HAIKU EXPO
Arizona inspired Japanese Poetry

ARIZONA MATSURI - A FESTIVAL OF JAPAN

Selection of 2016 Haiku
Haiku is an ancient unrhymed Japanese verse form. Generally written in three short lines containing a total of 10 to 17 syllables to convey a vivid message, Haiku typically contain a reference to nature.

Haiku uses simple concrete images of things we can see, smell, taste, touch, or feel. The best haiku poems reveal the essence of a thing so clearly that the reader can experience the momentary scene or insight that inspired the author.

One of the greatest Haiku poets was the Samurai, Basho (1644-94). Basho's father was also a Samurai from the Iga province. To become a Samurai, Basho served a local lord who was fond of writing. Basho learned the style of writing Haiku and wrote under
the name, Sobo. During those years, Basho traveled throughout Japan writing and further developing the Haiku style. A few samples of Basho’s haiku style are listed in the example section below.

Your poem should contain a sentence fragment (one line) and a phrase (two lines that complete a thought). The fragment can be either the first line or the third line. To keep your poem simple and direct, write in the present tense. Haiku typically do not make use of capitalization, punctuation, or titles.

Each traditional Haiku should contain a reference to a season, which indicates what season of the year the Haiku is set. For example, blossoms would indicate spring, snow would give the idea of winter and mosquitoes would imply summertime. The seasonal word is not always that obvious, you might need to consider the theme of the poem to find it.

Structural Rules for traditional Haiku:

- Use exactly 17 syllables
- Syllables are arranged in three lines of 5-7-5
- Avoid similes and metaphors
- Refers to a season of the year

Clouds appear and bring
to men a chance to rest from
looking at the moon

The seasonal word in this Haiku is clouds, indicating the rainy season. Haiku poems are valued for their simplicity, openness, depth and lightness.

English-language haiku have generally followed the form of five syllables used in the first line, followed by seven syllables for the middle line and five syllables for the third. However, English-language haiku no longer adhere to this syllable count, and are therefore as brief as the poem needs to be while keeping to the fragment-phrase structure. In English language haiku, the middle line is typically longer than the first or third lines.

The Arizona Matsuri and its Haiku Expo committee initiated this event in late 2014 by inviting participants from the general public, Statewide universities, community colleges, high schools, culture and language clubs and public libraries. The theme for this event was for participants to submit up to three of their own original Arizona inspired haiku. This booklet is the collection of selected haiku poems which we feel deserve Honorable mention and Outstanding recognition which we would like to share with the general public. Thank you to all participants, organizations and individuals who helped support this event. Thank you very much and we hope you enjoy this wonderful collection.

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mountains surrounding
everything in my sight
life in the valley

Lucas W.
Knox Gifted Academy, Grade 2
Gilbert, AZ
EARLY MORNING MIST
Encanto Park in Phoenix is centrally located in the city and its ponds have many ducks who call this place home. This haiku gives one the sense of early morning light shimmering on the water in winter whereas the rise in temperature is creating a slight mist on the water as the ducks flock together and enjoy the warmth of a new day.

snowflake on my hand
shiny, so bright, cold like ice
crystal from the sky

Christian M.
St Louis The King Elementary School, Grade 3
Glendale, AZ

a flash of lightning
bright sky with a loud boom!
mice scatter and run

Evelyn R.
St Louis The King Elementary School, Grade 3
Glendale, AZ
in the desert silence
suddenly I hear a screech
an eagle passes by

George C.
St. Louis the King Catholic School, Grade 3
Glendale, AZ

HONORABLE MENTION

very hot summer
reaching 100 degrees
time to go swimming

Lucas W.
Knox Gifted Academy, Grade 2
Gilbert, AZ

palo verde green leaves
God looks down and says
oh what a beautiful world I've made

Kaell S.
St. Louis the King Catholic School, Grade 3
Glendale, AZ

green growing cactus
a home for desert creatures
standing tall and proud

Emily B.
St Louis The King Elementary, Grade 3
Glendale, AZ

I can feel the wind
blowing on my skin so good
feel the wind, you'll see

Madison N.
St. Louis the King Catholic School, Grade 3
Glendale, AZ
as light at a feather
snowflakes sharp and delicate
falling from the sky

