

RETURNING POET LOTTERY PROCEDURES:

Dear Squaw Valley Poets,

Our great good luck through the years in supporting poets and poetry has led to a much-needed change in our returning poet lottery policy for returning poets. As you know, this Poetry program depends on its small size and the additions of new voices every year. In the past, poets were asked sit out one session before entering the lottery. And, if their name wasn't selected in the lottery, admittance was guaranteed the following year. This policy worked out well for years and years, but is no longer sustainable. In 2013, we had a total of 46 poets enter the lottery: a jump of 100% from the previous year. In 2014, we were forced to close the lottery down early to avoid an even higher number.

For these reasons, we need a new policy to preserve the size, spirit, and integrity of the program. If you would like to attend the workshops again, we are delighted and encourage you to do so, however we are instigating these new procedures:

- (1) Please wait out two sessions before reapplying
- (2) We can no longer guarantee entry the following year to those who entered but were not selected.
- (3) Each year will begin a new lottery; however, if you enter the lottery and are not selected two years in a row, you are guaranteed admittance the third consecutive year entered.

The important thing about the community is that it is a community. We know that the friendships that are begun in the program, and the workshops and reading groups formed out of these friendships, are a very important part of the ethos of Squaw Valley, so we hope we can make an every-third-year system work, and that you bear with us while we try it out.

If you would like to enter the lottery for summer 2015, please send in your deposit of \$625 by the April 2 deadline. If you are not selected, your check will be shredded or returned to you. If you are selected, these funds will go toward the \$1025 tuition this summer and will reduce the amount due by that amount.

Thanks so much for your understanding and patience as we out these new rules into practice. We hate to turn anyone away, but circumstances are forcing our hand.

Sincerely,

Brett Hall Jones
Squaw Valley Community of Writers

Send your deposit and contact information to:
Returning Poet Lottery
Squaw Valley Community of Writers
PO Box 1416
Nevada City, CA 95959