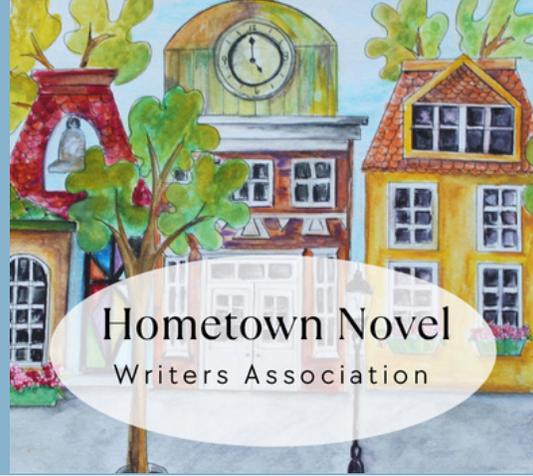


Hometown Novel Writers Association Newsletter

August 2022



Dozens of local authors to appear at Aug. 27 Sharpsburg Book Fair

Guest authors and Hometown Novel Writers Association veterans Martha Boone and Mark Wallace Maguire are among a host of local Georgia authors who will talk about their books at the First Annual Sharpsburg Book Fair, scheduled for Saturday, August 27, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Sharpsburg's A&O Bridges Community Center. Admission is free.



Mark Wallace Maguire

All net proceeds from author registrations will be used to sponsor a scholarship for selected high school students to attend the Atlanta Writers Conference this fall and to support Coweta FERST Readers, where the love of books begins with children from birth to kindergarten.

A pavilion area outside the community center will feature a children's book area, and author talks will be held at the bandstand/gazebo throughout the day. Food trucks will also be on hand, and the Sharpsburg Book Fair will be held rain or shine.

For more information, please contact Hometown Novel Writers Association President T.M. "Mike" Brown at 352-812-5199 or email him at mike@tmbrownauthor.com. *For a list of authors attending, see page 2.*

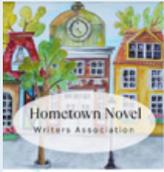


Martha Boone

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Visit us online at:
www.hometownnovel.com



Join us for the 1st Annual Book Fair



SHARPSBURG BOOK FAIR

August 27, 2022, 10 AM to 5 PM

Sharpsburg's A. O. Bridges Community Center & Grounds



Authors appearing at the Sharpsburg Book Fair

- Susie Berta
- Martha Boone
- T. M. "Mike" Brown
- Frank Clarke
- Julie Clarke
- Lauren Conway
- Patricia Cruzan
- Cheryl Anderson Davis
- Angela K. Durden
- Jimmy Foster
- Angie Gallion
- S. C. Lauren
- Scott Ludwig
- Sharon Marchisello
- Mark Wallace Maguire
- Holly Moulder
- Mike Nemeth
- Kathy Nichols
- Damon Poirier
- R. S. Raniere
- Beverly L. Reichman
- Ann Rhodes
- R. E. Schwob
- Alayne Smith
- C. Matthew Smith
- J. B. Stevens
- C. L. Tolbert
- Rev. John Tomlin

Local authors sign books at Moreland barbecue



July was certainly a busy month for local authors, and it kicked off on July 2 when Moreland hosted its annual barbecue and Independence Day Celebration.



Some of our authors gathered in the Old Moreland Hosiery Mill building, where they greeted guests and signed books.



News & Notes

Thank you, **Matt Smith** and **Pat McKee**! Because of the hard work of these two attorney-authors (or is it author-attorneys?), the Hometown Novel Writers Association has officially filed for its 501(c) 3 nonprofit status, which will allow us lots of exciting new opportunities we'll be telling you more about soon.

