

Issue Number 7/2009
Publishers: ZMS/RA

Date: July 31, 2009

CARROLLTON CREATIVE WRITERS CLUB—FOUNDED FALL 2005

Our mission: Provide information and critique, and facilitate the art of all forms of written expression.

Meeting times:

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

Carrollton Cultural Arts Center

Contact:

Mary Wilburn
CCWC website
CCWC blog

770-832-0575
designed by Diana Black
started by Diana Black

mnsaxon@aol.com
www.carrolltoncreativewriters.com
www.ccwcblog.blogspot.com

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BUSINESS:

❖ **July 14 Meeting**

Business:

~~Members discussed the upcoming reading at the Carrollton Civic Women's Club Luncheon on August 26. We clarified the list of readers, discussed lunch, and planned to read the selections at the next meeting. See the July 28 meeting for specifics.

~~Judi Presnell led a discussion of the Christmas Party and the members present voted for Judi to decide the menu, venue, and date. More information at a later date.

~~Bev Bruemmer asked for all members who are interested in participating in Mecca Arts Festival in October to notify her by email. The paperwork is due immediately.

New Members:

~~ Welcome our newest members, Desiree Healey and her brother, Collin. Desiree writes and Collin is an artist and writer. Welcome, Desiree and Collin.

Program:

~~ David Green led a tremendous meeting on preparing and giving an Elevator Pitch. The idea is to be prepared to tell about your book in as few words as possible in any situation, such as a brief encounter with an agent or editor on an elevator. Everyone got a chance to write, refine, and give her/his elevator pitch and receive feedback from the group.

~~Judi Presnell sent in this review of the program: "Wow! What a wonderful meeting! As a novice member, I am always amazed at the talent in our group of writers! David Green was not only an entertaining facilitator, but the information he shared was oh-my-my-my *helpful!* Not only do I need to understand "elevator speech" and use it as a writer, I'm terribly guilty of not using it when I'm just chatting! David's presentation was eye-opening for me. Thanks, David! I always come away from meetings having learned something new. Isn't the club great?"

❖ **July 28 Meeting**

Business:

~~Pulitzer Prize winning poet, Yusef Komunyakaa, will be speaking at the University of West Georgia in September. He has distributed several copies of his current book, including the one our club received, and requested that we share it and pass around among the members. Shelly Murphy has the book at present.

~~Eleanor Hoopes led the discussion concerning the reading at the Carrollton Civic Women's Club Luncheon on Wednesday, August 26. Bev Bruemmer will begin with a

brief description of our club. Nine of our writers will read short, light, and humorous pieces at the luncheon. The Woman's Club will provide lunches for five of our visiting members. We will divide the cost for any other members in attendance and pay the secretary of the Carrollton Civic Woman's Club that day. They want to display copies of our books in the table centerpieces, and they will provide a separate table for selling and signing books. Our participating members should be at Sunset Hill Country Club at 11:00 AM on August 26. We can also display our framed displays from the Cultural Arts Center show last May. Eleanor Hoopes and Mary Wilburn are members of the Woman's Club.

New Members:

~~There were no new members on July 28

Program:

~~The following read their selections for the August 26 Lunch:

1. Zan Marie Steadham—"Simpler Times"
2. Shelly Murphy—"The Greenhouse Effect"
3. Diana Black—"Covers"
4. Mary Cunningham—"Uh, Thanks, I Think"
5. Joann Dunn—"The Implied Now"
6. Bev Bruemmer—To be announced later. Possibly from *Doublewide Divas*
7. Eleanor Hoopes—"Learning to Cuss at Age Sixty"
8. Margaret Dyer—To be announced later
9. Jay Jones—"Sweetgum Wars"

~~Richard Anderson read for critique. Check out the report in the Readings Section.

❖ **August Meetings:**

~~ Mitch Lits will facilitate our August meetings. His program will concern podcasting. Be sure to come and find out what he has planned for us.

