

writers' block

CARROLLTON CREATIVE WRITERS CLUB

April 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
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Contact

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Just Peachy by Jay Michael Jones

CCWC New Business:

- Beverly Bruemmer is asking that anyone planning on being a vendor and selling their books at MeccaFest 2011 to please let her know as soon as possible so that the club spot can be confirmed and secured. It is reported that record numbers of artistic vendors have applied for space and it is essential we secure our space as soon as possible.
- The qualifications to be a club vendor is that you must have a published (either traditional or self-published) work by the date of the festival. Unpublished or WIP's are not eligible.
- Authors planning to read at Mecca Fest as part of the Local Voices program, please see Jay Michael Jones. Jay is organizing this year's event and would appreciate your help.
- Material to be read must be PG13, but does not have to be previously published. You can read WIP's and unpublished material, but fit within the 10-15 minute time slot.

Readings:

**Please excuse me if I left out anyone this past month.*

Dawn Goodwin - Read an article from her blog dawngoodwin.com called, "The Loss of Beauty".

Frank Allan Rogers - Read Chapter 13 from his work-in-progress historical fiction novel called, "Twice Upon a Time".

Eleanor Hoomes - read a beautiful poem "Face-Book Relationship".

Jay Michael Jones - read a short story called "The Biggest Little Fan of the Red Ball Express."

Beverly Smith - read Chapter 1 from her fictional autobiographical novel called, "Dinner with Peter".

T.L. Gray - read a chapter of "Keezy's 10 Awesome Rules to Teenage Dating" titled "This is My Space, Back Off!"

We'd like to welcome our visitors:

- John Cook - a writer of historical fiction.
- Ann Brown - a counselor formerly with the Temple Schools.



April Program:

Laura Kirk facilitated the April meetings and did a wonderful job!

The first meeting, April 12th was a reading/critiquing session and produced very insightful and helpful feedback for those who read. Afterward, lunch was enjoyed by many of the members at The Empire Grill in the square.

The second meeting on April 26th was also a reading/critiquing session spotlighted by readers who were unable to read during the first session. Afterward, lunch was enjoyed by many members at The Corner Café.

Member Spotlight

The Pulpwood Queens book club met at Frank and Mary Rogers' home on Monday, April 17th at 12:30pm. Everyone enjoyed getting a sneak peek at the artistic genius of the southwestern artwork of Mary Rogers. July 8th, her work will be on exhibit at Carrollton's Rush Gallery.

Many of our members have gone through some health complications lately and we'd like to spotlight a few of these so that we can encourage and lift one another up with love and support.

Tom Cook, after recently enduring periods of shortness of breath, underwent a cardiac catheterization on Monday, April 25th. We all hope and pray for a speedy recovery.

Fred Hamlin underwent the removal of his thyroid after tests confirmed the presence of cancer on April 29th.

Please keep Tom, Fred and Missie Borders' daughter in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

Don't forget May-Fest '11 on Friday and Saturday - May 7th-8th, and Mother's Day - May 9th.

May Meeting:

Beverly Bruemmer is scheduled to facilitate the May club meetings. She plans to make both meetings reading & critiquing sessions. If you plan to read, please email her with your title/topic.

Up-Coming Events

Here is the Facilitator List for the 2011 calendar year:

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. Invite anyone you think you know who is into writing or the film 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.