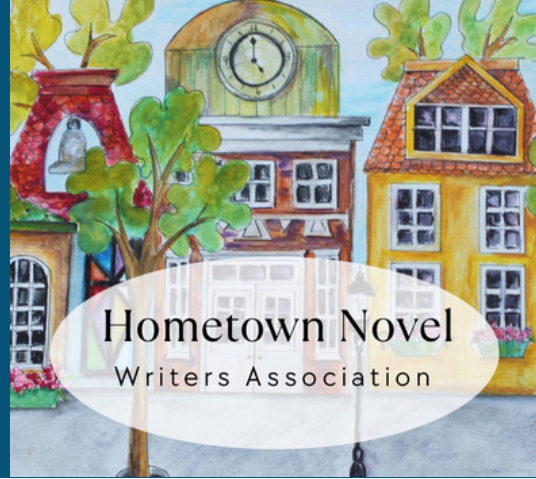


Hometown Novel Writers Association Newsletter

April 2023



HNWA authors celebrate successful Carrollton Book Fest

Carrollton Book Fest officially launched on March 25, 2023, at the Carrollton Center for the Arts, and HNWA's presenting and panel-participating authors included President T.M. "Mike" Brown, Angie Gallion, Mike Nemeth, and Danielle Thorne. Other HNWA authors who attended were Cheryl Davis, Mark Wallace Maguire, Damon Poirier, Steve Quesinberry, and Matt Smith.

Brown said Carrollton Lit Fest "was a fantastic event in a perfect venue at the Carrollton Center for the Arts downtown. Connie and I arrived Friday night and took part in the reception that evening before the wonderful production of 'Evening of Prose,' written by local authors in the Carrollton Writers Guild and produced by the Center for the Arts. It was a rollicking ninety minutes of comical scenes about writers and their muse angels struggling to communicate."

The event on Saturday included workshops, presentations, and panel conversations by guest authors. Brown said that keynote speaker "Bren McClain lived up to her reputation. She turned heads and warmed hearts throughout the weekend."

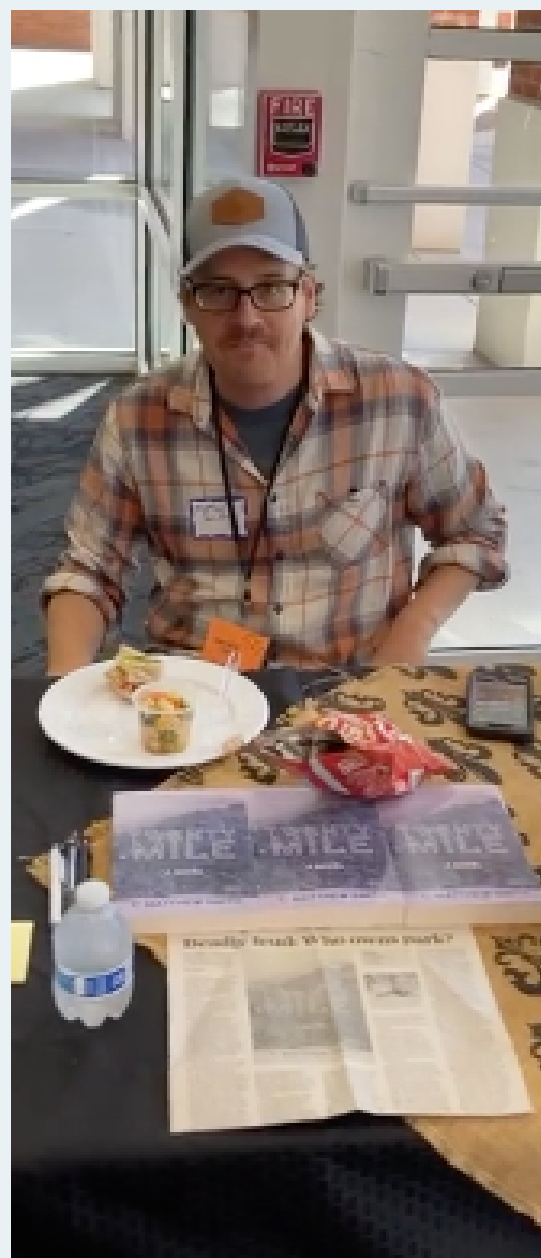
Next year's Carrollton Book Fest will be even better, he said. This year, University of West Georgia students were on spring break, so growing the local audience will be the main goal in 2024.

