

Out of the Fire Blog and Anthology

A Mother Lode and Sierra Celebration Melding Memories of the Natural Beauty of Our Region

Why does it sometimes take a disaster to appreciate the fleeting beauty in our world? The Butte Fire jarred our sensibilities up here in Calaveras County, but residents and visitors to the Mother Lode still celebrate the beauty of this magnificent region, replete with echoing canyons, whispering forests, rushing rivers, placid lakes, rustling grasses, abundant wildlife, and at the heart of it all, resilient people—all transformed by the essence of nature and its wild ways. Historically, we live with the threat of fire hanging over us every day, but then other areas have their floods, their frosts, their wintry wilds, mudslides, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, and dare we add more disaster? We have memories of Old Gulch, Leonard, Rim, and the list goes on, and will continue to go on. But for a while, we hold a piece of Eden or Shangri-La, or whatever pure, safe place we want to call it, in our own world, making it for ourselves in whichever way possible.

We invite all who have been transformed by the Mother Lode and Sierra to share their impressions of our regional beauty in all genres—poetry, prose, art, photography, and multimedia. We welcome Butte Fire stories in all art forms to grace a special weaving into the mix, revealing the dangers of the place we love so much. By collecting and sharing our stories, the healing and renewal of the landscape can continue to strengthen our appreciation of the power of this environment and the power within ourselves. By safekeeping the stories and art in a receptacle of historical perpetuity, we keep them alive.

Manzanita Writers Press will launch a blog site hosting writing and art/photography, as well as other forms of artistic expression, on September 10, called ***Out of the Fire***, a part of a larger, ongoing art and literary collection with regional writing and art/photography, video, and all media, that share stories of epiphany, realization, reflection, grief, faith, gratitude, hope, wisdom gleaned from adversity, and a celebration of living in such a gorgeous place. Submit work by Sept. 3 to be included on the blog unveiling on September 10 at the commemorative gathering for the Pieces Project at Mountain Ranch Community Park. Stories will be shared near the mosaic Pieces wall, going from ashes to voices to listeners.

Submissions open August 8 on the Manzanita Writers Press website and Facebook page. All submissions will be considered for the blog site as well as for future anthologies planned, including an eBook and print book. Guidelines and the fillable pdf submission form can be downloaded from the website: www.manzapress.com Please submit to us via email (preferred), with the submission pasted into the email and attached. manzanitawp@gmail.com. Look for the *Out of the Fire* anthology submission link on the home page. Follow the guidelines please. For more information contact Manzanita Writers Press, located at 1211 S. Main Street, Suite 130, PO Box 460, Angels Camp, CA 95222. 209-728-6171. Email: manzanitawp@gmail.com You do not need to be a resident of Calaveras County to submit. Deadline for commemorative reading is Sept. 3. The deadline for eBook and print book submission is December 31, 2016. www.manzapress.com. Please share this news and encourage people to submit!