

Sierra Writers

P.O. BOX 1595 GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945

CRAFTING YOUR AUTHOR PLATFORM

Our Next Meeting - Crafting Your Author Platform

In the writing industry, there is a great deal of buzz about the importance of the author's platform. As a writer, your platform is how the world sees you; it is the connection to your readers. With an overwhelming number of tools available to help you build your platform, where do you begin?

At the next *Sierra Writers* meeting, authors and board members, Babette Donaldson and Lucinda Porter will lead participants through a presentation, discussion, and exercise on organizing an author platform. To get the most out of the evening, participants are encouraged to bring their own short bio (100 to 200 words). This workshop is suitable for all writers, experienced, new, published or hope to be.

Babette Donaldson is the current president of *Sierra Writers* and the author of the *Emma Lea* series of children's books. Lucinda Porter, RN is the editor of the *Sierra Writers* newsletter, a freelance writer, and author of *Free from Hepatitis C*, scheduled to be released December 1st.

Wednesday, November 9, 2011 6:30 PM
Madelyn Helling Library Community Room
980 Helling Way, Nevada City



NOVEMBER 2011

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WWW.SIERRAWRITERS.ORG



OUR BOARD MEMBERS

President, Babette Donaldson

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Hospitality, Carol York

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Young Writers Contest, Chuck Jaffee

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Chalmers claudecameron@yahoo.com

Publicity, Susan Conlon

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lucindaporter@yahoo.com

Treasurer, Marty Austin

homebookkeeper@yahoo.com

Membership Coordinator, Joanne Brown,

jobrown5273@sbcglobal.net

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

(See page 5 for upcoming changes)

WRITER'S RESOURCES

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

November is National Novel Writing Month – The goal is to write a 50,000 word novel in 30 days.

www.nanowrimo.org

For less ambitious, but still serious goals, consider Julia Cameron's suggestion from *The Artist's Way* to write 750 words every morning.

750words.com

If you need a little sterner incentive, check out *Write or Die* writeordie.com. This site forces you to write delivering undesirable punishment, by destroying what you have written if you don't keep up a reasonable writing pace.

If you want more rational and fun motivation, check out Seth Grodin's blog. In his entry, *Talker's Block*, Grodin wrote, "No one ever gets talker's block. No one wakes up in the morning, discovers he has nothing to say and sits quietly, for days or weeks, until the muse hits, until the moment is right, until all the craziness in his life has died down."

www.sethgodin.com

The literary journal, *Rattle* is looking for poetry and essay submissions from those who have worked in the law enforcement field:

www.rattle.com/callsforsubs.htm

SIERRA WRITERS BOARD NEWS

Sierra Writers Board News

We have a new president. **Susan Turner-Conlon** has stepped up and will begin her term in January 2012. She has been Sierra Writers' Publicity Chair for the past two years, a job she has done admirably. Susan has many writing interests, and recently had some poems published. Thank you Susan.

Joanne Brown has already begun her tenure as the Membership Chair. She is now a full-time Nevada County resident. Joanne was active in the Diablo branch of the California Writers Club. As the membership chair, Joanne has an important role as she meets, greets, and helps guests and new members learn about *Sierra Writers*. Thank you Joanne.

Thank you to outgoing Membership Chair, **Shirley Zeff**. We depend on volunteers, and your efforts were appreciated.

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 has a few openings on the board for January 2012.

Programs

Publicity

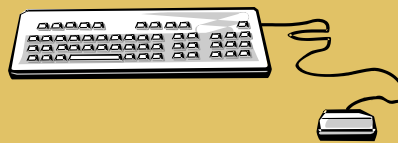
Webmaster



We also need volunteers to help with raffle, newsletter and events. The strength of our club relies on a solid corps of volunteers.

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

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

Janet Ann Collins was interviewed in *The Union* (October 7). Not only was it a good interview, there was a fabulous photo of Janet and her dog, Suds.

Lucinda Porter has signed off on the galley proof of her book, *Free from Hepatitis C: Your Complete Guide to Healing Hepatitis C*. She received glowing advance endorsements, including an invitation to give a motivational speech at the Texas Viral Hepatitis Summit. *Free from Hepatitis C* will be released December 2011 and is available for pre-order on Amazon.

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GROUPS

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

Poetry Critique Group

Contact Susan Turner-Conlon sturnercon@sbcglobal.net

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, information may be found at: <http://sierrawriters.org/events/critique-groups/starting-a-critique-group>



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

Sierra Writers membership renewal was due September 1st. If you have not paid your dues, mail a check for \$25 to Sierra Writers, P. O. Box 1595, Grass Valley, CA 95945 New members may join at a pro-rated amount, and we offer a student rate of \$10 for those in high school or college. Membership issues can be directed to **Joanne Brown**, jobrown5273@sbcglobal.net.

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

Our fall Open Read was last month. We had a lovely, supportive turnout, with a mixture of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. The quality and quantity of writers in this community is remarkable. Thank you to those brave writers for whom this was their first time in a critique process. This is a valuable way to improve your craft, and we urge you to continue using this tool. *Sierra Writers* offers critique groups for its members.

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Our Next Meeting

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

Wednesday, November 9, 6:30PM

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December — Annual Holiday Party

Our December "Meeting" is our annual members-only (plus guest) party. We will not be hosting our monthly speaker at the library. Date and Location TBA

January 11, 2012 Sierra Writers Meeting TBA

February 8, 2012 TBA

March 7, 2012 TBA

April 11, 2012 TBA

May 9, 2012 Young Writers Contest Winners

June 13, 2012 TBA



COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

Creative Writing Classes with Patricia Dove Miller Autumn 2011

Birdsong: A Writing Practice Group

Learn how to do "Writing Practice" (based on Natalie Goldberg's *Writing Down the Bones*), a cumulative series of short easy exercises. Quiet your inner critic, delve into your unconscious, go deeper into your writing, and increase your creativity. Writing Practice helps you learn how to write, improve your writing, overcome writer's block, or work out specific issues in your current project. For both beginning and experienced writers.

Session 1: Thursdays, 10:30 A.M. – noon, Nov 3 to Dec 1 (Register by Oct. 27) Fee: \$50 per 4-week session

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 Newsletter

This is the last issue for Lucinda Porter. She welcomes Jenny Dewey into the editor position, along with support from Claudine Chalmers. Lucinda thanks Susan Mone for continuing on the team. Susan is talented and fun to work with (and yes, you can end a sentence with a preposition).

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

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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 jennyd@cybermesa.com

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Sierra Writers Newsletter Staff:

Jenny Dewey - jennyd@cybermesa.com

Claudine Chalmers - claudecameron@yahoo.com

Susan Mone - susie3@wordmagick.com

Deadline for December newsletter is November 15, 2011