Brant S
St Louis The King Elementary, Grade 3
Glendale, AZ

leaves falling from the sky
red like the planet Mars in space
as if heaven was near

Christian M.
St Louis The King Elementary, Grade 3
Glendale, AZ

a spark from a campfire
you want to touch it, but don't
step back, leave the spark

Natalie L.
St Louis The King Elementary, Grade 3
Glendale, AZ

summer day, waking up
hot, tiny birds in the sun
hopping around the sand

Christian M.
St Louis The King Elementary, Grade 3
Glendale, AZ

a snowflake on my hand
like a tiny, crystal star
angel's gift from heaven

Christian M.
St Louis The King Elementary, Grade 3
Glendale, AZ
dry fields, mesquite trees

Arizona is blooming

as the days lengthen

Naomi M.
BASIS Phoenix, Grade 6
Chandler, AZ
Driving on a dry desert Arizona highway in mid summer it is not unusual to see a mirage or a naturally occurring optical phenomenon in which light rays are bent to produce a displaced image of distant objects such as a pool of water.

**MIRAGE ON THE HIGHWAY**

**bright lightning crackles**

**rain drops plummet from the sky**

**water fills the streets**

Alyssa V.

Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6

Phoenix, AZ

**a golden blessing**

**leaves of orange and crimson**

**autumn paints the earth**

Naomi M.

BASIS Phoenix, Grade 5

Phoenix, AZ
birds begin to fly
as winter fades away
buds reach for the sky

Naomi M.
BASIS Phoenix, Grade 6
Phoenix, AZ

the shimmering sun paints
the silhouettes of cacti
shadows on the ground

Alden M.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

cactus flowers bloom
cactus water dripping down
birds drink thankfully

Mareena N.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ
night of dancing stars
tall cacti scattered throughout
a moonlit desert

Lucy K.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

cacti coat the land
lined up like straight, wise soldiers
waiting for commands

Kareem M.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

clear, blue cloudless sky
sun baking the desert floor
A summer breeze blows

Natalie M.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ
puffy, angry clouds
fiercely huddled together
rain pummels cracked earth

Samantha V.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

loud lightning crackles
above, sprinkles plummet down
winds whisper monsoon

Elizabeth I.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

lightning rends the sky
reverberating rumble
locking in retreat

Maeve W.
BASIS Oro Valley, Grade 6
Tucson, AZ
HONORABLE MENTION

stinging rays of sun
and the hot breeze in your face
makes you want ice cream
Shia D.
Grade 4
Laveen, AZ

dust plumes high above
covers cars like a blanket
blinded by debris
Danielle D.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

the sandy desert
what a lot of sun
oh! Arizona!
Lilly R.
Home School, Grade 4
Scottsdale, AZ

redwood colored land
dried plants atop dusty desert
grayed animals hide
Isabelle L.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

cactus wren, state bird
palo verde, the state tree
the Grand Canyon state
Noel S
Redfield Elementary, Grade 5
Scottsdale, AZ

over centuries
generations come and go
yet cacti hang firm
Kareem M.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

mesas fill empty spaces
the sweet and juicy citrus
full with copper mines
Halley C.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

blazing sun will set
a deep mix of pink and red
creamed like a smoothie
Kareem M.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ
steep rocky canyons
how beautiful nature is
so silent, yet nice

Kenadl K.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

red, blue, yellow sunset
sun kisses the sky goodbye
a beautiful sight

Natalie M
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

the desert so dry
no rain to soak up tonight
cold nights emerge

Kenadl K.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

soft, coral sunset
slight breeze tickling my skin
cold night cooling me

Liliana
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

raking leaves for days
yellow, brown, red kids come out
demolished leaf piles

Solana
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

hot, dry desert day
sun will not play hide and seek
winter, where are you

Kaylee J.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

Pink, Glowing, Sun sets
Cacti cover dry desert
Hot sand under feet

Emma S.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

The big cactus wren
State bird of Arizona
lies high through the sky

Bryce W.
Arizona College Preparatory - Oakland, Gr 7
Gilbert, AZ
watching us since birth
mountains loom above our heads
even in our death

Melody W.
Arizona College Preparatory – Oakland, Gr 7
Gilbert, AZ

the canyons so high
a smooth red wall follows up
a bright morning light

Elizabeth I.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

The crackle of sand
The light hits the horizon
The red rocks glimmer

Elizabeth I.
Kyrene Middle School, Grade 6
Tempe, AZ

Persimmon sunrise
brave new world awakening
the sound of darkness

Maeve W.
BASIS Oro Valley, Grade 8
Tucson, AZ
a gloomy night
coyotes roam all around
cold foggy mountains

Nicole A.
South Mountain High School, Grade 9
Phoenix, AZ
FLASH FLOODS
Late in the summer months the Arroyo or empty creeks seasonally fills and flows after heavy downpours of rain. These flash floods are common in arroyos during thunderstorms bringing these dry creeks to life and crossing roads commonly become impassible.

