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CARROLLTON CREATIVE WRITERS CLUB—FOUNDED FALL 2005

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

Meeting times:

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

Carrollton Cultural Arts Center

Contact:

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BUSINESS:

❖ **April 14 Meeting**

Business:

~~The forms for the May 1 “The Art of Words” are due as soon as possible. All pieces for display are due at the next meeting so that they can be hung.

~~Tom Cook and Beverly Bruemmer will share the liaison position for the club and will be in charge of official communications with the Arts Center. The discussion of electing officers and the formation of a Board of Directors will take place on April 28.

~~Tom Cook will purchase the tent that the members agreed to purchase so that it will be available for the May 2 MayFest.

~~May facilitator, Mary Cunningham, announced that the speaker, Sandra Novack, will visit at the May 26 meeting. The May 12 meeting will be a critique session.

New Members:

~~We welcomed new members Fred Hamlin and Frank Rogers.

Program:

~~Facilitator Joe Byrd presented a program comparing Robert Frost and Carl Sandburg’s approaches to poetry. Joe also treated the members with *The Pot ‘n Pan Man* and the moving *Tiny Warrior* by Sharmagne Leland-StJohn. The members received this program so warmly that they decided to focus on poetry at least two times a year. Eleanor Hoomes volunteered to lead the next poetry program when she facilitates.

❖ **April 28 Meeting**

Business:

~~Tom Cook reported that the new tent is available for MayFest on Saturday. Any member can use it by signing it out with Barbara at the desk. When it is returned to the closet off Classroom 4. Be sure to sign it back in when returned.

~~Tom Cook made a motion to table the selection of a Board of Directors until August or September after David Green has time to research the other boards that are part of the Arts Center. After David’s report, the club will vote on the constitution of the Board of Directors. The motion was quickly seconded and carried with a unanimous vote.

~~Prices for the frames we are using in *The Art of Words* will be available if the member would like to purchase them and retain their display. If not purchased, they will need to be emptied and made usable for future use.

~~Prices are as follows:

8x10 shadow box.....\$8.00

12x16 shadow box.....14.99

11x14 frame.....9.99

~~If you would like to purchase the frames, wait until after the show and we get the procedure from Penny Lewis.

~~Joann Dunn shared a new website for checking out agents and editors—

<http://www.sfwa.org/beware>

New Members:

~~We welcomed new members Sharon Hamlin and Bob Crowe

Program:

~~The program consisted of readings by Joann Dunn, Zan Marie Steadham, Eleanor Hoomes, Tom Cook, Richard Anderson, Sharon Hamlin, and Fred Hamlin. See the Readings section below for more info.

❖ **May Meetings:**

~~Our first session on May 12 will be a critique session. Remember that each reader has no more than fifteen minutes to read AND hear critiques. Our club's mission is to provide feedback for small segments of works in progress.

MARKETING:

Upcoming Events: (email Zan Marie Steadham with info: johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net when you have scheduled a signing for inclusion in the *CCWC Newsletter*.)

- ❖ May 2009—Cultural Arts Center Gallery display of our books: *The Art of Words*
- ❖ June 7—Fran Steward will be reading and signing books at the Regional Library.

New Books:

- ❖ Mary Cunningham has announced that Echelon Press is publishing her newest, *Ghost Light*. More info will follow when it is available.



New Websites and Other Media:

~~ On April 4, Diana Black gave "birth" to a lovable worm named Wendel Wordsworth! She wrote and illustrated the storybook, *No Words for Wendel*, (BevBruemmerBooks, LLC) as well as composed a sing-along song dedicated to the love of reading. Bev Bruemmer's educational skills were invaluable in creating activities for a companion book and computer CD. Diana wishes to thank all CCWC members who encouraged her through the intense labor pains! Check out www.WendelWordsworth.com for more info!

- ❖ Forrest Schultz writes reviews for SSA(<http://www.southsideartsagenda.com/>)and is open to submissions from our group. When you publish, please contact him if the following is of interest. If you are planning a release in the next year, keep this on file as a great place to get a review. Forrest Schultz email: schultz_forrest@yahoo.com . Diana Black passed this info from Forrest Schultz. "I am especially concerned about books published in 2007. By the end of this year these books will be considered too old and the new criterion of "recent" will then be 2008, 2009, 2010. I also want to remind everyone that if no reviews can be found or no one to review them, that I will be glad to do the review myself if the book is sent to me. I have already done this for several of the reviews in SSA. If anyone wishes to do that, have them send the book to me at:

Forrest Schultz

703 West Grantville Road

Grantville, GA 30220."

