

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Haiku Festival Awards Program  
Dedicated to Mrs. Gwendolyn Brooks, and Mrs. Mitsuko Rukuhira  
1200 poets, and 37 teachers, from 20 schools  
Celebrate National Poetry Month

Saturday, 29 April 2017, 10:00 AM  
Harold Washington Library Center  
400 South State Street, Chicago, IL 60605  
312-747-4300



Please support Haiku Festival

Post Office Box 450

Chicago, IL 60690

312-253-7453

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Please make gifts payable to "Haiku Festival."  
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celebrates children through poetry, while promoting literacy.

[www.HaikuFest.com](http://www.HaikuFest.com)

# The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Haiku Festival Awards Program

Introduction: Maureen Kennedy, Chicago Poetry Committee

Welcome, Happy birthday, Gwendolyn Brooks: Regina Harris Baiocchi, Founder

## Awards for Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Raymond Patterson Award: **Adaeze Uduko**, age 9, grade 4

Passages Charter School: *birds go out shopping*

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Nikki Giovanni Award: **Santos Baez**, age 10, grade 4

Sacred Heart 96<sup>th</sup> Street: *the rose is like fire*

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Langston Hughes Award: **David Daniel Garza**, age 9, grade 4

Sacred Heart School 96<sup>th</sup> Street: *a dream running through*

## Awards for Grades 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Sonia Sanchez Award: **Evan Hu**, age 11, grade 6

James Ward Elementary: *the deep dark canyon*

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Ama Patterson Award: **Charles Difranco**, age 12, grade 6

St. Francis Borgia School: *new clothing creates*

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize e. e. cummings Award: **Jacob Lach**, age 11, grade 6

Josephine Locke Elementary: *the bamboo tree grows*

## Awards for Grades 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Prize David Hernandez Award: **Lilly Coe**, age 13, grade 7

University of Chicago Laboratory School: *stark black feathers sit*

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Pablo Neruda Award: **Justin Chang Stauffer**, age 14, grade 8

Near North Montessori School: *rays glide through the waves*

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Sandra Cisneros Award: **Luca Cano**, age 13, grade 8

St. Francis Borgia School: *untamed toddlers roam*

## Brooks (CPS) and Founders Awards

Gwendolyn Brooks CPS Award: **Marcos Andreev**, age 13, grade 8

Jamieson Elementary School: *I saw two seagulls*

Richard Blanco Founders Award: **Leo Myers**, age 13, grade 7

Winston Campus Jr. High School: *pink petals drift down*

Nate Marshall Founders Award: **Fumnanya Nwabudike**, age 10, grade 4

Passages Charter School: *benches wait for trains*

*Egnor Family Teacher-of-the-Year: Ms. Nilsa Lopezlena, Avondale-Logandale*

*Adele Legere School-of-the-Year Award: Josephine Locke Elementary:*

Ms. Mindy Gonzalez, Ms. Joann Hernandez, Ms. Kristina Jubera,  
Ms. M. Selim, Ms. Nicole Shere, and Mr. Valetin

Victoria Kill #1 Poem of each School

**Jordan McDonald**, age 14, grade 8, Amelia Earhart: *the falling roses*

**Irene Mensah**, 12, grade 7, St. Thomas Canterbury: *rooms shift, colors merge*

**Evie Jensen**, age 10, grade 4, High Point Elementary: *spring finally came*

**Jonathan Silva**, age 13, grade 8, Avondale-Logandale: *justice is fickle*

**Emily Martin**, age 14, grade 8, St. Christina: *wet dew on the grass*

**Emma Tostado**, age 9, grade 4, St. Viator: *flying through your imagination*

**Jeremias Perez**, 12, grade 6, Thomas Edison Charter Sch.: *a bird sits and waits*

Musical Interlude:

“Violin Concert #2,” Mvmt III, excerpt  
by Friedrich Seitz, arr. by Ari Daniels

**Ari Daniels and Aidan Daniels**, violins



Juan Filipe Herrera Honorable Mention Awards

**Rowan Symanski**, 13, grade 7, Near North Montessori: *folds of cotton dress*

**Sergio Hernandez**, age 13, grade 7, Josephine Locke: *don't take my candy*

**Yahya Ihmoud**, age 12, grade 6, Josephine Locke: *Palestine I miss*

**Jonathan Liu**, 13, grade 8, Univ. of Chicago Lab Sch.: *an empty playground*

**Kayah Ptaszynski**, age 11, grade 5, St. Francis Borgia: *eyes welling with tears*

**Julian Rios**, 10, grade 4, Passages Charter Sch.: *the leaves change their moods*

**Jeremiah Chalwe**, age 10, gr. 4, Passages Charter Sch.: *the rain likes to hum*

Open Mike: Haiku Fest Poets

**Anthony Hopkins**, 12, grade 7, Robert Black Magnet Sch.: *video games are fun*

**Alaric Rylon**, age 12, grade 7, St. Malachy: *we should live at peace*

**Javadia Rylon**, age 11, grade 6, Glenwood Academy: *peace is wonderful*

Judges Response Haiku: **M. Allen, S. Barbour, J. Bowden, W. Jones, M. Watson**

Tribute: Teacher of Haiku, Japanese Language & Culture

**Mrs. Mitsuko Rokuhira**, Retired Langston Hughes Elementary Japanese Teacher

Presenters: **Mr. Tatsu Aoki**, Asian Improv aRts Midwest, **Ms. Kay Kawaguchi**

English translations read by: **Alaric Rylon**, age 12, **Javadia Rylon**, age 11

Haiku: Kaga no Chiujo, Shiki Masaoka, and Basho Matsuo [see page 7]

## Li-Young Lee Essay Awards:

1st Prize: **Rachel Schonbaum**, *Voice of the Poet*, age 17, grade 11, UC Lab School

Honorable Mention: **Nneka Jones**, *Untitled*, 16, gr. 11, Westinghouse College Prep

### Guest Poet's Reading



**Prof. Li-Young Lee** is the author of four (4) critically-acclaimed books of poetry including: *Behind My Eyes* (2008); a chapbook, *The Word From His Song* (2016); *Book of My Nights* (2001); *Rose* (1986), which won the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award from New York University; *The City in Which I Love You* (1991), 1990 Lamont Poetry Selection; and a memoir, *The Winged Seed* (1995), which received an American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation, and was reissued in 2012.

Lee's honors include fellowships from National Endowment for the Arts, Lannan Foundation, and Guggenheim Foundation; grants from IL Arts Council, Commonwealth of PA, and PA Council on the Arts. In 1988 he received the Writer's Award from the Whiting Foundation. He is featured in Katja Esson's documentary, *Poetry of Resilience*.

Born in 1957 to Chinese parents in Jakarta, Indonesia, Lee learned early about loss and exile. His great grandfather was China's first republican president. His father was physician to Communist leader Mao Tse-Tung. After the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, Lee's parents escaped to Indonesia. In 1959, his father, after a year as a political prisoner in Pres. Sukarno's jails, fled with his family to escape anti-Chinese sentiment. They lived in Indonesia and Japan, and settled in the US in 1964.

Li-Young Lee's poetry gives clear voice to humanity's beauty. Lee allows silence, sound, form, and spirit to emerge onto the page. His poetry reveals accentuating joys and sorrows of family, home, loss, exile, and love. Prof. Lee lives in Chicago with his wife and their two sons.

