

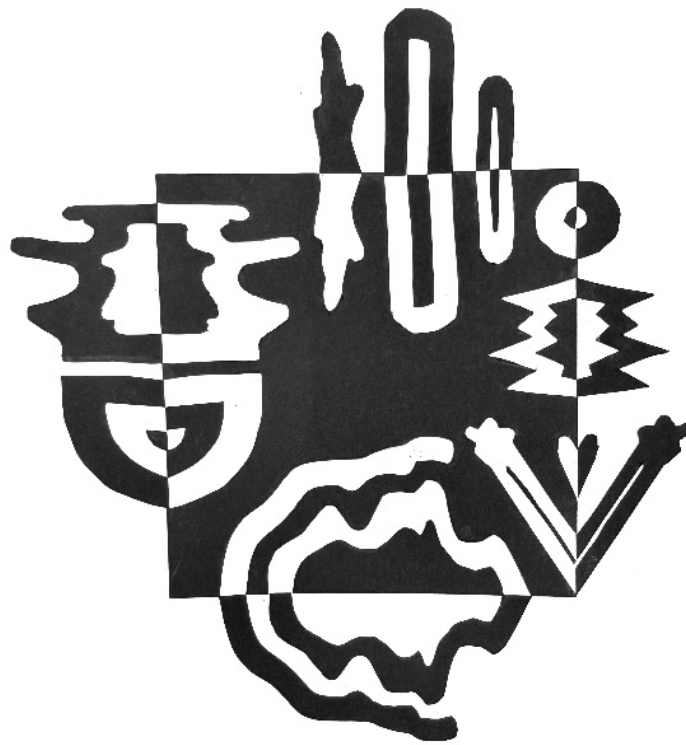
# 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Haiku Festival Awards Program

Dedicated to Kathleen & Robert Egnor, Arshi Chetal & Deepak Deo

## Celebrating National Poetry Month

with 1,700 poets, 44 essayists, 21 artists, and 64 teachers from 36 schools

Saturday, 26 April 2025, 10:00 AM  
Harold Washington Library Auditorium  
400 South State Street, Chicago, Illinois



untitled design by **Hannah Martin**, nōtan artist  
age 11, grade 6, St. Giles School, Oak Park, IL  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: 2025

俳句 Haiku Festival Chicago 俳句

celebrating children through poetry and promoting literacy since 2004

# The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Haiku Festival Awards Program

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

Prof. Nikki Giovanni Awards for Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Zev Raspatello**, 10, grade 4, Lincoln Elem., River Forest, IL

talons sharp as nails  
teeth chomping down like a beast  
my little brother

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Rory Downey**, 10, grade 4, St. Josaphat School

blur over water  
hunting through crisp morning air  
bright winged dragonfly

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Miranda Dunlap**, 10, grade 4, Eliza Chappell School

rabbit in the moon  
the one I see every night  
when will you come down

Dr. Wayne Allen Jones Awards for Grades 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Dominic Torres**, 11, grade 6, Michael Byrne School

my line submerges  
my fishing pole leans forward  
splash a bass rises!

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Christopher Haywood**, 12, grade 6, Charles E. Hughes School

put the guns down please  
we want to play outside now  
I'm tired of hiding

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Alexis Andrade**, 11, grade 5, St. Pius V School

whispers in the breeze  
hearts entwined like autumn leaves  
soft as moonlight glow

Dr. Alfred Klinger Awards for Grades 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Zoe Miranda**, 13, grade 8, St. Bede the Venerable

leaves dance in the wind  
silence carries them forward  
rain coats them in pearls

Dr. Alfred Klinger Awards for Grades 7th – 8th (continued):

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Veronique Glessner**, 12 , grade 7, Newton Bateman School

leaves dance in the wind  
painting the sky with color  
gold floods the blue sky

3<sup>rd</sup> place: **Nelson Burandt**, 12, grade 7, Galileo Scholastic Academy

bushel of apples  
crisp polished crimson delights  
a worm prods at one

Gwendolyn Brooks CPS\* Award:

**Natalie Baran**, 13, grade 8, Everett McKinley Dirksen School

void hums, stars ignite  
planets trace their silent paths  
space swallows all time

International Founders Award:

**Abraham Sackitey**, 13, 8, Dannaks International School, Accra, Ghana

this full harvest moon  
a faith preacher's long sermon  
fills our big baskets

1<sup>st</sup> Place Essay: *Why Does Poetry Matter?* **Natalie Lietzau**, 15, grade 9, Kettle Moraine  
Global School for Global Leadership and Innovation, Wales, WI (KM Global)



#1 Poem of the School:

