

Sierra Writers

P.O. BOX 1595 GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945

KUDOS TO YOUNG WRITERS

KUDOS to all the Young Writers who entered *Sierra Writers* Young Writers Contest

Sierra Writers awarded five winners in its 11th Annual short story contest for young writers on Wednesday, May 11. These five read their winning entries aloud to friends and family and Sierra Writers members.

First, second, and third place included cash prizes of \$150, \$125, and \$100 respectively along with gift certificates from The Book Seller. Honorable mentions received \$75 each. All received palpable encouragement, a core reason why Sierra Writers sponsors this contest.

Deciding who would win the top prize and who would turn up second was an especially close call for the four judges. In "Mother," Kali Hardwick (age 17) captured decades of loving appreciation by mixing a tornado, an orchard, and memories of mom. She edged out Timothy Martinez (15). His "Legacy" wrapped some serious finger wagging around young warrior surviving in the bleakness of a not-too-distant future. John Alkire (15), not lacking serious substance, injected fun into his third place "Arnold the Angry Aardvark." Alison Dowd won for "Army Greens" and Monica Marsh won for "Was It Worth It." Both 18 years old, they seemed pleased and honored with honorable mentions (and the cash). Sierra Writers and all gathered at the Madelyn Helling Library were pleased and honored to share the awards session.

JUNE 2011

WWW.SIERRAWRITERS.ORG

In this issue:

Young Writers Award	1
Members Corner	2
Calendar of Events	3
Community Events/ Announcements	4-5



OUR BOARD MEMBERS

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

No newsletter for July & August

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.

Without words, without writing and without books there would be no history, there could be no concept of humanity.
~ **Hermann Hesse**

Finding a good title can be the hardest part of writing. Here is a fun website that will score the potential success of your title: Lulu

<http://www.lulu.com/titlescorer/index.php>

For an interesting article on the changing times of punctuation, visit:

[Logical punctuation: Should we start placing commas outside quotation marks?](#) www.slate.com

Do you know someone who would like more information or to join *Sierra Writers*? Our website provides information about our organization and a membership form.
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

Kim Culbertson's second book, *Instructions for a Broken Heart* was released on May 1st. In one week, *Instructions for a Broken Heart* outsold Kim's first book, *Songs for a Teenage Nomad*

Claudine Chalmers thought members might be interested in the 17th annual Women Writing the West Conference in Lynnwood, WA October 14-16. For more information, visit www.womenwritingthewest.org

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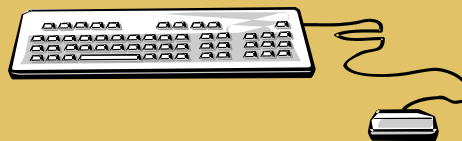
Do you write kid's lit? Middle grade and YA authors with an interest in forming a new critique group please contact Joanne Brown at jobrown5273@sbcglobal.net or (530) 470-0241.

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Members have asked for a poetry critique group, but no one responded to our previous announcement. If there is still some interest in this, we can try to get this going. If you want help starting a critique group, or want to be in touch with members with similar genres, contact lucindaporter@yahoo.com

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



Critique groups are open to current members of Sierra Writers. For information about the **fiction** critique group, contact **Ron Cherry** (530) 478-5616; romuluswolf@comcast.net

For information about the **nonfiction** critique group, contact **Jan Westmore** (530) 265-0718; jwestmore@sbcglobal.net

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

SIERRA WRITERS CALENDAR

MEETINGS

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

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Our Next Meeting

June: Wednesday, June 8, 2011 6:30 PM

Pamela Johnson, author of *Heart of a Pirate*, a fictional story of 18th century Anne Bonny.

Title TBA

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July/August: No meetings or newsletters

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August 15 Deadline for September 2011 newsletter submissions

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September 1 - Annual membership renewal

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September 14

Stay Tuned...

Wednesday, September 14, 2011 6:30 PM

Madelyn Helling Library Community Room
980 Helling Way, Nevada City

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

The Center for the Arts presents *In Your Own Words* – Teen Summer Writing Workshop

June 20 – 24
9:30AM to 12:30PM
\$150 per student

Do you have a story to tell, a poem to write, a play itching to come out? Or do you just love playing with words? Are you curious what you might say if you had a chance? Do you want a chance to discover more fully your innate creativity?

Using fun, inspiring, intriguing writing ideas each day as jumping off points, each morning we'll write together for several 20 minute periods. In between we'll have the option to share our work and receive positive feedback to bring forth our strengths, help us cultivate our unique voices and say what we want to say. Together we'll create a supportive and stimulating group that invites remarkable, authentic, creative writing to happen.

We'll play with some aspects of the craft of writing in the context of imaginative exercises and in learning to hone in on what makes each other's writing memorable. This format has a magical way of drawing forth the writer within, no matter what form or style your writing wants to take and no matter what amount of experience you have with writing. And it's fun.

Maxima Kahn is a writer of poetry, fiction and essays. She teaches workshops on poetry and the creative process privately, and has taught at the University of California, Davis Extension. Her poetry has appeared in *Eclipse*, *Meridian Anthology of Contemporary Poetry*, *Hardpan*, *Poem*, *Borderlands*, *Left Curve*, *Eureka Literary Magazine*, and elsewhere. She is also a violinist, a composer and a dancer.

<http://thecenterforthearts.org/in-your-own-words>

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The Center for the Arts presents *Scene Alive!* – Teen Summer Writing Workshop

June 27 – July 1
9:30AM to 12:30PM
\$150 per student

Every story is a series of scenes. One scene builds upon another until you have a story. Learn how to enrich your scenes with detail, essential information, actions, objects, conflict, characters' desires, an emotional center, and more! Come join us for a creative, interactive, and supportive experience where you'll write the scenes that build your story!

Ann Keeling is an editor, personal writing coach, and teacher of fiction and non-fiction writing. She has taught at Ghidotti Early College High School as well as last year's Center for the Arts Teen Writing Camp. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Goddard College and specializes in helping writers discover the essential aspects of their writing.

<http://thecenterforthearts.org/scene-alive/>

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Women's Writing Retreat Weekend at Lake Tahoe

Jennifer Basye Sander, co-author, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Getting Published*, founder, Write By The Lake, A Writers' and Publishers' Retreat.

June 3-5

For more information, contact basyesander@yahoo.com or call 916-847-9090

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Moonsong Workshop with Patricia Dove Miller

A Half-Day of Writing and Meditation

Join us for a monthly series of meditative workshops. Come to one or many. Learn how to integrate "writing practice" with sitting and walking meditation. Meditation can release creativity and help us discover our authentic voice to reach the core of our writing. This workshop will be held mostly in gentle silence, except when reading our work or discussing writing issues. For both beginning and experienced writers and meditators. All types of meditation are welcome.

Saturday, June 11, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For more information or to register for classes,

contact Patricia Dove Miller, dovepat@oro.net, 530-265-5165

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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

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

Note: There is no newsletter in July and August.

Deadline for September newsletter is August 15, 2011