

Sierra Writers

P.O. BOX 1595 GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Are you the next president of Sierra Writers?

As we begin another season for Sierra Writers, we once again seek new energy and talent for our Board. Several current board members would like to shift into new jobs and others need to rotate out of these leadership roles for a few years. Most of these transitions will take place in January so that we have some time to overlap and support newcomers. New "job descriptions" will soon be posted on our website but if you are interested in becoming more active, please don't wait!

The position of President is one of the jobs that will be open as of January 1st. You may be the perfect person.

You may have already had the thought that this is something you'd like to do but been too shy to speak up. Don't be shy!

If you are shy, you may need experience speaking in front of small groups to help prepare to manage publicity when you book is published. SW Pres is perfect for you.

You may be thinking that you haven't attended meetings regularly enough. (continued on page 3)



OCTOBER 2011

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WWW.SIERRAWRITERS.ORG



OUR BOARD MEMBERS

President, Babette Donaldson

babettedonaldson@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality, Carol York

carol-york@sbcglobal.net

Young Writers Contest, Chuck Jaffee

jaffee@startlets.com

Program Coordinator, Claudine

Chalmers claudecameron@yahoo.com

Publicity, Susan Conlon

sturnercon@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter & Webmaster, Lucinda Porter

lucindaporter@yahoo.com

Treasurer, Marty Austin

homebookkeeper@yahoo.com

Membership Coordinator, Shirley Zeff

scookuie@aol.com

Sierra Writers Newsletter Staff: Lucinda K. Porter and Susan Mone

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.

Writers Market

Where & How to Sell What You Write

Writers market is a directory of magazine markets - and so much more. There are listings for literary agents, book publishers, trade journals, and contests, to name a few. If you get the deluxe edition, you will also get a year's membership to the online version which has the latest updates and other useful tools to help keep you organized and on track.

Highly recommended!



Duotrope

www.duotrope.com

Website to help find publishers for fiction and poetry.

Worldwide Freelance

www.worldwidefreelance.com

Has small free market database for freelance writers

SIERRA WRITERS BOARD NEWS

We have a few openings on our board. When the Board last met, it was suggested that we have an overlap period so the outgoing board member can work with the incoming one. Most of the board positions have job descriptions and details to help new members get a sense of what the positions encompass. However, we have found that each person brings their own passion and skills to the Board, so the descriptions may be tailored.

Joanne Brown has stepped up to take on the Membership position, currently held by Shirley Zeff. Susan Turner-Conlon will stay on as Publicity position and is taking the Webmaster position, currently held by Lucinda Porter. The newsletter is currently produced by Lucinda Porter (editor) and Susan Mone (design). Lucinda is stepping down from this and Jenny Dewey and Claudine Chalmers will be joining Susan Mone on the newsletter team.

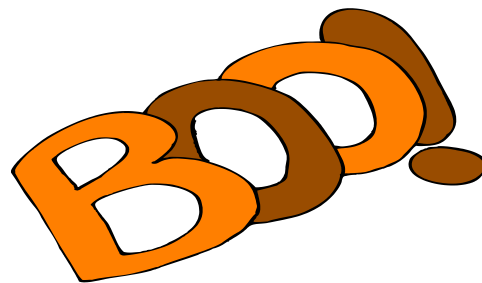
Sierra Writers' Board Members is looking for the following:

President

Program Coordinator

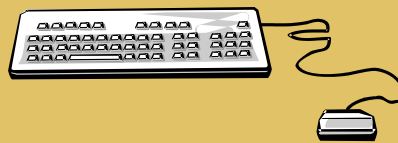
Workshop Coordinator

Volunteers to help with raffle, newsletter and events



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



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

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

(continued from page 1)



Attendance is not a prerequisite.

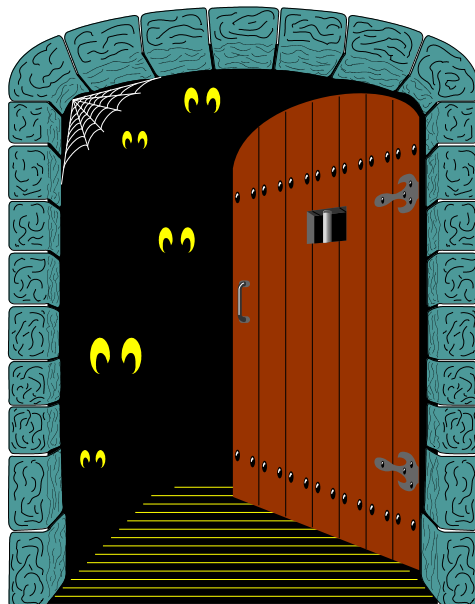
Being 'in charge' doesn't sound like your cuppa tea. Never fear. Our board uses a team approach that works very well to support every board member when they need it. As president, you will be managing an agenda but all board positions are very equal. You just need to be a team player.

The one characteristic that I've come to believe is the most important qualification is that you believe that our community needs a community of writers dedicated to supporting each other in the pursuit of our craft. You need to appreciate the challenges that every writer faces - from the tenuous beginnings through the frustrations of submitting work for publication to the challenges of publishing. You need to believe that every step is important, whether the path leads to publishing or to the private satisfaction of seeing the words come to life on the page for an audience of one.

So, Next SW Pres, please give me a call soon so that we can begin to organize the transition in January. I know you've had ideas about things that you wish SW could do for you. Now is your time to help make those things happen for everyone. We can get started right away!

