



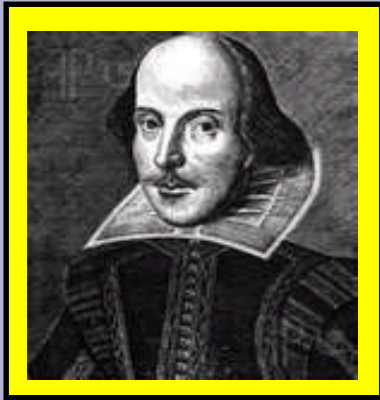
Carrollton Creative Writers Club

Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY 2012

Carrollton Creative Writers Club

Founded fall 2005



www.carrolltoncreativewritersclub.com

www.ccwc.blogspot.com

Mission:

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

Meetings:

First & Third Saturdays
First & Fourth Tuesdays
Just Poetry: First Wednesdays

All meetings: 10 a.m. to noon

Contact: Eleanor Hoomes at 770-854-8919 or Shelly Murphy at 770-830-6688

Meetings at:

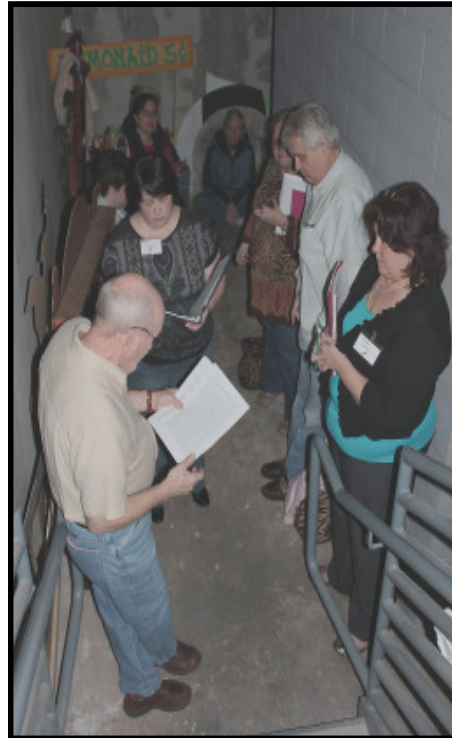
**Carrollton Cultural Arts
Center**

251 Alabama St.
Carrollton, GA 30117

Newsletter editor: Chuck Wanager

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tornado watch sends Saturday group to Cultural Arts Center basement



Group hunkers down in stair well of Cultural Arts Center during tornado watch. Tom Cook, front with paper, didn't miss a beat.



At top, Tom Cook leads discussion on 'Writing from Ground Up,' below, club members head out of stair well following the all-clear signal from arts center. Photos by Chuck Wanager

Cook guides group through storm, writing basics

Those attending a presentation on "Writing from the Ground Up" Saturday, Jan. 22, got an unexpected tour of the Carrollton Cultural Arts Center from the first floor down during a tornado watch.

At about 11:30 a.m. that day, the arts center caretaker stuck his head in the door of Room 4 and announced a tornado watch and all people to the basement. The some ten people in attendance then followed the caretaker backstage and down the stairs to huddle up in the stair well for about 10 minutes

before it was safe to return to the meeting room.

Outside, heavy rain continued, but the storm line had passed, the man said.

With that, the group returned to the presentation on writing basics.

Cook pointed out that writing is communication and the reader has to understand what you are writing about. During his talk he used examples and anecdotes from the writings of Ann Proulx, who Cook said is one of his favorite authors.

If you want to write and write well you

See Cook, page 4

Publishing, blogs, Websites focus of first 2012 meeting of main Tuesday members

The meeting was facilitated by Eleanor Hoomes and Shelly Murphy.

Nineteen members attended. We had one visitor, Jim Cunningham.

Since the club formed the Executive Committee in December last year, no business was discussed.

Eleanor reminded everyone that memberships are up for renewal this month. When you pay your dues, get and keep a receipt.

Eleanor and Shelly presented a two-part program. In the first part, John Bell, of Vabella Publishing, presented a program on the scope and progress of this local publisher. The second part featured Diana Black, our Website

Wizard and owner of Diana Designs, who discussed building websites and blogs, formatting; flighting; and corrections. This service costs \$25 per hour, and usually requires one hour.

