

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**NEW AUDIO/VISUAL CATEGORY OF POETRY ADDED TO THE ELEVENTH  
ANNUAL VENTURA COUNTY WRITERS CLUB POETRY CONTEST**

*Deadline for Entries is February 15, 2012*

(Ventura, CA – October 1, 2011) The Ventura County Writers Club announced its eleventh annual Poetry Contest, which adds an exciting Audio/Visual category to address more forms of poetry. The contest will continue its two youth categories for poets under 18: Division A is open to entrants ages 13 to 18; and, Division B is open to poets ages 12 and under. Poets 18 and older are invited to enter in the Adult category. The contest is open to poets worldwide..

“The Audio/Visual category adds new levels of creativity to the contest,” states Maggie Westland, contest chair. “Poetry is no longer simply words! It sings aloud , delights our eyes and encompasses concrete poems, collage, cartoon, calligraphy, animation, spoken word, slam, hip hop, and lyrics. Audio and video come together as poets perform before cameras with sound tracks. We want to see and hear your work!”

Winning poems will be published in the club’s newsletter, *The Write Stuff*, and will appear in the next volume of the club’s anthology, to be published in 2012. Poets will be invited to perform their works at the April club meeting, and families will be honored at a reception following the readings. Winners are also eligible for additional publicity to help promote their works.

“We divided the youth category into two parts and received an outstanding response from many area schools,” commented club president Kate Sexton. “The last few years, we have received over 100 entries in the youth divisions. Inspiring a new generation to embrace poetry and other forms of written communication goes to the core of VCWC's mission, to encourage the craft.”

Full details and rules will be available for download from the club’s website starting November 1, 2011: <http://www.venturacountywriters.com/>

***About Ventura County Writers Club***

Since its formation in 1933 with four members in Ojai, the club has grown to more than 150 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) at the Pleasant Valley Senior Center in Camarillo, CA.

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