



From The Lily Pad

SPRING 2025

*Thank you for receiving the **Nick Virgilio Haiku Association's** 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.

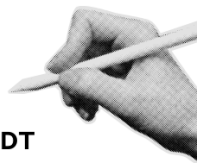
Consider supporting NVHA's work by donating [here](#). We deeply appreciate your generous contributions and continuous support.

Haiku Tips and Tricks for Students Submitting to the 2025 Nicholas A. Virgilio Haiku and Senryu Contest

THE
2025
NICHOLAS A. VIRGILIO MEMORIAL
HAIKU AND SENRYU CONTEST

Submit up to
three haiku
and/or senryu!

*for all students in grades 7-12.



Deadline: March 30, 2025, 11:59 PM EDT

Winners will receive a **prize of \$250**, and be featured by The Haiku Society of America!

Find the submission form and more details at
www.nickvirgiliohaiku.org/student-entryform.



first date
her dog
likes me



-Scott Splinter
Grade 12, 1996 Contest Winner

rice cakes orbit
in a cloudy broth
lunar new year



-Benjamin Moon-Chun
Grade 8, 2024 Contest Winner

Calling all young poets: have you submitted haiku or senryu to the Nicholas A. Virgilio Memorial youth competition?

Any and all students in grades 7-12 as of September 2024 are encouraged to submit up to three haiku or senryu by filling out the submission form on our website (you can

also find the link in our bio!).

Each of the six winners will receive a prize of \$250 and be featured by the Haiku Society of America. No prior knowledge of haiku or senryu is necessary, although we recommend all participants see the contest page (on our website and linked in bio) for full contest guidelines and educational resources on how to write a winning entry!

Pro tip: use simple language and focus on portraying perceptions and images.

Have you seen our beginner/intermediate haiku workshop with Japan Times award-winning writer Alan Summers? Watch the playback of [this workshop](#) and others like it on [The NVHA YouTube channel](#).

All submissions are due by **March 30 at 11:59 EDT**.

[View Contest Page](#)

Haiku Teaching in Camden Schools Launched on March 13th





*Top to Bottom: Jovaan Torres (Montessori Aide
at Sacred Heart School and Camden poet),
Therèse Halscheid (haiku educator and poet).*

On Thursday March 13th, we kicked off our beginner haiku classes in Camden schools, starting with two 6th grade classes at [Cooper's Poynt Family School](#), taught by Camden poet Jovaan Torres. Starting next week on March 25th, longtime haiku poet and haiku educator Therèse Halscheid will also begin teaching two 6th grade classes at [Dr. Henry H. Davis School](#). We are beyond excited to get the ball rolling on this program again after a brief hiatus due to program location changes and scheduling conflicts.

With continued federal and state budget cuts affecting the arts, NVHA is committed to ensuring children have access to creative writing from an early age, using it as a tool for emotional expression and personal growth.

The reflective nature of writing haiku poems allows children to develop coping mechanisms and foundational communication skills while demonstrating the significance of communicating in just a few words. NVHA's four major objectives of this program are to increase access to creative writing education,

foster a love of writing in young minds, build emotional resilience/reflection, and to equip Camden children with valuable written communication skills. Following suit with the healing-centered movement within the arts space, our team and board has successfully developed a healing-centered and project-based curriculum using their varied expertise in counseling, education, and poetry. The weekly learning goals include:

1. An intro to haiku with the goal of understanding imagery and concrete language through haiku.
2. An intro to senryu—with the goal of understanding figurative, tone, humor, satire, and personification through senryu.
3. Building a haiku series—learning to understand how to use haiku and senryu to explore different perspectives of the same theme.
4. Working with rhythm, rhyme, and repetition—understanding technique and the musicality of poetry.
5. Poetry as performance—exploring the technique of reading poetry aloud.
6. Completing the collection—students will assemble a collection of their poems from the program and present a short reading during class.

We look forward to gathering feedback from students and teachers on the new curriculum, and are excited about the possibility of continuing more healing-centered arts programming for youth.

Are you a local teacher or poet who may be interested in teaching short-form poetry for children ages 9-12? We'd love to hear from you. Send us a note at info@nickvirgiliohaiku.org.

Which Poetry-Related Topics Would You Like to Learn About in our Next Workshop? Take Our Survey!

We want to provide free programs that are relevant to our community at home as well as our international haiku audience
--tell us what you'd like to see next!

Maybe you'd like to understand how to better describe experiences and images in your poetry rather than "telling," or perhaps you'd like to learn some techniques to make that last line really cut through in a haiku--or maybe you'd like to see more workshops that focus on a completely different form of creative writing.

Take the survey below to let us know what you think.



[Take Survey](#)

The 2025 Midnight Notes Schedule



Our next Midnight Notes session will be at the NV Writers House on March 22nd!

Meet us at the Writer's House at 1801 Broadway in Camden, NJ from 10:30 PM EDT - 12:00 AM EDT for the next session and all sessions labeled above as "NV Writers House." These late-night workshops are designed as a communal space for young

adult poets to learn from one another and write together on a common theme for each night. Each session offers refreshments and herbal tea, all of which is completely free to attendees.

In partnership with the Rutgers University Camden's Year of the Arts, NVHA is hosting the Midnight Notes at the RUC Writers House on select dates in 2025. The next ones are: **April 29th, August 12th, and November 18th**. All Rutgers dates will be at from 7 PM EDT - 9 PM EDT.

For any session that you can't join in-person, you can 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**.

Curious about what the Midnight Notes is all about? Relive the moments here on [Instagram](#).

Thank you specifically to our sponsors the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission (CCCHC) and the New Jersey Arts and Cultural Renewal Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation for helping us keep this program **free** for attendees.

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

**Upcoming Writing Event from our Partner, The Rutgers University
Camden Writers House**

Outside the Wire: Writing Grief--In-person Workshop

Facilitated by experienced Warrior Writers artists, this creative writing workshop will offer prompts from various forms of art surrounding the theme of grief, the many forms it can take, and the ways it impacts our lives. We will examine and discuss art created by veterans and spend time writing our reflections. We encourage participants to share stories, opinions, and ideas to lead to productive writing and storytelling. These workshops are open to all veterans, service members, and their families; no prior writing experience is necessary.

Date & Time

April 5, 2025

1:00 pm-4:00 pm

This workshop will be held in-person on the Rutgers-Camden campus, specific location TBD.

Registration is required. Click below to learn more!

[More Info](#)

Thank you to the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission,
The Holman Foundation, and the New Jersey Arts and Cultural Renewal Fund

of the Princeton Area Community Foundation for their generous contributions to free public poetry programming.



Made possible by funds from the Camden County Cultural & Heritage Commission at Camden County College, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

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