

a touch of sunrise

Edited by
Robin Smith

The Haiku Foundation
Volunteer Anthology 2026

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Cover Design & Layout by Shloka Shankar

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the fifth edition of The Haiku Foundation's Volunteer Anthology, *a touch of sunrise*, with the theme of "Connection." The Board of Directors extends heartfelt thanks to all volunteers past and present for their selfless dedication to the Foundation. We're sure you'll enjoy reading the fine poems in this collection and learning more about each volunteer.

I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to managing editor Shloka Shankar and editor Robin Smith for their outstanding work on this year's anthology.

— Theresa A. Cancro
THF Volunteer Appreciation Chair
Member, The Haiku Foundation Board of Directors

EDITOR'S PREFACE

In these times of escalated conflict and division, when Shloka and I discussed potential topics, we felt the theme “Connection” was appropriate for this year’s anthology. Not only to focus on connections in our everyday lives, but also to consider our connections within the Haiku Community.

The Haiku Foundation is composed of an all-volunteer staff that works together to make our many resources available to the public, welcomes everyone who seeks information on haiku, and encourages and fosters conversation about the many aspects of English-Language Haiku. These connections and supports within the organization allow us to extend them to anyone who comes to the community with an interest. That is truly something to celebrate, which is why the Volunteer Appreciation Anthology is so important to us.

As I read the submissions, which spanned a wide range of interpretations of the theme, the words “a touch of sunrise” from Iliyana Stoyanova’s included haiku stuck with me. This phrase inspires a palpable feeling of hope, so I knew it needed to be the title. Shloka’s cover art provides a beautiful abstract illustration of this metaphorical image. I hope this volume sparks further connections among its readers, the enclosed poems, and The Haiku Foundation’s many generous offerings.

