

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, April 5th, 7pm, at John Germany Tampa Library*



Tampa Writers Alliance presents *The Search for Your Own Story*, with Tom Valeo, at the April 5 General Meeting. Writers hope to influence readers, but the act of writing can be powerfully transformative for the writer as well. Crafting a story out of your own experience is one of the best ways to revisit memories, discover the themes that run through your life, and gain insight into your own experience. Tom Valeo has been leading students through a course he calls The Existential Memoir. At 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, he will explain how you can use the four existential “facts of life” to achieve a deeper understanding of your own life. He also will talk about the work of James Pennebaker, a psychologist at the University of Texas who has found that writing thoughtfully about emotionally troubling experiences produces measurable health benefits. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the John Germany Tampa Public Library, 900 Ashley Street, downtown Tampa. Parking is available on the street or in the garage parking (City Fees Apply). Open free to the public.

Valeo is a freelance health writer whose work appears in WebMD, Neurology Today, Scientific American and other publications. He also writes a column on aging for the Seniority section of the St. Petersburg Times, and occasional personal essays for the paper's Sunday Journal. He is working on a text called, The Existential Memoir. You can learn more at [www.existentialmemoir.com](http://www.existentialmemoir.com).

## **April Showers...Bring May Flowers...Not in Florida**

### **Safety Tips to Make it Through a Dry April**

Tampa Bay is suffering from the lack of rain making everything around us dryer than normal. Wildfires have been popping up all around us, so the next time you think about lighting that match, remember some simple rules:

- Have a fire extinguisher or water hose near by
- Don't toss a burning cigarette
- If grilling with wood or coal, watch those embers that fly away. Winds will carry them to extremely dry conditions.
- Use common sense and don't light up unless you have to.
- Have fun, but be aware of the conditions around you.



## "A Writer's Life...Calendar and Notes" from TWA president Sandra Kischuk

### TWA Calendar:

#### APRIL

-5: General Meeting, 7 p.m., John Germany Library

Tom Valeo, St. Pete Times Writer: Memoirs

15: Wordsmith Photo Contest Submissions Due

20: Write Connections articles due

23: ExCom Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Sandra Kischuk's home

23: **NEW MEMBER MEETING**, 3:30 to 7:00 p.m.,

Sandra Kischuk's home.

Please RSVP so we know how much shrimp, wine, and beer to get.

**Old members:** Bring a dish to share and meet the new members.

**New members:** We look forward to meeting you!

### Wordsmith 2006

I am assembling the Wordsmith 2006 publication.

Receiving a free copy requires that you were a current member of TWA on December 31<sup>st</sup> of 2005, and that you actively select to receive a copy. We print based on demand so that we don't spend your money for unwanted copies. If you were not a member, but want to pay for a copy, indicate 'nonmember.'

Sign up at the general meeting, at the new member's party, or by sending an e-mail to James Young, Treasurer, [jayoung@mindspring.com](mailto:jayoung@mindspring.com).

### Wordsmith 2007

We are starting to select judges (non-members) for the 2006 writing contest. If you have suggestions, please forward them to James Young, Contest Coordinator: [jayoung@mindspring.com](mailto:jayoung@mindspring.com), call him at **813.391.1139**.

The prize structure will be:

\$100 for 1<sup>st</sup> place in each category

\$75.00 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in each category

\$50.00 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each category

\$25.00 for Honorable Mentions place in each category with no more than 1 out of every 10 entries

Our "floating" category this year is *Children's Literature* (age to 12, no adult themes, 2,500 word maximum). So get busy with your writing. We will be judging fiction, non-fiction, poetry, scripts, science fiction/fantasy, novel, Ed Hirshberg, and children's literature.

The revised rules will also reflect that all contest entries are with the condition that the entrant currently is or must become a member of TWA.

### Writer's Block

Writer's block can be difficult. The Writer's very definition of him- or herself is caught up in exactly what the person is unable to do. Doubts set in and undermine future attempts. We fail. Maybe we really aren't writers. It is so easy to spiral down, with our internal Editor, that judge of our futile attempts, doing exactly what an Editor does best, picking over our words and thoughts, unfortunately before we can even put them down on paper.

