

Sierra Writers

P.O. BOX 1595 GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945

SIERRA WRITERS AWARD YOUNG WRITERS

Sierra Writers will celebrate the winners of its 11th Annual short story contest for young writers on Wednesday, May 11. First prize is \$150; second prize, \$125 and third prize, \$100. Honorable mentions take home cash, too. The annual contest is open to all teens aged 15-19 years old that either reside or attend school in Nevada County.

Here are the five finalists, their ages, and the titles of their stories:

John Alkire, 15, "Arnold the Angry Aardvark"; **Alison Dowd**, 18, "Army Greens"; **Kali Hardwick**, 17, "Mother"; **Monica Marsh**, 18, "Was It Worth It"; **Timothy Martinez**, 15, "Legacy"

Congratulate these emerging writers at this free event, where the winners are asked to read their stories aloud.

Past winning stories have included topics that young people care about, including social issues and world events. The writing tone also has varied: dark, hopeful, humorous, sweet, irreverent, off-beat, controversial. This year's finalist stories include various views of the world: one through animal eyes; one from a military family; one from a loving daughter amidst a storm passing; one perspective from the womb; and one from a projected reality in the future.

Sierra Writers takes pride in sponsoring this contest as a way to encourage Nevada County youth.

Friends and families of young authors, come to the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room May 11. Anyone who wants to see young local writers receiving some special attention should attend. It starts 6:30 PM.

MAY 2011

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WWW.SIERRAWRITERS.ORG



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Submission deadline for June newsletter is May 15, 2011

A WRITER'S USEFUL THINGS

Have you visited any great websites for writers? Found must-have software, applications, or tools? Share what works for you.

Without words, without writing and without books there would be no history, there could be no concept of humanity.
~ **Hermann Hesse**

[Oxford English Dictionary](#) online. Now anyone can subscribe to this. For \$295 per year or 29.95 per month, you can have access to over 600,000 words .

There is a lot of useful information on the site for non-subscribers a well.

Critique groups are among the many benefits exclusive to members of *Sierra Writers*. If you let your membership lapse and want to attend a critique group, send your check to *Sierra Writers*, PO Box 1595, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Do you know someone who would like more information or to join *Sierra Writers*? Our website provides information about our organization and a membership form.
www.sierrawriters.org

MEMBERS CORNER

We'd love to hear from you! Tell us what you are working on. Do you have any successes to share? Have you received any encouraging rejection notices? Send information to lucindaporter@yahoo.com

Kim Culbertson announced that her latest book, *Instructions for a Broken Heart* will be released on May 1st. (See *Community Events* for information about an upcoming writer's workshop with Kim.)

Eunice Banks and several other members of *Sierra Writers*, had *YouTube* videos made by the folks at *Sierra Commons*. [Click here to see Eunice's clip](#).

Also at *YouTube* are video clips of **Babette Donaldson**, author of the *Tea with Emma Lea* series.

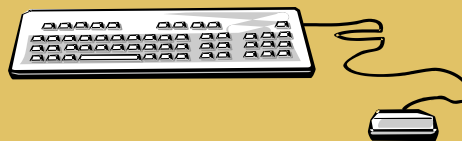
Lucinda K. Porter writes, "I saw the proposed cover of my book, *Free from Hepatitis C*. It was love at first sight."

Phylis Warady writes, "Silver Boomer Books has just published *Flashlight Memories*, a collection of essays from authors who, when a parent called 'lights out', would obey the command then disappear under their bedcovers with their trusty flashlight to continue reading with each and every childhood reader convinced they were unique. But they were wrong, hence enough contributors for this collection. My essay titled: A Moveable Feast is included."

Joanne Brown writes, Do you write kid's lit? Middle grade and YA authors with an interest in forming a new critique group can contact Joanne at jobrown5273@sbcglobal.net or (530) 470-0241.

GET INVOLVED WITH SIERRA WRITERS

Sierra Writers is looking for help with the website, special events and whatever interests you. If you are interested in helping, contact Babette Donaldson babettedonaldson@sbcglobal.net or Lucinda Porter lucindaporter@yahoo.com



Critique groups are open to current members of *Sierra Writers*. For information about the **fiction** critique group, contact **Ron Cherry** (530) 478-5616; romuluswolf@comcast.net

For information about the **nonfiction** critique group, contact **Jan Westmore** (530) 265-0718; jwestmore@sbcglobal.net

Members may have their own web pages, which they may use in a variety of ways. Members may use their page to introduce themselves, to link users to information on how to purchase their books, or to link back to their own website. A new feature of the *Sierra Writers* website is a page listing links to our members' blogs. To add your info, contact Lucinda Porter - lucindaporter@yahoo.com Check it out at www.sierrawriters.org

SIERRA WRITERS CALENDAR

MEETINGS

Unless noted otherwise, all meetings are held at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room 980 Helling Way, Nevada City

Last Month's Meeting

The April *Open Read* was well-attended; many writers who aren't members (yet) participated. Looks like we have some fabulous writers in our community - in and out of our organization. How fortunate we are to have *Sierra Writers* and other community-wide organizations that support writing, reading, and the arts.

