

failed ~~haiku~~

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bryan rickert *'Failed' Editor*

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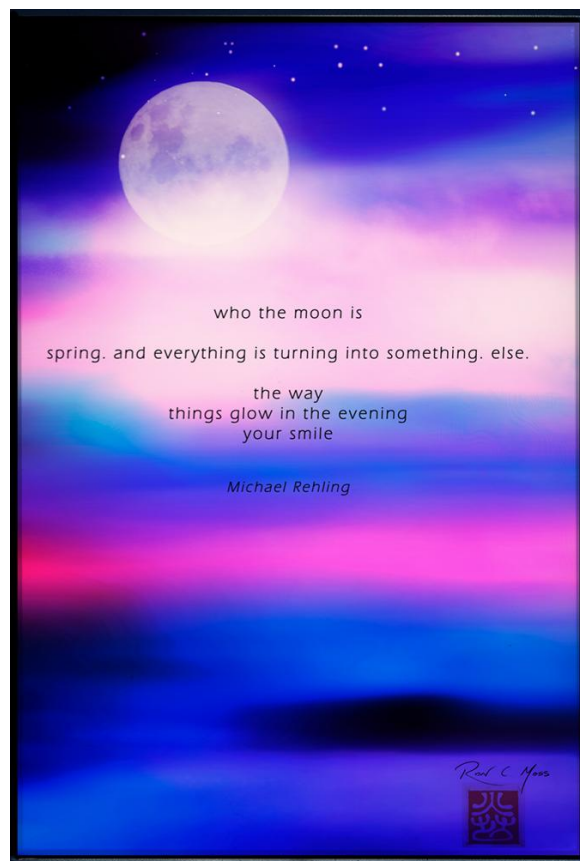


Image by Ron C. Moss Haibun by Mike Rehling

The results of the 2022
H. Gene Murtha Memorial
Senryu Contest are now posted!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Cast List

In order of appearance
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Dave Etter/*Raymond Roseliep* (From A collection of collaborative poems as curated by *Alexis Rotella*

John Hawkhead & *Patricia Hawkhead*

Michael Henry Lee/ *Linda Papanicolaou*

Keith Evetts/*Ann Smith*

Christina Chin/*M. R. Defibaugh*

Fanny Budan/*Shasta Hatter*

Dean Okamura/*Genie Nakano*

Neena Singh & *Vandana Parashar*

Arvinder Kaur & *Hifsa Ashraf*

Roberta Beary and *Deborah P Kolodji*

Ryland Shengzhi Li/*Cynthia Anderson*

Robert Epstein/Carolyn Rohrig

Kimberly Kuchar/ *petro c. k.*

Jackie Chou, Kathabela Wilson, Jackie Chou

Ingrid Baluchi & *Sher Baluchi*

**Diane Funston (DF), Kath Abela Wilson (KAW),
genie nakano, (gn) Sigrid Saradunn (SS), kris moon
kondo (kmk), Jackie Chou (JC)**

Sangita Kalarickal/*Reid Hepworth*

Marilyn Ashbaugh/*Jeanne Cook*

Sidney Bending/*Margaret Rutley/Nika*

Vandana Parashar and *Ravi Kiran*

Joanna Delalande/*Oscar Luparia*
Gillena Cox/*Alan Summers*
Lakshmi Iyer/*Amrutha Prabhu*
Scott Wiggerman/*Robert Kingston/Anna*
Eklund-Cheong
Jonathan Roman/*Lafcadio*
Christine Wenk-Harrison/*Allyson Whipple*
Michael Lester/*Vicki Miko*
Neera Kashyap / *Minal Sarosh*
Hazel Hall/ *Chrissi Villa*
Richard Tice/*Kathleen Tice*
Chen Xiaou/ *Cynthia Rowe*
Claire Vogel Camargo/*Christa Pandey*
Susan Burch/*Bona M. Santos*
Bryan Rickert/*Peter Jastermsky*
Kelly Moyer/*Robert Moyer*
Kazuo Masunaga *and Teiichi Suzuki*
Kala Ramesh /Lakshmi Iyer
rs and Susan Burch
Deborah P Kolodji/*Mariko Kitakubo*
Mariko Kitakubo *and Deborah P Kolodji*
Charles Harmon / *Jonathon Vos Post*
Rita Stanzione/Anna Maria
Domburg-Sancristoforo
Geoff Pope/*Genie Nakano/Mike Rehling*
Aaron Samuel /*Annette Makino*
Terrie Jacks/ *John J. Han*

