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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Please publish ASAP.

The Community of Writers at Squaw Valley Announces its Annual Summer Workshops

Poetry Workshop: June 22 – 29, 2019

<https://communityofwriters.org/workshops/poetry-workshop/>

Writers Workshops: July 8 – 15, 2019

<https://communityofwriters.org/workshops/writers-workshops/>

The Community of Writers at Squaw Valley, one of the oldest and most prestigious writers workshops in the country, has opened enrollment for its 2019 summer writing workshops in Squaw Valley. The gatherings are for serious poets and writers, and include workshops, panel discussions, and craft talks as well as special interest classes. Founded almost five decades ago, it is now a community to many of the most eminent American writers and poets.

The Poetry Workshop will be held June 22 – 29, 2019. The program admits 70 serious poets into the week-long program. Guest directed this year by Griffin Poetry Prize-winning poet Brenda Hillman, this program fosters poets as they produce new work each day. Robert Hass, who usually directs the program, will instead serve as special guest. Participating poets meet daily in session to share poems written during the previous 24 hours. Poets attend daily craft talks by the

teaching staff poets, and meet in brief one-on-one sessions with staff poets. The week culminates in a public poetry reading, featuring the staff poets reading their recent work—sometimes poems written during the previous week.

This year three of the visiting poets, Robert Hass, Gregory Pardlo, and Sharon Olds, have been awarded the Pulitzer prize. Additional staff for 2019 includes long-time staff members Forrest Gander and Brenda Hillman, as well as David Tomas Martinez and Jane Miller--both of whom will be teaching at the workshops for the first time.

The Writers Workshop will take place July 8 – 15, 2019, and accepts up to 120 fiction, nonfiction, and memoir writers. Writers meet in small workshop groups to discuss their submitted manuscript with a member of the teaching staff. The 2019 teaching staff includes esteemed fiction and nonfiction writers as well as prominent New York literary agents and editors working in publishing today. Lectures and panel discussions on the craft of writing, as well as publishing, are offered daily, in addition to staff readings.

Special Guest writers this year include Joyce Carol Oates, Amy Tan, and Katherine Dion. Featured writers include Janet Fitch, Dagoberto Gilb, Margaret Wilkerson Sexton, Krys Lee, Howard Norman, Vanessa Hua, Tom Lutz, Leland Cheuk, and Ramona Ausubel, just to name a few.

All interested writers and poets are encouraged to apply, though admission is competitive and the level of writing is high. No prior publications or academic credits are required; the only criterion for admission is that the applicant submit a sample of her or his own original writing. Admissions are competitive, as the ratio of applicants to acceptances is generally more than 2 or 3-to-1. The deadline to apply for summer 2019 workshops is March 28. Some financial aid is available.

Alumni of the Community of Writers include Pulitzer Prize-winners Michael Chabon and Richard Ford, best-selling novelists such as Jennifer Egan, Anne

Rice, Janet Fitch, Joshua Ferris, Jamie Ford, Alice Sebold, and Amy Tan; successful alumni poets include Kazim Ali, Bruce Bond, Molly Fisk, Evie Shockley, and National Book Critics Circle Award Winner Claudia Rankine.

For more information, please visit www.communityofwriters.org or contact Brett Hall Jones at (530) 470-8440, or by email at info@communityofwriters.org.

Photographs are available upon request.