

SIERRA WRITERS
P.O.BOX 1595
GRASS VALLEY, CA
95945



Winter 2014

Special features:

* Dues Notice

* Volunteers Needed

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January 2014

President's Message

Happy Writing Year!

Our group continues to grow and expand its horizons in the local community and beyond. One of our goals, that the Board regularly revisits, is how to meet the most needs of the most writers within the organization and of those who visit our meetings each month.

January's meeting on the 8th will welcome Brian Hamilton from *The Union* to discuss journalistic writing, and specifically writing for our local newspaper. If you have questions for him, please get them to Publicity Coordinator Shirley DicKard right way, sdickard@gotsky.com and she will forward them on.

In 2013, we started the year with website-building particularly aimed at writers, and that meeting was one of the best attended all year. Babette Donaldson and I will repeat that opportunity in **February**, helping writers develop **website and blogging tools** to promote their writing.

March 13 is another opportunity to share your writing with others at our twice-yearly **Open Read!** Bring two pages of your writing, double-spaced—fiction (short story, novel excerpt), nonfiction, poetry—for group critique. Leave off your name, but identify the genre and whether it is beginning, middle, or end, or the entire piece.

Our **April meeting** will examine **how to get an agent**—and what to do when/if you get one! We're looking at a panel discussion for this topic, so if you are familiar with agents in the area who might be willing to share information, please contact me at s_gabrielle@sbcglobal.net.

Since we have had limited response over the past couple of years for our Young Writers' Contest, we are suspending this activity for the moment. If you are interested in trying to promote the contest, reaching out to schools in our area, please let me know. The Board has toyed with the idea of offering a fiction contest for all ages (not limiting it to high school students), with the possibility of a related anthology, but since it requires quite a bit of organization, and no one has stepped up to head such a move, this, too, is on hold for now.

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Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.

~ Ben Franklin

“Since we have had limited response over the past couple of years for our Young Writers’ Contest, we are suspending this activity for the moment. ...

Instead, **May’s meeting** will be dedicated to **Magazine Writing**.

Happiness is not achieved by the conscious pursuit of happiness; it is generally the by-product of other activities.

~ Aldous Huxley

President’s Message

Instead, **May’s meeting** will be dedicated to **Magazine Writing**. In **June**, we will have a panel discussion regarding **self-promotion** of your writing.

The upcoming year will see a few changes at Sierra Writers, and the organization needs *your help*, as we are a member-run group. **Joanne Brown** had done an excellent job as Membership Coordinator, but has asked to step aside to focus on her own work. We value the organization and time she has put into the position. If you’d like to contact her to find out the duties and time commitment, e-mail jobrown5273@sbcglobal.net.

Susan Mone, our Newsletter Editor, has also asked to step down from this position. She has worked many hours making our newsletter both a beautiful, and useful, means of communication. She can be reached at susie3@wordmagick.com, and would be happy to train her successor.

If you can take on one of these positions, it would be appreciated, or if you’d like to share it with one or two others, alternate months, split duties—any of those ideas is welcomed.

Thanks, also, to our remaining board members: Marty Austin as our extra-special Treasurer; Jan Fishler as our Program Coordinator, and Shirley Dickard as our Publicity Coordinator. Babette Donaldson carries on quietly behind the scenes as our Webmaster.

I look forward to another year of writing and working with fellow members to provide a “writing home” for local writers. I hope you do, too.

All best in the New Year,

Susan Gabrielle
s_gabrielle@sbcglobal.net

Dues Notice

Annual dues for membership in Sierra Writers for the 2013-2014 year are now delinquent. The club’s updated directory will be distributed late January. If you wish to renew your membership and be included in the directory, your \$25 check, payable to Sierra Writers, must be received no later than January 15th. Checks should be mailed to Sierra Writers, PO Box 1595, Grass Valley, CA 95945-1595. Questions? Contact Joanne Brown at jobrown5273@sbcglobal.net.

Support the Newsletter

Consider submitting **your** writing for the quarterly Newsletter. Perhaps you attended a notable workshop or class and it helped your writing blossom. Maybe some feedback on your own writing will help other writers. Or maybe you've always wanted to have a regular quarterly column offering tips from your favorite writers.

