

Sierra Writers

P.O. BOX 1595 GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It's New Years for Sierra Writers and the launch of a whole new season of speakers, events and opportunities.

Our board members met in July for a planning session and annual leadership review. This is a time when we look at how we can best serve our members, evaluating what we have done well in the past year and where we can improve. This newest version of the newsletter and a diverse speaker lineup are two things of which we are all very proud. At the same time, we accepted a challenge to improve communications to members. We are now looking for more ways to increase our leadership process and become more inclusive, especially to newcomers.

Each year we like to bring new members onto or board, opening some of the positions while keeping a core group of experienced leaders through a transition period. This year we have agreed to begin the year with our same line-up as we seek new people to fill new positions in January. This will allow a few months of overlap. So, you will be seeing some changes in January. And you can be part of this. There will be several new openings. One of these is President. I will be stepping down at the end of this year and am now looking for a replacement. Please don't be shy about expressing your desire to fill this or any other position. We have openings that may be perfect for you. And many of these can both build your professional resume and help you develop the skills that will be vital to you in your writing career.

If you would like to become more involved in Sierra Writers PLEASE contact me.
babettedonaldson@sbcglobal.net.

See you in September! Babette

SEPTEMBER 2011

In this issue:

From Our President	1
Members Corner	2
Calendar of Events	3
Community Events/	4-5

WWW.SIERRAWRITERS.ORG



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.

“Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill. They are engines of change, windows on the world, lighthouses erected in the sea of time.” ~ Barbara W. Tuchman

“Writing a book is an adventure. To begin with, it is a toy and an amusement; then it becomes a mistress, and then it becomes a master, and then a tyrant. The last phase is that just as you are about to be reconciled to your servitude, you kill the monster, and fling him out to the public.” **Winston Churchill**

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 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

Claudine Chalmers received France's *Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters*. She was honored in June at a reception at the Consul General of France's residence in San Francisco. Claudine is a long-time member of *Sierra Writers*, currently serving as the Program Chair on the Board. She is currently researching Nevada County's French Pioneers in the 19th century. If anyone has info on this subject, please email it to ClaudeCameron@Yahoo.com.

Congratulations Claudine!

New Critique Groups Note: Critique groups are only open to members of *Sierra Writers*

Screenwriters Group: Are you interested in a screenwriting? If so, please contact David Ward at dwmusicstaff@gmail.com

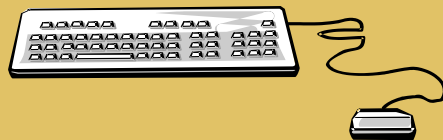
Children's Literature: Do you write kid's lit? Middle grade and YA authors with an interest in forming a new critique group please contact Joanne Brown at jobrown5273@sbcglobal.net or (530) 470-0241

Poetry: Members have asked for a poetry critique group, but have not responded to our previous announcement. If there is still some interest in this, we can try to get this going. If you are interested in this, contact lucindaporter@yahoo.com

Marketing Support Group: This group will begin this fall. This will be a closed group, the length and details, which will be decided on by the group. If you are interested in this, 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



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

Dues Reminder

It is time to renew your *Sierra Writers* membership. Please send a \$25 check to *Sierra Writers*, PO Box 1595, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

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

The June *Sierra Writers* meeting featured Pamela Johnson who talked about marketing fiction. Johnson is the author of *Heart of a Pirate*, a fictional story of 18th century Anne Bonny. The meeting was well-attended and a perfect end to our year before the summer break.

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Our Next Meeting

September 14 Wednesday, 6:30PM

Diane Covington ~ Passion Sells Stories; Secrets to Selling to Magazines

Diane Covington has traveled to far corners of the globe and then written about it for print, the web and radio. She'll be discussing how to successfully sell to magazines and also some secrets of becoming a travel writer. Her story, 'Finding Gilbert' which appeared in Reader's Digest in June 2009, was included in the anthology 'Best Women's Travel Writing 2011' which is available from Amazon.

Award winning writer and photographer Diane Covington lives in Nevada City when she is not exploring the globe for new adventures. Covington teaches creative writing at her organic apple farm and is currently writing a memoir.

www.dianecovington.com

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October – TBA

Wednesday, October 12 6:30PM

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November – Open Read

Wednesday, November 9, 6:30PM

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December — Annual Holiday Party

Date and Location TBA

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

Autumn 2011 Women's Writing Salon

What: The Autumn 2011 Women's Writing Salon, a free community event celebrating local women writers. A delicious tasting platter of poetry and prose. Come early (the room does fill up) to get your beverage and nibbles from our hosting barista and settle in to enjoy. Reading starts at 4. Men are enthusiastically welcomed.

When: Saturday, September 24th from 4-6pm

Where: Sierra Mountain Coffee Roasters/Tomes — Located at 11671 Maltman Drive, Grass Valley 530-477-5282

Who: The featured readers for this Salon are:

Wylene Dunbar, Kelly Cunningham, Betsy Graziani Fasbinder, Ann Keniston, Julie Valin, and Alicia Vandevorst

WHY: When is the last time someone read you a story? Or a poem? Gather with other word lovers, sit back, take a sip, and enjoy a worry-free afternoon that will excite your senses, stretch your heart, and tickle your funny bone.

For more information on the Salon contact Betsy at bgf2u@sbcglobal.net or Pat at dovepat@oro.net

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Patricia Dove Miller will be teaching two creative writing classes this fall at her writing studio in Nevada City.

- 1) A Writing Practice Group (based on Natalie Goldberg's book *Writing Down the Bones*) which is a cumulative series of short easy exercises, that helps you quiet your inner critic, delve into your unconscious, and go deeper into your writing.
- 2) A Creative Writing Workshop which helps you begin your story or work on a draft-in-progress. Learn specific craft techniques to improve your writing and how to give and receive gentle feedback. For all genres: memoir, travel writing, fiction, creative nonfiction, short story.

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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Wildwood Literary Review

Did you know that there are other writers' groups in Nevada County? Mike Lambert of the Wildwood Literary Review approached *Sierra Writers*, testing the waters for possible collaborations. He extended an invitation that we couldn't refuse, by offering to publish the winners of our Young Writers contest in their online Literary Review. For more information about their club and online publication, visit their web site at: http://www.lakewildwood.net/item_list.asp?subcat=317&subtitle=Literary+Review

Hope to see members from Wildwood at our meetings.

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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

Deadline for October newsletter is September 15, 2011