



Tampa Writers Alliance Write Connections

Volume 19 Number 10

October 2004

The TAMPA WRITERS ALLIANCE is an organization of adult writers—amateur and professional, beginning and advanced—who share a keen interest in improving skills and resources. Its members, who number about 100, create works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry; as well as stage and screenplays. In addition to its monthly general meeting, the TWA conducts workshops in specific aspects of writing, provides free assistance to scholastic and literary groups, sponsors an annual writing contest open to all writers, and publishes a yearly anthology.




























An Informal Members' Night

THIS MEETING IS THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT TWA 2004 WRITING CONTEST ENTRIES

Our next General Meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday, **October 6th**, in the auditorium of the John Germany Library, 900 Ashley Street, downtown Tampa.

"An Informal Members' Night" at the monthly meeting of the Tampa Writers Alliance, will offer an opportunity for anyone who wishes to take the floor and do whatever he or she would like to do...i.e., read their poetry, discuss the state of TWA, pass on to others something they have learned or heard about, conduct quizzes, tell jokes, socialize and get to know one another.

OCTOBER 2004 Renewals

RICHARD AELLEN  **EDUVIGIA ANCAYA**  **WILLIAM BALES** 
CARLTON BLAIR  **GRAAL BRAUN**  **FRANK CACERES** 
WARNER CONARTON  **MELETHA EVERETT**  **ANN FAUST** 
CARA GUBBINS  **KATHLEEN HARSCH**  **JUDITH HENSLEY** 
ANGELA JONES  **LOU KIEFER**  **SANDRA KISCHUK**  **LINDA KONST** 
ROBIN KNOWLES  **MARTHA McINTOSH**  **ROSEMARY MURRAY** 
CHARLES NORMAN  **RUSSELL DOUGLAS**  **SANDRA SCIONTI** 
JIM SOLE  **PHRONIA STANLEY**  **JOAN STRAUMAN** 
ELIZABETH THOMAS  **WENDY WATSON** 

Members may bring their \$25 annual dues to the next General Meeting, or mail it to:

Frank Cáceres, Treasurer—34731 Double Eagle Court Zephyrhills FL 33541.

Members receiving WC via the US mail, your renewal date is on your label.

The dream of a writer is to be surprised by his characters. All of a sudden, they are living their own lives; they are not prisoners anymore. Tati taught me how to observe, how to sit in a cafe in Paris and to look at the passersby and to guess what their story is, even a little moment of their story.

Jean-Claude Carrière

"...THE RIGHT WORD..." – JIM CHAPLIN

TWA membership entrusts the guiding and governing of their organization to a handful of volunteers who agree to serve a two year term as elected officers. Unfortunately, for one good reason or another, not all who accept the challenge are able to run the course and an opening on the ExCom is created. Such is the situation with the Secretary's office. And sometimes, as in the case of the newly defined position of Activities Coordinator, your officers create a new appointed position. Of the hundred or so current TWA members, you might think there are two people enthusiastic enough about contributing the success of their writer's society who would step forward and say, "Hey, how can I help?" It is a challenge... and an opportunity to make your voice heard in the future guidance and success of our nearly twenty year old group. Still, neither of the two people I'm writing about has yet to step up to pen and raised their hand. Sure, we're all busy people with more on our plates than we'd like. Please ask yourself, what would it mean to you if you choose to get more involved in a TWA leadership role? How much of a sacrifice of time and energy would you need to commit to? And what difference can you make? There are those who lead and those who follow. Those who lead have a view of what's ahead. Those who follow have a view of... well, you get the picture. Most of us are content to say, "Gee, I'm too busy, let somebody else do that". Perhaps *you* are the 'somebody else' everyone else is referring to. Fact of the matter is, there is a need for two more doers on your TWA ExCom. I'm hoping I can tell you their names in this column next month. Want to see *your* name in print?

POETRY WORKSHOP

The meetings are held at Barnes & Noble's south in the Café, near Kennedy at 7pm in the café on the LAST THURSDAY of the month. The **OCTOBER** meeting will be **10/28/04**. Contact Workshop Coordinator Lark Underwood at **the1lark@hotmail.com** or go to **www.tampawriters.org** for more information.