Submissions do **not** have to be long. Small "sidebars," tips, publication notes, or snippets from your current work-in-progress are always considered.

Is there a Newsletter to which you subscribe that you eagerly await each month? Sierra Writers would like its Newsletter to be of benefit to the members, opened each quarter with the understanding that it will contain information valuable in the writing journey. Will you help?



Looking for newsletter volunteers

The year has brought many changes, among which are two new grandchildren in our lives and several new projects requiring my attention. I have enjoyed working on this project and it is with mixed emotions I made the decision to relinquish my position as newsletter editor.

I will be happy to donate some time to anyone willing to take it over. Along with a few hours each quarter, you need some basic computer skills, the Microsoft Publisher program and a working knowledge of it. The tasks are cut-and-paste for the most part. I have created templates for each issue with a few graphics that can be switched out when desired. If you are interested in this position, please contact me at susie3@wordmagick.com

Susan Mone

Groups

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

Poetry Critique Group

Contact Susan Gabrielle

s_gabrielle@sbcglobal.net

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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

For information, contact Jan Westmore (530)

265-0718; jwestmore@sbcglobal.net

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Nonfiction etc. critique group

For information contact Tracy Deliman at

tracy@tealhouse.net or (510) 725-5454.

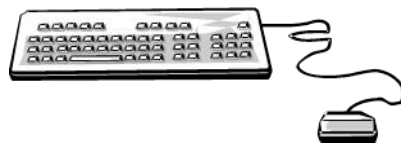
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If you want help starting a critique group, or want to be in touch with members with similar genres, information may be found at: <http://sierrawriters.org/events/critique-groups/starting-a-critique-group>

Get involved with *Sierra Writers*

Sierra Writers Sierra Writers in looking for Board members and volunteers to help with publicity, programs, and a variety of other opportunities. The publicity position is a great well 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



Our Board

President, Susan Gabrielle, s_gabrielle@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer, Marty Austin, homebookkeeper@yahoo.com

Membership Coordinator, Joanne Brown,

jobrown5273@sbcglobal.net

Publicity, Shirley DickKard, sdickard@gotsky.com

Webmaster, Babette Donaldson,

babettedonaldson@sbcglobal.net

Program Coordinator, Jan Fishler, janfishler@gmail.com

Young Writers Contest, Open

Newsletter Staff

Please send all newsletter submissions to Susan Mone, susie3@wordmagick.com

Susan Mone, susie3@wordmagick.com

Susan Gabrielle, s_gabrielle@sbcglobal.net

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

Submission guidelines can be found at www.sierrawriters.org

Everyone has a talent, what is rare is the courage to follow the talent to the dark place where it leads.—

Erica Jong, American Author

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.

CALENDAR

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

Upcoming Meetings -

Wednesday, January 8th: Brian Hamilton from *The Union* to discuss journalistic writing, and specifically writing for our local newspaper.

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Wednesday, February 12th: Babette Donaldson & Susan Gabrielle - helping writers develop website and blogging tools to promote their writing.

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Wednesday, March 13th: Open Read

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*If you have ideas for events you'd like to see sponsored by Sierra Writers, please contact s_gabrielle@sbcglobal.net

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*Any healthy man can go
without food for two days
- but not without poetry.*
~ Charles Baudelaire

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

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."

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5) Emailing the updated directory to all members in late January each year.

6) Attending infrequent Board meetings. (There have only been two in the three years I've been involved with Sierra Writers.)

In addition, I have taken it upon myself to act as unofficial greeter at meetings and to send out brief emails with highlights of the meetings as well as the names of new members. It has been my hope these actions will encourage greater attendance at meetings, but the new Chair will be free to decide whether or not to continue them.

I will proceed as Membership Chair until the 2014 directory has been completed and distributed. Please let me know if you have any interest in this position. If so, I'd be happy to sit down and walk you through the process and to continue as a resource as needed beyond that point.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joanne Brown
(530) 470-0241
jobrown5273@sbcglobal.net

