



Mendocino Coast Writers Conference News & Updates

September 2008

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20th ANNIVERSARY 2009 MENDOCINO COAST WRITERS CONFERENCE

Will be held from July 30 – August 2, 2009 on the College of the Redwoods Fort Bragg Campus. Confirmed so far are poet Ellen Bass (*The Human Line*), Newberry Honor author Gennifer Choldenko (*Al Capone Does My Shirts*), children's picture book author/illustrator Ian Schoenherr (*Cat & Mouse*), and Pushcart Prize-winning fiction writer Benjamin Percy (*Refresh, Refresh; The Language of Elk.*). Save the dates and check back for updates on faculty, editors, and agents.

FALL SOUNDINGS, OCTOBER 30 – 31

Novelist, essayist, and editor **Ellen Sussman** will visit the coast this fall for the **MCWC Soundings** program. Ellen's most recent publications include the provocatively titled anthologies *Dirty Words: A Literary Encyclopedia of Sex* and *Bad Girls: 26 Writers Misbehave*. Don't be misled, Ellen is also a novelist (*On a Night Like This*) and very good writing coach. On Thursday the 30th at 7 pm, Ellen will give a reading and literary talk; on Friday the 31st from 10 am – noon, she will lead a workshop on point of view. Soundings literary events are held twice a year, in the spring and fall. Check the website for more details:

www.mcwc.org.

MCWC ANNOUNCES NEW BLOG: Participation Invited

MCWC Program Committee member **Gaile Wakeman** and her daughter **Denise Wakeman** of Blog Squad fame have just launched a new blog intended to build community among past and future participants of Mendocino Coast Writers Conference. The blog is very much in the newborn stage, and comments along with suggestions about content, are invited at www.mendocinowritersblog.com. If

anyone doubts the power of blogging, Denise, who led a lively session at the summer conference, sends this note: "By the way, I posted on my Facebook profile that I was helping set up a blog for MCWC and 2 people contacted me for more info about the conference. That's the power of social networking and the web."

MCWC COMMUNITY LITERARY NEWS

MCWC Program Committee member **Norma Watkins'** essay "Sometimes a Gene Carries a Curse" appeared recently in the St. Petersburg Times. Find her essay online at

<http://www.tampabay.com/features/humaninterest/article789907.ece>. Norma divides her time between Florida and Mendocino.

Former faculty member **Robert San Souci** sends news of his latest picture book, *As Luck Would Have It: From the Brothers Grimm*. With illustrations by Robert's brother Dan, the story also features siblings, twin anthropomorphic bears Jonas and Juniper, who find all kinds of trouble when left alone.

It's a great season for new releases in children's picture books. Check out **Ian Schoenherr's** *Cat & Mouse*, just out from HarperCollins/Greenwillow. Ian will be teaching at the Summer 2009 MCWC Conference. According to Ian, "The patterns and personalities of my own cats, Buzz and Pistachio, helped me with the pictures, which I made with ink and acrylic paint on watercolor paper."

Margot Brown (former high school participant) has an essay, "Letting Patients Teach," in the September 2008 issue of *The New Physician Magazine*. While she considers this her first published essay, Margot wrote a powerful editorial at age 13 concerning the effects of a local forest clearcut on native birds. She's now headed to medical school. Her article is online at <http://www.amsa.org/tnp/articles/article.cfx?id=448>, and well worth the read.

Former MCWC presenter **Cindy Wathen** is interviewed in the September/October *Poets & Writers* magazine for an article about Fresno's literary arts scene. In the spirit of building literary communities, *Poets & Writers* www.pw.org co-sponsors some MCWC programs including the Fall and Spring Soundings.

YOUNG WRITERS at MCWC

Calling all former high school participants: Please send a note about your current scholastic and literary careers.