The balance between the logical and creative aspects of our psyches is critical. Too often we let the analytical Editor rule, and the voice of the creative Writer is suppressed. Like trying to walk with one leg dramatically shorter than the other – it's hard not to limp.

Tricking a dominant Editor long enough to get the words down is a matter of playing the Editor's game. "You'll get your turn," you tell the Editor. "First the Writer gets to say something, then you get to look it over."

"That makes sense," says the Editor.

And suddenly you are exercising and strengthening a long-disused muscle. An insistent Editor may try again to take over: "I know how to do this, and you're not doing it right!"

Guess what you say to this somewhat spoiled brat? "It's not your turn. When the Writer is done, you'll get your turn."

"Oh," says the Editor. "That's logical."

When your writing is done, you don't hand the mess over to a dear friend or your mom and expect them to coo and pat you on the back. (Which they probably will. Just remember who praised you when you were potty training, and you will put things back in perspective.)

What you do now is fulfill your promise and turn your work over to your internal Editor who is anxiously waiting to edit the heck out of it.

Having this much work to do will usually make the Editor very happy, although you may be chastised by unwelcome and subversive comments: "If you had listened to me in the first place, you wouldn't have made these mistakes!" Just remember 'mistake' is a judgment word, and exactly the kind of critical comment that probably got you into writer's block in the first place.

"That's okay," you say. "It's your turn now and you're doing a such a great job editing. I'm going to have to get the Writer busy so you can keep doing your wonderful work. And when it's your turn..."

**April 1, 2006**

**Membership renewal time for...**

*Skip Allen, Vee Dayton, Gerri Almond, Kenneth Clanton, Ann Cook, Kaye Coppersmith, Usman Chani, Karen McKinney, Bryan Meckley, Michael Molony, Stephanie Moore, Brian Randall, Thomas Reciniello, Lynn Rothman Venus, Wade Wetherington*

Members may bring their \$25 annual dues to the next General Meeting, or mail it to:

**Jim Young**, 2826 Keysville Rd East, Lithia, Florida 33547

**Members receiving *WC* via the US mail, your renewal date is on your label.**

**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!

**Corrections from the 2005 Writing Contest**

In the February edition of the TWA Write Connection, a few errors were recorded and published. Here are those corrections.

Max Courson	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Novel	"The Pulpwood Annie Tapes"
Bryan Meckley	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Fiction Short Story	"Ole Boy"
Lynn Veach Sadler	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Play/Screenplay	"Death Nell"
Thomas Pienta	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Novel	"PTSD and My Personal War With the Grim Reaper"
Jennifer Donice Lewis	4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Fiction Short Story	"Me-MySuperwoman"

**Writer Weblinks**

TWA is linking to member's websites. E-mail your name and web address to our webmaster, James Chaplin, at [jpcflorida@hotmail.com](mailto:jpcflorida@hotmail.com), so we can link up with you and people that find TWA can find you! We may also set up a TWA blog. Your thoughts and input would be appreciated

**Book Raffles**

Got a book you published that you want to donate to the TWA? We will raffle one or two off at each general meeting...which gives you the opportunity to present and promote your book and get it in the hands of the TWA readership!

**Thought for the month:**

A Writer is not a person who thinks about writing...a Writer is a person who writes.

**Welcome to  
Eugene Orlando,  
our new  
Member-At-Large!**

## **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)



New TWA Member Tracey Henry's book "**Suburban Diva: From the Real Side of the Picket Fence**", has just been published by Ephemera Bound Publishing. It is currently available on Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com.

It is a humor book based on the weekly column, "Suburban Diva," that she has written for the last 3 years.

All information can be accessed via my website [SuburbanDiva.com](http://SuburbanDiva.com).

Her FIRST BOOKING SIGNING EVENT: Friday, April 21

Cover to Cover Books Tavernier Towne Shopping Center, MM 91.2, BS, 91272 Overseas Hwy., Tavernier, FL 33070 Phone: 305/853-2464

In February, Angie Jones' "**Two Sure Things**" was awarded "**Best Of**" The Short Story I Workshop at the Eckerd College Writers in Paradise Writers' Conference and will be published this summer in the inaugural edition of **Sabal**. Her poem "**Treasures**" also placed 3rd in the **Best of Florida Poetry Contest** and was presented at the Will McLean Music Festival in March.

