

YTHS May 2016 Monthly Meeting

Spring Reading in the Tea House, Japanese Friendship Garden, San Jose

As our YTHS group headed out from the Tea House at 11:00 AM for a docent-led tour of the Japanese Friendship Garden in San Jose CA, we were grateful for the gorgeous spring weather. While our docent, Kathy Tanaka, stopped along the walkway, we listened intently to her informative talk. Some enjoyed the sun while others scampered for shade under a canopy of burgundy-leafed plums and other shade-offering trees.

As Kathy pointed out the water fountain flowing over Stone Turtle Island, we were told there are no live turtles allowed in the ponds due to problems with disease. At a stop alongside one of the ponds midway through the garden, Kathy gave us each a handful of koi food pellets. We tossed them out and about for the large, eager, multicolored koi, and as she requested, tried to avoid the many ducks and geese. But they had their adept, webbed feet ready for action as they made a quick dash through the water to get their fair share!

The shadows of some small manicured pines at the edge of one pond were a painter's delight; they looked like a simplified ink painting. The shadows were an effective contrast to the real pines with their shapely trunks and thickly needled green boughs. The tour was lovely, leisurely, and well informed, an enjoyable precursor to the gathering at the Tea House for a delicious lunch, refreshments, and an afternoon of fabulous haiku readings!

The four featured readers of the day were: Mimi Ahern, Marcia Behar, Elaine Whitman and Cherie Hunter Day. Sadly, Cherie was unable to attend due to a death in her family.

the grace of this leaf
that falls from a ginkgo tree joining the
others

Mimi Ahern

my memory of
the lotus blossoms
—a much deeper pink

Marcia Behar

a tiny cup
of heated sake
evening star

Elaine Whitman

raw umber the hill's shorthand for want

Cherie Hunter Day

The morning garden walk inspired these poems, shared during the open mic period:

Quinceañera day . . .
cream magnolias leak
a sweet fragrance

Judith Morrison Schallberger

before the moon bridge
pause to meditate
at the guardian stone

Marcia Behar

spring day
squatting in her wedding dress
feeding mallards

Dyana Basist

moon bridge
over still waters—
an enso

Ed Grossmith

Before we departed the beautiful tea house, poets contributed poems which were gathered by Patricia Machmiller to create a "haiku sympathy bouquet" for Cherie Hunter Day.

write-up by Mimi Ahern, Carolyn Fitz, and Patricia Machmiller