— Robin Smith
THF Volunteer Anthology Guest Editor

• ROBERTA BEARY •

Maryland, USA / County Mayo, Ireland

Haiku Ambassador; Panelist, Touchstone Award for Individual Poems



t he y / t he m
the missing piece
of the jigsaw

tsuri-dōrō – a small journal of haiku and senryū 20

• NANCY BRADY •

Ohio, USA

Guest Editor, *Haiku Dialogue*



honeysuckle breeze...
the string quartet plays
Vivaldi

tsuri-dōrō – a small journal of haiku and senryū 21

• SUSAN BURCH •

Maryland, USA

Content Provider



Mohammed Ali –
this migraine
knocks me on my ass

previously unpublished

• SONDRA J. BYRNES •

New Mexico, USA

Content Provider



facebook—
all those friends
i don't know

previously unpublished

• ROBYN CAIRNS •

Melbourne, Australia

Content Provider



caravan neighbour
little Ava loans me
her shell for the night

previously unpublished

• THERESA A. CANCRO •

Delaware, USA

Member, Board of Directors; Managing Editor, *Hakupedia*



Grandpa's watch
the face and hands
I've never known

Mayfly 65

• ANNA CATES •

Delaware, USA

Content Provider



fading stars
a streak of silver
in his hair

Frogpond 48:3

•ANTOINETTE CHEUNG•

Vancouver, Canada

Content Provider



flowering dogwood
a stranger and I muse
in future tense

Presence 78

• MARION CLARKE •

County Down, Northern Ireland

Administrator, Forums



canal bank ...
each cherry tree touching
its neighbour

Sakura Award winner
Vancouver Cherry Blossom Haiku Invitational, 2012

• JOYCE CLEMENT •

Connecticut, USA

Panelist, Touchstone Distinguished Books Award



my memory
of my father's memory
of his mother's love
of skunk cabbage

Modern Haiku 53:3

• SUE COURTNEY •

Orewa, New Zealand

Guest Editor, Haiku of the Day



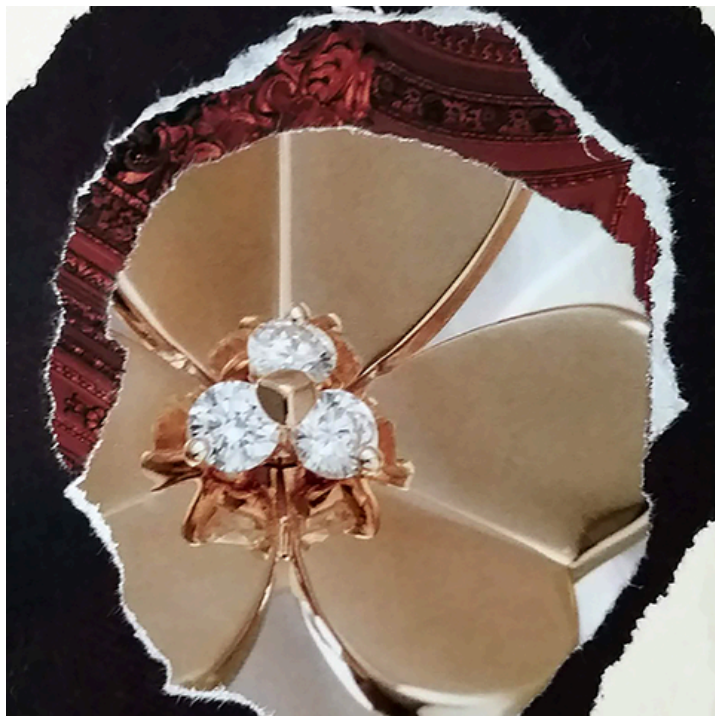
honeysuckle
the laughter of children
climbing a fence

haikuNetra 1.2

• **CHERIE HUNTER DAY** •

New Hampshire, USA

Content Provider



field mushrooms unbuttoning spring rains

The Heron's Nest XXVII, 3, Editors' Choice

• MELISSA DENNISON •

West Yorkshire, UK

Assistant Editor, re: Virals



meeting
at the mid rib
black ant and ladybird

previously unpublished

• CHARLOTTE DIGREGORIO •

Illinois, USA

Interviewer of Haiku Educators; Content Provider



end to caregiving . . .
i sit beside mother again
at her grave

*3rd Place, Modern Haiku Award
Illinois State Poetry Society Contest, 2020*

• MIMI DOLLINGER •

Colorado, USA

Consultant, Fundraising Committee



hear the splash
feel the drops—
Basho connection

previously unpublished

•AYUSHI DUBEY•

Pune, Maharashtra

Guest Editor, Haiku of the Day



riding the air
we breathe
sparrows in exodus

previously unpublished

• DANIELE DUTEIL •

Brittany, France

Content Provider



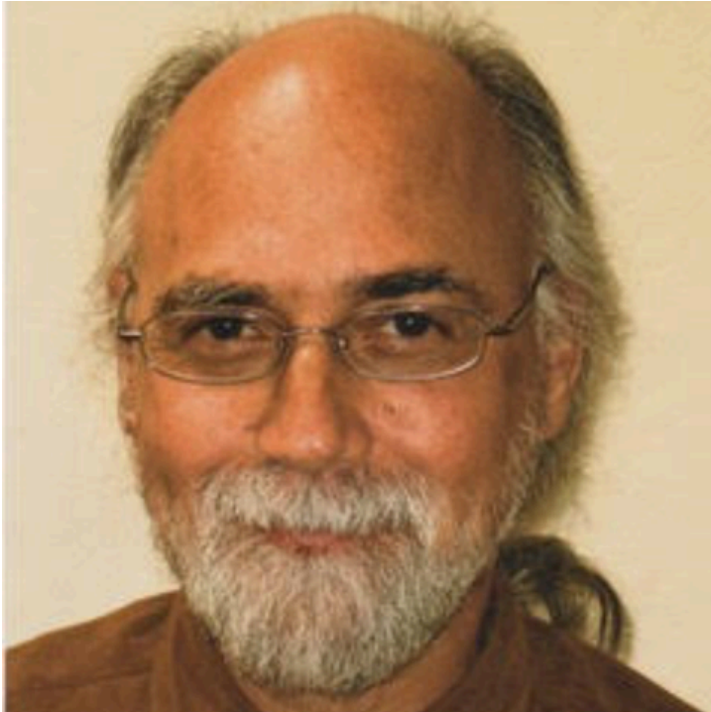
the dog's eyes
straight into mine
silent complicity

previously unpublished

• ROBERT EPSTEIN •

California, USA

Content Provider



a walk after rain
the way he returns
worms to the earth

Contemplating Nature: Pictures, Passages & Haiku
West Union, WV: Middle Island Press, 2021

