

MINNIBARAKI

Our Forty-third Year

Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association



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2024 Haiku Awards Ceremony

The Annual Haiku Awards Ceremony was held this year on Sunday, May 12, 2024 at Nicollet Island Pavilion during the 13th Annual Cherry Festival. This is different from past years – with one of the reasons for the change being a problem with communicating with the teachers this year (emails ended up blocked).

The Ceremony began at 3 p.m. with each winner being called up to read their haiku to the audience and then presented with their certificate and gift from Ibaraki City. The first, second and third place winners also heard the comments of Judge Ikuyo Yoshimura and why their haiku was selected.

The Haiku Contest is one of MISCA's longest running exchanges with Ibaraki City – with students submitting haikus since the 1992. This marked the 33rd year of the contest. MISCA received approximately 400 entries this year!

MISCA Board members enjoy reading all of the entries and trying to select the best thirty in each age category to send to Ibaraki for final judging.

THANK YOU to all the teachers and students who participate in the contest each year!

Also, a big thank you to Hiroshi Yoshino for translating the judge's comments!

Friends of the Bell of Two Friends

Diamond Friends

*Bill Deef
Michael Rainville
Karl Reinhard*

Platinum Friends

*Jack Sattel and Karen Sontag Sattel
Mary Witkus & Werner Kohler*

Gold Friends

Jessica Manivasager

Silver Friends

*Richard & Marie-Rose Lundgren
Dan Rolf*

Bronze Friends

*Carol Austermann
Sharon Balke
Carter Clapsadle & Julia Baugnet
Richard Kathrine Fournier
Mirja Hanson
Cynthia & Brian Haskell
Jim & Reiko Hoffman
Brenda Langton & Tim Kane
Helane Monsour
Doug & Addona Rivord
James & Norma Solstad
Claire & Paul Spilseth
Richard & Carol Stahl
Vernon Wetternach*



Photos from the 2024 Cherry Tree Festival

Judge: Ikuyo Yoshimura

- Born in Kyoto. Graduated from Department of English, Faculty of Literature, Doshisha University.
- Completed the doctoral program from Department of Culture of the English-Speaking World, Graduate School of Letters, Aichi Gakuin University for PhD in Literature.
- Former professor at Asahi University. Former professor at Gifu University of Health Science.

Books

- "Life of R. H. Blyth – Loving zen and haiku" (Dohosha 1996)
- "Globalized Japanese tanka" (Chigai-Nipo 2002)
- "Introduction to English haiku for Japanese – Encouragement for haiku" (Japan Times 2003)
- "Study of a UK-born researcher of Japanese literature, R. H. Blyth" (Ringoya-Bunko 2016) (Received an award from Historical Society of English Studies in Japan 2017)

Academic Societies

- Historical Society of English Studies in Japan (Kansai English Studies Association)
- Haiku: Unabara World Haiku Association
- Poetry: Kyoto Junpa

The 2024 Award Winning Haiku's: Kindergarten - 5th Grade

1st Place

Gisela D.
Lake Harriet Lower-Debra Mattson

I love nature sounds
Leaves whisper a nice hello
like my secret friend

2nd Place

Hudson H.
Barton Elementary- Linda
Wilterdink

autumn leaves falling
cold air blowing in my hair
a warm hand on mine

3rd Place

Mason F.
Kenwood Elementary- Natalie
Peterson

Alone he may walk
But alone he never is
Friendship is his guide

Judge's Comments

The author love nature sounds. We can easily imagine sounds, whispers, and conversations with the secret friend. Structure of this haiku is very well done. "Introduction" of nature sounds in the first time, "development" of leaves' whisper, hello, in the second line, and "movement" of secret friend describing the character of the whisper in the third line. It is a surprise to see "Jyo-Ha-Kyu", i.e., Noh's expression for a three-structure consisting of introduction, development, and climax, in haiku, which fills the work with rich emotion and sensibility. Nature and human's feelings are well-woven in this haiku.

Contrast of coldness and warmness are very effectively included in this haiku through the expressions of cold air blowing in my hair vs. my warm hand. The expression of "autumn leaves falling" in the first line adds flavor to this construct of temperatures. Leaves telling the deepening autumn season works as a buffering agent between cold and warm. Falling leaves in autumn are used in the Japanese haikus as well and I find this is one fine work indeed.

This haiku has no season phrases. It is a seasonless haiku. Seasonless haikus tend to carry a strong message. This haiku, however, "Friendship is his guide" in the third line brings the readers some warmness of friendship with friends while still leaving the sense of a message. This point adds value to the haiku and touches the hearts of readers. A very well-written haiku.

Honorable Mention

Isla H.
Burroughs - Jesse Moyer

Friendship is waiting
right behind the open door
now don't be shy, go.

Honorable Mention

Ben K.
Kenwood Elementary- Natalie
Peterson

It rises above
The source of our existence
A truly good friend

Honorable Mention

Isla O.
Kenwood Elementary- Natalie
Peterson

A faded photo
Kept in the corner of a
mirror, forever

Honorable Mention

Molly G.
Burroughs - Amy Walvatne

Like an iron chain
A bond that lasts forever
Always there for you

The 2024 Award Winning Haiku's: 6th - 8th Grade

1st Place

Jasper N.
Anthony Middle School - Ms.
Bartholomew

Friends are like flowers.
Although some may look the same,
They all are unique.

2nd Place

Sullivan C.
Anthony - Wolf

You make things so sweet
Being with you is a treat
You let me be me

3rd Place

Zoe S.
Anthony middle school - Ms. Wolf
tell me anything
i am always on your side
for i am a friend

Judge's Comments

Figurative expressions are well-used throughout the three lines describing flowers to talk about friends. In the first line, the author claims that "Friends are like flowers". In the second line, common characters between flowers and human are described. After suggesting that they might look the same, the author confidently states that they are unique and not the same in the third line. The sounds of "f"s in the first line and the sounds of "s"s in the second line work effectively along with their meanings.

Unique grammatical forms of the words "make" and "let" are used in this haiku. By using these words, the author explains what friends should be. This is a seasonless haiku. While seasonless haikus tend to be more like propaganda, the author created this beautiful haiku while maintaining the main nature of friends and telling what friends mean to you.

When you have a friend like this, you could say that you have the best treasure you could ask for. Maybe the author has been told "As I am always on your side, you can tell me anything". As you grow older, many of us can experience betrayal from telling secrets to the people that you thought were your friends. However, we sometimes think back about pure and innocent feeling towards your friends and shared that feeling with them in the past. The "i"s in the second and third lines are not capital letters. Having them as small letters show the humbleness of the author saying they would support their friend with their small yet full power. This is the point of this haiku. I would like to talk with the author, maybe they learned at the school about the modern poet, e.e.cummings who writes his name with small letters.

Honorable Mention

Ajax P.
Anthony Middle School - Ms.
Bartholomew

Friendship Blossoms like
A cherry tree in springtime.
Beautiful always.

Honorable Mention

Isla N.
Anthony Middle school - Elizabeth
Bartholomew

A true friend is rare,
Like a diamond in the rough
Priceless and precious

Honorable Mention

Tova R-S
Susan B. Anthony Middle School -
Bartholomew

Sisters have strong bonds
We light and bless the candles
Sing in the fire light

Honorable Mention

Braydon W.
Anthony Middle - Ms. Bartholomew

a friend you laugh with
a friend you work with in class
a friend you cry with

Honorable Mention

Nora C.
Anthony Middle School - Goldammer

Laughter echoes loud
Heartfelt moments shared with friends
Forever cherished

The 2024 Award Winning Haiku's: 9th - 12th Grade

1st Place

Ridwan S.
Heritage - Clayton Shanilec

Sharing is friendship
Moon and Sun are best of friends
They take turns to shine

2nd Place

Lianni M-A
Heritage Academy - Clayton
Schanilec

When life is hurting
Friendship plants a seed of hope
Miracle of care

3rd Place

Hazel O.
Southwest High School - Nathan
Hamel

Friends gather around
Telling stories of their life
No longer alone

Judge's Comments

Connection of the movements of the Moon and the Sun is replaced with friendship in this haiku. This effectively expands the imagination in the work. Both the Moon and the Sun are connected continuously, with which the author replaces with the best of friends. "They take turns to shine" in the third line is the continuation of the Moon and the Sun's elevated friendship. This looks like a statement but is it not. It is a poetic expression. Rotation of "s" sounds is fun, i.e., starting with the "s" sound of "Sharing", moving to the "s"s of "Sun" and "best of friends", and concluding with the "s" sounds of "turn to shine".

Everyone born on the earth will experience hurt. During your lives, people many times feel pain in their hearts. I, myself, also was hurt by other people many times throughout school and work. While I was a teacher, struggles and pain of my students reflected as my own pain. The larger the pain is, the more effectively friendship plants a seed of hope and you will feel the miracle of care. Let's live through our lives strongly with constantly having the second and third lines in mind.

You may experience the situation of this haiku when you attend the school reunion that you have not attended for a long time. When you learn each person's life, "someone also had a similar experience" or "your classmate who looked happy actually had been through a tough time alone", the time of their experiences shine as jewels of lives. You are not alone. Acknowledgement of it is always a great gift at any stage of your life.

