

# Haiku North America 2015 (Union College/The Desmond)

## Session Descriptions

### Wednesday Oct.14

9:00 a.m. Registration Desk Opens at The Desmond

9:30 a.m. *Leaf and Art Viewing Tour* departs from The Desmond (returns by 4:30 p.m.)

6:30 p.m. *The Desmond - Koi Pond Reception*  
(Sponsored by *The Heron's Nest*)

7:00 p.m. *Town Hall Opening Session*  
to 9:00 p.m.

#### *Welcome*

John Stevenson  
Michael Dylan Welch  
Hilary Tann

#### *Read Around*

##### *"Realism Is Dead"*

Jim Kacian

"Realism is a way a way of representing the real world in artistic terms, and nominally the underpinning of haiku but the modern world has become far too abstract to portray in traditional ways. If haiku is no longer rooted in the real world, what might ground it? Contemporary haiku must be able to account for equity derivatives, mass killing at a distance, the purchase of political power within a democracy, the discovery of the Higgs boson, internet dating and much much more that, for all their lack of "real world" causality, are essentially abstract transactions in this context. Real cherry blossoms can be seen, paradoxically, as a retreat from the world rather than engagement with it."

#### *Haiku Education Invocation*

John Stevenson

### Thursday Oct. 15

(10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Book Fair at Nott Memorial)

8:15 a.m. Buses depart from The Desmond for Union College  
(Coffee and muffins in Hale House)

9:00 a.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL

*Welcome to Union College from President Ainlay*

*William J. Higginson Memorial / Keynote Address*  
Dr. Randy Brooks

*Haiku Educators - Panel Discussion*

Michael Dylan Welch, Moderator

Aubrey Cox Tom Painting

Rich Schnell Geoff VanKirk

11:00 a.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL  
to 11:45 a.m. *Japanese Aesthetics and Junk Haiku*  
Lee Gurga

“A presentation of the importance of the four Japanese aesthetic principles of Ma, Kire, Kigo, and Kokoro in haiku followed by an audience discussion that will reveal their operation in some of today’s finest English-language haiku.”

11:00 a.m. UNION EVEREST LOUNGE  
to 11:45 a.m. *Beyond Surprise: Haiku and the Poetics of George Oppen*  
Philip Rowland

“Few poets have shown as sincere and consistent a concern for clarity as George Oppen. Like haiku, his poetry adapts Imagist principles, often finding the “miraculous” in the commonplace. But his search does not stop with the “aha” moment; skepticism underlies his faith in clarity, which must be “earned.” This paper argues for the relevance of his poetics to the development of haiku, beyond mere surprise or novelty.”

Noon to 1:45 p.m. BUFFET LUNCH IN HALE HOUSE

2:00 p.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL  
to 2:45 p.m. *Why Haiku — A Personal Reflection*  
Scott Mason

“This presentation is a personal paean to haiku — the qualities, effects and potentialities that not only have captivated me as a reader and writer but also have enriched my life. My remarks will be illustrated by a selection of other poets’ work from the newly released volume *Nest Feathers: Selected Haiku from the First 15 Years of The Heron’s Nest*.”

2:00 p.m. UNION EVEREST LOUNGE  
to 2:45 p.m. *Autumn Term: Haiku in Schools*

Dr. Shashi Angelee Deodhar

“My interest in this field sparked two years ago when I was involved in compiling an anthology of haibun, *Journeys* and again this year as I worked on *Journeys 2015*. I noticed that only older people are writing in this genre. I feel it is imperative that we bring haibun into schools. Children can be taught to write haibun as easily as haiku. They have great powers of observation.”

2:00 p.m. UNION MILANO LOUNGE

to 2:45 p.m. *Brushed by the Autumn Wind: The Haiku Journey of Tagami Kikusha (1753 - 1836)*

Cheryl Crowley

“A talk introducing the life and work of Tagami Kikusha, an 18th century Japanese female haikai poet, tea practitioner, musician, painter, and traveler in the tradition of Matsuo Basho.”

