



Embassy Selects Annual Haiku Contest Winner

Co-Presented by the Japan Information and Culture Center, Embassy of Japan,
and the Japan-America Society of Washington DC

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WASHINGTON DC, (December 20, 2016) – The Japan Information & Culture Center (JICC), Embassy of Japan, in cooperation with the Japan-America Society of Washington DC, is pleased to announce Mr. Joe McKeon as the grand prize winner of the 2017 Haiku Contest. His haiku is as follows:

*Ellis Island
my father winds
his father's watch*
-Joe McKeon (US.A)

Mr. McKeon's poem, which skillfully incorporates the story of a family's journey through time to meet in a physical space, was a unanimous selection in the contest that attracted 475 haiku submissions from participants around the globe. Urging all to read the haiku more than once, the Director of the JICC, Minister Tamaki Tsukada, recognized the poem's unique ability to create an effect not unlike a double-exposure photograph. He explains:

This winning haiku makes brilliant and innovative use of the form. Rather than adhering to a strict syllable count (the 5-7-5 rule), the poet adroitly employs the natural structure of the three-line form: introduction, intensification, and quick finish (jo-ha-kyuu) to encapsulate the expense of time and space.

As the grand prize winner, Mr. McKeon will receive a certificate of recognition from the Embassy of Japan and special Japanese cultural items. Second place prize, Billy Antonio (Philippines), and third place winner, Phyllis Lee (USA), will also receive certificates and prizes in appreciation of their dedication to Japanese poetry. The three winning selections may be viewed on the [JICC's haiku page](#).

ABOUT THE JICC

The JICC is a part of the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy of Japan in Washington DC. The JICC's goal is to promote better understanding of Japan and Japanese culture by providing a wide range of information and events to the American public. For more information, please visit [our website](#).

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