

## **Teen Scene Youth Writers Create Community Story at Pear Festival**

**By Alex Lee**

At the September 28<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> annual Moraga Pear and Wine Festival the Lamorinda Weekly sponsored the booth for the local literacy charity, Be the Star You Are!® where teens learn the skills to write for Teen Scene under the coaching of writer and best selling author, Cynthia Brian. It was a beautiful day with inspiring music, happy festival-goers, enthusiastic children, and of course, delicious pear pies.

To add a fun twist to the business of writing, the Teen Scene writers created a writing activity for the general public beginning with the words, “Once Upon a Time...” From there, individuals added a sentence or a single word without knowing the plot line, the story, or any sentences that went before with the exception of the few words penned by the previous writer. Each participant was encouraged let their imagination be their guide. The youngest writer was four, and well, we didn’t ask the age of the eldest!

It was truly amazing to see what everyone had to say and how the plot developed. With gratitude to everyone who participated, I am proud to present the most fascinating community story of all time

## ONCE UPON A TIME

Once upon a time, there was a seedy man. He had lived in a dumpster for the last thirteen and a half weeks. He was starving, thin, and dirty. He died, but he left his famous pie recipe behind.

A long time before he died, some children, including the seedy man, realized they were the beginning of a whole new generation that would leave a legacy for *their* children. So, they created a foundation known as “Time and Time Again,” but they had no money and needed a way to get more money.

Soon after, they decided to go dragon hunting to get treasure. However, on the way, they ran into a chicken. They had a big dog with them who “eyed” the chicken. The chicken stared back at the dog with a look of intimidation. The dog then tried jumping over the moon, but it got stuck on a star, and floated away, first to Mars, and then to Pluto!

Suddenly, the whole universe began to laugh! All the other universes wondered why *this* universe was laughing and asked the universe why. The universe said that it was because the seedy man had a short and stubby big toe. One day, his stubby big toe talked to him. It greeted him first, then told the man’s mother to help him with his stubbed toe. So, she grabbed his foot and stuck the big toe into her mouth to suck up the blood.

“Eww...” she said. “It tastes salty and a bit like pear

pie, so the seedy man was inspired to create a recipe dedicated to the strange taste. The universe would never be the same without this recipe.

Pear pie is to “die” for! Moraga Garden Club loves flowers and pears, and contributed to the community by helping grow wondrous pears, in memory of the seedy man and his original pear pie recipe.