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saguaro cactus
mirrored in moonlit water
spines waver gently

Joanna J.
North High School, Grade 11
Phoenix, AZ

the smell of wet dirt
I hear the droplets outside
nostalgic thoughts come

Brenda A.
South Mountain High School, Grade 10
Phoenix, AZ
a howling wind blows
how I dream to fly with you
and quietly drift away

Shelly P.
Paradise Honers High School, Grade 9
Surprise, AZ

I've seen the sun laugh
his joy warms the land and man
he smiles if you look

Destiny C.
Paradise Honers High School, Grade 11
Surprise, AZ

deep in the desert
waves of light swim through the sand
as the sun rises

Destiny C.
Paradise Honers High School, Grade 11
Surprise, AZ
a vultures death stare
oasis waves beckoning
the desert circle

Austin D.
Paradise Honers High School, Grade 11
Surprise, AZ

the hot wind blows east
and carries a tumbleweed
a hawk screeches above

Alexis L.
aradise Honers High School, Grade 9
Surprise, AZ

the flower blooms pink
it basks in the warm sunlight
trapped by cactus pricks

Alexis L.
aradise Honers High School, Grade 9
Surprise, AZ
flaming clouds of red pass above the torrid desert earth's star gently sinks

Gina S.
Desert Ridge High School, Grade 11
Apache Junction, AZ

burning rays of sun steaming streams run through mountains I know this as home

Emily Z.
Trevor G. Browne High School, Grade 11
Avondale, AZ

the sky's tears drip down leaving craters in the sand desert is reborn

Gina S.
Desert Ridge High School, Grade 11
Apache Junction, AZ

mystery roses bloom as the full moon whispers the midnight hour strikes

Joanna J.
North High School, Grade 11
Phoenix, AZ
light shines through the sky
waiting to strike upon us
innocent lives spared

Brianna B.
South Mountain High School, Grade 11
Phoenix, AZ

a glimmer of hope
unexpected kiss of rain
wanting more sunlight

Emily I.
South Mountain High School, Grade 10
Phoenix, AZ

flowers blossoming
picturesque saguaros
in the desert sun

Carla F.
South Mountain High School, Grade 12
Phoenix, AZ

beautiful sunrise
escaping the horizons
leaving memories

Angela E.
South Mountain High School, Grade 12
Phoenix, AZ

spread across the sky
like gleaming lanterns above
paving paths for us

Shaniqua D.
South Mountain High School, Grade 12
Phoenix, AZ

the sky cries above
clouds darken slowly
rain falls solemnly

Maria V.
South Mountain High School, Grade 11
Phoenix, AZ

clear skies and dry nights
when the rain touches, I dance
rain leaves at a glance

Selene C.
South Mountain High School, Grade 11
Phoenix, AZ

today will soon leave
it's time for our sun to fall
glistening night skies

Lina A.
South Mountain High School, Grade 9
Phoenix, AZ
hot climate weather
summer in the spring and fall
hottest of them all

Lina A.
South Mountain High School, Grade 9
Phoenix, AZ

cactus through dry fields
shadows hiding behind them
still on a cool night

Emily P.
South Mountain High School, Grade 9
Phoenix, AZ

the deserts are dry
"Oh" but never will it die
the beauty is high

Bernice A.
South Mountain High School
Phoenix, AZ

burning sun rising
the phoenix bird is passing
flames will never die

Michael J.
South Mountain High School, Grade 10
Phoenix, AZ

solitude at night
my beautiful stunning stars
cool breeze on my face

Ana P.
South Mountain High School, Grade 9
Phoenix, AZ

under the clear blue sky
hiding in shadows it lies
tired lazy snake

Darren F.
Paradise Honers High School, Grade 10
Surprise, AZ

a wicked wind blew
branches across the old trail
good morning walk

Jesus M.
South Mountain High School, Grade 11
Phoenix, AZ

breath taking colors
stretched across western skies
settling sunset

John S.
Paradise Honers High School, Grade 9
Surprise, AZ
sun radiating
magenta flowers unfold
a prickly pear gem

