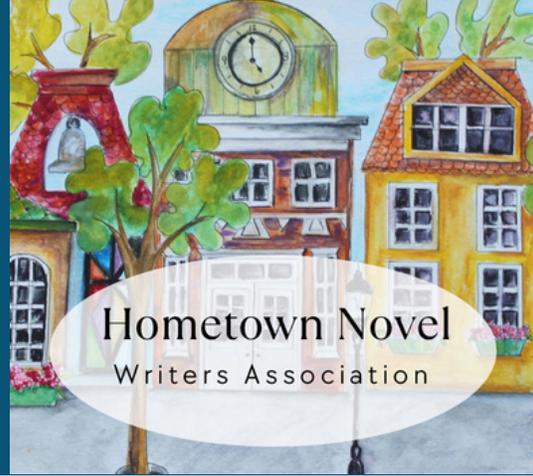


Hometown Novel Writers Association Newsletter

September 2022



Inaugural Book Fair brings dozens of local authors to Sharpsburg August 27



Great weather and great books made for a most successful Sharpsburg Book Fair on August 27, 2022, when more than 40 area authors gathered at Sharpsburg's A&O Bridges Community Center.

Thanks to the proceeds from author registrations, the Hometown Novel Writers Association will award scholarships to four local high school students that will allow them to attend the Atlanta Writers Conference this fall. Additionally, HNWA is donating \$250 to Coweta FERST Readers, where the love of books is encouraged in children from birth to kindergarten.

Want to be notified about next year's event? Be sure you're on our mailing list by sending a note to hometownnovel@hotmail.com.

From left are Ann Rhodes, Mike Nemeth, and Roseann Ranieri. See more photos on page 2.

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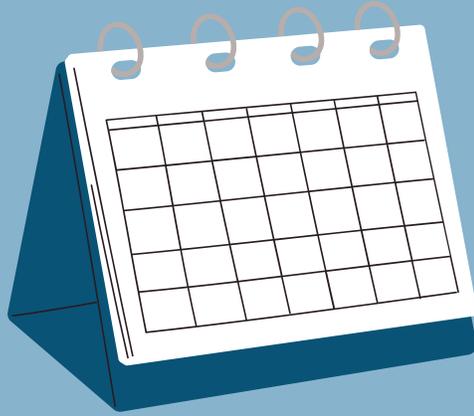
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Scenes from the First Annual Sharpsburg Book Fair



Special thanks to all the authors who participated! Among them were, clockwise from top left, Sharon Marchisello, Holly Moulder, Susie Berta, Jamey Weeks, Paul Sinor, and C. L. Tolbert.



September 2022 Calendar

- **Saturday, September 3, Main Street Newnan Market Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., downtown Newnan.** Local authors will be signing books in front of Corner Arts Gallery, Studio, and Gift Shop. Featured authors will include new children's book author Christy Johns, who is a friend of Beverley Reichman, and Gail Irwin Hale.
- **Monday, September 5, Main Street Newnan's Labor Day Sidewalk Sale, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., downtown Newnan.** Local authors will again be signing books at Corner Arts Gallery. Any interested authors may contact Mike Brown for info.
- **Monday, September 12, Virtual Critique Group, 6:30-8 p.m.** Contact Donna Black with your submissions and to get the link for the group meeting: hometownnovel@hotmail.com.
- **Monday, September 12, In-person Writers Helping Writers Meeting, 6:30-8 p.m., Corner Arts Gallery, downtown Newnan.** This is a new weekly opportunity for all aspiring writers and authors. Contact Mike Brown or go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/449112487128736>. All participants who sign up receive a free copy of Donna Black's *Help! I Want To Write, But...: Encouragement, Tough Talk, and Tips for Wannabe Writers*. HNWA Patrons can participate at no charge. All others pay a one-time \$20 fee to cover our costs going forward.
- **Thursday, September 15, 6:30 p.m., Stories of the South, Newnan Carnegie Library, downtown Newnan.** This evening panel will include authors Pam Avery, Anne Lovett, Lawrence Reed, and Elizabeth Springer. Author Scott Ludwig will moderate. This event is free to attend and open to the public.
- **Friday, September 23, Fall Art Walk, 5-9 p.m., Corner Arts Gallery, downtown Newnan.** HNWA favorite Martha Boone and others will be on hand to sign books.
- **Saturday, September 24, Hometown Novel Writers Association meeting, Sharpsburg Library, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** The group will discuss the results of the Sharpsburg Book Fair and other events through the end of the year, including the group's **December 8 Christmas party** at Rogers Bar-B-Que in Hogansville. This important meeting is open to all interested in helping HNWA.

Q&A with Author Donna Black

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, Donna Black of Fayetteville. She writes magical realism, women's and upmarket fiction, poetry, and nonfiction.

What inspired you to become a writer? I was not a kid who devoured books. That was my brilliant older sister. I had such a difficult time learning to read, I was still having difficulty in third grade, maybe longer. I pursued science in college, which included a class in technical writing where clarity is the objective, not lyricism, intrigue, and emotional impact. I was thirty-ish before I considered writing for pleasure. First, there were character descriptions. Then I found I could clear my head with poetry and essays. One day, I had an idea for a story that became *Risk Tolerance*. It took me eighteen years to write it, partially because I didn't realize I was writing a novel.

How did you become involved with the Hometown Novel Writers Association? The lovely and talented Sharon Marchisello invited me to join. Because I could never keep up with all the activities, I asked if I could gather the email addresses so we could send reminders. That one-time task instantly morphed into the responsibility of preparing the weekly emails.

What's the last good book you read? I just discovered Kimmerly Martin. Her writing style in *The Antidote for Everything* is an inspiration. If I could ever write that beautifully, I would be fulfilled as a writer.

Best advice for aspiring authors? I wrote a little book about that titled *Help! I want to write but... Encouragement, Tips, and Straight Talk for Wannabe Writers*. I encountered so many writers who feel the calling to write but are afraid to start. The book was going to be a one-sheet handout to help people get past the fear and confusion. But you know how writers are... we have so much to say! It turned into a 40-page booklet. Not a grammar text or a style manual, it talks aspiring writers through some of the most common stumbling blocks to begin. It's available on Amazon.

Favorite book on the craft of writing? *Save the Cat! Writes a Novel*. Crazy title, right? Author Jessica Brody explains the title in this guide to crafting a satisfying tale. It's a lively read with a valuable takeaway method.



You're known as an avid gardener. Do you find any similarities between gardening and writing? I sweat a lot less with writing than gardening... but writing can be just as exhausting. It's hard to avoid the "start with a tiny seed (of an idea) and nurture it until it blooms to its full potential (as an essay, novel, memoir...)" analogy.

What three movies are you taking to that infamous desert island? *A Knight's Tale* for humor, gorgeous horses, romance, and a great soundtrack, *About Time*, and *The English Patient*.

If you could have any superpower, what would it be? Environmental repair. Just give me that magic wand!

Tell us about your next book. I have two in heavy edits currently. *Finding Grace*, set in 1964, follows Grace and her daughter escaping their abuser. There are no cell phones or women's shelters, and attitudes about women without husbands were very different then. The second book is much lighter fare, involving a young woman who inherits a wish-granting necklace. She finds out the hard way about its power when things go awry all around her. There's magic, humor, and romance. I'll be pitching both beginning in November.