• KEITH EVETTS •

Thames Ditton, UK

Managing Editor, re:Virals



railway waiting room
the swap shelf full
of thrillers

previously unpublished

• BRUCE H. FEINGOLD •

California, USA

Member, Board of Directors; Chair, Awards Committee;
Coordinator, Touchstone Distinguished Books Award



moonless night
my reclusive neighbor
points out Jupiter

Modern Haiku 41.3

• P. H. FISCHER •

British Columbia, Canada

Guest Editor, *Haiku Dialogue*



merry go round the sun the sun the sun

whiptail: journal of the single-line poem 12

• **TERRI L. FRENCH** •

Alabama, USA

Former Secretary; Former Member-at-large, Board of Directors



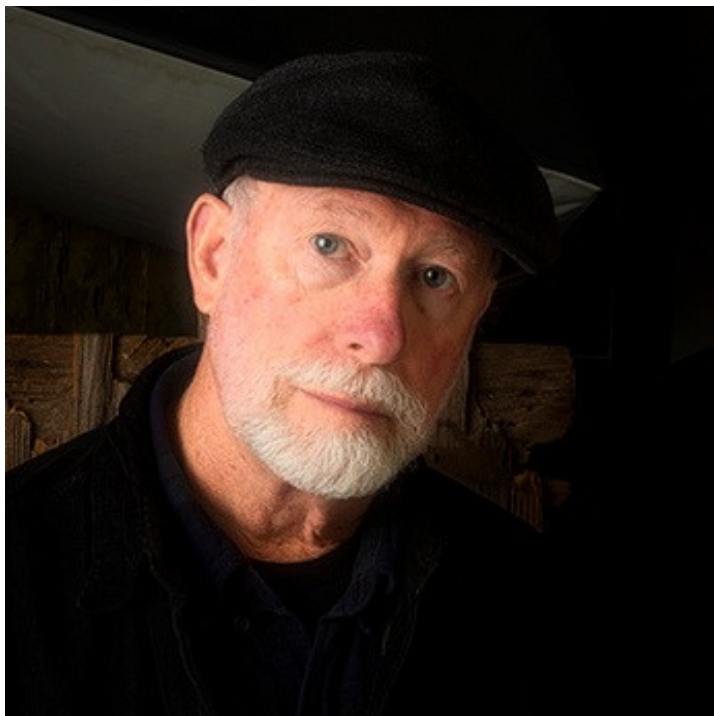
your leg
touching mine
cricket's song

Frogpond 39:3

• GARRY GAY •

California, USA

Advisor



prayer flags
no one yet
ready to surrender

Mariposa 53

• DAVID GREEN •

Illinois, USA

Guest Editor, Haiku of the Day



love song
the only lyrics
my daughters' names

confluence 5

• JENNIFER HAMBRICK •

Columbus, Ohio, USA

Content Provider



burrowed
in your extra rib
the rest of me

Heliosparrow Poetry Journal, November 29, 2025

• SIMON HANSON •

Tasmania, Australia

Guest Editor, Haiku of the Day



One among the starry billions Gaia

previously unpublished

• JOHN HAWKHEAD •

Bradford on Avon, England

Content Provider



bergamot breeze
the gentle caresses
of mosquitoes

The Mamba 18

• GARY HOTHAM •

Maryland, USA

Content Provider



older
the same stars
my parents had

tinywords 25.2

• MARSHALL HRYCIUK •

Toronto, Canada

Content Provider



too much vertigo
to try the beach waves
red admiral by my side

previously unpublished

• EDWARD CODY HUDDLESTON •

Georgia, USA

Panelist, Touchstone Distinguished Books Award



crumbling church
wisteria takes
the pulpit

Illinois State Poetry Society Competition 2024, Grand Prize

• LAKSHMI IYER •

Trivandrum, India

Guest Editor, *Haiku Dialogue*



school for the blind . . .
a teacher rubs sunshine
between their palms

LEAF – Journal of The Daily Haiku 6

• JIM KACIAN •

Virginia, USA

Chair, Board of Directors



passing the jug
the warmth
of many hands

Still 1

• DEBORAH KARL-BRANDT •

Sinzig, Germany

Guest Editor, *Haiku Dialogue*



a gentle breeze
melts the crusted snow ...
revealing all of me

previously unpublished

• ARVINDER KAUR •

Chandigarh, India

Guest Editor, *Haiku Dialogue*; Guest Editor, Haiku of the Day



telling my mother
she is my mother ...
half a spoon of porridge

haikuKATHA 45

• JULIE BLOSS KELSEY •

Maryland, USA

Secretary; Member, Board of Directors;
Editor & Content Provider, New to Haiku



Klimt's kisses
swirling inside me
a palette of words

Failed Haiku 110

• kjmunro •

Yukon Territory, Canada

Managing Editor, *Haiku Dialogue*



winter solstice
the scar in my palm
remembers the shard

Sense & Sensibility Haiku Journal, 2025

• LAFCADIO •

Tennessee, USA

Assistant Editor, *Haiku Dialogue*



walking path
I saw your smile
on a stranger's face

previously unpublished

• KAT LEHMANN •

Connecticut, USA

Panelist, Touchstone Distinguished Book Award; Content Provider



that mallard and this water lily lakeside starter kit

Kingfisher 12

• MICHAEL H. LESTER •

California, USA

Content Provider



sitting Shivah
a pair of mourning doves
in the tall grass

previously unpublished

• GREGORY LONGENECKER •

California, USA

Panelist, Touchstone Award for Individual Poems



graveyard flowers
something the deer will like too

previously unpublished

• CAROLE MACRURY •

Washington, USA

Guest Editor, *Haiku Dialogue*



stargazing . . .
a heron's cry
ripens the night

Hedgerow 141

• ANNETTE MAKINO •

California, USA

Panelist, Touchstone Award for Individual Poems



Tokyo alley
I run into
the moon from home

First place tie, Kukai, Seabeck 2024

• SCOTT MASON •

New York, USA

Member, Board of Directors; Chair, Outreach Committee;
Class Instructor



Bach Fugue in A-minor our fingers entwined

Blithe Spirit 30.3

• MARIETTA MCGREGOR •

Canberra, Australia

Guest Editor, *Haiku Dialogue*; Guest Editor, Haiku of the Day;
Panelist, Touchstone Award for Individual Haibun