3:00 p.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL

to 3:40 p.m. *Branching Out: Groups within the haiku community*

Jennifer Sutherland

“An exploration of the various benefits of group participation and workshopping within the haiku community. Poets who are already part of a group or interested in either joining or establishing a local haiku group should benefit from the presentation and discussion”

3:00 p.m. UNION EVEREST LOUNGE

to 3:40 p.m. *A Path of Desire*

Peter Newton, Kathe L. Palka

“From July 2013 through August 2014, Peter Newton and Kathe L. Palka wrote tan renga on a nearly daily basis via mail. 75 of the over 100 written during this collaboration are collected in their book titled *A Path of Desire*. A description and reading will be followed by discussion.”

3:50 p.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL

to 4:40 p.m. *A Woman's Desire: The Lost Letters of Chiyo-ni*

Terry Ann Carter, Marco Fraticelli

“The performance will begin with a brief history of Chiyo-ni's life and the place we feel that she deserves to hold in haiku history. This will be followed by a reading from 'A Thousand Years.' The reading of each of her letters will be followed by a mime performance based on an accompanying haiku by Chiyo-ni.”

3:50 p.m. UNION EVEREST LOUNGE

to 4:40 p.m. *HaikuWALL India*

Kala Ramesh

“Kala Ramesh has been instrumental in bringing school kids and undergrads to haiku in India. Her latest obsession is to paint city walls with haiku written by her students, helping to weave a pause, a breather into hectic lives. This session revolves around a short, crisp film capturing haiku on WALLS.”

5:00 p.m. NOTT MEMORIAL  
to 6:30 p.m. *Ion Codrescu - Haiga Painting*  
Refreshments (Sponsored by The Haiku Foundation)  
Welcome - Julie Lohnes  
Artist Introduction - Jim Kacian  
Address by Ion Codrescu

DINNER ON CAMPUS AT RECEPTION OR REAMER CAMPUS CENTER

7:30 p.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL  
to 9:00 p.m. *The Search for Solitude: China's Hermit Tradition*  
Red Pine (Bill Porter)

A slide and lecture presentation describing the travels of  
Red Pine (Bill Porter) in China in search of the Taoist/  
Buddhist hermit tradition.

9:15 p.m. Buses Depart from Old Chapel to The Desmond

## **Friday Oct. 16**

**(10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Book Fair at Nott Memorial)**

8:15 a.m. Buses depart from The Desmond for Union College  
(Coffee and muffins in Hale House)

9:00 a.m. UNION EMERSON AUDITORIUM  
to 9:40 a.m. *Memorial Reading and Reflections*  
John Stevenson

*"Kilvert's Hill"*  
Hilary Tann - Composer  
Andrew Barnhart – Cello

9:50 a.m. UNION EMERSON AUDITORIUM  
to 10:20 a.m. *Haiku With Feathers*  
Ruth Yarrow

"I will present my haiku about birds, very briefly describe  
the birds' habitats so the audience can imagine themselves  
there, and whistle, hoot or trill the appropriate song."

9:50 a.m. UNION EVEREST LOUNGE  
to 10:20 a.m. *The Significance of Kukai in Elementary School*  
Makoto Nakanishi

"Kukai is a haiku sharing circle where poets make, submit,  
select and appreciate haiku together. Even though the  
name of the poet receiving the most votes is revealed at  
the end, the most interesting part of the kukai is the  
anonymity and equality in selecting and appreciating  
haiku throughout the process. I will focus on the  
significance of haiku in education."

10:30 a.m. UNION EMERSON AUDITORIUM  
to 11:30 p.m. *Haiku Chronicles: Learning Through Multimedia and the Podcast*  
Donna Beaver, Alan Pizzarelli

“Haiku Chronicles producers and hosts, Donna Beaver and Alan Pizzarelli share their podcast ventures and how their podcasts are used as a tool for informal learning and sharing of haiku and related poetic forms. They will offer a brief history of podcasting, describe their own discover of podcasting, and explain how and why they do it.”

