

Poetry Writing Workshop  
Pearl S. Buck Birthplace – Hillsboro, W.Va.  
Thursday, June 28, 2018 – 1-4 p.m.

Earl Randal Keener, a haiku poet known throughout the world, will present a workshop on Haiku and Santori on Thursday, June 28, 2018, at the Pearl S. Buck Birthplace in Hillsboro West Virginia, from 1-4 p.m. This workshop is open to all with a \$10 donation suggested for attendance.

This workshop will explore the relationship between haiku and satori (enlightenment) and how our western notions of this atom of poetry often misconstrue both the form and the spiritual insights it has to offer. How the light becomes the word. A brief history, and a hands-on workshop, discussion follows.

If western poetry is about self-expression, haiku is about the expressed moment. Language is the coin of culture, but at its root it is a kind of ore mined by the senses. The experience of haiku is not unlike the Shinto experience of the kami. Man haunts his environment and is therefore himself haunted/inhabited by the sense of other, for as it is often said—human nature is a drop of nature in the ocean of nature. tears of sunlight/a weeping willow/braids the rain

From the beginning we are conditioned to look for a greater light and we are compelled, propelled, to find it in words. Think back to the almost accessible, the not quite remembered. The sound of your mother's voice. Your father's. The clatter of china in an unseen kitchen. Birdsong. Invisible train on a trestle rattling the house, shaking the crib. The hum and thrum of the world, the jilt, the tilt, the lilt, the lullaby, the clang, the bang, the gong, the chime. Or before: Everything outside the window, everything outside the womb-- a beyond-- heard, unseen. Imagined. The world describing itself in sound. A hand painting pictures in a dark Lascaux. A palm pressed against the womb seeking to understand, to receive the present, to communicate the gift, the light, the enlightenment in sound.

Earl Randal Keener is a haiku poet known throughout the world. His awards in the genre are too numerous to list but include 1st place in the 2001 Shiki International Haiku Contest resulting in a month in Japan as the guest of the Ehime Cultural Center in Matsuyama, 1st place Ito En Tea International Haiku Contest 2011, 2012, 2015; Kumamoto City of Artesian Waters Haiku Award 2012, first place Haiku Canada 2011. He has been published in Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Croatia, Belgium, Canada and has conducted writing workshops for Bethany College, Wheeling Jesuit University, and the University of S.C. Receiving multiple awards for lyric poetry and essays in numerous competitions, his publications include but are not limited to Wild Sweet Notes, Penumbra, Antietam Review, West Branch, Lyrical Passion, The Heron's Nest, Genjuan Haibun Anthology, Sandberg-Livesay Anthology, and Quarried (Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel). Earl is also a performing songwriter known throughout the Ohio Valley. Currently he is exploring the relationship between haiku and satori.

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