

Issue Number 8/2008

Date: September 29, 2008

Publishers: ZMS/RA

*The Carrollton Creative Writers Club is a support group of writers for writers. Our mission: Provide information and critique to facilitate the art and business of all forms of written expression.*

*Meeting times:*

10:00 am - 12:00 pm                      2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays                      Carrollton Cultural Arts Center

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm                      2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays                      Carrollton Cultural Arts Center

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**BUSINESS:**

- ❖ **Horton's and CCWC**—Joann Dunn gives us the latest update on this marketing project. "When I was at Horton's recently, I didn't see the CWCC writers' books that were supposedly in stock. I asked Dorothy Pittman about that and she told me they were in the local author's section, which is in the back of the store. I know we all appreciate Horton's carrying them, but we need a little advertising. Penny suggested that I make up a basket of books with a little sign about them." The basket now proudly resides on the top of the local author shelves and is easily seen from the front door. Stop by and browse. Thanks, Penny and Joann, for the suggestion and the follow through.
- ❖ **October 14**—Patricia Sprinkle will be our guest speaker. Her presentation is entitled ***So You're Having a Book*** on the process of writing and publishing a book from start to finish. Don't forget that some of us signed up to bring pie as compensation for Patti's expertise. ☺
- ❖ **October 28**—Critique session
- ❖ **December 4-7** Carroll County Community Theatre presents ***Nuncrackers: The Nonsense Christmas Musical***, by Dan Goggin, **December 4-6** at 7:30 and **Sunday, December 7** at 2:00 p.m. in the Carrollton Cultural Arts Center Theatre. Tickets are \$10. Call 770-838-1083. Some of our members plan to sell books at this musical. Ask Mary Wilburn or Joann Dunn for more info. Penny Lewis requests that you set up one hour before curtain time.
- ❖ **December 6**—Christmas party at Little Hawaiian, which will be in its new location on Rome Street near the Cultural Arts Center. Time to be announced.
- ❖ **Chris Roerden**, author of ***DON'T SABOTAGE YOUR SUBMISSIONS***, will be in the Atlanta area on February 14 with the Sisters in Crime. We plan to join in this meeting.

- ❖ **November** is *National Novel Writing Month*. Mitch presented us with the "How To" page from the web site. Several of us are considering this as a challenge to jumpstart our output. It would be neat to have CCWC writers featured as winners! Go to [www.nanowrimo.org/eng/whatisnano](http://www.nanowrimo.org/eng/whatisnano) to see what's up. It's intriguing! (Four or five of us have decided to take the challenge. Is anyone else game? ZM)

### **FACILITATOR:**

**Joann Dunn** facilitated the September 9th AM session. The delightful Bobbie Christmas presented a quick course in her Find and Refine method of editing. What great information. Be sure to check out her website at [www.zebraeditor.com](http://www.zebraeditor.com) for more info on the method and for her free reports on all sorts of writing topics. Bobbie Christmas mentioned our meeting in her latest newsletter. She was impressed with our work ethic and the fact that we all sit down and write instead of just talking about writing. Thanks, Joann, for facilitating the meeting. Bobbie Christmas's Free Reports and newsletter are available from her website. Go to [www.zebraeditor.com](http://www.zebraeditor.com) and click on resources tab. There you will find directions for the newsletter and the reports. It's well worth the time.

**Mitch Lits** facilitated the September 23rd AM session, which included his report on the Harriett Austin Conference and our usual critique session. Mitch's report was an excellent overview of the do's and don'ts of submission from various speakers, including Brian Seidman, Sharon McCrumb, Evelyn Coleman, Andrea Brown, and Chris Roerden. The main take away is that we should start our stories at the pivotal moment when someone's action changes the status quo. Reveal back-story later in bits of dialog and narrative. The story must always move forward toward the end. Use a "less is more" approach. Mitch strongly recommends Chris Roerden's ***DON'T SABOTAGE YOUR SUBMISSIONS***. Email Mitch if you would like him to bring a copy of his notes to the next meeting for you or email a copy to you. (Thanks, Mitch.) We also had readings from Judi Presnell, Bev Bruemmer, and Zan Marie Steadham. See the comments below. Our group included a guest, Jan McDaniel, and a new member, Margaret Dyer. Jan is the 2002 Georgia Author of the Year. Her short story collection, ***BY TRAIN AT NIGHT***, is currently out of print. Jan started a writer's club at the Cultural Arts Center in 2002, but had to move due to her husband's illness. We are glad she's back and hope her schedule at West Central Tech will allow her to join us regularly in the future. Margaret is a professional artist and is interested in writing children's books. We all hope her dreams come true as we all work toward our writing goals. Some of our members shared information concerning the services of Catawba Publishing Company.

**David Green** facilitated the September PM sessions.

**READINGS:**

*Note from the editors: Don't forget to refer to our guidelines when preparing for your reading. Please be sure to encapsulate your writing to avoid a lengthy oration prior to reading.*

**READER'S COMMENTS:**

- ❖ **Judi Presnell** read "Rachel Goes to the Wedding," a funny anecdote about mistaken identities.
- ❖ "Boy, did I love all your helpful comments. Each critique was like a gift, a blessing that would help me become a better writer. I appreciate that so much. Having a picture in my head is easy. Putting that "picture" on paper is not. Your invaluable input reminded me of the find and refine pointers Bobbie Christmas shared. Just as she said, 'Style often applies more to what you take out than what you put in.' Thanks, guys! "

**READER'S COMMENTS:**

- ❖ **Zan Marie Steadham** read "In a Clean Mirror," a poem.
- ❖ "Thanks again for allowing me to share a bit of my writing. Your enjoyment of the poem and great suggestions will help me get this one ready for a contest. Any suggestions for a good contest to try will be greatly appreciated."