**Caroline Polo**, 10, grade 4, Christ the King School

bugs light up the sky/ hear my mother call me in/ good night summer night

**Ava Sokulski**, 13, grade 7, Holy Family, Inverness, IL

sand between your toes/ crashing, roaring waves, so loud/ toasty, bright sun rays

**Karen Situ**, 12, grade 6, James Ward School

love is so fragile/ breaks like glass yet so unknown/ so hard to trust now

**Melanie Chavez**, 12, grade 7, Josephine Locke School

through the cold branches/ in a far corner of sky/ a single star shines

**Inci Qasimli**, 11, grade 5, Louisa May Alcott School

the girl is shaking/ staring into the mirror/ as no one stares back

#1 Poem of the School (continued):

**Norah Gorski**, 13, grade 8, St. Catherine of Alexandria, Oak Lawn, IL  
sand flows with the waves/ sunshine sparkles on the sea/ laughter in the air

**Kayo Spiewak**, 10, grade 5, St. Giles School, Oak Park, IL  
rats in the sewer/ having a dance party at/ three in the morning

**Alisa Fang**, 14, grade 8, St. Therese School  
rain slips through fingers/ silent echoes in puddles/ time is dissolving

**Sasha Pugh**, 13, grade 8, Thomas J. Waters Elementary  
petals start to fall/ the stem begins to mourn them/ they are at peace now

**Jacob Garfield**, 14, grade 8, University of Chicago Lab School  
a cat that can fly?/ cool video, wait, hold on/ it was AI made

Honorable Mention haiku:

**Sofia Lemus**, 13, grade 8, Galileo Scholastic Academy  
“we are all equal”/ until it’s an immigrant/ we’re not aliens

**Phoebe Doyle**, 11, grade 5, St. Giles School  
picturesque seasons/ breathtaking features, all lost/ lost to humankind

**Karen Duplan**, 13, grade 8, Dannaks IS, Accra, Ghana  
civil war breakout/ keeping safe her newly born/ in a gold pendant

**Samuel Folorunsho**, 14, grade 8, Dannaks IS, Accra, Ghana  
demonstration ground/ a child holds a leader's head/ on a red t-shirt

\* OPEN MIC \*

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.

**Suzanne Cronacher**, art teacher, St. Giles, Jordin Herzog, art teacher at Josephine Locke School, and **Kathleen McKenna**, teacher at St. Pius V, mentored our nōtan artists. Awards go to:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Hanna Martin**, 11, grade 6, St. Giles School, Oak Park, IL [front cover]

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Lucas Avila**, 13, grade 8, St. Giles School, Oak Park, IL [back cover]

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Sophia Sandoval**, 13, grade 7, Josephine Locke School [back cover]

Honorable Mention: **Jayliannie Santiago**, 13, gr. 7; **Emily Tran**, 12, gr. 7 Locke School [back cover]



Musical Selection: *TV Song & Nursery Rhymes*, E. M. Burnam; public domain

**Devyn Curtis**, age 8, grade 3, attends Mae Jemison School in Hazel Crest, IL. She recently began piano lessons with Professor Elsa Harris at Harris House of Music in Chicago.

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

School of Year: **Josephine Locke School**, Joanne Lindley-Hernandez, Mindy Gonzales, David Kissane, Edgar Valentin, Lourdes Ocasio, Mary Selim, Nicole Shere, Jeffrey Putnam, Neida Martinez, Arlene Garcia, Jack Devitt, Miranda Marnik-Said, Jennifer Salen



**\* TEACHERS COMMENTS \***



## Participating Teachers & Schools

Haiku Festival gratefully acknowledges 64 teachers from 36 schools who mentored 1700 poets, 44 essayists, and 21 nōtan artists. Thank you ad infinitum, domo arigato, gracias, meda wo ase...

Alice Wedoff, Leif Ericson Academy  
Allison Nadelman, Charles Evans Hughes  
Amy Vecchioni, Thomas J Waters School  
Angela Gloninger, St. Therese School  
Anna Khawam, Everett McKinley Dirksen  
Anne Pacion, Holy Family Catholic Academy  
Arlene Garcia, Josephine Locke Elementary

Cara Isaac, University of Chicago Lab School  
Carissa Dilley, James Ward Elementary  
Carolyn Anderson, St. Catherine of Alexandria  
Christina Amato, Norman Bridge Elementary  
Craig Pennington, Alex Haley Academy  
Cynthia Mammoser, St. Ferdinand School  
Daniel Walton, St. Gabriel School

Danielle Iannelli, St. Viator School  
David Kissane, Josephine Locke School  
Denise Rewers, James Ward Elementary  
Diana Zurawski, Galileo Scholastic Academy  
Diane Bloom, University of Chicago Lab School

