



# Write Connections

Volume 20 Number 9

September 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, September 7th, 7pm, at John Germany Tampa Library*

## **AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT POLICE WORK**

presented by  
**DETECTIVE CHUCK MASSUCCI**

Talks by crime specialists have been among the Tampa Writers Alliance's most successful programs in recent years, popular with both mystery writers and writers in other genres. Massucci's wife, Julie, also a Tampa police detective, has previously addressed the group. Massucci has been a member of the Tampa Police Department for 15 years and a detective for nearly six years and has had major experience with the Narcotics Bureau. He worked with the QUAD Squad for six years and with the Federal Narcotics Task Force for four years. Operating undercover during this 10-year period, he worked on several cases that involved wire taps, national distribution groups, and international suppliers. Since June of 2003, he has been assigned to the Homicide Bureau where, as he puts it, "I have gained extensive experience in the investigation of death!" Massucci holds a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's degree in history from the University of South Florida.

**September 1, 2005**

**Membership renewal time for...**

*Evangeline Anderson, Jim Chaplin, Lee Clark, Ella Conarton, Alison Edwards,  
Suzanne Ernst, Fred Everson, David Heise, Katherine Holland,  
Paul May, John Miller, Dennis Pupello, David L. Smith, Sasha Tomey,  
M. Lark Underwood, Mark Yacht*

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.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Writers Association Conference

Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore

October 21-23, 2005

Join Us at Hemingways!

The FWA Conference is an event you do not want to miss. Workshops, Agent & Publisher Interviews, and the Saturday night banquet round out one of the most informative and enjoyable weekends you will ever remember. You will have the opportunity to meet and speak with Troy Devolld, screenwriter of "The Bachelor". Agent Susan Graham will be speaking on "Query Letters and How to Pitch an Agent". Other workshops include writing the popular novel, travel writing, copyrights, selling poetry, editing and so much more...

For more information on joining FWA, attending the conference, getting your books into the bookstore, sponsorship, volunteering or becoming a vendor, please visit: [www.floridawriters.net](http://www.floridawriters.net) to get all the information on Florida Writers Association and the conference. Registration can be done online, or you can print the forms and mail them into the appropriate person. The deadline for the regular registration is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **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)

### **SKIP ALLEN**

As the war on terrorism escalates throughout the world, everyone in the U.S. wants two questions answered. Will al Qaida attack the U.S. again? Will the government be able to put the pieces of the intelligence puzzle together in time to stop the attack? In *Out of the Ashes*, author Skip Allen weaves a fictional thriller that offers a chilling response to these questions. Almost five years have passed since September 11, and Qaida is plotting to attack the U.S. again. They are armed with a biological weapon of mass destruction they call the Phoenix, a new encrypted communications network, and three American terrorists who will deliver the Phoenix. Ground zero is the American Heartland, and seven days remain before the July 4 zero hour. The government's Phoenix Task Force races against time to uncover al Qaida's plot. Task force agents, Matt Garret and Annie Stewart, infiltrate al Qaida's operation in Costa Rica and risk their lives to try to stop this diabolical plot before the Phoenix can rise Out of the Ashes.

### **BOOK SIGNING EVENTS**

Author Skip Allen, Capt., USAF-Retired, will discuss his response to these questions during a booksigning on September 10, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service store at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa and on September 17, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble store in Brandon, FL.

### **KAL ROSENBERG**

Kal was informed by the Greater Augusta Arts Council that he won first prize for non-fiction in the 12th Annual Porter Fleming Literary Competition (with \$750 prize money!) and has been invited to attend the Arts in the Heart of Augusta Festival in September. They are also hosting a literary recital after the festival and asked him to come and read from his work. Needless to say, he is excited about it! **WAY TO GO KAL!**

