



The 2011 St. Davids Christian Writers' Conference drew more than sixty attendees and instructors. We learned the joy of storytelling from **Trish Perry**, the art of magazine writing from **Holly Miller**, the craft of poetry from **Karen Blomain**, the ability to write what we know from **Nancy Skultety**, the ins and outs of alternative publishing from **Bob O'Connor**, and how to move from hobbyist to professional writer from **Carol Hamilton**. **Kathy Carlton Willis** told us about how God meets us smack dab in the middle, and agent **Diana Flegal** heard our pitches.

But not all our learning came in the classroom. We cried with Susan Lower when Don Hasselman read her award-winning essay about her daughter. We laughed till we cried when Director Lora Zill chortled over the nightly writing competition entries. We marveled at the power of Philip Meyer's voice at the Literary Coffeehouse. We thought and prayed over the bravery of Catherine Young's witness at evening devotions.

Our conference theme was "Words Made Flesh." And we marveled and offered thanksgiving as we grew in love in Christ – and each other.

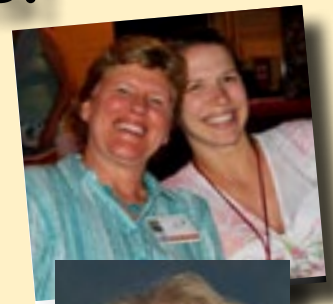
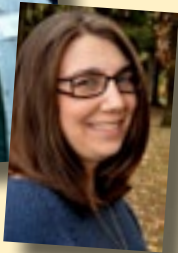


# THE UPPER CASE

## HERE'S TO THE WINNERS!

Congrats to the writers who received special recognition at the June 24 awards banquet:

- *Alma K. Weber Award* for the most promising first-time conferee: **Jessica Johnston**
- *Shirley Eaby Award* for a helpful, caring spirit: **Catherine Young**
- *Fritz Kemper Award* for perseverance in the writing craft: **Susan Lower**
- *Lois Henderson Award* for a body of work that exemplifies Christ: **Anne Waterman Murphy**



## YOUR ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

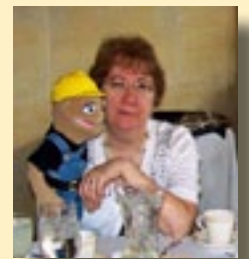
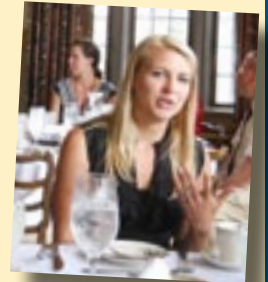
**Linda Au** is the new St. Davids Christian Writers Association president. Linda is an award-winning humorist and fiction writer. *Fork in the Road*, a collection of humor essays and a follow-up to *Head in the Sand*, will be available this fall.

**Vickie Price Taylor**, a novelist from Wheeling, W. Va., succeeds Linda as first vice president; outgoing president **Jean Stewart** of North Versailles, Pa.,



becomes second vice president. **Roberta Brosius** of Milton, Pa., and **Susan Lower** of Williamsport, Pa., continue as secretary and treasurer respectively.

Newly elected or reelected board members include **Deanna Baird** of Armada, Mich.; **Harry Bohrs** of Cranberry, N.J.; **Bonnie Hudson** of Clearfield, Pa.; **Roberta Updegraff** of Linden, Pa.; **Tonya Wilhelm** of Northumberland, Pa.; and **Shannon Wine** of Bozeman, Mont.



## Wild About Harry

2011 marked the fifty-fourth St. Davids conference... and the fiftieth attended by Harry Bohrs of Cranbury, N.J. Harry's involvement with St. Davids goes back to our beginnings with the American Baptists at Eastern College in St. Davids, Pa.; our years at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa.; and our move to Grove City, Pa., in 2007. Harry was honored for his service at the Friday night awards banquet. Thanks, Harry!



