

20th Annual Haiku Festival Awards Program

Dedicated to Kathleen & Robert Egnor, and Alfred Klinger, MD

Celebrate National Poetry Month

with 1,343 poets, 99 essayists, 8 artists, and 53 teachers from 32 schools

Saturday, 27 April 2024, 10:00 AM
Harold Washington Library Auditorium
400 South State Street, Chicago, Illinois



untitled nōtan, Dominique Delaney, artist
Alex Haley Academy, age 10, grade 5
1st Place: 2024

俳句 Haiku Festival Chicago 俳句

celebrating children through poetry and promoting literacy since 2004

The 20th Annual Haiku Festival Awards Program

Introduction: Chicago Poetry Committee
Welcome: Regina Harris Baiocchi, Founder

Awards for Grades 3rd - 4th

1st Place: **Henrik Malloy**, age 9, Eliza Chappell Elementary, grade 4*

bristles and strokes move
varying hues light and dark
it's a masterpiece

2nd Place: **Margaret Augustine**, age 10, St. Symphorosa School, grade 4

spring flowers blossom
glorious aromas fly
oh, the lovely spring

3rd Place: **Sofia Fastishevskaya**, age 9, St. Josaphat School, grade 4

I smell lavender
I hear birds chirping sweetly
spring has started now

Awards for Grades 5th - 6th

1st Place: **Adrian Stopka**, age 11, Michael Byrne Elementary, grade 6

rain feels like needles
falling from cotton candy
into my garden

2nd Place: **Lila Cohen**, age 10, St. Giles School, Oak Park, IL, grade 5

a leaf is attached
stuck on a great caring twig
the twig almost snaps

3rd Place: **Grace McGoey**, age 11, St. Josaphat School, grade 6

vibrant colors fade
and then shrivel up to dust
the earth takes them back

Awards for Grades 7th - 8th

1st Place: **Minna El Shamsy**, age 13, University of Chicago Lab School, grade 8*

lonely moon-drunk thing
trapped in the grasp of the light
howl your bitter cry

Awards for Grades 7th - 8th (continued):

2nd Place: **Adonyas Abrham**, age 14, St. Thomas of Canterbury, grade 7

winter's breath whispers
frost-kissed mornings hush the earth
silent cold prevails

3rd place: **Abby Nosal**, age 12, Holy Family Catholic Academy, Inverness, IL, grade 7

clouds drifting away
sun spills from behind the fog
spring restoration

Gwendolyn Brooks CPS Award:

Agnes Wei, age 12, Skinner North Classical School, grade 6

bare trees line sidewalks
all the birds have disappeared
except for pigeons

Founders Award: for a prose poem titled *The Closet**

Tanner Hansen, age 17, Arrowhead Union High School, Hartland, WI, grade 11

1st Place Essay: *Why Does Poetry Matter?*

Callie Tolzman, 16, Arrowhead Union HS, Hartland, WI, grade 11

#1 Poem of the School:

Iyokie Robinson, 13, grade 7, Alex Haley Academy

butterfly's ballet/ fluttering wings paint the sky/ nature's graceful dance

Dean Siddiqui, 10, grade 4, Avery Coonley School, Downers Grove, IL

in the savannah/ a rambunctious elephant/ uh oh it's charging

Jane Polo, 10, grade 4, Christ the King School

hits my windowpane/ music to my broken ears/ rocking me to sleep

Florence Caunter, 13, grade 7, Galileo Scholastic Academy

my firefly jar/ you release the golden light/ sky of flying stars

Hailey Feng, 11, grade 6, James Ward Elementary

along the night sky/ the luminescent moon glows/ filling up the void

Isabella Flores, 12, grade 6, Josephine Locke School

takes life, gives out pain/ pink ribbon and a shaved head/ 1 year and 12 days



*see reply haiku on page 7

#1 Poem of the School (continued):

Ruby Leonard, 12, grade 6, Newton Bateman Elementary
I can feel the wind/ arrow flying in the sky/ nothing on my mind

