

Coming Together

During a Global Pandemic



TUSCALOOSA SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL -
NARASHINO, JAPAN

HAIKU PROJECT



T U S C A L O O S A
SISTER CITIES
I N T E R N A T I O N A L

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO:

Laura Lineberry
Cover and Booklet Design

Yukiko Gilbert
Foreword translation, English to Japanese

Dr. Laurie Arizumi and Dr. Koji Arizumi
Haiku Translation, Japanese to English

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2020 has been a year of challenges, great and small, of hardships, frustrations, loss; but it has also been a year of hope. As news and cases Covid-19 spread across the world this year, it was also a time of great courage, life-saving scientific breakthroughs, and countless acts of heroism, impacting communities around the globe.

Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International, and Narashino, Japan joined forces this year to create the haiku project, “Coming Together During a Global Pandemic”, to inspire poets to describe their thoughts, observations, and opinions about this worldwide story, as it continues to unfold.



We hope you will enjoy these haiku from friends around the world, and be inspired to “Come Together”, after these challenging times end, and brighter days draw near.

Lisa Keyes, Executive Director
Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International

タスカルーサ市 - 習志野市 俳句プロジェクト

「コロナの世界的大流行の真っ只中で一体となろう」

2020年は、大小を問わず、苦難の状況から生まれる挫折感、喪失感により、辛く苦しい年となりました。しかし、それはまた希望という未来を見出していく年でもありました。世界中に拡大するコロナウイルスの感染、そのニュースが飛び交う中、人々の前向きな勇気ある行動、そして生命を救うための科学的新発見など多くの出来事が世界中のコミュニティーにインパクトを与えてきました。

そのような中、タスカルーサ姉妹都市協会と習志野市は交流事業の一環として、「コロナウイルスが大流行する中、皆が一体となろう」をテーマに昨今の新型コロナウイルスの状況に対する各自の思いを詠んだ俳句を募集する「俳句プロジェクト」を立ち上げました。

辛い時期が終わった後も一体となり、より明るい日々が来ることを願いつつ、世界の友からの俳句を楽しんでいただければ幸いです。

We will meet on Zoom
We do work in pajamas
I miss human touch
Andy Paxton, Tuscaloosa

In March, the world changed
Can't see my friends, all alone,
Need to drink a beer.
Greg Madrid, Tuscaloosa

dawn whispers hello
I linger with my coffee
fear is still sleeping
*Sandie Vaisnoras,
Burr Ridge, Illinois*

Although we are far
Our time together treasured
Bonds our hearts forever
Kelley Green, Tuscaloosa

At the zoo
Laughing through masks
As we feed the giraffes
Rose Marie Stutts, Tuscaloosa

Cicadas
Passing songs from tree to tree
A twilight choir
Rose Marie Stutts, Tuscaloosa

masked strangers glide by
superheroes who keep us
safe from Corona
*Bridget Magee,
Hünenberg See, Switzerland*

following guidelines
no human embrace since March
alone together
*Bridget Magee,
Hünenberg See, Switzerland*

home-officing with
a five-year-old and the fridge
the struggle is real
*Bridget Magee,
Hünenberg See, Switzerland*

Smiles behind cloths
Caring for community
Voting to save lives
Sarah Baratta,
University of Alabama

Struggling to survive
Do your lives have more value?
Please social distance
Sarah Baratta,
University of Alabama

Foggy mind, hazed gaze
My body aches with covid
I shall stay in bed
Katherine Cheng,
University of Alabama

It's weird, to not taste
All that's left is sensation
Because of covid
Katherine Cheng,
University of Alabama

The walls of my room
Confine me for all these months
Feels like a prison
Katherine Cheng,
University of Alabama

Only our eyes speak.
Words tangle behind our masks.
But still our hearts sing.
Teresa Owens Smith,
Chicago, Illinois

masks on
it's hard to hear you without
seeing your lips
Mary Sella, Tuscaloosa

the checkout line
a little boy smiles at me
with his eyes
Mary Sella, Tuscaloosa

outdoor worship
masks on, keeping our distance
a chorus of birds
Mary Sella, Tuscaloosa

COVID-19 floor
the nurses celebrate her
ninety-third birthday
Mary Sella, Tuscaloosa

pandemic
statistics show a spike
in online dating
Mary Sella, Tuscaloosa

I'm cleaning the house
To make sure there are no germs
The house is clean again
Aakilyah Black, Tuscaloosa

I miss seeing Dad
I can't see him because
Coronavirus
Ja'Kiyah Cobbs, Tuscaloosa

Can't go anywhere
I miss my friends very much
I wish this was gone
Kinley Presley, Tuscaloosa

I don't see my friend
I miss seeing all my friends
I miss my best friend
Taliah Wilder, Tuscaloosa

Masks covering smiles
How do we see happiness?
Look for crinkly eyes
*Helen Kampion,
Wayland, Massachusetts*

