



Mendocino Coast Writers Conference News & Updates

December 2008

Connecting Writers to Community for 20 Years

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20th ANNIVERSARY/2009 MENDOCINO COAST WRITERS CONFERENCE

Next summer, the leader of the memoir workshop will be **Luis J. Rodriguez**, author of *Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.*, a short story collection *Republic of East L.A.*, several collections of poetry and an acclaimed nonfiction work *Hearts and Hands: Creating Community in Violent Times*. Save the date, July 31, Friday, 7pm for a special event at Cotton Auditorium in Fort Bragg, featuring Luis Rodriguez in a talk about building peaceful communities. This program will be free and open to the public.

Sharman Apt Russell will lead the morning workshop in creative nonfiction. She's the author of several nonfiction books including *Hunger: An Unnatural History, An Obsession With Butterflies*, and *Standing in the Light*. Sharman Russell is also widely known for her environmental essays. She's received a Pushcart and a Rockefeller-Bellagio Fellowship among other honors, and teaches in the MFA Program at Antioch-Los Angeles.

New York Times best-selling poet and author **Carole Weatherford** will teach the open genre workshop for writers who want to discover key craft elements of poetry, fiction and/or nonfiction. She's published 32 books, including *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*, which was named a Caldecott Honor book. Her recently released biography *Becoming Billie Holiday* garnered starred reviews by *Kirkus* and *Publisher's Weekly*. Carole Weatherford is a professor at Fayetteville State University in North Carolina.

For other updates and links to the presenters' websites, please check

<http://www.mcwc.org>.

MCWC COMMUNITY LITERARY NEWS

Ginny Rorby of the MCWC program committee announces that her most recent Y/A novel *Sea Hero's Daughter* has just sold to Harcourt. Congratulations, Ginny!

Kat Meads, MCWC presenter 2007, announces the release of her new collection of brief fiction (delete "titled") *Little Pockets of Alarm*, available at <http://www.mainstreetrag.com>.

Ellen Sussman, who led the Fall Soundings reading and workshop, offers a one-day New Year's Writing Workshop in her Los Altos Home on January 17. She invites writers to join her for a day of inspiration and creativity. For details including cost, e-mail Ellen at info@ellensussman.com.

The River City Writers Series presents a reading and lecture/discussion led by **Charlotte Gullick** on Thursday, December 11, at noon at Sacramento City College. This program is free and open to the public. Charlotte is the author of the novel ***By Way of Water*** and is the Director of MCWC. Charlotte has also posted "Notes on Writing" to the conference blog (and you might find a bit of Maureen Eppstein's "Mendocino Magic" there, too), <http://www.mendocinowritersblog.com>.

The **Fort Bragg Promotion Committee** is partnering with MCWC again next year to produce the program for the summer conference. Additional support for MCWC comes from **Poets & Writers, Mendocino Community Foundation,** and the **California Arts Council.**

GALLERY BOOKSHOP "Fire Sale" BENEFIT

Another conference partner, Christie Olson Day, owner of **Gallery Bookshop,** announces a special benefit for the **Mendocino Community Library.** They've donated thousands of books that were slightly smoke-damaged during the fire in the historic building that houses the bookshop. "Fire Sale" will benefit the library, this **Friday December 12 through Sunday December 14 at Crown Hall in Mendocino.** No book will cost more than \$5. If you're in the area, stop by to browse. This is also a good time of year to patronize your own locally-owned independent bookstore. Here on the coast, we applaud **Gallery Bookshop** and **Cheshire Books** (owned by Linda Rosengarten in Fort Bragg) for all that they do to connect readers with books and community.

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If you have literary news to share with the Mendocino Coast Writers Conference, please send details to the newsletter editor news@mcwc.org and we'll include it in the next issue. and we'll include it in the next issue.