Savannah Gagnon, 12, grade 6, Norman Bridge Elementary
the court is ready/I dribble the ball, let's go/ the shot is made: swoosh

Sara Hunt, 13, grade 8, Roycemore Elementary, Evanston, IL
tall ancient mountains/ wall of rock climbs to the clouds/ holding up the sky,

Patrick Roache, 13, grade 8, St. Barnabas
fake simple façades/ on the outside looking in/ all for approval

Yalissa Calahorrano, 11, grade 6, St. Celestine
bright orange sun heating/ popsicle melts in my hand/ bees come chasing me

Amelia Tryksza, 9, grade 4, St. Emily
summertime is here/ we get ice cream everyday/ seaweed in oceans

Vesna Azman, 10, grade 5, St. Sylvester
all the stars align/ a silent moment passes/ beginning of time

Mitchell Hui, 12, grade 6, St. Therese Chinese Catholic School
falling off, then down/ meeting brown dirt and green earth/ finding peace and Zen

Mauris Harris, 10, grade 4, Visitation Catholic School
as the wolves run through/ and the birds started to chirp/ the rain starts to pour

*** OPEN MIC & TEACHERS COMMENTS ***

Teacher of the Year: **Diana Zurawski**, Galileo Scholastic Academy

School of Year: **Josephine Locke Elementary School**, Mindy Gonzales, Jack Devitt,
Joanne Lindley-Hernandez, David Kissane, Jeff Putnam, and Sonia Solla



Musical Premiere

Anaya Brainch, composer, pianist, **Daniel Song**, cellist

Haiku Festival commissioned Anaya Brainch to compose music for this 20th anniversary. Anaya wrote **Wide Awake**, a lively cello-and-piano dialogue with infectious motifs (2024, 3 minutes).

Anaya Brainch is a 16 year-old sophomore at New Trier High School. She began studying piano at age 6 and writing music at 14. Anaya wrote the soundtrack and produced the video, *Somewhere On Earth* with haiku and voiceover by Regina Harris Baiocchi. It debuted at 6Degrees Composers Concert in Chicago. Anaya enjoys dancing, debate team, and her cat, Giggles.

Daniel Song is a 15-year-old sophomore at New Trier Township High School in Winnetka, IL. Daniel began studying cello and piano at age 4. From 2017 to 2020 he won competitions for performing on cello and piano. Daniel enjoys working with chamber ensembles and math teams.

Nōtan Designs

Nōtan, Japanese for “light-dark harmony,” is the art of paper cutting. Artists play with light and dark elements by cutting, composing, placing, and replacing elements. Three-dimensional (3D) art is made using two-dimensional (2D) techniques.

Cynthia Solomon, fine arts teacher, Alex Haley Academy, Suzanne Cronacher, art teacher, St. Giles, Oak Park, IL, Anitria Wilson Greenhow, language arts teacher at St. Sylvester, Kelli Kielusiak, St. Therese Chinese Catholic School, and Barbara Myers at Arthur Libby School, mentored nōtan artists featured in this program.

Nōtan Awards:

1st Place: **Dominique Delaney**, 10, grade 5, Alex Haley Academy, front cover art

2nd Place: **Elena Yager**, 10, grade 5, St. Giles School, Oak Park, IL, back cover art

Honorable Mention Commendations, 2024



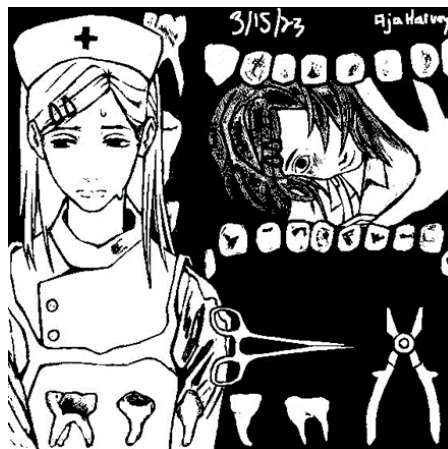
Winnie Chen, 14, grade 8
St. Therese Chinese Catholic Sch.



