Haiku Contest and Festival - 2020

Haiku Jury Bios

Michael Feinstein

Michael Feinstein, writer and editor, is a principal of Feinstein Group, Ltd., a communications firm specializing in printed publications for nonprofit organizations. Prior to moving to Vashon twenty-five years ago, he was director of publications at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, and held the same position before that at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. He is a member of the "Mondays at Three" haiku group on Vashon. His work has appeared in the journals Modern Haiku and The Heron’s Nest.

Thomas Hitoshi Pruiksma

Thomas Hitoshi Pruiksma is an author, poet, translator, teacher, magician, musician, and lover of life. He was born in Seattle, Washington, and has lived and worked in Tamil Nadu, India, and Oaxaca, Mexico. His first book of poems, The Safety of Edges, was published last year by Marrowstone Press. Other titles include Give, Eat, and Live: Poems of Avvaiyar, Body and Earth: Notes from a Conversation (with the artist C.F. John), and A Feast for the Tongue: Forty Servings of Spoken Tamil with Helpings of Equally Spoken English (with the scholar Dr. K. V. Ramakoti). He is currently completing translations of the Tamil classic of poetry and philosophy, Tiruvalluvar’s Tirukkural, and of Juan Rulfo’s masterpiece, Pedro Páramo. Thomas lives on Vashon Island with his husband, David.

Lawrence Matsuda

Lawrence “Larry” Y. Matsuda was born in the Japanese Internment Camp Minidoka in 1945 and grew up during the post WW2 era of racism and hatred towards Japanese. Matsuda attended the University of Washington and earned his Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate. All the while serving six years in the Army reserve while finishing his education and beginning a long career in education. During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Lawrence fought against social injustice and was an integral part of numerous campaigns in the growing local Asian movement. Matsuda has written several books of poetry, a graphic novel and this year published his first novel “My Name is Not Viola,” based on his mother’s travails in America. Larry loves to fish.