



Mendocino Coast Writers Conference News & Updates

February 2010

Connecting Writers to Community for Over 20 Years

2010 CONFERENCE PLANS

Website updated

Detailed faculty bios and workshop descriptions are now online. Start planning your schedule choices. New features this year are:

- A master class on revision for intermediate and experienced writers who have a fiction or nonfiction book almost ready for publication.
- A note on the experience level expected for each workshop
- Partner Package. With a Partner nametag, your guest can join you on campus for meals and attend the opening reception, as well as the closing dinner.
- Post-Conference nature excursions. Wrap up the conference weekend with an outdoor adventure on our incredible coast. Join expert leaders on birdwatching or photography walks or kayak on the Noyo River. Partners are welcome. There is a charge for kayak rental; otherwise, these excursions are free.

Downloadable brochure coming soon

This year's conference brochure, available online by the end of February, will contain everything you need to register in one convenient package: condensed faculty bios, workshop descriptions, schedule, and registration form. We'll send you a reminder postcard when it's online. Some workshops fill very quickly, so mail in your registration early to ensure your preferences. We process registrations in postmark order beginning March 15.

Malin Alegria replaces Reyna Grande

When novelist Reyna Grande learned that she could not make it to MCWC, she asked her friend Malin Alegria to step in for her. We're delighted to welcome Malin, who describes herself as "a young-adult author, educator, ecowarrior, Aztec dancer, and performer." Her first novel, *Estrella's Quinceñera* was published by Simon & Schuster in 2006. *Sofi Mendoza's Guide to Getting Lost in Mexico* was released May 2007. Malin's morning workshop will be for novelists. She will also do an afternoon lecture on writing for young people.

Agents offer consultations

Literary agent **April Eberhardt** of Kimberley Cameron & Associates will join **Sally van Haitsma** of the Castiglia Literary Agency on our agents panel. Both April and Sally will be available for one-on-one consultations. April's specialty is adult commercial and literary fiction, "particularly contemporary urban fiction, ironic family dramas and realistic midlife tales, often with a twist, preferably involving strong female characters."

Sally is interested in commercial and literary fiction, narrative nonfiction, education, business and current affairs.

CALENDAR

Sunday, February 14: Deadline to submit an original play for this year's New Play Festival at Mendocino College in Ukiah. Anybody residing in Lake, Sonoma or Mendocino Counties is eligible. There are no limitations in terms of theme or content, but small casts (2-5 characters) and minimal technical requirements are recommended for optimal chances at production. Scripts should have a running time of no longer than ten minutes. For more information or to submit your play, contact MCWC Advisory Board member **Jody Gehrman**, 468-3150 or jgehrman@mendocino.edu. You can also mail your play to 1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah, CA 95482.

Thursday, February 18, 9:00 am - Noon: First day of class at College of the Redwoods Mendocino Campus in Fort Bragg for the creative writing workshop led by MCWC Board member **Norma Watkins**. Motivated students of all ages and levels of writing experience are welcome. Call the college at 707-962-2664 to sign up.

Friday, February 26, 6:30 pm: Gallery Bookshop in Mendocino hosts a reading by **Paul McHugh**. An award-winning journalist, McHugh recently published a novel that MCWC Advisory Board member **John Lescroart** described as "a companionable, rock-solid and soul-satisfying mystery."

Monday, March 15: Conference registration opens.

Friday, March 26, 7:00 pm at the Fort Bragg Library: **Molly Dwyer** presents a free Soundings lecture, *PARIS ANYONE? Creating the atmosphere of place and time is central to believability in fiction*. Molly will discuss strategies for research from the internet to travel. She'll discuss her writing-related experiences in Paris, England, Crete, and Japan, and talk about how story emerges for her out of the land, the architecture, and the artifacts of the past.

Saturday, March 27, 10am-Noon at the Botanical Gardens Meeting Room, Fort Bragg: **Molly Dwyer** presents a Soundings workshop, *STORY STALKING*. Fee \$30. She says: "Synchronicity is meaningful coincidence, an inexplicable paralleling of inner and outer events. Learning to recognize, encourage and respond to synchronicity is central to powerful storytelling. Through hands-on exercises, we'll explore synchronicity as a source of creative insight and inspiration, and see how it deepens the truth and power of any storyline, whether fiction or nonfiction, prose or poetry. Designed for intermediate and advanced writers, but open to all levels of experience. Please come prepared to write."

Molly brings a broad, interdisciplinary background to her teaching and presentations. She's been a transformational educator for twenty years, earning an MA from Sonoma State University and a PhD from the California Institute of Integral Studies. She's co-author of *Divine Duality: The Power of Reconciliation between Women and Men* (2007) and received the Vickers Award from the International Society for the Systems Sciences for her paper, *The Emergent*

Feminine: The Role of the Feminine in the Evolution of the Universe (1999). Her debut novel, *Requiem for the Author of Frankenstein* was the opening salvo of *La Belle Quartet*, Molly's sweeping four-volume history of the Romantic Movement. *The Apassionata*, her second novel, is set in 19th century Paris.

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