



Mendocino Coast Writers Conference News & Updates

December 2009

Connecting Writers to Community for Over 20 Years

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDED

MCWC is proud to be a 2009 recipient of an Arts For Our Future grant, funded by the James Irvine Foundation and awarded by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County.

Part of the grant will go toward our community outreach programs. We will partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters to support and expand their after-school programs to include a writing workshop. BB-BS has been targeting at-risk youth with activity-based after school programs in Fort Bragg for three years. If you'd like to learn more about the importance of BB-BS's intervention and prevention services for our youth, click on http://www.bigbrothersbigsistersofmendocino.com/2009%20Nov_Rpt%20to%20Community_ltr.pdf.

Another community outreach project will bring writing workshops to adults through partnerships with the Cancer Resource Center, Coast Community Library, South Coast Senior Center, Safe Passage, Arena Tech and Arena Theatre/City Art.

A portion of the Arts For Our Future grant will fund board development, which we will undertake jointly with the Mendocino Film Festival. The training and coaching will help both organizations learn to run their nonprofit organizations more effectively.

UPCOMING EVENT

December 12 , 3-5 pm at the Guest House Museum, Fort Bragg: A reading and book signing for *Glen Blair-The End of the Line*, by **Denise Stenberg** (2002, 2003, 2004 and 2008). The Creative Writing classes at College of the Redwoods heard much of the book over the years Denise worked on it. She is grateful to them and to two others, Bill Mullvihill who scanned the forty-three pictures and Dennis Freeze who designed the book.

2010 CONFERENCE PLANS

Another rising star joins MCWC faculty

Iranian-American writer **Mahbod Seraji's** debut novel, *Rooftops of Tehran*, was named an Indie Next List Notable Book, voted as one of six outstanding debuts for the Fall 2009 - Winter 2010 Book Group Favorite, selected for one-book reading programs on several university campuses, and translated into Italian, Portugese, Hebrew, Spanish, Icelandic, Turkish, Korean, and Chinese. Mahbod will offer a reading and a lecture/discussion session.

Sunday activities

Conference participants have told us they wish they had more time to explore the spectacular

environment of the Mendocino Coast. We're changing the schedule to make this possible. The indoor part of the 2010 conference will be three days, ending with the closing dinner on Saturday evening. Sunday will be an optional fourth day, in which we will offer group excursions, such as bird watching with a local expert, kayaking on the Noyo River, or a photography session on our favorite cliff tops. More details as plans shape up.

MCWC COMMUNITY LITERARY NEWS

An interview with **Gayle Greene**, who presented the Fall Soundings lecture and workshop, is now up on our website. Check it out at http://www.mcwc.org/mcwc_news.html.

Barbara Kingsolver, MCWC Advisory Board member, is receiving rave review for her new novel, *The Lacuna*. The link to a review in the New York Times is:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/08/books/review/Schillinger-t.html?pagewanted=1&nl=books&emc=booksupdateema3> .

Linda Lambert (2009) has a new book, *Women's Ways of Leading*, co-authored with Mary Gardner. More information at <http://www.womenswaysofleading.com>.

Writers Retreat: The application process is now open for The Mesa Refuge residency program in Point Reyes, CA, which provides 2-4 week residencies for writers working on projects addressing social justice and social change. Check out the website <http://www.mesarefuge.org> for information on application guidelines and submission deadlines.