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

### On techniques...

Just about a month from the time you read this, the deadline for entering your works in the Tampa Writers Alliance 2005 Writing Contest will arrive. October 1<sup>st</sup> for mailed entries, and October 4<sup>th</sup> at the TWA general meeting for hand delivered entries. We're in the final stretch and our computers should be humming along, knocking out those stories, articles, poems and plays that just seem to miraculously flow forth from the brain through the fingers and onto the screen. *Effortlessly*. Hah! Actually, that really is a technique, you know. One I often, or not so often if truth be known, use myself. Knowing I have to write something, having a deadline and not the foggiest notion of what to write, I have been known to look at the computer screen and..... exasperated, go lay down and take a nap. However, as is the case in composing this bit of oh-so-valuable information, I sat myself down and let my fingers do the walking through the yellow maze of my mind and, voila, this is what happened.... what you're reading, I mean. On the other hand, if you're about to write something really serious, this technique might not work. At least it doesn't for me. "I need 800 words on the effects of the West Nile Virus on the indigenous native population of New Guinea," sayeth the editor. "Sure, boss", I reply. Now let's see, I think aloud, what the heck might the effects of the West Nile Virus really have on those indigenous people... and what is an indigenous people... or person... anyway? Someone who lives in Digen? Let me check the map. So on I go to the friendly computer and let the process begin. This is serious stuff, I tell myself. And I am, after all, a serious writer. I just don't write serious stuff. So it's easy to fly through a light and airy assignment using the "sit and it will flow" method. But I'd be a terrible choice to write the daily obits. "Frank O'Malley, 78, left his earthly shell behind yesterday as his spirit became one with the clouds. That thunder you heard last night? That was Frank's parting shot at his wife of sixty years, the venerable Dolly O'Malley, disco queen of Sun City and award winning hub-cap collector. All of Frank's friends and his entire family, except for Disco Dolly, predeceased Frank, so I guess it really was time for him to move on and join them all at the big party in the sky. Frank's earthly remains are on display in the drive-through window at the Sun City Mortuary and Dairy Queen. He's the one on the left."

Well, time's up. Let's do this again next month, same time, same place. In the meantime, keep on searching for the 'the right word. Bye Bye.

### 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](mailto:warnerc@quixnet.net)**

**WORD OF THE MONTH**

**NEW**

**Reductionism: 1 the tendency to or principle of analyzing complex things into simple constituents. 2 often the doctrine that a system can be fully understood in terms of its isolated parts.**

**IDEA OF WORD OF THE MONTH – Try to incorporate it into your writing each month. I hope to spark new ideas for everyone with a simple word each month.**

## **KIRT DRESSLER TAKES OVER AS TWA CRITIQUE GROUP LEADER**

**TWA Critique Group** – Kirt Dressler, 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 [kdressler@superiorwriting.com](mailto:kdressler@superiorwriting.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!

*Thank you Charles for all your hard work. Write On!*

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CHECK OUT THE

### **Writers Retreat Workshop**

<http://www.writersretreatworkshop.com/>

to be held September 7-11, 2005, in New Smyrna Beach, FL

Local writer Lorin Oberweger (<http://www.free-expressions.com/>) is the Editor-in-Residence and acclaimed Florida mystery novelist (and photographer/song-writer) Tom Corcoran, who has spoken for TWA, (<http://www.tomcorcoran.net>) is also on the staff.

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# **ATTENTION...ATTENTION...ATTENTION**



## **WORDSMITH 2005**

*Order your copy of the Wordsmith 2005 today! Don't wait...the time is now to take advantage of receiving your copy. Contact Lark Underwood immediately at 813-908-3095 or email her at the [1lark@hotmail.com](mailto:1lark@hotmail.com).*

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# TWA's 2005 Writing Contest

## 17th Annual

**DEADLINE IS APPROACHING**

**Entries must be postmarked by October 1<sup>st</sup> or brought to the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting**

OPEN TO ALL

**NEW THIS YEAR -- A Science Fiction/Fantasy Category**  
*...in memory of TWA member MaryAlice Thomas*

**The official 2005 Contest Rules, Manuscript Formats, Entry Form, and TWA Membership Application**

**Can be found on the website at: [tampwriters.org/contest.htm](http://tampwriters.org/contest.htm)**

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## **ArcheBooks Novelist Workshop**

OCTOBER 15-16

**Early Registration ends August 31st**

The Lani Kai Island Resort...Ft. Myers, Florida

For information regarding registration, workshops, hotel accommodations, and ArchBooks, visit their website at: <http://www.archebooks.com/SuptDocs/Workshop.htm>

**15 Hours over 2 Days** of "Immersion Learning" instruction in:

- 1) **How to Write a Commercially Viable Novel**
- 2) **How to Get Your Novel Professionally Published**
- 3) **How to Market and Promote Your Published Novel**

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

As of September 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](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.**

### **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.

## 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>	813-431-3181	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>Kirt Dressler</b>	813-972-0159	kdressler@superiorwriting.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>

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

September is the beginning of the season. Ok, what season? The season of "it won't be long until Christmas". This is so true, but we have so many events to look forward to between now and then.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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

