

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



# Fall 2015

## Special features:

- \* Young Writers Competition is Back!
- \* Jan Collins Speaks In Auburn
- \* Dues Notice
- \* NaNoWriMo

## Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Young Writer's Competition	2
NaNoWriMo	3
About Our Members	4
About Our Members	5
Resources Board Contacts	6
Calendar/Meetings	7
Community Events/Announcements	8

October 2013

## President's Message

Dear Fellow writers,

At a very animated and energizing meeting in August of those interested in keeping the organisation going, I agreed to serve as president for at least one year. My ulterior motive is the desire to restart the Young Writers Competition/Program.

Babette agreed to overhaul our web-site in 2015.

Meredith Cherry agreed to consult with Nicole regarding the duties of the Membership Coordinator. We agreed that publicity regarding classes or any other literary event may be included in the regular Newsletter (quarterly) or meeting reminders (monthly) provided that such publicity does not require editing or any further "work" for SW. The September meeting on the 9th at 6.30 p.m. will consist of an open read. In fact it has already happened and was chock-full of good stuff.

Our October meeting will feature Mark Wiederanders, author of STEVENSON'S TREASURE a fictional but carefully researched story on Robert Louis Stevenson.

We urgently need someone to do program coordination!

Future meetings we're working to schedule:

- panel on writing tools (Scrivener, etc.)
- speaker on radio interviews (for writers)
- speaker on presenting to bookstores (for readings, etc.)
- working session on video readings, to include videos

(cont. on page 2)



**November 1-30 is National Novel Writing Month**, better known as NaNoWriMo. Check out the website at <http://nanowrimo.org/> where you can:

- Write a novel in a month!
- Track your progress.
- Get pep talks and support.
- Meet fellow writers online and in person.



### Writing Tools

Who out there has experience with Scrivener or any other book-writing software? Here's a link to a discussion in Goodreads on the subject: <https://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/1127109> Would you be willing to write a piece for the newsletter that would include your personal review? How about demonstrating the use of your favorite software at one of our meetings?

### Editing Your Book

Tried and true editing rules from Amazon/Create Space that keep readers focused on the book:

1. Most books undergo at least four rounds of editing. Two editors focus on the plot/main objective, and two correct spelling and punctuation errors.
2. Most books are edited according to *The Chicago Manual of Style* for style and organization.
3. Editing doesn't mean losing control of your work. With independent publishing, you decide which edits stay or go.



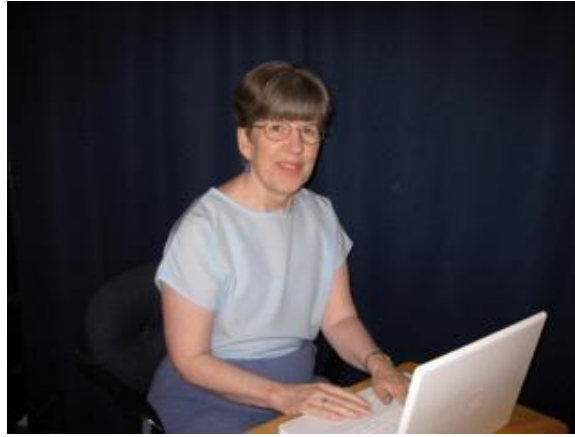
### Dues Notice

Sierra Writers will begin a new year on September 1st. Remember to renew your membership by mailing a \$25 check, payable to "Sierra Writers." The address is: Sierra Writers, P.O. Box 1595, Grass Valley, CA 95945. Membership makes you eligible to participate in critique groups, insures you will receive the quarterly newsletter, and maintains your contact information in the annual directory. You won't want to miss out on the monthly meetings, a friendly venue providing peer support and enriching speakers. Links on our every-expanding website are a great way to attract new followers to your writing endeavors. *Sierra Writers* sponsors an annual young writers contest for area students and supports the Nevada County library. What a terrific organization. Renew your membership today, you'll have one less thing to do tomorrow!

## Member Speaks in Auburn

On Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> Sierra Writers member **Janet Ann Collins** gave a cooperative presentation at a meeting of Gold Country Writers in Auburn. She and Rev. Dr. Betsy Schwarzentraub of Garden Valley, CA, spoke about Writing for Religious Markets.

While Collins is an experienced public speaker, she had never done a cooperative presentation before, so she was a little nervous about this. The two speakers got together in Auburn a few weeks before their talk and agreed on how they would alternate speaking and what each of them would cover. Although both of them are Christians, they agreed to include other religions as



well so the program would appeal to more people.

The meeting was attended by about twenty people and it went well. Many of the attendees said they found the presentation helpful.

Collins also shared information about Sierra Writers and the October 14<sup>th</sup> presentation by Mark Weideranders and hopes some members of the Gold Country Writers will attend that event.

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**The Gold Country Writers meet at the General Gomez Center (formerly Placer Arts Building) at 808 Lincoln Way in Old Town Auburn every Wednesday at 10:00 A.M.** The first Wednesday is a business meeting, the second and fourth weeks are drop in critique meetings, and on other weeks they have speakers or special events. For more information go to [www.goldcountrywriters.com](http://www.goldcountrywriters.com).

