



**October 2011**

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

### 2012 CONFERENCE PLANS

More outstanding faculty to round out our list for the 2012 conference:

When Stephanie Griest (faculty 2011) returned to her Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa, she was so excited about MCWC she persuaded her program director, **Robin Hemley**, to accept our invitation. Robin will teach a master class in memoir. His impressive bio is at <http://robinhemley.com>

Novelist and freelance editor **Harriet Scott Chessman**, who comes highly recommended by Ellen Sussman (faculty 2010), will teach the emerging writers workshop and will also be part of our editors & publishers panel. Harriet's website is <http://www.harrietchessman.com/>

MCWC 2011 faculty John Dufresne and Camille Dungy helped us connect with **Steve Almond**, the New York Times bestselling author of the short story collections MY LIFE IN HEAVY METAL, THE EVIL B.B. CHOW, and GOD BLESS AMERICA. His work has been anthologized in the Best American Short Stories and has won a Pushcart Prize. Steve will teach the short fiction workshop.

**Laurie McLean** of Larsen-Pomada Literary Agents, represents adult genre fiction (romance, fantasy, science fiction, horror, nouveau westerns, mysteries, suspense, thrillers, etc.) as well as middle-grade and young-adult books. Check out her blog, [www.agentsavant.com](http://www.agentsavant.com), for tales of the agenting life, and [www.larsenpomada.com](http://www.larsenpomada.com) for valuable information and links, plus her submission guidelines.

**MCWC 2012 dates are July 26-28**

### EVENTS

**October 8 through November 1** at Open-Door-Arts@OddFellows, Mendocino: **Soulful Remembering**, a show that celebrates people, places and stories that fill our lives and create the rich texture of community memory.

**Wednesday, October 19**, 7-9 p.m. at Aquas Autumn Speakeasy Literary Saloon @ Aquas Cafe, Petaluma CA. **David Corbett** (faculty 2012) who took his 15 year experience as a private detective (in which he worked the People's Temple Trial, the Cotton Club murder case, the DeLorean trial) to build a career as a novelist, will share the podium with **Ginny Rorby** (MCWC board), author of four award winning novels for young adults.

**Tuesday, Nov. 1: Coast Slam** in The Grind at College of the Redwoods, Fort Bragg. This month

the Slam will have a special theme. Whether you call it Samhain, Dia De Los Muertos, All Souls Day, or Halloween, bring your art to celebrate the lives of those who have passed on. Poets who bring a themed slam poem will be given preference on the sign up list and an additional point. Sign-ups for slam or open mic start at 6:30 pm, slam at 7:00. **Marc Marcel**, a nationally acclaimed spoken word artist, will perform between the two rounds of competition. Cover charge \$5, or \$3 with student ID or seniors. For more information email [coastslam@gmail.com](mailto:coastslam@gmail.com)

### MCWC COMMUNITY NEWS

MCWC reached out into the community with a community reporter series called "Behind the Scenes." Board member **Norma Watkins**, and editor of our local papers, the Fort Bragg Advocate and Mendocino Beacon, **Connie Korbel**, began a project to boost worthy nonprofits (there are over 300 in our area). Students from Watkins' creative writing classes volunteered to be trained as feature writers for the Fort Bragg Advocate. Each volunteer took a nonprofit: Friends of the Library; the homeless; Habitat for Humanity; Noyo Food Forest; Safe Passage, The Senior Center, etc. They met weekly all summer for lunch at the Senior Center to continue training. The first article, "Behind the Scenes at Friends of the Fort Bragg Library", has appeared. Editor Korbel plans to enter the pieces in a national contest at the end of the year.

**Karen Lewis** (MCWC outreach coordinator) reports: "The Redwood Coast Senior Center Writing Workshop is awesome. We have a full table in their deluxe, new conference room, and everyone shares a very supportive and creative energy." This four-week free program is made possible through a grant to MCWC from the California Arts Council. Karen is working on plans for continuing this workshop series in January. If you are interested, contact Karen at [klewis@mcn.org](mailto:kewis@mcn.org)

**Linda Lambert** (MCWC 2009, 2010) reports that her new novel, *ETRUSCAN EVENINGS*, has just been released.

**Gayle Greene** (MCWC 2006, 2008, 2011) has an article in the autumn issue of *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*, Johns Hopkins Press. "Sir Richard Doll and Dr. Alice Stewart: Reputation and the Shaping of Scientific 'Truth'" addresses the rivalry between two of the foremost epidemiologists of the 20th century over radiation risk, an issue made newly relevant by Fukushima. Gayle also has a long poem "Death's Brother: Theogony of Sleep," forthcoming in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*.