Honorable Mention

Landaniya H.
Heritage STEM Academy - Molly
Gill

A bright sunny day
Laughter healing all your wounds
Hanging out with friends

Honorable Mention

Huda A.
Heritage - Mr. Schanilec

Friends, full of laughter
Reminds me of real beauty,
A garden in spring

Honorable Mention

Rowan K.
Southwest High School - Nathan
Hamel

Life blows with the wind
It has come with ups and downs
Yet friends come with you

Honorable Mention

Kattleya L.
Southwest High School - Nathan
Hamel

Through the thick and thin
Friends will forever be there
Always by your side

Honorable Mention

Kristin F.
Heritage STEM Academy -
Mr.Schanilec

we stay together
if the world ever ended
i'll be there with you

The 2024 Award Winning Haiku's: Adults

Judge's Comments

1st Place

Clayton Schanilec
Heritage Academy

Gray clouds smother me
Your smile pops my windows
Tender light flows in

Without using the word "friend" in any line, this haiku talks about friends. When you are feeling down, your friend's smiley face bursts through energy at your windows. And the tender light flowed in through the windows. This haiku makes the readers peaceful and happy. I would like to send a card to my friends with this haiku written on it. Verbs (smother, pop, and flow) are used effectively, i.e., they do not have different directions, but each works as a verb to create each scene within the work.

2nd Place

Debi Mattson
Lake Harriet - Lower

Sunrise tiptoes sky
beams like outstretched arms for all
Light friend always there

Let me explain this haiku by using a triple-tiered approach. (1) **Introduction:** It is comical and fun to have a figurative phrase of "Sunrise tiptoes sky". I take my hat off to the wonderful poetic sense the author has by expressing the way of the dawn-break as a word, "tiptoe". (2) **Development:** Second line, "beams like outstretched arms for all", moves the contents of the haiku. (3) **Climax:** Third line, "Light friend always there", concludes the work without explaining the meaning of friends too much, but simply ends with a poetic expression. It is a beautiful haiku to listen to as well.

3rd Place

Christine Fury
District

Whispers from pine trees
Memories of a friends voice
Beautiful chanting

"Whispers from pine trees" in the first line and "Memories of a friends voice" in the second line describe the encounter of nature and human. "Beautiful chanting" in the third line describes that nature and humans gather friendly. My special applause to the author's poetic sense and expressive talents of the friendly gathering of nature and humans by using various verbal expressions of "whisper-voice-chant".

Honorable Mention

Christine Fury
District

Breeze across the lake
Cries of the eagles soaring
Thoughts of a lost friend

Honorable Mention

Diana Leaskas
Davis Center

A rock of ages
Weathered by never faded
In the mist we pass

Honorable Mention

Clayton Schanilec
Heritage

I fall I struggle
I cannot do this, I moan
Reaching me, your hand

Honorable Mention

Nathan Hamel
Southwest High School

By the frozen lake
Ideas bloom like flowers
Walking with a friend

Honorable Mention

Clayton Schanilec
Heritage

In the slide of life
you are my friction, my rails
easing me to earth.

Honorable Mention

Linda Wilterdink
Barton Elementary

Autumn leaves gather
Cartwheeling on a swift breeze
Friends find each other

Cherry Tree Festival

The 13th annual Cherry Tree Festival took place on Sunday, May 12, 2024 on Nicollet Island inside the tent outside of the Pavilion.

We had some new and old groups this year providing information and performances:

From 2 – 4 pm

- Karen Kersting gave a Kamishibai performance
- Mutokai Iaido & Minneapolis Jo gave a Japanese Sword demonstration
- Chai-Ami Japanese Cultural Center had an information table where they also did origami

From 3 – 3:30 pm

- The Haiku Awards Ceremony

From 3:30 – 4 pm

- A performance by Harisen Daiko

Other Activities included:

- Displays of Ibaraki Student Artwork
- Japanese games

Attendance was excellent! And we are looking forward to next year's celebration.



Did you know there are thirty cherry trees located on Nicollet Island? These trees were a gift from the City of Ibaraki to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Sister City relationship in 2010.

The trees were in full bloom in late April of this year.



Karen Kersting performing Kamishibai, visitors and artwork from Ibaraki students.



Visitors doing origami at the Chai-Ami Japanese Cultural Center table; visitors learning about tea ceremonies.



Mutokai Iaido & Minneapolis Jo giving a Japanese Sword demonstration



Haiku Contest winners receiving their certificates and gift from Ibaraki.



Haiku Contest winners receiving their certificates and gift from Ibaraki.



Harisen Daiko performing.

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MINNEAPOLIS IBARAKI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

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MINNEAPOLIS- IBARAKI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



Upcoming Board Meetings:

Tuesday, June 19, 2024

Board meetings are held vis Zoom

If you would like to participate,
please email Karl Reinhard at:

misca.info@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Sister Cities Day

Sunday, July 14, 2024

1 - 5 pm

Nicollet Island

Please check out or
Facebook page for other
events and information.