jagged rocky faces
softened by snowy silence
the moon seems to pause

Rigel B.
Paradise Honors High School, Grade 11
Surprise, AZ

Seyna A.
Paradise Honors High School
Surprise, AZ

the clear skies are vast
yet only one cloud remains
alone in a sea

sounds of the desert
coyotes howl like the wind
as the city sleeps

Christine M.
Paradise Honors High School, Grade 9
Surprise, AZ

Jennifer M.
Paradise Honors High School, Grade 9
Surprise, AZ

sand stretching for miles
across the dry desert plains
specks of dust drifting

dry and barren earth
waiting for impending storm
finally life springs

Christine M.
Paradise Honors High School, Grade 9
Surprise, AZ

Tyler W.
Paradise Honors High School, Grade 10
Surprise, AZ

cacti are cooling
birds arrive, exploring warmth
nature is alive

majestic Sunrise
comes over the mountain tops
shining on golden sand

Christopher S.
Paradise Honors High School, Grade 9
Surprise, AZ

Stephen A.
Paradise Honors High School, Grade 10
Surprise, AZ
under moon lit skies
coyotes gracefully howl
stars shimmering bright

Kaitlyn A.
Paradise Honors High School, Grade 11
Surprise, AZ

sun baking the earth
summer is finally here
splashing in the pool

Kaitlyn T.
Paradise Honors High School, Grade 9
Surprise, AZ

the moon rises high up
all is quiet except for one
the coyote howls

Alexis L.
Paradise Honors High School, Grade 9
Surprise, AZ

clouds roll in at dark
rain falls on the dead hot sand
cries of the last life

Trinity M.
Paradise Honors High School
Surprise, AZ

desolate sand winds
swimming like ocean-less dirt
as the red fades to black

Molly H.
Grade 11
Surprise, AZ

rabbits hop in fear
roadrunners have scurried off
the coyote sneers

Alexis A.
Paradise Honors High School, Grade 10
Surprise, AZ
cotton candy sky
orange blossoms perfume the air
my Sonoran bliss

Amy Dawn S.
Chandler, AZ
HIKER’S SOLITUDE
A late afternoon hiker may be treated to spectacular valley wide sunsets as the sky lights up out west and the eastern side of the mountains quickly falls into darkness, providing a desert solitude for the hiker.

Desert vagabonds
Dry whispering tumbleweeds
Children of the wind

Robert J.
Glendale, AZ

bristling thorny shafts
ocotillo’s orange flags
wave desert welcome

Rhonda B.
Mesa, AZ
palo verde gold
blossom pools on desert floor
treasure blows away

Rhonda B.
Mesa, AZ

stately saguaros
sentinels of Sonora
stand their winter watch

Louis H.
Oro Valley, AZ

sweet sage aroma
after thundering monsoon
clears my mind of sand

Donna M.
Prescott, AZ
quail mom leads a trail
of feathered balls of toddlers
father standing watch

JeanEtte H.
Scottsdale, AZ

no rain or rainbows
yet the colors fill the sky
Arizona eve

JeanEtte H.
Scottsdale, AZ

Sonoran soldiers
stand guard over the desert
casting long shadows

Susan C.
Scottsdale, AZ
sky bursts with thunder
swift jets shadow desert sand
sounds of freedom roar

