



From The Lily Pad

FALL | WINTER 2024

Thank you for receiving the Nick Virgilio Haiku Association newsletter!

Providing free literary arts programs to local and global communities would be impossible without your support. For more information on the Nick Virgilio Haiku Association, please visit us at nickvirgiliohaiku.org.

Consider supporting NVHA's work by donating [here](#). We deeply appreciate your generous contributions and continuous support.

Wishing a Happy Thanksgiving to all who celebrate!



Late Night Poetry Practice Returns to the Writers House this Fall & in 2025!





Late night poetry workshops have returned this fall. We're honored to be able to provide a safe space for writers of all skill levels to speak their minds through poetry, especially in such polarizing times. Some of the most recent prompts from the workshop that have produced thought-provoking poetry have been "Facing fears," and "Life and death," in honor of Halloween and Dia de Muertos respectively and "The right to choose," after the recent US presidential election.

As always, we've brought back local poets as features of the night to read their poetry throughout the workshops to help orient the group and encourage more attendees to share their own work.

Thank you so much to everyone who came out to share poetry and write in community with others. If you were unable to attend our most recent session on November 23rd, there are three more sessions on the calendar before the end of 2024:

December 7th

December 21th

January 4th

Relive the moments here on [Instagram](#).

We're also excited to announce our partnership with Rutgers University Camden and the Rutgers Writers House next year to bring the Midnight Notes to campus on four select dates throughout 2025. Stay tuned for updates.

Thank you to our featured poets:

- Noely (Natalie Picardo)
- Kate Skins
- Destiny Karizma (Johnson)
- Pauline Monter
- Dimitri Reyes

A special thank you goes to our host/community organizer Reet Starwind, and to our returning South Jersey-based tea vendor, [Hush Herbals](#). And to our sponsor the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission (CCCHC) for helping us keep this program free for attendees.

Meet us at the Writer's House at 1801 Broadway in Camden, NJ from 10:30 PM EDT - 12:00 AM EDT for all sessions. Join our host's live stream of this session on Instagram @mrstarwind. Because of the late start time, this event is exclusively for poets and poetry lovers **who are age 18 or older**.

Follow us on social media for all updates on the Midnight Notes!

October Ginko Walk at the "Judge's Shack" in Island Beach State Park, NJ



On October 16th we invited poets to join us for a haiku experience and ginko walk at [the "Judge's Shack"](#) in Island Beach State Park, NJ. We had a wonderful experience learning about the art of haiku and writing our own poems with scenic views, leading into an exploration of the Judge's Shack.

The small house is one of the last fishing shacks on the East Coast, sitting on a front dune at Island Beach, a protected barrier island owned by the State of NJ and open to the public as a state park.

A December Workshop with Tom Painting on How to Teach Haiku



*why haiku and
how to teach it?*

“How to Haiku: for Teachers”

**WITH TEACHER & HAIKU POET
TOM PAINTING**



December 22, 2024

10:00 AM (EST) - 11:30 AM (EST)

ONLINE | FREE

REGISTER NOW!

[Register Now](#)

If you weren't able to make our last free poetry workshop for teachers, make sure to sign up for this one on December 22nd from 10:00 AM EST to 11:30 AM EST! Read more and register by completing the online form.

With the guidance of teacher and haiku poet [Tom Painting](#), we'll discuss the basics of composing and crafting haiku in

English in the classroom, and explore the power of image to evoke emotion and how juxtaposition may result in the famous haiku "ah-ha" moment.

***Haiku in Action's* new editor, Sean Lynch, and our new intern Nycir Keen**



From left to right: Sean Lynch and Nycir Keen.

