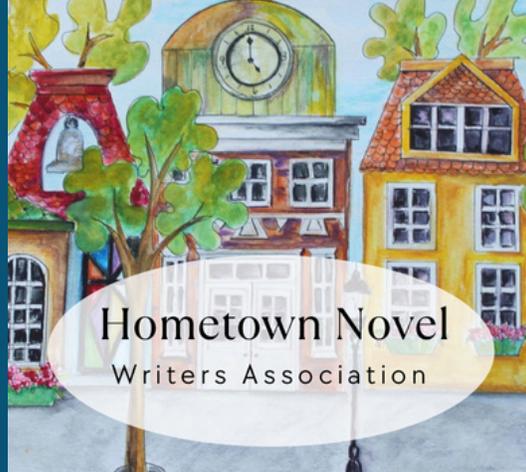


Hometown Novel Writers Association Newsletter

January 2024



Comments from President T.M. "Mike" Brown



Happy New Year! Since our first Hometown Novel Night event in the fall of 2018, HNWA has bloomed into a bona fide writers and authors organization. There are now a host of new faces participating in our organization along with a core group who have helped us get to where we are today. Please begin thinking about your future role in the HNWA organization.

In the past two years, we have expanded our reach and mission as a writers and authors organization. It's time to grow better with some fresh new ideas and faces on the leadership team. If you wish to step up and help or know of others who would be interested, get in touch. At the Annual HNWA Organizational Meeting, we will need to add some new faces to the Board and to serve on various committees. You can contact me with questions or suggestions. You also can certainly plan to attend the next HNWA Leadership meeting on January 18, 2024, at Maguire's Restaurant in Senoia from 6-8 p.m.

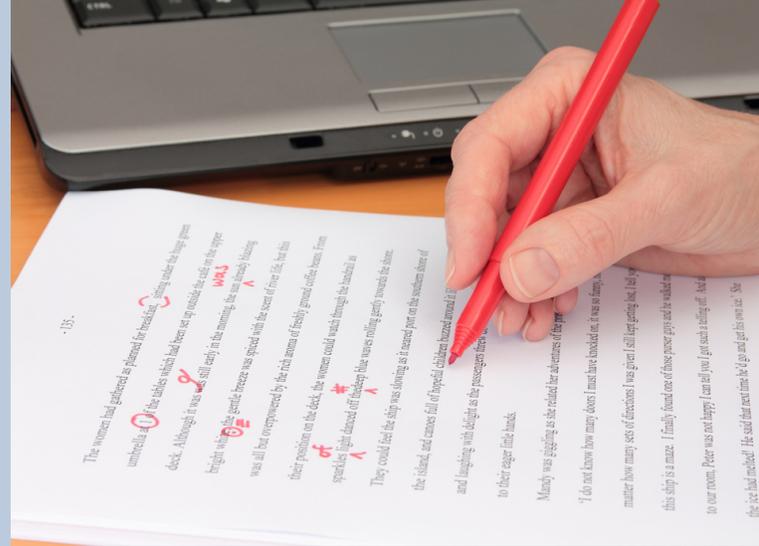
Authors, if you have a new book coming out in 2024 and want to be added to one of the HNWA Author Programs, email mike@hometownnovel.com. Send details of your book.

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Mike

Looking for feedback on your work this year? Check out our HNWA Critique Group



You're a fledgling writer. Or you've written for decades. Or you're somewhere in between. But how do you know if you're on the right track? Would your writing intrigue a reader? Are the clues in your mystery too subtle, or do they give it away too soon? Does your main character come off as a jerk? Or will your readers see the warmth behind her tough exterior?

It's hard to project the reader's experience in the solitude of your writer's brain. What you need is some writers and readers to review your work and give you honest feedback, constructive criticism, and suggestions on how to improve your beloved story.

But who will do that for you? Professional editing is costly. Your friends and relatives may tell you everything you write is brilliant or that writing is a pipe dream and to quit wasting your time. What you need are some impartial people with knowledge of writing in your genre. What you need is a Critique Group.

HNWA has just such a critique group that meets virtually on the second Monday of each month. Friends who write—and who understand how scary it is to hand your work to others for their consideration—will read your work, make suggestions, and applaud what you did right. It is like a master's class that will help you hone your writing skills in a supportive and friendly environment. No one will tell you that you're wasting your time writing, but they will teach you to edit your errors and avoid them in the future.

The Call for Submissions with instructions goes out near the end of each month. You have a week to submit anything you'd like (a portion of a book, an essay, news article, blog post, query letter, blurb, you name it). You and your fellow critiquers will read the submission and make any suggestions for the writer. On the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m., the group meets via Zoom to discuss comments and suggestions. And yes, you can wear your jammies and bring a drink of choice to the meeting!

Note: You don't have to submit work to participate. If you want to see how it works for a while, or even forever, that's fine. You are guaranteed to learn from your fellow critiquers, even if they are discussing the work of others. However, the greatest benefit comes from seeing the "rules" applied to your own work and understanding why they are the "rules" AND when they can and should be broken.

