

## Judge's Comments

The top three haiku share similar traits that are important to me. Each had an immediacy that evoked an emotional response and each evoked the season within which the moment occurred. Likewise, each of the Honorable Mention haiku kept drawing me back to repeated readings through distinctive phrases and juxtapositions that were sometimes startling and always significant. I hope you find new shades of meaning and delight in your own reading of each selected poem. My short list was long. I fully expect to come across those I didn't select in future publications. Thank you poets for submitting your poems and thank you Haiku Canada for the opportunity to select the 2015 Drevniok Haiku Award winners.

**First Prize:** This haiku had the distinction of being first on a list of over 400 haiku, and it kept its place in my mind throughout the selection process. The aural impact of rain fading to birdsong seemed both earthy and ethereal. The sadness of the moment is offset by the shift from rain to bird song. Life ends, rain ends, but the birds will sing again. This haiku speaks not only to the transience of life, but also celebrates our passage into death. I have experienced this moment myself in many bedside vigils. It found it a healing haiku.

**Second Prize:** A sharp visual haiku further enhanced by special formatting to mimic the movements of the swirling skirt. This is a summer haiku that is full of life and joy, whether it be girl child, woman or crone. The swirling skirt seemed to embrace all that is good about summertime all that is good by simply being alive in the moment whether one observes or swirls. Where there is one poppy, there are bound to be more, so the focus on one sunlit poppy opened up a field to me.

**Third Prize:** There is at first, a hint of sadness in 'bluest', as it relates to forgotten graves but this is quickly balanced by the fact that the forgotten graves have been given a beauty of their own through the unchecked spread of wild forget-me-nots as opposed to the more manicured and tended gravesites. This modest blue flower speaks to the passage of time and how nature reclaims us all.

The **Honorable Mention** haiku brought me the universe in the gentle light of birth, the delight of jam jars becoming mini-lanterns on a summer night, the feathery burst of colour with the return of the sun, the weight of war on our children's future (superb image) the constancy of the soul despite outer metamorphosis, the whistle of a wood duck with its poignant depiction of end of life, the final burst of beauty in a falling leaf, and a hoverfly trying to keep within its spot of sun. Each offered an insightful moment through a deep connection to nature.

**Carole MacRury's** haiku and tanka have been anthologized, published and won awards worldwide. She is the author of *In the Company of Crows* and the award winning Snapshot Press e-chapbook *The Tang of Nasturtiums*.

## THE BETTY DREVNIOK AWARD

Held annually, the award was established by Haiku Canada in memory of Betty Drevniok, Past President of the society. Haiku must be unpublished and not under consideration elsewhere.

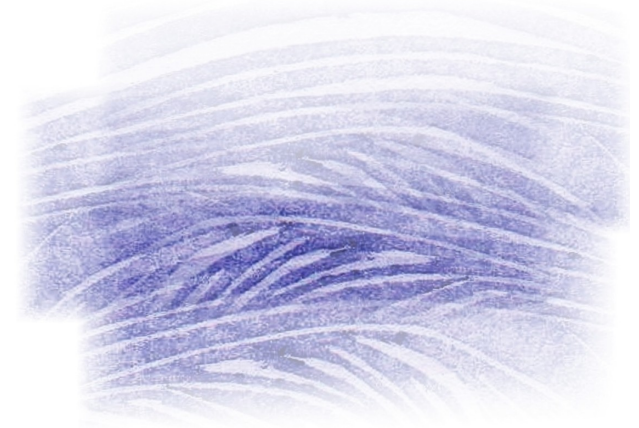
Please submit by email:  
[claudiaradmore@gmail.com](mailto:claudiaradmore@gmail.com)

If you have **no** email, send entries to

Claudia Radmore, 49 McArthur Ave,  
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*graphic :from a woodcut  
Claudia Radmore*

*The  
Betty Drevniok  
Award  
2015*



Presented at The Haiku Canada  
*Coasts and Islands*  
Weekend

Victoria BC

*Judge: Carole MacRury*

**FIRST PRIZE****\$100**

last rites . . .  
rain fading into  
bird song

Carl Seguiban  
*Burnaby, B.C.*

**SECOND PRIZE****\$50**

sunlit poppy . . .  
the swirl  
of her red skirt

elehna de sousa  
*Salt Spring Island, B.C.*

**THIRD PRIZE****\$25**

bluest  
on forgotten graves –  
wild myosotis

Carl Seguiban  
*Burnaby, BC*

**HONORABLE MENTION**

delivery room—  
the gentle light  
of the beginning

Steliana Cristina Voicu  
*Romania*

huckleberries –  
capturing the night  
in the jam jar

Steliana Cristina Voicu  
*Romania*

clearing sky  
the gum tree bursts into  
rainbow lorikeets

Jayashree Maniyil  
*Australia*

child soldiers—  
a young buck takes the moon  
on its antlers

Judit Katalin Hollos  
*Hungary*

the whistle  
of a wood duck . . .  
her last breath

Debbie Strange  
*Winnipeg, Manitoba*

still there . . .  
soul of the caterpillar  
in the butterfly

Dina E. Cox  
*Unionville, ON*

sunlight through fog . . .  
the half-life  
of falling leaves

Mark E. Brager  
*Columbia, MD*

leaf-cast shade  
a hoverfly moves around  
a spot of sunshine

John Barlow  
*Ormskirk, UK*