We're happy to introduce some new changes to our staff in the last few months! You may already be familiar with the new editor of HIA, who was once our Program Director and is currently the lead archivist for our project cataloguing all of Nick Virgilio's historical personal writings and correspondences. Sean is has edited works like Rocky Wilson's *The Last Bus to Camden*, Chidi Ezeobi's *Remind the World*, Poems from Prison, Lamont B. Steptoe's *Between the White Stone Lions*, C.M. Crockford's *Mark the Place*, and Gina Marie Bernard's *Taxonomies*. He also has five poetry chapbooks of his own, the latest being [Halo Nest: poems on grief.](#)

For Sean, haiku is a particularly powerful poetry form.

"I think form in and of itself frees you and helps you to

write. Just using free verse in general is a bit constrictive in the sense that there are too many options—nothing to guide you. Haiku is attractive because of its drawing juxtapositions/dicotomies between things that are not alike. Seeing two different objects and connecting them. Finding associations that you otherwise would be unable to see. That's satisfying." - Sean Lynch

Submit to [Haiku in Action](#) every week!

Here to help with social media and administrative work is our new administrative intern, Nycir Keen. Nycir is a poet, based in Philly with roots in competitive slam poetry. An active performer and spoken word artist, Nycir Keen has been a member of the Collective Mic since 2017 and a frequent poet for the Gullah Traveling Theater in Beaufort, SC as well as being a student performer for the Land and Body program hosted by Power Street Theater. Nycir has a passion for facilitating creative and safe spaces for writers and has hosted several writing circles in the Philadelphia area. Nycir is also the host and founder of the Day-Trolley Open Mic.

Our New and Improved Curriculum for Teaching Haiku to Children, Written by Jaime Grookett and Warren Longmire, Edited by Vanessa Woods, LPC



From left to right: Warren Longmire and Jaime Groomett, MEd.

Bottom: Vanessa Woods, LPC.

After hosting short-form poetry classes at the Salvation Army Kroc Center in 2023, we're thrilled to launch a free, six-week short-form poetry program for Camden 6th graders at Dr. Henry H. Davis Elementary early next year, with Cooper's Poynt Family School joining us in April 2025 during National Poetry Month.

These sessions are built on our new healing-centered poetry curriculum, which includes:

- Meditational icebreakers to encourage introspection.
- A history of short-form poetry in different cultures.
- Step-by-step lessons that support students as they progress from crafting single poetic lines to writing and sharing fully developed haiku.

We've designed this curriculum to standardize all lessons and increase the effectiveness of teaching short-form poetry to elementary students. We're proud to say this effort is being shaped and supported by experts in the field like university professor Jaime Grookett, MSED, who teaches a variety of graduate and undergraduate classes in English education, Philadelphia-based author and poet Warren Longmire (also a current board member and one of our previous staff members), and Vanessa Woods, LPC, who is editing and providing feedback on the current curriculum as it stands, to ensure we're using proven and effective approaches to healing-centered teaching. Read more about Vanessa's work at the [South Jersey Coping Clinic](#).

Best of Net Nominations from Haiku in Action

We were happy to nominate select submissions from *Haiku in Action* for the poetry section of the next [Best of Net](#) anthology in September. We wish each and every one of the nominations good luck, and we're eager to see the results at the end of January 2025.

Congratulations to:

- **Mirela Brailean** from Iasi, Romania
- **Tony Williams** from Glasgow, Scotland
- **Michael Henry Lee** from Florida, USA
- **Shelli Jankowski-Smith** from Massachusetts, USA
- **Tracy Davidson** from Stratford-upon-Avon, England
- **Alvin Cruz** from Metro Manila, Phillipines

