FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ventura County Writers Club Awards Winners of 2011 Poetry Contest
Over 300 entries were received with one winner from New York

(Ventura, CA – April 20, 2011) Over 100 people attended the awards ceremony Tuesday night, April 12 for the 2011 Ventura County Writers Club Poetry Contest, where many of the winners read their poems. Melissa Grossman, this year's chair for the contest, was the emcee for the evening, introducing each winner in all three categories. She also thanked the contest's judges: First readers Jackson Wheeler, Maggie Westland, and Joyce LaMers with the final judge being poet Kate Buckley.

First place winner for the Adult category, Virginia Anderson, commented on how wonderful it was to see so many young people submitting poems of such high quality. Each of the top three winners received a cash prize and their poems will be published in the 2012 Anthology that the club publishes every two years. The winners are as follows

YOUTH, Ages 12 and under
First Prize: Kayla Borkovec with her poem titled "Storm"
Kayla is in 7th Grade at Sequoia Middle School in Thousand Oaks, CA
Second Prize: Alisha Patel with her poem titled "The Shooting Star"
Alisha is a 5th Grader at Mesa Union Elementary School, Somis, CA
Third Prize: Chris Flood with his poem titled "Avalanche"
Chris is a 6th Grader at Redwood Middle School in Thousand Oaks, CA

YOUTH, Ages 13-18
First Prize: Katie Wurtzel for her poem "Memorization"
Katie attends Westlake High and this fall will be attending Boston University.
Second Prize: Erin Strubbe with her poem "I'm Still Here"
Erin lives in Simi Valley.
Third Prize: Ana-Luisa Anaya with her poem "I'm Already There"
Ana-Luisa started writing poetry two years ago and lives in New York City
Honorable Mention: Sara Wilson for her poem "Disarray"
Sara is a student at Redwood Middle School in Thousand Oaks, CA
Honorable Mention: Juliana DiStefano for her poem "Winter's Melody"
Juliana is a sophomore at Oaks Christian High School in Westlake Village.

ADULT, over age 18
First Prize: Virginia Anderson of Thousand Oaks for her poem "and those who call themselves human…what are they like?"
Second Prize: Michael Faran of Ventura for his poem "To Die For"
Third Prize: Michael Faran for his poem "Dylan '65"

High resolution photos of the winners are available upon request. Photo credit to Edward Krull

About Ventura County Writers Club

Since its formation in 1933 with four members in Ojai, the club has grown to more than 175 members and holds regular monthly general membership meetings. Members may attend, free of charge, a variety of Writers Workshops, groups that meet one or more times a month throughout the county to read and critique manuscripts and discuss many aspects of the business of writing. Monthly meetings are open to all interested writers and are held the second Tuesday of each month (except December).

For more information on the Ventura County Writers Club, visit:
http://www.venturacountywriters.com/

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