### **WORD OF THE MONTH**

**maunder** • \MAWN-der\ • *verb*

1 : chiefly *British* : grumble

2 : to wander slowly and idly

\*3 : to speak indistinctly or disconnectedly

## **Still Time Left to Enter the Writer's Digest International Self-Published Book Awards**

Deadline to enter the [14th Annual Writer's Digest's International Self-Published Book Awards](#) is **May 1, 2006**.

Competition is open to all English-language books for which the author has paid the full cost of publication, or the cost of printing has been paid for with a grant or prize. All books published or revised and reprinted in 2004, 2005, or 2006 are eligible. **Entrants must send a printed and bound book.**

### **The Categories:**

Mainstream/Literary Fiction - Genre Fiction - Nonfiction - Inspirational (Spiritual, New Age)

Life Stories (Biographies, Autobiographies, Family Histories, Memoirs) - Children's books

Middle-Grade/Young Adult books - Reference Books (Directories, Encyclopedias, Guide books) -

Poetry

For a complete list of rules and to download an entry form, [visit WritersDigest.com](http://WritersDigest.com)

## 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.

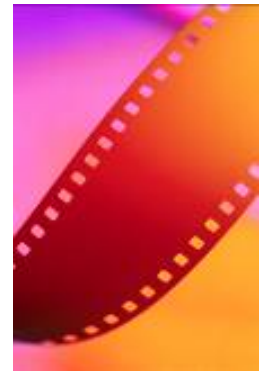
Warner D. Conarton, coordinator [warnerc@quixnet.net](mailto:warnerc@quixnet.net)



## Photo Contest – Date has been Extended

What photograph will be on the cover of our 2006 Wordsmith? Maybe one *you* took. Your TWA Executive Committee met on February 5<sup>th</sup> and made a few decisions that create more activities for TWA members, one being the opportunity for everyone who wishes to take part in Wordsmith's cover design by electronically submitting up to three digital photographs. The photographer who submits the winning photo will be awarded a \$50 cash prize. What we are looking for is a brilliantly inspired photo that highlights a local Tampa Bay scene or landmark that would make an appropriate book cover. What you shoot is up to you. Only conditions are that the person submitting must be a TWA member and is entering photographs that he or she personally took. Send your entries to Sandra Kischuk at [sjkischuk@juno.com](mailto:sjkischuk@juno.com) Put 'Photo contest' in the subject line.

All entries must be received by April 15, 2006. Happy snapping and good luck.



It's the competition's 75th year, and we're celebrating by giving away more than \$30,000 in cash and prizes! Log on to: <http://www.writersdigest.com/contests/annual/75th/>

**Grand Prize:** \$3,000 cash and an all-expense paid trip to New York City. That's right, *Writer's Digest* will fly you and a guest to The Big Apple, where you'll share your winning work with four editors or agents!

1,001 winners will be chosen in all! Just be sure to send us your best by the **May 15, 2006** deadline.

Don't wait — enter the 75th Annual *Writer's Digest* Writing Competition today!

### Compete and Win in 10 Categories!

- ❖ Inspirational Writing (Spiritual/Religious)
- ❖ Memoirs/Personal Essay
- ❖ Magazine Feature Article
- ❖ Genre Short Story (Mystery, Romance, etc.)
- ❖ Mainstream/Literary Short Story
- ❖ Rhyming Poetry
- ❖ Non-rhyming Poetry
- ❖ Stage Play (\* submission by mail only)
- ❖ Television/Movie Script (\* submission by mail only)
- ❖ Children's/Young Adult Fiction

Plus, reserve your copy of the **75th Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition Collection!** This exclusive book published by **Outskirts Press** will contain the Grand Prize-winning manuscript, the First Place manuscript in each category, and the names of all 1,001 winners of the 75th Annual Competition.

**Entry Fee:** Poems are \$10 for the first entry; \$5 for each additional poem submitted in the same online session. All other entries are \$15 for the first manuscript; \$10 for each additional manuscript submitted in the same online session.

Add \$2 per manuscript to all entries postmarked after Monday, May 15, 2006. Entries postmarked after Thursday, June 01, 2006, will not be accepted.