This is a good opportunity for all the members of our group.

Reports On Past Events:

- ❖ *The Art of Words* opening was a great success! Here are a few photos (courtesy of Tom Cook and Marty Harrison) and comments from our members.
 - ~~Tom Cook: "I thought the exhibit beautifully done and well-represented. We did a good job. We should be proud of ourselves. And kudos to the Arts Center. The reception was nicely done and the turnout, a steady stream the entire two hours, was much larger than I anticipated."
 - ~~Joann Dunn: "I thought the gallery show was excellent. From the h'ors d'ouvres to the attractively arranged art work, it was really delightful. I surprised and pleased to see so many visitors of all ages. Penny and Phoebe and the Center staff should have our thanks."
 - ~~Beverly Bruemmer: "I thought it was well received. The compliments were awesome!"
 - ~~Mary Cunningham: "My impression of the reception was very positive. The traffic was good and many people stopped and talked, along with admiring our "exhibit." The gallery exhibit was amazing! The center put on a very nice evening event."
 - ~~Diana Black: "I thought CCWC members who participated in the framing project did an amazing job. Each shadow box was unique, classy and creatively portrayed the individual book. Bravo to all...The energy at the gallery reception was ... energizing! Attendees who came to view the art in the main room were, I think, pleasantly surprised to meet authors and view their "artwork." Overheard numerous positive comments made about both member books and the presentation of *The Art of Words*."

Pictured (l to r): Bev Bruemmer, Joann Dunn, Joe Byrd, Diana Black, Tom Cook, Zan Marie Steadham, Mary Cunningham, Judi Presnell





❖ **MayFest reports:**

~~Diana Black: "What's that new saying? If it's May Fest it must be storming!! Seriously though, there was a good turnout in spite of the flu scare, threat of rain and slow economic condition. Sales are never what you hope they will be (anything less than 3 cartons of books sold is disappointing :>), but when you figure in the contacts you make, how can you really gauge? Less than 24 hours after the event, I had an email from a teacher wanting more info about a possible school visit."

~~Mary Cunningham: "Saturday was steady, but not a lot of buyers. I sold 11 Cynthia's Attic books and we sold 2 WOOF books. Although it wasn't a total rain-out, we did have to scramble around 2:30 to pack up before the afternoon storm hit. Thank you, Tom, for the early warning! Also, I have to thank Joe and Tom for helping set up, and a special thanks to Tom for taking our dripping-wet tent home in his truck! Otherwise, Diana and I would've been trying to figure out how to get it home in her car. Can't thank you enough, Tom. Once again, thanks, Joe for the concrete anchors. They are vital with our type of tent."

READINGS:

Don't forget to refer to our guidelines when preparing your reading. Avoid a lengthy oration prior to reading. Be sure to send "reader's comments" to johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net after your reading to be included in the next newsletter. Remember that a maximum of fifteen minutes is allotted to each piece read. This includes reading and comments.

Readings for: March 24

- ❖ **Tom Cook** read Chapter 2 "Night of the Beast" from *Coming Out of Winter*.
Reader's Comments: "Thank you all for your encouraging comments and suggestions on this pivotal chapter."
- ❖ **Richard Anderson** read a poem, "Address Book," and "Grandfathers and Grandmothers" from *Evanescent Reminiscence*, his family history.
Reader's Comments: "I am so grateful for and to our writer's critique group. The comments I receive range from spelling, punctuation and grammar through style and meaning. It is invaluable to see my work through the eyes of others, and just by reading it for others, I always see errors, omissions and opportunities for improvement. Hearing what others are writing is also instructive and motivational. As wonderful as many of our speakers and programs are, the second meeting of the month will always be closer to my heart."
- ❖ **Eleanor Hoomes** read a poem "Prisoner" from her new poetry collection, *In the Eyes of the Beholder*.
- ❖ **Zan Marie Steadham** read a poem, "Hidden Timber."
Reader's Comments: "Thank you once again for listening. The fact that you couldn't find anything to fix is amazing and humbling."

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Please bring any incorrect data, mistakes, or omissions to my attention via
johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net

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