

Writing Haiku

Myths and Realities

Michael Dylan Welch is vice-president of the Haiku Society of America and director of the Haiku North America conference (coming to Seattle, August 3–7, 2011). He's published numerous poetry books, including anthologies and translations, and judged and won numerous haiku contests. He also founded NaHaiWriMo (National Haiku Writing Month). His website is graceguts.com.

Michael Dylan Welch will read from his work at the Cross-Border Pollination Reading Series on Saturday, May 14. Find out more at rachelrose.com.

When: 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 15

Cost: \$45

\$20 for Vancouver Haiku Group members

HistoricJoy Kogawa House

1450 West 64th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6P 2N4

**To register, email kogawahouse@yahoo.ca
or phone 604-263-6586**

*haiku are easy
but sometimes they don't make sense
refrigerator*

Is this a haiku? Actually, no—not by a long shot. Yet many people think it is. Join Haiku Society of America Vice-President Michael Dylan Welch for an in-depth exploration of the myths and realities of haiku as a literary art, including key techniques such as *kigo* and *kireji* (season word and cutting word), objective sensory imagery, and more. You'll learn a brief history of Japanese and English-language haiku, hear classic poems by Japanese masters, participate in writing exercises and critique, and receive copious handouts. Come learn the one thing the preceding poem gets right—and no, the 5-7-5 form isn't one of them!

This hands-on workshop also explores how haiku techniques can help you improve your longer poetry or fiction. We'll begin by discussing sample poems in English and build a list of characteristics we observe—these are the possible “targets” that haiku can aim for. We'll also cover organizations and websites, and touch on related Japanese poetic forms, including *senryu*, *haibun*, *haiga*, *renga/renku*, and *tanka*. You'll come away with an enlarged appreciation for the discipline and benefits of haiku writing, learn to make your haiku hit the target, and maybe even develop the haiku habit.