

April, 2010

For Immediate Release

N E W S
from Mount Hermon
Christian Camps & Conference Center

P O Box 413 · Mount Hermon, CA 95041 · (831) 335-4466 · web: mounthermon.org

BIG AWARDS AT 41st WRITERS CONFERENCE

Several new awards and a 2010 Fiction Contest sponsored by B&H Publishing Group highlighted increased awards at Mount Hermon's 41st anniversary Christian Writers Conference, March 26-30. Participants of over 325 included 80 faculty/staff from most of the major Christian publishing houses and magazines, six agents, and a number of successful freelance authors.

The intensive, four-night conference offered over 70 workshops and twelve 8-hour tracks of concentrated study, including fiction and nonfiction mentoring tracks for intermediate writers. A popular career track gave specialized guidance to experienced authors with at least two published books each. Best-selling musician, producer, and author, **Charlie Peacock**, of Nashville, TN, was the keynote speaker for the week, highlighting the state of the publishing world and urging collaborative options in the future.

In a closing night ceremony, a new award for **Most Promising Teen Writer**, sponsored by Alexa Schnee, went to 18 year old **Amanda Davis**, of Middleton, TN, carrying \$100 cash. The **WinePress Publishing Poetry Award** of \$250 was given to **Cheryl Ricker** of Rochester, MN. Impromptu recitation of her poem, "Rest," got a rousing ovation. The **Most Promising New Writer Award**, sponsored by Kathy Ide's Christian Editor Network, of Brea, CA, was won by **Angus Nelson** of Madison, AL. The award carried a \$250 cash prize.

The Steve Laube Agency sponsored a \$250 prize for the **Pacesetter Award**, given to **Lynn Vincent**, member of the 2010 faculty from San Diego, CA, narrative nonfiction and collaborative author who has had several best-sellers in the past year--*Going Rouge* (with Sarah Palin) and *The Same Kind of Different As Me*, presently in development for film. The Steve Laube Agency also sponsored a \$500 **Writer of the Year Award**, won by **Merrie Destefano**, former editor for *Victorian Homes, Cottages & Bungalows* and *Romantic Homes*.

The Dave Talbott Special Recognition Award, sponsored by Glass Road Public Relations in Fulton, KY, was unanimously awarded to **Chuck Roper** of Coatesville, PA, conference transportation chairman for the past six years, who was unable to be present due to illness. **The Lauren Beyenhof True Grit Award**, new this year, went to **Rachel Marks** of Camarillo, CA, for her gifted writing and illustrating despite her own physical struggles with Non-lymphoma Hodgkin's disease. Austin Boyd & Les Stobbe sponsored the \$1000 award.

The **B&H Publishing Group's Fiction Contest** finalists were 3rd place winner, **Leslee Clapp**, 2nd place winner, **Mark Young**, and 1st place winner, **Loralee Kodzo**. Valuable editing, marketing, and web design assistance went to the winner.

The conference is sponsored by and held at the Mount Hermon Christian Camps and Conference Center near Santa Cruz, CA, the oldest such facility west of the Mississippi, founded in 1906. Rachel Williams, director of the conference, noted that In addition to the prize money above, nearly \$7,500 in scholarships, based on financial need, were awarded participants. The 42nd annual conference is set for April 15-19, 2011.

#

Additional information and photos:
David R. Talbott, Associate Director of Advancement
Direct Line: (831) 430-1241