



Mendocino Coast Writers Conference News & Updates

October 2009

Connecting Writers to Community for Over 20 Years

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MCWC's Fall Soundings reading/workshop presenter is Gayle Greene, whose most recent books are *Insomniac*, *Doris Lessing: The Poetics of Change* and *The Woman Who Knew Too Much: Alice Stewart and the Secrets of Radiation*.

Free public reading/talk: "Women Writers and Social Change: Up Close and Personal,"

Friday, November 6, 7:00 pm at Fort Bragg Public Library, 499 E. Laurel St., Fort Bragg, CA.

Writing workshop: "Things I wish I'd known about non-fiction writing....", Saturday, November 7,

10:00-12:00 at Trinity Lutheran Hall, 620 East Redwood Ave., Fort Bragg, CA. Fee \$30. Contact

Katherine Brown at mcwc2@att.net for a reservation. You can pay at the door or mail a check (mark for Gayle Greene) to MCWC, PO Box 2087, FB, CA 95437.

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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

When noted gang interventionist Luis Rodriguez spoke during the 2009 Mendocino Coast Writers Conference about using art to help young people turn away from drugs and gangs, he unleashed a burst of creativity among organizations here on the Mendocino Coast who work with at-risk youth. MCWC is now partnering with Safe Passage, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Coalition for Gang Awareness and Prevention, the Fort Bragg Police Dept., the Noyo School, and the Youth Project to create the arts opportunities Rodriguez encouraged. We staffed a children's poetry making booth at a Celebrate Safe Communities day in a Fort Bragg park. Plans for a poetry slam workshop are under way. Donations are pouring in from MCWC participants to help fund our efforts. If you have not yet been contacted but would like to help, please send your check, made out to MCWC, to: MCWC, PO Box 2087, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. Donations of any amount are welcome. Write Community Outreach on the memo line of your check to make sure your contribution goes toward this project.

2010 CONFERENCE PLANS

Revision Master Class

The last time fiction writer **Lynne Barrett** taught revision at MCWC, the room was jam-packed. Lynne has agreed to return for a three-morning workshop on revision. To make sure manuscripts brought to this workshop are by experienced writers ready to engage in the revision process, admission will be juried. For the first time in our history, we're going to ask potential participants to submit a manuscript before being accepted to this one workshop. A good idea, or not? We'd welcome your comments and will post them, pro and con, on our blog at <http://www.mendocinowritersblog.com>.

More Presenters

The line-up for our other morning workshops is shaping up. We're particularly pleased to announce that **Nancy Lord**, writer laureate of Alaska, whose work brings a personal voice to the issues of

conservation and climate change, will teach the nonfiction workshop. Nancy's latest book is *Rock, Water Wild: An Alaskan Life*. Other confirmed workshop leaders are: **Kat Meads**, memoir, **Alison Luterman**, poetry, and **Ellen Sussman**, beginning writers. We will have more information about these great teachers in future newsletters.

MCWC COMMUNITY LITERARY NEWS

Special Event in Eureka: Greg Mortenson, co-author of *Three Cups of Tea*, will speak at Eureka High School on October 20. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Donations of \$5.00-\$10.00 are encouraged, and all proceeds will be donated to Central Asia Institute to help Mortenson in his ongoing work in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Stefanie Freele (Paths to Publishing, 2009) will read from her new short story collection, *Feeding Strays*, at the Gallery Bookshop in Mendocino on Friday October 30 at 6:30 pm.