Gladys Podgorny, Eliza Chappell Elementary  
Grace Haughey, Alphonsus Academy  
Elizabeth Jorgensen, KM Global, Wales, WI  
Grace Kucharski, Alphonsus Academy  
Jack Devitt, Josephine Locke School  
Jane Brown-Riff, Our Lady of Mount Carmel  
Jeffrey Putnam, Josephine Locke School  
Jennifer Salen, Josephine Locke School  
Joanne Lindley-Hernandez, Josephine Locke  
Joseph Drogos, University of Chicago Lab School  
Joy Parham, University of Chicago Lab School  
Juan Franco, St. Pius V School  
Justice Joseph Prah, Dannaks I. S., Accra, Ghana

Katherine Clarkson, Eliza Chappell Elementary  
Kathleen McKenna, St. Pius V School  
Kaylin Searles, Charles Evans Hughes School  
Kelli Kielusiak, St. Therese School  
Kimberly Burke, Christ the King Catholic School  
Laurentine McKee, Eliza Chappell Elementary  
Leanne Hodur, St. Bede The Venerable School

Lily Ng, James Ward Elementary  
Lisa McCormack, St. Jerome School  
Lynn Dwyer, Christ the King Catholic School  
Madeline Scodro, St. Josaphat School  
Margaret Ballasch, Thomas J Waters School  
Mary Bellmar, St. Giles School  
Mary Tripp, Newton Bateman School

Mattie Hawkinson, Lincoln Elem., River Forest  
Michelle Knight, Louisa May Alcott School  
Michelle Stankevicius, St. Symphorosa School  
Miranda Marnik-Said, Josephine Locke School  
Monica Lozano, St. Giles School  
Ms. Adams, Kipp Ascend Middle School  
Ms. Greenhow, St. Sylvester School

Neida Martinez, Josephine Locke School  
Nicholas Chudoba, Helen Peirce International  
Nico White, Charles Evans Hughes School  
Peggy Doyle, University of Chicago Lab School  
Peter Cassis, Near North Montessori School  
Rebecca Kent, St. Giles School  
Robert Gebel, Michael M. Byrne School  
Sage Moss, St. Therese School  
Staci Garner, University of Chicago Lab School  
Taffney Washington, Alex Haley Academy  
Valerie Matar, Charles Evans Hughes School

## Judges, Founder & inspired haiku

Writer and poet, **Marilyn Allen** believes storytelling and history fuel children's imaginations.

**Inci Qasimli**, 11, grade 5, Louisa May Alcott [#1 Poem of the School]:

the girl is shaking/ staring into the mirror/ as no one stares back

response: dark night of the soul/ chakra cleansings overdue/ source is ever pleased

**Samuel Barbour** teaches economics at Roosevelt University and Joliet College. His haiku appear in various economics journals.

**Sofia Lemus**, 13, grade 8, Galileo: "we are all equal"/ until it's an immigrant/ we're not aliens

response: in America/ settlers are unsettled/ because they need you

**Judith Bowden** is a retired teacher and author of the haiku book *Chocolate Bananas*.

**Phoebe Doyle**, 11, grade 5, St. Giles: picturesque seasons/ breathtaking features, all lost/  
lost to humankind

response: God gave us a world/ of love and beauty, evil/ has changed our focus

**Laurie ShoulterKarall** is an artist, editor, facilitator, poet, and writer. She works at Chicago CRED, an organization dedicated to reducing gun violence. Her motto, "Be quick to listen and slow to speak."

**Christopher Haywood**, 12, grade 6, Charles Hughes School:

put the guns down please/ we want to play outside now/ I'm tired of hiding

reply: a framed photograph/ holds the dreams his mother had/ her child shot and killed

Retired CPS visual arts teacher **Cynthia Solomon** earned a BFA (University of Chicago) and MFA (School of the Art Institute of Chicago). Her educational philosophy: **Everyone can create!**

comments: What is nōtan art?

**Michael Covenant Watson** is a scholar and skeptic of the human condition. The poet, Watson, prepares for the aftermath of humanity setting the global curtains on fire.

**Kayo Spiewak**, 10, grade 5, St. Giles #1 Poem of the School:

rats in the sewer/ having a dance party at/ three in the morning

response: the feline/ bangs on the old sewer pipes/ "last call, dirty rats!"

Composer/author/poet, **regina harris baiocchi** co-founded Haiku Festival with **Greg Baiocchi**. Her music is often commissioned and performed. Publications include *urban haiku*, *blues haiku* and "Scuppernong" (fiction) in *Black Fire This Time*.

**Abraham Sackitey**, 13, 8, Dannaks School, Accra, Ghana [International Founders Award]

this full harvest moon/ a faith preacher's long sermon/ fills our big baskets

response: the moon looks lonesome/ until the sound of music/ sprinkles its stardust

## Haiku Festival Chicago

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

### 2025 Awards

1st Place haiku: \$100.

