



# Write Connections

Volume 20 Number 2

February 2005

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.

## TWA 2004 CONTEST WINNERS

### DR ED HIRSHBERG

- 1<sup>ST</sup> MARC YACHT ..... **NEVER HEARD OF IT**  
2<sup>ND</sup> JEDD GAY POPE..... **TROPHY WIFE**  
3<sup>RD</sup> JAMES YOUNG ..... **JOHN'S COVENANT WITH NATURE**  
HM BARRY NEWBERGER..... **PARDON ME IF I DON'T GET UP**

### FICTION

- 1<sup>ST</sup> PHILIP TILNEY ..... **RENT-A-HUSK**  
2<sup>ND</sup> TOM CROWE ..... **IF YOU KNEW BECKY**  
3<sup>RD</sup> KAL ROSENBERG ..... **SECOND CHANCE**  
HM CORRIE McARTHY..... **SUMMER HAND**

### NON-FICTION

- 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNETTE GENDLER..... **THE SCHIENENBUS WALK**  
2<sup>ND</sup> SANDRA KISCHUK..... **THREE VIGNETTES OF A COPORATE WIFE**  
3<sup>RD</sup> NORMA WOOD ..... **WAITING ROOM**  
HM JOHN CHARLES MILLER ..... **YOU CAN'T PICK UP RAINDROPS**

### NOVELS

- 1<sup>ST</sup> EVANGELINE ANDERSON ..... **BUTTERFLY SCALES**  
2<sup>ND</sup> NORMA WOOD ..... **MERCY KILLER**  
3<sup>RD</sup> ANGELA MASTERSON JONES ..... **A DIVE IN THE SAND**  
HM DIANNE SMITH ..... **THEY SHOOT SINGLE PEOPLE, DON'T THEY?**

### POETRY

- 1<sup>ST</sup> LYNN VEACH SADLER ..... **LOVING THAT OLD DRAGON FLY OF MINE**  
2<sup>ND</sup> ANGELA MASTERSON JONES ..... **BONFIRE**  
3<sup>RD</sup> SANDRA KISCHUK..... **OLD WOMAN**  
HM not awarded

### SCRIPTS

- 1<sup>ST</sup> PAUL MAY..... **DISNEY SECRET SERVICE**  
2<sup>ND</sup> WARNER CONARTON ..... **STAGE (EN)NOIRE**  
3<sup>RD</sup> SANDRA KISCHUK..... **DREAM CATCHER**  
HM CHRIS BATTLE ..... **TASTES JUST LIKE CHICKEN**

## "...THE RIGHT WORD..." – *JIM CHAPLIN*

As is our tradition, the February General Meeting will be a staged reading of the winners of the SCRIPTS category of the annual Contest. Come hear why these four plays won.

### 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 **FEBRUARY** meeting will be **2/24/05**. Contact Workshop Coordinator Lark Underwood at [the1lark@hotmail.com](mailto:the1lark@hotmail.com) or go to [www.tampawriters.org](http://www.tampawriters.org) for more information.

### THE GATHERING

The GATHERING is the TWA's monthly social event where members and other friends gather (get it?) to enjoy good food along with good conversation. Our next one will be at **SANDRA KISCHUK's**. 7pm. **TUESDAY the 22nd**. Bring an appetizer or dessert. Call Sandra for directions—her phone number is in the directory on the last page.

### MEMBERS IN MEDIA

**MARC YACHT's** mystery play, *Murder at the Shortbranch Saloon*, will be used in a Rotary Fundraiser at the end of January. The attendees participate and have to solve the crime. Also, his editorial, **Resolving To Obey, But As A Leaner Man** was published December 27, 2004.

**SUSAN LEVASSEUR's** poems "*Obedience*" and "*Grace*" were published in **Bear Creek Haiku**, "*The Asian*" was published in **Peace and Freedom Press**, and her piece "*Dusk*" in the **Journal of Liberal Arts**.

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

### THE CRITIQUE GROUP.....Charles Greenwood, Coordinator

There once was a woman from Nantucket  
Who couldn't carry a plot in a bucket.  
She wrote every day  
But in a haphazard way  
And her stories never earned her a ducat.

Pesky plot problems preventing publication, Pauline? Then the TWA Critique Group is for you. Its "Plot Patrol" will help you identify plot issues.

The group evaluates fiction, non-fiction, and even some poetry. Some members are just beginning their writing career while others are established authors so you will receive a spectrum of opinions. All feedback is given in a positive way intended to help you improve your writing.

The group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7PM at Barnes & Noble North. That's just south of Stall Road on North Dale Mabry. If you see Borders, you're too far north.

If interested, email me at [charles\\_greenwood@yahoo.com](mailto:charles_greenwood@yahoo.com) and I'll send you more information, as well as the submissions for the next meeting. Please be aware that only TWA members may submit writings for evaluation by the group.

