

## Nanao at 100: Poems of Land and Life

With John Stokes



We are pleased to announce the release of a new short film which we have produced with the help of cinematographer Bjarni Haraldsson to honor revered Japanese poet Nanao Sakaki on January 1, 2023 —what would have been his 100th birthday. (Nanao passed in 2008). Entitled “Nanao at 100: Poems of Land and Life”, the movie will become available for viewing on YouTube early New Year’s Day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skQ92rl4x1w&t=1s>  
(New edited link as of January 23, 2023)

Last September we were contacted by poet Gary Lawless and others who asked if we would like to take part in a global celebration of Nanao’s 100th birthday, sharing some stories from the six week poetry tour of Australian Aboriginal urban and tribal communities in 1981. The tour, envisioned and coordinated by John Stokes who was then working at the Aboriginal Community College in Adelaide was named “Poems of Land and Life” and its purpose was to present a positive view of the Aboriginal Australian culture to a world audience utilizing the remarkable cultural vision of Gary and Nanao, and the power of poetry and the oral tradition.

Through stories and photos, John shares behind-the-scenes stories of some of Nanao’s most popular poetry — “Chant of a Rock,” “Break the Mirror” — and Gary Snyder’s important essay, “Good, Wild, Sacred” which emerged from this tour.

The film is our small way to honor Nanao and his remarkable presence on the Earth, joining poets, friends and fans all around the world for a Global Nanao Day. (month? Year?)

The Tracking Project — [www.thetrackingproject.org](http://www.thetrackingproject.org)  
Bjarni Haraldsson — [www.mjolnircreative.com](http://www.mjolnircreative.com)

**Other events we have heard of from Gary Lawless include:**

*just a note to let you see the many beginning plans for events to celebrate the 100th birthday of Nanao Sakaki, with Global Nanao Day on Jan. 1, 2023, with Global Nanao Year to follow!*

*Felipe Melhado - Brazil - the creation of a Global Nanao website for news, texts, photos, videos... and the publication of a collection of Nanao poems translated into Portuguese*

*Carol Merrill, New Mexico - editing, designing, and publishing the book Hi Nanao (with Gary Lawless and Blackberry Books)*

*Giuseppe Moretti - Italy - several Nanao pages in the spring issue of Lato Selvatico*

*Zest Lettura sostenibile - nanao poems in Italian on their website*

*Daniele Faugeras - France - Association PO&PSY - spring 2023 collection of nanao poems in french*

*Anne MacNaughton - Taos, New Mexico - community reading of nanao poems jan 1, 2 PM - Taos*

*John Suiter - photographs*

*Maura Zerella, Ciro Zerella -Italy - translation of Nanao's poem "i mumble before going to bed" and recording it as a song*

*Donald Guravich - Jan 1 reading of Nanao poems to the Bolinas mesa, sky and bay -*

*Bara Sykorova - Praha, Czech Republic - Nanao poem into song,*

*Rowan Kilduff (Czech Republic) and poet Diego Mizael of Brazil will take part*

*Yaxkin Melchy of Mexico reports that some Nanao poems have just appeared in a poetry anthology in Argentina. and soon poems translated by a Chilean poet will be available at the Santiago Book Fair.*