Linda K.
Sun City West, AZ

stinger poised to strike
a noisey cricket silenced
the moon just hung there

Carolyn A.
Tempe, AZ

cicada songs paused
for the scent of creosote
after monsoon rains

Ryan W.
Tempe, AZ
the first stars
flicker with the moon
coyotes howl

C.B. W.
Phoenix, AZ

coral stones
reflect a setting sun
hawks circle

Candace D.
Phoenix, AZ
HONORABLE MENTION

baby birds croon
snug in saguaro boot nest
anxious to be fed

Martha K.
Cave Creek, AZ

dew drops of the night
rest on drapey spider webs
vanish at first sun

Martha K.
Cave Creek, AZ

darkest beginnings
falling late into first light
morning star rises

Pat B.
Chandler, AZ

the clouds parted
the big dipper was waiting
to fill up my cup

Charles P.
Fountain Hills, AZ

the queen of darkness
such peace and serenity
glows of silver light

Ynessa D.
Gilbert, AZ

through the canyon depths
fierce gusts shape gnarled branches
longing for escape

Lara B.
Gilbert, AZ

upside down ocean
coyote howls at the moon
lost in endless blue

Amy Dawn S.
Chandler, AZ

musty cave echoes
return to me distantly
a ghostly chill climbs

Lara B..
Gilbert, AZ
the lonely cricket
fiddles in his solitude
saddening the heart

Robert J.
Glendale, AZ

summer night, hot stars
pavement cooling city calm
a/c humming ahhhhh

Carlos C.
Phoenix, AZ

thorny old cholla
such vicious arms spread widely
nothing to embrace

Christina H.
Mesa, AZ

backyard summer skies
blue-green banners fly aloft
to mockingbird trills

Dorothy D.
Phoenix, AZ

desert breezes lift
bright acacia blossoms
in golden whispers

Louis H.
Oro Valley, AZ

silent sentinels
saguaro cacti in bloom
raised arms beg for rain

Eva W.
Phoenix, AZ

wall of sand, dirt, wind
cell phone screaming head for home
tomorrow, we dust

Carlos C.
Phoenix, AZ

purple, mauve and green
santa rita prickly pear
heart piercing beauty

Donna M.
Prescott, AZ
cherry blossom falls silent
dying through the midnight blue sky
beauty in stillness

Nicholas J.
San Tan Valley, AZ

unfurled scarlet sails
floating on a beige sand sea
ocotillo bloom

JeanEtte H.
Scottsdale, AZ

in huachuca green
a brilliant streak of yellow
aspens touch the sky

Karen C.
Sierra Vista, AZ

streets swept with red clay
offering much needed rain
monsoons pelt the earth

Roger F.
Spring Valley, AZ

golden suns dance west
oblivious of the earth
baking into dust

Roger F.
Spring Valley, AZ

wild river slices earth
winds through slick, black canyon walls
carries stories, life

Linda S.
Tempe, AZ

small taunting raindrops
gaining courage in numbers
seek to breach the wash

Karen C.
Sierra Vista, AZ

mesquite tree canopy
small brown birds in spring flutter
steal the chickens food

Linda S.
Tempe, AZ
**silent hawk**
*moored in ageless sky*
*swoopes on prey*

Helen A.
Tempe, AZ

**hiking staff in hand**
*prickly cactus everywhere*
*ouch! watch out for spines!*

Shane T.
Anthem, AZ

**the candles come out**
*cinnamon, pumpkin, and clove*
*a desert sunset*

Rosemary B.
Tucson, AZ

**always a surprise**
*when the cold arrives and takes*
*the warmth from our feet*

Rosemary B.
Tucson, AZ

**bursting with color**
*balloons float silent over*
*desert blooms below*

Shane T.
Anthem, AZ
Saboten no haikei akaku yō ga someru

the cactus background painted by the red sun

Shoko W.

Gilbert, AZ
DESSERT SUNSETS
The dry air filled with specs of dust and particles light up those thin feather clouds which catch light and filter it back to our eyes to make some of the most awesome sunsets in the world.

瑠璃色に光り輝く夕焼け雲
Ruri-iro ni hikarikagayaku yūyakegumo
Sunset clouds brilliant in lapis lazuli color
Kana K.
Phoenix, AZ

荒野でも住めば都春の空
Kōya demo sumeba miyako haru no sora
even if living in the wilderness
you'll find a spring city sky
Yukihiro I.
Tucson, AZ
HONORABLE MENTION

人口と平均年齢上がる冬
jinkō to heikin nenrei agaru fuyu
population and average age rise in winter

Shoko W.
Gilbert, AZ

空高く飛行機雲が何本も
Sora takaku hikōkigumo ga nanhon mo
high in the sky airplane contrails left
many streaks

Kana K.
Phoenix, AZ

野生馬たてがみなびかせ駆け抜ける
yasei uma tategami nabikase kakenukeru
the mane of the wild hoarse flutters
as it gallops past

