

Dear 2016 Writers Conference Registrant:

Your registration has been received, and we are excited you're planning to join us at Mount Hermon, March 18-22, 2016.

Did you see that we're offering a Pre-Conference Next Level Clinic March 16-18? Small mentoring groups for children's, fiction, and nonfiction writers. A workshop on using Scrivener and a workshop on building your platform. Learn more about that at http://writers.mounthermon.org/program/next-level.

There's nothing else quite like a Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference. The community, instruction, critiques, worship, setting, great food, and laughter—all are part of what have made Mount Hermon the premiere Christian writers conference in the country. Prepare for a wonderful but demanding week. You'll do lots of walking, sitting, eating, and maybe a little sleeping during our time together.

In the meantime, if you're on Facebook, be sure to follow the Mount Hermon Writers Conference page at https://www.facebook.com/christianwritersconference. Also, don't miss the weekly blog posts from the 2016 faculty at writers. mounthermon.org/blog.

If you didn't pay-in-full at the time of registration, please remember to send the balance due by February 18, 2016 to guarantee your reservation. You may charge your deposit and/or balance due over the phone, online, or by mail. We accept Visa® and MasterCard®.

If you have any mobility issues and have special housing or transportation needs, please let the Reservations Office know by March 1, 2016. Some housing units have showers and some have tubs; some have private baths, some you'll be sharing (economy only). You can reach a Registrar by emailing info@mounthermon.org or calling 888-642-2677.

## **DETAILS TO HELP YOU PREPARE**

#### **ARRIVAL TIMES**

- If you are arriving Friday, March 18, plan to arrive no later than 11:00AM, if possible.
- If you are planning to arrive on Thursday, March 17, if possible, please select a flight to arrive at the San Jose Airport anytime between 9:00AM and 4:00PM.

NOTE: Allow two hours for transition from the San Jose Airport to the conference center.

Room keys are available at 10:00AM. After check-in, visit the Conference Bookstore in Ivy Dining, check out the freebie tables in the back of the Auditorium, or just enjoy the campus. **The start of the main Writers Conference is Friday lunch at 12:15PM** in the Dining Hall. Don't miss it! At 1:45PM you'll want to participate in the First Timers Orientation or the Returners Reunion. **Meet the faculty at the Faculty-Hosted Meet and Greet at 3:00PM in the Commons**.

#### AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE

For our Airport Shuttle Service from the San Jose Airport (We cannot pick up from the San Francisco Airport), signup online at http://writers.mounthermon.org/registration.

**Wednesday, March 16**, Pre-Conference Next Level Mentoring Clinics: If possible, please schedule flights that arrive in San Jose ~ Wednesday, 12:00–4:00PM. Pre-Conference Clinic begins with 6:00 dinner.

**Thursday, March 17**, Early Arrivals & Faculty: If possible, please schedule flights that arrive in San Jose ~ Thursday, between 9:00AM and 4:00PM.

**Friday, March 18**, Writers Conference: If possible, please schedule flights to arrive in San Jose ~ Friday, before 11:00AM. Conference begins with lunch at 12:15PM.

Allow at least two hours from your landing time to the Mount Hermon Conference Center. The San Jose Airport is about a 45-minute drive from Mount Hermon. Please don't show up at the airport without having completed your Shuttle Request form and paid for the shuttle service.

**SCHEDULE YOUR RETURN FLIGHT ON Tuesday, March 22, 2016,** out of San Jose for no earlier than 10:30AM, if possible. Standard Shuttle Service begins at 8:00AM.

**Changes in flights in route** must be phoned to Bob Hodgson, Transportation Coordinator, 928.593.9280, or e-mailed to mona.hodgson@mounthermon.org.

#### FIRST TIMERS ORIENTATION and RETURNERS REUNION

**First Timers, Friday at 1:45PM**, you have your own introduction session to give you answers to questions you might have about the conference. **And Returners**, will have a reunion packed with valuable information, too. Please plan to attend the First Timers Orientation or the Returners Reunion so we're all on the same page at the start of the conference.

# TWO FREE MANUSCRIPT CRITIQUES OR EDITORIAL REVIEWS

You may submit two manuscripts in advance of the conference for critique by a published author or editorial review by an editor or agent. **Must be received in our office no later than March 15TH.** Please see our Website at http://writers.mounthermon.org/resources/Letters-forms-guidelines for the Conference Manuscript Submission Guidelines, Submission Forms, and the Editorial Needs charts that list what each publisher, editor, or agent is looking for is posted on the website under Resources. This should help you decide who you would want to review your work. Please follow the directions carefully.

Submitted manuscripts may be retrieved during the conference in the Hospitality Center, Saturday afternoon and following.

# PRIVATE APPOINTMENTS WITH FACULTY MEMBERS, EDITORS, and AGENTS

If you're interested in meeting with faculty members, editors, and agents for private consultations, we've made it easy for you. The faculty, editors, and agents manage their own Appointment Sheet. Some may request a consultation with you based upon what they see in reviewing or critiquing your manuscripts.