TWA Critique Group for Children's Writers

Paul May is starting a critique group for TWA members who write for children and young adults. All formats are welcome (picture book manuscripts, short stories for children, middle-grade and young adult novels, poetry, scripts, etc.) The group will meet in Brandon on the first and third Mondays of the month. For more information, contact Paul May at paulmay@tampabay.rr.com

THE GATHERING

The GATHERING is the TWA's monthly social event where members and other friends get together to enjoy good food along with good conversation. The menu is appetizers & desserts—bring one! Our next one will be at **SANDRA KISCHUK's**. 7pm. **TUESDAY 10/26/04**.

MEMBERS IN MEDIA

MARC YACHT's article, "Health Care Languishes Under Liability Fears, Fees" was published September 20, 2004, in the St. Petersburg Times.

Information for this feature needs to be sent to the editor by the 20th of each month.

As of September 21, 2004, TWA has five novel pods meeting regularly. For more information, or if you are interested in starting a novel pod in your area, contact Paul May at paul@paulrmay.com

Location	Facilitator	Email Address	Status
Brandon	Sarah Byrn	sarakali@tampabay.rr.com	Open
Brandon	Al Lucas	althephilosopher@aol.com	Open
Carrollwood	Wendi Christner	ForWendi@aol.com	Closed to new members
Carrollwood	Lark Underwood	the1lark@hotmail.com	Closed to new members
Citrus Hills	Lou Kiefer	kiefers@digitalusa.net	Open

THE ICE PICK

by Diana Carolyn Ice

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF SCRIPTWRITING, by J. Michael Straczynski.

1st pbk. ed. Cincinnati, Writer's Digest Books, 2002, c1996. 424 p. \$19.99. ISBN: 1-58297-158-7. Includes: Glossary of Visual Terminology for Television and Film; Sample Release Form, Evaluation Agreement, and Client-Agent Contract; Complete script for BABYLON 5's "The Coming of Shadows" episode; and index.

Did you know that "cut tos" are old-fashioned? Do you know the difference between a "close shot" and a "close-up"? How and why to indicate a "fade in" or a "match cut" or the use of a hand-held camera? Do you know how to write a sample premise for an animation script or market a stage play? Or how to structure a radiodrama or tell radio listeners that a character has arrived home using sound alone? And did you know that you should not only enclose a release form with your script, but also write "Release Form Enclosed" on the envelope to prevent having your script returned unopened?

This book can help with all of those things. It can also help you avoid being ripped off by unscrupulous agents, producers, and workshops. Completely revised from the classic 1981 edition, the book includes an entire section on animation, as well as updated information throughout. Chapters cover television, motion pictures, animation, radio, stage plays, and the business end of scriptwriting. Brief histories of each field are given, plus the *art and craft* of writing for each one.

Writing with both clarity and humor, Straczynski explains how to improve your writing while mastering the art of creating a script, and then how to market it. This is hands-on, practical advice from a master in the field--and someone who knows science fiction, besides. As Straczynski says, this book was written for those who say, "All the other books can tell me how to write a script, but nobody tells me what to do when I'm finished with it." He explains in detail, for example, how to present a pitch for a TV episode at a meeting, down to "...don't try to read your pitches from a page; tell the story, the way you would around a campfire. What I usually do is allocate one page per pitch; write in big bold legible letters a few words for each important beat. This way I easily know where I am without having to fumble flipping pages trying to find [my] place."

The book is full of wonderful advice and tips like that. But perhaps you are just getting started and only dream of a chance to pitch your work. You will find here the instructions you need to format your script professionally, as well as the steps you need to take after you have written and polished it.

If you missed the 1996 hardcover edition and are writing scripts, or want to, or you are dreaming of the day someone asks you to do a screenplay based on your novel or short story and want to be prepared, you should get this book.

"Because," as Straczynski says, "sometimes, every once in a while, the dream really does come true."

THE ICE PICK is an monthly column in the SF&FW newsletter. <http://userpages.burgoyne.com/workshop>

Guidelines for Submissions to **TALEBONES** <www.talebones.com>

Fiction manuscripts should be no longer than 6,000 words. If you have something longer, query first. Vignettes and short-shorts also considered. Payment is 1-2 cents per word, USA funds, by contract. They purchase 1st North American Serial Rights and sometimes 1st Electronic Rights. All subsidiary rights released upon publication.

