

What has hundreds of syllables, four a capella singers, one “unworn necklace,” 8 grade school children, and a president??

The Haiku Society of America meeting, December 5-7 in Winston Salem, of course. The Society, consisting of over 800 members worldwide, promotes the American version of this Japanese verse form, known for its short length of 12-17 syllables.

On Saturday evening, December 6, a brief presentation, open to the public, will take place at the Associated Artists Gallery, 301 W. Fourth Street, at 7:00. (Wine and cheese will be served at 6:30). Featured artists will include Roberta Beary of Washington, D.C. Ms. Beary was recently named the William Carlos Williams finalist by the Poetry Society of America; she will read from her prize-winning book, *THE UNWORN NECKLACE*(see bio below.) In addition, the a capella group *FLEUR-DE-LISA* will sing haiku put to music. Their recording *WILLOW SONGS*, may be the first ever that puts haiku(by North Carolina poets)to music. Also reading will be Lenard D. Moore, North Carolina poet and President of the Haiku society of America. He will read from the work of Richard Wright, the renowned African American writer who wrote over 4000 haiku shortly before his death. The evening will be kicked off by 8 students from the local Arts-Based Elementary School, who will read work written in a project sponsored by the North Carolina Haiku Society.

The event is a partnership of the Associated Artists of Winston Salem, the Haikiu Society of America, and the North Carolina Haiku Society.

Poets from across America as well as North Carolina will converge on our fair city for the second time in two years. (The international conference *Haiku North America* was also held here in 2007.) A day of workshops on Saturday(open to the public)will explore issues related to this popular form of Japanese poetry.

For further information, call Robert Moyer, 336-577-6371

BIOS:

Roberta Beary is one of 10 haiku poets featured in the [Shiki online discussion list's](#) tenth anniversary haiku anthology. She is a member of *towpath*, [Haiku Ireland](#), [Haiku International](#), and the Haiku Society of America. Her senryu won first prize in the 2006 Gerald Brady competition that is sponsored by the Haiku Society of America. She will lead a workshop and read from her recent haiku collection, *The Unworn Necklace* (Snapshot Press: 2007) which was one of two finalists for the William Carlos Williams Award given by the Poetry Society of America. See [Roberta Beary a Finalist . . .](#)

Fleur-de-Lisa might be the first a cappella group to compose and sing songs based on haiku in English. By turns simple, playful, and beautiful, the a cappella form is a perfect complement to haiku. **Sylvia Freeman, Andie Piddington, Sarah Shunk & Deborah Stewart** are the members of Fleur-de-Lisa. The group recently recorded [Willow Songs](#), a CD of songs based on haiku from [Beneath the Willow Tree](#) (Rosenberry Books, [Book In Hand Editions](#): 2007) an anthology of haiku by members of the North Carolina Haiku Society. The group continues to write new songs, focusing on Japanese death poems and on haiku by Roberta Beary.

Lenard D. Moore is the Executive Chairman of the North Carolina Haiku Society and the President of the Haiku Society of America. He is the first Southerner and the first African American to be elected as President of the HSA. Lenard is the haiku editor for [Simply Haiku](#), and he is the founder of the Carolina African American Writers' Collective (CAAWC). He recently won the Sam Ragan Fine Arts Award for his contribution to the fine arts of North Carolina. Lenard will read a selection of Richard Wright's haiku in honor of the Richard Wright Centennial. Wright wrote over 4000 haiku in

the last 18 months of his life.