

Writing Becomes Suspenseful for Baltimore Organization

Article by Vickie Oliver-Lawson,
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[The Black Writers' Guild of Maryland, Inc.](#) is an organization which started in 1997. Its members now number 90 and extend beyond Maryland to other cities on the East coast. This is an organized body whose leadership includes President James Wright, Communications Officer Wilma Brockington-Parker, Secretary Rosa Griffin, Treasurer Brenda McClellan, and board members Maxine Bigby Cunningham and Delegate Barbara Robinson.

The BWG's mission, according to Brockington-Parker, is to provide support to aspiring and published authors in their various writing journeys. This includes networking as well.

On Saturday, November 7, 2015 the Black Writers' Guild had another mission. At the Enoch Pratt Free Library located at Penn and North Avenues, there was a workshop presented by attorney Deliah Lawrence. The topic was "Smooches and Murder: The Elixir to Writing a Successful Romantic Suspense Novel". According to Lawrence, the purpose of the workshop was to educate and teach new writers the main elements to making a successful novel. There were approximately thirty participants who attended, eager to share in the knowledge that was to come forth. Some of the participants were accomplished writers, some had aspirations and some were writers-in-process.

Lawrence was well-prepared with a PowerPoint presentation, handouts, graphic organizers and a plot questionnaire to assist the participants in attaining their goal. The session began with words by the BWG President, self-introductions by everyone present, future BWG topics and upcoming literary events. The agenda contained ten points which included: Defining the Genre, Common Elements, The Importance of Research, Plot Development and Character Development. The wrap-up featured a question and answer session.

The attendees had various reasons for their presence at the workshop, but had a great time acquiring the information presented.

Deliah Lawrence is an avid reader who is a self-proclaimed television junkie of crime genre shows. She holds degrees in Management, Finance and Law. In addition she is an author. Her first book, 'Gotta Let It Go' garnered a 2011 Finalist Next Generation Indie Book Award in the multi-cultural fiction category. In addition to the Black Writers' Guild, Lawrence is a member of the Maryland Writers' Association.

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