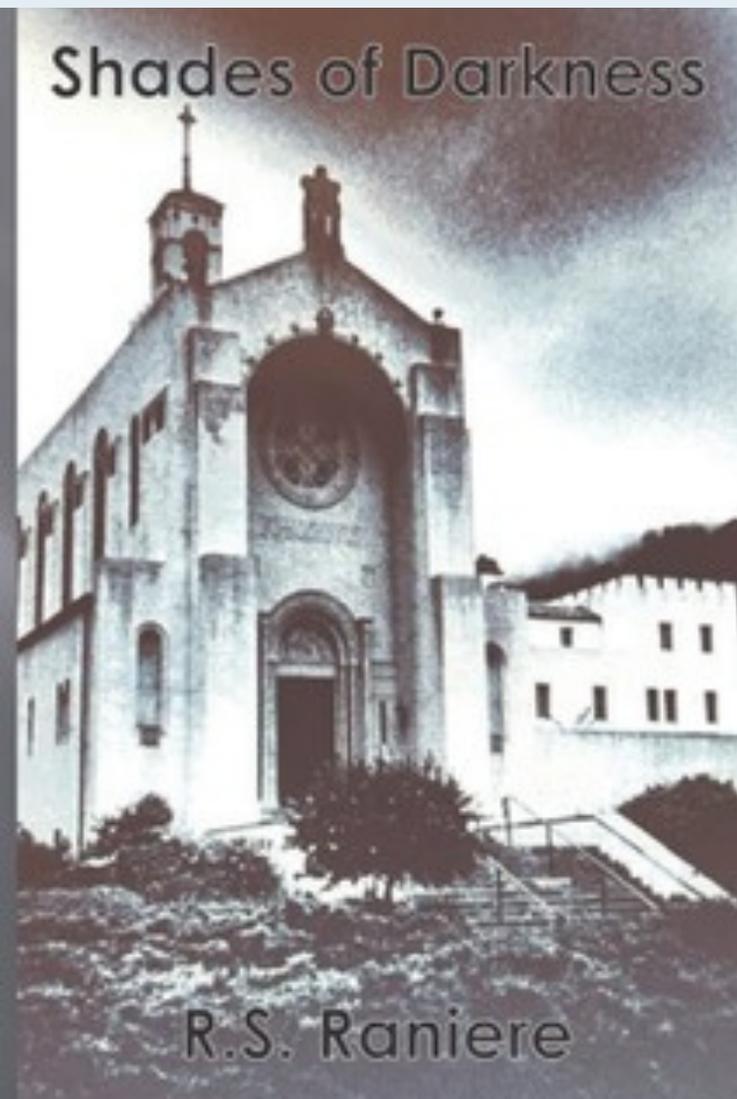
Congratulations to HNWA's **Danielle Thorne**, who has just signed a contract with Harlequin Love Inspired for two more books.



Moderator **Scott Ludwig** introduces authors **Susie Berta** and **Lynn Hesse** at our July 21 meeting at the Carnegie in Newnan.

Our own **Lee St. John**, always a busy lady, takes time out for some "Storytelling on the Steps" in downtown Newnan on July 2.

R. S. Raniere releases debut novel



Interested in joining an in-person writers group?

HNWA President T.M. "Mike" Brown plans to restart an in-person writers gathering on a weekly or bi-weekly basis after Labor Day, leaning toward a downtown Newnan venue with meetings on Monday or Tuesday evenings. Writers of all stages are welcome to contact Brown (mike@TMBrownAuthor.com). "Writers helping writers on the road to publishing and promoting their books" will be the theme of the meetings, offering help and input on ongoing writing projects and timely discussions related to the writing and publishing process.

Congratulations to HNWA Member Roseann (R. S.)

Raniere, who has just released her debut novel! Here's the description: "In 1993, a fifteen-year-old girl is viciously murdered, and the child she has just given birth to is abducted. *Shades of Darkness* picks up the life of this child 28 years later as a rising broadcast journalist (PJ Hollinger). As PJ grapples with her own emotional issues, and recent allegations of Vatican corruption and sexual misconduct, she is led into a labyrinth of murder and deception, family secrets, and a deadly revenge plot. The connection between the incident in 1993 and her mission to find her birth parents while exposing the abhorrent acts of high-ranking members of the Roman Curia puts her on a life-threatening course, ultimately culminating in a spine-tingling denouement."

Raniere says, "I am a transplanted Yankee, born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, and moved to the suburbs of New Jersey, where my husband and I raised two boys, in the eighties. I eventually relocated to Georgia and used my master's degree in English to teach composition and literature. I've always loved to write, wrote my first poem at the age of ten, and tinkered with a variety of types of writing. *Shades of Darkness* is my first novel, and I am working on a sequel. I also write faith-based articles and a blog on Spiritual Reflections (Roseanns-Ramblings.com). I'm a member of Hometown Novel Writers Association, Atlanta Writers Club, and Atlanta Writes critique group. My publishing credits include a short story in an anthology, *Diverse Voices*, published by The Heritage Writers Group (2016); a poem in *Atlanta Review* (Spring/Summer 2015); two faith-based articles in *Agape Review* (2021), and a short story in *Avalon Literary Review* (Summer 2022). Before I devoted myself exclusively to writing, I had dabbled in the art world (quite) a number of years ago as a semi-professional sculptor. While I am currently a part-time adjunct instructor of English at Georgia Military College in Fairburn, Georgia, most of my time and energy is taken up with writing, reading, and Bible study."