Babette Donaldson

Sierra Writers President through Dec. 31st
530.263.4501





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

KUDOS

The print version of **Larry Gold's** novel, *No Cure for Murder* is now available at Amazon. To find Larry's book, visit either Amazon or his *Sierra Writers* bio to find a link. An ebook version is available.

One way we can help each other out is by posting positive reviews for each other's work and passing links on to our contacts. So, if you like Larry's book, please post a review to Amazon and spread the word.

Member **Suzanne Blaney** has released a new book: *Adventure in Color – the Impressionism of Anita Wolf*. With paintings in glowing color, Blaney chronicles the life of this internationally known artist, her training under some of 20th Century's finest teachers and focuses upon Wolff's philosophies and teaching during a 55-year career.

As an artist as well as writer, Blaney's earlier book: *The Little Book About Pastel*, was published in 2003 and received glowing comments. "This is my last art book, however. Now I concentrate on my two novels."
www.suzanneblaney.com

Congratulations to Susan Turner-Conlon who had some of her poetry published recently. Susan launched the first meeting of the poetry critique group on Saturday, September 17. For more information about this member-only group, contact Susan, sturnercon@sbcglobal.net

Longtime Sierra Writers member, **Jan Westmore, announced** that she received a contract to write a book about the history of Colfax.

Janet Ann Collins announced that she will have a story published in an upcoming anthology. She is the author of several books for kids: *The Peril of the Sinister Scientist*, *Secret Service Saint*, and *Signs of Trouble*.

Some of the **winners of our Young Writers Contest** had their winning work published by the Wildwood Literary Review. Congratulations to our young writers and thank you Mike Lambert and Lake Wildwood writers.

Visit their website to view the Wildwood Literary Review: www.lakewildwood.net/item_list.asp?subcat=317&subtitle=Literary+Review

Groups

Note: Critique and writing support groups are open only to members of *Sierra Writers*

Marketing Support Group

When: Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Where: Sierra Mountain Coffee Roasters/Tomes 11671 Maltman Drive, Grass Valley

Questions, contact lucindaporter@yahoo.com

Poetry Critique Group

Contact Susan Turner-Conlon sturnercon@sbcglobal.net

Screenwriters Group

Are you interested in a screenwriting? If so, please contact David Ward at dwmusicstaff@gmail.com

Children's Literature

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

Fiction critique group

For information, contact Ron Cherry (530) 478-5616; romuluswolf@comcast.net

Nonfiction critique group

For information, contact Jan Westmore (530) 265-0718; jwestmore@sbcglobal.net

If you want help starting a critique group, or want to be in touch with members with similar genres, contact lucindaporter@yahoo.com



SIERRA WRITERS CALENDAR

MEETINGS

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

Dues Reminder

It is time to renew your *Sierra Writers* membership. Please send a \$25 check to *Sierra Writers*, PO Box 1595, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

Sierra Writers offers speaker meetings, critique groups, a newsletter, a membership directory, the young writer contest, and our ever-expanding website. *Sierra Writers* supports the Nevada County library and other community activities. Membership in *Sierra Writers* provides peer support and a venue for all of us to grow as writers.

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Our Last Meeting

At our September meeting, Diane Covington entertained our members with tales of travel, food, and fun. She shared her secrets of becoming a travel writer, which all boiled down to following our passion. Diane teaches creative writing at her organic apple farm and is currently writing a memoir. www.dianecovington.com

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Our Next Meeting

October Sierra Writers Meeting - Open Read

Wednesday, October 12, 6:30PM

Guidelines: Only one written work in any form—story, poem, prose, memoir, essay or excerpt—two-to-three pages, may be submitted per person. At the top of the entry, note whether work is fiction or nonfiction and beginning, middle, end or entire piece (such as in a poem), however, beginning pieces usually work best. Do not include author name. Entries must be typed, double-spaced, single-sided and printed in an easy to read font, size 12 point. Word limit is 750 words. The author of any given piece must be present. Attendees at the meeting are asked to be considerate in their feedback and to keep comments brief and tactful.

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November 2011 Sierra Writers Meeting – Crafting Your Author Platform Open Read

Wednesday, November 9, 6:30PM

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December — Annual Holiday Party

Date and Location TBA



COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

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Reading of New Play by Hock Tjoa

Heaven is High and the Emperor is Far Away It is set in China around WW2 about how the "little people" survive war, poverty and exploitation with dignity, affection and humor. Dickensian themes with "Chinese-style" laconic dialog.

Monday, October 10 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6.30 p.m.)
at the Stonehouse/Old Brewery in Nevada City (bottom of Broad Street).
One night only. There is no charge but donations will be gratefully received.

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Patricia Dove Miller will be teaching two creative writing classes this fall at her writing studio in Nevada City.

1) A Writing Practice Group (based on Natalie Goldberg's book *Writing Down the Bones*) which is a cumulative series of short easy exercises, that helps you quiet your inner critic, delve into your unconscious, and go deeper into your writing.

2) A Creative Writing Workshop which helps you begin your story or work on a draft-in-progress. Learn specific craft techniques to improve your writing and how to give and receive gentle feedback. For all genres: memoir, travel writing, fiction, creative nonfiction, short story.

Pat also offers private lessons: coaching, editing, exercises, and/or critique.
For more information, dates, prices, please call or email: 530-265-5165; dovepat@oro.net.
To view Patricia Dove Miller's bio, visit www.sierrawriters.org

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Sierra Writers members may use this newsletter or the website 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

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Sierra Writers is looking for more news, writers, KUDOS, and information to include in our newsletter. Please send material to lucindaporter@yahoo.com

Sierra Writers Newsletter Staff: Lucinda K. Porter and Susan Mone

Deadline for November newsletter is October 15, 2011

