



NMSU Library News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NMSU Library Announces Haiku Contest

The University Library announces a library haiku contest. NMSU students, staff and the public are invited to write untitled haiku in English about libraries or librarians, formatted in three lines of five-seven-five syllables. Each contestant may enter up to three haiku. Email your entries to jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu on or before Friday, October 31. First prize is dinner for two at MIX restaurant in Las Cruces; second prize is dinner for two at the Village Inn.

Haiku, a traditional form of Japanese poetry, consists of three lines of seventeen syllables. A good haiku makes a simple and direct observation of a daily situation that leads to an “aha!” moment and a larger observation about the world.

There are many examples of haiku in books and on the web. The works of Edo-period masters, including Basho, Buson and Issa, are famous. Normally, haiku is divided into two parts by punctuation after the first or second line. While traditional haiku includes a word that indicates the season in which the haiku is set, some non-Japanese versions often do not.

Aaron Naparstek, the author of the recent book *Honku: The Zen Antidote to Road Rage* (N.Y.: Random House, 2003), transformed his experience with cars honking in his neighborhood into popular American haiku.

The haiku will be judged on five-seven-five syllable form, adherence to the library theme and the impact of the “aha!” moment. Indication of a season or division of the haiku into two parts are a plus, but are not required. The contest is open to everyone except members of the NMSU Library’s newsletter’s editorial board. Entered haiku may be published in the newsletter or another Library publication. For more information, check the Library news release web page at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/aboutlib/libnews/LIBNEWS.HTML> or contact Jeanette Smith at 646-7492.