Keep in touch with your St. Davids friends all year long. “Like” us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Davids-Christian-Writers-Association/140153497943> and follow us at Twitter (<http://twitter.com/StDavidsWriters>). (Special thanks to **Anne Waterman Murphy**, who took most of the photos in this issue and on our Facebook page.)

And, when you’ve got news about a sale or publication, send a note to Mel Rigney ([melanie@melanierigney.com](mailto:melanie@melanierigney.com)), and we’ll share it here in the *Upper Case*.



## “ My Favorite 2011 Conference Memory ... ”

**Tonya Wilhelm:** I loved the Literary Coffeehouse. I’ll never grow out of wanting to be read to.

**Susan Swan:** Thanks to so many of you who looked out for me and helped me get around on campus. Special thanks to Tonya—golf cart goddess extraordinaire!

**Mel Rigney:** I have so many, as always, but the one I’m thinking about right now was breakfast with Roberta Brosius. Deep talk, including who wrote the Gospel of John, John’s letters, and Revelation. It’d been a couple of years since Roberta and I carved out time for a discussion like this, and I’m so glad we did.

**Michele Huey:** I wasn’t able to go this year, but was blessed by being able to follow the conference on Facebook!

**Cathy Young:** My closest God moment was when I finished devotions on Friday night, He affirmed me as a writer and an a servant leader this week.

**Roberta Brosius:** I loved the awards banquet, especially seeing fellow West Branch Christian Writer Susan Lower receive first place for personal experience. I also loved the good critique and affirmation I received in the Writers Retreat.

**Linda Au:** ... when Susan Lower got her 1st place award for Personal Experience, with her back to us, and we were all standing, applauding, weeping ... and she had no idea we had all stood up until she turned around. The look on her face was one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen.

**Amy Mable:** Lora could make me laugh just with her giggle! Probably my favorite moment was when I briefly had the highest bid for that Imported Goose Feather.

**Trish Perry:** I’d have to say my favorite was any time Lora took to the mike. I love to laugh, and Lora has such a clear ability to appreciate the humor in any setting. As a first-timer, I definitely enjoyed the poignant, serious moments, but the humorous ones keep popping back to mind.

## SAVE THE DATE! THE NEXT ST. DAVIDS CHRISTIAN WRITERS' CONFERENCE!

**JUNE 19–23, 2012**  
**WRITERS  
UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION**

Association members selected “Writers Under Construction” as our conference theme for next year, and not just because construction will still be under way at Grove City College. More importantly, we are all under construction as the Master Builder shapes us for His use and smoothes out our rough edges.

While the 2012 conference is still eleven months away, it’s already shaping up to be a great one! Author/speaker **Jim Watkins** ([www.jameswatkins.com](http://www.jameswatkins.com)) already has agreed to come back (he was a big hit in 2010), and conference Director Lora Zill is lining up other fabulous faculty.

People who desire to spend their time working on a manuscript rather than going to classes can apply for the Writer’s Colony. We were honored this year to have NancyE James and Rosa Lee Richards as our first “colonists,” as they dubbed themselves. Another option: consider applying to be part of the Writers’ Retreat intensive critique group.

Have more faith than money? St. Davids offers a number of scholarships, including one designated specifically for clergy and their families.

Watch our Web site, [www.stdavidswriters.com](http://www.stdavidswriters.com), and our Facebook page, and the *Upper Case* for more details about “Writers Under Construction”!

*photo courtesy of Tonya Wilhelm*



*Rosa Lee Richards and Jean Stewart try to keep up with the suggestions from the association for next year’s theme*

### *The Upper Case*

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Submit copy to

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Readers may submit:

**PROSE** (150-400 words): Articles on  
writing, book reviews, devotions,  
short-short stories.

**POETRY:** Any form, 30 lines max.

**ARTWORK:** Photographs, full-color  
art.

**INTERVIEWS:** Query editor first.

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St. Davids Christian Writers Association

