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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

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

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

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BUSINESS:

❖ **October 13 Meeting**

Business:

~~Judi Presnell reported on the Christmas Party. The party will be at the Cultural Arts Center on December 5 at 1:00 pm. Judi asked for volunteers to help set up. Eleanor Hoomes and Shelly Murphy will help.

~~ Tom Cook reported on the success of “Local Voices” and MeccaFest. We had as many as twenty-five people listening to the program and never fewer than twelve. The members present thanked the committee—Tom Cook, Bev Bruemmer, Margaret Dyer, and Jay Jones—for all the hard work. It paid off in a smooth program. Tom will lead an assessment of the program at our next meeting with emphasis on how to make it even better next year. In conjunction, Zan Marie Steadham will report on planning for the January program at the Regional Library.

~~Eleanor Hoomes handed out the 2010 Facilitator List to those whose names are on it for input.

New Members:

~~No new members. There were four visitors: Barry Beavers, Glenda Cimino (from Dublin, Ireland!), Shirley Garrett, and Brook Simpson.

Program: Our guest speaker was Laretta Hannon, the Cracker Queen, best-selling author and NPR commentator. Laretta was a vivacious, joyous speaker who clearly loved writing and was willing to share her knowledge about the publishing business. She also teaches seminars titled “The Down Home Writing School” and offered the members a discount on her next session, March 6. The members present also discussed her offer to come to Carrollton and hold a seminar for our members next year. Be sure to check out Laretta’s book, *The Cracker Queen, a Memoir of a Jagged, Joyful Life*. Laretta is now working on a novel and a sequel to *The Cracker Queen* and said, “I never knew what fun it is to play in the unfettered land of the imagination.”

September 22 Meeting

Business:

~~Zan Marie Steadham announced that it is time for her to pass the Newsletter on to another member after sixteen months in the job. She will continue until the end of the year. Please email Zan Marie if you are interested. Richard Anderson has volunteered to continue as copy editor.

~~Zan Marie presented the plans for the January show, "Resolve to Read." It will combine a month long showing of our framed covers and bios with a reading and reception on Sunday, January 10, 2010.

- Need volunteers for the following jobs:
 - Help with set up and hanging on January 2 or 4 (Judi Presnell, Tom Cook, and Joyce Armstrong volunteered)
 - Organize food for reception—we will need to provide it (We need a volunteer to organize this. It will need to be simple. Punch and cookies have been suggested.)
 - Zan Marie Steadham will MC the program of readings on Sunday January 10
 - Publicity—*Time-Georgian*, post cards, etc.? (Frank Rogers volunteered to help. We need more to help out here.)
- Sunday January 10
 - Be there by 2 pm to set up reception, etc.
 - Reception and reading will be from 3-5 pm
 - Cleanup from 5 to 6 pm
- Suggestions and questions:
 - Reception should be the first thirty minutes with readings for 1 ½ hours. Late arrivers would be able to get refreshments and join the group.
 - Program practice will be on December 8 during our meeting time .
 - Email Zan Marie to volunteer to read.
 - Readings should be short to allow more to read (How long will depend on how many volunteer. The members present expressed the desire for some of the members who haven't read at the last two shows to consider offering to read.)
 - We will discuss when to get our items to the Regional Library at the December meeting. Zan Marie volunteered to store and deliver items you want displayed, if you bring them to that meeting, but space is limited. If you will be in town on the set-up date, bring them by the library yourself.
 - There will be a table set up to sell and sign books.
 - We will display the club banner along with the framed covers.
 - Email Zan Marie with any other suggestions.

~~Judi Presnell gave out a list of current members.

~~Judi will also be needing a list of members who plan to attend the Christmas Party. If you plan to bring a guest, include that information.

~~Beverley Bruemmer discussed the planned seminar led by Laretta Hannon. It will cost \$89 per member with a minimum of ten and maximum of twenty-three participants. More info will be coming out on the four-hour seminar later.

~~Bev Bruemmer also reported that we have \$483.57 in our account at the Cultural Arts Center. Remember—dues for the new year are expected to be paid from January to March. Tom Cook reported that the expense to the club for Local Voices was \$250.

New Members:

~~Joyce Armstrong visited us and plans to join. She volunteered to help with the January show. Thanks to Bev Bruemmer for bringing Joyce into our group.

Program:

~~Readings from Joann Dunn and Judi Presnell finished the meeting. See the reading section for more info.

❖ **November Meetings:**

~~ Richard Anderson will facilitate our November meetings. Our November speaker is the imaginative, informative, humorous (at times), charming (always), multi-talented

and lovely Susan Larson from Lilburn, Georgia. Susan's weekly column in the *Gwinnett Daily Post* offers interesting slants on local events, personalities and sometimes politics. Her other weekly column appears in the online publication, *The Weekly*, and her feature stories and photography appear regularly in the *Senior News*. In total, she has more than 600 columns and one third of a million words in print. Still more of Susan's talents and accomplishments will be revealed on November 10th when Susan will speak to us about how she became a writer and a columnist and what that job entails.

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 October 27:

- ❖ Joann Dunn read "A Row of Lime Trees," a short story she is planning to enter in the Hemmingway Prize for Short Stories Contest.

Reader's Comments:

- ❖ Judi Presnell read "Parable of the Two Wise Men" and a poem, "To Teach."
Reader's Comments: "Thank you, thank you for all your wisdom shared after my reading. I take everything said into account and appreciate your words of encouragement, correction ideas, and knowledge on how to tighten a written piece. I always come away from a meeting having learned much! The minute I got home, I did all the polishing suggested by the club, and a few extras of my own. What a fantastic Writing Family we are!"

MARKETING:

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

New Books:

~~Jay Jones has a new book out: *The Flight of the Armada*, the first in a series of twenty-six titles. It is available from www.lulu.com. Jay's daughter describes it as "...science fiction for people who don't read science fiction." Jay had a great weekend selling this new title at MeccaFest. Congratulations, Jay.

~~Joann Dunn has two new books—*A Well-Manicured Murder* (written with two others as Georgia Adams) and a new poetry book, *The Implied Now*. Be sure to see Joann if you are interested in purchasing these books. Congratulations, Joann. In addition to her website, www.DueWestBooks.com, Joann has added another site for the mystery novel she has written with two co-writers: www.theLitChix.com. Three women writers who call themselves the LitChix, will be signing their new humorous murder mystery, *A Well-Manicured Murder*, at Horton's Books on the Square, 11-1:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009.

~~Bev Bruemmer's newest, *GRAND TETONS Activity Book*, is now available. Congratulations, Bev for continuing to add to the bookshelves of children.

~~From Frank Rogers: If you send books by mail, this may save you some money.

From Amazon.com, I bought self-seal, bubble-pack envelopes by Royal Mailers - only \$22.99 for a case of 100, with FREE shipping.

~~Penny Lewis, the Cultural Arts Center Director, has requested short poetry or prose for the CCCAA newsletter. She has completed the latest issue, but would like some items for the future. Include a photo and info on any upcoming projects. Her email is plewis@carrollton-ga.gov

New Websites and Other Media:

- ❖ 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

Diana Black offers another site for reasonably priced critiques: Check out INTERN at

<http://internspills.blogspot.com/>

- ❖ For book formatting try Joann Dunn's daughter, Cameron. She offers services that include getting books ready for the printer or advice for authors doing it on their own. Email: CamEDunn@gmail.com
- ❖ For bookmarks check out www.overnightprinting.com Frank Rogers has recommended this site and says the prices range from \$.12 to \$.25 per bookmark.

FACILITATORS:

- ❖ 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

November 2009	Richard Anderson	Susan Larson
December 2009	Zan Marie Steadham	Planning for "Resolve to Read" at the Regional Library in January

2010

January 2010	Mary Wilburn	Spencer Crawford of <i>The Times Georgian</i>
February 2010	Judi Presnell	Panel Discussion
March 2010	Mary Cunningham	Robyn Hood Black, author and illustrator
April 2010	Joann Dunn	Poetry
May 2010	Open	
June 2010	Jay Jones	
July 2010	David Green	
August 2010	Amber Pickle	
September 2010	Eleanor Hoomes	Favorites
October 2010	Joe Byrd	
November 2010	Tom Cook	
December 2010	Martha Duffee	

PERSONALS and GENERAL INFORMATION:

- ❖ Jay Jones has good news. His comic strip, "Just Peachy," has been picked up by *The West Georgian*. Way to go, Jay.
- ❖ Judi Presnell, our social secretary, sent the following request. "*Someone outside of our club has helped him or herself to our cabinet on several occasions. One of the things missing is scissors.* I need these to prepare guest gifts. If anyone has scissors to donate to our cabinet (children's or old scissors will be fine), I would greatly appreciate it. Thanks.

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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

There are no member birthdays in November.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