falling open
to birthday cakes
mother's cook book

Creatrix 69

• DAVID MCMURRAY •

Ontario, Canada

Content Provider



all in one go
exhaling
on the connecting flight

previously unpublished

• MATTHEW MARKWORTH •

Ohio, USA

Coordinator, Touchstone Award for Individual Poems



notably in english an autumn crow

Password: the journal of very short poetry 1.3

• PAUL DAVID MENA •

Massachusetts, USA

Guest Editor, Haiku of the Day



between connections
travelers
and their cell phones

previously unpublished

• BEVERLY ACUFF MOMOI •

California, USA

Commentator, THF Monthly Kukai



all the trees
stop breathing
wildfire

Password: the journal of very short poetry 2.1

• LENARD D. MOORE •

North Carolina, USA

Content Provider



writing day—
this six-year-old laptop
closes up pollen

previously unpublished

• JOANNE MORCOM •

Alberta, Canada

Content Provider



winter night
I keep the telemarketer
talking

tinywords haiku contest, 2003

• RON C. MOSS •

Tasmania, Australia

Content Provider



city park birdsong
office workers chatter
on their walk home

previously unpublished

• ELLEN GRACE OLINGER •

Wisconsin, USA

Lesson Plan Provider, Education



time with old friends
poems in a journal
from years ago

Poems for Bulletin Boards

• MAEVE O’SULLIVAN •

Dublin, Ireland

Content Provider



friend's goodbye hug...
a long grey hair
on my navy coat

previously unpublished

• RENÉE OWEN •

California, USA

Panelist, Touchstone Award for Individual Haibun



almost solstice
the stillness collected
in downed leaves

Modern Haiku 57.2

• LORRAINE A PADDEN •

California, USA

Panelist, Touchstone Award for Individual Haibun



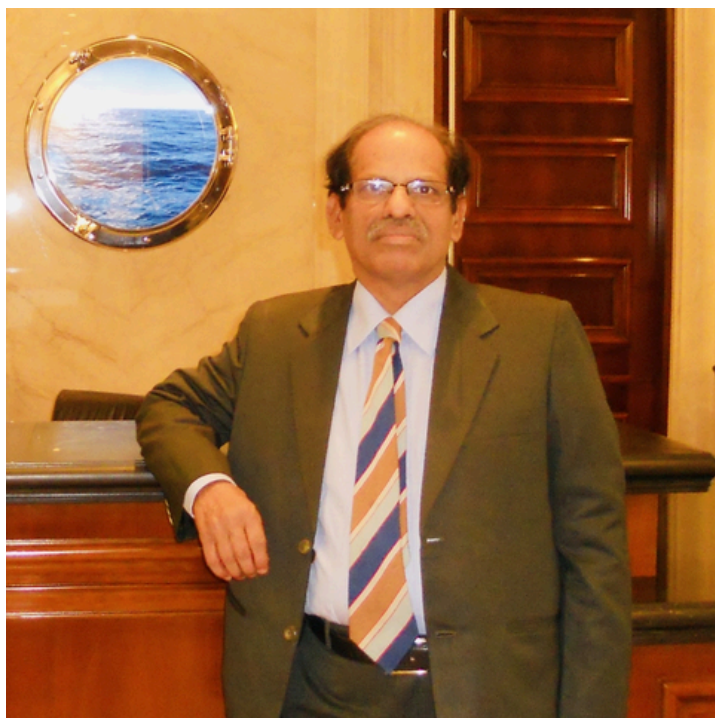
trading recipes
over the fence
braided river

haikuNetra 1.3

• PRAVAT KUMAR PADHY •

Bhubaneswar, India

Panelist, Touchstone Award for Individual Poems



meandering river
the tiny pebbles script
a memoir of journey

previously unpublished

• LINDA PAPANICOLAOU •

California, USA

Guest Sabaki, Renku Sessions



Independence Day
we sign our names with sparklers
on the night

previously unpublished

• JOHN PAPPAS •

Massachusetts, USA

Content Provider



city subway
suddenly the lullaby
you sang to me

previously unpublished

• VANDANA PARASHAR •

Panchkula, India

Associate Editor, *Haiku Dialogue*;
Coordinator, Touchstone Award for Individual Haibun



