

Fellow poet Randy Brooks once wrote to me about his thought that we are all blessed by one another in the poetry community. These blessings may come from a friend or someone we've never met writing to say that he or she admires a particular poem or wants to quote it in an article, or from an editor who anthologizes a poem. All of the poems selected here, among others, have been blessed in another way—they've each been chosen in haiku and senryu contests, several as first-prize winners. I thank each of the contest judges (some of whom have been unknown to me, or I no longer have a record of) in the United States, Canada, England, New Zealand, and Japan for the blessings they've bestowed on me—and for tagging each of these poems with ribbons.

an old woolen sweater
taken yarn by yarn
from the snowbank

*Second prize winner in the 1991 Haiku Society of America
Henderson Haiku Contest — Joe Nutt and Matthew Louvière, judges*

at his favourite deli
the bald man finds a hair
in his soup

*Honourable mention in the 1990 Haiku Poets of Northern California
San Francisco International Senryu Contest — Ross Figgins, judge*

Valentine's Day—
she reminds me
to fasten my seatbelt

*Honourable mention in the 2000 Haiku Society of America
Brady Senryu Contest — Tom Lynch and Paul O. Williams, judges,
and the 2001 Snapshots Haiku Calendar February first prize winner
— John Barlow, judge*

These poems previously appeared in *A Glimpse of Red: Red Moon Anthology 2000* (Winchester, Virginia: Red Moon Press, 2001), *A Solitary Leaf: 1996 Haiku Society of America Members' Anthology* (Decatur, Illinois: Brooks Books, 1997), *Blithe Spirit* (England), *Canadian Writer's Journal* (Canada), *Dogwood Blossoms* (online), "Electronic Poetry Network" at the Shreveport Public Library, Louisiana, *Evergreen* (Japan), *Evergreen Haiku Anthology* (Gifu, Japan: Evergreen, 2002), *Fig Newtons: Senryu to Go* (Foster City, California: Press Here, 1993), *Frogpond*, *Geppo*, *Global Haiku: Twenty-five Poets World-wide* (Oakville, Ontario: Mosaic Press; North Shields, England: Iron Press, 2000), *Hajjin's Magazine / A Revista do Hajjin* (Brazil; online), *Hajjin* (online), *Haiku Canada Newsletter* (Canada), *Haiku Compass* (Tokyo: Haiku International Association, 1994), *Haiku Quarterly*, *Haiku sans frontières: Une anthologie mondiale* (Orléans, Ontario: Les Éditions David, 1998), *The Haiku Anthology* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1999), *The Haiku Calendar 2001* (Liverpool, England: Snapshot Press, 2001), *Haiku World: An International Haiku Almanac* (Tokyo: Kodansha, 1996), *Haiku, Tanka, Senryu: Internationalization of Japanese Poems* (Tokyo: Chugainipponohsha, 2002), *How to Haiku* (Boston: Tuttle, 2002), *HPNC Newsletter*, *HSA Newsletter*, *IDG World Update*, *Jizai* (Japan), *Kō* (Japan), *Midwest Haiku Anthology* (Decatur, Illinois: Brooks Books, 1992), *Mirrors*, *Modern Haiku*, *On Snails, Sage, and AIDS* (San Francisco: Haiku Poets of Northern California, 2001), *The Open Sky* (San Jose, California: Yuki Teikei Haiku Society, 1997), *Open Window* (Brooks Books, online), *Poet's Market 1998* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Writer's Digest Books, 1997), *The Pointed Circle*, *Presence* (England), *The Red Moon Anthology* (Winchester, Virginia: Red Moon Press, 1997), *Rose Mallow Haiku Quarterly* (Japan), *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, *Snapshots* (England), *Western World Haiku Society Newsletter*, and *Woodnotes*. In addition, "clicking off the late movie" was performed on the Mara Tapp Show, WBEZ, 91.5 FM, Chicago.

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Tagged with Ribbons

Michael Dylan Welch



a few pines
tagged with ribbons . . .
winter stillness

*First honourable mention in the 2001 Kaji Aso Haiku Contest,
sponsored by the Kaji Aso Studio and the Boston Haiku Society
— Kaji Aso, Raffael de Gruttola, Kate Finnegan,
and Zinovy Vayman, judges*

autumn loneliness—
your final letter to me
with a missing page

*Second prize winner in the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society's 2001
Kiyoshi Tokutomi Memorial Haiku Contest — Emiko Miyashita, judge*

clicking off the late movie . . .
the couch cushion
reinflates

*First prize winner in the 1995 Haiku Society of America
Brady Senryu Contest — Tom Clausen and Ebba Story, judges*

empty field
a hay rack
collecting tumbleweeds

*Honourable mention in the June 1989
Haiku Quarterly haiku contest — Linda Valentine, judge*

home for Christmas:
my childhood desk drawer
empty

*2001 Snapshots Haiku Calendar December first prize winner
— John Barlow, judge*

lingering handshake—
the pulse
in our fingers

*First prize winner in the 1999 Haiku North America
conference haiku contest — Sandra Fuhringer and Robert Gilliland, judges*

meteor shower—
a gentle wave
wets our sandals

*First prize winner in the 2000 Haiku Society of America
Henderson Haiku Contest — Cyril Childs and Jerry Kilbride, judges*

morning sun—
a patch of frost
in the holstein's shadow

*First prize winner in Haiku Canada's 2001
Betty Drevniok Haiku Contest — George Swede, judge*

mountain morning—
all over the red berry bush
snow in tiny heaps

*Honourable mention in the winter 2001 haiku contest
at Koyamakannon Shrine, Minokamo, Japan (Japanese version)*

nude beach—
the crowd around
the beached whale

*Honourable mention in the 2000 Haiku Poets of Northern California
San Francisco International Senryu Contest — Paul O. Williams, judge*

pale moonlight—
a snow-covered swing
twists in the wind

*First honourable mention in the 1994 Bashō Haiku Contest sponsored by
the Western World Haiku Society — Lorraine Ellis Harr, judge*

record high—
this heat
even in my toothpaste

*2001 Snapshots Haiku Calendar summer runner-up
— John Barlow, judge*

summer moonlight
the potter's wheel
slows

*Second prize winner in the 1990 Kaji Aso Haiku Contest,
sponsored by the Kaji Aso Studio and the Boston Haiku Society*

toll booth lit for Christmas—
from my hand to hers
warm change

*Second prize winner in the 1995 Haiku Society of America
Henderson Haiku Contest — Bill Pauly and Karen Sobne, judges*

tulip festival—
the colours of all the cars
in the parking lot

*Honourable mention in the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society's 2000
Kiyoshi Tokutomi Memorial Haiku Contest — Isamu Hashimoto, judge*