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*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

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### **BUSINESS:**

#### ❖ **February 10 Meeting**

Diana Black facilitated and presented an excellent session on marketing. Taking our own survey answers, she looked at time, stress, money, rejection, motivation, and targeting. As always, the members participated in a lively discussion. Thanks, Diana, for the wonderful info and excellent quotes. With nineteen members in attendance, we welcomed new member, Donna Spivey, who writes poetry. Welcome, Donna.

- The members present decided to stop sending birthday cards to members and list the birthdays in the Newsletter for the coming month. Check out the Upcoming Birthdays Section below. Judi Presnell, our social secretary will continue to send plants and cards to members in the hospital or in need of sympathy.
- Tom Cook suggested that the club videotape our first sessions each month to create a library of information. Please email suggestions and comments regarding this idea to Tom for further discussion at a later meeting. Tom's email is [boinerz@att.net](mailto:boinerz@att.net).
- We also discussed the need to purchase another tent for our marketing efforts since our present tent is too small for more than three or four to use it at events like the upcoming MayFest. Keep this expense in mind since it will come out of our dues account. The tents will be available for all members to use when marketing their books.
- Thanks to Margaret Dyer and Joann Dunn for providing all of us with examples of how to display our books for the *Art of the Printed Word* in May at the Cultural Arts Center. Frames and shadow boxes will be purchased from our account. The center's workroom will be available for the assembling the displays. This is a great opportunity to show the community what CCWC writers do.
- Joann Dunn discussed the possibility of creating a Facebook page for our group. This is another way to market our work and it's free. Look for further discussion on this intriguing idea.

#### ❖ **February 24 Meeting**

Readings for this session were from Tom Cook, Donna Spivey, Jay Justis, Eleanor Hoomes, and Mitch Lits.

- We discussed the May 1 Gallery showing of our books. Joann Dunn took frame orders from members and will share Michael's final price with them before placing the order. If all goes well, we plan to have the frames to hand out by the next meeting.

- We discussed the possibility of storing the frames at the Center for use in later displays.
- Judi Presnell has volunteered to represent the club when the display is hung so that the books and other materials about each book will not get separated.
- Mitch Lits shared an article, "Get Your Novel on the Fast Track," about how to turn the inner editor off, so that the first draft can be written. Thanks, Mitch.
- ❖ Business that needs to be discussed at our next meeting, March 10, include:
  - the reception at the Cultural Art Center on May 1 that will debut our display of books
  - who is interested in participating in MayFest on May 2. Tom Cook will present info on prices for a tent for use by the members at events like MayFest



CCWC members share possible displays for the May 1 Gallery showing, *The Art of the Printed Word*. From left to right—Bev Breummer, Joann Dunn, Judi Presnell, Eleanor Hoomes, Mary Cunningham, and Zan Marie Steadham. Photo by Diana Black.

### MARKETING:

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

- ❖ March 16—Corydon Intermediate School Parent's Night—Mary Cunningham will be the featured speaker and signing both the *Cynthia's Attic: series* and *WOOF*
- ❖ April 25-26—Nineteenth Annual Bluegrass Springfest at Villa Rica Gold Dust Park—Contact Courtney Power at 770-459-7011 for further information
- ❖ May 1—Reception at Cultural Arts Center in connection with *The Art of the Printed Word*
- ❖ May 2—Market Square at MayFest in downtown Carrollton—Several of our members participated in this event last year and we plan to again. Judi Presnell will be coordinating our application.
- ❖ May 2009—Cultural Arts Center Gallery display of our books—*Art of the Printed Word*

**Reports On Past Events:** None

### 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](mailto:johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net) after your reading to be included in the next newsletter.*