They would be open to cooperating with our group.



*Janet Ann Collins had a book signing at the Gold Country Fair in Auburn on September 12 and spoke at FairyTale Town in Sacramento on September 26. She will write articles for the Union's monthly Religion page about members of several churches and religious groups. If readers like those articles she'll be able to continue writing them.*

*Janet belongs to a critique group of people who write for kids. While not a Sierra Writers group, all participants are members of Sierra Writers. It is currently open to a few new members. Contact her at [jan@janetanncollins.com](mailto:jan@janetanncollins.com)*



## Resources

**Dave Henderson** encountered Professional Cover Designer, Tamian Wood through a LinkedIn online "cover clinic," and found her to be helpful and talented.

[designer.tamian@gmail.com](mailto:designer.tamian@gmail.com)

[www.BeyondDesignInternational.com](http://www.BeyondDesignInternational.com)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:jwestmore@sbcglobal.net)

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### **Lake Wildwood Writers Workshop**

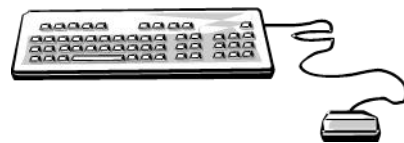
meets on the first Monday of each month at 2 p.m. in the Manzanita Room in the Recreation Center. Poetry, fiction, memoirs of about 500 words are read by the author (bring at least five copies for others) and discussed in a genteel fashion. Next meeting on October 5. Contact Hock at [wlr2015@yahoo.com](mailto:wlr2015@yahoo.com)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

## 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](mailto:babettedonaldson@sbcglobal.net)



## Our Board

President, Hock Tjoa, [hgtjoa@gmail.com](mailto:hgtjoa@gmail.com)

Treasurer, Marty Austin, [homebookkeeper@yahoo.com](mailto:homebookkeeper@yahoo.com)

Membership Coordinator, Meredith Cherry, [msmeredith-cherry@gmail.com](mailto:msmeredith-cherry@gmail.com)

Webmaster, Babette Donaldson,

[babettedonaldson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:babettedonaldson@sbcglobal.net)

Programs and Publicity, Open

Young Writers Contest, Hock Tjoa

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](mailto:hornings2@gmail.com)

**Winter Issue, Pub. Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, Deadline – Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>**

Submission guidelines can be found at [www.sierrawriters.org](http://www.sierrawriters.org) Please be advised, submissions are included "as is" and will not be edited.



"Writing is an extreme privilege but it's also a gift. It's a gift to yourself and it's a gift of giving a story to someone." - Amy Tan.

We're on the web.  
[www.sierrawriters.org](http://www.sierrawriters.org)

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 Hock Tjoa,

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



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Details on each event are listed on our website at [www.sierrawriters.org](http://www.sierrawriters.org)

**Yuba Lit**, a new community reading series, will hold its second reading at 7 p.m. on Thursday November 19th at The Open Book, 271 Maltman Dr., Grass Valley. The three featured readers will be Sierra Writers member Amy Rutten, acclaimed novelist and Squaw Valley Community of Writers fiction co-director Louis B. Jones, and a special guest reader from San Francisco soon to be confirmed. The audience is invited to bring work for the opening round of "flash readings," in which five audience members will be chosen by lottery to read for three minutes each. The \$5 cover benefits the Bear Yuba Land Trust. Yuba Lit is produced by Nevada City writer Rachel Howard. More info at [www.yubalit.org](http://www.yubalit.org).

**YUBA LIT**  
A New Community Reading Series

Three readers + audience flash-reading

San Francisco's **Joshua Mohr** is the author of five novels, including *All This Life*, which follows the on-line media frenzy sparked by a shocking event on the Golden Gate Bridge. *Publisher's Weekly* described *All This Life* as "heartrending and humorous."

Nevada City's own treasure **Molly Fisk** is the author of three acclaimed poetry collections and two volumes of radio commentaries, most recently *Using Your Turn Signal Promotes World Peace: More Observations from a Working Poet*.

Auburn resident **Christian Kiefer**'s second novel, *The Arroyo*, about the manager of a wildlife sanctuary in rural Idaho, has been hailed as "mesmerizing... a compelling, thoughtful novel."

**Thursday  
September 24<sup>th</sup>  
7 PM**

**The Open Book  
(formerly Tomes)  
671 Maltman Dr.  
Grass Valley**

\$5 cover benefits the Bear Yuba Land Trust  
More info: [www.yubalit.org](http://www.yubalit.org)

### Upcoming submission opportunities

#### Parents' Resource Guide

One of our members, Loydyne Lane, helps publish the *Parents' Resource Guide*, and they are actively seeking writers.

Find them on the web at <http://sierrasourcemedia.com/wordpress/>



Sierra Writers has received word that Tate Publishing & Enterprises, LLC., of Mustang, OK is currently under investigation by the Oklahoma Attorney General. Any writer working with this publisher who notices accounting discrepancies or other issues can contact Agent Liz Fullbright, Phone [405-522-2801](tel:405-522-2801).