

# *Coming Together*

During a Global Pandemic



TUSCALOOSA SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL -  
NARASHINO, JAPAN

**HAIKU PROJECT**



T U S C A L O O S A  
**SISTER CITIES**  
I N T E R N A T I O N A L

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## During a Global Pandemic

2020 has been a year of challenges, great and small, of hardships, frustrations, loss; but it has also been a year of hope. As news and cases Covid-19 spread across the world this year, it was also a time of great courage, life-saving scientific breakthroughs, and countless acts of heroism, impacting communities around the globe.

Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International, and Narashino, Japan joined forces this year to create the haiku project, “Coming Together During a Global Pandemic”, to inspire poets to describe their thoughts, observations, and opinions about this worldwide story, as it continues to unfold.



We hope you will enjoy these haiku from friends around the world, and be inspired to “Come Together”, after these challenging times end, and brighter days draw near.

Lisa Keyes, Executive Director  
*Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International*

## タスカルーサ市 - 習志野市 俳句プロジェクト

「コロナの世界的大流行の真っ只中で一体となろう」

2020年は、大小を問わず、苦難の状況から生まれる挫折感、喪失感により、辛く苦しい年となりました。しかし、それはまた希望という未来を見出していく年でもありました。世界中に拡大するコロナウイルスの感染、そのニュースが飛び交う中、人々の前向きな勇気ある行動、そして生命を救うための科学的新発見など多くの出来事が世界中のコミュニティーにインパクトを与えてきました。

そのような中、タスカルーサ姉妹都市協会と習志野市は交流事業の一環として、「コロナウイルスが大流行する中、皆が一体となろう」をテーマに昨今の新型コロナウイルスの状況に対する各自の思いを詠んだ俳句を募集する「俳句プロジェクト」を立ち上げました。

辛い時期が終わった後も一体となり、より明るい日々が来ることを願いつつ、世界の友からの俳句を楽しんでいただければ幸いです。

We will meet on Zoom  
We do work in pajamas  
I miss human touch  
*Andy Paxton, Tuscaloosa*

In March, the world changed  
Can't see my friends, all alone,  
Need to drink a beer.  
*Greg Madrid, Tuscaloosa*

dawn whispers hello  
I linger with my coffee  
fear is still sleeping  
*Sandie Vaisnoras,  
Burr Ridge, Illinois*

Although we are far  
Our time together treasured  
Bonds our hearts forever  
*Kelley Green, Tuscaloosa*

At the zoo  
Laughing through masks  
As we feed the giraffes  
*Rose Marie Stutts, Tuscaloosa*

Cicadas  
Passing songs from tree to tree  
A twilight choir  
*Rose Marie Stutts, Tuscaloosa*

masked strangers glide by  
superheroes who keep us  
safe from Corona  
*Bridget Magee,  
Hünenberg See, Switzerland*

following guidelines  
no human embrace since March  
alone together  
*Bridget Magee,  
Hünenberg See, Switzerland*

home-officing with  
a five-year-old and the fridge  
the struggle is real  
*Bridget Magee,  
Hünenberg See, Switzerland*

Smiles behind cloths  
Caring for community  
Voting to save lives  
*Sarah Baratta,*  
*University of Alabama*

Struggling to survive  
Do your lives have more value?  
Please social distance  
*Sarah Baratta,*  
*University of Alabama*

Foggy mind, hazed gaze  
My body aches with covid  
I shall stay in bed  
*Katherine Cheng,*  
*University of Alabama*

It's weird, to not taste  
All that's left is sensation  
Because of covid  
*Katherine Cheng,*  
*University of Alabama*

The walls of my room  
Confine me for all these months  
Feels like a prison  
*Katherine Cheng,*  
*University of Alabama*

