

Ojai Valley writer Sexton honored at book tea June 23

Kate Sexton, Ventura County Writers Club president and Ojai resident, will be honored for her volunteerism supporting the literary arts, along with three others at a special book tea on June 23. The Ojai Writers Conference will present the award with proceeds from the tea benefiting the Ojai Library. The public is invited to honor four remarkable writers who "give back" to fellow writers in their communities, in Southern California and around

the world.

"Kate seems to be everywhere when it comes to literary happenings in Ventura County," says Sequoia Hamilton, founder of the Ojai Writers Conference and co-founder of Ojai WordFest. "Not only has she given many hours to help arrange and moderate "Well Red" at WordFest for two years, Kate's work raising the profile of the Ventura County Writers Club first as their volunteer publicist and now as

president, demonstrate the quality of her work. This year she became the interviewer for the Camarillo Library's monthly series 'Inside the Author's Story' where she interviews local writers. Sexton is also the acting executive director for the new educational nonprofit the Pacific Institute for Professional Writing, based in Santa Barbara. She recently launched a series of workshops through PIPW, "Author Promote Thyself," to help new writers learn

how to promote their books using cost-effective tools.

Along with Sexton, Los Angeles-based Connie Martinson will also be honored for her 30-plus years of dedication to interviewing authors about their books on her cable television show, "Talks Books." Gifted to the Claremont Graduate University are nearly 3,000 videos. Martinson has amassed since her show debuted in 1979. Interviews and exchanges include George Plimpton, Norman Mailer, Joyce Carol Oates, Rosa Parks, Walter Mosley, Al Gore,

and many more. Known for her eye for up-and-comers, more than a decade ago she chatted up a young Chicagoan named Barack Obama about his memoir, "Dreams from My Father."

The other honorees are husband and wife team, Doc and Zoe Murdock, former university professors and creators of the Thursday evening Writing Workshop. Their weekly group meeting—applying techniques of fiction to all genres of writing—has been offered free for the last eight years at the Ojai

Library. They also run FictionWeek.com and edit the Fiction Week Literary Review.

Yorkshire-born screenwriter and actor Peter Bellwood will offer a keynote address which circles around the subject of screenwriting, and takes writers along with him on an epic journey that gets to the question at the heart of the matter: "What's your passion and how do you get it on the page?" Bellwood has written about passion and taught the subject to numerous writers of all genres and ages.