

Farmington Observer



hallways

A page of Farmington-area school news

Spring: when 'Earth's blood starts to flow'

Haiku: ancient Oriental verse

THE CONNECTION between art and form has long been hailed. Today, we move to a long-held poetic tradition: haiku — the ancient poetry of Japan.

A haiku consists of three lines of poetry that contain, respectively, five, seven and five syllables. Haiku are generally concerned with some aspect of nature and present a single image to the reader.

Keep in mind that the main objective of all haiku is to recreate the circumstances that aroused the emotion of the poet.

The value of the form and technique seems to be that they have proved useful in conveying the poet's emotions with great directness and immediacy, as in:

tsuki no ya koku ni michite matsu no koe

cooling breeze

and the whole sky is filled

with pine tree voices.

— Onitsura

HAIKU IS the poetry of everyday life — the commonplace is its province. The writer attempts to connect with his/her feelings rather than his/her intellect. The writer is concerned with preserving a moment in time.

Haiku is a poetry of the seasons. Writing about the beauty, power, mystery of the seasons was the primary focus of all Japanese haiku. Often, the season was not named, but the imagery, the language itself of the haiku, gave a clue to the season. An example of this might be: The Japanese visit the graves of loved ones in mid-summer; a poet would not write mid-summer, but might say instead, "visiting the graves."

ie wa mina tsue ni shiraga no haka mairi

*A family all . . .
leaning on staves and white-haired
visiting the graves*

— Basho

ABOVE ALL, haiku's brevity has resulted in the omission of all unnecessary words, and great reliance is placed upon suggestion. If the poet can remember this, the haiku will succeed. Haiku is preferably and generally unrhymed. Rhymed haiku does exist, but it loses the traditional, mystical rhythm that makes haiku what it is.

While attempting to maintain the syllable count (five-seven-five), keep in mind that in American or English haiku, this is not always possible. Oftentimes, a stretching of the syllable count is present. It should be noted that the Japanese count syllables differently than we do. A word that would count as three syllables in Japanese often counts as one or two in English.

Spring is the perfect season for writing haiku. With the unfolding of flowers, return of birds and the warmth of the sun, there is much to be experienced and then captured by haiku.

Many of the same devices used in writing other poetic forms work in writing haiku: Keep an idea book handy, record your thoughts, photograph a particularly beautiful scene. Later on, sit down and work on the haiku. The beauty of the form is its simplicity. Enjoy.

— Vikki Day Najjar

Vikki Day Najjar is a Farmington resident, an English teacher at Bloomfield Hills Andover High School and a nationally published poet.

Springtime
Spring has come again.
It rolled around the corner
Past the cold winter.

— Tim Shelton
AP English 9

The Unfolding
A flower, bright with
Color — one petal folds back
Slow, others follow.

— Rhonda Troutman
AP English 9

Flowers
God's silent allies
Growing wildly in the fields
Fill the air with joy.

— Allyson Newman
Creative Writing

To Touch
The bees are busy
Baking their honey, trying
To tempt us to touch.

— Amy Frontier
AP English 9

Spring
Spring's the time between
When the frozen land turns warm
And the birds chirp north.

— Dave Karow
AP English 9

Dew
The dew is a kiss
The flood slides to touch and tease
Toes of grass below.

— Angie Hancock
AP English 9

Spring's Come
Cold suddenly fades.
The glow of spring spreads slowly
Shining on green fields.

— Alan Stebbins
Creative Writing



Artwork by MARVIN TEEPLES

Spring evokes a flood of thoughts.

Spring Starting
Ice peels off like skin;
Spring slowly slides under us;
Earth's blood starts to flow.

— Mary Brish
AP English 9

Spring Aviator Class
Candy-colored kites
Kiss the clumps of grey clouds, high
Above the meadow.

— Lauren Weary
AP English 9

The Long Journey
Winter drips away —
Down to Antarctica; the
Warm weather sinks in.

— Mary Davis
AP English 9

Melting
Rivulets like veins
Of water sliding on ice,
Flooding the walkways.

— Rhonda Troutman
AP English 9

inkwell

Inkwell provides primary and secondary school news and information about Farmington-area students. The column appears monthly throughout the year as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 32205 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.

● **MERIT FINALIST**
Farmington Hills resident Brett Berk is a finalist in the 1987 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Berk is a student at the Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School.

● **DIPLOMAS ISSUED**
Two diplomas were recently issued through Farmington Public Schools.
Gregory Scott Gunkel and Jody Bohelm both received their high school diplomas through adult education programs.