August 2022 Calendar

Got your calendar handy? The Hometown Novel Writers Association has some not-to-be-missed programs coming up this month!

• **Saturday, August 13, 10 a.m., "Creating Your Brand" with Chellie Phillips.** This virtual Zoom meeting is presented by the Hometown Novel Writers Association in conjunction with the Carnegie Library and Sisters in Crime. This meeting with Speaker, Coach, and Trainer Chellie Phillips will be all about creating your brand as a writer. Registration is required to obtain the virtual link, so please visit newnancarnegie.com and click on "Calendar" to register.



Speaker, Coach, and Trainer Chellie Phillips

• **Thursday, August 18, 6:30-8 p.m., Coweta FORCE building, 36 Salbide Ave., downtown Newnan.** "Homegrown Stories for Grownups" is the theme for this evening panel with local authors including Blue Cole, Mark Wallace Maguire, and Birdie Rivers. Author Scott Ludwig will moderate. This event is free to attend and open to the public.

• **Saturday, August 27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sharpsburg Book Fair, Sharpsburg Community Center and Pavilion.** There will be author panel discussions and readings throughout the day. Proceeds will provide scholarships for selected high school students to attend the Atlanta Writers Conference in November and to support the Coweta FERST Readers program. Cohosted by the Town of Sharpsburg and the Hometown Novel Writers Association, this event is free to attend and open to the public.

Q&A with Author Sharon Marchisello

In each issue of our newsletter, we're introducing one of our Hometown Novel Writers Association authors. In this issue, meet one of our founding members, Sharon Marchisello. She is the author of two mysteries published by Sunbury Press, several short stories, and a nonfiction book about personal finance. She earned a Master's in Professional Writing from the University of Southern California and now lives in Peachtree City, where she does volunteer work for the Fayette Humane Society.

What inspired you to become a writer? I've always told stories, even before I learned how to put pencil to paper. Parents, teachers, and classmates praised my writing, although everyone assumed fiction would be a hobby rather than a livelihood.

How did you become involved with the Hometown Novel Writers Association? I'm constantly looking for ways to promote my work and connect with other authors. When I met Mike (T.M.) Brown, I was impressed with what he was doing to bring local authors to audiences on the south side of Atlanta, and I offered to help.

Best advice for aspiring authors? Keep writing, and don't expect your first draft to be good. Learn your craft, find a helpful critique group, listen to feedback, but understand you won't be able to use all of it.

It's no surprise that as a former Delta Air Lines employee, you love to travel. How do you use that in your writing? I set my second published novel in the Galapagos Islands after taking a bucket-list cruise there in 2014. I had lots of fun writing that book, as I relived the trip when going through my photos and doing research.

In addition to your novels, *Going Home* and *Secrets of the Galapagos*, you've written a book on personal finance, *Live Well, Grow Wealth*. Will you continue to write nonfiction as well as fiction? I don't have any plans to. Fiction is my passion. I wrote *Live Well, Grow Wealth* because I saw a need; it's basic financial common sense that they don't teach in school.

You're a longtime member of Sisters in Crime, a group for women mystery writers. How do such groups benefit writers? I joined for the educational presentations from subject matter experts (law enforcement, medical examiners, arson investigators, etc.) to give more verisimilitude to my crime fiction.



But it's also a great way to network with other authors and learn the tricks of the trade from each other. And it's no longer a group for just women; we welcome all genders. And it's also an organization for mystery readers. Writers need readers!

If you could have any superpower, what would it be? I'd like to be able to speed-read with 100% retention. Then maybe I'd get through my TBR pile in this lifetime.

Tell us about your next book. I'm working on a sequel to *Secrets of the Galapagos* called *Murder at Leisure Dreams - Galapagos*. I was hoping to get back to the islands for some more research, but the pandemic and all the accompanying travel restrictions interfered. So, I've had to rely on Google, memories, and imagination. I've also completed a cozy mystery called *Trap, Neuter, Die* and am currently querying agents, as I hope to take it to a larger publisher and make it part of a series. After a first-offense D.U.I., the protagonist is sentenced to community service for an animal rescue group, working on their trap-neuter-vaccinate-return program with a curmudgeon volunteer who much prefers feral cats to people. Their first night out trapping together, they discover a dead body—human.