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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

Contact:

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BUSINESS:

- ❖ This is a combined November and December issue of the *CCWC Newsletter*.
- ❖ The November 25 session was a reading and critique session featuring Joann Dunn and Zan Marie Steadham.
- ❖ The December 9 session was a presentation by Mary Wilburn on writing queries and Zan Marie Steadham on writing proposals. For further information contact Mary and Zan Marie.
- ❖ Our next meeting is January 13, 2009. The facilitator will be Claire Baker and our speaker will be Sybil Rosen-Thomas, author of *Living in a House in a Tree: Remembering Blaze Foley*, the story of her life with singer-songwriter, Blaze Foley.
- ❖ Three guests and, hopefully, new members visited the November 25 and December 9 meetings—Lynn Johnson (proofreader), Rose Norton (artist/author), and Eleanor Hoopes (author). Welcome to you, one and all.
- ❖ Due to lack of interest (David, we know you *love* meeting alone), the Thursday night meetings have been cancelled.
- ❖ After over three years of shepherding CCWC, Mary Wilburn and Bev Bruemmer had requested a break in their duties. Judi Presnel will be our new social secretary and Joann Dunn will be our new facilitator scheduler. Thanks, Bev and Mary, for a job well done!
- ❖ Look for two new sections in the *CCWC Newsletter* this issue—"Marketing" and "Facilitators." The "Marketing" section will feature book signings, festivals, etc. Also included will be reports on the success and suggestions for improvement of each event. The "Facilitator" section will include a list of upcoming facilitators. When you have a speaker or topic selected for your month, email Zan Marie Steadham at johzanmarie@bellsouth.net, and I will add that information to the list.

MARKETING:

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

- ❖ 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.

Reports On Past Events:

- ❖ Corydon, Indiana—Diana Black and Mary Cunningham: Report from Mary Cunningham:

“Diana and I proved that you can go home again! We spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the Southern Indiana/Louisville Area (Nov. 20-23). We natives call it Kentuckiana. We visited a couple of bookstores and libraries on Friday, promoting *Cynthia's Attic* and *WOOF*, and doing the preliminaries for book signings next Spring. Friday night from 6-8, we did a book signing in New Albany at a small Indie. We sold 7 copies of *WOOF*. I sold 9 *Cynthia's Attic* Books and we established a good relationship with the owner. Pretty good for a cold, miserable night at a store with virtually no foot traffic. The owner then kept 10 additional *WOOF* books and 9 *CA* books for his Christmas sales. So, we were thrilled. Saturday was even better. We did an event at the Corydon, Indiana library. Heavy promotion included notices and a great write-up in the local paper. We didn't sit down once. It was a steady stream. Alisa Burch, Children's Librarian, took pictures all afternoon. I haven't taken an accurate inventory of *CA*, but it appears that I sold close to 73 books for the weekend. Diana was responsible for most of the *WOOF* sales and we believe we sold around 75. The library was thrilled with the event and had cookies, coffee and drinks for the kids. They also made the comment that our display was great. They said that too many authors simply come in with a stack of books and nothing else. We've found that it helps to have the tables attractively decorated. Before we left, they said that we were invited us back anytime.”

- ❖ CCAC presentation of “Nun crackers: The Nonsense Christmas Musical”: Reports from Mary Cunningham, Diana Black, Joann Dunn, and Joe Byrd
 - “While it was an enjoyable time, we all sold very little. Maybe it's the economy. Given the length of the trip, cost of gas, etc., I don't think I would do it again.”—Joann Dunn
 - “The sales were slow, but I think it was good to be there. Maybe a little promotion would help.”—Joe Byrd
 - “I was only there for opening night. I was promoting *WOOF*, and given that many attendees that night were the right demographic, we sold a few books. I think the authors presentations were great, and seemed to draw attention. Yes, there should be more press announcements next time, and for any events like this one. You never know if it brings people in, but the more press gets out there, the more people see CCWC mentioned, the more new members we'll attract and the more each author's name will become recognizable.”—Diana Black
 - “This is my second year and will probably be my last unless we can figure out some type of promotion. Although we sold 3 *WOOF* books, I'm batting zero for *Cynthia's Attic* Books in two years. Although Thursday night's crowd was mostly adult, last year I set up for a children's program and still didn't sell any books. Maybe it's just my age group. For whatever reason, it's not something I will be excited about pursuing. We all had good presentations, as Diana said, but few people actually walked over to check out the books. (One woman was just after Diana's Dove Chocolates!) I'm sure Friday, Sat. and Sunday were more successful.”—Mary Cunningham
 - “I think it went fairly well—we DO need more publicity if we to it again.”—Beverly Bruemmer

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.

Readings for : (October 25)

- ❖ **Joann Dunn**—Chapter 1 of *The Lesser of Two Evils is Still No Damn Good*—a “memoir with privileges” about her legal career representing mental hospitals in Illinois. This will be a fascinating book.
- ❖ **Zan Marie Steadham**—“Missing Memories” from *Mother’s Day*—a continuation of her novel about a retired teacher and a foster child. *Reader’s Comments*—“Thanks for listening to the continuing story of Laura Grace Chandler and her struggles with widowhood and childlessness. Your encouragement is fuel to my creative fire.”

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.

January 2009	Claire Baker	Speaker: Sybil Rosen-Thomas
February 2009	Diana Black	
March 2009	Beverly Bruemmer	Speaker: Fran Stewart
April 2009	Joe Byrd	
May 2009	Mary Cunningham	
June 2009	Joann Dunn	
July 2009	David Green	
August 2009	Mitch Lits	
September 2009	Shelly Murphy	
October 2009	Amber Pickle	
November 2009	Judi Presnell	
December 2009	Zan Marie Steadham	
January 2010	Lily Ward	
February 2010	Mary Wilburn	

PERSONALS and GENERAL INFORMATION:

- ❖ For more information on Diana Black and Mary Cunningham’s trip home—check out the Woofers blog for *Corydon Democrat* article.
- ❖ www.education-portal.com lists sources of free college online courses in writing with sections for fiction and magazine articles. They have a wide variety and it would be a good place to visit if you want to investigate different genres.
- ❖ Ask Bev Bruemmer about the “Bonfire of the Drawers.” Her trip to Italy is a story that just can’t be missed!
- ❖ Remember—Chris Roerdon, *Don’t Sabotage Your Submissions*, will be in Kennesaw with Sisters in Crime on February 14. CCWC is invited to join SiC and the Georgia Writers Association for this presentation.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

I can’t tell you how important the Compuserve Writing and Books Forum has been in the last 3 weeks that I have been a member. The address is <http://www.community.compuserv.com/ws-books>. Just today, I was following a discussion (thread) on Exposition that included a mini-lesson by Diana Gabaldon, author of the bestselling *Outlander* series. There is also a Master Class on Details and Pace taught by Diana G. and several other published authors. The best thing about the group is that all members can post to any thread. I have had one-on-one conversations with Diana G., my favorite author. The fact that Diana found her first agent through the Compuserve Forum twenty years ago doesn’t hurt either. The rest, as they say, is history. Check it out. ZMS