shine like the stars, Grace Donnelly
St. Giles Sch., Oak Park, IL, 11, grade 6



shine like the stars, Emma Hartweg
St. Giles, Oak Park, IL, 13, grade 7



Aja Harvey, 13, grade 7
Arthur Libby School



Alyssah Holloway
Alex Haley Acad., 13, grade 8

Participating Teachers & Schools

John Ambrosio	Newton Bateman Elementary	
Maria Babich	St. Jerome Catholic School	
Mary Bellmar	St. Giles Catholic School	
Diane Bloom	University of Chicago Lab School	
Patricia Brock	St. Thomas of Canterbury School	Kelsey Bruce, St. Josaphat
Alexis Bryant	Avery Coonley, Downers Grove, IL	
Kimberly Burke	Christ the King Catholic School	
Brittney Carr	St. Barnabas Catholic School	
Katherine Clarkson	Eliza Chappell Elementary	Suzanne Cronacher, St. Giles
Jack Devitt	Josephine Locke Elementary School	
Carissa Dilley	James Ward Elementary	
Samantha Douse	Old St. Mary's Catholic School	
Allie Fabris	St. Josaphat Catholic School	
Staci Garner	University of Chicago Lab School	
Robert Gebel	Michael M. Byrne Elementary	Emily Goebel, St. Emily
Mindy Gonzalez	Josephine Locke Elementary	
Amy Milner-Gorvine	Roycemore Elementary	
Anitria Wilson Greenhow	St. Sylvester Catholic School	
Brittany Henderson	Visitation Catholic School	
Joanne Lindley-Hernandez	Josephine Locke Elementary	Rebecca Kent, St. Giles
Kelli Kielusiak	St. Therese Chinese Catholic School	
David Kissane	Josephine Locke Elementary	
Valerie Krukowski	St. Barnabas Catholic School	
Kelly Loxas	Norman Bridge Elementary	
Dina Mathews	Avery Coonley, Downers Grove, IL	
Lisa Mazza	Avery Coonley, Downers Grove, IL	
Ashley McFee	Hawthorne Scholastic Academy	
Ms. Monatelli	St. Sylvester Catholic School	Barbara Myers, Libby School
Sam Nekrosius	University of Chicago Labo School	
Anne Pacion	Holy Family Academy, Inverness, IL	
Amy Roberts-Paeth	St. Celestine Catholic School	
Lisa Paulsen	Academy of the Sacred Heart & Hardy Prep	
Gladys Podgorny	Eliza Chappell Elementary	
Jeff Putnam	Josephine Locke Elementary	
Mollie Rehner	Newton Bateman Elementary	Madelaine Scodro, St. Josaphat
Amanda Siekierski	Sacred Heart & Hardy Prep	
Sonia Solla	Josephine Locke Elementary	
Cynthia Solomon	Alex Haley Academy	
Tina Southerton	Roycemore Elementary	Allison Spicer, St. Clement
Michelle Stankevicius	St. Symphorosa Catholic School	
Howard Stanley	Skinner North Classical School	
Kent Taylor	Rainey Institute, Cleveland, OH	
Mary Torres	Norman Bridge Elementary	
Margaux Tuck	Eliza Chappell Elementary	Taffney Washington, Alex Haley
Diana Zurawski	Galileo Scholastic Academy	

Judges, Founder & Inspired Haiku

Writer and poet **Marilyn Allen** believes, “Storytelling and history fuel children’s futures.” Haiku by Kalen Andersin, Bateman School: watching from afar/ he smiles at us, happy/ sitting on a star;
judge’s reply: four vigilant eyes/ focused on us their children/ guardian angels

Samuel Barbour teaches economics at Roosevelt University and Joliet College. His haiku appear in various economics journals. Haiku by Owen Hannan, UCLS: aged green gazebo/ many mossy clumps scattered/ dark brown wood rotting; judge’s reply: scene absent players/ forgotten rhythms dance still/ hear the trumpet’s cry