### **HEADSHOT PHOTOS**

The fabulous Mount Hermon photographers will be taking headshot photos for those who sign-up. Find more details on the enclosed Pro Tips bookmark and on the Resources page at writers.mounthermon.org/resources.

#### RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Kayaking, ropes course, zipline, and more—all free to the Mount Hermon Writers during the conference. Sign-ups for recreational opportunities will take place at dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday morning. Details available on the website at http://writers.mounthermon.org/resources/recreational-options.

### **CONFERENCE BOOKSTORE**

The Mount Hermon Book Shop carries some clothing items, CDs, Bibles, general Christian books, and has a limited sundries section with items you may have forgotten, including toothpaste, aspirin, postcards, etc.

Our separate **Writers Conference Bookstore in Ivy Dining Room** stocks writing resources and faculty-authored books. Look for the special selection of books on writing recommended by the faculty, plus the latest titles authored by faculty and registrants. Books will be sold throughout the conference, and be available for the Autograph Party Monday evening honoring all our authors.

Note: Visa® and MasterCard® are accepted in both the Mount Hermon Book Shop and the Writers Conference Bookstore in Ivy Dining.

#### **BOOK CONSIGNMENT**

Registrants who are published book authors may bring their own pre-priced books to put on consignment at our Writers Conference Bookstore in Ivy Dining Room for a 20% consignment fee. Please price all books on the BACK cover. **The consignment form is on the website under Resources / Forms.** Please have the form filled out prior to the conference and sent to Joy Harrison (see e-mail address on top of form), or bring a completed hard copy with you to turn in at the Writers Conference Bookstore.

#### **DRESS IS CASUAL**

Be comfortable as you learn and connect. This normally means slacks or jeans. Our campus is hilly with many uneven walkways—wear comfortable footwear.

## **EXTRA THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT TO BRING**

- Business Cards with your name, address, phone number, e-mail, website, and any pertinent information. Use these to introduce yourself to faculty members, editors, and agents during meals and consultation appointments.
- · Portfolio of previously published works. If you're not published, bring samples of your best work to date.
- Blow dryer
- Extra hangers
- Flashlight
- Pens
- Bible
- Laptop
- · An extension cord, if you're bringing any kind of electric appliance, phone charger, computer.
- · Rain gear
- Shoes comfortable for walking. Maybe even hiking shoes.
- Coat or jacket. Evenings are generally cool, so layering is the way to go.
- A small, high intensity lamp might be helpful for in-room study or writing, as most sleeping rooms have only "atmosphere" lighting.
- Big bar of soap, extra towels. All housing at Mount Hermon includes the provision of linens, towels and starter soap. Towels are changed once, mid-conference. No daily maid service on any units.

## **AWARDS**

ALL CONFERENCE RETURNING REGISTRANTS/ALUMNI ARE ELIGIBLE for our conference awards and are invited to submit a résumé of their own or a nomination for another writer for the annual Writer of the Year Award, Pacesetter Award, or Special Recognition Award. Detail the nominee's contribution in: (1) articles/stories/poems published; (2) books authored (include publisher & date); (3) classes or workshops taught; (4) speaking engagements; and/or (5) other activities to encourage writers. Please email nominations to Dave.Talbott@mounthermon.org.

All nominees must be alumni of the Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference and be present at this year's conference. All nominations must be received by Saturday, March 19TH. Send your recommendations to David Talbott at David. Talbott@mounthermon.org. Please cc mona.hodgson@mounthermon.org with your award nomination.

#### WEB BINDER OF CLASS OUTLINES

You may find the entire binder of Major Morning Tracks and Afternoon Workshop outlines on the website March 1st. Print the pages you'd like to have during the conference—(Major Morning Track and Afternoon Workshop outlines you want to follow) and bring them with you. Or download the whole thing onto your laptop or iPad and bring it all to the conference. During the conference, several copies of the binder will be available at Hospitality for your perusal should you need it. We don't hand out binders at the conference.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If after reading all the material on the internet at writers.mounthermon.org you still have questions, please e-mail me at mona.hodgson@mounthermon.org.

For housing, meals, shuttle sign-up, or payment details, call the Registration Office toll-free at 1.888. MH.CAMPS. For travel information, or other items, contact Amy Howard, Writers Conference Registrar, at the above phone number, or e-mail her at amy.howard@mounthermon.org.

## Connect with us and your Mount Hermon Writers community ONLINE at:

Website: writers.mounthermon.org/ Blog: www.mounthermon.org/blog/writers/ Facebook: www.facebook.com/christianwritersconference Twitter: twitter.com/MH\_Writers You'll find us on Pinterest, too.

## **PRAYER**

The Mount Hermon staff and the writers conference faculty and resource team are praying for you as you prepare. We appreciate your prayers for us as well. And I hope you'll **join us for prayer during the conference** as well. Please study the enclosed Pro Tips bookmark for those opportunities and details.

Expect a blessing, both in receiving and in giving.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

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Mona Hodgson

Director, Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference

mona.hodgson@mounthermon.org

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