

# writers' block

Carrollton Creative Writers Club Newsletter

April 2010



Carrollton Creative  
Writers Club

Founded Fall 2006

[www.CarrolltonCreativeWritersClub.com](http://www.CarrolltonCreativeWritersClub.com)  
[www.ccwcblog.blogspot.com](http://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 30117-3244  
(770) 838-1083

## Contact:

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For publication in newsletter, send your news to [margaretdyer@mindspring.com](mailto:margaretdyer@mindspring.com)  
Deadline: the last Wednesday of the month

## Just Peachy

by Jay Michael Jones



## business:

- **Joann Dunn** was the facilitator for the April Poetry Month meetings.
- **Tom Cook** reports that 10 members present at the April 13 meeting agreed to participate in this year's MeccaFest. That's almost half of the paid members to date. If we participate in a shared tent, you must be available during fest hours to sell your own work. We also plan to read in the auditorium, as we did last year.

Tom would like to get input from the rest of the members. Please email Tom at [boinerz@att.net](mailto:boinerz@att.net) to let him know if you're interested in participating.

- **Margaret Dyer** requested help with the newsletter. It was agreed upon in the April 27 meeting that each month's facilitator will provide notes to Margaret of CCWC news, a list of the readers who participate in critiques and a brief article about the month's program. Margaret is designing a form to help make the task simple.

- Margaret is accepting suggestions for name for CCWC newsletter. Let's discuss it at upcoming meetings. If you're unable to attend, send your suggestions to [margaretdyer@mindspring.com](mailto:margaretdyer@mindspring.com).

- **The Lauretta Hannon workshop** was full of helpful information. Here are some

attendees' comments:

*I really appreciated the information about marketing your book. I liked that she had items to look at and offered her help to anyone looking for vendors that make specific items. It well worth the time and money.*

**Diane Quimby**

*I really got my money's worth from Lauretta Hannon. She gave each of us a folder with a copy of her ambitious agenda for the seminar and worked hard to complete the objectives in that agenda. She covered many topics in the workshop: a wish list, writer's block, deeping a journal, queries, hooks, getting published, effective marketing, and others. The folder also had forms to help writers set and achieve goals, how to set a schedule for writing, and pointers on dealing with agents. Lauretta is well-organized, helpful, funny, and shows she cares about writers - a real professional.*

*And... I went home with a good bottle of wine, chocolates, and writing tools: the door prize!*  
**Frank Allan Rogers**

## program:

**APRIL 13**  
NOTES FROM JOANN DUNN

This is poetry month, so the meeting was devoted to poetry, specifically modern poetry, mostly by poet laureates of England,

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US, and Georgia. We looked at the use of common, earthy experiences and non-traditional schemes in contrast with the rhyme schemes, meter and noble sentiments of early poet laureates, and how this less structured style accomplishes the goals of making the reader feel what the poet is trying to express.

## readings:

**APRIL 27**

**Zan Marie Setadham** read a poem, "Christmas Promise," which we all edited. It is something she would like to use at the end of her next book, "A Christmas Walk." **Zan Marie's comment:** *I found myself struggling with the very line the group spotted. Your input to take it out lifted the problem out of the way and made the poem exactly what it needs to be. Thank you all!*

**Eleanor Hoomes** read two light poems and a longer work, "Vineyard," composed for a memorial service, read on Earth Day. We had some suggestions but felt it was strong and appropriate for the its purpose.

**Eleanor's comment:** *I have said so many times before: I simply cannot judge my own work. I was not sure of the value of "Vineyard" until I received the feedback from the members of CCWC. I now think that I will make it the final poem in GREEN THUMBS.*

**Diana Quimby** read "My Noodle" and "I Try," both about her experience with traumatic head injury. She is considering which one to use to start her book. We agreed both were excellent, but favored My Noodle for its wit.

**Diane's comment:** *I really value any suggestions from this group and you never disappoint. Poem one will be the prologue. It is positive and gives the message of the book--hope. I really appreciate the feedback.*

**Richard Anderson** read a short story, "Strudelloo," a provocative piece about man's relationship to God.

**Frank Rogers** read the first chapter of his next book, "Twice Upon a Time", where man's relationship to God, or in this case Socrates, was set in the old west and provided an engrossing beginning to the book. We were all looking forward to hearing Chapter 2.

**Frank's comment:** *A big juicy thank you to everyone at the meeting today. I appreciate all the valuable comments for Twice Upon a Time. As I sit here making changes to Chapter 1, I'm reminded that nothing improves a story like a good critique. Now go write something.*

## member news:

**Tom Cook** launched his official website on April 19th, under his pen name, Thomas Young. If you haven't visited the site yet, direct your browsers to [www.thomas-young.net](http://www.thomas-young.net) and check it out.

**Margaret Dyer** did not win the cover in the 2001 American Artist Magazine cover competition. But you will see her work in the July issue, which should be on the stands in mid June. She leaves at the end of May to teach a 2 week pastel workshop in France. We'll see pictures of her trip in the August meeting.

## opportunities:

A published creative writer and veteran instructor is needed to lead a creative writing workshop that will employ journal, memoir and poetry as genres for self-expression as part of a women's retreat to be held in the winter of 2011 in Oaxaca, Mexico. Writers must have experience facilitating writing workshops for adults. Compensation will include air travel, food and lodging, plus a modest stipend. Deadline: June 1. For more information: <http://oaxacaculture.wordpress.com/2010/04/18/wanted-creative-writing-instructor-for-womens-retreat/> or contact Norma Hawthorne at [normahawthorne@mac.com](mailto:normahawthorne@mac.com).

## calendar:

**October 9 and 10: MeccaFest** 10am-6pm

**Saturday, December 5: CCWC Christmas dinner** at Little Hawaiian, 7:30PM.

## next meetings:

**May 11 & 25.**

Martha Duffee, cookbook writing with narrative, and daughter Lauren Graves, photographer/gardener/writer

## upcoming facilitators:

June: **Jay Jones**

July: **David Green**

August: **Margaret Dyer**

September: **Shirley Garrett**, tips on marketing through presentations

October: **Joe Byrd**

November: **Tom Cook** (2nd Tuesday only),

Lauretta Hannon, marketing

December: **Tom Cook** (2nd Tuesday only),

critiques

Please send any corrections or omissions to editor's attention at [margaretdyer@mindspring.com](mailto:margaretdyer@mindspring.com)

## 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 may 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, 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.