READINGS:

Don't forget to refer to our guidelines when preparing your reading. Avoid a lengthy oration prior to reading. Be sure to send "reader's comments" to johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net after your reading to be included in the next newsletter. Remember that a maximum of fifteen minutes is allotted to each piece read. This includes reading and comments.

Readings for August 28:

- ❖ **Richard Anderson** read a draft of the first pages from a new chapter in his family history, *Evanescent Reminiscence*, and his poem, "Transparency."

Reader's Comments:

~~Exposing one's writing, one's personal feelings and experiences to others can be unnerving, even with our truly warm and friendly group. The reward, however, is the insightful comment and critique of skilled and perceptive writers. A major reason for reading was to learn whether the approach and voice I had chosen to use worked to tell the story. The positive response I received confirmed that I can continue writing in that mode. I have also made several changes in response to questions or suggestions that improve the writing, clarify and facilitate the reading or just correct the omission of punctuation or inescapable typo. Many thanks.

MARKETING:

Upcoming Events: (email Zan Marie Steadham about upcoming signings and programs for inclusion in the *CCWC Newsletter*. johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net.)

New Books:

- ❖ Mary Cunningham has announced that Echelon Press is publishing her newest, *Ghost Light*. More information will follow when it is available.
- ❖ Mary Wilburn's new novel, *Blood Remembers*, is out. Congratulations, Mary.
- ❖ Congratulations Frank Rogers! Hearts on Fire Books has published Frank's book, *Upon a Crazy Horse*, as an eBook. A hard copy format will be released December 1, 2009.

New Websites and Other Media:

- ❖ If you are an alumnus of the University of West Georgia, the alumni magazine, *West Georgia Perspective*, will include a notice of the publication of your book. Email Josh Sewell, coordinator of advancement publications at jsewell@westga.edu to be included in the next *Perspective*.
- ❖ Forrest Schultz writes reviews for SSA (<http://www.southsideartsagenda.com/>) and is open to submissions from our group. Diana Black passed the following information from Schultz. "I am especially concerned about books published in 2007. By the end of this year, these books will be considered too old and the new criterion of "recent" will then be 2008, 2009, 2010. I also want to remind everyone that if no reviews can be found or no one to review them, that I will be glad to do the review myself if the book is sent to me. I have already done this for several of the reviews in SSA. If anyone wishes to do that, have him or her send the book to me at:
 Forrest Schultz
 703 West Grantville Road
 Grantville, GA 30220."
 email: schultz_forrest@yahoo.com
- ❖ This is a good opportunity for all members of our group. Keep this on file as a great place to get a review. Please contact Forrest when you publish, if this is of interest to you.
- ❖ Joann Dunn shared a source of legal information. Check out the following website for more information. www.plol.org/Pages/Search.aspx
- ❖ Zan Marie Steadham shared information of the availability of free clipart and photos for users of Microsoft Office Products. The best way to access the site is to Google the following: Microsoft Clipart. Take the first listing and check out the offerings.

For critique help on the internet, try:

<http://www.community.compuserv.com/ws-books> --recommended by Zan Marie Steadham
<http://www.critiquecircle.com> --recommended by Frank Rogers

FACILITATORS:

- ❖ Contact Joann Dunn (planter360@aol.com) if there are any changes in the schedule for 2009.
- ❖ Contact Eleanor Hoomes (hoomes2@gmail.com) if there are any changes in the schedule or to sign up for a month for 2010. She will be contacting possible facilitators soon.
- ❖ Contact Zan Marie Steadham (johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net) when you know the topic or speaker for your session.

2009

August 2009	Mitch Lits	Podcasting
September 2009	Tom Cook	Small Press Publisher: Doggie in the Window
October 2009	Shelly Murphy	Speaker: Laretta Hannon
November 2009	Judi Presnell	
December 2009	Zan Marie Steadham	Possibly "Tension on Every Page—Keep 'Em Reading

<http://www.community.compuserv.com/ws-books>

<http://www.sfw.org/beware>

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

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