

Issue Number 9/2008

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The Carrollton Creative Writers Club is a support group of writers for writers. Our mission: Provide information and critique to facilitate the art and business of all forms of written expression.

Meeting times:

10:00 am - 12:00 pm 2nd and 4th Tuesdays Carrollton Cultural Arts Center

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm 2nd and 4th Thursdays Carrollton Cultural Arts Center

Contact:

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BUSINESS:

- ❖ **Members** attending the October 28 session discussed the need to purchase another tent if more than four members were at Mecca Fest next fall. The current tent does a good job for 4.
- ❖ **Mary Wilburn** will be facilitator in November and will present a thorough talk on queries November 11. She has gathered the material from several current sources, including the information Mitch Lits has so generously shared from the SCBWI conference and Brian Corrigan's talk on the subject. She will also share her own experiences with queries, both successful and unsuccessful, and point out why some of them didn't succeed. If there is time after the presentation any member having experience with queries will be welcome to share their stories as well. The assignment for the second meeting in the month will be for those interested to write a query and read it to the group. Those who don't need queries yet may bring something to read if they want to.
- ❖ **Our new blog**—www.ccwcblog.blogspot.com is up and running thanks to Diana Black. Be sure to check it out. It isn't hard to leave comments and if you wish to create a new posting, check with Diana Black for more info. (Posting is easy and fun. **ZMS**)
- ❖ **Christmas** party numbers will need to be turned in to Beverly Bruemmer by **November 25**. It will be at Little Hawaiian, hopefully in their new spot on Rome Street, on **December 6 at 7:00 p.m.** Spouses are invited.
- ❖ **December 4-7** Carroll County Community Theatre presents ***Nuncrackers: The Nonsense Christmas Musical***, by Dan Goggin, **December 4-6** at 7:30 and **Sunday, December 7** at 2:00 p.m. in the Carrollton Cultural Arts Center Theatre. Tickets are \$10. Call 770-838-1083. Some of our members plan to sell books at this musical. Ask Mary Wilburn or Joann Dunn for more info. Penny Lewis requests that you set up one hour before curtain time.
- ❖ **Chris Roerden**, author of ***Don't Sabotage Your Submissions***, will be in the Atlanta area on February 14 with the Sisters in Crime and

Georgia Writers Association at Kennesaw State. We plan to join in this meeting.

- ❖ **November is *National Novel Writing Month***. Mitch presented us with the “How To” page from the web site. As of the last counting Mitch Lits, Amber Pickle, and David Green have taken the challenge. It would be neat to have CCWC writers featured as winners! Go to www.nanowrimo.org/eng/whatisnano to see what’s up.

FACILITATOR:

Shelly Murphy facilitated the October AM sessions.

- ❖ **Patricia Sprinkle**, author of 19 novels and 4 nonfiction books, was our guest speaker. Her presentation entitled, “So You’re Having a Book” was excellent. It presented the daunting, but doable task of getting published. Included in her presentation was a handout, “Various Publishing Options: Pros and Cons” and “Guidelines for a Book Proposal.” The next day she emailed CCWC the outline of her presentation. This is for our eyes only since she is planning to write an article based on it. (*We are privileged!*) As always, Patti Sprinkle spoke to our group for the munificent pay of pie. Our ever witty Mary Wilburn has now dubbed this day “Patti Pie Day.” We can’t wait for next year’s event! (The recipes for this year’s pies are included below by request.)
- ❖ **October 28**—session was replete with info, business, and readings by Shelly Murphy, Joe Byrd, and Mitch Lits. (See the Reader’s Comments below.)

David Green facilitated the October PM sessions.

READINGS:

Note from the editors: Don’t forget to refer to our guidelines when preparing for your reading. Please be sure to encapsulate your writing to avoid a lengthy oration prior to reading.