Our selfish world changed
Neighbors now helping neighbors
Some good comes from bad?
*Helen Kampion,
Wayland, Massachusetts*

Dressing to go out
Make-up, hair, outfit, jewelry
One last thing...a mask!
*Helen Kampion,
Wayland, Massachusetts*

Masks in rainbow hues
Show individual style:
Fashion on faces
Joannie Duris,
Hubbardston, Massachusetts

Social distance? Nope.
Seeking comfort, snuggled close
Cats purring on laps
Joannie Duris,
Hubbardston, Massachusetts

Pandemic wildlife
Strut fur and feathers down streets
Live entertainment
Joannie Duris,
Hubbardston, Massachusetts

black crow on white snow
a turning in November –
nature's negative
Linda Baie, Denver, Colorado

They sacrificed all,
Building a more just country,
Passing the baton.
Dr. Pam Foster, Tuscaloosa

*Note: A haiku in memory of
Congressman John Lewis and
Reverend CT Vivian*

Separated Now
Pandemic summer of woe
Friends offer solace
Scotty Colson,
Birmingham, Alabama

death stares out at us
from our television news—
yet spring still blossoms
Lamon Brown,
Birmingham, Alabama

My gym is shut down.
For exercise I'm walking
fast to Krispy Kreme.
*Linda T. Roberson,
Birmingham, Alabama*

Day in and day out
Sitting at home by myself
Keeping the world safe
*Michael Perry,
Birmingham, Alabama*

The virus destroys
But we will overcome all
Only together
Spike Burt, Birmingham, Alabama

Covid pandemic
A lot of time to crochet
Five finished blankets
*Joan Kammer,
Birmingham, Alabama*

Friendship means the world
In good times and in bad times
We lift each other up
*Blake Pritchett,
Birmingham, Alabama*

Haikus are easy
But sometimes they don't make sense
Refrigerator
*Shannon Henderson,
Birmingham, Alabama*

Apart together
We chart an uncertain course
The map is within
*Hunter C. Hughes,
Birmingham, Alabama*

Masks are the new normal
Maybe even after virus
I'm ok with that
Wendy Steele, Birmingham, Alabama

渡部 一之
Kazuyuki Watanabe

花柄の
マスクを共に
コンサート

Together with my
Flower-patterned mask
Concert

罪多き
コロナも生き物
天高し

It's such a sin
Corona is also a living thing
The sky reaches heavenward

コロナ禍も
猛暑もそうは
続くまい

Neither Corona virus
Nor scorching hot days
Will continue long

三代川 玲子
Reiko Miyokawa

アラバマに
続く秋晴れ
コロナ去れ

In Alabama
Fine autumn weather continues
Corona go away

友好の
絆は消えず
秋の虹

Our friendship
Will never cease
Fall rainbow

手を取りて
笑む日を願う
天の川

Hand in hand
Wishing for the day to smile again
Milky Way

秋山 勝
Masaru Akiyama

周り見て
グッと抑える
咳クシャミ

Looking all around
Trying hard to suppress
Coughing and sneezing

羽ばたきも
忘れて久し
カゴの鳥

Spread your wings a bit
Forget for awhile that you're
A bird in a cage

なかよしの
笑顔がみえぬ
立ち話

Even among friends
None sees a smile, as they are
Standing and chatting

宮下 晴男
Haruo Miyashita

コロナ禍に
マスク分け合ふ
世界かな

Corona virus
Meting out and sharing masks -
This is our world now

人混みを
さけて散策
夕桜

Avoiding the crowds
While strolling round and about
Cherry blossom eve

血の型は
人類共通
今日の月

Blood type
Common to all human kind
Today's moon

白雪姫
Shirayukihime

コロナ禍に
負けるな勝てと
虫の声

Corona virus!
We will not lose, we will win!
The sound of [autumn] insects

コロナ禍の
終息願う
望月夜

Corona virus
Wishing it to end on a
Harvest Moon night

絵留
Eru

コロナ禍を
祓う微笑み
若棋聖

Corona disaster
Purify it with a smile
Young *shogi Kisei* Champion

Note: In July 2020, 17-year-old Sota Fujii became the youngest shogi (Japanese chess) player ever to win the Kisei champion title in Japan