two decades on
the frog I kissed
still a frog

Prune Juice 45

• SARAH PARIS •

California, USA

Panelist, Touchstone Award for Individual Poems



homecoming
the cry of the red kite
still raw

previously unpublished

• MARIANNE PAUL •

Ontario, Canada

Panelist, Touchstone Award for Individual Poems



wild sedge
gossamer spanning
the multiverse

previously unpublished

• STELLA PIERIDES •

Bavaria, DE; London, UK

Former Member, Board of Directors; Managing Editor, Haiku for Parkinson's



from contemplative AI to consuming lobsters

The Other Bunny, January 29, 2026

• MADHURI PILLAI •

Melbourne, Australia

Content Provider



twilight years ...
the I that was
still within

previously unpublished

• SHARON PRETTI •

California, USA

Panelist, Touchstone Distinguished Books Award



open air market
the same pear
a stranger touched

Modern Haiku 44.3

• KALA RAMESH •

Chennai, India

Guest Sabaki, Renku Sessions



reading between his lines
my thoughts porcupine

The Pan Haiku Review 1

• DIAN DUCHIN REED •

California, USA

Content Provider



double rainbow
the sandalwood
in her hug

Modern Haiku 56.3

• LYN REEVES •

Tasmania, Australia

Content Provider



heavy cloud —
filling the fruit bowl
her gift of lemons

Windfall: Australian Haku, 2020

• BRYAN RICKERT •

Illinois, USA

Content Provider



whip-poor-will
its little harmony
with the stream

previously unpublished

• VALÉRIE RIVOALLON •

Clichy, France

Manager, Events



Call of the jungle –
Happy to see him
happy

previously unpublished

• MICHELE ROOT-BERNSTEIN •

Michigan, USA

Content provider



full immersion
the soft syllables
of falling snow

NOON: *journal of the short poem* 28

• CE ROSENOW •

Oregon, USA

Senior Editor, *Juxtapositions: Research and Scholarship in Haiku*



ivy wall
our differing opinions
intertwine

previously unpublished

• AGNES EVA SAVICH •

Texas, USA

Panelist, Touchstone Award for Individual Poems



the snail of me
into the snail of you
high summer

The Heron's Nest XXV, 4

• DAN SCHWERIN •

Wisconsin, USA

Panelist, Touchstone Award for Individual Poems



only the light
about us

to sugar
little apples

previously unpublished

• JULIE SCHWERIN •

Wisconsin, USA

Content Provider



huddled together
under mom's umbrella
little mushroom family

Third Prize, 30th International Kusamakura Haiku Competition 2025

• ROB SCOTT •

Melbourne, Australia

Former Managing Editor, Haiku of the Day



first buds –
I help my mother
to her feet

Acorn 54

• SHLOKA SHANKAR •

Bangalore, India

Managing Editor, Haiku of the Day;
Managing Editor, Volunteer Appreciation Anthology