READER'S COMMENTS:

- ❖ **Shelly Murphy**—“**God Will Get Even With You**” from *How Not to Garden, Musings of a Master of Mistakes*
- ❖ Thanks to all present today who listened to me read the chapter, “**God Will Get Even With You**,” from my book tentatively titled, *How Not to Garden, Musings of a Master of Mistakes*. (I’m open to suggestions for a more clever title.) I especially appreciate your comments since other perspectives are always helpful in our eternal quest to write something others might want to read. When it was brought to my attention that there is too much background information in the beginning, I realize the need to shorten and rearrange the piece in an effort to capture the reader’s interest in the first few paragraphs. I will also clarify my one feeble

attempt at a metaphor. Thanks.

READER'S COMMENTS:

- ❖ **Joe Byrd--"Grendel's Child".**
- ❖ Thanks go to the members present who listened to my reading of "**Grendel's Child**". I appreciate the comments and always respect the massed intellect and experience at the meetings.

READER'S COMMENTS:

- ❖ **Mitch Lits--"Circles of Fate" from Destiny's Call**
- ❖ Readers' comments re. revised "**Circles of Fate**": 1) Leave out end of sentence "wherever here is." as it grinds the momentum to a halt. Done. 2) Leave out color of wolf's eyes. Being considered. 3) Adopt new 1st person POV over previous 430 pages of 3rd person POV. A lot of re-writing work. But I agree with you, Zan Marie, and thank you. I believe all the additional labor will be well worth it, turning my epic fantasy, **Destiny's Call**, into the best story it can be.

CHECK YOUR CALENDARS:

- ❖ **October 31, November 1-2**—Beverly Bruemmer will be signing books at Mitchell's Home Accents in Carrollton.
- ❖ **November 5-8**—Diana Black, Mary Cunningham, and Beverly Bruemmer will be signing and selling books at Northside Methodist Church Bazaar.
- ❖ **November 8**—The Dahlonega Literary Festival Committee presents "Fiction Writing Seminar" featuring Georgia Author of the Year **Brian Jay Corrigan** (author of *The Poet of Loch Ness*, *St. Martin's Press*). Brian will cover everything from getting your fiction idea all the way through going on your book tour, including how to develop character, atmosphere, dialogue, pace and more as well as how to find the right agent (and what to avoid) on your way to getting your novel sold. The conference will last all day Saturday (9 a.m.-4 p.m. with a lunch break). The registration fee is \$75/person. Questions about registration should be addressed to Sharon Bacek at sgbacek@windstream.net The registration form (available at www.literaryfestival.org) should be mailed with a check for \$75, made payable to the Dahlonega Literary Festival, to Literary Festival c/o Sharon Bacek, 2608 Auraria Road, Dahlonega, Georgia 30533
- ❖ **November 29**—Beverly Bruemmer will be signing and selling *The Moose Who Lost Christmas* at Horton's Bookstore in Carrollton.
- ❖ **December 4-7**--Carroll County Community Theatre presents *Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical*, by Dan Goggin, December 4-6 at 7:30 and Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Carrollton Cultural Arts Center Theatre. Tickets are \$10. Call 770-838-1083. Some of our members will be selling books at these showings. Ask Mary Wilburn or Bev Bruemmer for more info.
- ❖ **December 13**—Mary Wilburn, Joann Dunn, Diana Black, Mary Cunningham, Beverly Bruemmer, and Joe Byrd will be signing and selling at Borders Books in Douglasville.

- ❖ **Sybil Rosen-Thomas**, local writer from Whitesburg who spoke to us once before about her writing experience, will be the guest speaker at the January meeting. She will also do a book signing of her recently published book about the singer/songwriter Blaze Foley entitled ***Living in the Woods in a Tree: Remembering Blaze Foley***, a publication of the University of North Texas Press.