Only our eyes speak.  
Words tangle behind our masks.  
But still our hearts sing.  
*Teresa Owens Smith,*  
*Chicago, Illinois*

masks on  
it's hard to hear you without  
seeing your lips  
*Mary Sella, Tuscaloosa*

the checkout line  
a little boy smiles at me  
with his eyes  
*Mary Sella, Tuscaloosa*

outdoor worship  
masks on, keeping our distance  
a chorus of birds  
*Mary Sella, Tuscaloosa*

COVID-19 floor  
the nurses celebrate her  
ninety-third birthday  
*Mary Sella, Tuscaloosa*

pandemic  
statistics show a spike  
in online dating  
*Mary Sella, Tuscaloosa*

I'm cleaning the house  
To make sure there are no germs  
The house is clean again  
*Aakilyah Black, Tuscaloosa*

I miss seeing Dad  
I can't see him because  
Coronavirus  
*Ja'Kiyah Cobbs, Tuscaloosa*

Can't go anywhere  
I miss my friends very much  
I wish this was gone  
*Kinley Presley, Tuscaloosa*

I don't see my friend  
I miss seeing all my friends  
I miss my best friend  
*Taliah Wilder, Tuscaloosa*

Masks covering smiles  
How do we see happiness?  
Look for crinkly eyes  
*Helen Kampion,  
Wayland, Massachusetts*

Our selfish world changed  
Neighbors now helping neighbors  
Some good comes from bad?  
*Helen Kampion,  
Wayland, Massachusetts*

Dressing to go out  
Make-up, hair, outfit, jewelry  
One last thing...a mask!  
*Helen Kampion,  
Wayland, Massachusetts*



Masks in rainbow hues  
Show individual style:  
Fashion on faces  
*Joannie Duris,*  
*Hubbardston, Massachusetts*

Social distance? Nope.  
Seeking comfort, snuggled close  
Cats purring on laps  
*Joannie Duris,*  
*Hubbardston, Massachusetts*

Pandemic wildlife  
Strut fur and feathers down streets  
Live entertainment  
*Joannie Duris,*  
*Hubbardston, Massachusetts*

black crow on white snow  
a turning in November –  
nature's negative  
*Linda Baie, Denver, Colorado*

They sacrificed all,  
Building a more just country,  
Passing the baton.  
*Dr. Pam Foster, Tuscaloosa*

*Note: A haiku in memory of  
Congressman John Lewis and  
Reverend CT Vivian*

Separated Now  
Pandemic summer of woe  
Friends offer solace  
*Scotty Colson,*  
*Birmingham, Alabama*

death stares out at us  
from our television news—  
yet spring still blossoms  
*Lamon Brown,*  
*Birmingham, Alabama*

My gym is shut down.  
For exercise I'm walking  
fast to Krispy Kreme.  
*Linda T. Roberson,  
Birmingham, Alabama*

Day in and day out  
Sitting at home by myself  
Keeping the world safe  
*Michael Perry,  
Birmingham, Alabama*

The virus destroys  
But we will overcome all  
Only together  
*Spike Burt, Birmingham, Alabama*

Covid pandemic  
A lot of time to crochet  
Five finished blankets  
*Joan Kammer,  
Birmingham, Alabama*

Friendship means the world  
In good times and in bad times  
We lift each other up  
*Blake Pritchett,  
Birmingham, Alabama*

Haikus are easy  
But sometimes they don't make sense  
Refrigerator  
*Shannon Henderson,  
Birmingham, Alabama*

Apart together  
We chart an uncertain course  
The map is within  
*Hunter C. Hughes,  
Birmingham, Alabama*

Masks are the new normal  
Maybe even after virus  
I'm ok with that  
*Wendy Steele, Birmingham, Alabama*

