

## ***The Kiyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi Haiku Contest***

This contest is for English language haiku written in three lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables. Each poem is required to contain one (and only one) season word from an assigned list:

New Year: New Year's Confetti  
Spring: first crocus  
Summer: billowing clouds  
Autumn: persimmon  
Winter: winter solitude

### **FIRST HONORABLE MENTION**

*early morning light  
gently your hand sweeps away  
new year's confetti*  
Roberta Beary

*the billowing cloud  
metastasized with lightning—  
chemotherapy*  
Earl R. Keener

*on a dark highway  
merging with darkening sky  
winter solitude*  
Joseph Robello

*jet contrail blending  
into a billowing cloud  
vet's burial day*  
Richard St. Clair

### **SECOND HONORABLE MENTION**

*winter solitude  
no spark of recognition  
in mother's brown eyes*  
Roberta Beary

*sweeping up new year's  
confetti – another day  
of rigamarole*  
joan iversen goswell

*snuffing out candles  
just for the joy of their scent  
winter solitude*  
Billie Dee

*we wade our way in  
Japantown festivities  
persimmon pudding*  
Neal Whitman

*fallen persimmon  
but I recall the green one  
my father gave me*  
Desiree McMurry

*new year's confetti  
the accordion player  
leans back on his heels*  
Billie Dee

*galloping a horse  
right up a hill right into  
the billowing clouds*  
joan Iversen Goswell

### **Contest Judges**

**TORU KIUCHI, Ph.D.** is a published haiku poet in Japan and the editor-in-chief of *Ten [Sable]: A Haiku Magazine*; a member of the Association of Haiku Poets [Vice Chairman, International Division], Haiku International Association [Executive Committee Member and Trustee]; a Japanese translator of Richard Wright's *Haiku: This Other World*; a judge for the weekly English haiku contest in the English-Japanese bilingual *Weekly ST*; and an author of *Hanazuou [Red Bud Tree]*, a collection of his haiku poems.

**kris moon (kris kondo)**, co-founder & past president of the Association for International Renku (AIR) is an artist, poet, journal keeper, teacher & mom. kris studied art & education in Boston in the 60's and was influential in the early days of the Kaji Aso Studio. Kaji gave her a set of R.H. Blyth's books as a going away present when she went to Japan in 1972. She has been writing poetry for 50 years, haiku & senryu for 40 years, renku for over 30 years & tanka for about 15 years. Her activities included work with the Haiku Society of America, Haiku International Association, and Haiku North America. kris is also Regional Director for Japan of IAPT, International Academy for Poetry Therapy.

## ***Yuki Teikei Haiku Society***

***announces***



*sakuo*

***the winners of the***

***Tokutomi***

***Haiku Contest 2011***



the familiar cough  
of the neighbor's old Chevy  
winter solitude  
Billie Dee

### First Prize - \$100

**the familiar cough  
of the neighbor's old Chevy  
winter solitude**

- Billie Dee

The cough is not from the neighbor but his old Chevy. Winter solitude and human cough are too much well-matched. However, a cough from an old car, and especially a familiar car, sounds like a winter cry itself. When you read from the top (the first line) to the bottom (the third line), you find yourself feeling like going back from winter solitude to a cough, as Basho said in *Sanzoshi* that one should make a haiku like going back to the first words. (TK)

Intimacy, solitude, humour, and North American landscape & culture all come through in this haiku which gives a unique twist to the kigo "winter solitude". (km)

### Second Prize - \$50

**munitions worker  
staggering home from the pub—  
dark billowing cloud**

- J. Zimmerman

This scene painted with words makes us feel the inner turmoil of a worker. It is also a powerful ant-war haiku. (km)

A dash makes a great difference. There is produced a chemical reaction between a staggering worker and cloud. A munitions worker gets drunk at the pub, probably in England, and staggers home. He looks up, without noticing and finds a dark cloud billowing as if predicting that he does not come back to the factory. (TK)

### Third Prize - \$25 (tie)

**persimmon fabric  
folded in tissue paper  
Mother's kimono**

- Elaine Whitman

I feel this haiku is elegantly multilayered, sensitive, and evocative. Yet the serious question I had to ask myself about this haiku was, "Can it stand by itself without knowing anything about the author?"

"Yes."

It also makes me want to know more. Just like with Hemingway's shortest novel, "For sale, baby shoes, never worn." I'd like to know the rest of the story. (km)

**finding her letter  
in his old leather jacket  
winter solitude**

- Billie Dee

When she puts his leather jacket onto a hanger, she unintentionally puts her hand into his pocket only to find a love letter to a different woman. Or a letter a wife wrote to a husband. In either way, finding something unexpected is fit for winter solitude. One is likely to find that solitude in winter deepens this way. (TK)

*Haiga painting for the winning haiku by  
Sakuo Nakamura*

*Yuki Teikei Website:  
www.youngleaves.org*