"I enjoyed meeting so many wonderful writers I have known virtually for years and brand-new faces who I already look forward to following. Horton's Books and Gifts was the official bookseller and shined throughout as well. I highly recommend stopping in to their store on Adamson Square and meeting them and especially Poe and Dante, the store's watch cats." **See photos from the event on page 2.**

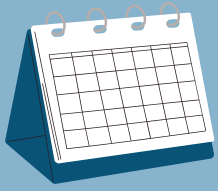
IN THIS ISSUE:

- Carrollton Book Fest – Page 2
- Calendar of Events – Page 3
- Hometown Novel News Podcast – Page 4
- News & Notes – Page 5

Visit us online at
www.hometownnovel.com



At **Carrollton Book Fest** are, clockwise from top left, Olivia Lovell overseeing the book table for her mom, Angie Gallion; keynote speaker Bren McClain; and HNWA veterans Matt Smith, Mike Nemeth, and Mark Wallace Maguire.



April Calendar of Events

HOMETOWN NOVEL WRITERS PRESENTS

EDITORS ARE AUTHORS ALSO

This book event is FREE and open to all ages!

Thursday, April 20th, 6:30-8:00 PM

Hosted at the brand new **Coweta F.O.R.C.E.** Center, 36 Salbide Avenue, Newnan GA 30263
Between the RR Tracks & Presbyterian Church

MEET THE GUEST AUTHORS



Angie Gallion
Sharpsburg, GA



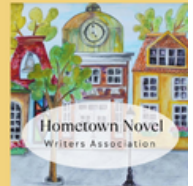
Donna Black
Fayetteville, GA



Stacey Jackson
Fayetteville, GA



Scott Ludwig
Moderator



April Author Panel — April 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Coweta FORCE, 36 Salbide Ave., Newnan. "Editors are Authors Also" featuring Angie Gallion, Donna Black, Stacey Jackson, and Scott Ludwig, moderator.

Newnan Carnegie Library's "Lunch and Learn" Program — Hosted by Lawrence Reed, Newnan Carnegie Library Foundation, noon to 1 p.m., "Writing Your Own Stories" featuring Mike Brown.

Mike Brown Book Signings — April 28 from 6-8 p.m. at Corner Arts Gallery on the Court Square, Brown will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Shiloh Mystery Novels with food, refreshments, and a book chat about the characters and setting of Shiloh, and he also plans to offer a sneak peek at the cover of his new historical novel and a little about the story behind the story. On Saturday, April 29, Brown will have a book signing at Newnan Book Company, Downtown Newnan, 3-5 p.m., with further sneak peek conversation about his new book. That Saturday is National Indie Bookstore Day, and Brown encourages everyone to patronize the bookstore that day, bring a friend, and meet Laura Mitchell, the owner.

And coming soon... Our next HNWA organization meeting will be April 29 at the Town of Sharpsburg Library, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Plans are underway for the second annual Sharpsburg Book Fair, set for August 25 and 26, with the addition of a keynote guest author and fundraiser dinner planned for Friday evening before the all-day book fair on Saturday on the grounds of the A. O. Bridges Community Center. We also are organizing a writers workshop for June 3, co-hosted by the Newnan Carnegie Library. All interested participants are welcome to take part in the HNWA organization meetings.

Monthly Virtual Critique Group (on Zoom) hosted by Donna Black and Sharon Marchisello. Second Monday each month, 6:30-8 p.m. Manuscript submissions are due the first of each month. Sign up on Facebook @HNWA Writers Group or email hometownnovel@hotmail.com.