This event is supported in part by

**Poets & Writers**

Musical Postlude: Tsukasa Taiko Youth Ensemble, Director: Tatsu Aoki  
Kiyomi Negi, Noriko Sugiyama, Mark Aburano, Morgan Mican,  
Neil Ducklow, Colin Wong, Kembre Daniel

Closing Remarks, Book Sales: Regina Harris Baiocchi



Participating Teachers & Schools

Ms. Arens	Amelia Earhart Elementary
Ms. Armstrong	St. Francis Borgia School
Ms. Arnold	Amelia Earhart Elementary
Ms. Joan Baley	St. Christina School
Ms. Rosemary Barilla	Jamieson Elementary
Ms. Sarah Bergner	St. Angela School
Ms. Patricia Brock	St. Thomas of Canterbury
Ms. Meg Broz	Near North Montessori
Ms. Hannah Cawley	St. Francis Borgia School
Dr. Sarah Donovan	Winston Campus Junior High
Ms. Peggy Doyle	University of Chicago Laboratory School
Mr. Joseph Drogos	University of Chicago Laboratory School
Mr. Rich Farrell	James Ward Elementary
Ms. Jean Fortini	Pope Francis Global Academy
Ms. Staci Garner	University of Chicago Laboratory School
Ms. Mindy Gonzalez	Josephine C. Locke Elementary
Ms. Katharine Hannigan	High Point Elementary
Ms. Harris	Amelia Earhart Elementary
Ms. Hernandez	Josephine C. Locke Elementary
Ms. Kristina Jubera	Josephine C. Locke Elementary
Ms. Madeline Kruse	St. Francis Borgia School
Ms. Nilsa Lopezlena	Avondale-Logandale Elementary
Ms. Lisa Miller	University of Chicago Laboratory School
Ms. Moyers	Avondale-Logandale Elementary
Ms. Andrea Murillo	Sacred Heart - 96th Street
Mr. Sam Nekrosius	University of Chicago Laboratory School
Ms. Petrowsky	Amelia Earhart Elementary
Mr. Bill Ripley	Passages Charter School
Ms. Dana Rothermel	Thomas Edison Charter Academy
Ms. M. Selim	Josephine C. Locke Elementary
Ms. Paula Settefrati	St. Francis Borgia School
Ms. Nicole Shere	Josephine C. Locke Elementary
Ms. Shipp	Amelia Earhart Elementary
Ms. Catherine Smith	St. Viator Elementary
Mr. Valentin	Josephine C. Locke Elementary
Ms. Isabelle Wallace	Sacred Heart - 96th Street

## Haiku Festival Judges

Haiku Festival is extremely grateful to 2017 Judges who generously gave their time, talents, and treasures to ensure our success:

**Marilyn Allen** is a published writer and poet who believes, "Storytelling and history fuel children's futures."

**Prof. Samuel Barbour** teaches economics at Roosevelt University and Joliet Junior College. His haiku are published in various economics journals.

**Judith Bowden** is a retired Chicago Public School teacher and author of a haiku book titled *Chocolate Bananas*.

**Dr. Wayne Allen Jones**, publisher of *fractaledgepress* and author of 3 books of poetry, works as a psychotherapist.

**Michael Covenant Watson**, former radio host of *Wordslingers* poetry program, [www.wordslingers.org](http://www.wordslingers.org), is writing a sci-fi novel.

## The Haiku Festival

Our mission statement: Haiku Festival celebrates children, while promoting literacy. Haiku is a poetic form with Japanese and Chinese roots. Often haiku are about nature, use irony and 3 lines: 5-7-5 syllables. Our logo consists of two Japanese characters: 俳 (actor), 句 (sentence), that is, haiku poet and poetry, respectively.

Haiku Fest poems are chosen using a rubric that rates each poem on the basis of overall appeal, originality, technical qualities (images, rhythm, figurative language), mechanics (spelling, grammar, and syntax) and format (5-7-5).

Awards: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize is \$100. 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize is \$50. 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize is \$20. G. Brooks and Founders gifts are \$25 each. #1 Poem of the School is \$10. Each poet receives a certificate.

For workshops, readings and events contact: [HaikuFest.com](http://HaikuFest.com) • [Info@HaikuFest.com](mailto:Info@HaikuFest.com) • [Twitter.com/HaikuFest](https://twitter.com/HaikuFest) • 312-253-7453 • Post Office Box 450, Chicago, IL 60690

## Haiku Festival's Founder

In 2004, author and composer, **Regina Harris Baiocchi** founded Haiku Fest, as inspired by her mentor, Ms. Gwendolyn Brooks, IL Poet Laureate. Regina's music has been performed by Chicago Symphony, Detroit Symphony, US Army Band, Chicago Brass Quintet, Milwaukee Brass Quintet, et al.

