



# Write Connections

Volume 20 Number 7

July 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.

\*\*\*\*\* HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY \*\*\*\*\*

*Next General Meeting*

*Wednesday, July 6th, 7pm, at TWA's General Meeting.*

Our featured speaker is Kirt Dressler, President and C.E.O. of Superior Writing Services, Inc. in Tampa. Kirt is a book editor, creative writer, entrepreneur and ghostwriter. He will be discussing "The Necessity of Editing" for both fiction and non-fiction. You don't want to miss it!

Join us at 7pm in the auditorium at the John Germany Tampa library, 900 Ashley Street, downtown Tampa. See you there!

**July 1, 2005**

**Membership renewal time for...**

*Chris Battle, Wendy Cousins Savage, Rhonda Eason,  
F. Felecia Ferrara, Charles Greenwood, Aaror & Susan Laden,  
Susan Levasseur, Thomas Lister, Doug Maloney, Shauna Propst,  
Christy Richards, Joe Santoro, M. Lark Underwood*

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.**

## **8th ANNUAL ONE ACT WEEKEND**

**August 26-27-28, 2005: Friday, Saturday & Sunday Matinee**

**Carrollwood Players 4333 Gunn Highway (in Plantation Plaza) Tampa, FL  
33624, Phone 813-265-4000**

TASTES JUST LIKE CHICKEN" by Chris Battle, THE PHONE CALL by Maggie Berrill,  
THREE MINUTES TO VENUS AND MARS by Carol Cohen, THE PATHOLOGY OF MY HAPPINESS by Ray Crew,  
RENT-A-WRITER by Robert Kinast, TRAINS by Kevin Kobasko,  
STRANGWAYS by Rob McDonald, NOT AT HOME by Kathleen Warnock.

Also featured will be three monologues:

"HEY SAILOR" by Barbara Anton

REAL ESTATE and TESSA'S MOM by Jolene Goldenthal

## *On producing your monthly Write Connections...*

I hope you will all forgive me if this newsletter is a bit late. My name is Lisa Coleman, and I am your new WC Editor. Some of you know me from the Florida Writers Association, and for those of you who don't, please allow me to give you a little background information. I am the mother of three children and one brand new grand daughter. I'm a former Marine, "Jack of many trades, master of some", but I think we all are to some extent or we wouldn't be writers. I own a sign company near Brandon and I get to play at work as a professional graphic artist, professional photographer, and sometimes writer and editor. I have two published books which are pictorials published by Arcadia Publishing; "Tampa" and "Clearwater". Both books have sold out and "Clearwater" is in the reprint stage and should be in the bookstores sometime this month. I write in many genres including poetry, fiction – suspense, romance, mystery, and anything else that comes to mind. Current goals are to finish several unfinished works and start writing for magazines so that I can publish photos with my stories. I will tell you that in the next couple of months, you will see some interesting changes to the newsletter. If anyone has anything to include in one of the newsletters, please make sure I receive it by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. My email address is: [mectampa@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mectampa@tampabay.rr.com) or my phone number is (813) 662-5115 at my office. **Have a safe and Happy Independence Day!!!**

### **TWA's POETRY WORKSHOP**

The meetings are held at Barnes and Noble on the north end of North Dale Mabry just south of Stall Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> traffic light south of Fletcher. It starts at 7pm in the café on the 4th THURSDAY of the month. Bring six or so copies of your poems for all to read. The **JULY** meeting will be **7/28/05**. Contact Workshop Coordinator Warner Conarton at [warnerc@quixnet.net](mailto:warnerc@quixnet.net) or go to [www.tampawriters.org](http://www.tampawriters.org) for more information.

### **TWA Critique Group** - Charles Greenwood, Coordinator

Have you found other critique groups wanting? If so, the Tampa Writers Alliance Critique Group may be for you. Here's our process: Writer's email their work to me and 12 days before the next meeting, I email the pieces to all group members. This gives members ample time to evaluate each story. At the meeting, we read a little of the piece being considered, then each person gets a chance to comment. After everyone has had his or her say, the author gets the last word. We generally do four pieces per meeting.

