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*The Carrollton Creative Writers Club is a support group of writers for writers.*

*Our mission: To provide information and critique, and to facilitate the art 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

*Contact:*

Mary Wilburn

(770) 832-0575

Mnsaxon@aol.com

**BUSINESS:**

- ❖ **Horton's and CCWC**—Penny Lewis, our wonderful Cultural Arts Director, has come up with a great idea. Our members' books will be on display in the lobby with a note that they can be purchased at Horton's. Dorothy Pittman, owner of Horton's, will sell the books on consignment. Ask Joann D. or Mary W. for more info.
- ❖ **September 9**—Bobbie Christmas, author of *WRITE IN STYLE*, will be with us. She will share her Find/Refine method of editing using the word processor on our computers. It promises to be a great presentation of skills we can all use.
- ❖ **September 23**—Mitch Lits will give us a report on the Harriett Austin Conference and we will have our usual critique session.
- ❖ **October 14**—Patricia Sprinkle will be our guest speaker. Her presentation is titled *So You're Having a Book* on the process from start to finish.
- ❖ **October 28**—Critique session
- ❖ **Chris Roerden**, author of *DON'T SABOTAGE YOUR SUBMISSIONS*, will be in the Atlanta area on February 14 with the Sisters in Crime. We have the option to join in this meeting or to try to plan a meeting of our own. Email Zan Marie at [johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net) with your opinion concerning which would be the best option. Eight of our members have emailed to say that we should join the meeting already scheduled with Sisters in Crime. Please let Zan Marie know your opinion.
- ❖ **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 August AM meetings in Joe Byrd's absence (Miss you, Joe, but really we're just a tiny bit jealous of your extended vacation.) August 12—Joann led us in a sharing and discussion of writers and their works that we find fascinating and influential. Among those we shared were Thomas Mann, Saul Bellow, Eudora Welty, Flannery O'Connor, Ken Follett, Diana Gabaldon, Jodi Picoult, Richard Ford, and Martha Grimes. This was an interesting and informative session. August 26 was one of our lovely critique sessions. Those sharing were Mary Wilburn, Missie Borders, and Zan Marie Steadham. Be sure to see the Reader's Comments below.

**David Green** facilitated the August PM sessions. Unfortunately, he had no other members present on August 14 so he departed early and went home to cut the grass. (Thanks, David, for the info! ;-). David's report on the August 28 session introduces us to a potential new member—Denise Wellman, she is a third year, third grade teacher in the Douglas County System and she lives in Fairfield. She has attended twice and is on her way to becoming a member of CCWC. Hooray! Thanks, David, for being the source of CCWC for those "night owls" out there (AKA people who work during the day).

### **READINGS:**

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

### **READER'S COMMENTS:**

- ❖ **Missie Borders** read a scene from chapter 1 of her romance novel, **SUMMER CLOUDS**.
- ❖ "I wanted to say I welcome your comments on how I can change and make my story better. I want my reader to be hooked on the first page and stay with it to the end. I feel as if y'all really helped me and when I come back I want to be able to knock your socks off. Before I left the reading, I couldn't wait to make those changes. I would just like to say thank you and all comments are welcome."

### **READER'S COMMENTS:**

- ❖ **Zan Marie Steadham** read a humorous narrative, **"Is It Cold Yet?"**
- ❖ "Thanks for quickly letting me know that I can write narrative. Now to stretch that muscle in my novel!"

### **READER'S COMMENTS:**

- ❖ **Mary Wilburn** read a romance scene from **BLOOD REMEBERS**.

- ❖ "While the critiques were all gentle (if it's out of pity for any perceived mental deficits or respect for my age, stop it.) and positive, I got goose bumps when Joann began sharing with us about sentence lengths and the senses. Her few words were a lesson in themselves. Critiques from all you others were helpful and appreciated as well."
- ❖ **Denise Wellman** shared a portion of her wonderful story entitled **WOMAN WITH A PAST**, a story of a young woman, Elizabeth, who dreams of marrying a perfect "hero". Elizabeth, the protagonist of this Christian Historical Novel, deals with the pressures of her family wanting her to find the "right one" to marry, maybe the local, young handsome pastor of the Methodist church, or maybe the mysterious new young man that showed up at the last Sunday service... Denise paints a truly realistic picture of a simpler time making it quite complex though humorous characters and situation. David reports that he laughed aloud when Elizabeth's mother demanded that her daughter surrender her "bosom heaving novels" from beneath the mattress so Mother could burn them and remove the Devil from the house.
- ❖ **Dave Green** read his newly polished first chapter of **UNDER THE GRAY SKY**. Comments were made pertaining to good use of setting, description, and format.

### CHECK YOUR CALENDARS:

- ❖ **September 6**—Villa Rica Gold Rush, Main Street, 9 AM-4 PM
- ❖ **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 and let him know. The keynote speaker is Paul Fleischman.
- ❖ **December 4-6**--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 W. or Bev B. for more info.

### PERSONALS:

- ❖ Thanks to Amber and David for a job well done on the newsletter! We will miss your style and humor.
- ❖ Joann Dunn reports that her third Curtis Family chronicle, **AUTUMN'S ROAD**, is completely drafted. She plans to edit and print before Christmas. Way to go, Joann!

- ❖ Welcome Missie Borders, a romance writer from Rockmart.
- ❖ Welcome back Mitch Lits after a long recovery from back surgery.
- ❖ Mary Cunningham, Beverly Bruemmer, Joann Dunn, Mary Wilburn, and Diana Black participated in the Decatur Book Festival August 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>. Mary C. sent an update on the Book Festival. Way to go, girls! "Thought I'd fill you in on the Decatur Book Festival. It was a huge success! I had to go to the car 3 times to get more books! Sold 54 "Cynthia's Attic" books. And, since I'm a co-writer on WOOF, I'll tell you about that, too. Who knew Diana was a selling machine!! While I was busy with Cynthia, she was selling most of the 64 books we sold in our WOOF debut! Needless to say, our publisher, who was with us in the Echelon booth, was a very happy camper. Although it was hot, especially on Saturday, the crowds were huge and very receptive. Well worth the exhaustion I feel today. These old WOOFer muscles are tired!"
- ❖ Mary C., Diana B., and Bev B. will also be at the Villa Rica Gold Rush on September 6 on Main Street from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- ❖ Zan Marie Steadham has completed the editing and reprinting of **A HISTORY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 1847-2008**, including her own addition of the last five years and the appendices.
- ❖ Thanks to Bev B. for finding and sharing the secret passage from the new parking deck to the Square! It's really a neat little trip.
- ❖ **Help wanted!!!** Zan Marie needs an editor to read the newsletter before she sends it out each month. We all know that errors are hard to catch when it is your own words. Please consider volunteering. Email Zan Marie at [johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net) to find out more.

Thanks for the vote of confidence you have all sent me way via email since I agreed to do the newsletter. I hope to be able to continue the excellence that has characterized Amber and David's work, but **know** it won't be as humorous! I just don't have it in me and who could match David's dry wit. Amber's wisdom will also be sorely missed. Cut me a few breaks as I get my feet under me. ZM

### 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 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 =^..^=**