



## Mendocino Coast Writers Conference News & Updates

March 2009

Connecting Writers to Community for 20 Years

### 2009 CONFERENCE NEWS

#### Registration Opens

Be first in line for the workshop leader you've dreamed of working with. Look for our conference brochure in the mail next week. The registration form will also be available online at [http://www.mcwc.org/mcwc\\_regn.html](http://www.mcwc.org/mcwc_regn.html). Fill out the form, mail it in with your check or credit card information, and registrar Barbara Lee will stack up your envelopes in postmark order, ready for processing when registration opens April 15. Remember, workshops with highly-regarded presenters fill quickly; we don't want you to be disappointed.

We regret that the accounting system at College of the Redwoods does not allow us to offer online registration.

If you need help with fees, see our Financial Aid page at [http://www.mcwc.org/mcwc\\_aid.html](http://www.mcwc.org/mcwc_aid.html). For discounts available to Mendocino County students and residents, see our Registration page at [http://www.mcwc.org/mcwc\\_regn.html](http://www.mcwc.org/mcwc_regn.html).

For workshop details and links to the presenters' websites, please check <http://www.mcwc.org>. Dates for our conference are Thursday, July 30 through Sunday, August 2, 2009.

#### 20th Anniversary Celebration

We are delighted to announce that MCWC's founder, **Marlis Broadhead**, will attend this year's conference as the director's guest. Marlis co-directed the first conference with Ro Peterson and Barbara LeLievre of the Fort Bragg Center for the Arts and continued to direct the conference for many years. Marlis's friends are putting together a conference scholarship to honor her. It will be awarded to a College of the Redwoods student who could not otherwise attend the conference. If you would like to be involved, please contact Linda Gracen at [lgracen@att.net](mailto:lgracen@att.net).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Soundings

Every spring and fall, MCWC hosts Soundings, a public reading/workshop event in which, like a whale sounding, participants dive deeply into some aspect of writing. The 2009 spring Soundings presenter will be **Maureen Eppstein**. She will read Friday, March 27, 7:00 pm at Prentice Gallery, Highway 1 at Boice Lane, Fort Bragg. This reading is free and open to the public. On Saturday, March 28, 10:00 am to noon at College of the Redwoods, Room 300, she

will give a workshop titled "Beyond Observation: The Practice of Nature Writing." Fiction, nonfiction and poetry writers are all welcome. Cost of the workshop is \$20.

Maureen has a poetry chapbook, *Quickening*. Another poetry collection is forthcoming from March Street Press. She is currently working on a memoir about her sister, who worked for Maori land rights in Maureen's home country of New Zealand.

This event is supported by Poets & Writers, Inc., through a grant it has received from the James Irvine Foundation.

### **Theatre Evening**

MCWC will partner with Mendocino Theatre Company on April 30 for a performance of *Tuesdays With Morrie*. Tickets for this fundraiser event are \$30 and include a pre-show wine and hors d'oeuvres buffet. All proceeds will go to financial aid for needy conference participants.

### **MCWC COMMUNITY LITERARY NEWS**

**Carole Boston Weatherford**, who will teach the Open Genre workshop at our 2009 conference, garnered Coretta Scott King Honors from the American Library Association at its Mid-Winter Conference for two of her books, both of poetry: *Becoming Billie Holiday* won an author honor and *Before John Was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane*, illustrated by Sean Qualls, won an illustrator honor. The ALA Youth Media Awards are widely regarded as the Oscars of children's publishing.

Conference participant **Tom Reed** (2006) credits presenter Dan Imhoff, fellow participant Irene Thomas, and director Charlotte Gullick with help on his recently published book, *The Granite Avatars of Patagonia*.

Another connections story: **Haven Logan** met Steve Mettee, the publisher of her second book *The California Wine Country Diet*, at the 2005 Mendocino Writers Conference. She was a presenter at the conference in 2006.

**Larry Baker** (2003) will have a new novel coming out this fall (Ice Cube Press), titled *A Good Man*.

Advisory Board member **Valerie Miner** has a Fulbright Fellowship to Indonesia in March and April, 2009. She will give readings, lectures and workshops at twelve universities, colleges and arts centers and also plans to meet with Indonesian writers.