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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

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started by Diana Black

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www.ccwcblog.blogspot.com

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BUSINESS:

❖ **May 12 Meeting**

Business:

~~The members present were in favor of Tom Cook and Zan Marie Steadham checking with the Regional Library about a showing there using our materials currently on display at the Cultural Arts Center. A suggestion to schedule a Sunday afternoon reading in conjunction with the display was also approved.

~~Tom Cook announced that Penny Lewis has offered to set up a group photo for CCWC with Phoebe Swatek as the photographer. She has been a photographer with Olan Mills in an earlier job. The members were in favor and suggested a regular meeting day as the day for the photo. More information will be included as it becomes available.

~~Margaret Dyer has a file of all the available cover art for CCWC books. If you have a digital photo of a cover that you would like to include in the file, contact Margaret at margaretdyer@mindspring.com

New Members:

~~ Tom Crawford and Kim Nalley joined CCWC. Tom has taught at UWG, and Kim is his daughter. Tom and Kim learned about CCWC from the *Times-Georgian* article of May 10. Welcome, Tom and Kim.

Program:

~~The program consisted of readings from Eleanor Hoomes, Zan Marie Steadham, Jay Jones, Frank Rogers, and Tom Cook. See the Readings section below for titles and reader's comments.

❖ **May 26 Meeting**

Business:

~~ Tom Cook announced the date for a group photo. Phoebe Swatek will take it immediately after the regular meeting on September 8.

~~Judi Presnell is updating the current members' information and birthday list. If you haven't checked in with her, please do so.

~~Mary Cunningham will be interviewing Julianne Moore's new *Freckle-Faced Strawberry* book on her Cynthia's Attic blog. Be sure to check it out.

~~Margaret Dyer will be the facilitator for June and will present a program of how to publish using lulu.com on June 9.

New Members:

- ~~Welcome our newest member, Laura Kirk. Laura writes fantasy fiction.
- ~~Del Griffin, a retired teacher who is just starting writing, visited the meeting also.

Program: Sandra Novack, *Precious*

~~Our guest speaker was Sandra Novack, author of *Precious*, the novel recently released by Random House. Ms. Novack was delightful, entertaining, and informative about the origins of her novel. After showing us a peak into her process, Sandra led us in a great discussion of the varieties of writing processes and how they differ from one author to another. Her insight into how to develop and shape themes and subthemes was very helpful. Ms. Novack was an informative speaker, and we wish her luck with her soon to be released collection of short stories and the novel she is currently writing.



Sandra Novack, author of Precious, offers great advice and ideas about writing with members Jay Justis, Margaret Dyer, Joann Dunn, and Mary Cunningham.

❖ June Meetings:

~~Our first session on June 9 will be a great time to learn how to self-publish. Facilitator Margaret Dyer will take us through the process to prepare and publish on www.lulu.com The second meeting on June 23 will be a critique session.

MARKETING:

Upcoming Events: (email Zan Marie Steadham with info: johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net when you have scheduled a signing for inclusion in the *CCWC Newsletter*.)

- ❖ June 7—Fran Steward will be reading and signing books at the Regional Library.

New Books:

- ❖ Mary Cunningham has announced that Echelon Press is publishing her newest, *Ghost Light*. More info will follow when it is available.
- ❖ Mary Wilburn's new novel, *Blood Remembers*, will be out in June. Congratulations, Mary.

New Websites and Other Media:

- ❖ 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 the members of our group. Keep this on file as a great place to get a review. When you publish, please contact him if this is of interest to you.

Reports On Past Events:**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: May 12

- ❖ **Tom Cook** read Chapter 3 "Going to the Chapel" from *Coming Out of Winter*.
Reader's Comments: "It's always good to know that what one is doing works. Thanks for all the support."
- ❖ **Eleanor Hoomes** read poems— "In the Eye of the Beholder" and "Collector" from her new poetry collection, *In the Eyes of the Beholder*.
Reader's Comments: "The feedback will help me arrange the poems in *In the Eye of the Beholder*. Arrangement is almost as hard as writing."
- ❖ **Zan Marie Steadham** "Bee" from her work in progress, *Mother's Day*
Reader's Comments: "Thank you once again for listening. I've come to depend on your comments to make my writing better."
- ❖ **Frank Rogers** read from Chapter 1 of his novel *Once Upon a Horse*.
Reader's Comments: "The critiques from yesterday's meeting were very encouraging, and reinforced the point that the choice of every word is critical. I'm also impressed by the caliber of writing talent within the group."
- ❖ **Jay Jones** read "Sweetgum Wars" from *Scenes from Greater Metropolitan Roopville: A Chatterstrip at the End of Civilization*, a collection of humor essays.
Reader's Comments: "I went in and altered the golf-ball size estimate of the sweetgum ball to a less heroic proportion, and brought in Earnest Duffer's name to introduce him before his house-buying mention was made, plus identified a few drifting pronouns. It works much better as a story, and I am very grateful for the suggestions! Everyone was so kind, helpful and constructive. They genuinely wanted to help me craft the best possible story, as well as those of the others that day. Thank you very much!"

FACILITATORS:

- ❖ Contact Joann Dunn (planter360@aol.com) if there are any changes in the schedule.
- ❖ Contact Zan Marie Steadham (johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net) when you know the topic or speaker for your session.

May 2009	Mary Cunningham	Speaker: Sandra Novack
June 2009	Margaret Dyer	How to publish using Lulu.com
July 2009	David Green	
August 2009	Mitch Lits	
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"

PERSONALS and GENERAL INFORMATION:

- ❖ Congratulations, Zan Marie Steadham. Strang Communications requested the entire manuscript for Zan Marie Steadham's *An Easter Walk* for publication consideration.
- ❖ Congratulations, Mary Cunningham, for being selected a part of the blog tour for the second book in actress Julianne Moore's *Freckleface Strawberry* series. The tour is planned for June.
- ❖ Fran Stewart, the author of the *Biscuit McKee Mystery Series*, will be speaking at the Regional Library on June 7 at 2:00. Be sure and support our recent speaker and friend.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS: June

June 13	Jay Justis
June 18	Jerre Shoemake

EDITOR'S NOTE:

- ❖ Go write! ;)

ZMS

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Helpful Links:

<http://www.ask.com>
<http://www.allwords.com>
<http://www.usu.edu/journalism/faculty/sweeney/resources/ap.htm>
<http://merriam-webster.com> (even pronounces the entry for you! ;)
<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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