John says he allows the author as many galley proofs as is necessary until the author is satisfied the book's they way they want it.

He then goes into cover design and designs the covers himself, unless the author has a specific cover design in mind and ready.

After that, he obtains a Library of Congress Control Number and offers Copyright Application guidance. He then obtains the ISBN number.

Typical black and white pages

cost three cents per page, on 24 # 8.5 inch x 5.5 inch white paper, though other sizes, weights and colors are available. The price varies for the extras. Full color pages cost 25 cents per page; if the page is partial-color, that cost is reduced to 15 cents per page. Covers cost \$1 per book to print; perfect binding and finishing is 50 cents per book.

These costs are recouped by John when the author buys book (at cost) from him for book signings, etc. (the book's sold for the retail price; the author keeps the balance), or against royalties until the costs have been met (John pays 15 percent to the author for each copy sold, about twice the industry standard).

Vabella Publishing also publishes books in e-formats. For each such book, the author is paid a 35 percent royalty.

Books in Vabella's catalogue are listed with Books in Print. The company is currently working to get into Baker and Taylor, one of the large, industry distributors. It's also in discussion with Bella Distributing.

Books are listed on Amazon.com, in either format, and are available for Kindle. He's working with Barnes & Noble to make them available for the Nook.

Currently, Vabella only prints in paperback, but is looking toward hard-back printing in the

See Page 4

Just Poetry hears 'Mystery of the Pea'

Members of Just Poetry read selections of their work at the beginning of the regular Tuesday meeting. Bob Covell read "October Sunrise;" Donna Spivey read "Weaver of Words."

Eleanor Hoomes read "Process;" Tom Cook read "One Writer's Lament;" and Dee Dee Murphy read "When Lightning Eludes Me."

Wednesday, Jan. 11, the Just Poetry group met in the chorus rehearsal room at the arts center. Eleanor Hoomes, Richard Anderson, Bob Covell, Donna Spivey and Tom Cook attended.

At this session of JP, Tom Cook facilitated. He discussed his meeting a new poet, Amy Pence, at Dawn

Goodwin's book-signing and passed around a copy of her collection, "The Decadent Lovely," for the group to examine.

Eleanor Hoomes read "Mystery of the Pea" and "On Our Sixtieth Wed-

ding Anniversary," Donna Spivey read a reprise of "She and He" and a revised form of "Weaver of Words." Richard Anderson read "Assistants" and "How Do You Do?" Bob Covell read "Enabling

Ground for Seamus Heaney" and shared some haiku traffic signs used by the city of New York.

The next meeting of Just Poetry is Feb. 8, 2012, when Donna Spivey will facilitate.

Readings at University of West Georgia set for first three months

Our contact at UWGA for the Collegiate Creative Writing Competition is Greg Fraser.

When he met CCWC representatives, we told him the CCWC would be interested in knowing about readings on campus.

He forwarded me the

information below with the note:

"Hope to see you and some other members of CCWC this term."

Place: Campus Library, on the first floor in a designated area called "The Nook."

It's easy to find.

Time: 7:30 p.m./day/date/

author/genre:

Tuesday, Feb. 7, David Madden, fiction.

Tuesday, Feb. 28, David Bottoms and Katie Chapple, poetry.

Thursday, March 29, Dionne Irving, fiction.

Monday, April 9, Edward Hirsch, poetry.



Saturday meetings

First Saturday meeting, Jan. 7

After some initial discussion, the first Saturday meeting of 2012 on Jan. 7, got to what the some ten members had come for -- reading and critiquing.

But first came a brief discussion on the coming writer's conference in Atlanta, with Tom Cook saying the meet is worth attending.

This year's event will be May 4-5 with notice coming recently that space is still available at the various talks for those wanting to sign up.

For cost see details on writer's conference presented by the Atlanta Writes Club.

