

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Contact:**  
Brett Hall Jones, Executive Director  
(530) 470-8440  
brett@squawvalleywriters.org  
www.squawvalleywriters.org

## **The Community of Writers at Squaw Valley Announces its 43rd Annual Summer Workshops**

Every summer writers of all stripes—poets, novelists, screenwriters and writers of memoirs, histories, essays and short stories—descend on Squaw Valley, California, for a week of intensive literary activity. The valley, normally active in the winter as a ski resort, buzzes with metaphors flying and manuscripts flapping, as over 250 writers, editors and publishers convene in two separate weeklong workshops. The Community of Writers at Squaw Valley, a non-profit organization, has just announced that the workshops will happen once again for their 43<sup>rd</sup> summer, with the Poetry Workshop meeting June 23-30 and the Writers Workshop (for both fiction and non-fiction) and the Screenwriters Workshop both meeting July 7-14. Applications are being accepted now and are due by April 2.

The oldest writers conference in the Western United States, the Community of Writers at Squaw Valley was founded in 1969, a time when the Sewanee and Breadloaf writers conferences – in Tennessee and Vermont, respectively – were the principal venues for young writers seeking instruction and fellowship. The writers workshops in Squaw Valley are now among the most prestigious in the country. Alumni of the Community of Writers include Pulitzer Prize-winners Michael Chabon, Jennifer Egan and Richard Ford, bestselling novelists such as Anne Rice, Janet Fitch, Alice Sebold, and Amy Tan, and many others of today's well-known literary artists. The staff, which includes some regulars and some newcomers each year, features renowned authors, editors and agents. This year's lineup includes fiction writers Ron Carlson, Mark Childress, Glen David Gold, agents Michael Carlisle and B.J. Robbins, screenwriters Tom Rickman and Pamela Gray, and poets Robert Hass and Sharon Olds, to name only a few. A full list of the staff for the 2012 workshop may be found online at [www.squawvalleywriters.org](http://www.squawvalleywriters.org).

The weeklong workshops differ in focus and approach but include intensive writing workshops, individual conferences, lectures, panels, readings, and discussions of the craft and the business of writing, with the goal of assisting writers to improve their craft and thus move them closer to publication.

Squaw Valley, near Lake Tahoe, was the site of the 1960 Olympic Games – today a world-class ski area – and in the summers it serves as a destination resort for hikers, bicyclists, and outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds. The participants in the Community of Writers live together in ski-cabin

housing and condos during the weeks of conferences, which fosters the formation of close friendships and working partnerships. The participants convene for workshops in public buildings under the aegis of the Squaw Valley USA ski corporation.

All interested writers and poets are encouraged to apply. No prior publications or academic credits are required; the only criterion for admission is that the applicant submit a sample of his or her original writing, which is evaluated by a panel of judges on the basis of literary merit only. Admissions are competitive, as the ratio of applicants to acceptances is an average of 3-to-1. Some financial aid is available.

For information, visit <http://www.squawvalleywriters.org>.

For brief biographies of the staff writers, as well as high-resolution photographs of the staff and poets, the scenery in Squaw Valley, and the workshops, please visit the individual pages for each workshop and <http://www.squawvalleywriters.org/images.html>.

For any questions, please contact Brett Hall Jones, Executive Director:  
<mailto:brett@squawvalleywriters.org> or call 530-470-8440.

**Who:** The Community of Writers at Squaw Valley

**What:** Summer Workshops for Writers

**When:**

POETRY WORKSHOP: June 23-30, 2012

WRITERS WORKSHOPS: July 7-14, 2012

SCREENWRITING WORKSHOP: July 7-14, 2012

Application deadline: April 2 for all workshops.

**Where:** Squaw Valley, California

**How:** Applications accepted until April 2. Details on the workshops including costs and application guidelines can be found at [www.squawvalleywriters.org](http://www.squawvalleywriters.org).