



Write Connections

Volume 20 Number 8

August 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.

***Next TWA General Meeting
Wednesday, August 3rd, 7pm, at John Germany Tampa Library***

“Life’s a Pitch... the Art of Self-Promotion”

So what do you do when your book is print? Sit back and wait for the royalties to roll in. WRONGO! Unless you’re on the front line pitching the book at every available opportunity... and making many of those opportunities yourself, royalties will not be much more than wishful thinking.

Come find out about one authors quest to sell his book as Gainesville author Kal Rosenberg presents the next Tampa Writers Alliance general meeting program, 7pm on Wednesday, August 3 in the Auditorium of the John Germany public library, 900 Ashley Street, downtown Tampa.

Kal will be sharing what he’s learned after being thrown into the deep end of the promotion pool following the release of his first novel earlier this year, “Sold As Is,” about the lives of car salesmen, published by Behler Publications. “With 40, 000 titles published every year, what does it take to make your book a success?” Whether a book is put out through a traditional publisher or if an author chooses the self-publishing or books-on-demand path, the critical problem of promotion remains the same. No promotion, no sales. “It’s a do-it-yourself jungle out there and an author needs to know what it takes to get his or her book noticed and sold.”

Mr. Rosenberg, who began his writing career in 1990 at age fifty-five, has been a traveling salesman, used-car huckster, speech writer for the Libertarian Party, and entrepreneur. His literary credentials include having been a teacher of English Composition and Critical Thinking at City College and Creative Writing at Santa Fe Community College, both in Gainesville, and has been published in such venues as The Ledge, Comstock Review, New Century Voices, Side Show Anthology, St. Petersburg Times, The Gainesville Sun, The Gainesville Jewish Chronicle, Good Old Days and many other publications.

Members are encouraged to attend and bring any writer friends who may benefit from Kal's presentation. See you there!

August 1, 2005

Membership renewal time for...

***Jim Chaplin, Wendy Cousins Savage, Katherine Holland,
Thomas Lister, Paul May, 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 8pm ~ Saturday 3pm & 8pm ~ Sunday 3pm

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

Ticket Costs: \$12 Adults / \$10 Seniors and Students

(Please Note: NO PRICE INCREASE in 6 YEARS!!!)

Group rates available on request. Call 813-265-4000 for Information

MEMBERS IN MEDIA

Information for this feature needs to be sent
to the editor by the 20th of each month at: mectampa@tampabay.rr.com

Angie Jones' poem "Still Life," reinterpreted and painted on canvas, was showcased in an art exhibit of painter-poet William Boden's at the Largo Public Library in May. Her poem "Shorn Midlife" was published by Poet Works Press in its 2005 poetry anthology *For Better or For Worse*.

A New Opportunity for TWA Members

Whether you write poetry, short fiction, non-fiction articles, columns, humor, or are a photographer, there is a new local publication in the works where your talents may be put to use. And they pay!

It's called 'New Floridian,' dedicated to conservation, community and creativity, and they need writers. Each issue will make use of outstanding photography to reflect the natural beauty of Tampa Bay, as well as outstanding writing highlighting the recreational opportunities and issues of the region. Creativity will be represented by a diverse mixture of humor, reviews, columns, fiction, poetry and free-form expression. The 'New Floridian' will create an eclectic mixture within a familiar framework.

You can find out more about this opportunity by e-mailing Dave Hackett at newfloridian@tampabay.rr.com.

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

As a writer, I am always in search of the Right Word, the one word to use in any given circumstance that packs all the power of a knock-out punch. Sometimes in my search for the elusive Right Word, I find I've settled for a word that exudes all the impact of a floating feather. And that's not good. Since taking on the president's job back in March of '04, our Tampa Writers Alliance has seen a healthy increase in new members, many of which, I suspect, have not seen our original president's message posted on our TWA website well over a year ago. So allow me, if you will, to recapture that bit of personal philosophy, and include it here in this month's column.

Scribes, novelists, writers, wordsmiths, all keepers of the language are we. Users, manipulators, inventors, imagineering, creating and sometimes butchering the written and spoken words we depend on for knowledge and entertainment. In reality, the writer is the foundation of society. A pompous statement? Think about it. Where would any society be without the writer to document its progress and disasters, create the plays and screenplays, and yes, even write the advertising copy that lets us know what's for sale?

Journalists, reporters, ad men (and women), poets, story tellers, technical writers, an enormous collection of human beings devoted to propagating thought and action through the written word.

Whoever created the phrase, "A picture is worth a thousand words" got it backward. We believe a Word is worth a thousand pictures. War! Sex! Love! Hunger! Famine! Football! Sports! Food! Hate! Art! Gardens!

Get the picture?

And where does the Word come from? Why, the writer, of course.

It was Mark Twain who said, and we quote, "The difference in the right word and the almost right word is the difference in lightning and a lightning bug." A good writer makes lightning strike.

Hence, the Tampa Writers Alliance. Now over twenty years in existence, we are a diverse mixture of people ranging from accomplished published novelists, published non-fiction writers, poets, business writers, playwrights, and many folks just beginning their writing ventures – all in search of "the right word." Ranging from eighteen to eighty, our members are exposed to an ongoing learning experience from the programs at our monthly general meeting, our twice-monthly critique sessions where fellow members read and critique each others works, the monthly poetry workshops, and the opportunity to meet and socialize with fellow writers.

For anyone searching for "the right word," Tampa Writers Alliance is here to help.

