

## Sixth Sense

by Tom Clausen and  
Michael Dylan Welch

the baby's eyes  
change color  
with the sky

Tom

loud train horn—  
ice crystals hang in the air

Michael

three-cheese lasagna—  
a bit of garlic stuck  
to the pulled-out hair

Tom

at the seaside museum  
the sample otter skin  
worn bare

Michael

parking lot's fresh blacktop  
simmers in the sun

Tom

*Peter and the Wolf*—  
my toddler's eyes  
opening wider

Michael



**2007:** Written in October and November 1995; May, June, and August 2002; and then October 2007, by postal mail and e-mail between Ithaca, New York; Foster City, California; and Sammamish, Washington. First prize winner of the 2007 HPNC rengay contest. First published in *Mariposa* #18, Spring–Summer 2008.

## Returning

by Michael Dylan Welch  
and Alice Frampton

a roll of linoleum  
on the side porch—  
the scent of rain

Michael

in dry cement  
the neighbor's initials

Alice

the coffee table  
moved back  
over the carpet stain

Michael

cold entry tile—  
the UPS man  
puts on his jacket

Alice

the children's throw rug  
now in the trash

Michael

returning soldier—  
leaves pressed  
under the welcome mat

Alice



**2008:** Written at the China Capital restaurant in Belfair, Washington, on 13 July 2008. First prize winner of the 2008 HPNC rengay contest. First published in *Mariposa* #20, Spring–Summer 2009.

## About Rengay

Rengay is a six-verse collaborative poem usually by two or three writers using a set pattern of three-line and two-line haiku or senryu. Unlike renga or renku, all six poems focus on at least one unifying theme. Having a theme is rengay's most important characteristic. Garry Gay invented the rengay form in 1992, and together Garry and I wrote the very first one, "Deep Winter," on 9 August 1992, in Foster City, California. On 18 November 1993, I also wrote the first three-person rengay, with Claire and Patrick Gallagher. I later published articles in *Frogpond* and *Woodnotes* that began to popularize rengay, and the form is now written widely in many languages. Rengay combines collaborative linking from renku with thematic development from sequences. As I've written before, "rengay is to renku (and other collaborative verse) as the nosegay is to a flower garden—small, intimate, accessible, and typically lighthearted and joyous."

## HPNC Rengay Contest

Since 1995, the Haiku Poets of Northern California has sponsored a rengay contest. I have judged this contest numerous times (including the first one), and have won first prize in the contest six times. I am pleased to present these six rengay that have won first place in this contest. I am grateful to all of my rengay writing partners, and thank them for the honour of collaborating. A bow of thanks also to Garry Gay for his engaging poetic invention.

For more information about rengay, please visit <http://sites.google.com/site/graceguts/rengay>.

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# Six Rengay



Michael Dylan Welch

with

Tom Clausen  
Alice Frampton  
Rich Krivcher  
Dejah Léger  
Lenard D. Moore  
John Thompson  
Ikuyo Yoshimura

## Dying Spark

by Rich Krivcher, John Thompson,  
and Michael Dylan Welch

lightning flash—  
a bug streak glows  
on the windshield *Rich*

in the night heron's beak  
a wriggling glint of silver *John*

Roman ruin:  
the candle sputtering  
deep in the tunnel *Michael*

ten-wheeler hauling sheep  
a spark from the mudflaps *Rich*

graveyard shift—  
lighting one cigarette  
with another *John*

photographing Hiroshima  
the sudden flash *Michael*



**1998:** Written November 1997 to January 1998 in the San Francisco Bay Area, California. First prize winner of the 1998 HPNC rengay contest. First published in *Frogpond* 30:3, Fall 2007.

## Cornstalk Twisting

by Michael Dylan Welch  
and Lenard D. Moore

Memorial Day—  
rows of gravestone flags  
waving out of rhythm *Michael*

dusty field  
cornstalk leaves twisting *Lenard*

sailboat  
on the billboard  
peeled off by the wind *Michael*

collection day  
a bag drifting  
over the campus chapel *Lenard*

fan on high  
the professor's papers scatter *Michael*

the neighbor's house  
shingles strewn  
where it used to be *Lenard*



**2000:** Written 8 July 1999 at the Haiku North America conference at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. First prize winner of the 2000 HPNC rengay contest. First published online in *Graceguts*, 2009.

## The Hilltop Castle

by Michael Dylan Welch  
and Ikuyo Yoshimura

autumn rain—  
the blurred view  
from the hilltop castle *Michael*

umbrellas sold out  
a shower of cherry blossoms *Ikuyo*

distant siren . . .  
an unexpected drizzle  
mists my sunglasses *Michael*

thunderstorm—  
a dog's black coat  
steaming *Ikuyo*

cloudburst ends  
the little girl's tantrum *Michael*

rainbow  
over the meadow  
where we used to picnic *Ikuyo*



**2003:** Written in twenty minutes while waiting for a train on 19 October 2002 in Gifu, Japan. First prize winner of the 2003 HPNC rengay contest. First published in *Mariposa* #10, Spring–Summer 2004.

## Inside Passage

by Michael Dylan Welch  
and Dejah Léger

morning stillness—  
the ferry turns  
through a patch of sunlight *Michael*

the tug's bow rope  
tightens and slackens *Dejah*

uncle's fresh catch—  
the wood worn  
beside the oarlock *Michael*

the whale's hump  
smoothes back into ocean—  
my kayak rocking *Dejah*

a clanging of masts  
from the distant marina *Michael*

first birthday—  
he floats his boat  
along the carpet *Dejah*



**2005:** Written on the ferry from Seattle to Bremerton, Washington, and then on the ferry from Bainbridge Island to Seattle, on 5 December 2004. First prize winner of the 2005 HPNC rengay contest. First published in *Mariposa* #14, Spring–Summer 2006.