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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

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

Carrollton Cultural Arts Center

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BUSINESS:

- ❖ January 13, 2009. The facilitator was Claire Baker and our speaker, Sybil Rosen-Thomas, author of *Living in a House in a Tree: Remembering Blaze Foley*, shared her amazing journey of love, grief, and growth. Sybil's stories about the importance of allowing others to read her work (7 drafts!) were very instructive. A documentary will be aired in March in Texas. We hope Sybil is blessed with a showing on GPB sometime soon. Best wishes from us all, Sybil, for continued success.
- ❖ January 27, 2009. Phoebe Swatek, visual director of the Cultural Arts Center presented us with an offer to display our books in the Gallery in May. She requested that books be in shadow boxes and accompanied by framed text that offer an insight into the book. At our next meeting, Margaret Dyer and Joann Dunn will provide us with examples of the text and Margaret will help with the shadow boxes. (Please refer to a further explanation of this in the "Marketing" section.) We need at least 30 books to display. The deadline to get the display ready is April 28. It will be hung on April 30. We all need to be at the reception on May 1. Phoebe Swatek also suggested we wear nametags at the reception. The monthly critique section included selections from Tom Cook, Margaret Dyer, Jerre Shoemake, Eleanor Hoomes, Judi Presnell, and Zan Marie Steadham.
- ❖ We have added four new members in January—Martha Duffee, Dawn Glover, Jay Justis, and Jerre Shoemake. Welcome—and welcome back long-time member Tom Cook.
- ❖ Diana Hartell, a writer and scientist, was our other guest in January. Diana is working on a book entitled, *Over the River: Messages of River Savers*. Included in the work is our very own Chattahoochee. Diana's work is impressive and many of the members enjoyed giving Diana names and anecdotes about our river system.
- ❖ (*This message bears repeating.*) **Thanks, Ladies!** After over three years of shepherding CCWC, Mary Wilburn and Bev Bruemmer had requested a break in their duties. Judi Presnell will be our new social secretary and Joann Dunn will be our new facilitator scheduler. Thanks, Bev and Mary, for a job well done!
- ❖ Look for two new sections in the *CCWC Newsletter* this issue—"Marketing" and "Facilitators." The "Marketing" section will feature book signings, festivals, etc. Also included will be reports on the success and suggestions for improvement of each event. The "Facilitator" section will include a list of upcoming facilitators. When you have a speaker or topic selected for your month, email Zan Marie Steadham at johzanmarie@bellsouth.net, and I will add that information to the list.



Thanks to Diana Black for this great photo of our January 13, 2009 speaker, Sybil Rosen, and Claire Baker, the facilitator for the session.

MARKETING:

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

- ❖ February 3—Bremen Academy Parent's night. Mary Cunningham will be the featured speaker and will be signing *Cynthia's Attic: series*.
- ❖ February 10—Chapel Hill Elementary—Mary Cunningham will be speaking to the 4th and 5th grades and signing *Cynthia's Attic: series*.
- ❖ February 27-March 1—South Carolina Book Festival—Mary Cunningham and Diana Black will be going.
- ❖ 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*
- ❖ May 2009—Cultural Arts Center Gallery display of our books. Remember the deadline is April 28 to get all displays to the Cultural Arts Center. Joann Dunn adds the following information about this great opportunity: “Would those authors who plan to have their work on display for the May 1st, *Art of the Printed Word* show at the Arts Center, please stay after the next meeting for about 15 minutes to review some possible designs? Phoebe Swatek, visual arts director, has already been planned the format, but we need to do as much as we can to make our presentation individual within her guidelines. In case you weren't at the last meeting, the guidelines are briefly these: your book or books mounted within a shadow box (boxes). A separately framed collage, using the torn strip of paper/various fonts style of a ransom note (her words, not mine) containing words or phrases from the book that would prompt the reader to want to read more. Margaret Dyer and I are taking these guidelines and are making some samples before the next meeting so that authors can have input. After we reach an agreement as to style, we can show her and offer ideas for changes that we, as a group, may want to make. When we get a go ahead, we will order the shadow boxes and frames. We will do some of the assembly in a separate meeting for those who want help. Who pays for what, and how much, has not yet been determined but will be soon. We are keeping it as low as possible, and exploring all not-for-profit discounts, wholesale prices, and other possible funds. There will be a reception for us at the Center the evening of May 1. This will be good publicity, especially since it comes right before the May Fest in the square that weekend, where we will have a booth. Try to hold questions until after the next meeting when I hope we have more info.”