Regina's books and CD's include *Indigo Sound* (fiction); *Urban Haiku*; *Blues Haiku* and *Kidstuff* CD. Her music appears on *Kaleidoscope*; *Soul of a Singer*; and *unto thee i burn* CD's. Her articles are published by Oxford University, 3rd World, and Greenwood presses, *CBMR Digest*, Chicago Humanities Festival, etc.

Join Regina Friday, 9 June, 7pm: Sherwood Auditorium, 1301 South Michigan, 6Degrees Women Composers' original music. **FREE** admission & reception. Sunday, 11 June, 4pm: Crerar Church, 8100 South Prairie, 2 of Regina's new compositions will be performed. \$25 donation benefits Dett Scholarship Fund.

## Special Thanks to Haiku Festival Supporters:

Anonymous Donors

Samuel Barbour

Kathy & Bob Egnor

Carol Herhold

Dr. Maureen Jones

Evangeline Lacey

Carol Anderson-Lewis

Karen & Daniel Lyvers

Juanita Smith

City of Chicago Poetry Committee

Marilyn Allen

Judith Bowden

Jodi Gandolfi

Shabnam Khanna & Dr. Scott Hoye

Dr. Wayne Allen Jones

Mrs. Adele LeGere

Phyllis A. Lodge

Ama Patterson

Michael Covenant Watson

Poets&Writers, Inc.

**Harold Washington Library:** Craig Davis, Dir. of Adult Services, Geraldine Keane, Assistant Director of Corporate & Private Events, Karlena Cameron, Public Relations; A-V: Michael O'Connor and Cory Brown.

**Participants:** Haiku Festival gratefully acknowledges students, teachers and parents who host/participate in our workshops, readings and special events. Thanks to everyone who attended this 13th Anniversary Awards Program.

## Special Thanks to:

Greg Baiocchi, Evangeline Lacey, Phyllis Lodge

**Photos & Videos:** Joe Amos, Paul Foszcz

### Haiku Classics dedicated to Mitsuko Rokuhira and Gwendolyn Brooks

How the skylark soars  
treading on the cloud  
inhaling the haze

**Masaoka, Shiki**

雲を踏み  
霞を吸うや  
あげひばり

正岡子規

Ask for water from your neighbor  
morning glory  
climbing up the well-bucket

**Kaga no Chiujo**

朝顔に  
つるべ取られて  
もらい水

加賀の千代女

What stillness  
the voice of the cicadas  
penetrate the rocks

**Matsuo, Basho**

静けさや  
岩にしみいる  
蟬の声

松尾芭蕉

Old pond  
frogs jumped in  
sound of water

**Matsuo, Basho**

古池や  
蛙飛び込む  
水の音

松尾芭蕉

# Happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Mrs. Gwendolyn Brooks



**Gwendolyn Brooks** (1917-2000), a native of Topeka, Kansas, was born in Chicago. Even though Ms. Brooks was the first African-American Pulitzer Prize winner, Illinois Poet Laureate, and Library of Congress Consultant, she remained the People's Poet. Voices of Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood permeate Ms. Brooks' writing. Yet her poetry, fiction, and nonfiction have worldwide appeal, and a formality that defies pretense.

Ms. Brooks published her first poem at age 13. By age 17, her poetry appeared regularly in the *Chicago Defender*. Brooks' trailblazing, vintage poetry for kids celebrate diversity and the universal spirit of childhood. Among her long list of publications, *We Real Cool* is the most popular. This 24-word masterpiece is one of many poetic portraits of youth, one group that held a special place in Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks Blakely's heart. Haiku Festival was inspired by our Ms. Brooks.



## Notes & Autographs

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[www.HaikuFest.com](http://www.HaikuFest.com)