

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



UPDATE from the City Manager for Sunday, September 27, 2020

Portsmouth Mask Ordinance now in effect. Do your part. Wear a mask.

Deaths to date from COVID-19: US: 208,846. NH: 439. Rockingham County: 103.

Cumulative cases: US: 7,215,752.

Cumulative cases in NH: 8,121. Rockingham County: 2,010. Portsmouth: 115.

Current cases in NH: 303. Rockingham County: 73. In Portsmouth: <5.

For the complete, NH Department of Health & Human Services dashboard <http://www.nh.gov/covid19>

Click here for the entire Advisory collection of poems by Portsmouth Poet Laureate Tammi Truax.

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city-manager/portsmouth-poet-laureate>

Today I share with you a Japanese poetry form that is not of ancient tradition, though it is similar to the ancient tanka. Gogyohka, (Japanese for five-line poem), is attributed to one poet, Enta Kusakabe, who made it popular in the last century. In my quest to build a bridge to Japan through poetry, I love that his intention was to create a form that would work well in any language. The rules are intentionally simple: five lines, each a distinct phrase. Phrases, not sentences, each read without pause. Here is mine.

Autumn's first exciting weeks of school
children's new duds now feature masks
worn with complete compliance all day
I marvel at their manners and respect
then return to the adult world

-- Tammi J Truax

Portsmouth Poet Laureate 2019-2021/Maine Beat Poet Laureate 2018-2020