Watch your email for the Call for Submissions later this month. We look forward to seeing you there.

Critically Acclaimed Author Bren McClain offers Writers Master Class, "What is Working? Do More of That!" at Carrollton BookFest on April 5, 2024



Join Bren McClain, author of the critically acclaimed *One Good Mama Bone*, for a highly interactive Master Class designed to take your novel, short story, or memoir to the next level. Twelve writers will join her in this day-long session in which writers will receive critique and guidance to improve their work. Selection is competitive and open to writers of prose: fiction or nonfiction (no poetry).

To be considered, prepare a piece of 1,000 words (preferably from the beginning of your manuscript). Do not put your name in or on your file (a numbering system will be applied). Submit to carrolltonbookfest@gmail.com. Include your name and contact information in the email.

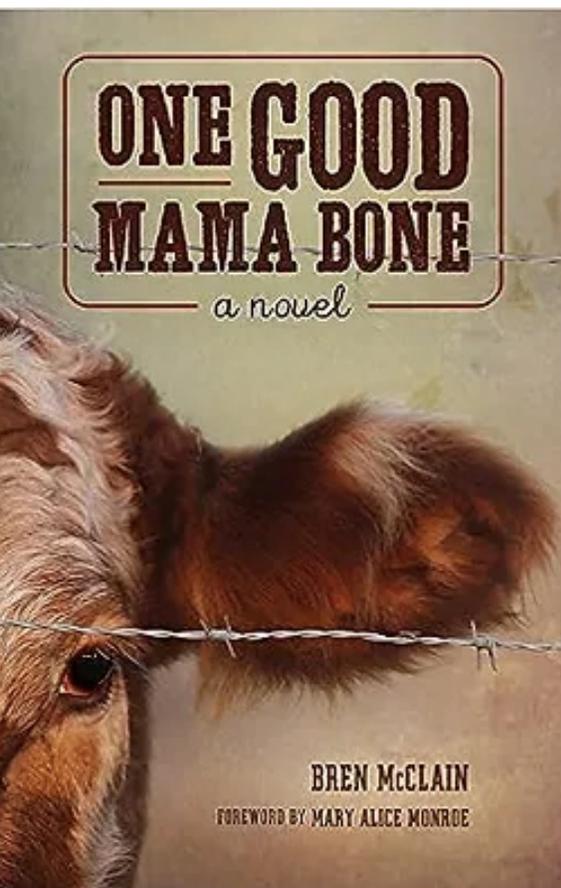
There is a non-refundable fee of \$25, which is payable through Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/carrollton-ga-bookfest-writers-conference-and-public-book-fair-tickets-721611638837?aff=oddtcreator>. If selected, instructions for payment of the remaining fee of \$75 will be sent by email. Total for the workshop is \$100.

Submission deadline for consideration is February 17, 2024. Selected authors will be notified March 2 and must submit a piece of work up to 2,500 words by March 16. All work will be distributed to the group, and specific questions will guide the critique. The morning will include feedback, and the afternoon will be spent revising or writing additional material.

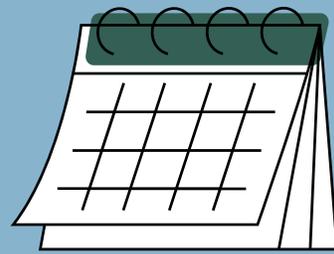
Don't miss this unique opportunity to work with this warm, exciting, and creative author.

All events are at the Carrollton Center for the Arts, 251 Alabama St., Carrollton GA.

For more information, visit carrolltonbookfest.com or email carrolltonbookfest@gmail.com.



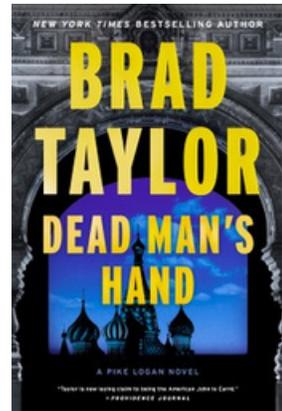
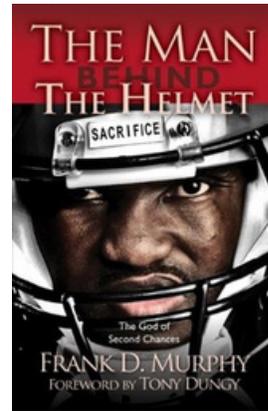
January 2024 Calendar of Events



Our "Writers Helping Writers" group will kick off the year on Monday, January 8, 2024, at Corner Arts Gallery in downtown Newnan and will meet every Monday evening from 6:30-8 p.m. Upcoming topics will include: January 8, from *Editing Magic* (EM) by Stacy Jackson, distinctive character voices; January 15, EM, time sequences and scene shifts; January 22, EM, unneeded dialogue and descriptions; and January 29, EM, scene goals and conflict, story building blocks.

