***Manzanita Writers Press Presents***

**Event: *The Pieces Vignettes Exhibit: Melding Memory Out of the Fire***

**Location: *Manzanita Writers Emporium, 1211 Main Street, Suite 110, Downtown Angels Camp***

**Date & Time: *May 25 through June 30, 2016, 10am-5pm (closed Tuesdays)***

**Cost: *Free***

**Contact: Manzanita Arts Emporium (209) 728-6171 – manzapress.com**

**manzanitawp@gmail.com**

**Pieces Project Exhibition at Manzanita Arts Emporium**

Manzanita Arts Emporium will host vignette set pieces from the unique Butte Fire “Pieces Project” for public view Wednesday through Monday, May 25 to June 30, at its Downtown Angels Camp location. Sponsored by the Calaveras and Amador County Arts Councils, and assembled by Murphys artist Robin Modlin and Mokelumne Hill artist Anne Cook, the ensemble of art pieces have been grouped into montage displays of after-fire relics donated by Butte Fire donors. Eight writers from our area and the Pieces Project coordinators have contributed written vignettes and poems to honor and embellish the voices of the remains. The writer/mentors involved are Nitya Prema, Suzanne Murphy, Denella Kimura, Blanche Abrams, Gayle Lorraine, Monika Rose, Linda Toren, and Cynthia Restivo, and Pieces Project coordinators Robin Modlin and Anne Cook, all whose written pieces will be featured in the exhibit.

Visitors are encouraged to view the cherished pieces and write inspired responses to the re-imagined art created from the forged-by-fire pieces donated by many who experienced destruction of property and an altered way of life last September. The “Pieces Vignettes” exhibit serves to honor the community as it remembers and rebuilds from the ashes and struggles to recover from the devastation.

In addition, Manzanita Arts Emporium will host a SoulCollage writing exercise by Robin Modlin, as well as ongoing writing sessions by MWP writers Monika Rose and Suzanne Murphy, and a few of the writer/mentors listed on the project, dedicated to shaping the stories from the fire. A reading and reception will celebrate the exhibit Friday, June 3, from 7-8:30 PM. Free. The public is invited to hear the Pieces Vignettes and to share their own fire stories at open mic.

During the month of June, writer-guides will be available on Wednesdays, noon to 4 pm at the Emporium with Suzanne Murphy, and on Fridays, noon to 4 PM, with Monika Rose, to assist in preparation and submission of writing to a blog and website dedicated to a collection of writing, photography, and art, fused from the fire stories of our community. Families, children, students, and individuals will all be invited to contribute to the online interactive project.

These “Pieces Project” events and writing mentorships at the Manzanita Arts Emporium are free to the public, but donations are gratefully accepted.

Be sure to visit Manzanita Arts Emporium, the home of Manzanita Writers Press located at 1211 South Main Street, Suite 110, in Historic Angels Camp. Peruse the eclectic, contemporary collection of books, fine art, prints, cards, jewelry, woodworking, botanical art, hard-edge design wall sculpture, photography, puppets and more. Regional publishing services offered by MWP include author mentoring and assistance with writing and publishing goals, as well as weekly writing feedback sessions and workshops. Check out the exciting line-up of events and series by visiting [manzapress.com](http://manzapress.com/). Hours are Wednesday through Monday from 10 am to 5 pm (open 6 days a week, closed on Tuesdays). Contact us at [manzanitawp@gmail.com](mailto:manzanitawp@gmail.com) ~ Phone: 209-728-6171.