「友は無事」
ささやくように
虹かかる

“Your friend is OK”
It’s like a whispered arrival
When a rainbow appears

それぞれの
生き方ありて
月見かな

Each one of us
Has their own way of living
Moon viewing time

小林 清華
Seika Kobayashi

オンライン
診療頼る
流行（はやり）風邪

Relying on an online
Medical diagnosis
Flu is all the rage

コロナ禍の
永き家居や
小鳥来る

Corona disaster
A lengthy stay at home
Songbirds come to visit

コロナ禍に
中止となりぬ
秋祭

Corona disaster
Brings to a halt
Fall festivals

小林 良枝
Yoshie Kobayashi

制服と
マスクで我が子
見つからず

Student uniforms
And all in masks, I can't see
Which child is mine

リモートで
世界の友と
温め酒

Remotely,
With friends all over the world
Warm rice wine

マスクして
いても温顔
変わりなく

Even wearing a mask
Your warm, kind face
Never changes

風花 紫苑
Kazahana Shion

晩秋や
感染予防
全世界

Late Autumn
Preventing infection
All over the world

コロナ禍や
家族団らん
秋の宵

The Corona disaster
All the family seated around
On a Fall evening

クロたん
Kurotan

不意の客
マスク探して
大慌て

Unexpected guest
Searching around for a mask
My panic attack

修桜子
Syuosi

マスク下げ
香り吸い込む
金木犀

Pulling down my mask
Inhaling the aroma
Osmanthus flowers

秋の夜
手酌で乾杯
バーチャル飲み会

Autumn evening
Saying “Cheers” to myself
Virtual drinking party

いつか見ゆ
マスクの内なる
君のほほえみ

Someday I will see
What’s inside of your mask
Your smile

煎茶
Sencha

友との宴
延ばし夜通し
文かわす

Feasting with friends
Continues the whole night
Exchanging texts

佐藤 ポチ
Sato Pochi

はためくよ
コロナは知らぬ
鯉のぼり

Fluttering in the wind
Corona does not know
Koi nobori (carp streamers)

祭りなし
コロナコロナで
夏の果て

Without any festivals
Just Corona and Corona...
The end of summer

立葵
すくっとのびるよ
青空に

Hollyhocks
Swiftly stretching, reaching out
Into the blue sky

沼澤 武志
Takeshi Numasawa

マスクして
不安が街を
歩いている

Wearing a mask
All around the town, anxiety
Goes walking

テレワーク
一月振りの
顔合わせ

Telework
For the first time in a month
Face to face

友達と
楽しむ時も
ウィズコロナ

Friends and
Fun times too
With Corona

小山 由美子
Yumiko Koyama

会えないと
会いたい気持ち
募ってく

When I cannot see you
I get the feeling I want
to see you more

いつかまた
交流夢見て
踏んばろう

Someday again
Yearning to interact
Let's hold out

離れても
心はいつも
すぐそばに

Even far away
My heart is always
Right next to yours

Naoki Torikai
鳥飼 尚輝

コロナ禍に
纏う（まとう）マスクと
半袖と

In the Corona disaster
Wearing a mask along with
Short sleeves

アマビエの
看板駅の
人集り（ひとだかり）

An *Amabie* on the
Billboard at the train station
Crowds of people gather

Note: The Amabie is a legendary sea monster from mid-nineteenth century folklore. It looks like a fish with three tailfins, a bird's beak, and long flowing hair. The Amabie is now very popular in Japan, and drawings of it are used like a good-luck charm to eradicate Corona virus.

外出自粛
マスク外して
かき氷

Voluntarily not going out
Taking off my mask
Snow cone

渡部 優
Masaru Watabe

ならしのも
はるにはきつと
たすかるさ

Narashino city too
Most certainly by Spring
We will survive

Note: The Japanese word *tasu-*
karusa “to be helped; save; survive”
is a pun for Tuscaloosa

ままならぬ、なすがままのママ
Mamanaranu, nasugamamanomama

あいたいよ
げんきなかが
みたいんだ

I want to meet up with you!
Your cheerful face
I really want to see it

八回転居
Hakkaitenkyo

住みやすさ
文芸の街
コロナ圏

Comfortable living in
The town of literary artists
Corona territory

コロナきた
アジサイの街
すごもりす

Corona has come to
The avenues of hydrangea
We stay in our nests

四季めぐる
アカシア並木
コロナ舞う

Seasons turn
Rows of acacia trees
Corona dances

真鍋 元禄
Genroku Manabe

暫くは
マスク外して
梅の宿

For a moment
Taking off my mask
Ume no Yado (a brand of plum wine
or *sake*)

好きだから
少し離れて
聖五月

Because I like you
I will stay apart for awhile
Holy May

コロナ禍に
あの経験が
敗戦日

The Corona disaster is
That same experience:
The Day of Defeat

伊藤 寛
Hiroshi Ito

連日の
テレビはコロナ
桔梗咲く

Every day's
Television is Corona
The balloon flower blossoms

コロナ禍と
台風禍来て
楽しまず

Corona disaster has come
Typhoon disaster has come
Joy is gone

ウイルスと
戦う術は
マスクかな

To fight the virus
Our strategy
Is the mask

Childrens Category

こやま とよひと (4歳)
Toyohito Koyama (age 4)

じいじばあば
おげんきですか
またあそぼうね

Grandpa, grandma
Are you well?
Let's play again, OK?