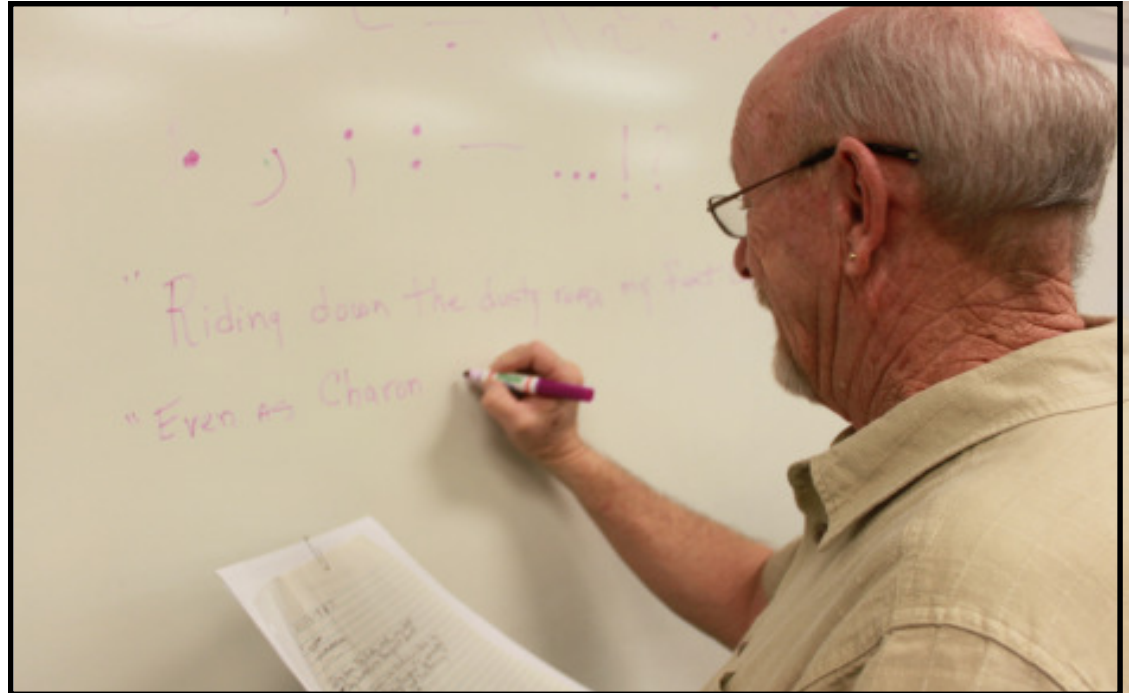
Also, Tonya Gray said another scriptwriting work-

shop has been set for this year with details to come later. She said the session would be held in other locations, such as Douglasville

or Lawrenceville. Also, Gray said her book, "Milledgeville Misfits," is to be published later this month, with a book signing set for Feb. 10, from

6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Carrollton Noma Lomason Library.

During the Saturday session, query letters were dis-



Tom Cook leads Saturday group through discussion on writing well. Photo by Chuck Wanager.

Tom Cook talks writing ... *continued from front page*

have to read. Reading won't give you your voice, Cook noted Proulx as saying. "Reading widely and of good quality is a short cut to good writing," Proulx said.

When reading, study how other writers write, she added. But "don't use it to be published," Cook said.

He said you can mimic style to get you started in writing, but develop your own style as you go along.

You can study other writers to see how the "warp" a sentence. You can see how they develop character and scene.

But you also have to write, and that means to write every day. To get story ideas, you should learn to be a good observer, he added.

"Pay attention to the world and what you get from reading." So, you should observe wherever

you go each day and where you live, or where you character might live or travel. Proulx said she has done a lot of traveling and observing in the course of research for her books.

You not only have to read wisely, but widely. Proulx, according to Cook, said she reads everything from product manuals to history and other printed matter.

It helps her generate ideas for her books and gives

here a storehouse of knowledge to add rich detail and character development to what she writes.

Once you set out to be a writer, there is no going back, Cook said. You will find yourself getting up at night and writing down ideas or visions you could be used in your writing.

Proulx said she sometimes walks for hours to work out characters or plot issues.

First meeting of 2012....continued from page 2

future and has ordered a UV-coating machine that puts a glossy coats on the paperbacks.

Marketing assistance for authors in his catalogue is also one of the company's goals.

For more information, or to submit to John. Email him at Belleg@aol.com, or john@vabella.com, or call him at 770-328-8355.