Shoko W.
Gilbert, AZ

生きている深く根を張る砂漠の樹
Ikite iru fukaku newoharu sabaku no ki
the lively roots of the desert tree
extend deeply

Miki P.
Tucson, AZ

春よ来い待っているうちにもう過ぎた
Haruyokoi matte iru uchi ni mō sugita
while waiting for spring to come
it passed me by

Kana K.
Phoenix, AZ

寄り添って生かしてもらう大サワロ
Yorisotte ikashite morau daisawaraao
the large saguaro cuddles to keep alive

Miki P.
Tucson, AZ
Habarina no mure ni ashidome sanpomichi
my feet stooped on the path, a herd of javelina

Miki P.
Tucson, AZ

Kōyade wa inazuma futoku tentochito
heavy lightning in the wilderness
heaven and earth

Yukihiro I.
Tucson, AZ

Borantia wakaki tomo fue hanamizuki
young volunteering friends
flourishing dogwood

Yukihiro I.
Tucson, AZ
Haiku Expo Statistics

HAIKU EXPO 2016 ENTRY STATISTIC

- Total haiku submissions received: 830
- Total haiku submissions accepted: 827
- Total unique Arizona zip code locations from across Arizona: 88
- Total unique Arizona cities of participants: 24
- Total number of participating schools: 25
- Age of participants: Youngest 7, Oldest 91
- Total number of Outstanding Haiku selections: 41
- Total number of Honorable Mention Haiku: 105
The late Summer months when the heat is relentless is a sign the monsoons will soon arrive and bring us a chance to have an increased chance of showers and escape from the heat.

**Arizona participant cities**

Ahwatukee  
Anthem  
Apache Junction  
Avondale  
Carefree  
Casa Grande  
Cave Creek  
Chandler  
Fountain Hills  
Gilbert  
Glendale  
Laveen  
Mesa  
Oro Valley  
Paradise Valley  
Peoria  
Phoenix  
Prescott  
San Tan Valley  
Scottsdale  
Sierra Vista  
Snowflake  
Spring Valley  
Sun City West  
Surprise  
Tempe  
Tucson  
Wadell

**Arizona participant schools, clubs**

Arizona College Preparatory - Oakland  
Arizona State University  
BASIS Oro Valley  
BASIS Phoenix  
Desert Ridge High School  
Home school  
Knox Gifted Academy  
Kyrene Middle School  
Mary Burton  
Mesa Community College  
North High School  
Osher Lifelong Learning  
Paradise Honors High School  
Redfield Elementary  
Snowflake High School  
South Mountain High School  
St. Augustine High Catholic High School  
St. Louis the King Catholic School  
The New Foundation  
Trevor G. Browne  
University of Arizona
The Arizona Matsuri is an annual festival which celebrate Japanese culture and heritage, traditional and modern. The two-day event held at Heritage & Science Park in downtown Phoenix features the sights and sounds of Japan, art, crafts, music, dance and much more. The family friendly Matsuri is free to all. Japanese food and goods from over 60 vendors are available for purchase and the beer and sake garden is a great place to relax. The Arizona Matsuri was first held in 1984 and is celebrating its 32nd anniversary in 2016.

The Haiku Expo celebrated its 2nd year in 2016 following its inaugural event in 2015 where we had over 600 entries. The e-Book collection of 2015 winners is also available as a free download from the Arizona Matsuri website.

www.azmatsuri.org
Thank you to all participants in this 2nd year of the Arizona Matsuri Haiku Expo. We are very pleased with the growing number of participants this year and can only hope to grow this event in the future.

In subsequent years we aim to get more educators involved so that lesson plans can be prepared in a timely manner for wider participation in the classroom at all class levels. Our aim is to introduce the arts and culture of Japan through haiku poetry and we encourage people of all ages to continuously create, develop and share their own original haiku poetry.

The details for the next Haiku Expo will be posted on the Arizona Matsuri web site. Updates and notices will be posted on the Arizona Matsuri Facebook page so be sure to check back with us from time to time. Both the the 2015 & 2016 editions of the Haiku Expo Collection e-Book is also available as a free download from the Arizona Matsuri website.

Haiku Committee
John Sachen, Chairman
Beverly Washichek
Doris Asano