10:30 a.m. UNION EVEREST LOUNGE  
to 11:30 p.m. *Understanding the Seasons: From a Five-Element Chinese Perspective*  
Alexis Rotella

“The seasons impact our physical, emotional, and spiritual bodies. Every season has a wisdom that can be felt in the pulses, on the faces and in the voice of every person. A deeper understanding of the Five Elements from a Chinese perspective can not only add depth to our writing but help us understand each other better. Bring your autumn haiku for sharing.”

11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. BUFFET LUNCH IN HALE HOUSE

1:50 p.m. UNION EMERSON AUDITORIUM  
to 2:50 p.m. *A Rengay Workshop*  
Garry Gay

“This workshop will introduce you to the collaborative linking form called “rengay.” It will be taught by its creator, Garry Gay. This one hour workshop will give you a brief introduction to its history and how to write a two or three person rengay. It’s an enjoyable experience and we will be writing together. If you can write haiku, you can write rengay.”

1:50 p.m. UNION EVEREST LOUNGE  
to 2:50 p.m. *Only Connect: Linking Haiku and Prose to Create Haibun*  
Melissa Allen

“Haibun is a linked form, requiring a subtle and sometimes difficult-to-achieve connection between prose and haiku. In this workshop we’ll first examine some haibun and discuss different kinds of linking. Then we’ll do a free-writing exercise to limber up our associative powers and finally try our hand at writing some prose linked to an existing haiku. Please bring a haiku that you have previously written (even five minutes previously!).”

3:05 p.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL  
to 4:05 p.m. *Our Frogpond Term: Searching for LIFE in Haiku Submissions*  
Francine Banwarth, Michele Root-Bernstein

“Banwarth and Root-Bernstein reflect on *Frogpond’s* remit under their leadership: to provide a forum for the best work and the best promise in contemporary haiku

from seasoned, novice and pioneering poets alike; to select haiku with LIFE—the language, image, form and elusiveness that deliver freshness; to enable poetic transition from personal meaning to public contribution. Participants will have an opportunity to submit poems beforehand, some of which will be selected for feedback and reflection.”

3:05 p.m. UNION EVEREST LOUNGE  
to 4:05 p.m. *Understanding the Larger Pond: Haiku in the Mainstream Poetry Community*  
Deborah P. Kolodji

“Haiku has been appearing more frequently in the mainstream, from President Obama’s ‘haiku’ to the ‘Japanese Forms’ issue of *Rattle*. How is haiku perceived outside of the haiku community? What can we do to change it?”

4:15 p.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL  
to 5:15 p.m. *Appropriating Nature*  
Paul M.

“There is a tension in traditional haiku between the desire to write of things just as they are and the reality of poetry in which objects are manipulated for effect. Using ideas from ecocriticism this talk will investigate the intersection of nature and haiku poetics. This paper will look at nonnatural nature (kigo system), emotional painting (haiku’s two part structure), and nature as product (activism, nostalgia).”

4:15 p.m. HISTORIC STOCKADE DISTRICT  
**through** *Ginko*  
**Dinner** David Giacalone  
**Break**

“A ginko walk through the Historic Stockade Neighborhood. Led by David Giacalone, the ginko will leave from Old Chapel at 4:15 p.m. for a half-mile stroll to the Stockade District, and then a walk around the neighborhood and its tranquil Riverside Park. A residential neighborhood since the 1690s, the Stockade has the highest concentration of historic period homes in the country. Three centuries of history, cemeteries, and lore will give us much to write about when we arrive at Arthur’s Market cafe for haiku and victuals. Learn more at <http://tinyurl.com/HNA Stockade>.”

#### EXPLORE DINNER OPTIONS IN SCHENECTADY (suggested)

7:00 p.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL  
to 8:00 p.m. *Editors’ Panel*  
Susan Antolin (*Acorn*)  
Francine Banwarth (*Frogpond*)  
Stanford M. Forrester (*Bottle Rockets*)  
Paul M. (*Modern Haiku*)

Scott Mason (*The Heron's Nest*)

7:00 p.m. UNION EMERSON AUDITORIUM  
to 8:00 p.m. *Beijing Opera*  
The New York Chinese Opera Society presents  
"The Emperor and The Barmaid" with live music.