Websites and blogs: Diana Black designs websites, book covers and does other graphic design through her company, Diana Designs.

Diana has designed websites for several of our members, including Tom Cook, Dawn Goodwin, Eleanor Hoomes, Frank Rogers, and designed and maintains the club's website.

In this day and age of everything electronic, it's become a requirement that authors have a web presence, either through a website or blog or both.

One should have a clear purpose in mind when designing the website: who's your audience? what message are you trying to

convey?

Content's more important than design and should be entertaining as well as informative.

One example she gave was of the author Lisa Yee's website: not only is the site itself entertaining, but so is her bio: it's not about her; it's about things that interest her readers.

And that's the key, Diana says, to successful websites and blogs: make them entertaining; educate your followers and make it easy for them to find you; be remarkable on every page, with every piece you do.

Know your audience and have a mission; and integrate your blog with social media, and link both to your website.

Remember that people don't care about you and content's more important than design.

Diana promised to email further information about designing blogs and websites to the group.

Committee report: The only item of business undertaken at the meeting was the report by Dee Dee Murphy, chair of the

Collegiate Writing Contest Committee. She informed the group of the plan the committee has come up with, since our original idea of establishing a scholarship for some deserving creative-writing college student can't fly.

Here's the gist of it:

Discussion has already occurred with Greg Fraser, head of the Creative Writing dept. at UWG. He will handle publicity at the college. Our group will handle publicity through the local paper.

The contest is open to all creative writing students at the university, in either short-story or poetry categories. Deadline for submissions is March 15. On March 16, a volunteer group from CCWC will judge the entries and send the finalists to a guest judge.

This year, we have asked Dawn Goodwin to be that judge. Dawn will judge the final entries from March 17-23, and choose one winner from each category.

Each winner will be awarded \$150 and will be published in UWG's Eclectic, their literary magazine. They will be presented

with the check on April 9, during the university's awards program.

The award will increase yearly, as our budget does.

The committee is also seeking corporate sponsorship to aid us in this project, and to increase the size of the awards.

(At the meeting, John Bell informed us that Vabella Publishing would be happy to be one of those sponsors.)

On May 8, the committee will meet to evaluate this year's contest and to make recommend adjustments in the program for next year.

Eleanor Hoomes informed the committee that she will donate \$400 for 2013's program, in addition to what corporate sponsors we can obtain.

It may be that enough corporate sponsors come on board that the club will not have to increase its budget for this contest in future years.

The proposal to adopt this program for college students was put and seconded, and passed by unanimous vote.

Tuesday, Jan. 24, meeting: we tell what we have done

For the final meeting of January, 2012, 21 members of the writer's club meet to get to know each other even better than they had.

Facilitator Eleanor Hoomes asked that members present items written by them. Although she stipulated recent writing, most also touched on past work.

A variety of writing was shown or mentioned, from poems to magazine pieces, both fiction and nonfiction to novels to screenplays to

plays, advertisements, brochures, science fiction, newspaper articles, educational pieces, memoirs and others.

Members also came with props to help in their presentations, such as Frank Rodger's "horse" with a real difference. Indeed, it was not the animal kind, but a toy.

Also, Chuck Wanager said he would begin a club online literary publication if approved, and the flower fund is in need of donation.

Jan. 7 meeting *continued from page 3*

before going on to readings for the day. Mary Reid asked about query letters. For a good query letter, include summary of book and genre and word count,

among other details.

Tom Cook read his scene play stemming from his novel, "Coming out of Winter." Also, Diane Wilborn and Tonya Gray read.

Atlanta conference, book signings

The Atlanta writer's conference will be held Westin Atlanta Airport on May 4 and 5.

Dawn Goodwin's book signing at Emory University will be Feb. 4

beginning at 1 pm. at the Barnes and Nobles Bookstore on the school campus. Tonya Gray's is Feb. 10 at the Noma Lomason Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Exhibit set at Carrollton Lomason library

There will be an art exhibit in February at the Carrollton Library in honor of Black History month. Dee Dee

Murphy contributed several prints. Those are done by Romare Bearden and Jacob Lawrence.

*Do ask
and do tell*



Club members hear what others have produced in the past and what they are currently working on, such as novels and screen plays. Photos by Chuck Wanager.

