

**For Immediate Release: March 6, 2012**

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### **Haikufest To Inspire Poets To Publish**

Haikufest, a celebration of this short, poetic form, will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 28 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Co-sponsored by the Haiku Society of America and the library, it is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required.

The program will include a presentation about haiku by Charlotte Digregorio, HSA Midwest Regional Coordinator, haiku readings by members, a question and answer period, and an audience haiku contest.

Haiku is meditative poetry that originated in Japan in the 1600s. It is gaining popularity worldwide in dozens of languages. Often three lines, it has 17 syllables or less, and it captures the moment with a reference to nature, the seasons, or human nature.

During the haiku presentation, handouts with sample poems will be distributed for commentary. Next, the readers will share how they discovered the form, why they like to write it, and what inspires them to write, before reading their work. The question and answer session may be about haiku in general, or be directed to readers.

For the contest, attendees may bring a haiku to the program, or they may write one during it. First, second and third place contest winners will each receive a copy of "Frogpond," HSA's journal of poetry and essays.

HSA is a not-for-profit, all volunteer organization to promote the writing and appreciation of haiku in English. Its website is [www.hsa-haiku.org](http://www.hsa-haiku.org).

HSA's Midwest Region holds five meetings a year in the north suburbs that also include critiques and retreats.

To pre-register for Haikufest, contact the library, 847-673-3733.