Judith Bowden is a retired teacher and author of the haiku book *Chocolate Bananas*. Haiku by Ariel Alicea, Locke School: school, full of judgement/ one may wonder, who is safe?/ certainly not me;
judge’s reply: always remember/ those mean enough to cause hurt/ must be avoided

Laurie Shoulter Karall wrote the flash fiction published in *Catch*, Janet Jaffke’s artbook. She works at Chicago CRED. Henrik Malloy’s haiku: bristles and strokes move/ varying hues light and dark/ it’s a masterpiece; judge’s reply: the white canvas stares/ bright colors and brushes wait/ the artist begins

Michael Covenant Watson, former radio host of *Wordslingers*, is writing a sci-fi novel. Judge’s reply to Minna El Shamsy, p. 2: the wolfbane won’t bloom/ you’re out of silver bullets/ I’m howling outside

Composer and poet, **Regina Harris Baiocchi** founded Haiku Festival, wrote *urban haiku*, *blues haiku*, and *at the gate of the sun*. Her music is often commissioned, performed, and recorded. Reply to Tanner Hansen’s prose poem: story-filled closet/ leather and canvas secrets/ concealed in footprints

Haiku Festival Chicago

Haiku Festival celebrates children through poetry and promotes literacy. Haiku is a poetic form with Japanese roots. Haiku are often about nature, irony, use 3 lines: and 5-7-5 syllables. Our logo uses two characters: 俳 (actor) + 句 (poetry). Poems, nōtan, and essays are chosen for appeal, originality, technique (images, rhythm, figurative language), mechanics (spelling, grammar, syntax), and format. Awards include:

1st Place Haiku or Essay: \$100.	2nd Place Haiku: \$50.	3rd Place Haiku: \$20.
Gwendolyn Brooks Award: \$75.	Founders Award: \$30.	Honorable Mention: Bragging Rights
#1 Poem per School: \$10.	1st Place Nōtan: \$50.	2nd Place Nōtan: \$25.

Contributors published in *Haiku Festival 20th Anniversary Anthology* receive one gratis copy. The anthology sells for \$10 (\$5 to Haiku Festival students). All participants receive a certificate.

Guest Poet



James Moorehead is Poet Laureate of Dublin, CA, and host of the *Viewless Wings Poetry Podcast*. His published poetry volumes include *canvas*, *portraits of red and gray*, and *The Plague Doctor*.

Morehead’s poem “tethered” was converted into an award-winning animated film titled *gallery* and set to music for baritone and piano. His poetry appears in *Ignatian Magazine*, *Beyond Words Magazine*, *Citron Review*, *Prometheus Dreaming*, and elsewhere. His “sonnet for a Neapolitan rooster” won Second Place in the Oprelle Oxbow Poetry Competition.

Morehead is guest poet in Dublin High School English classes for 9th through 12th grades. Curricula includes exploring “The Art Of Poetry,” “The Craft Of Poetry,” and how both topics impact students and their lasting relationship to poetry. Each April, National Poetry Month, he hosts **Poetry Walk**, where local businesses showcase student poetry in their storefronts.

Donors & Sponsors

Haiku Festival gratefully acknowledges generous donors and sponsors. Thank you for supporting us by attending or sponsoring workshops, readings, and commissioning poetry. Haiku Festival is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Donations to Haiku Festival are tax deductible. Please visit us at: www.HaikuFest.com Call: 312-253-7453, Write: P. O. Box 457, Chicago, 60690 Info@HaikuFest.com

3Arts

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Valerie Wallace

Musical Postlude

Tsukasa Taiko: Ms. Noriko Sugiyama, conductor

Drummers: **Kembre Daniel, Mana Endo, Helen Nagata,**

Mariko Yu, Kailani Yu, and Noriko Sugiyama

Closing Remarks & Acknowledgments: Regina Harris Baiocchi

Book Signing

Haiku Festival 20th Anniversary Anthology 2024: poets, artists, and essayists

James Morehead, guest poet



shine like the stars, Elena Yager, nōtan artist
St. Giles School, Oak Park, IL, age 10, grade 5,
2nd Place: 2024