

Eighth Annual

H. Gene Murtha Memorial Senryu Contest

[Gene Murtha](#), left us, too soon, but his humor, tenderness, and a superb gift of imagination remain in his many poems, most of which you can find by searching '[The Heron's Nest](#)'. Gene touched on subjects and emotions that ran the gamut of a life that is fully lived. He loved nature, family, and his fellow poets. Any flaws that he had, and he would admit to many, were overshadowed by his ability to express the most complex emotions simply and directly. A few of his poems may provide you with inspiration:

spring mist –
a mallard paddles
through our stillborn's ashes

fishing
where my brother stood –
twilight chill

Berlin Wall
a smooth stone
in my pocket

You might want to read the winning poems from the contest last year: [2016 Contest Results](#), [2017 Contest Results](#), [2018 Contest Results](#) [2019 Contest Results](#) [2020 Contest Results](#)! [2021 Contest Results](#), [2022 Contest Results](#).

Contest Rules

1. Only TWO submissions per poet.
2. ***Previously published work is fine, as are poems that have been workshopped or appeared on social media***, with the ***exception*** of work that has previously appeared in either [Prune Juice](#) or [Failed Haiku](#).
3. Short submission time of 10 days. ***Submissions begin on May 21st beginning at 12:01 AM EDT and must be in our email box by midnight EDT on May 31. Any emails received either before or after will NOT be judged.***
4. All email submissions MUST be sent to: MurthaSenryu@haikuhut.com, with **CONTEST** in the Subject field.
5. ***The top three Winners will be notified by June 15th***, and their poems *will be published in BOTH Prune Juice and Failed Haiku in the July 1 issues*, with a write-up by the judges.
6. ***The entire 'shortlist' selected by the judges will ALSO be published in both journals.*** Check the July 1 issue to see if you made it!
7. This year the contest will be judged by **Michael Rehling** alone. **We will be adding some comments from others on Gene's work, as well as a video reading of the winners and commentary. Stay tuned!**