

Call from Roger Abe for Haiku Regarding
San Jose's Kelley Park
Japanese Friendship Garden

Dear Haiku Poets,

2016 will mark 25 years of partnership between Yuki Teikei and the City of San Jose in hosting our Spring Readings. Through that time our events have been held at City facilities gratis. I would like to put together a small publication, initially, probably something along the lines of our Tokutomi Contest Brochure as a gift to the City in thanks for its generosity.

What I need are haiku that bring out the best of the Japanese Friendship Garden, since that has been the site of most of our events. The garden is already a popular place for both residents and visitors. A haiku brochure about the garden would be a nice complement, and would show its cultural vitality in connection to the arts (haiku). The park is renting out the renovated Tea House, so a nice brochure that might help entice marketing in that regard would give added purpose to the brochure's usefulness.

I'm sure that there are already a lot of haiku that you have written about the garden. For this purpose, I would like to have those that accentuate the garden theme, features, and appeal to wedding parties (the primary customers of Tea House rentals). The garden theme is, of course, friendship, as it is a symbol of the San Jose/Okayama sister city relationship. This relationship was one of the first established after President Eisenhower's request for rebuilding commerce and friendly "people to people" ties in the aftermath of World War II. The effort to produce the garden involved many parties.

The City of Okayama donated many artifacts (including the initial population of koi) in the garden as well as assisting with the design which is patterned on Okayama's famous Korakuen, which reflects the spirit of "Kokoro" or "Heart, Mind and Soul". The local Japanese community contributed thousands of plants, manpower and more. All the stones in the garden are local granite donated by the Raisch Company. The garden is a "scroll type" in which different vistas are revealed as one strolls along the curving paths. Other features include blossoming cherry trees, a moon bridge, islands of the immortals (turtle islands/horai), a waterfall, zig-zag bridges (yatsunashi) and a handful of various stone lanterns. It is the only public Japanese Garden in San Jose, and a small sanctuary of peace.

There should be room for a couple of photos, too, with the same criteria in mind.

Please Email me if you have any questions.

Thank You!

I look forward to seeing your haiku.

Deadline June 1, 2016

Send to: roger.abe@sanjoseca.gov