

SIERRA WRITERS
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Winter 2016

Special features:

- Dues Notice
- The Young Writers' Contest in back!
- Sierra Writers' Conference on January 23rd.

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Dues Notice	2
Tips for Writers	3
Tips for Writers	4
Groups/Our Board	5
The Memoir Writing Club	6
Calendar	7
Community Events/Announcements	8

January 2016

President's Message

Season's Greetings to all of you!

January will be a hectic month with the Sierra Writers Conference on Saturday January 23. Please note that it will be held 8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. at Sierra College in the Multipurpose Room/ Auditorium (N12). Also note that early registration (until January 13) will get you in for \$25 and if you miss this, it will be \$40.

Don't be confused by the two dates; January 13 is the end of early registration for the Conference which, definitely and unequivocally, is on January 23!

See the page dedicated to this Conference on Sierra Writers' website - <http://sierrawriters.org/sierra-writers-conference/>

You will also find the event prominently featured in our Facebook account. There are links from both to the registration site (Eventbrite). By the way, if you have never been to our Facebook account, come visit and "like" us! It is a great way for us to keep in touch - you do need your own Facebook account to get into ours.

Also on January 13, at 6.30 p.m., our regular meeting will feature Alicia Vandevorst, see page 7 for full details about this active local poet.

Susan Rushton of the Auburn Journal will address our February meeting on the 10th at 6.30 p.m. on writers and the various forms of media - print, radio, and TV. See page 7 of this Newsletter.

In March, we will have another "open read" on the 9th. Please remember the limit of 1000 words for this evening and also that there will be a sign up (at the entrance). We will try to let everyone read, but may have to limit participation to those who are members.

(Continued on page 2)

Sierra Writers offers speaker meetings, critique groups, a newsletter, a membership directory, 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.

True happiness is... to enjoy the present, without anxious dependence upon the future.

Lucius Annaeus Seneca

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

The Young Writers Competition is on the way thanks to the efforts of Carmella Miller and support of many members. Although December 8 was set as the registration date, we will consider new entrants from high school students anywhere in Nevada County. But submissions must be received by April 1.

Please continue to spread the word on this Competition and if anyone would like to help (encourage aspiring high school writers, judge the essays, etc.) please get in touch with Carmella at - sayitcanci@gmail.com.

Finally, Sierra Writers is always looking for help. Consider joining the Board (see page 5) or volunteer to support a particular activity, host a critique group, etc.

Best wishes,
Hock



Here's the link to the Nugget Fringe Festival - the Sierra Writers Conference is event #10.

<http://www.nuggetfringe.com/>

Dues Notice

* Annual dues for membership in Sierra Writers for the 2015-2016 year are *
 * now delinquent. The club's updated directory will be distributed late *
 * January. Your \$25 check, payable to Sierra Writers, must be received no *
 * later than January 15th if you wish to renew your membership and be in- *
 * cluded in the directory . Checks should be mailed to Sierra Writers, PO *
 * Box 1595, Grass Valley, CA 95945-1595. Questions? Contact Meredith *
 * Cherry msmeredithcherry@gmail.com *

Tips for Writers

How to Make a Personal Appearance a Success

Posted by [CreateSpaceBlogger](#) on May 13, 2013 4:54:06 AM

I've attended a few personal appearances both as an author and as a reader. I have observed one major element that separates a successful appearance from a bad appearance, and that difference didn't necessarily have anything to do with the name recognition of the author. It had more to do with the person who was *helping* the author with the signing that day.

I call that person a "reader wrangler." This is an individual who stands a few feet from the author's table and makes sure anyone who passes by knows about the author and his/her book. The more enthusiastic the reader wrangler, the more likely I am to get a book signed. It doesn't matter if I have even heard of the author before.

I've acted as a reader wrangler a few times before, and more times than not, I didn't know much about the author or book I was wrangling for. I was more or less a hired hand for the occasion. I got together with the author a few minutes before the signing and asked him/her for their pitch. The more straightforward the pitch, the more enthusiastic I was about wrangling readers for the signing because that told me the author was on the ball.

