



Mendocino Coast Writers Conference News & Updates

January 2008

Three MCWC Staffers Announce Literary Successes

Three members of the Mendocino Coast Writers Conference planning committee are celebrating recent awards and publications.

Former co-director **Ginny Rorby's** young adult novel *Hurt Go Happy* won the teen division of the American Library Association's Schneider Family Book Awards, which honors an author for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for an adolescent audience. *Hurt Go Happy* tells the story of a deaf girl's unique friendship with a sign language using chimpanzee. Rorby comments: "The important thing is my vision of a better world for animals and the children who need to have them in their lives will reach more young people."

Director **Charlotte Gullick** has been awarded a Christopher Isherwood Fellowship, one of six nationwide. These grants enable published novelists to devote time to writing projects and provide funds for research. "Over a hundred, very distinguished writers applied. This is an award your grandchildren can be proud of," said James P. White, Executive Director of the Isherwood Foundation. Gullick is the author of *By Way of Water*.

Former co-director **Maureen Eppstein** has a new poetry chapbook. Titled *Quickening*, it is published by March Street Press, with cover blurbs by internationally acclaimed poets Eavan Boland and Jane Hirshfield.

Here's to all of our creative risks, and the occasional acknowledgement.