**Readings for : February 24**

- ❖ **Tom Cook** read *Coming Out Of Winter*. The poem, as prologue to his novel, introduces the new working title for the novel. His poem is a powerful description of the effort needed to move on from grief and disappointment.
  - Reader's Comments: "Thank you all, especially the poets, for your gracious comments about my poem. You have inspired me and encouraged me. I now know that I made the right choice."
- ❖ **Donna Spivey** read her poems, "Can't Be Reached" and "Righting." Both poems showcased Donna's unique and powerful voice. "Can't Be Reached" told of the effects of a mother's distance from a daughter and "Righting" was a reflection of what CCWC means to a new member. Both poems were excellent.
  - Reader's Comments: From "Observations on Observations"—  
 "I went to the car and scraped myself off of the sky.  
 Went home and sat very still for one hour.  
 Shocked at acceptance of my scribbling,  
 Touched by the tears  
 Surprised I did not cry,  
 Honored by the sincerity and attentiveness to everyone who read,  
 Wondered where the words from,  
 Fearful that I would never soar as high again  
 And produce an equivalent product.  
 Pressured to be good,  
 Excited to attend the next meeting,  
 Moved by readers' breathless nervousness,  
 I did incorporate the two word suggestions and they were good.  
 But mostly anxious that the blah part of me would return,  
 The gray world where everything is for awhile meaningless and senseless."
- ❖ **Eleanor Hoomes** read her poetry, "Old Fools" and "Habit Forms the Ring" centered on two views of being a couple. "Old Fools" depicted a long-term love affair while "Habit Forms the Ring" showed the dissolution of love. Both poems were clear visions of love in two of its many forms.
- ❖ **Jay Justis** read *Lost*, Chapter 1 from "*The Sunlight of the Spirit*." Jay's first reading offered insight into the world of alcoholism and recovery. We look forward to many more readings from Jay's novel.
- ❖ **Mitch Lits** read from *Circles of Fate*, Chapter 11. As always, the story of Shelby and the land of Ether was enthralling. Mitch's voice is assured and entertaining.
  - Reader's Comments: "I got so much out of yesterday's meeting: A woman's perspective--needed especially with main character 1st person girl--you can't brush long wet hair, it must be combed first. Leave out amateurish phrases--"I watched"--ala Chris Roerden. Draw map/diagram of Ether. Possibly include picture drawings. The most important thing I always get out of being with everyone at the CCWC is unbridled joy, validation, and renewed hope. You folks are the greatest."

**FACILITATORS:**

- ❖ Contact Joann Dunn ([planter360@aol.com](mailto:planter360@aol.com)) if there are any changes in the schedule.
- ❖ Contact Zan Marie Steadham ([johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnzanmarie@bellsouth.net)) when you know the topic or speaker for your session.

March 2009

Beverly Bruemmer

Speaker: Fran Stewart

April 2009

Joe Byrd

May 2009

Mary Cunningham

Speaker: Sandra Novack

June 2009	Joann Dunn	
July 2009	David Green	
August 2009	Mitch Lits	
September 2009	Shelly Murphy	
October 2009	Amber Pickle	
November 2009	Judi Presnell	
December 2009	Zan Marie Steadham	Possibly "Tension on Every Page—Keep 'Em Reading"
January 2010	Lily Ward	
February 2010	Mary Wilburn	

### PERSONALS and GENERAL INFORMATION:

- ❖ From Penny Lewis, Director of Cultural Arts Center—"Many thanks to Zan Marie Steadham, Judi Presnell, and Mary Wilburn for helping with the High School Creative Writing Contest. With over 700 entries in poetry and short story, I couldn't have selected the finalists without them. Thanks again ladies."
- ❖ Check out Sky Creative Writing Services at <http://writersinthesky.com/writing-newletter.html> for a place to submit book reviews, articles, poems, and announcements. This info is courtesy of Diana Black.
- ❖ Spring Book Show at the Cobb Galleria Center, March 6-8. Included are Authorship 201—Writing for the Christian Market on March 6 and Authorship 101, How To Become Successful Author on March 7. For more information check out [www.anvilpub.net/spring\\_seminars.htm](http://www.anvilpub.net/spring_seminars.htm)
- ❖ Blue Ridge Writers Conference March 27-28. This is an expanded conference with more sessions than in the past. Check it out at [www.blueridgemountains.com](http://www.blueridgemountains.com)
- ❖ Check out the Scribblers' Retreat Writers' Conferences at [www.scribblersretreatwritersconference.com](http://www.scribblersretreatwritersconference.com) that meets at the Sea Palms Resort, St. Simons Island. They offer many different dates with different a emphasis at each session. This info is courtesy of Joann Dunn.
- ❖ Thanks to Tom Cook for the information.
- ❖ The announcement has just come out for the 13th annual Independent Publisher Book Awards. This is for books published in 2008. The entry form site is <http://www.independentpublisher.com/ipland/IPAwards.php>. You can also Google "Ippy Awards." There are a lot of categories, both national and regional. Deadline is March 21, but there is an early entry discount. Courtesy of Joann Dunn
- ❖ The West Georgia Regional Library will host a meeting with new author, Sandra Novack, on March 4. Check out this link if you are interested. <http://www.wgrl.net/Branches/Carrollton/Author%20Visits.htm>
- ❖ Check out the Writers' Digest Self-Published Book Awards—Deadline May 1, 2009 at [www.writersdigest.com/selfpublished](http://www.writersdigest.com/selfpublished)
- ❖ Congratulations to Diana Blank and Mary Cunningham! *WOOF—Women Only Over Fifty* was in the Top Ten Finishers in cover design in Preditors and Editors readers poll. Way to go!

**Good quote:** "The novelist's task is not merely the accumulation but the illumination of details." —J. D. McClatchy (Thanks for the quote, Diana.)

### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS: MARCH

None