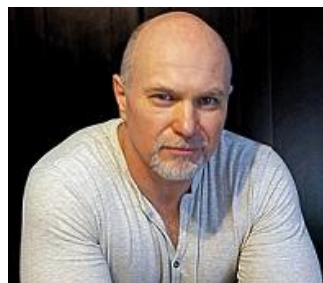
I'll let you in on a little secret: wrangling readers for a signing is actually fun. And for whatever reason, it's never more fun than when the author is unknown. The shoppers/conference attendees are genuinely curious in most cases.

So, if you have a personal appearance on the schedule, and you're planning a signing, do yourself a favor and invite/hire the most outgoing person in your life to be your reader wrangler. And please, do *them* a favor and come prepared with a clear and concise pitch. It will make their job much, much easier and they will be more enthusiastic because of it.

-Richard



Do you know of other writing groups and literary meeting opportunities? Let the group know via the SW Newsletter.



Richard Ridley is an award-winning author and paid CreateSpace contributor.



I've seen a lot of comparisons between CreateSpace (CS) and Ingram (either Lightning Source or Spark). In almost every instance I walk away thinking that it wasn't a fair comparison. And almost every discussion I've seen tends to be the same.

The one common ground is that many people seem to have quite a bit of misinformation, I hope I can provide a little objectiveness and help people decide which company they should choose for their print needs.

I Used 5 Basic Categories

- 01 Cost, including profit margins
- 02 Customer Service, including ease of use
- 03 Distribution, including shipping
- 04 Product Selection
- 05 Quality



Here Is The Comparison



Features	CreateSpace	Ingram Spark
Changes	No charge?	\$25
Cost per copy B&W	4.50	4.80
Cost per copy color	21.85	8.40
Cost of setup	\$0	\$49**
Yearly fee	\$0	\$12
Customer Service	Excellent, instant chat online	Good, but slow
Discount	40 / 60%*	40 / 55%
Distribution	Amazon / Extended	Worldwide
Ease of setup	Very easy	Learning process
Handover	No	Yes
ISBN	Yes	No
Quality	Good	Excellent
Returns	No	Yes
Shipping	Excellent US / Okay int'l	Very good US / excellent int'l

This chart shows profits based on channels of distribution

Based on retail price of \$15	Profit if sold on Amazon	Profit if sold anywhere else
CreateSpace	4.45	1.45
Ingram Spark	4.20	4.20

Note: With CS, you have to allow a 60% discount for expanded distribution; with Spark you can set it to 40% or 55%

Summary of Pros and Cons

CreateSpace has the edge on: Ingram Spark has the edge on:

Price per unit, B&W	01	Price per unit, Color
Ease of use/Cust. Sv.	02	Discounts
Set-up cost/change fees	03	Distribution/Int'l Shipping
ISBNs	04	Product Selection
Domestic shipping	05	Quality

If you want to see all of the details and comparisons, click here.



Indie Author Decisions

The graphic to the left is taken from a writer's blog under the heading, "How-to for Authors". (Zoom in to read the fine print). The writer's name is [Giacomo Giammatteo](http://www.giacomogiammatteo.com). If you click on the graphic, you'll be taken to his site.

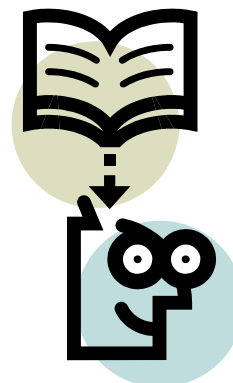
Before you scroll past this page, consider this. Your decision about who will publish your book could make the difference between whether you break even, or even make money from your writing or feel like you're spinning your wheels. Your decision may even decide the issue of whether a brick and mortar bookstore will stock your book for you or make any money from selling it.

Read a more in-depth discussion on this topic by following this link:

<http://www.selfpublishingadvice.org/watchdog-ingram-spark-vs-createspace-for-self-publishing-print-books/>

According to our intrepid President of Sierra Writers, Hock Tjoa, the current best practice recommendation is to use CreateSpace for Amazon (not the expanded services) and Ingram (LSI or Spark) for everywhere else.

Linda Horning,
Editor



Groups

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

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Fiction critique group

For information, contact Ron Cherry (530) 478-5616; romuluswolf@comcast.net
This group is actively seeking new members. Critique includes editing comments as well as structural and narrative suggestions. We hope you'll join us!