HNWA In-Person Writers Group, Monday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m at Corner Arts Gallery, Studio & Gift Shop, Newnan. Weekly meetings feature discussions of ongoing writing projects, relevant writing topics, and guest author presentations to encourage, engage, and inform writers of all stages on their journey to publishing and promoting their books. Participants pay a one-time \$20 fee, and the group helps determine the direction of the meetings, which cover topics ranging from character development and point of view to editing, beta readers, and the various publication models. For info, email mike@hometownnovel.com.

Keep up with HNWA through our Hometown Novel News Podcast



Did you know that we now have a Hometown Novel News Podcast? This new avenue to promote local authors and their books launched late last year, and you can check out all the episodes on the Newnan Podcast Network with Apple Podcasts.

Our April podcast will feature local author and editor Angela McRae speaking about "The Hero Behind the Scenes," the book editor.

Our March podcast featured Elyse Wheeler, Stephanie Baldi, Helen Stine, and Ken Boekhaus, members of the Carrollton Bookfest Organizing Committee. They were busy getting the news out about the book event on March 25 and talking about some of the top authors who participated.

Some of our other recent podcasts have featured:

- **Michael and Larisa Scott.** In this episode of Hometown Novel News, Michael and Larisa Scott join T.M. Brown to talk about their respective roles in keeping literacy and culture alive and thriving in Coweta County. Michael serves as president of the Newnan Carnegie Library Foundation, and Larisa Scott is the executive director of the Newnan-Coweta Historical Society. Both were instrumental in the development of LitFest.

- **Jill Evans,** a writer, web designer, photographer, and president of the Atlanta Writers Club as well as a board member of the Newnan Carnegie Library Foundation. In this episode, Evans talks about the process of helping aspiring writers develop their craft by getting critical feedback from peers and about how writing groups can assist with this.

- **Steve Quesinberry and Richard Proctor.** These two local authors joined host Mike Brown to talk about their recent works profiling local icons. Quesinberry recently published "Better Men: Coweta County, Georgia and the Vietnam War," in which 23 of the 28 chapters are dedicated to Coweta's Vietnam War KIA. Proctor's latest book, "Everybody Needs a Mule," focuses on the life of legendary Newnan Football Coach Max Bass.

News & Notes

In Sympathy

Our sympathies go to HNWA Founding Member **Angie Gallion** on the loss of her mother, Donna Faye Gallion of Pawnee, Illinois, on March 30, 2023.



Congratulations to two of our authors who have new books out! **Danielle Thorne** has released *A Home for the Twins*. "She's found a new start for her boys. Has she found new love, too? Becoming the chef at her aunt's small-town inn is exactly the new beginning single mom Lindsey Judd needs. But balancing her job with her twin boys proves harder than she thought, especially when she discovers that lawyer Donovan Ainsworth wants to buy the inn for his own reasons. As Donovan starts to fall for Lindsey and her boys, will her little troublemakers become matchmakers as well?"



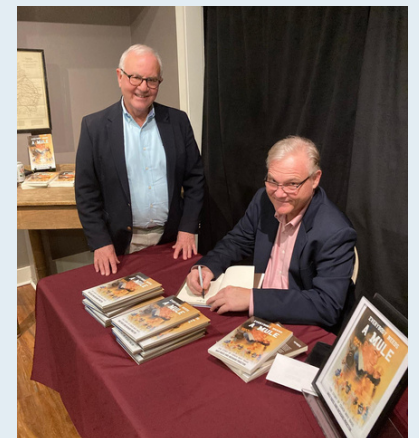
Longtime HNWA moderator **Scott Ludwig** has released *Balls: slam dunks & strikeouts & shanks, oh my!* "A combination memoir/commentary of an avid sports enthusiast dating all the way back to just before the Summer of Love. The book covers a wide array of sports you need balls for. The kind that bounce. And the kind that don't."



HNWA President **Mike Brown** and his wife, Connie, share his Shiloh mysteries at a meeting of the Atlanta Writers Club in Dunwoody.



Author **Mark Wallace Maguire** recently visited with residents of Monarch House in Newnan, which has been reading his *In Pursuit of the Pale Prince*.



Author **Richard Proctor** signs copies of *Everybody Needs A Mule: The Story of Coach Max Bass* at the McRitchie-Hollis Museum in Newnan.