### NOVEL POD UPDATE

As of January 6, 2005, the TWA has five active novel pods. For more information, or if you are interested in starting a novel pod in your area, contact Paul May at [paul@paulrmay.com](mailto:paul@paulrmay.com)

The novel pods are sanctioned by the Tampa Writers Alliance. As such, all who participate should be TWA members in good standing.

| Location     | Facilitator     | Email Address  | Status                                    |
|--------------|-----------------|--|---|
| Brandon      | Sarah Byrn      | <a href="mailto:sarakali@tampabay.rr.com">sarakali@tampabay.rr.com</a> | Open                                      |
| South Tampa  | KC Lucchese     | <a href="mailto:kclukz@earthlink.net">kclukz@earthlink.net</a>         | Open                                      |
| Carrollwood  | Wendi Christner | <a href="mailto:ForWendi@aol.com">ForWendi@aol.com</a>                 | Closed to new members                     |
| Carrollwood  | Lark Underwood  | <a href="mailto:the1lark@hotmail.com">the1lark@hotmail.com</a>         | Open to 1 intermediate or advanced writer |
| Citrus Hills | Lou Kiefer      | <a href="mailto:kiefers@digitalusa.net">kiefers@digitalusa.net</a>     | Open                                      |

## Throw Yourself an Idea Party

By Kathryn Lay

Ideas, a writer's lifeline. Most of the time we have more ideas than we have time to put them on paper. But occasionally, I want to work on a new idea; needing to put aside current projects and focus on something fresh. Or I just want to replenish my idea files. It's time to throw myself an Idea Party. It might be all at once or spread out over several weeks. It's time that I step back from writing for a half-day or an hour and give my creativity a jolt. Do you need an idea? Try some of these party games:

**The Party List.** Spend an hour making a list. Think of topics for article queries, fun titles for short stories, recent events or situations that can be turned into essays or how-to's (or how not-to's). What questions have been on your mind lately that you might research an answer? What weird dream could be turned into a story or humorous essay? List childhood remembrances, fears, favorite pets, friendships lost and found, disastrous dates, the strangest kid you remembered in school, your most poignant holiday memory. The list goes on...

**Hide & Seek Some Magazines.** Spend an hour looking over piles of magazines. Slip into a quiet spot at the library and thumb through magazines: Children's, women's, general interest... whatever they have available. The more I absorb, the more I have come up with offshoot ideas or see a phrase that leads my thoughts to a story, article, or book title. You might find an article that leaves a question unanswered. Find a way to answer it. Or a story that reminds you of something that happened to you. Maybe a photograph has a story waiting to be told. Or an article is so interesting you just have to learn more about this topic.

**Field Tripping.** Go on a field trip. It doesn't have to be far. Spend time alone at an amusement park, a local tourist attraction, in the midst of a big city or a quiet country getaway, a historical site or a popular teen hangout. Watch and listen to other people and write down their conversations, movements and reactions. Describe the settings you are seeing. Study someone from a distance and make up a story about what they are doing or are about to do.

**Ring Around the Rewrite.** Pull out your own published pieces. How many ways can you resell or reslant your own work. Has it been awhile since some of those pieces were sent out as reprints? Now that you've stepped back from them, can you think of additional ideas that go in a new direction? Did your personal experience that you wrote about right after it happened lead you to other events you've not written about yet?

**Pin the Tail on the Dictionary.** This old idea standby is still a fun and interesting way to create ideas. Close your eyes, open the dictionary and plop your finger onto a word. Even better, pick 2 words and try to find a way to put them together. A children's story resulted from the words 'mirror' and 'blind.' It won first prize in a contest and went on to be published in Marion Zimmer Bradley's Fantasy Magazine. The words 'ostrich' and 'dragon' became an idea for a children's novel.

Whether you use an idea notebook, 3X5 cards, or a file on your computer, you'll find that idea parties will get your creative thoughts flowing again.

(c) Copyright 2004, Kathryn Lay Kathryn Lay has had 900 articles, stories, and essays published in hundreds of magazines and anthologies. She teaches writing courses at <http://coffeeforwriters.com>. Check out her website at <http://www.KathrynLay.com> or write her at [rlay15@aol.com](mailto:rlay15@aol.com). Look for her first children's novel, CROWN ME! In bookstores now.

### HELP WANTED

#### TWA 2006 WORDSMITH EDITOR.

The WS editor finds and coordinates the First Readers—TWA members who are willing to read the Contest submissions and select the best (minus the Contest winners) for inclusion in the annual anthology. The editor reads last and makes the final selections. The editor decides on a format for the book, downloads the selected works into the format, and creates the Table of Contents and Index. The editor selects editorial assistants to help proof the final manuscript, makes any corrections to the mss, writes the forward to the book, selects the cover design, and shepherd's the book through publication and distribution. The editor keeps the list of those who "actively selects" to receive a copy.

## TWA Directory

| TITLE              | NAME                     | PHONE                       | E-MAIL ADDRESS              |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| President          | <b>Jim Chaplin</b>       | 813-835-4255                | jpcflorida@hotmail.com      |
| Vice President     | <b>Sandra Kischuk</b>    | 813-935-7760                | sjkischuk@juno.com          |
| Secretary          | <b>Marc Yacht</b>        | 727-868-1016                | myacht@tampabay.rr.com      |
| Treasurer          | <b>Frank Cáceres</b>     | 813-431-3181                | twa-treasurer@novel-guy.com |
| Member-at-Large    | <b>Cathie Astl</b>       | 813-994-5455                | cathieastl@hotmail.com      |
| Critique           | <b>Charles Greenwood</b> | 727-733-2186                | charles_greenwood@yahoo.com |
| Editor             | <b>Lark Underwood</b>    | 813-908-3095                | the1lark@hotmail.com        |
| Publicity          | <b>Lucy Parker</b>       | 813-996-1130                | lvparker@cytex.com          |
| Events Coordinator | <b>YOU?</b>              |                             |                             |
| <b>TWA WEBSITE</b> |                          | <b>WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG</b> |                             |

### GENERAL FYI

- ☼ TWA meets each calendar month on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 traditionally 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

#### 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](mailto:elanora36@yahoo.com)

**Lifelong Writers**, the membership arm of the *Florida Center for Writers*, meets 7pm to 9pm the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:mglakis@admin.usf.edu) for more info.

#### PASAWOR (Pasco Authors and Writers Organization)

This group meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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