PERSONALS and GENERAL INFORMATION:

- ❖ **CCWC** welcomes new member, Kim Hewett. Kim works at UWG, teaching the integration of technology, *i.e.* blogs, wiki's, etc. Kim found out about our group through Mecca Fest where her husband picked up a CCWC brochure. She is interested in getting her creative ideas past the starting stage. We all know CCWC is a great place to get inspiration to finish your projects!
- ❖ **Thanks** to Joann Dunn for the following information. Some of you may be interested in checking out the website for Border's Personal Publishing. I won't go into detail here, but the top package price is \$499, you do the formatting, and editing is available (for the above package) that then allows you to get your books sold through Borders.
- ❖ **More Mecca Fest:** Thanks to Carrollton Creative Writing Club members from Penny Lewis: "Thanks to all for being a part of the 2008 Mecca Festival. I hope you all will participate next year. I especially loved the fact that you had things children can purchase. They always have a little money burning a hole and then can't find anything appropriate or affordable to buy. Thanks again."
- ❖ **Mecca Fest** – Carrollton, GA (October 11/12) Mecca Fest is an annual event held mid-October on the grounds of the Carrollton Cultural Arts Center. Until this year it was devoted to artists of the visual and fine arts variety—potters, painters, wood carvers and jewelry makers, to mention a few. Thanks to **Penny Lewis**, manager of the arts center, and the Artist Guild, CCWC authors were admitted to the fest upon passing the same juried criteria as other artisans. CCWC authors available to participate in the 2008 fest were: **Diana Black, Bev Bruemmer, Joe Byrd** and **Mary Cunningham**. Booth location and receptive fest attendees blew the authors away—along with the gale- force winds! Actually, no one flew the coop because our inventive Mr. Byrd created cement weights that tied to each tent pole. The weights are now stored at the center and are available to any member who would prefer their display tent and books not recreate "Gone With the Wind!" Books were sold to young and old, and CCWC brochures were handed out to writers who have been looking for a group such as ours. Let's hope they visit our great little club and recognize just how magical it is, and how lucky we all are to be a part of such a creative organization.
- ❖ **GA COMO** – Athens, GA (October 15/17) *Another first!* CCWC authors attended an annual event, held this year in Athens, to recognize and inform

media specialists throughout Georgia. **Diana Black, Bev Bruemmer** and **Mary Cunningham** set up shop in the Classic Center convention center along with 200+ vendors. Each sold their individual books and handed out promo materials as well as CCWC brochures to interested attendees. As participants in the book signing Thursday evening, they were in the distinguished company of **Diane Z. Shore, Patricia Sprinkle** and **Terry Kay**, among other noted authors.

- ❖ Check out www.georgiawriters.com for info on Georgia Writer of the year nominations. We all know a few who deserve nominations and you can nominate yourself.
- ❖ **Joann Dunn's** account of how well her books sold at the reunion is a great story and points up what Patricia Sprinkle told us, so we included the whole thing. Thanks, Joann. "I went to a big high school, one that produced an inordinate number of lawyers, doctors, professors, at least one weather-girl, and one woman who was an IBM programmer back in the 60's when they practically gave away stock and who now travels the world. So, no lack of success stories there. Well, you would be amazed at how blown away people are when they see a book with your name on the cover. I had no intent of going to my reunion to market my books; that was the suggestion of an old pal of mine who was head of the committee. He arranged for a table to be set up for me at both the Friday night cocktail party and the Saturday dinner, and made contact with the owner of the snazziest boutique bookstore, who said she would carry my books. Buy them, in fact, instead of taking them on consignment. That never happens with independent bookstores. The first night, I sold only about half dozen books, but a lot of people picked up my handouts, which I tried to make as eye catching and fun to read as possible. The venue was crowded and everyone was excited to see everyone else, so I didn't expect to sell a lot. The second night my table was right next to the check-in table, so you had to pass me to get to the dining room. Here, my best asset was the fact that I took Visa. I sold a lot of 3 book sets, which surprised me and cleared about \$500 for the two days, which is a lot for me. The bookstore (I Know You Like a Book) also took two sets, paying me 60%. I'm right next to the wine bar(!) in an excellent, visible section for local writers (local in this case means *Illinois*.) I have been told to think of any place you have a non-literary connection, such as a hairdresser, coffee shop, club membership, school and try to get a signing there. You will be a novelty and they will give you a much bigger build-up than most bookstores."
- ❖ The two books that Patricia Sprinkle suggested were ***Story: Substance, Structure, Style and the Principles of Screenwriting*** by Robert McKee, available at Borders, and ***Fiction is Folks: How to Create Unforgettable Characters*** by Robert Newton Peck, available through www.amazon.com. (I highly recommend the Peck book. ZMS)
- ❖ **When** you get ready to publish a work, don't forget that we have three members with their own publishing companies—Beverley Bruemmer (Bev

Bruemmer Books), Mary Wilburn (Saxon Books), and Joann Dunn (Due West Books). It never hurts to have expert help.

