February 2011 **Where writers find encouragement, expertise, and inspiration**

2011 CONFERENCE NEWS
We're putting finishing touches on the downloadable conference brochure and registration form. Look for it on our website, www.mcwc.org, after Feb. 15. Registration opens March 15, when applications will be processed in order of the postmark date.

Two exciting new additions to our schedule:
"American Idol" with Agents: Instead of the traditional Q&A panel, agents **Jill Marr** and **April Eberhardt** are planning a new event. After a brief coaching session, participants will take part in a "pitch-off" where agents and peers will judge which pitch is tops. Literary prizes will be awarded. Jill writes: "I did a session like this at another conference, and it was really fun. The writers loved it!"
Roundtable on E-books: Share your experiences with e-books and other publishing alternatives. Longtime conference attendee Bob Miller will moderate, and agent April Eberhardt will bring an industry perspective.

Two popular programs return:
Bring a Friend: Invite a fellow writer who has not previously come to Mendocino Coast Writers Conference and earn a $50 rebate on both of your conference fees.
Partner Package: With a Partner name tag, your guest can join you on campus for meals and attend both the opening reception and the closing dinner. Cost for the 3-day package is $100. We're also offering a dinner-only guest option for $30.

The basic **conference fee** stays the same as last year at $495, but we've simplified the discount structure. We dropped the local discount and extended the Bring a Friend program to local conference attendees. We changed the student discount to $50 and extended it to students at high schools and accredited colleges anywhere in the U.S.

LOCAL LITERARY EVENTS

SUNDAY FEB. 27, 3:00 pm at Redwood Coast Senior Center, 490 N. Harold St., Fort Bragg: MCWC board member **Ginny Rorby** reads from her new YA novel, *Lost in the River of Grass*, which is set in the Florida Everglades. A Spam and Gatorade reception will follow the reading and a close encounter with snakes.

Coast Slam: Beginning TUESDAY, MARCH 1 and every first Tuesday after that, The Coast Slam will feature an Open Mic & Poetry Slam happening at the Garden Room of the Mendocino Hotel, Main Street, Mendocino Village. Sign-ups start at 6:30. The Slam starts at 7:00. Featured poet for Tuesday, March 1 is Shawn Franco. This event is co-sponsored by the Mendocino Coast Writers Conference and Mendocino Stories. For more information, go to Facebook "Coast Slam"

& join the e-list: coastslam@gmail.com.

MCWC COMMUNITY NEWS

Get your byline in the *Beacon*: Each week, the *Mendocino Beacon* donates space for a feature story from the Kelley House Museum. The archives are brimming with amazing and fascinating tales locked away for a hundred years or more and just waiting to be discovered. If you'd like to join the Kelley House team of writers, or want to learn more about this volunteer position, call Nancy Freeze at 707-937-5791.

Michael David Lukas (faculty 2011) is celebrating publication of his novel, *The Oracle of Stamboul* with a book tour:
FEBRUARY 7: BERKELEY, CA: Local 123, 7:30 pm
FEBRUARY 8: CORTE MADERA, CA:Book Passage, 7:00pm
FEBRUARY 9: OAKLAND, CA: A Great Good Place for Books, 7:00pm
FEBRUARY 15: DANVILLE, CA: Rakestraw Books, 7:00pm
FEBRUARY 17: SAN FRANCISCO, CA: Booksmith, 7:30pm
FEBRUARY 22: NEW YORK, NY: McNally Jackson Books, 7:00pm
FEBRUARY 23: BOSTON, MA: Porter Square Books, 7:00pm
FEBRUARY 24: SOUTH HADLEY, MA: Odyssey Bookshop, 7:00pm
MARCH 1: MENLO PARK, CA: Kepler's Books, 7:00pm
MARCH 2: ALAMEDA, CA: Books Inc., 7:30pm
MARCH 3: SEATTLE, WA: Elliott Bay Books Co, 7:00pm
MARCH 4: LOS ANGELES, CA: Vroman's Bookstore, 7:00pm
MARCH 9: CAPITOLA, CA: Capitola Book Café, 7:30pm

Stephanie Elizondo Griest (faculty 2011) has an interview with Michael on her blog at http://aroundthebloc.wordpress.com/

Kat Meads (faculty 2002, 2007, 2010) has joined the core faculty of the new Red Earth MFA Low-Residency Program in Creative Writing at Oklahoma City University. Kat writes: "The administration has just announced that it will be awarding five $1,000 merit scholarships for members of the inaugural class." Details at http://www.okcu.edu/english/redearthmfa.