All genres are welcome. We accept short stories, novel chapters, and even poetry. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 7-9 PM in the right rear of the Barnes and Noble bookstore at 11802 North Dale Mabry Highway (next to Piccadilly cafeteria). That's just south of Stall Road. 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 and the submissions for the next meeting. Please be aware that only TWA members may submit work for evaluation for the group.

I hope to see you at the next meeting!

## **"THE RIGHT WORD..."** from TWA president Jim Chaplin

Summertime, and the livin' is... just as hectic as it is in Wintertime. Change of wardrobe, of course, more shorts, tank tops and sandals. Vacations and long weekends enjoying our magnificent state are on the agenda. But your Tampa Writers Alliance keeps chugging along no matter what the season. You have a good group of folks steering your Alliance on the Executive Committee. And we have a new addition to the band of writers that have taken on the responsibility of keeping this organization going forward and meeting the needs of the members. We welcome our new Write Connections editor, Lisa Coleman, on board. More about her elsewhere in Write Connections. We're still searching for a member-volunteer to take on the Publicity/Public Relations chair. General meeting programs are set through September and the 2005 Writing Contest is well underway. (Complete info on the writing contest can be gathered at our website, [www.tampawriters.org](http://www.tampawriters.org).) Hope all is going well for you.

Jai Creations Presents

## The Writer's Road Map: Directions for Getting Your Book in Print

A personalized binder containing valuable publishing resources and all workshop materials—there's even room for notes! A \$50 value—FREE!

Discover what you need to do to make your book a success, regardless of how it gets published and Take away a wealth of resources to continue exploring whatever option best fits your needs.

A half-hour consultation with author and publisher Staci Backauskas to discuss their writing project! A \$50 value—FREE

### You have a story you want to share with the world . . .

But navigating the complicated world of publishing can be overwhelming. Just identifying all of the options is a full-time job. The Writer's Road Map has done the work for you! In just three hours, you will:

**Understand your choices. Explore your options. Evaluate your needs. Determine your best route. Take the next step in achieving your dream of seeing your writing in print!**

Get answers to questions like:

How do I find an agent? Who promotes my book? Can I make any money? Should I pay someone to publish my book? What's the easiest way to get my work in print?

Learn about all of the publishing methods, from the traditional to the cutting edge:

• Agents and big publishers • Small Presses • Print on Demand publishers • E-book publishing • Traditional Self-Publishing • Hybrid Publishers

But that's not all . . . . participants also receive:

**We've done the work for you! Spend your valuable time writing and let us give you what you need to make the best publishing decision for YOU!**

**Register up to two weeks prior to your workshop date and SAVE \$10!**

**For a Registration Form contact Staci at Jai Creations**

**Phone: 813-567-0267 Fax: 813-333-1915**

**[www.WritersRoadMap.JaiCreationsInc.com](http://www.WritersRoadMap.JaiCreationsInc.com)**

**E-mail: [Info@JaiCreationsInc.com](mailto:Info@JaiCreationsInc.com)**

### Who should attend this workshop:

? Anyone writing a book. ? Everyone thinking about writing a book. ? Anyone with an interest in discovering the many publishing avenues available. Author and national speaker **Staci Backauskas** brings twenty years of experience in marketing, publishing, and promotion to **The Writer's Road Map**. A publisher and accomplished writer, Staci has written seven books, as well as articles for national and local publications. She has appeared on syndicated radio and speaks frequently on creative writing. A book coach and publishing consultant, Staci teaches creative writing at the Life Enrichment Center in Tampa and is an active member of The National League of American Pen Women, The Florida Writer's Association and the Tampa Writer's Alliance..

### Summer 2005 Schedule

**JULY** Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> **Time:** 6:00-9:00 P.M. **Location:** Life Enrichment Center 9704 Boulevard North Tampa, FL 33612

**AUGUST** Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> **Time:** 6:00-9:00 P.M. **Location:** Unity Center of Today 11604 Hannah Road Lutz, FL 33549

Workshop limited to 20 participants.