Milan Rajkumar/*Richa Sharma*
Aaron Samuel/*Cynthia Anderson*
Minal Sarosh/*Neera Kashyap*
Horst-Oliver Buchholz/*Eleonore Nickolay*
Iliyana Stoyanova and *Vessislava Savova*
Ram Chandran/*Nithya*
Peter Jastermsky/*Lorraine A Padden*
Jonathan Roman/*Tia Haynes*
Terri L. French /*Peggy Bilbro*
Terri L. French/*Kelly Moyer*
Irina Guliaeva and *Kate Lumsy*
David Oates/*Scott Wiggerman*
Christina Chin/*Zoe Grant/Sherry Grant*
Richard L. Matta / *Deborah Burke Henderson*
Madhuri Pillai/*Marisa Fazio*
Mircea Moldovan & Daniel Gelu
Robert Kingston/*Geoff Pope*
Christina Chin/*Linda Ludwig*
Bryan Rickert/*Susan Burch*

I AND THE VILLAGE

I will wear my best green face
and put on a strawberry hat.
Today I will turn this town
upside down and inside out.
I will stop and sing the old songs
at the houses of my townsmen:
yellow houses, lavender houses,
houses with chickens and uncles,
houses with hunchbacks and apples.
Today I will kiss all the farm girls
and play my silver violin
on the marble steps of the courthouse.
And I will tip my strawberry hat
to every green face I see.

wild strawberries
I taste
my way

Dave Etter/Raymond Roseliep
From A collection of collaborative poems as curated by
Alexis Rotella