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Nonfiction critique group

Now meets regularly on the 3rd Friday of every month. For information, contact Jan Westmore (530) 265-0718; jwestmore@sbcglobal.net

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Lake Wildwood Writers Workshop

meets on the first Monday of each month at 2 p.m. in the Manzanita Room in the Recreation Center. Poetry, fiction, memoirs of about 500 words are read by the author (bring at least five copies for others) and discussed in a genteel fashion. Next meeting on October 5. Contact Hock at wlr2015@yahoo.com (special purpose address) if interested and need to be called into the gated community.

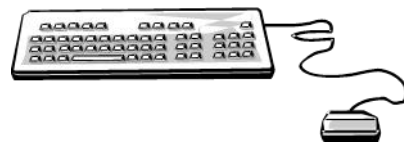


<https://www.facebook.com/sierrawriters>

Get involved with *Sierra Writers*

Sierra Writers Sierra Writers is looking for Board members and volunteers to help with publicity, programs, and a variety of other opportunities. The publicity position is a great way to strengthen your PR skills as well as to help our organization grow. All of our board and volunteer positions are rewarding and without a huge time commitment.

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 Babette Donaldson, babettedonaldson@sbcglobal.net



President, Hock Tjoa, hgtjoa@gmail.com

Treasurer, Marty Austin, homebookkeeper@yahoo.com

Membership Coordinator, Meredith Cherry, msmeredith-cherry@gmail.com

Webmaster, Babette Donaldson, babettedonaldson@sbcglobal.net

Programs, Open

Publicity, Amy Rutten, amy_rutten@yahoo.com

Young Writers Contest, Carmella Miller, sayitcanci@gmail.com

Room Setup, Andrea Davis

Mail Courier, Bev, Lyon

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>

Newsletter Staff

Please send all newsletter submissions to Linda Horning : hornings2@gmail.com

Spring Issue, Pub. - Apr 1st, Deadline - Mar 1st

Submission guidelines can be found at

IRENE GRAHAM

The Creative Writer's Workshop
The Memoir Writing Club

web: www.TheCreativeWritersWorkshop.com

web: www.TheMemoirWritingClub.com

office email: Office@TheCreativeWritersWorkshop.com



Write your Novel and Memoir in the West of Ireland this year!

with Book Writing Coach and Author Irene Graham

Sept 2016: Sun 4 to Thurs 15 – or part thereof

Inis Mór Island, Aran Islands, Galway and Doolin, next to the Cliffs of Moher, Ireland

In Sept 2016, Irene Graham, Founder of The Creative

Writer's Workshop is offering a Fiction, Autobiographical Fiction and Memoir Writing Workshop and Retreat over a two-week period in the West of Ireland.

Irene's retreats are renowned by international writers, not only for her innovative techniques that show you how to focus, develop, create and write your stories...but for weaving inspiration and creativity into your writing journey through walking ancient sites, exploring myth and legends and engaging in music and meaningful discussions. Gourmet food, luxurious private room accommodation and a memorable journey is assured.

If you want to write a publishable Novel and/or Memoir, this is the workshop to find out how. You will return home invigorated, with a deep understanding and knowledge of story, motivated to complete your book.

Using right-brain/left-brain learning techniques our aim is to trigger and deepen imaginative concepts, tap into life experiences, strengthen writing voice, shape characters, form setting, frame theme, create structure – and develop your story so that it's ready to hop off the page!

The workshop is open to new, emerging and established writers to:

- create a short story / memoir
- develop a novel / memoir
- work on a current manuscript

You receive feedback on your story throughout the workshop.

Participants have the choice of participating in either the Fiction or Memoir workshop, or both. Participant partners are also welcome to attend without partaking in the writing workshops.

Full details: www.TheCreativeWritersWorkshop.com

A writer of fiction is really...

a congenital liar who invents from his own knowledge or that of other men.

Ernest Hemingway



A novel, I think, is partly about the contemporary and partly about the eternal, and it's the balance of that that's difficult to achieve.