8:15 p.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL  
to 9:00 p.m. *HNA Anthology Reading*  
Michael Dylan Welch

9:15 p.m. Buses Depart from Old Chapel to The Desmond

## **Saturday Oct. 17** **(10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Book Fair at Nott Memorial)**

8:15 a.m. Buses depart from The Desmond for Union College  
(Coffee and muffins in Hale House)

9:00 a.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL  
to 9:45 a.m. *Panel Discussion - Haiga*  
Jim Kacian - Moderator  
Ion Codrescu Garry Gay  
Alexis Rotella

10:00 a.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL  
to 10:30 a.m. *The Aesthetic Value of Understatement in Haiku*  
Susan Antolin  
"Making a case for moving away from a reliance on  
Japanese vocabulary in discussing haiku aesthetics, this  
paper focuses on one aesthetic value, the art of understatement,  
as an indispensable quality to both traditional  
and contemporary haiku."

10:00 a.m. UNION EVEREST LOUNGE  
to 10:30 a.m. *The Yuki Teikei Haiku Society - A Unique Introduction of Haiku to North America*  
Patrick Gallagher  
"The knowledge of the art of haiku poetry has traveled  
many paths to North America. Forty years ago a unique  
introduction of haiku was fostered by a Japanese  
immigrant couple who wanted to teach their American  
friends the joy of the haiku life. Through its origin with  
strong emphasis on Japanese haiku traditions and through  
continual interchange with Japanese haiku poets the  
Society they founded continues to emphasize and enjoy  
classical haiku principles and celebrations."

10:45 a.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL  
to 11:15 a.m. *The Cicada's Voice: How the Wabi-Sabi Aesthetic Can Teach Us How to Live*  
Mary Stevens  
"Wabi sabi, found in a variety of Japanese art forms, refers  
to the lonely beauty of incomplete, imperfect, or impermanent

things. Come hear traditional Japanese and modern English-language haiku and tanka from the 9th to 21st centuries and view artworks capturing this aesthetic, including photographs by Tom Clausen.”

10:45 a.m. UNION EVEREST LOUNGE

to 11:15 a.m. *Renku for Fun*

John Stevenson

“One of the best pieces of advice I ever received about leading a renku session came from Masahisa (Shinku) Fukuda. He said, ‘First, it has to be fun.’ The collaboration between poets that is the heart of renku can be extremely complex and challenging. There are a lot of rules and traditions. Poets first encountering renku can easily become overwhelmed and discouraged. But it doesn’t have to be that way. While all are invited to this session, a special invitation is extended to those who are new or relatively new to renku.”

11:30 a.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL

to Noon *Pay It Forward*

Roberta Beary

“In 1916 Lily Hardy Hammond wrote, ‘You don’t pay love back; you pay it forward.’ (Hammond, Lily Hardy (1916). *In the Garden of Delight*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co. p. 209) Roberta Beary’s presentation / reading from her recent book *Deflection* will show how haiku and related forms (haibun, haiku sequences) pay it forward.”

11:30 a.m. UNION EVEREST LOUNGE

to Noon *The Vertical Axis in Haibun*

Beverly Acuff Momoi

“Why do some haibun stay with you long after reading them? What gives a haibun resonance over time, culture and geographical distance? What can today’s writers bring to the form that builds on the foundation of Basho in distinctively 21st century ways? This presentation will examine how successful contemporary haibun operate on two axes, as Haruo Shirane suggested, and will discuss strategies for writing haibun that have a strong and deep vertical axis.”

12:15 to BUFFET LUNCH IN HALE HOUSE

1:45 p.m.

2:00 p.m. UNION OLD CHAPEL

to 2:30 p.m. *From Free Verse to Haibun*

Penny Harter

“Penny Harter will read a number of new haibun that she recast/revised from fifteen original free-verse poems, along with selected haibun written this year.”