The Poetry Group

The Tampa Writers Alliance Poetry Group meets on the 4th Thursday of every month except December. We meet at the Barnes & Noble Booksellers North, at 7 PM around a table way in the back of the bookstore. The store is located on North Dale Mabry, (west side of the street) just south of Stall Road, which is the first major intersection south of Fletcher Avenue. (Borders is nearby. Don't go there.) Bring your poems or your songs, printed, spoken or recorded. Bring copies if you can so we can read along. We have fun and try to offer lots of encouragement and no tough, unrewarding criticism.

We expect the same from you.

Warner D. Conarton, coordinator warnerc@quixnet.net

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 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!

Big Problem Faces Tampa Writers Alliance

By Jim Chaplin

Folks, we have a big problem in our Tampa Writers Alliance, and I couldn't be happier. As you know, the whole concept of TWA is to provide meaningful services to our members. Now, after several years in existence, our Critique Group has outgrown its capacity to effectively serve those members involved. Normal attendance at the twice-monthly sessions runs around 14 people. Participation has swollen to around 20. This creates a time problem in which the submitting authors works can be effectively critiqued before the meeting ends. What makes me happy about this is that more and more writers are finding the value of having their work reviewed and critiqued by their contemporaries, so many, in fact, that the group is suffering from growing pains.

The solution to the problem is simple; form a second Critique Group.

The challenge, now, is to enlist a willing TWA member to head up the second group. Anyone with a notion to take on this valuable activity is invited to contact me at jpcflorida@hotmail.com. To get more information on what is involved in coordinating a TWA critique group, please query the current group leader, Charles Greenwood at charles_greenwood@yahoo.com

ONLINE RIGHTS

Settlement in Writers Case

After more than three years of legal wrangling, a final settlement has been reached that will award between \$10 and \$18 million to thousands of freelance writers whose articles were used in electronic databases without their permission.

The settlement is for damages in a series of class action infringement suits filed in 1997, four years after the National Writer's Union filed its original suit, *Tasini v. The New York Times*, that made similar claims. The Supreme Court had ruled in 2001 in favor of the writers in *Tasini* and had doled out damages in that case last summer; this settlement is for the class-action suits. It is, however, directly based on that original Supreme Court ruling.

The settlement covers any English-language article that has appeared in an electronic database after August 1997; writers can [read more about it here](#). The final amount, a minimum of \$10 million and a maximum of \$18 million, will be determined by how many writers make claims.

Kay Murray, general counsel at the Authors Guild, which along with the American Society of Journalists and Authors and the National Writers Union had filed the suits, says that she estimates there may be as many 10,000 writers eligible for compensation. But she also emphasized that the new settlement must be approved by the court; the court will hold a hearing this week to give preliminary approval and allow 60 days for members of the class to file objections. Once the settlement receives final approval, freelance writers will have 120 days to file a claim.

While the likelihood of a large settlement was rarely in doubt since the original ruling came down in 2001, the sheer size of it further affirms the right of authors to decide future use of their material even as it offers compensation for prior infringement. Said original plaintiff and former NWU head Jonathan Tasini: "While I wanted to educate writers about their rights, it's really nice to put money in their pockets."--Calvin Reid

Jai Creations Presents

The Writer's Road Map:

Directions for Getting Your Book in Print

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.

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

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:

- * **A half-hour consultation with author and publisher Staci Backauskas to discuss their writing project! A \$50 value—FREE**
- * **A personalized binder containing valuable publishing resources and all workshop materials—there's even room for notes! A \$50 value—FREE!**

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.

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!

Tuesday, August 23rd 6:00-9:00 P.M.

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.

For a Registration Form contact Staci at Jai Creations

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

www.WritersRoadMap.JaiCreationsInc.com

E-mail: Info@JaiCreationsInc.com

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

As of August 1, 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

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.

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 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 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 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.

TWA Directory

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
President	Jim Chaplin	813-835-4255	jpcflorida@hotmail.com
Vice President	Sandra Kischuk	813-935-7760	sjkischuk@juno.com
Secretary	Marc Yacht	727-868-7556	myacht@tampabay.rr.com
Treasurer	Frank Cáceres	813-783-3385	twa-treasurer@novel-guy.com
Member-at-Large	Cathie Astl	813-994-5455	cathieastl@hotmail.com
Poetry	Warner Conarton	352-588-3228	warnerc@quixnet.net
Write Connections Editor	Lisa Coleman	813-662-5115	mectampa@tampabay.rr.com
Critique Group	Charles Greenwood	727-733-2186	charles_greenwood@yahoo.com
Wordsmith Editor	Lark Underwood	813-908-3095	the1lark@hotmail.com
Website	Lucy Parker	813-996-1130	lvparker@cytex.com
Publicity/Public Relations	Position open		
Event Coordinator	Position open		
TWA WEBSITE			WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG

On producing your monthly Write Connections...

Here we are in August, with the humidity at 120% and a heat index of 120 degrees. Ok, maybe I'm exaggerating a bit, but it sure feels that way most of the time. I suppose, for that reason alone, we continue to tolerate it so that we can enjoy the mild winters.

Thanks to all of you who sent in your information early in the month. I appreciate getting a head start on this newsletter. My schedule at this time is very difficult with deadlines at my shop, other volunteer obligations, family and just trying to write occasionally.

In the next few months, I'm hoping to have a brand new look to this newsletter and any new ideas will be taken into consideration. Please email me if you have any suggestions on how the Write Connections would better benefit you. My email address is above in the directory. **Write Connections cut-off date is the 20th of the month!**

Have a great month and "Write On"!

Lisa Coleman - Write Connections Editor

Tampa Writers Alliance *Write Connections*

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