**READER'S COMMENTS:**

- ❖ **Bev Bruemmer** read from Chapter 1 of her hilarious **DOUBLEWIDE DIVAS**.
- ❖ "Every comment is so appreciated!"

**CHECK YOUR CALENDARS:**

- ❖ **October 3-4**—Book Fair on the Square, Marietta. Check it out at <http://www.bookfaironthesquare.com/index.html>. Our own Diana B. and Mary C. will be there.
- ❖ **October 11-12** —Mecca Fine Arts Festival at the Cultural Arts Center
- ❖ **October 15-17**—Georgia COMO Library Conference in Athens
- ❖ **October 17-18**—Southern Breeze (SCBWI) is meeting in Birmingham. Mitch Lits made a request to find out if anyone is interested in this conference. Email Mitch at [dreamstoreality@bellsouth.net](mailto:dreamstoreality@bellsouth.net) and let him know. The keynote speaker is Paul Fleischman.
- ❖ **November 8**—The Dahlonega Literary Festival Committee presents "Fiction Writing Seminar" featuring Georgia Author of the Year **Brian Jay Corrigan** (author of *The Poet of Loch Ness*, St. Martin's Press). Brian will cover everything from getting your fiction idea all the way through going on your book tour, including how to develop character, atmosphere, dialogue, pace and more as well as how to find the right agent (and what to avoid) on your way to getting your novel sold. The

conference will last all day Saturday (9 a.m-4 p.m with a lunch break). The registration fee is \$75/person. Questions about registration should be addressed to Sharon Bacek at [sgbacek@windstream.net](mailto:sgbacek@windstream.net) The registration form (available at [www.literaryfestival.org](http://www.literaryfestival.org) ) should be mailed with a check for \$75, made payable to the Dahlonega Literary Festival, to Literary Festival c/o Sharon Bacek, 2608 Auraria Road, Dahlonega, Georgia 30533

- ❖ **December 4-7--**Carroll County Community Theatre presents *Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical*, by Dan Goggin, December 4-6 at 7:30 and Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Carrollton Cultural Arts Center Theatre. Tickets are \$10. Call 770-838-1083. Some of our members will be selling books at these showings. Ask Mary Wilburn or Bev Bruemmer for more info.

### PERSONALS:

- ❖ **September 6**—Villa Rica Gold Rush, Main Street, 9 AM-4 PM Diana Black and Mary Cunningham exhibited at the Gold Rush Festival in Villa Rica, GA on Sat. Here is Mary's report: "This was the first time that books have been included, so sales weren't great, but I did make an excellent contact. An ad person for a local magazine bought *The Missing Locket* and gave me the name of the 'events' contact person. I've been sending e-mails for a year with no luck. I was able to submit all my local book signings for the Oct. Issue. One of the parents I talked to on Saturday contacted a teacher about asking me to appear at her child's school. I just got an e-mail from the teacher inviting me to Book Fair Week! She also contacted the media specialist about including my books in the Fair! A great lesson to me that it's not necessarily the amount of sales, but the value of the contacts those sales/promo materials create."
- ❖ **Mary Wilburn** is at it again. She recently had another article published in *The Carroll Star News* entitled, "Who Are The Candidates". Congrats, Mary!
- ❖ **When** you get ready to publish a work, don't forget that we have three members with their own publishing companies—Beverley Bruemmer (Bev Bruemmer Books), Mary Wilburn (Saxon Books), and Joann Dunn (Due West Books). It never hurts to have expert help.
- ❖ **Thanks to Richard Anderson** for volunteering to be the CCWC Newsletter copy editor.

Remember: Nothing gets written if you don't pick up your pen. As one witty writer from Australia puts it—you have to use your "bum glue" and stick your posterior in the chair and stay there. Bobbie Christmas puts it this way—"Put your rear end in a chair and your hands on the keyboard and write." ; )

Helpful links:

<http://www.usu.edu/journalism/faculty/sweeney/resources/ap.htm>  
[http://www.bu.edu/com/writingprgm/ap\\_styleguide1.pdf](http://www.bu.edu/com/writingprgm/ap_styleguide1.pdf)  
[www.ask.com](http://www.ask.com)

**S.T.R.A.P.**

|          | Submissions | Take a<br>Look | Rejections | Acceptances | Pledge |
|----------|-------------|----------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| Amber    | 1           |                |            |             | 10     |
| Dave     |             |                |            |             | 10     |
| Richard  | 2           |                |            | 1           |        |
| ZanMarie | 7           |                | 5          |             |        |

Anyone who would like to participate please submit your name and your pledge. If we don't submit . . . well, none of these others will happen. The more no's we get, the closer we are to publishing. So let us know. How many submissions do you pledge to make in the next month, quarter, year, whatever.

***WRITE, WRITE, WRITE . . . SUBMIT, SUBMIT, SUBMIT.***

Happy writing fellow scribes. See you next month.

Please be kind enough to bring any incorrect data, mistakes, or omissions to my attention via [johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net)

**ZMS =^..^=/RA**