Reports On Past Events:

- ❖ Report on December 13 signing at Borders.
 - From Mary Wilburn—“That book signing was profitable in many ways. Several writers and ones who want to write stopped by for information or conversation, and the staff at Borders' could not have been more supportive and welcoming. On my last visit there they expressed their satisfaction with the way the signings were handled and the success we all shared. We are invited back again. I for one am most grateful to the management and staff for that invitation.”

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.

Readings for : (October 25)

- ❖ Tom Cook—“Requiescat” is the concluding story in the novel that Tom Cook is working on a novel tentatively entitled *The Crossroads Saga*. This was a poignant story of the death of the matriarch of the novel's family.
 - Reader's Comments--"I really appreciate all the great feedback. The comments and discussion sent me back into the work with renewed energy. Thanks!"
- ❖ Margaret Dyer—*DANG!* Chapter 3 “In Which Brittany and Shamika Make Their Film Debuts” is the hilarious tale of two teens and their involvement in a “movie” that isn't what it seems.
- ❖ Jerre Shoemake—*Turnipseed's Book Store*, Chapter 1 is from her novel about a possible murder and two intriguing cousins, Ophelia and Emmeline.
- ❖ Eleanor Hoomes—“Innocent” is a lovely poem about the indignities of gossip.
- ❖ Judi Presnell—“Teaching Is” is a poem describing the teaching in all its glories and trials.
 - Reader's Comments—“I appreciated *all* the comments and suggestions on my poem “Teaching Is....” I'm grateful to those who took the time to edit their printed copy and pass it along to me. I *love* the "collectivism" of all of us pitching in to 'tweak' each other's good efforts! Thanks a bunch!”
- ❖ Zan Marie Steadham—*Mother's Day*, scene 1 from Chapter 1 “Childless Mother” is a rewrite to change from third person POV to first person POV.
 - Reader's Comments—“Thanks to one and all for the feedback on the changes I am working on. I needed your “eyes” to see all the “I's” that I used. I'm grateful that we can all help each other improve our writing.”

FACILITATORS:

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

February 2009	Diana Black	Presentation on Marketing
March 2009	Beverly Bruemmer	Speaker: Fran Stewart
April 2009	Joe Byrd	
May 2009	Mary Cunningham	

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:

- ❖ Judi Presnell, our social secretary, asks that members contribute a few dollars each to help defray the cost of postage and birthday cards. We are discussing eliminating this expense and including an "upcoming birthdays" section in the Newsletter. Stay tuned for a decision.
- ❖ www.education-portal.com lists sources of free college online courses in writing with sections for fiction and magazine articles. They have a wide variety and it would be a good place to visit if you want to investigate different genres.
- ❖ Remember—Chris Roerdon, *Don't Sabotage Your Submissions*, will be in Kennesaw with Sisters in Crime on February 14. CCWC is invited to join SiC and the Georgia Writers Association for this presentation.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Check out the Scribblers' Retreat Writers' Conferences at 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.
- ❖ 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 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 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
- ❖ Congratulations, Margaret Dyer, for such a great art showing! Margaret's latest show, *Recent Pastels*, is on display at the Genema Gallery at Christ Church Presbyterian, 81 Peachtree Park Drive in Atlanta. Gallery hours are Sundays noon-1 pm and by appointment.
- ❖ Award-winning author and entrepreneur Dr. Farrah Gray, is calling on all "Quiet Heroes" – Grandmothers—and their beneficiaries to share the love and inspiration that