- ❖ **Thanks** again to Penny Lewis, our Cultural Arts Center Director, for her suggestion of a “Basket of Books” display for the Center. Check with Joann Dunn for more information.

RECIPES FROM PATRICIA SPRINKLE PIE DAY

- ❖ JAPANESE FRUIT PIE (from Zan Marie Steadham)

Preheat oven to 300 degrees.

1 stick butter
 1 cup sugar
 ½ cup chopped pecans
 ½ cup raisins
 ½ cup coconut
 2 eggs, beaten
 1 tsp. vinegar
 1 unbaked pie shell

Mix well. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake 40-50 minutes until center is firm and top is browned.

- ❖ BLACK WALNUT PIE (from Mary Wilburn)

(parentheses mark changes I made)

Preheat oven to 350
 3 eggs, lightly beaten
 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 1 cup light corn syrup (or maple syrup or a blend of the two)
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 1 cup dark brown sugar (or light brown, if maple syrup is used)
 2 ½ cups black walnuts (5 small packets from bakery section)
 ¼ cup butter, melted
 1 unbaked pie crust, 9 inches

Gently combine all ingredients in order listed. Stir enough to begin dissolving the sugar but not enough to incorporate air into the filling. Do not beat the filling or the pie will have air bubbles on the top instead of black walnuts. Pour filling into the crust. Place on a cookie sheet and bake for 60 minutes or until the center of the pie is no longer loose and black walnuts are browned. Serve either hot, cold or at room temperature.

After eating, go lie down and take a nap.

- ❖ CHOCOLATE CANDY BAR PIE (from Shelly Murphy)

(no bake pie)

8 oz. Hershey's Milk Chocolate Candy with almonds (bars or kisses)
15 large marshmallows (or 1 1/2 cups miniature ones)
1/2 cup milk
8 oz. (1 cup) heavy whipping cream
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
1 pie shell (graham cracker, oreo, shortbread or baked pastry) or walnut crust

Garnish:

8 oz. (1 cup) heavy whipping cream
2 Tbsp. granulated sugar
1 to 2 oz. Hershey's Milk Chocolate with almonds, shaved or chopped

Melt candy, marshmallows and milk in a saucepan (or microwave.) Stir and mix well; cool to room temperature. Chill a large mixing bowl and beaters; then beat whipping cream and vanilla with an electric mixer on medium until soft peaks form (tips curl); fold whipped cream mixture into cooled chocolate mixture and spoon into cool crust. Freeze at least 5 hours. Remove 10 minutes before serving. Garnish with 8 oz. whipping cream (chill bowl and beaters; whip on medium with sugar until soft peaks form) and chocolate/almond shavings. Keep leftover pie in freezer; remove 10 minutes before serving.

Walnut Crust (Shelly used a large graham cracker crust instead)

1 1/2 cups (6 oz.) coarsely ground walnuts
3 Tbsp. melted butter
2 Tbsps. granulated sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine walnuts with melted butter and sugar. Press mixture into a 9-inch pie plate. Bake 10 minutes or until edge is golden. Cool thoroughly.

❖ BERRY CRISP (from Joann Dunn)

1/2 cup rolled oats
1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
1/2 cup toasted pecans
1/2 cup all purpose flour
1/2 tsp. salt
4 Tbs. (1/2 stick) cold unsalted butter, cut into 1" pieces
3/4 cup plain yogurt
1/4 cup tupelo honey, plus more for drizzling
4 cups mixed berries
1/4 cup sugar
1 1/2 Tbs. corn starch

WRITE, WRITE, WRITE . . . SUBMIT, SUBMIT, SUBMIT.

Happy writing fellow scribes. See you next month.

Please be kind enough to bring any incorrect data, mistakes, or omissions to my attention via johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net

ZMS =^..^=/RA