● **MCEACHIN RETIRES**
Marvellee McEachin, reading and gifted aide at Longacre Elementary, will retire from Farmington Public Schools effective June 19.

● **TEACHING POST**
Janis Griebel, a special education aide at the Shilwassee Center, moved to a teaching position at the Farmington Hills-based center in March.
Griebel will teach emotionally impaired students.

● **NEW HIRES**
Five new employees were placed on the Farmington Public Schools payroll recently.
Juanita Abid was hired as an autistic program aide at William Grace Elementary. Nancy Kilner was hired as a 7th and 8th grade English and history teacher at East Middle School. Terry Kulusz was hired as a special education aide at the Farmington Training Center and Debra Larson joins the staff as district food services supervisor.

● **BID AWARDED**
Reighard International Trucks of Farmington Hills was recently awarded a bid by the Farmington Board of Education for a 48-passenger bus chassis for \$19,527. Reighard was the lowest of three bidders.
Reighard was also low bidder for eight 66-passenger bus chassis at a total cost of \$162,384.

Bus bodies totaling \$117,823 were approved for purchase through the Oakland County School Business Officials bid process. Low bidder was Hoekstra Truck Equipment Co. of Grand Rapids.

● **SOUND DECISION**
North Farmington High School will receive a new public address system at a cost of \$10,840. Industrial Communications Co. of Oak Park was low bidder for the project.

● **FITNESS COURTS**
Farmington Public Schools will apply for two \$5,000 grants for fitness courts to be used at three schools.

Eagle and Gill elementary schools and Power Middle School showed interest in getting a court. If the grants are received, Eagle — at 14 Mile and Middlebelt in West Bloomfield Township — would have its own, and Power and Gill — off of Gill, south of Nine Mile — would share one.

The total cost for each court is \$7,800. The district would pay \$1,800 for each for freight costs.

The grants are being awarded as part of the National Fitness Campaign through Wells Fargo Bank. Locally, Botsford General Hospital of Farmington Hills is co-sponsoring the effort. There is a similar court at Shilwassee Park in Farmington.

● **MONEY COLLECTED**
Students at Gill Elementary have raised \$1,500 from selling popcorn, jelly, brownies and empty bottles to buy a flagpole and memorial stone to be dedicated to the memory of former principal Nick Abid, who died last year.

A special day is planned for later in the school year to dedicate the pole and stone.

● **2 HONORED**
Two Gill Elementary students were district winners in the annual PTA Reflections Contest.
Their work will be judged in state competition this month, according to information from Gill school.

First place in the fourth and fifth grade category for art was won by Jennifer Baydoun. In the same grade category for literature, Deborah Popp took another first place.
The theme for this year's contest is: "A Past to Remember, A Future to Mold."

● **FAMILIES NEEDED**
A non-profit student exchange or-

ganization needs host families for 15- to 18-year-old Japanese and Chinese high school students coming to the United States in August.

Each PEACE-USA student is covered with insurance and will have their own spending money. They will attend the local high school and stay through the entire school year.

If interested, contact Margaret Satoh in Livonia at 525-6934, or call PEACE-USA at 1-800-84-PEACE.

● **SHE'S AWARDED**
Susan Gunderson, a Farmington Hills resident and a student at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School, recently won a medal during the 1986-87 Michigan Schools Band and Orchestra Association Upper School Solo and Ensemble Festival.

The event was held at Farmington High School in February.
Gunderson received a "superior" rating for a violin duet and a "very good" rating for a violin solo.

● **3 SELECTED**
Three Power Middle School students were named local winners in the 18th annual America and Me Essay Contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

The students who earned first, second and third place awards for their school, respectively, are Stephanie Speranza, Ayesha Mahmood and Grant Muller. All received award certificates for their achievement.

As first place winner, Speranza's name will be engraved on a plaque for permanent display in the Farmington Public Schools middle school.

Her essay now advances to the state level competition, from which the top 10 essays in Michigan will be selected. The top 10 state winners will receive plaques and savings bonds ranging in value from \$300 to \$1,000.

Speranza is a carrier for the Farmington Observer.

● **TAKING PART**
Farmington High School student Victoria Schack — one of 88 national semifinalists in the Ronald Reagan Scholarship competition at Eureka College — participated in a testing program Feb. 28 on the college's Eureka, Ill., campus.

The test included written examinations in mathematics and the humanities, a variety of psychological tests, an essay and a personal interview.

Schack is currently involved with her church choir, Spanish and Latin clubs, and school color guard as well as the National Honor Society and the Metropolitan Youth Symphony.



HICKEY-FREEMAN

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SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 11 A.M.-4 P.M., BIRMINGHAM

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