Industry standard manuscript format is expected. Send quality photocopies, not originals. Use a manuscript size envelope (9x12 inches minimum) for any submission containing more than 5 sheets of paper; do not use legal or stationery envelopes. Include a cover letter with submission that contains your name, address, phone, email address (if available), and a title listing of content (i.e. story, poem, or artwork titles). This is so they can cross-reference cover letters with submission contents. You may also provide biographical information if you wish.

They accept submissions only in hardcopy by postal mail. They no longer accept e-mail submissions. (NOTE: Please query on all art/photo submissions.) Include an SASE of manuscript size with sufficient attached USA postage or equivalent IRCs (International Reply Coupon) to return the manuscript. Don't guess! Take it to the post office to be weighed and purchase accurate postage. Do not send submissions by registered or certified mail.

Alternatively you may use a #10 envelope SASE for our response only and mark your submission as DISPOSABLE, indicating the same in your cover letter. Hardcopy postal submissions with improper or missing SASEs will not receive a response. Postal submissions should be mailed to the magazine's physical address at Fairwood Press, 5203 Quincy Ave SE, Auburn, WA 98092

TWA Directory

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
President	Jim Chaplin	813-835-4255	jpcf florida@hotmail.com
Vice President	Sandra Kischuk	813-935-7760	sjkischuk@juno.com
Secretary	YOU?		
Treasurer	Frank Cáceres	813-783-3385	twa-treasurer@novel-guy.com
Member-at-Large	Cathie Astl	813-994-5455	cathieastl@hotmail.com
Critique	Warner Conarton	352-588-3228	warnerc@quixnet.net
Editor	Lark Underwood	813-908-3095	the1lark@hotmail.com
Publicity	Lucy Parker	813-996-1130	lvparker@cytex.com
Event Coordinator	YOU?		
TWA WEBSITE			WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG

PINAWOR (Pinellas Authors and Writers Organization)

This writers' group meets each Saturday, 9:30 am to noon, at the Highlands Recreation Center Complex, 400 N. Highlands Avenue, Largo. Contact **Elenora Rose Sabin, 727-345-3376** or elanora36@yahoo.com

GENERAL FYI

- ☼ TWA meets each calendar month on the 1st Wednesday at the main Tampa library. The only exceptions are those first Wednesdays coinciding with a holiday, in which case the membership is notified in the newsletter of the alternative date/day several months in advance.
- ☼ The January meeting is a "writing workshop" & the February meeting is a staged reading of the winners of the Script category from the previous year's writing contest. February is also the month—every 2 years—TWA elects its new ExCom.
- ☼ The writing contest Awards Banquet is held in January to avoid the holiday crush & allow us better venues and prices. It is usually scheduled for the latter part of the month.
- ☼ To receive your free membership copy of THE WORDSMITH, our annual anthology, you must have been a member in good standing (paid up!) by the 31st of December of the previous year (i.e. to get the 2004 WORDSMITH, you must have joined by 12/31/03) and you must have "actively selected" to receive one. Contact Lark Underwood and "actively select" your copy. We only print a few archival copies beyond what we need for members, so if you do not let us know you want one, when it comes time, you'll have to either regret your lack of attention/effort or pay for a copy—if any are left.

Lifelong Writers, the membership arm of the *Florida Center for Writers*, meets 7pm to 9pm the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the MMH building at USF. Open to all writers and aspiring writers.

Contact **Martha Lakis**, at 813-974-8021 or mglakis@admin.usf.edu for more info.

PASAWOR (Pasco Authors and Writers Organization)

This group meets the 1st & 3rd Mondays, 12:30 to 3:00 pm, at the Pasco Art Council-5744 Moog Rd in Holiday, FL. Contact Barbara Harrington at bshadowbooks@ij.net or call 727-572-6345.

Tampa Writers Alliance *Write Connections*

c/o Lark Underwood, Editor
10028 Strafford Oak Ct. #706
Tampa FL 33624