persistent buzz
she takes a fly swatter
to my words

*thinking for moments
of not fighting back*

John Hawkhead & *Patricia Hawkhead*

Wish You Were Here

tourist town—
more of them
than there are of us

*the price of gas
compared to back home*

red light district--
a line of brake lights
encircles the square

*historic houses—
one renovated
one torn down*

some poorly made t-shirt
to prove you were there

*a mask
in the campground bin—
raccoon moon*

Michael Henry Lee/ *Linda Papanicolaou*

Crossed Neurons

just once

*I fade
into
his background*

in all those years

hazy moon ...
the unmet need
for womansplaining

I forget her birthday

*hope this time
his software updates
overnight*

Keith Evetts and Ann Smith

natives selling
under the shade of a tree
. . . indigenous crafts

*their eyes glued on
a hand-stitched doll*

Christina Chin

M. R. Defibaugh

No Connections

san francisco
leaving my heart
In a cappuccino

*a barista perking
more than coffee*

silence of devices
a bathroom door
opens and closes

*he turns his chair
to watch her walk
tap of stilettos*

community board
ice skate for sale

*dancers sway
to a drum beat
glitter-ball*

Fanny Budan/Shasta Hatter

Melodious Scents

Sakura branches rock
petals clap in harmony
farewell song of spring

*the toddler
with open hands and mouth
catches springtime*

a jacaranda
in front of the building
reminds me of home

*born here, in '48
I've seen so many changes
stars spin in my eyes*

children laughing
down the shiny smooth slide
my favorite park

*Aliso Village projects
so much fun back then, torn down
smiles lost in rubble*

our memories
still floating in timeless words
alive in melodious scents

Dean Okamura/Genie Nakano

Kaleidoscope

fading colours
an old friend calls
out of the blue

*pajama party
the night smells of nail paint*

time slips away
the sweet-n-sour taste...
blueberry jam

*incommunicado
every Sunday I check
her horoscope*

lost innocence
singing sonnets of years gone

*fall litter
one missing clue of our
treasure hunt*

Neena Singh & Vandana Parashar

A War Within

cigarette butts

*in the ashtray
our last night's
arguments*

all that's left

war ravages
my dream home
smoldering

of your memories

*before migration
the shooting star
lost into the smoke*

Arvinder Kaur & Hifsa Ashraf

Aftermath

chimney smoke

*nostalgia
adding more logs
to the fireplace*

the scent

long wait
at the window
silent stars

of burnt letters

*immersion
the scribble of love
in her eyes*

Arvinder Kaur & Hifsa Ashraf

minus one

on the school bus
one mother minus one
wedding ring

*a teacher's dismissal
at the parent conference*

relentless rain
a beat-up van ends
the carpool line

*two children
still waiting in daycare
cloudy afternoon*

on a brown lunch-bag
a red crayon heart

*career day --
one boy with two dads,
one girl with none*

Roberta Beary and *Deborah P Kolodji*

Roberta Beary twitter @shortpoemz
Deborah P Kolodji twitter @dkolodji

Windfall

caught

spring cleaning
another stubborn
white lie

in a lightwell

soft rains
clear the haze
stargazing

maple seeds

sweet release
the blush
of a confession

Ryland Shengzhi Li/Cynthia Anderson

fly on the wall
I knew you
ten years ago

*deathbed confession
everyone gasps for air*

***Robert Epstein
Carolyn Rohrig***

baseball cap
hanging on the hook
where he left it

*cranes thread the sky
over Nebraska*

squares on squares—
wrinkled hands join them
into a quilt

*hearing the sheep unseen
I shear my face*

Kimberly Kuchar/ *petro c. k.*

Kim Kuchar @blueiris5432
petro c. k. @petro_ck

footsteps intersect
on the dirt road

*it looks
like they
switched shoes*

two drunkards on their escapade

Jackie Chou, Kathabela Wilson, Jackie Chou

Morphing

challenging
this observation
of man and nature

*hard work I'd say
—too late
to start it now*

anyone can do it
it's just a way with words
and rhythm

*I'll grant you there's a beat
all those grunts and stomping . . .
scary stuff to me*

one needs patience . . .
not everyone gets hooked
and some don't understand

*must take hours of practice
to get it all together
but what for?*

a celebration of life
you get it right
it brings a sense of peace

*you must be joking . . .
hardly tranquil
that sort of effort*

you should have a go
it's a kind of
discipline

*at my age!
what are you thinking?
they're war songs!*

err . . .
Mother dear
it's **haiku** . . . not **haka**

Ingrid Baluchi & Sher Baluchi

Quandaries

sunlit day
pure blue sky
we need rain DF

how dark clouds
are full of possibility KAW

on the horizon
my son searches
for a new job gn

fork in the road
directions not given
surprise destination SS

a passage to parenting
results in quadruplets kmk

speaking about
her artistic children
the frown in mom's eyes JC

**Diane Funston (DF), Kath Abela Wilson (KAW),
genie nakano, (gn) Sigrid Saradunn (SS), kris moon
kondo (kmk), Jackie Chou (JC)**

Passage

a fistful of sand

*her mood
fading with the light
breakwater*

time slips in

I'll follow you
to the end. . .
slack current

the hourglass

*low tide
even the gulls
are quiet*

Sangita Kalarickal/Reid Hepworth

old cemetery
the boarding school
reunion

*new roots connect
with the mother tree*

Marilyn Ashbaugh
Jeanne Cook

tumbleweed

stagecoach stop . . . gusting wind whips a school marm's petticoat	SB
the greenhorn stares at a tumbleweed	MR
branding done the cowpoke moves on	Nika
the soft jangle of the rustler's spurs	SB
an undertaker's last bent nail boothill	MR
the barmaid serves whiskey all-round	Nika