渡部 一之  
*Kazuyuki Watanabe*

花柄の  
マスクを共に  
コンサート

Together with my  
Flower-patterned mask  
Concert

罪多き  
コロナも生き物  
天高し

It's such a sin  
Corona is also a living thing  
The sky reaches heavenward

コロナ禍も  
猛暑もそうは  
続くまい

Neither Corona virus  
Nor scorching hot days  
Will continue long

三代川 玲子  
*Reiko Miyokawa*

アラバマに  
続く秋晴れ  
コロナ去れ

In Alabama  
Fine autumn weather continues  
Corona go away

友好の  
絆は消えず  
秋の虹

Our friendship  
Will never cease  
Fall rainbow

手を取りて  
笑む日を願う  
天の川

Hand in hand  
Wishing for the day to smile again  
Milky Way

秋山 勝  
*Masaru Akiyama*

周り見て  
グッと抑える  
咳クシャミ

Looking all around  
Trying hard to suppress  
Coughing and sneezing

羽ばたきも  
忘れて久し  
カゴの鳥

Spread your wings a bit  
Forget for awhile that you're  
A bird in a cage

なかよしの  
笑顔がみえぬ  
立ち話

Even among friends  
None sees a smile, as they are  
Standing and chatting

宮下 晴男  
*Haruo Miyashita*

コロナ禍に  
マスク分け合ふ  
世界かな

Corona virus  
Meting out and sharing masks -  
This is our world now

人混みを  
さけて散策  
夕桜

Avoiding the crowds  
While strolling round and about  
Cherry blossom eve

血の型は  
人類共通  
今日の月

Blood type  
Common to all human kind  
Today's moon

白雪姫  
*Shirayukihime*

コロナ禍に  
負けるな勝てと  
虫の声

Corona virus!  
We will not lose, we will win!  
The sound of [autumn] insects

コロナ禍の  
終息願う  
望月夜

Corona virus  
Wishing it to end on a  
Harvest Moon night

絵留  
*Eru*

コロナ禍を  
祓う微笑み  
若棋聖

Corona disaster  
Purify it with a smile  
Young *shogi Kisei* Champion

*Note: In July 2020, 17-year-old Sota Fujii became the youngest shogi (Japanese chess) player ever to win the Kisei champion title in Japan*

「友は無事」  
ささやくように  
虹かかる

“Your friend is OK”  
It’s like a whispered arrival  
When a rainbow appears

それぞれの  
生き方ありて  
月見かな

Each one of us  
Has their own way of living  
Moon viewing time

小林 清華  
*Seika Kobayashi*

オンライン  
診療頼る  
流行（はやり）風邪

Relying on an online  
Medical diagnosis  
Flu is all the rage

コロナ禍の  
永き家居や  
小鳥来る

Corona disaster  
A lengthy stay at home  
Songbirds come to visit

コロナ禍に  
中止となりぬ  
秋祭

Corona disaster  
Brings to a halt  
Fall festivals

小林 良枝  
*Yoshie Kobayashi*

制服と  
マスクで我が子  
見つからず

Student uniforms  
And all in masks, I can't see  
Which child is mine

リモートで  
世界の友と  
温め酒

Remotely,  
With friends all over the world  
Warm rice wine

マスクして  
いても温顔  
変わりなく

Even wearing a mask  
Your warm, kind face  
Never changes

風花 紫苑  
*Kazahana Shion*

晩秋や  
感染予防  
全世界

Late Autumn  
Preventing infection  
All over the world

コロナ禍や  
家族団らん  
秋の宵

The Corona disaster  
All the family seated around  
On a Fall evening

クロたん  
*Kurotan*

不意の客  
マスク探して  
大慌て

Unexpected guest  
Searching around for a mask  
My panic attack

修桜子  
*Syuosi*

マスク下げ  
香り吸い込む  
金木犀

Pulling down my mask  
Inhaling the aroma  
Osmanthus flowers

秋の夜  
手酌で乾杯  
バーチャル飲み会

Autumn evening  
Saying “Cheers” to myself  
Virtual drinking party

いつか見ゆ  
マスクの内なる  
君のほほえみ

Someday I will see  
What’s inside of your mask  
Your smile

煎茶  
*Sencha*

友との宴  
延ばし夜通し  
文かわす

Feasting with friends  
Continues the whole night  
Exchanging texts

佐藤 ポチ  
*Sato Pochi*

はためくよ  
コロナは知らぬ  
鯉のぼり

Fluttering in the wind  
Corona does not know  
*Koi nobori* (carp streamers)

