

NEWS

Tekla Dennison Miller (www.teklamiller.com) is a former warden who managed two prisons simultaneously (a men's maximum and a multi-level women's facility) outside Detroit, Michigan. Her published memoir, *The Warden Wore Pink*, Biddle Publishing, is about her 20-year career in corrections. A second memoir released January 2003, *A Bowl of Cherries*, is about her childhood in Central New York and California.



Ms. Miller taught children in South Central Los Angeles after the 1965 riots, worked with mentally challenged enlisted men while employed with the US Special Services in Germany, was the first female probation officer in Oakland County, Michigan, and the supervisor of the first prison camp for women in Michigan. Ms. Miller is a social activist, writer and national speaker focusing on women's issues and criminal justice reform. She has had several nonfiction articles published in these areas. Her first memoir is required reading in criminal justice and women's studies courses at several colleges and universities. She also has had articles about dogs in prison published in *Good Dog* and *Dog Fancy Magazines*.

Ms. Miller's third book and first work of fiction *Life Sentences*, Medallion Press, was released in August 2005. *Inevitable Sentences*, the sequel to *Life Sentences* was released in 2009 by Medallion Press. Ms. Miller has appeared on National Public Radio's Fresh Air with Terry Gross and has been featured in many radio, newspaper and journal interviews including *Ann Arbor News*, *Detroit Metropolitan Woman*, *Corrections Professional*, *Detroit Metro Times*, *Detroit Free Press*, *Syracuse Post Standard*, *Historic CNY Quarterly*, *Durango Herald*, and *Cazenovia College Magazine* to name a few.

Ms. Miller was a technical consultant for Granada Entertainment/TNT on a TV movie and series about a woman warden and for an NBC news special about women prisoners. As an adjunct professor, Ms. Miller has taught a course on Prisons and Prisoners. In 2001 she was a contestant on the TV quiz show "To Tell the Truth."

Ms. Miller was among the women in law enforcement and criminal justice honored by the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 1997. In 2001, the Criminal Justice Women of Michigan again honored Ms. Miller with the Josephine Davis Community Service Award. In 2004, Ms. Miller received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Cazenovia College, New York. In May 2007, she was the commencement speaker at Cazenovia College and received an honorary doctorate of humanities degree.

Ms. Miller is a member of the American Correctional Association's Women in Corrections and Juvenile Justice, Association of Women Executives in Corrections, North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents, American Correctional Association, Association of American University Women, the Women's Resource Center of Durango, League of Women Voters, Sisters in Crime, and Southwest Writers' Association. She is a past member of the La Plata County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee and Jail Task Force. She also was past president and member of the Southwest Youth Corps Board of Directors.

Ms. Miller received her associate's degree from Cazenovia College, her bachelor's degree from the University of California at Los Angeles and her master's degree from Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan.