

writers' block

CARROLLTON CREATIVE WRITERS CLUB

FEBRUARY 2011



Carrollton Creative

Writers Club

Founded Fall 2005

www.CarrolltonCreativeWritersClub.com

www.ccwcblog.blogspot.com

Mission:

Provide information and critique and facilitate the art of all forms of written expression.

Meetings:

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 10:00 am - noon

Carrollton Cultural Arts Center
251 Alabama Street, Carrollton, GA
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Just Peachy by Jay Michael Jones

CCWC Business:

The club members took a vote on whether or not to continue with the Local Voices program during Mecca Fest in 2011. The motion passed with an overwhelming majority vote of 19 to 4. Now the next question posed to the members is for a volunteer to head the committee. So far, no volunteers have come forward.

Announcements:

We had Mr. Gene Franckoviak from Newnan, Georgia visit CCWC on Tuesday, February 8th and February 22nd. Gene writes about family history, WWII and Non-Fiction works. He moved to Georgia recently from Mandeville, Louisiana to escape the threat of hurricanes.

We also had guests of Frank Rogers - Cleet Bulach (author of various non-fiction educational materials) and his son Greg Bulach (teacher/poet on spring break from Douglas County Schools) visit with us on the 22nd.

Richard Anderson also brought a guest, Adrian Drost, who loves to write children's books.

We hope Gene, Cleet, Greg and Adrian enjoyed their visit and will decide to make CCWC their new writing home.

Readings:

On the 1st Tuesday, February 8th the following was read and critiqued:

- Eleanor Wolfe Hoomes – “Of Story Weavers and Story Readers”- poetry quartet
- Frank Rogers – “Twice Upon a Time” – chapter of fiction.
- Zan Marie Steadham – “Friendly Fire” – chapter of fiction.
- Dawn Goodwin – “My Fear of Nice People” – online blog article.
- Diana Black – “The Windows to the Soul” – chapter of fiction.



February Program:

Richard Anderson facilitated the club meetings for the month of February. He conducted a well structured program focused on the art of 'poetry'.

Richard read illustrations from various poets such as Poe, Hawthorne, Longfellow, Lowell, Shakespeare, Emerson, Whitman, Sandburg, Frost, Collins, Bradbury, Dunn and Field as well as two of his own poems called "I Hear the World Sing" and "If I Could But Write One Line Like Poe's."

He did a great job and the presentation was very insightful, helpful and memorable, reminding us of the beauty, elegance and subjective nature of poetry.

Member Spotlight:

Congratulations to Zan Marie Steadham. She was a finalist in the *No Fear Blogfest*. Her blog finished 3rd.

Congratulations to Eleanor Wolfe Hoomes. She just received word that *Eye of the Beholder* is a Georgia Book of the Year nominee in poetry! Let's hope she snatches the title this year, even though to us she's already a winner.

Fred and Sharon Hamlin visited on Tuesday, February 8th and announced Fred was cancer free.

March Meeting:

Kevin Buice is scheduled to facilitate the March meetings.

Upcoming Events:

Here is the Facilitator List for the 2011 calendar year:

- March – Kevin Buice
- April – Missie Borders
- May – Beverly Bruemmer
- June – T.L. Gray
- July – Amber Pickle
- August – Diane Quimby
- September – Frank Rogers
- October – Beverly Smith
- November – Anita Buice
- December – Anita Buice

Special programs scheduled so far:

June 14th – T.L. Gray has invited Movie Producer/Writer - Elisa Dimitria Bowman of Cinigi Resources Inc. to speak about the role of writers in today's movie industry.

September 13th – Frank Rogers has invited Actor/Stuntman - Jim Dunham to speak about turning novels into movies.

You don't want to miss these two meetings. Invite fellow writers you may know who you think would be interested in these presentations.

Reading and Critiquing Guidelines:

Before the meeting:

- Notify the facilitator of:
 - » What you are going to read, i.e.; genre, chapter, poem, short story
 - » The word count or number of pages.
 - » Which draft your work is: rough, second, close to final or final, etc.
 - » If you are unable to notify beforehand, tell the facilitator upon arrival at the meeting.
 - » Provide copies of your work by email or hard copy; some members will make notes on their copy and give it back to you. It's a good idea to contact the facilitator to see how many will be attending/reading. Ten copies are usually sufficient.

During the meeting:

- » When reading your piece, give one minute or less of back story if you feel it's vital to your presentation.
- » You can have someone else read for you, but please make this arrangement in advance so your reader has a chance to familiarize himself with your work.

When you're finished reading:

- » Sit back and accept your medicine gracefully; being defensive helps no one. Make notes of the verbal critiques given you for later reference. Should you disagree with someone's critique, just accept it and go on. If you have a question regarding someone's critique, ask for clarification, and then move on.
- » Be gracious and let everyone move on to the next reader.

For those critiquing:

- » Remember the reader is looking for constructive criticism. Take care to point out one thing you liked for each thing that bothered you. This is called sandwiching your comments.
- » Be specific about what did or didn't work for you. It's not helpful to hear "I didn't like that" but it may be better to hear "I would like to see more of the surroundings in this scene, I couldn't visualize very clearly," or "I'd like to know more about your character and why he would do this," or "I felt that word made me stumble, possibly another word would help it flow better, such as ...".
- » Be honest and direct in a polite and caring way.
- » The rough draft is probably the most sensitive to critique. It's really still in the idea stage, so punctuation is unimportant in this phase of the work. Look for the idea; is the plot being laid out? Is the scene being set? Are the characters being rounded out and becoming real?
- » Be encouraging, this is a new creation that needs sculpting.