Sidney Bending/Margaret Rutley/Nika

Beyond Crossroads

break-up

enso
we are strangers
again

the key under the doormat

winter chill
the knock on her door
unanswered

missing

newly single
her blank canvas
awaits

Vandana Parashar and Ravi Kiran

spring song
the words you told me
this morning

*the best moments of therapy
always come for free*

Joanna Delalande
Oscar Luparia

Show and Vow

rain nourished
through a crack in the paved yard
wildflower

*emerging
from a party*

morning light
this vastness of sky holding
bird songs

*24 hours
the breakfast café
of any every day*

long lines of traffic
those days of commuting

*opposable thumbs
the filing system fills
with confetti*

Gillena Cox/Alan Summers

a bouquet of roses
at my door
anniversary

*the little weeds
here and there*

Lakshmi Iyer
Amrutha Prabhu

Tea Time

halfway up the hill
we pause for breath
quail song SW

barely enough power
to crank the engine RK

a privilege, they say
this gray hair, these wrinkles
autumn wind in pines AEC

tree rings
the age of wooden objects SW

the Cutty Sark
still drawing
tea lovers RK

enough firewood now
to set the kettle to boil AEC

**Scott Wiggerman/Robert Kingston/Anna
Eklund-Cheong**

Weathered

petrichor
the subway car full
of perfume

*cloying sweetness--
a slightly bruised mango*

battered pear--
the pitbull covered
in battle scars

*the sound of wind--
rough bark
of an oak*

off-beat
acorns rain on our car

Jonathan Roman/Lafcadio

family bonfire
the first son yearns
to connect with the ancestors

spring equinox
collecting grandfather's ashes

Christine Wenk-Harrison
Allyson Whipple

A Bad Jack Rabbit

devil's claw garlands slipped around the mare's neck gypsy charmer

The sun at her back, Annie aims her rifle at the saguaro, both eyes narrowed in concentration, focusing all her attention on the instant Bad Jack comes into sight. Annie waits until the rush of water slowly abates, until it is just a tinkle. She gives Bad Jack a slow, silent count to ten, giving him time to shake off the last few drops and pull his pants back up, but just as Annie gets to seven, she hears a rustling behind her. Turning around to see what it is, Annie takes her eyes off Bad Jack just long enough to lose sight of him. A jackrabbit burrows into the ground a few feet away. There is no telling when Annie will get another shot at Bad Jack, and the sun can get mighty hot around noon in the desert.

a wrangler
wearing a week's work
of trail dust
barrels through the tavern doors
like a tumbleweed in a cyclone

*her fedora flies
over the heads
of the boozy barflies
and lands square on the tip
of the dusty moose rack*

*quick to her feet
she sidesaddles the bar
to stage a clever magic trick
she plucks one silver spur
from the cowpoke's ear*

Michael Lester/Vicki Miko

Rupture

tide recedes -

*moving on
her set of keys
on the table*

stones, shells, carcasses...

*morning train
filling the suitcase
with his lies*

war debris

*black tea
her favourite cup
broken*

Neera Kashyap / Minal Sarosh

Gridlock

battle lines

*broken fence
you should know by now
when I need space*

so I'm like my mother

mean girls
spitting out
the cherry pips

get over it

*bad tattoo
not everything
can be fixed*

Hazel Hall/ Chrissi Villa

Summer Olympics

*Fourteen move through,
above, below the surface—
what sport am I?*

*seventy plus mph
rising, dipping, curving*

*I fence, swim,
ride, run, and shoot
in a single day*

*dancing to music
undulation of ribbons*

*balancing act—
my legs get
all the action*

*ten bouncy, bouncy skills
up to eight meters high*

Richard Tice/Kathleen Tice

Reflection

springboard
a diver jumps into
his reflection

*hot summer day
the sun glints
off my ray-bans*

supper on our boat
the sail's reflection
fading away

*after-dinner swim
multi-hued drops spark
off my bathing costume*

a cup of tea
my spoon stirs
the stars

*rising moon
our yacht trailing
phosphorescence*

Chen Xiaou/ Cynthia Rowe

That was Then

sudden tears
grieving the loss
of my younger self

*a childhood hymn
haunts my sleep*

quick grab
for a falling glass
stab of back pain

*hiking
world travel
that was then*

ski slope memories
easier to bend and breathe

*walking canes
around the house
trellised roses*

Claire Vogel Camargo/Christa Pandey

a coyote's howl
the last page of my novel
missing

*all the happy endings
I imagine for myself*

Susan Burch
Bona M. Santos

Just Our Nature

past middle age

*rounding a corner
the body's dance
with gravity*

what we have in common

hunkering down
the ability to just
get by

with the crows

*keeping score
the calls that go
unanswered*

Bryan Rickert/Peter Jastermsky

leopard spots on the sparrow

in the branches

he watches his prey

take another mate

Kelly Moyer/*Robert Moyer*

page one opened
time and mind set free
new path

*unfamiliar road
losing my way*

night bus
aged passengers
in the deep sleep

*through the milky way
into the last stop*

Kazuo Masunaga *and* Teiichi Suzuki

Open Sky

*the meeting
that kept slipping ...
one summer afternoon*

almost there, almost
and yet so far

*her smile
just as in the photos ...
scent of jasmine*

cuckoo!
in-between long notes
the silence

*a warm hug bridges
those years of longing*

waxing moon
lights up mother's face ...
alapana

Kala Ramesh /Lakshmi Iyer

might kindness
and care negate the years
of suffering...