2:00 p.m. UNION EVEREST LOUNGE



to 2:30 p.m.     *Haiku in Education: Literary Haibun*  
                    Claudia Coutu Radmore

“We will discover a new form by using the traditional form of haibun, with an emphasis on how to create the prose part of the haibun from someone else’s writing, and how to make the haiku part interesting as well as unpredictable. We’ll learn how writing haibun from such sources can enrich the experience of the original work both for the haibun writer and for readers. Participants can write and perhaps share a ‘little literary haibun’ of their own.”

2:45 p.m.         UNION OLD CHAPEL  
to 3:30 p.m.     *Translating Shiki*  
                    Charles Trumbull

“Of the classic Japanese haiku masters, Masaoka Shiki is the least translated-and, it might be argued-the least well translated. Through a careful examination and comparison of the approximately 1,950 translations into English and other Western languages of Shiki’s 29,000 haiku, we will suggest some reasons why the poetic work of Shiki, perhaps the most influential theoretician of haiku, is so poorly represented in the West.”

2:45 p.m.         UNION EVEREST LOUNGE  
to 3:30 p.m.     *Midwest Haiku Path*  
                    Julie Warther

“This slideshow presentation will illustrate the creation and grand opening of the Midwest Haiku Path in Millburg, Ohio; a joint venture of the Haiku Society of America and The Inn at Honey Run. Julie Warther, Midwest Regional Coordinator for the Haiku Society of America, will discuss the how-to aspects of its creation and its possible future applications for increasing haiku awareness and education.”

3:45 p.m.         NOTT MEMORIAL  
                    *HNA 2015 Group Photograph*

We will gather on one of the sets of steps leading to the Nott Memorial. Photographer Garry Gay will determine which offers the best lighting.

4:00 p.m.         “*Colors of Japan*”  
Featuring Zakuro-Daiko, The Union College  
Japanese Drumming Ensemble, Directed by  
Prof. Matsue

4:30 p.m. *Farewell to Union and Thanks to All Union Supporters*  
Hilary Tann

5:00 p.m. Buses Depart from Old Chapel to The Desmond

6:30 p.m. THE DESMOND - KOI POND  
to 7:00 p.m. *Reception (Sponsored by Modern Haiku)*

7:00 p.m. THE DESMOND - FORT ORANGE BALLROOM  
to 10:00 p.m. *The Haiku North America 2015 Banquet*  
An appearance by Haiku Elvis  
Remarks from Red Pine (Bill Porter)  
Announcement of the Next HNA Venue  
Results of the Silent Auction

## Sunday Oct. 18

9:00 a.m. THE DESMOND - TOWN HALL  
to 10:00 a.m. *Spiritual Freedom: Haiku Lessons from Wassily Kandinsky*  
Michael Dylan Welch

“Kandinsky’s seminal book on modern art, *Concerning the Spiritual in Art*, provides guidance for haiku poets without ever once mentioning haiku. My paper explores the role of the spiritual in haiku, without needing to discuss Zen, raising intriguing questions about various ways to approach and receive haiku in spiritual ways.”

9:00 a.m. THE DESMOND - THE LODGE  
to 10:00 a.m. *Dream Haiku Workshop*  
Kathabela Wilson

“This is a workshop I recently tested at our SO CA Haiku Study Group. It is an hour long focus on the expanse of time—when we sleep, rest, nap—and how it can be used for haiku. It includes two ‘napping’ (rest, relaxing) sessions. Rick (Wilson) plays soft shakuhachi or desert flute accompaniments, that move into writing sessions. Poems to be shared as time permits and poets are willing.”

10:15 a.m. THE DESMOND - TOWN HALL  
to 11:30 a.m. *Organizing Effective Haiku Events and Workshops*  
Deborah P. Kolodji

“The presentation / workshop will illustrate ways of energizing local haiku workshops, offer suggestions for unique haiku events, and discuss various strategies for planning. Part of the session will include sample workshop exercises.”

A Reading of “Conference Haiku”

Reflections and Closing