con moto falling awake to your heartbeat

previously unpublished

• VIDYA SHANKAR •

Chennai, India

Guest Editor, *Haiku Dialogue*



pani puri conversations the sweetsour cracking of

whiptail: journal of the single-line poem 13

• RICHA SHARMA •

Uttar Pradesh, India

Guest Editor, Haiku of the Day; Member, THF Young Poets' Advisory Council



feeding on rice the zen teachings of my free pigeon

whiptail: journal of the single-line poem 2

• NEENA SINGH •

Chandigarh, India

Content Provider



first crocus
the neighbor's smile
across the wall

previously unpublished

• CRYSTAL SIMONE SMITH •

North Carolina, USA

Editor, *Juxtapositions: Research and Scholarship in Haiku*



carillon bells
on the narrow path
strangers nod

previously unpublished

• ROBIN SMITH •

Delaware, USA

Member-at-large, Board of Directors



skipping stones striking a deal with the giant catfish

Kingfisher 9

• SHEILA SMITH MCKOY •

North Carolina, USA

Editor, *Juxtapositions: Research and Scholarship in Haiku*



wind-blown sunflowers reaching for her wrinkled hand

previously unpublished

• CHRISTINA SNG •

Singapore

Content Provider



winter fog
only the company
of ghosts now

Haiku Garden's Weekly Best, December 2025

• MARIA STEYN •

Johannesburg, South Africa

Content Provider



first light . . .
the shape of you
around me

Mayfly 35

• ILIYANA STOYANOVA •

Aveiro, Portugal

Editor, *Haikupedia*



these clouds
with a touch of sunrise
a wedge of swans

previously unpublished

• DEBBIE STRANGE •

Manitoba, Canada

Content Provider



campfire nights
we ride in on the back
of a song

3rd Place, New Zealand Poetry Society International Competition, 2025

