

# JUNE NEWSLETTER

Spotlighting our Creative Writing Workshop Instructors

Meet Our Teacher for Week 2 - "Awakening the Heart"

## Ms. Nikoletta - Poetry & Creative Writing



Nikoletta Gjoni is a fiction and creative nonfiction writer living outside of Washington, D.C. Having taken ESL classes as a kid, she's always believed writing to be an excellent outlet for practicing language skills and broadening your imaginative horizons. She especially loves to see kids and new writers who are excited about deepening their skills and creating their own worlds.

Gjoni's work has been previously nominated for the PEN/Robert J. Dau prize, Best of the Net, and Best Microfiction. She is currently at work on her first novel and refining a linked story collection.

## *Wise words from a former student...*



I came to SpiderSmart when I was about 10 years old for reading and writing. As an avid reader, I had high scores in reading comprehension. Unfortunately, my writing scores were much lower and did not match my reading scores. **With the help of SpiderSmart staff, I was able to work on improving and strengthening my reading and writing skills.** As a result, in high school, I was accepted to join APEX, an accelerated program for students with exceptional writing. I continued going to SpiderSmart during high school for Spanish tutoring and SAT preparation that later helped me get into University. In my second year of University, I was recruited to work for my University's writing center to tutor fellow undergraduate and graduate students. Although challenging at times, the work proved to be fulfilling and my passion for empowering anxious writers grew. I was not naturally talented at writing, but with hard work and dedication, I was able to grow as a writer. **I believe that if I can learn, anyone can.** — *Ava*