祭りなし  
コロナコロナで  
夏の果て

Without any festivals  
Just Corona and Corona...  
The end of summer

立葵  
すくっとのびるよ  
青空に

Hollyhocks  
Swiftly stretching, reaching out  
Into the blue sky

沼澤 武志  
*Takeshi Numasawa*

マスクして  
不安が街を  
歩いている

Wearing a mask  
All around the town, anxiety  
Goes walking

テレワーク  
一月振りの  
顔合わせ

Telework  
For the first time in a month  
Face to face

友達と  
楽しむ時も  
ウィズコロナ

Friends and  
Fun times too  
With Corona



小山 由美子  
Yumiko Koyama

会えないと  
会いたい気持ち  
募ってく

When I cannot see you  
I get the feeling I want  
to see you more

いつかまた  
交流夢見て  
踏んばろう

Someday again  
Yearning to interact  
Let's hold out

離れても  
心はいつも  
すぐそばに

Even far away  
My heart is always  
Right next to yours

Naoki Torikai  
鳥飼 尚輝

コロナ禍に  
纏う（まとう）マスクと  
半袖と

In the Corona disaster  
Wearing a mask along with  
Short sleeves

アマビエの  
看板駅の  
人集り（ひとだかり）

An *Amabie* on the  
Billboard at the train station  
Crowds of people gather

*Note: The Amabie is a legendary sea monster from mid-nineteenth century folklore. It looks like a fish with three tailfins, a bird's beak, and long flowing hair. The Amabie is now very popular in Japan, and drawings of it are used like a good-luck charm to eradicate Corona virus.*

外出自粛  
マスク外して  
かき氷

Voluntarily not going out  
Taking off my mask  
Snow cone

渡部 優  
*Masaru Watabe*

ならしのも  
はるにはきつと  
たすかるさ

Narashino city too  
Most certainly by Spring  
We will survive

Note: The Japanese word *tasu-*  
*karusa* “to be helped; save; survive”  
is a pun for Tuscaloosa

ままならぬ、なすがままのママ  
*Mamanaranu, nasugamamanomama*

あいたいよ  
げんきなかが  
みたいんだ

I want to meet up with you!  
Your cheerful face  
I really want to see it

八回転居  
*Hakkaitenkyo*

住みやすさ  
文芸の街  
コロナ圏

Comfortable living in  
The town of literary artists  
Corona territory

コロナきた  
アジサイの街  
すごもりす

Corona has come to  
The avenues of hydrangea  
We stay in our nests

四季めぐる  
アカシア並木  
コロナ舞う

Seasons turn  
Rows of acacia trees  
Corona dances

真鍋 元禄  
*Genroku Manabe*

暫くは  
マスク外して  
梅の宿

For a moment  
Taking off my mask  
Ume no Yado (a brand of plum wine  
or *sake*)

好きだから  
少し離れて  
聖五月

Because I like you  
I will stay apart for awhile  
Holy May

コロナ禍に  
あの経験が  
敗戦日

The Corona disaster is  
That same experience:  
The Day of Defeat

伊藤 寛  
*Hiroshi Itou*

連日の  
テレビはコロナ  
桔梗咲く

Every day's  
Television is Corona  
The balloon flower blossoms

コロナ禍と  
台風禍来て  
楽しまず

Corona disaster has come  
Typhoon disaster has come  
Joy is gone

ウイルスと  
戦う術は  
マスクかな

To fight the virus  
Our strategy  
Is the mask

Childrens Category

こやま とよひと (4歳)  
*Toyohito Koyama (age 4)*

じいじばあば  
おげんきですか  
またあそぼうね

Grandpa, grandma  
Are you well?  
Let's play again, OK?

