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Where writers find encouragement, expertise, and inspiration

2011 CONFERENCE NEWS

Descriptions for most of the 2011 conference workshops are now posted at http://www.mcwc.org/mcwc_sched.html. More are on their way, so keep checking back. Dates for the 2011 conference are July 28-30. Registration opens in March.

A favorite conference event each year is Paths to Publishing, in which a panel of recently published authors share stories about their journey from first draft to published book. We're excited about our panel for 2011:

Peg Kingman is author of the historical novels *Not Yet Drown'd* (W. W. Norton, 2007) and *Original Sins* (W. W. Norton, 2010). She says: "As you have guessed, the story of how [my first novel] *Not Yet Drown'd* came to be published by W. W. Norton is pretty amazing - and provides grounds for encouragement to the many excellent writers who have not (yet) met with similar good fortune."

Shirin Yim Bridges's first book, *Ruby's Wish*, was named one of the Best Children's Books of 2002 by Publishers Weekly. Shirin is also Head Goose at Goosebottom Books, a fledgling new press she'll talk about on the Editors/Publishers panel at the conference.

Norma Watkins belongs to the never-give-up school of writing. Her memoir, *The Last Resort* (University of Mississippi Press, 2011), took thirty years to find a publisher. Norma is a member of the MCWC Board of Directors.

Read more about Peg, Shirin and Norma at http://www.mcwc.org/mcwc_facy.html.

DEADLINES

Since 1995, *Tiny Lights* has been celebrating the power of personal voice with a biannual journal devoted to short essay. The annual essay contest, which offers \$1300 in prizes, provides the material for the summer issue, while the winter issue is by invitation only. **Contest Deadline: February 18, 2011.** For guidelines, see <http://www.tiny-lights.com/contest.php>.

MCWC COMMUNITY NEWS

Gerald Haslam (presenter 2004, 2006) writes that his biography of S.I. Hayakawa (tentative title: *Enigma Man: The Life and Times of S.I. Hayakawa*) will be published by University of Nebraska Press in fall of 2011.

Luis Rodriguez (presenter 2009) has written a new book, *It Calls You Back: A Writer's Odyssey Through Love, Addictions, Revolution, and Healing*. It will be published by Simon and Schuster in fall of 2011.

Publisher **Charlotte Cook** of Komenar Press (presenter 2007) has a new book out she co-authored with screen-writer and first-novelist Jon James Miller, titled *Adapting Sideways: How to Turn Your Screenplay Into a Publishable Novel*.

MCWC board member **Karen Lewis** has an essay in the anthology *Mamas and Papas: On the Sublime and Heartbreaking Art of Parenting* (San Diego: City Works Press).

Mark Adair's debut suspense novel, *The Father's Child*, is now available on Amazon.

Warmest holiday greeting to everyone in our writing community from the MCWC Board of Directors.