

Child Abuse Listening and Mediation

Celebrity Authors' Luncheon

By **JEANETTE CASILLAS** / CASA

CELEBRITY AUTHORS FROM NEAR AND FAR gathered to join forces with CALM for its 23rd Annual Authors' Luncheon, hosted by the Auxiliary at Fess Parker's DoubleTree Resort last month.

The hall and book room were bustling as guests had the opportunity to purchase books, meet their favorite authors, and get autographs, prior to the luncheon. Profits from the books sold at the event will benefit CALM.

"Thank you for being here," Jack Canfield, Master of Ceremonies, said as he welcomed



Shirley Waxman, Auxiliary President and **Kristin Armstrong**, author

a group of about 500 guests. "Your presence shows you care for the children in our community and our authors."

The event featured five celebrity authors including Jacqueline Winspear, Kristin Armstrong,

Leonard Downie, Jr., Larry Wilmore, and Honorary Chair Selden Edwards.

"A young father under extreme stress killed his eight-year old son. In response to that act, Claire Miles, launched CALM to reach out to stressed parents," shared Shirley Waxman, CALM Auxiliary President. "Today thanks to all of those



Selden Edwards, Honorary Chairperson and **Terri Fawcett**, CALM Auxiliary Member



Event Co-Chair **Sharon Bifano**; Interviewer **Debby Davison**; and Event Co-Chair **Stephanie Ortale**



Patricia Durham, CALM Trustee; **Cecilia Rodriguez**, MFT, CALM Executive Director; **Nancy Bollay** CALM Secretary



Jane Galbraith; **Jessica Adams**, Ph.D., CALM Director of Psychological Programs; **Meredith Scott**, CALM Board President

who do so much, we are able to fulfill Claire's vision."

On behalf of the Auxiliary, Waxman presented the Claire Miles Award to Marguerite and Richard Berti "for quietly supporting CALM for 20 years by volunteering their time and with their generous donations." Richard Berti was not present, but Marguerite accepted the award.

After a short video about the organization, CALM Executive Director Cecilia Rodriguez took the mic. "We rely on the community to support the efforts of CALM," shared Rodriguez. "One moment can change the life of a child... on behalf of the women and children we save, I thank you."

The authors were individually interviewed for about 15 minutes by either former KEYT anchorwoman Debby Davison, Kate Schwab, or William Hermann.

Other author participants included Pascale Beale-Groom, Joe Bruzzese, Jack Canfield, Leslie Dinaberg, David Francis, Patti Jacquemain, Jenna McCarthy, Lynn Montgomery, Judy Pochini, Diana Raab, Gerald Schiller, Willard Thompson, Leah L. Waarvik, and Flavia Weedn.

CALM's mission is to break the cycle of abuse and neglect and replace it with the cycle of loving. For more information about CALM call 965-2376 or visit www.calm4kids.org.