comment: hat strong wish?

**Razvan Pinte**a (Bucharest, Romania)

\*\*

gray morning  
turning off  
red casino lights

October 15

Comment: Win or lose, the morning sun will rise in the east.

**Eleonore Nickolay** (Vaires sur Marne, France)

\*

blue sky  
on the horizon  
two white cows

October 26

Comment: Two beautiful white dots on the horizon. If a seasonal element were included, the scene would be more impressive.

**Marie-Alice Maire** (Rungis, France)

\*

Falling stars—  
I catch  
a firefly

October 27

Comment: A beautiful unexpectedness.

**Diana Michel-Erne** (Baden, Switzerland)

\*\*

gas station coffee  
on the horizon  
a strip sea

October 28

Comment: The final line is so “haikuic,” especially “strip.”

**Aletheia Wang** (Paphos, Cyprus)

\*

leaving home  
his father’s knuckles  
bumpy white hills

October 29

Comment: Be strong. cf. Rui Yoshida: divorcee came back home / celebrating / doll’s festival (tr. by Isamu Hashimoto)

**Archana Kapoor Nagpal** (Brigade Metropolis, India)

\*\*

dandelion seeds...  
how far my eyeballs  
can roll

November 7

Comment: A new type of self-portrait with a sense of humor.

**Dana Iulian** (Bucharest, Romania)

\*\*

caprice for violin—  
the nightingale puts  
once more sharp

November 10

Comment: The author has a keen ear for music.  
Caprice: capriccio.

**Tomislav Maretic** (Zagreb, Croatia)

\*\*

autumn evening—  
the moon a traveler  
to every port

November 12

Comment: The last two lines are especially  
excellent, indeed.

**Mohammad Azim Khan** (Peshawar, Pakistan)

\*

dark night...  
the sea swallowing  
the silver sand

November 14

Comment: A darkish haiku scene.

**Vitali Khomin** (Mukachevo City, Ukraine)

\*\*

field kitchen  
the militia mixed with  
a cat and a parrot

November 16

Comment: A peaceful dinner truce.



**Deborah P Kolodji** (Temple City, CA, USA)

\*

cinnamon hand lotion  
the pie chart  
in her PowerPoint

November 17

Comment: A new wave, technical kitchen.

**Lilia Racheva Dencheva** (Rousse, Bulgaria)

\*\*

Halloween—  
jack-o'-lanterns shining  
on the Danube

December 1

Comment: The last line's punch is unexpected and beautiful. So "haikuic."

**Sel Antrim** (Briar Hill, Victoria, Australia)

\*\*

spider's gossamer...  
a leaf secured  
against the gale

December 2

Comment: My version: on the leaf / against the gale / spider's gossamer.

**Cherese Cobb** (Maryville, TN, USA)

\*\*

a white cat  
curves its back—  
winter moon

December 3

Comment: This is a real haiku scene and the ideal juxtaposition of the two objects: cat and moon.

**Angela Cornelia Voss** (Luetjenburg, Germany)

\*

You know  
tomorrow is my birthday—  
much more silence

December 8

Comment: Contrary to our expectations, things  
will not go ordinarily.

**Maria Santomauro** (Commack, NY, USA)

\*

laughing  
in daylight—  
the moon

December 9

Comment: I've seen that one, too.

**Judit Hollos** (Budapest, Hungary)

\*\*

leaving for home  
the dawn sky crocheted  
by barbed wire

December 11

Comment: The complex psychological feelings are  
silently described.

**Helga Stania** (Ettiswil, Switzerland)

\*\*

castle ruin  
above a lake of fog  
red moon

December 12

Comment: The very weird scenery comes from  
deliberately-selected words.

**Yashowanto Ghosh** (Grand Rapids, MI, USA)

\*\*

crossing the fields  
with a hand in pocket  
holding keys

December 22

Comment: He must be an eternal traveler with some fortune.

**Vasile Moldovan** (Bucharest, Romania)

\*\*

Above all  
the full moon  
alone

December 25

Comment: Beautifully alone.

**Devin Harrison** (Duncan, Canada)

\*\*

taking its place  
in the pantheon of gods  
desert moon

December 30

Comment: Excellence.

**Elizabeth Crocket** (Grandview Avenue, Canada)

\*\*

wondering what's next  
watching the squirrel  
watching the toad

December 31

Comment: Wishing all a Happy New Year.