Salman Rushdie

Unless noted otherwise, all meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room 980 Helling Way, Nevada City at 6:30 PM

Upcoming Meetings -

Wednesday, January 13th: Alicia Vandervorst – Poet



Alicia Vandervorst has written poetry for over twenty years and studied with Patricia Donegan, Maxine Kumin, and Barbara Jordan, as well as with Arthur Sze at the Napa Valley Writers' Conference in 2012. Her poems have appeared in *The American Poetry Journal* (Number 10) and *Canary, A Literary Journal of the Environmental Crisis*. While studying literature at Scripps College, she completed two performance pieces: a poem in four voices, written while researching 'diaspora' as a junior fellow of the Scripps Humanities Institute, and a set of four dance chants for *Nucleus Expansion*, a collaborative project with Professors Ronnie Brosterman and Nobuho Nagasawa. Other major projects include a libretto, a group of poems to accompany the photographs of Daniel Crozet, and a long poem, *The Sea Bell Canticle*. In 2015, she completed a play, *Psyche*, that combines poetry and theater, meditation and mask-work. Her other current project is a series of children's stories, the *Zesta Rompolis Stories*, based on yogic philosophy, especially *The Heart of Self-Recognition* by Ksemaraja. She is the mother of two daughters who she home schools through Forest Charter School. (Enjoy one of Alicia's poems on our website at <http://sierrawriters.org/>)

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Wednesday, February 10th: Susan Rushton - How To Do Interviews on Radio and TV.



Writer, editor and teacher Susan Rushton calls herself a lifetime English major. Her opinion column has appeared in the Auburn Journal for 28 years, and in 2013 she published "Reflections from My Small Town," a collection of 105 of her favorites. She has also presented and promoted Silver Screen Classic Movies for 20 years. This free monthly series screens every first Saturday at the Auburn Library. In addition, for 15 years she has hosted two monthly interview shows on Auburn Community Television.

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Wednesday, March 9th: Open Read. Limited to ten readers and 1000 words per read

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Wednesday, April 13th: Speaker - LeeAnn Brook of Nevada City whose "Points of Inspiration: An Artist's Journey with Painting and Photography" was given a "starred" review in Publishers Weekly.

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Wednesday, May 11th: Speaker - Pat Miller - Writing Memoirs

(See a description of her classes on page 8).

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Wednesday, June 1st: Young Writers Competition - Winners are Announced.

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Sierra Writers Conference



GETTING TO THE POINT

LEARN. CREATE. WRITE.
JOIN US FOR THIS EDUCATIONAL
CONFERENCE FEATURING LOCAL
WRITERS, PUBLISHERS AND MORE.

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NEVADA COUNTY CAMPUS
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GRASS VALLEY, CA
For more information contact:
Lynette Vrooman
lvrooman@sierracollege.edu

January 23, 2016

REGISTRATION: \$8 students with ID, \$25 general admission
After January 13 late registrations (or at the door) \$10 students, \$40 general

SIERRA COLLEGE
www.sierracollege.edu/events

If you want to join our members-only Yahoo group, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierrawriters> and click on the button, "Join this Group."

Patricia Dove Miller's next series of Creative Writing Classes will begin in February 2016.

Bird-Song Writing Practice Group. Teaches basic "Writing Practice" (based on Natalie Goldberg's *Writing Down the Bones*), a cumulative series of short exercises. Quiet your inner critic, delve into your unconscious, go deeper into your writing, and increase your creativity. Helps you learn how to write, to improve your writing, or to overcome writers' block. Four-week class. For all levels of writers. Fee: \$50. Will be offered in February and March. Call or write for details and exact dates and times.

The Art and Craft of Creative Writing. Learn the specific craft techniques you need in order to begin writing or improve your writing. We'll do many inspiring exercises to generate material for your stories. Receive gentle optional feedback. For both beginning and intermediate writers. Six-week class, offered in the April and May. Please call or write for more details.

Joyous Expression: A Day of Meditation and Writing Practice. Mt. Stream Insight Center Daylong Retreat. Sunday, February 28, 930 am to 430 pm, at the Center in Nevada City. "Writing Practice" will be integrated with sitting meditation and walking meditation. Will be held mostly in gentle silence, except when reading our work or discussing writing issues. For all levels of writers and meditators. Limited to twenty writers. To register: www.mtstream.or

Advanced Critique Workshop. This ongoing class has one opening. By application only. Please call or write for details.

Private lessons. To meet your individual needs: coaching, editing, or manuscript consultation. Available any time.

Patricia Dove Miller

[530-265-5165](tel:530-265-5165) (home)

[619-300-1265](tel:619-300-1265) (cell)

pat@PatriciaDoveMiller.com

For an ongoing list of creative writing opportunities, consider joining the YahooGroups list CRWROPPS-B.



We're on the web.
www.sierrawriters.org