**Register NOW ONLY \$69.95! Or 2 Easy Payments of \$37.50**

*If you are not 100% satisfied, your registration fee will be cheerfully refunded.*

To read our complete refund and credit policy, visit:

[www.WritersRoadMap.JaiCreationsInc.com](http://www.WritersRoadMap.JaiCreationsInc.com)

**YES! I want my Writer's Road Map**

**Resource Binder and Consultation—extras valued at \$100—for FREE!**

## *Writing a novel??? A TWA Novel Pod can make your job easier.*

As of June 28, 2005, the Tampa Writers Alliance has six active novel pods.

For more information, or if you are interested in starting a novel pod in your area, contact Paul May at [paul@paulmay.com](mailto:paul@paulmay.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
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
South / Central Tampa	Sarah Byrn	sarakali@tampabay.rr.com	Open for book-length fiction or novella collections
South Tampa	Sandi Scionti	sciontis@verizon.net	Open - *Nonfiction
South Tampa	KC Lucchese	kclukz@earthlink.net	Open

Each Novel Pod is limited to just a few writers who are actively creating a novel-length book of fiction. Authors read each others work-in-progress offering beneficial ideas and positive critiques. Is what 'you've' written clear? Is what you're attempting to convey coming through? A TWA Novel Pod can help you write a better book.

### **MEMBERS IN MEDIA**

Information for this feature needs to be sent to the editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month at: [mectampa@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mectampa@tampabay.rr.com)

**Bryan Meckley's short story *Personal Effects* received the Editor's Choice Award for the 2005 Raymond Carver Short Story Award Edition of Carve Magazine.**

The story can be found online here:

[http://carvezine.com/may%20stories/personal\\_effects.htm](http://carvezine.com/may%20stories/personal_effects.htm).

**By: Kal Rosenberg**

I'm the lonely member who lives in Gainesville. My novel, **Sold As Is** [Behler Publications] is now in "pre-release." It will be released to the public in October. The setting is the car-salesman subculture in Miami's "Cocaine Cowboy" days. See <http://behlerpublications.com/titles-rosenberg.asp>, or e-mail me at 2kal4U@gru.net for info or an advance copy. Not only is this book an authentic portrayal of the car-salesman world, but it's also about toe-to-toe arguments with God, magic powers, the clash of old philosophies and new ideas, and incurable mental illness. I like this book a lot. So does my Aunt Molly.

Also, at this year's Clockhouse Writer's Conference at Goddard College I will be offering a workshop in The Art of Self-Promotion. Thing is, after you're lucky enough to get your book in print, you think you are at the finish line, but soon learn you're back in the starting gate all over again. So you need a promo campaign or you are sunk

Unless your a big name, the thing that best promotes your work is **YOU**.

## 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>	727-868-7556	myacht@tampabay.rr.com
Treasurer	<b>Frank Cáceres</b>	813-783-3385	twa-treasurer@novel-guy.com
Member-at-Large	<b>Cathie Astl</b>	813-994-5455	cathieastl@hotmail.com
Poetry	<b>Warner Conarton</b>	352-588-3228	warnerc@quixnet.net
Write Connections Editor	<b>Lisa Coleman</b>	813-662-5115	mectampa@tampabay.rr.com
Critique Group	<b>Charles Greenwood</b>	727-733-2186	charles_greenwood@yahoo.com
Wordsmith Editor	<b>Lark Underwood</b>	813-908-3095	the1lark@hotmail.com
Website	<b>Lucy Parker</b>	813-996-1130	lvparker@cytex.com
Publicity/Public Relations	<b>Position open</b>		
Event Coordinator	<b>Position open</b>		
<b>TWA WEBSITE</b>			<b>WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG</b>

### 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)

### 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 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 2005 WORDSMITH, you must have joined by 12/31/04) 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 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.

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Tampa Writers Alliance  
***Write Connections***

c/o Lisa Coleman 501 Falkenburg Rd. South, Suite A6 Tampa 33619