• RICHARD STRAW •

North Carolina, United States

Former Consultant, Digital Library



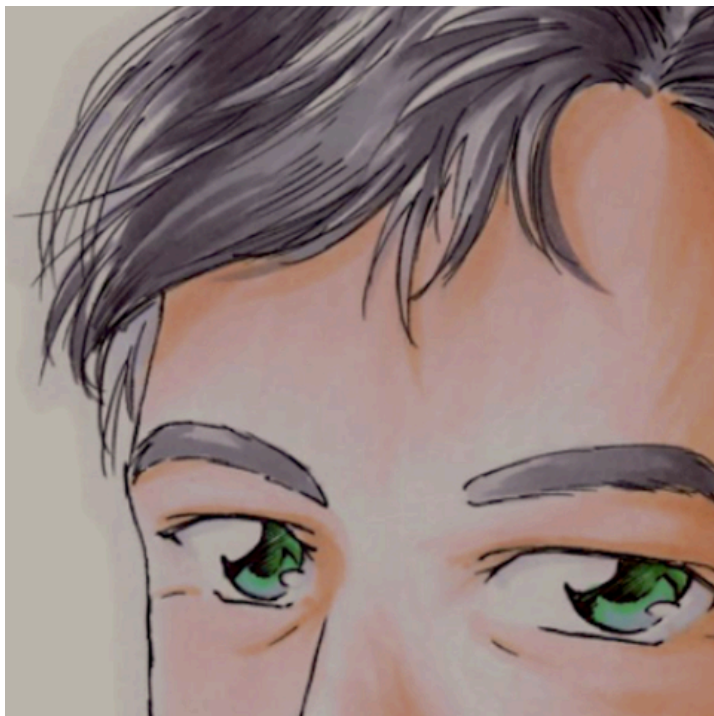
without ceasing
the sparrow singing
a life of prayer

Haiku Dialogue, October 29, 2025

•ALAN SUMMERS •

Wiltshire, UK

Content Provider



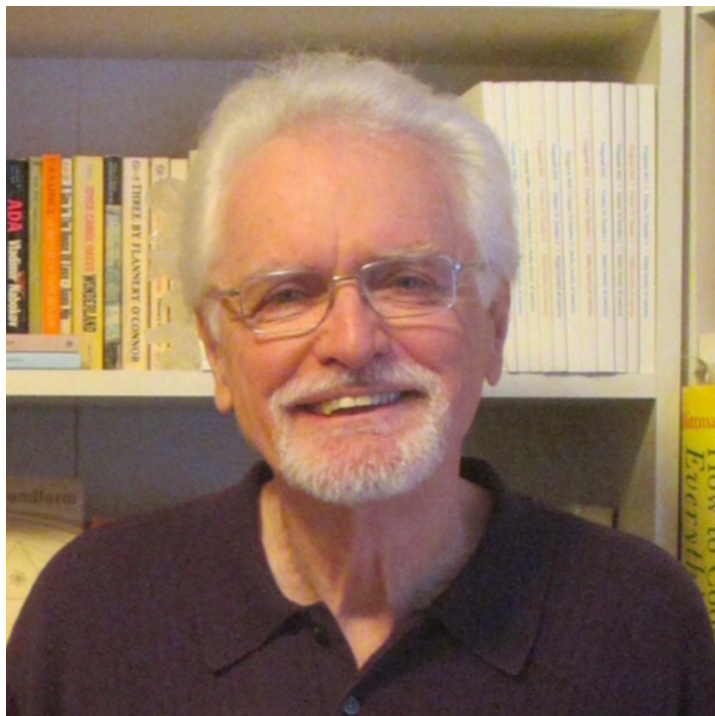
cheap plastic your mislaid lips askew still welcome

previously unpublished

• GEORGE SWEDE •

Ontario, Canada

Content Provider



sea fret
the unison call
of cranes

Micro Haiku
Inšpress, 2014

• CORINE TIMMER •

Portugal/Netherlands

Guest Editor, Haiku of the Day



longer days wild daisies and i

previously unpublished

• TOÑI SÁNCHEZ VERDEJO •

Albacete, Spain

Content Provider



walking beside
the black-and-white cat ...
lavender breeze

paseando
con el gato blanquinegro...
una brisa con olor a lavanda

Petal Breeze: Haiku from the Botanical Garden
Dandelion Press, 2025

• MARILYN APPL WALKER •

Georgia, USA

Content Provider



almost home
gravel road ditches brimming
with sunflowers

The Heron's Nest XXVI, 3

• JOHN ZHENG •

Mississippi, USA

Editor, *Juxtapositions: Research and Scholarship in Haiku*



march breeze cherry blossoms dance into a breath of awe

previously unpublished

a touch of sunrise is the fifth annual Haiku Foundation Volunteer Anthology. It is one way the Foundation celebrates and honors the contributions our many volunteers have made to its success over the years since our founding in 2008. In this volume, we focus on volunteers who have contributed to the Foundation over the past three years. Edited by Robin Smith, it features the work of nearly 100 poets.

