



Mendocino Coast Writers Conference News & Updates

April 2008

In this issue:

- Updates for 2008 Conference
- Valerie Miner to teach at Spring *Soundings*
- Fundraising Dinner at Mendo Bistro, April 25
- More MCWC community literary news

Conference Registration Now Open

Check out our web site at www.mcwc.org for updates on the July 31 -- August 3, 2008 conference. **Space is limited—register today.** Confirmed editors and agents are Jenoyne Adams of Bliss Literary Agency, Elise Proulx from San Francisco's Frederick Hill Bonnie Nadell Agency, Linda Swanson-Davies, Editor, Glimmer Train Stories and Kate Gale, Founding Editor of Red Hen Press.

All 2008 conference registrants living in Mendocino County are eligible for the **local discount**.

Any student currently enrolled in a Mendocino County high school is eligible to apply for a **High School Student Scholarship** for the 2008 Conference. Application Deadline is May 15. Check website www.mcwc.org for application details.

Valerie Miner Literary Reading & Workshop April 18-19

MCWC invites you to attend our Spring Soundings, featuring Stanford Professor **Valerie Miner**. She will give a reading from her most recent novel *AFTER EDEN* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2007) with a Mendocino County setting. This free public event will be at 7pm on Friday April 18 in the Mendocino Hotel conference room.

On Saturday, April 19 Valerie Miner will lead a workshop called **Finding the Shapes of our Stories** at College of the Redwoods, Fort Bragg, from 10-12 noon at a cost of \$20. Miner's workshop will encourage prose writers to spend some time playing with form; this promises to be provocative and useful to all writers and poets. Valerie Miner is an award winning, internationally published author of thirteen books including novels, short fiction, memoir, and an essay collection. She is now a Professor and Artist in Residence at Stanford University. For more details, check her website at www.valerieminer.com.

To register for the April 19 Valerie Miner Writing Workshop, please email charlotte@mcn.org or phone 962-2600 ext. 216. The April 18 evening reading is free and open to the public.

Mendo Bistro Dinner, Friday 25 April

Join us for a special fundraising dinner upstairs at Mendo Bistro in beautiful downtown Fort Bragg. A portion of the night's profits will benefit MCWC scholarship and financial aid programs. Share a fun evening of fine food, excellent camaraderie, writing activities and a prize drawing! Please mention that you're there for the MCWC event. For more information, phone 962-2600, ext. 216.

Contest for Graduate Program Students

Is writing a noble cause or a trivial pursuit? What is the true power of the words that we craft? Simply stated: can writing change the world? Explore this theme in 1-5 poems or 2,500 words prose. Winner receives full tuition to MCWC 2008 Conference. Open to writers enrolled in or who have completed an MFA program within the past year. May 15 deadline. See website for details, or email dscarpenter@mcn.org.

MCWC Community Literary News

In honor of National Poetry Month, **Maureen Eppstein** will read from her new poetry collection *QUICKENING*, at Cheshire Bookstore, 345 North Franklin Street, Fort Bragg, on Sunday April 13, at 3 pm. Tea & cookies will be served.

Gayle Greene—who attended MCWC a few years ago—announces release of *INSOMNIAC* (University of California Press) which received a starred write-up in *Publisher's Weekly* and was also reviewed by Francine Prose for *Oprah Magazine*. Gayle is a professor of literature and women's studies at Scripps College.

For another take on insomnia try a splash of the page-turning *CONFESSIONS OF A TRIPLE SHOT BETTY* (Dial/Penguin), **Jody Gehrman's** first young adult novel. Expect the flavor of Sonoma County with generous sprinkles of teen romance. Jody will lead Young Adult Fiction at the 2008 Mendocino Coast Writer's Conference.

If you're in Southern California, be sure to check out the upcoming Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, April 26-27 at UCLA. LA Times Book Review Editor **David Ulin** presented at the 2007 MCWC.

Molly Dwyer's long-awaited novel about 19-year-old Mary Shelley—who penned the original *Frankenstein*— is called *REQUIEM FOR THE AUTHOR OF FRANKENSTEIN*. Mendocino Art Center will host a reading of this edgy historical novel on April 12; Molly will also speak at the MCWC **Paths to Publishing** panel this August.

Charlotte Bacon, former conference faculty, has a new novel out, *SPLIT ESTATE* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux). According to *Publisher's Weekly*, "Bacon captures the stark Wyoming landscape and Western ethos, and the power of buried secrets."