



**March 2011**

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

### 2011 CONFERENCE NEWS

The MCWC 2011 countdown has started. Here are some important deadlines:

**March 15:** Registration opens. After she processes your application, Barbara, our registrar, will send you a confirmation and the application form for the participant writing contest.

**May 1:** Deadline for Youth Scholarship applications. If you know a high school student in Mendocino County who has an interest in writing, please encourage him or her to apply.

**May 15:** Youth Scholarship decisions made.

**May 15:** Deadline for applying to be in the master class on novel writing with John Dufresne. To apply, send a ten-page writing sample, plus an additional check for \$100, which is refundable if you are not selected for the class.

**May 31:** Master class decisions made and participants notified.

**May 31:** Deadline for entering the participant writing contest. Prizes include a full fellowship for a College of the Redwoods student and for the winner of the short fiction contest.

**June 1:** Deadline for requesting financial aid. Guidelines are at [http://www.mcwc.org/mcwc\\_aid.html](http://www.mcwc.org/mcwc_aid.html).

**June 15:** Late registration fee kicks in. Avoid it by sending your registration in early.

**June 18:** Financial aid decisions made.

Then the conference staff work like crazy getting ready to welcome you to College of the Redwoods, Fort Bragg on the morning of July 28. Find full details of the three-day program at [www.mcwc.org](http://www.mcwc.org).

### **Publisher joins faculty:**

**Cynthia Frank**, president of Cypress House, whose imprints include Lost Coast Press and QED Press, has joined our Editors/Publishers panel and will be available for consults. Her recent publications include the novel *Deadlines* by Paul McHugh, and *The Dog Walked Down the Street: An Outspoken Guide for Writers Who Want to Publish* by Sal Glynn (faculty 2005) which won the IPPY Gold Award for Best Writing/Publishing Book.

### **Postcard distributors needed:**

We've printed a stack of handsome postcards advertising the conference. If you can place a handful in your local bookstore or library, or email a pdf file to your writer friends, please contact [director@mcwc.org](mailto:director@mcwc.org).

### LOCAL EVENTS

**Wednesday, March 16**, at 6 p.m. in the Garden Room of the Mendocino Hotel: Writers of the Mendocino Coast present editor and writer, A. Victoria Mixon, who will give an overview of the

craft of fiction with special emphasis upon revision and editing. Victoria is the author of *The Art & Craft of Fiction, A Practitioner's Manual*. Learn more about her at <http://victoriamixon.com/>.

**Tuesday, April 5:** Coast Slam at the Mendocino Hotel, all ages. Sign-ups at 6:30. Featured slam poet is Jalal Huyer, between open mic and two slam rounds. Get more information on the Coast Slam Facebook page, including a Quick Start guide in Notes.

### MCWC COMMUNITY NEWS

The NAACP Image Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements and performances of people of color in the arts, as well as those individuals or groups who promote social justice through their creative endeavors. **Camille Dungy** (faculty 2008 & upcoming in 2011), whose new poetry collection *Suck on the Marrow* was a nominee, has a consolation prize: one of her poems is included in the winning book, *100 Best African-American Poems*, edited by Nikki Giovanni.

**Stefanie Freele's** (faculty 2009 & 2010) story "While Surrounded by Water" has won the *Glimmer Train* Fiction Open contest.

**J. Ruth Gendler** writes: "Just to say we never know what happens with our work. Twenty-six years after my first book, *The Book of Qualities* was published, it was mentioned in the New York Times!"

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/11/14/this-is-your-brain-on-metaphors/>

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If you have literary news to share with the Mendocino Coast Writers Conference community, please send details to the newsletter editor <<mailto:news@mcwc.org>> and we'll include it in the next issue.