HNWA Planning Meeting, January 18, Maguire's Pub & Tavern, Senoia, 6-8 p.m. Enjoy ordering a dinner and catch up with everyone before we cover important 2024 HNWA business over some dessert and coffee.

The Newnan Carnegie Library Foundation's Edgar B. Hollis Distinguished Author Series is returning, and their first author of 2024 is former NFL player Frank D. Murphy, who will discuss his life story and his book, *The Man Behind the Helmet: A Story of Second Chances*, on January 20 at 3 p.m. at the Carnegie. A book signing will follow, and registration on Eventbrite is requested.



Murphy is a formerly incarcerated youth and NFL player who founded Mentoring With Purpose Charity to pour into at-risk youth

and athletes—especially those who have been deemed too far gone and unreachable. Frank's life story journeys from childhood to adulthood as he overcame the struggles of growing up in an economically disadvantaged inner-city neighborhood. From running the streets with guns to selling drugs to jail, Frank has made every mistake a young person could, stacking the odds against himself as he faced the reality of spending life behind bars. After being given a second chance through NFL Coach Tony Dungy, Frank instantly pivots from a self-destructive path to a star athlete, successful NFL player, and upstanding role model. While in the NFL, Frank witnessed the need for character development and mentorship for youth and athletes, leading him to build a digital life skills curriculum program.

On Saturday, January 27, 2024, the series continues with thriller author Brad Taylor speaking from 11 a.m. to noon at Wadsworth Auditorium at 25 Jefferson St. in Newnan. Registration is required on Eventbrite.

Taylor's newest release, *Dead Man's Hand*, is a propulsive and topical edge-of-your-seat thriller featuring Pike Logan as he goes head-to-head with Vladimir Putin's henchmen. To finally end the war between their nations, a rogue band of Ukrainian partisans known as the Wolves teams up with members of Russia's military intelligence to assassinate Putin. But Putin is aware of the traitors in his midst and assigns the loyal commander of the Russian National Guard to root them out. Taylor, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.), is a twenty-one-year veteran of the U.S. Army Infantry and Special Forces, including eight years with Delta Force. He has conducted operations in support of US national interests in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other classified locations. His final assignment was as the Assistant Professor of Military Science at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

JANUARY
MONTHLY
PROGRAM

SENOIA AREA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



ADVENTURES AT THE 2003 BADWATER ULTRAMARATHON

AUTHOR, SCOTT LUDWIG



A FEW DEGREES
FROM HELL
White Hot Tales From the
BADWATER ULTRAMARATHON



The Badwater Ultramarathon is considered to be 'the world's toughest foot race.' It is conducted on a 135-mile course starting at 282 feet below sea level in the Badwater Basin and ending at an elevation of 8,360 feet at the portal of Mount Whitney.

And, just for fun, the race runs right through the middle of Death Valley in the middle of July, when the weather conditions are the most extreme.

Find out what the experience is like from someone who completed the race on what very well may have been the hottest day on earth in 100 years.

Scott Ludwig is a Senoia resident and SAHS volunteer.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

Senoia Area Historical Society
6 Couch Street
Doors open and light refreshments at 6:30 PM
Program starts at 7:00 PM

WWW.SENOIAHISTORY.COM

Scott Ludwig's book, *A Few Degrees from Hell*, which chronicles his Badwater adventure, will be available for purchase following his presentation.

A MESSAGE TO ALL AUTHORS WHO HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT RECOVERY

In 2024, we would like to host authors who have written books about recovery (from drugs, alcoholism, suicidal thoughts, various addictions, etc.), and our panels are tentatively the third Thursday of March, May, July, September, and November from 6:30-8 p.m. at Coweta FORCE at 36 Salbide Avenue in Newnan (not far from the square). Coweta FORCE's mission is to provide support services in the community for individuals and family members impacted by addiction. Their new facility, which they moved into in June 2022, is spectacular.

Please email Scott Ludwig (magicludwig1@gmail.com) if you would like to be on a panel in 2024 or have further questions. Also, please state your preference as to which month(s) you would like to speak. You will have the opportunity to talk to the audience about your life, writing, and book(s) and to sell your books at the conclusion of the program. We look forward to hearing from you!

HNWA Founding Member Scott Ludwig will speak to the Senoia Area Historical Society on January 11

The Senoia Area Historical Society will kick off its programming for the year on Thursday, January 11, when Scott Ludwig talks about his book *A Few Degrees from Hell: White Hot Tales from the Badwater Ultramarathon*. Doors open and light refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m., and the program begins at 7 p.m.

Familiar to many of us as the moderator of our Hometown Novel Nights programs, Scott is a longtime runner, and runner and non-runner alike will be fascinated by the gripping and inspiring stories of those who took the challenge and conquered "the toughest footrace on the planet."

For more information on the Senoia Area Historical Society, please visit senoiahistory.com.