*they say a crow never forgets
the face of an enemy*

rs and Susan Burch

Hanging Overhead

in the heat
of all this anger
an umbrella

*round shade
makes me calm
even if
nuclear light can
penetrate this thin film*

Deborah P Kolodji/Mariko Kitakubo

Ebb and Flow

dreaming to return
to ancestral seas
the pendulum
keeps moving
possible impossible. . .

*Foucault thoughts
swing in all directions
the earth turns*

Mariko Kitakubo and *Deborah P Kolodji*

graduation gown
with stains
good thing it's black coffee

june gloom
grads
and dads

phases of the moon
every month
the same new thing

old astronomers don't die
they just fade
to star-geezers

to hell and back
only to find
here has also gone to hell

we've come to this junction
got to consider
Mobius function

Charles Harmon / *Jonathon Vos Post*

footsteps of glass
the night approaches
on cold meadows

*all traces frail
tall in the rabbit hole*

Rita Stanzione

Anna Maria Domburg-Sancristoforo

notes in tune

key *GP*
to the room
a guitar

sliding on strings *GN*
i get my balance back

in mother of pearl *MR*
a hummingbird
nudges blooms

my voice feathered *GP*
in harmony

dripping nectar *GN*
make the riffs
sweeter

i restring my heart *MR*
to the song of a bird

Geoff Pope/Genie Nakano/Mike Rehling

All Hallow's Eve

cloudy skies
toilet paper ghosts
sway from the trees

*electric candles flicker
behind the pumpkin's eyes*

blood moon
a thumb-sucking Dracula
hides behind her mummy

*technicolor blood
the horror movie plays on
in my dreams*

in the dark woods
teens meet for grownup treats

*jack-o-lantern grin
the one-eyed pirate
sorts his loot*

Aaron Samuel /Annette Makino

Summer Getaway

trip essentials
packed everything including
senior moments

*leading to
a photogenic spot
bad GPS*

road ahead
before we are here
we are there

*uneasy driving
a sheriff car among us
for half an hour*

stopping for fuel
eat 'n get gas

*summer road trip
work zone work zone*

Terrie Jacks/ John J. Han

Starlight

wings of Pegasus –

*waltzing into
his soft palms
a white feather*

in the oncology ward

research scientists
the ongoing process
of faulty DNA

the dream child

*mother fits it
into the sky
his star cutout*

Milan Rajkumar/Richa Sharma

Estranged

migrating birds

*early frost
jump-starting
a long journey*

the woman dreams

stopwatch—
a child's baseball glove
gathers dust

from iron bars

*counting clouds
the son
who never visits*

Aaron Samuel/*Cynthia Anderson*

Histories

sepia moon

*my fingers
follow lines
in the sand*

turning the pages

*rear lights -
questions that
remain*

of grandma's album

*empty pages -
her story
and mine*

Minal Sarosh/ Neera Kashyap

sunset
day after day
sunrise

*the trickling
of counted time*

Horst-Oliver Buchholz
Eleonore Nickolay

As Cold As Ice Cream

next door's puppy
noisy as a cricket
on a summer's night

*the sky is brighter tonight
one more star above us*

barking
at the neighbour's cat
an elderly prankster

*drizzling
are these tears just
of joy?*

the toddler's bruised knee
cured with ice-cream

*hot day
a light breeze
gives me the shivers*

Iliyana Stoyanova and Vessislava Savova
(dedicated to the dog Roshi, may he rest in peace)

turning sixty
how colourful
the twilight sky is...

