

Skipping Stones

Award-Winning Multicultural Literary Magazine

For Immediate Press Release

The 2011 Youth Honor Awards

The following students and groups of students are being honored for their creative work promoting an understanding of cultural diversity, appreciation of nature and ecology. Their exemplary writing and art on varied topics makes our latest *Youth Awards Issue* worthy of your attention.

Our Hearty Congratulations to the 2011 Winners:



- ** Art & Poems by Students at Na`au School, Hawai'i
- * Poetry by Sarah Mae Smith, 14, grade 10, California
- * Worlds Apart by Irtiqā Fazili, 15, Tennessee
- ** Essays by Haluk Akay, 16, and Leyla Akay, 15, Turkey
- ** Empower Orphans and Neha Gupta, 15, founder, Pennsylvania
- * My Grandfather Ben by Maya Young Wong, 11, California
- ** Poems by Kylie Hunter, 10 & photos by Maya Hunter, 8, Colorado
- ** Writings by Students at the Julia Morgan School for Girls, California
- ** Poems by Students at Laurence School, California
- ** Zaj Lus: *A Bilingual Hmong Story Book* by Everest High Students, Wisconsin

Joint Awards, denoted by two stars (**), are multiple submissions from a school, classroom or two siblings. The ten winners of the **2011 Skipping Stones Youth Honor Awards** will each receive an honor certificate, five multicultural and/or nature books and a subscription to *Skipping Stones*. Winners will also be invited to join our Student Review Board.

In addition to the 13-page awards feature, the Sept.– Oct. 2011 (Vol. 23, No. 4) issue also contains many articles, poems, photos and stories from youth and adults from around the world.

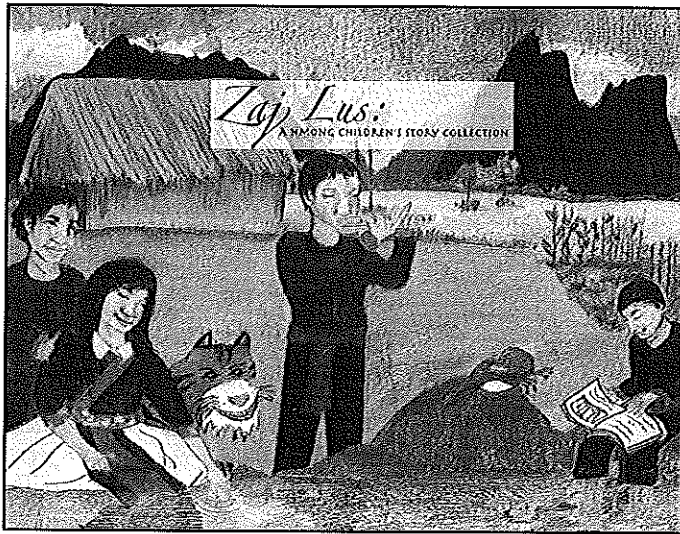
Looking Ahead: We encourage students, ages 7–17, to enter our **2012 Youth Honor Awards** by sending their very best entries by June 25, 2012. Perhaps, you might like to start working on your entries for the 2012 contest! And, it's never too early to send in any of your submissions.

Skipping Stones is a global, nonprofit, non-commercial magazine for today's youth. We encourage cooperation, creativity and a celebration of cultural and ecological richness. Our issues feature original art and writing by children and adults from everywhere. Youth from overseas countries and under-represented populations are especially encouraged to share their experiences and ideas. Subscriptions: \$25 (\$35, for schools/libraries); multiple-copy & low-income discounts available.

For more information, please contact: Arun Toké, Executive Editor

Skipping Stones Magazine P. O. Box 3939 Eugene, OR 97403 USA

Tel. (541) 342-4956; e-mail: editor@skippingstones.org; www.SkippingStones.org



I am a member of the Oral History Project club at D.C. Everest High School. Our mission is to share the stories and experiences of those in our community as well as those around the world by recording them in books, to be published and distributed to many.

A recent project I was involved in was **Zaj Lus: A Hmong Children's Story Collection**. The book includes four Hmong folktales that were collected from our local community. It is a bilingual book, written in both English and Hmong. Not only is the book a mixture of two cultures, but it also allows parents and children to bond through storytelling before bedtime.

This book is especially important to the Wausau area because Wausau has a dense Hmong population. It is vital to share the Hmong culture with those in the surrounding area and across the world. These folktales help to pass down the Hmong culture to younger generations. We believe it is crucial to embrace culture, be it your own or that of others. Everyone has a story, and in this book, we share a glimpse of the Hmong's.

—Yer Thor, h.s. senior, was one of the three project leaders.

All work on the book, including the design and layout was done by the Hmong students working with the student-led Oral History Project. There were three project leaders, four assistants and thirteen student volunteers. The illustrations were done by Bao Lee and Noghlibelinda Yang, both seniors at the D. C. Everest Senior High School in Wisconsin. To order the book (\$12) or other books, visit: www.dceoralhistory.com.

The Uneducated Boy and His Glasses *Tus Tub Tsis Keej Ntawv thiab Nws Daim Iav*

Long ago in Laos, there lived a young boy who had never gone to school. He wanted to be able to read but could not because he did not have an education.

Next door to the young boy lived an old wise man who wore glasses. Every day this man would sit outside on his porch and read. Seeing this, the young boy believed that the old man's glasses gave him the ability to read.

Because the young boy wanted to read, but did not know how, he decided to buy a pair of glasses. He searched in every store from morning until night, trying on every pair of glasses he could find, and yet he still he could not read.

The young boy became frustrated and yelled at the store owner, "All of your glasses are no good! I still can't read!"

The store owner replied, "Just because you wear glasses, does not mean you can read."

"I guess I thought that if I had glasses, I'd be able to read," said the young boy.

As a result, the boy finally understood that wearing glasses would not give him the ability to read. In order for him to be able to read, he would have to go to school. Education is important. It is not a gift, but a privilege that is acquired through hard work.