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Our Next Meeting

May: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 6:30 PM

Young Writers Contest

Please show your support for our young writers. The winners of the Young Writers Contest will read their work. Encourage the keepers of our future by attending this important meeting.

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June: Wednesday, June 8, 2011 6:30 PM

Pamela Johnson, author of *Heart of a Pirate*, a fictional story of 18th century Anne Bonny.

Title TBA

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July/August: No meeting or newsletter

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September 1 - Annual membership renewal

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September: Wednesday, September 14, 2011 6:30 PM

Stay Tuned...

Happy Spring Everyone!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Details on each event are listed on our website at www.sierrawriters.org

The Center for the Arts presents Book Reading and Writing Workshop with Kim Culbertson

How to Turn a Great Trip into a Dynamic Novel

Travel is transformative. Being in a far away (or even not so far away) place can allow us to see the world differently, view our lives through a new lens. And sometimes, it can make a fun foundation for fiction. When Kim was a new teacher, she and one other teacher took 16 high school students to Italy for a spring trip. Come see how Kim used that experience as the backdrop for her new young adult novel, *Instructions for a Broken Heart*. Bring a trip of your own in your back pocket. Kim will take you through several writing exercises and discussions to show you how you can use your travel experiences as a foundation for your own fiction.

Saturday, May 7 2:00 to 4:00PM

\$18 dollars for members/\$20 non-members - **Space is limited to 30**

Book Signing for Kim's newest book, *Instructions for a Broken Heart* , **4:00 to 5:00PM (free)**

www.thecenterforthearts.org/events/11/11-05-07-kimculbertson.htm

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Women's Writing Salon

Come join us to listen to the stories, poems, and songs penned by women of the Foothills.

Reading for this Winter Celebration: Gail Entekin, Alice Halford, Catherine Stifter, Loraine Webb ... and more to come!

Saturday, May 7th, 4-6pm at Sierra Mountain Coffee Roasters/Tome's Books, 671 Maltman Drive, Grass Valley

Gather at 3:30 to gather food and drink, visit with other word lovers, and grab a seat. Reading begins at 4:00

Admission is free! Men are enthusiastically welcomed. Food and beverage available at the Cafe

For more information contact:

Patricia Miller, 530-265-5165, email dovepat@oro.net or

Betsy Fasbinder, 530-613-9947, email bgf2u@sbcglobal.net

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Poemcrazy Writing Workshop for the Poet in All of Us

Join poet and educator **Susan G. Wooldridge** for an hour or two of word play and creative writing. Susan has been teaching poetry for over 20 years. She is the author of *Poemcrazy: freeing your life with words*, *Bathing with Ants*, and *Foolsgold: Making Something from Nothing (and Freeing Your Creative Process)*. Whether you are a seasoned poet or an absolute beginner this workshop is for you!

The event is free of charge.

Thursday, May 12, 2011 7:00pm—9:00pm Madelyn Helling Library Community Room 980 Helling Way, Nevada City

(continued next page)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Women's Writing Retreat Weekend at Lake Tahoe

Jennifer Basye Sander, co-author, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Getting Published*, founder, Write By The Lake, A Writers' and Publishers' Retreat.

May 20-22 or June 3-5

For more information, contact basyesander@yahoo.com or call 916-847-9090

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Moonsong Workshop with Patricia Dove Miller

A Half-Day of Writing and Meditation

Join us for a monthly series of meditative workshops. Come to one or many. Learn how to integrate "writing practice" with sitting and walking meditation. Meditation can release creativity and help us discover our authentic voice to reach the core of our writing. This workshop will be held mostly in gentle silence, except when reading our work or discussing writing issues. For both beginning and experienced writers and meditators. All types of meditation are welcome.

Saturday, May 21, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 11, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For more information or to register for classes, contact **Patricia Dove Miller**, dovepat@oro.net, 530-265-5165

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Community of Writers at Squaw Valley

Every summer for 42 years, the Community of Writers at Squaw Valley has brought together poets and prose writers for separate weeks of workshops, individual conferences, lectures, panels, readings, and discussions of the craft and the business of writing. Our goal is to assist writers to improve their craft and thus move them closer to publication. The Community has a competitive admissions procedure and the level of writing is high, but interested writers and poets should not hesitate to apply.

2011 DATES:

- **POETRY:** July 16 - 23
- **WRITERS WORKSHOPS:** August 6 - 13
- **SCREENWRITING WORKSHOP:** August 6 - 13

Download brochure at http://www.squawvalleywriters.org/documents/2011_DOWNLOAD_BROCHURE.pdf

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Sierra Writers members may use this newsletter to promote their book, classes, or other workshops. Organizations that serve the writing community of Nevada County may submit announcements to upcoming events. Send information to lucindaporter@yahoo.com