2nd Place haiku: \$50.

3rd Place haiku: \$20.

1st Place nōtan: \$50.

2nd Place nōtan: \$25.

3rd Place nōtan: \$15.

1st Place Essay: \$100.

#1 Poem of Each School: \$10.

Gwendolyn Brooks Award: \$50.

Founders Awards: \$25 to \$100.

Honorable Mention: Bragging Rights

Everyone receives a certificate.

## Guest Poet



**Charlotte Digregorio** won over 80 awards and four Pushcart nominations. She writes in 16 poetic forms including haiku, dodoitsu, haibun, and senryū. Charlotte has written nine books including *Haiku and Senryū: A Simple Guide for All* and *Ripples of Air: Poems of Healing*. Her books are adopted as university texts and appear in *Writer's Digest* Book Club's "Featured Selections."

Charlotte's poems have appeared on public transit, in gardens, and shops. She hosted a poetry program on Oregon Public Radio and features daily haiku from 61 countries on her blog, [www.charlottedigregorio.wordpress.com](http://www.charlottedigregorio.wordpress.com)

## Honorable Poets

**Gwendolyn Brooks** was an educator, IL Poet Laureate, Library of Congress Poetry Consultant, award-winning author of 20 books, and inspiration for Haiku Fest. Her 24-word *We Real Cool* is pure poetic gold.

**Professor Nikki Giovanni** was a Grammy-nominated spoken-word artist, and award-winning author of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. A Black Arts Movement cornerstone, *Ego Tripping* is her signature poem.

**Wayne Allen Jones, PhD**, is founding publisher of fractaLEDGEpress and author of 3 poetry books, *The A-Poems*, *Stone Works*, and *Decades of Rehearsal*. He is a retired educator, psychotherapist, and Haiku Fest Judge.

**Alfred Kilinger, MD**, was a physician, poet, activist, triathlete; and loyal supporter of Haiku Fest, Jane Addams Hull House, and the human spirit. Al developed a breakfast program that CPS uses as a model.

## Donors & Sponsors

Haiku Festival gratefully recognizes our generous donors and sponsors. Thank you for attending or sponsoring events, and commissioning poetry. Haiku Festival is a 501c3 non-profit org. Tax deductible donations are accepted online at [www.HaikuFest.com](http://www.HaikuFest.com) or you may Scan our QR code with your smartphone. Please scan this box →



### Anonymous Donors

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Crystal Simone Smith, HSA\*  
Cynthia Solomon  
Michael Covenant Watson  
Harold Washington Library Center

## Musical Selection: *Revolutionary Étude* by Frédéric Chopin, 1831

Award-winning pianist, **Christopher Nakamura**, age 14, grade 9, attends Hinsdale High School. He studies piano (for 11 years now) with Professor Emi Murata in DuPage County.

## Closing Remarks & Book Signings

\*Copies of *frogpond* journal are compliments of HSA\*

## Nōtan Awards

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Hanna Martin**, 11, grade 6, St. Giles School, Oak Park, IL (front cover)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Lucas Avila**, 13, grade 8, St. Giles School, Oak Park, IL (below, left)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Sophia Sandoval**, 13, grade 7, Josephine Locke School (below, right)

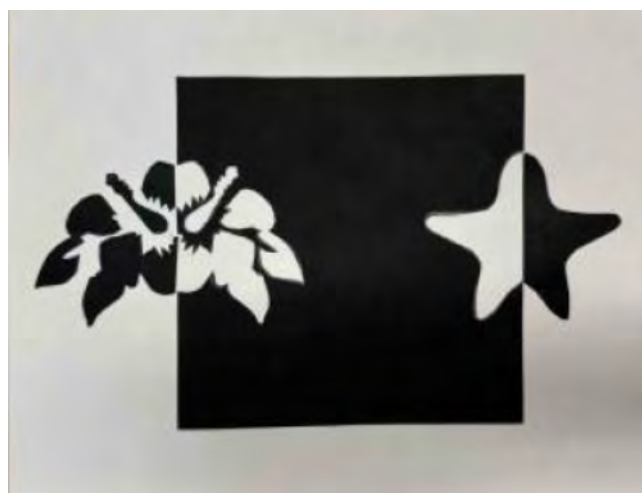


2nd Place nōtan, **Lucas Avila**, 13, grade 8  
St. Giles Elem. School



3rd Place nōtan, **Sophia Sandoval**, 13, grade 8  
Josephine Locke Elem. School

## Honorable Mention Nōtan



**Jayliannie Santiago**, 13, grade 7, HM  
Josephine Locke Elem. School



**Emily Tran**, 12, grade 7, HM  
Josephine Locke Elem. School