HAIKU IN ACTION
Mar 6th - Mar. 10th Week 95: The Immigrant Experience

THE WAY I SEE
THE WAY I'M SEEN
IMMIGRANT



Mirela Brailean - Lasi, RO

HAIKU IN ACTION
Sept. 13th - Sept. 17th Week 71: Summer's End


SUMMER
SLIDING INTO AUTUMN
SLOW TROMBONE JAZZ



Tony Williams - Glasgow, SCT UK

HAIKU IN ACTION
May. 1st - May. 5th Week 103: Sleep or Sleeping Disorders

CPAP MASK
PASSING
ON THE GOOD NIGHT KISS



Michael Henry Lee - Saint Augustine, FL USA

HAIKU IN ACTION
June. 19th - June. 23rd Week 110: Yard Sales

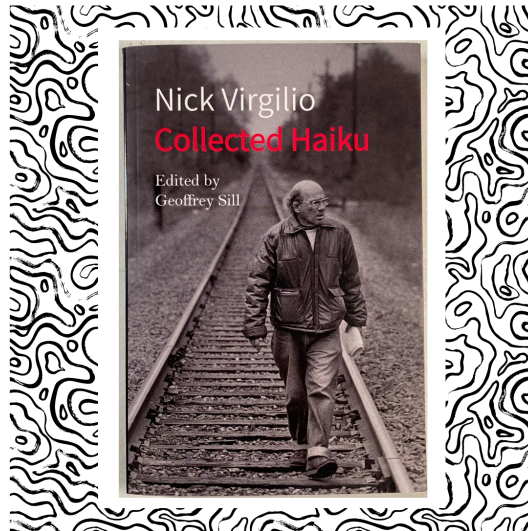
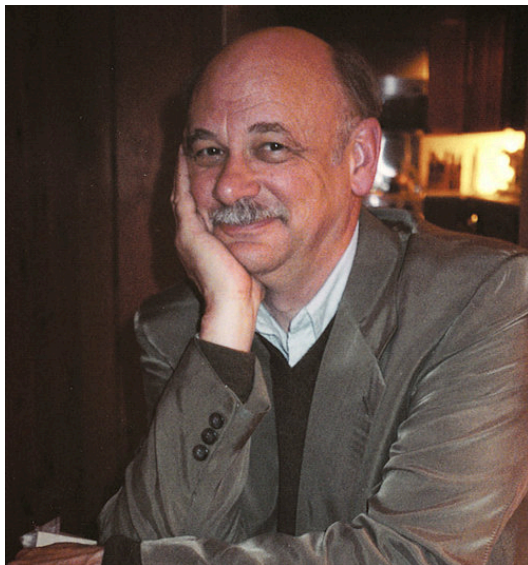
LIFTED FROM THE SALE TABLE
OR MAYBE RAPTURED
PLASTER JESUS



Shelli Jankowski-Smith - Swampscott, MA USA



NVHA's *Collected Haiku* nominated for a Touchstone Award in 2024



From left to right: editor Geoffrey Sill and the front cover of 'Nick Virgilio: Collected Haiku.'

We're honored and humbled to know that *Nick Virgilio: Collected Haiku*, our latest book and complete collection of Nick Virgilio's poetry, has been short-listed for the Touchstone Awards for Distinguished Books by the Haiku Foundation out of over 100 submissions.

Thank you to the Haiku Foundation's judges, each and every

person who has purchased the book in the last year, and to the book's editor and our board member, Dr. Geoffrey Sill, for dedicating your work and talents to this wonderful collection.

If you haven't purchased a copy yet, Nick Virgilio: Collected Haiku is [still available now for \\$30.00 USD](#) plus the cost of shipping and handling.

An Anonymous Donor will match up to \$3,000 in Giving Tuesday Donations!

DONATE

We invite you to support NVHA's programs and initiatives this Giving Tuesday. Every contribution counts, and we have a donor who will match the first \$3,000 in donations to increase the impact of your giving! Together, we can continue to inspire, educate, and preserve the art of poetry. Your contributions directly benefit the amplification of voices through creative writing, early writing skills for elementary school students, and long-term self-expression for children and young adults.

Ways to make your contribution:

Financial Donations: Your tax-deductible support for our programs and workshops.

Stay Connected: Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and X.

Spread the Word: Forward our call for donations to friends and family.

To give online please click the “donate” button above. If you’d rather send a check, please send all contributions to our mailing address:

The Nick Virgilio Haiku Association
% 1924 Mt. Vernon Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19130

We're grateful for your continued support!

Thank you the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission for their generous contributions to poetry programming:



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