



# Write Connections

Volume 21 Number 1

January 2006

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, January 4th, 7pm, at John Germany Tampa Library



**Great news... your Tampa Writers Alliance now has 167 members. That is a record high.**

We want to invite all our members, new and old alike, to our upcoming January 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, 7pm in the auditorium in the John Germany Tampa public library, 900 Ashley Street, downtown Tampa.

TWA is presenting an annual 'workshop' program, four segments running consecutively, each 15 minutes in length, followed by a question and answer session. The meeting WILL begin promptly at 7pm, please try and get there on time.

On the agenda are four topics essential to successful writing.

**Legal...** Presented by attorney Kevin Astil who specializes in the legal issues concerning writers and entertainers. Kevin participated in our last mini-seminar program and covered legal issues all writers need to know. This segment alone makes the evening worthwhile. But wait, as they say on so many TV ads, there's more. Along with Kevin's seminar you also get...

**On-Line Research**, presented by member-author Lucy Parker. Where do you find the correct information you need for your piece, be it fiction or non-fiction? Lucy knows, and so will you once you attend this informative and entertaining night of knowledge. But what then? Oh, yes, there is still more to come. You'll also find out about getting your work published in our

**Self-Publishing and Editing** session with Kirt Dressler, our in-house guru of the how-to's in getting your book in print and the advantages (and disadvantages) of traveling the self-publishing route. So now you have a glimpse into the legal world affecting writers, where to go for quick and accurate fact finding, and a crash course in editing and self-publishing. So what's left? The cherry on top of the cupcake comes in the next session,

**Motivation and Time Management for the Writer in You...** presented by motivational speaker and web columnist, Sandra Kischuk. You have the idea, you have the talent, you have the desire, but... how about the discipline necessary to bring the project to fruition? Sandra has suggestions and methods that will prove most helpful. And all this, wrapped up in one single investment of two hours of your time next Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, is a great way to start any writer's New Year. I look forward to seeing you there.

**January 1, 2006**

**Membership renewal time for...**

*Christine Cardin, Michael Dema, Kirt Dressler, Margarita Garcia, Peter Garcia,  
Ginny Hendry, Bruce Hunt, Jo Johnston, K.C. Lucchese, Mark Manolson,  
Whitney Weeks, Patricia Wooster*

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 RIGHT WORD..." from TWA president Jim Chaplin



Well, I do hope your holiday season was as good as ours. Santa was generous, the Christmas Day turkey dinner was our best in decades... and with plenty left over to relive the culinary pleasures. Now it's back to the business of getting on with what we have to get on with. And that is good.

New Years resolutions are the first order of this serious business of getting on, and this year I resolve to make realistic resolutions that at least stand a smattering of a chance of being kept. (*SMIT-er-ing: Not found in any known dictionary in the civilized western world. Alleged meaning: Possibility. Outside chance. Might be. Perhaps.*) This year, no silly resolutions like... "I resolve to loose 35 pound by Valentine's Day" or "I will devise, write, rewrite and sell a series of three action packed spy/murder/detective/ international intrigue/sex-laden/moralistic and humorous novels to either Doubleday or Scribner" "Or maybe Pineapple Press." And definitely not the 1<sup>st</sup> resolution that I have resolved to keep in the last three years, a resolution impossible to keep. Simply stated, it is/was "I resolve not to tell anybody what my New Years Resolutions are." So, sometime around noon on New Years Day, someone would inevitable ask me, "Hey, Jim, what are your new year's resolution." And, invariable, I would answer, "I can't tell you." Well, there you are, I already broke my 1<sup>st</sup> New Years resolution by telling someone that I couldn't tell them thereby breaching the trust of that 1<sup>st</sup> resolution not to tell anyone what my New Years resolutions are. Damn. So, for peace of mind and sense of accomplishment, for 2006, I resolve to make resolutions that I am guaranteed to keep. Like, "I resolve to smile more" and "I resolve to be a really nice guy at least thirty minutes everyday... which does include sleeping time." Oh, and "I resolve to hug my wife at least once a day."

As for my writing, I resolve to stop making excuses for not taking the time to make progress with the several writing projects I am working on by saying something like, "I need to watch my wife wash the dishes," or "I need to seriously think about putting more air in the tires." No sir, not in 2006. When you call, you'll find me sitting in front of my computer, drink in hand, TV kind of turned down, creating and crafting books, articles, essays, letters-to-the-editor, obituaries or checks. Happy New Year. Hope to see you at our January 4<sup>th</sup> general meeting.

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### 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!

## 2006 TAMPA WRITERS ALLIANCE GASPARILLA AWARDS BANQUET

Winners of TWA's 2005 Writing Contest will be Announced  
First Place winners will read their entries.



DATE: Thursday, January 26, 2006

LOCATION: Capde Vila's at La Teresita, 3246 W. Columbus Dr., Tampa

TIME: 6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. (Cash bar in our private dining room at 6:30, dinner at 7:00, awards 8-ish)

COST: \$25.00 per person (tax and gratuity included) *NO TICKETS WILL BE SENT*

DRESS: Business Casual (NO JEANS, PLEASE) (Pirate/Gasparilla Theme, optional)

CHECK: Make Payable To: TAMPA WRITERS ALLIANCE

MAIL TO: Frank Cáceres, TWA Treasurer  
34731 Double Eagle Court, Zephyrhills FL 33541

RESERVATIONS NEEDED BY: **JANUARY 20, 2006**

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
GUEST NAME(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### MENU

Roast Pork, Chicken and Yellow Rice, Black Beans (protein for vegetarians), Plantanitos, Salad, Cuban Bread and Butter, Flan and Cheesecake, Coffee and Tea

### 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)

Local author, Robert W. Britt will be participating in a book signing event at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore on 2501 Tyrone Boulevard in St Petersburg. Britt will be autographing copies of his new Novel *The Finest Moment* on Friday, January 06, 2006 from 7pm – 11pm. Britt will also be appearing at The Barnes and Noble Bookstore on 213 N Dale Mabry in Tampa sometime in February. The confirming this signing should be in the next Write Connections.

### 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	727-868-1016	myacht@tampabay.rr.com
Treasurer	Frank Cáceres	813-431-3181	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	Kirt Dressler	813-972-0159	kdressler@superiorwriting.com
Wordsmith Editor			
Website	Lucy Parker	813-996-1130	lvparker@cytex.com
Publicity/Public Relations	Position open		
Event Coordinator	Position open		
<b>TWA WEBSITE</b>			<b>WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG</b>

## 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

## insipid

Pronunciation: in-'si-p&d

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: French & Late Latin; French *insipide*, from Late Latin *insipidus*, from Latin *in-* + *sapidus* savory, from *sapere* to taste -- more at [SAGE](#)

1 : lacking taste or savor : [TASTELESS](#)

2 : lacking in qualities that interest, stimulate, or challenge : [DULL](#), [FLAT](#)

**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. These will be up for a few months.**

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

As of October, 2005, the Tampa Writers Alliance has seven 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
Carrollwood	Brian Thometz	bthometz@tampabay.rr.com	Open for 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft projects
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.

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

Can you believe another year has passed and 2006 is on our heels in just a few days? I hope you all enjoyed your holiday, and I would like to wish everyone a wonderful and prosperous new year. Inside those resolutions you may choose to make, I hope that writing more is near the top. We are the Tampa Writers Alliance and it is what we do.

I'm sorry this newsletter is quick and short this month, but time constraints have left me with no choice. I hope to see everyone at the banquet on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Have a great writing month and **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Lisa Coleman - Write Connections Editor

**Tampa Writers Alliance**

**Write Connections**

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