a few feet ahead
my sunset shadow

twilight
fading out
with bird songs

distant train whistle
how many more journeys
to my destination

new moon night...
cicada cry deepens darkness

if I have
another life-
a koi fish

Ram Chandran/Nithya

Gathering

tangled chassis

*the holiday dinner
seating plan
block and tackle*

a family tree's

homework assignment
the therapy
of prescribed burns

dead branches

*conversation
the theoretical framework
of vodka*

Peter Jastermsky/*Lorraine A Padden*

Tenor of the Block

elevated train
so far above
this stifling ghetto

*the gaze of unfamiliar
streets*

a flock of pigeons
suddenly wheels left
dead bystander

*empty stare
old graffiti
sits shiva*

a battered stroller
juts out of the trashcan

*after school
unsteady on the
curb stop*

Jonathan Roman/Tia Haynes

What's Left

forest felling
my heart's
unrooted

*clean sweep
spiders and all*

Indian summer
all the fireweed
gone to seed

*burning leaves
the sharp smell
of memory*

a hollow stump
planted with marigolds

*ivy overgrowth
a rusted gate
to somewhere else*

Terri L. French /Peggy Bilbro

trust issues

his wine served
in a stemless glass

*the burgundy stain
on his collar
an unfamiliar shade*

Terri L. French/*Kelly Moyer*

<https://www.terrilfrenchhaiku.com>

Underground

coffin in the crematorium
disappears into the darkness
metro train

*"daddy" - the wheels repeat the word
I never needed*

scraps of conversations
books I flipped through
in a bookstore

*some endings
to make up myself*

no pimples seen
reflection of my forehead
not mine

*man doing a ponytail
faster than me*

each time the doors open
looking for love
at first sight

shengen zone
boarders of our bodies

Irina Guliaeva and *Kate Lumsy*

Blue Hotel

4 a.m.

*ticking watch
the vacant face
of lost dreams*

the front of the hotel

backstage
under blue lights
a clementine

one room lit

*whiskey bottle
the chamber emptied
and the bed stained*

David Oates/Scott Wiggerman

It goes on...

visit grandma
the smell of crispy
dumplings cc

swimming in
warm milk zg

neighbour's cat
these new heels
rub my feet sg

stretching
another cockatoo
from nowhere cc

broken broom
the witch hails a taxi sg

magic book
she passes to me
her best recipes zg

Christina Chin/Zoe Grant/Sherry Grant

傳承…

三人連軌詩

作者：陳皇孚(馬來西亞)+陳紫瑄(紐西蘭)+火の鳥(紐西蘭)

中文翻譯：火の鳥

拜訪祖母

香脆煎餃

的味道 (皇)

在溫牛奶裡

游泳 (紫)

鄰居的貓

我穿的高跟鞋

真磨腳 (火)

伸個懶腰

不知從何處

又飛來一隻鸚鵡 (皇)

掃把壞掉

巫婆招呼了一輛計程車(火)

魔法書

她把她最棒的食譜

通通傳授給我 (紫)

Professed

green living
back for a fourth
refill cup

*losing our way
carbon footprints*

tree clearing
the one evergreen
phone tower

*the drinkable book—
green options
for water filtration*

compost pile
shredded rengay drafts

*recycling
the intermixing
in the garbage truck*

Richard L. Matta / *Deborah Burke Henderson*

The Life of Elliott

one poop bag short
learning the ins and outs
of dumpster diving

*turning aside
his need for privacy*

the two of us
sitting in tall grass
the dog's terms

*night chill
the dog scoots
under the covers*

mid-sleep
his calls of the wild

*stolen kiss
early morning wakeup
slobber*

Richard L. Matta / Deborah Burke Henderson

SHES

hip replacement
her changed gait
in a new pair of heels

*cracking walnuts
we piece her life together*

harmonizing our wrinkles
we chatter away
our dogs in tow

*long dark corridor
the street gossip leads us
into her home*

after our lunch
a fresh smear of red lipstick

*her blinds down
at everyone else's window
Christmas lights*

Madhuri Pillai/Marisa Fazio

In the park

a child
he sticks his lips together
of cotton candy

*above the anthill
chestnut's tree shadow*

saxophonist's song
leaves a scent
of ripe pears

hair down
of girls in bloom
hot asphalt

*indigo drops
of the artesian well*

an ant colony
it stuck
on cotton candy

Mircea Moldovan & Daniel Gelu

Fracture

break in the rain
a crack
on his prized chestnut

tee off
crap in the trap

hell bunker
down but not out
cigar butt

drivers
back in the boot
bitter with a spot

red cross on an old truck
rides a rough terrain

final score
the earth
split

Robert Kingston/Geoff Pope

rocking and rolling
at the school reunion
golden oldies

*all that time and —
he still has two left feet*

Christina Chin
Linda Ludwig

Tit For Tat

the ex's house
my old concert tees
cut down for rags

*car wash revenge
using her panties*

kindling
for a girl's night fire
my guitar

*seeing red
I pour her wine
down the drain*

her parting words
etched into my car

*just desserts
her bulletproof coffee
laced with laxatives*

Bryan Rickert/Susan Burch

Bryan Rickert 'Failed' Editor
editor@failedhaiku.com
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