



June 2011

Where writers find encouragement, expertise, and inspiration

## 2011 CONFERENCE NEWS

**LAST CALL before fee increase:** The \$50 late fee kicks in June 15. Procrastinators, get moving. Download the brochure and registration form from [www.mcwc.org](http://www.mcwc.org) and drop those registrations into the mail this weekend. Conference dates are July 28-30, 2011.

**New option for morning workshops:** Because of an unexpectedly high demand for fiction workshop places, we've added a new option. **Jean Hegland**, author of the acclaimed novels INTO THE FOREST and WINDFALLS, will teach a three-morning workshop focusing on the novel. Read her bio and workshop description at [http://www.mcwc.org/faculty/mcwc\\_facu\\_06.html](http://www.mcwc.org/faculty/mcwc_facu_06.html). If you're signed up for another morning workshop, there's still time to transfer if you want to, but slots are filling up fast. Contact registrar Barbara Lee ([info@mcwc.org](mailto:info@mcwc.org)) to change your schedule.

**Camille Dungy**, who will teach a three-morning workshop on persona poems, has changed her workshop description. Here's the revised one:

### **Telling Stories through Poetry**

Forget what you've heard about not trying to be someone other than yourself. In poetry, we can inhabit all sorts of people's experiences and come away with new insights about ourselves and the world. Whether we write straight from personal history or in someone else's voice, participants will learn some of the exciting possibilities persona poetry offers. We'll generate poems through in-class exercises and have an opportunity to discuss previously-written work. This workshop is appropriate for anyone looking for new ways to invigorate and strengthen their poetic voice.

**Bring a Friend:** Our offer of a \$50 rebate on conference fees if you invite a new participant to the conference is good until the day before the conference. To inspire your friend, you might want to share a terrific video spot that the Mendocino Coast Television Network (MCTV) made for us. It's at <http://www.mendocoasttv.org/MCWCJuly282011.html#featured>. The speaker is **Nona Smith**, an MCWC board member.

**Sell your book at the conference:** The conference bookstore will have a special display of participants' books for sale. If you want your book included, please contact Gallery Bookshop owner **Christie Olson Day** ([christie@gallerybookshop.com](mailto:christie@gallerybookshop.com)) to make consignment arrangements.

## LOCAL EVENTS

**Friday June 17 at 6:30 p.m:** **Tod Davies**, author and founder of Exterminating Angel Press, will be at Gallery Bookshop in Mendocino to speak on "The Wisdom of Fairy Tales." According to Ms. Davies, "The key word here is stories. We really do believe that stories are the building blocks of the culture and the most important of these are the myths, the legends, the fairy tales. The books I soaked up as a kid were full of real wisdom, which somehow the adult world seemed to think you grew out of."

**Wednesday June 29 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Abalone Room at Little River Inn: Longtime Mendocino resident and MCWC board member **Norma Watkins** reads from her new memoir, THE LAST RESORT: TAKING THE MISSISSIPPI

CURE. This event is co-sponsored by Gallery Bookshop and Little River Inn.

## MCWC COMMUNITY NEWS

**Norma Watkins** (see above) writes: "My book 'THE LAST RESORT' is out. If you've a mind to read about civil rights and the sins of my past, pick up a copy at your favorite independent bookstore. (If we each pledge to buy just five books a year from an independent bookstore, the doors will stay open.)" Her book was one of the Top Shelf picks in San Francisco Chronicle Books in early June. Gallery Bookshop was the featured bookstore. Norma's website is <http://www.normawatkins.com>.

**Shirin Yim Bridges** (faculty 2011) reports that 'THE THINKING GIRL'S TREASURY OF REAL PRINCESSES' has won silver for juvenile non-fiction from the 2011 Independent Publishers Book Awards, and 'THE UMBRELLA QUEEN' has been nominated for the 2012 Georgia Children's Book Award.

**John Dufresne** (faculty 2011) writes: "If you're interested, a web site has just published a story of mine on line. You can get it here: [http://www.amazon.com/The-Cross-eyed-Bear-ebook/dp/B004X6TDLY/ref=sr\\_1\\_8?ie=UTF8&qid=1305569541&sr=8-8](http://www.amazon.com/The-Cross-eyed-Bear-ebook/dp/B004X6TDLY/ref=sr_1_8?ie=UTF8&qid=1305569541&sr=8-8) "

**Toney Merritt** (faculty 2011) was recently elected to the Advisory Board of the Mendocino Film Festival.

Through a collaboration with MCWC, **Jody Gehrman** (faculty 2006, 2008 and MCWC Advisory Board) hosted a discussion of romance novels at this month's Mendocino Film Festival, following a screening of the documentary "Guilty Pleasures." Jody says: "I had a great time at this outstanding festival. I even connected with a film maker who expressed interest in adapting one of my novels--a cherished dream of mine!"

**Ellen Sussman** (faculty 2010) writes: "On July 5, my new novel, FRENCH LESSONS, will hit the stands. Book tour begins on July 12. If you live in the Bay area you've got lots of options, including a launch party at my hometown bookstore, Kepler's, in Menlo Park, CA. After a week flitting around San Francisco, the East Bay and Marin, I'll head to Chicago, Cincinnati, Dayton, and Denver. There are plans for some events in Princeton, NJ and NY. Stay tuned for info on those. You'll find tour dates on the events page on my website, <http://www.ellensussman.com>."

The San Francisco Chronicle has a fine review of the new novel DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION by **Carolyn Cooke** (faculty 2005 and MCWC Advisory Board) at <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/06/04/RVNQ1JNBPL.DTL> .