## 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@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
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.**

## TWA Directory

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
President	<b>Sandra Kischuk</b>	813-935-7760	<a href="mailto:sjkischuk@juno.com">sjkischuk@juno.com</a>
Vice President	<b>Skip Allen</b>	813-975-0254	<a href="mailto:Efa451@aol.com">Efa451@aol.com</a>
Secretary	<b>Cathie Astl</b>	813-994-5455	<a href="mailto:cathieastl@hotmail.com">cathieastl@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	<b>Jim Young</b>	813-737-1688	<a href="mailto:jayoung@mindspring.com">jayoung@mindspring.com</a>
Member-at-Large	<b>Eugene Orlando</b>		<a href="mailto:tpg@eugeneorlando.com">tpg@eugeneorlando.com</a>
Poetry	<b>Warner Conarton</b>	352-588-3228	<a href="mailto:warnerc@quixnet.net">warnerc@quixnet.net</a>
Write Connections Editor	<b>Lisa Coleman</b>	813-662-5115	<a href="mailto:mectampa@tampabay.rr.com">mectampa@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Critique Group	<b>Kirt Dressler</b>	813-972-0159	<a href="mailto:kdressler@superiorwriting.com">kdressler@superiorwriting.com</a>
Wordsmith Editor			
Website	<b>Jim Chaplin</b>	813-835-4255	<a href="mailto:jpcflorida@hotmail.com">jpcflorida@hotmail.com</a>
Publicity/Public Relations	<b>Position open</b>		
Event Coordinator	<b>Position open</b>		

**TWA WEBSITE**

**WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG**

### Literary Agent Scam

A clever aspiring screenwriter has recorded his efforts to uncover the fraud behind a literary agent scam which is widely advertised via Google ads. "Danny Broderick" sent the world's worst screenplay to this "agent" and received nothing but encouragement, along with veiled requests for money to cover the services of "independent" editors. Read all about it in attorney Warren Hsu Leonard's blog at <http://www.screenwritinglife.com/i-spy-pt-4-of-3-the-saga-comes-to-an-end>.

Work on TWA's new Authors page for our Web site is underway. It will feature member-author's names, a head shot picture, a picture of the book being promoted, and a brief bio along with a message about the author's book(s) as well as a link to the their Website. Any TWA member with a book to promote, novel, non-fiction, poetry, whatever, send this information to Jim Chaplin at [jpcflorida@hotmail.com](mailto:jpcflorida@hotmail.com)

### DON'T MISS...

"An Evening with Ted Kooser", American's Poet Laureate, is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th, at 7:30 at the Pasco Schools Center for the Arts in Wesley Chapel. Admission is free, but seating is limited and reservations are recommended.

Call (813) 782-2831 or (813) 994-8374.

The Grant Institute's **Grants 101: Professional Grant Proposal Writing Workshop** will be held at the University of Central Florida Live Oak Event Center, Room Live Oak A in Orlando, Florida, May 8 - 10, 2006, 8:00am – 5:00pm. Interested development professionals, researchers, faculty, and graduate students should register as soon as possible, as demand means that seats will fill up quickly. Please forward, post, and distribute this e-mail to your colleagues and listservs.

All participants will receive certification in professional grant writing from the Institute. For more information call (888) 824 - 4424 or visit The Grant Institute website at <http://www.thegrantinstitute.com/>.

## REGISTRATION

\$597.00 tuition includes all materials and certificates.

Each student will receive:

- The Grant Institute Certificate in Professional Grant writing
- The Grant Institute's Guide to Successful Grant Writing
- The Grant Institute Grant Writer's Workbook with sample proposals, forms, and outlines

## REGISTRATION METHODS

1) On-Line - Visit [www.thegrantinstitute.com](http://www.thegrantinstitute.com) and click on the Registration area. Fill out the online registration form completely. We'll send your confirmation by e-mail.

2) By Phone - Call toll free (888) 824 - 4424 to register by phone. Our friendly Program Coordinators will be happy to assist you and answer your questions.

3) By E-mail - Send an e-mail with your name, organization, and basic contact information to [info@thegrantinstitute.com](mailto:info@thegrantinstitute.com) and we will reserve your slot and send your Confirmation Packet.

### **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...***

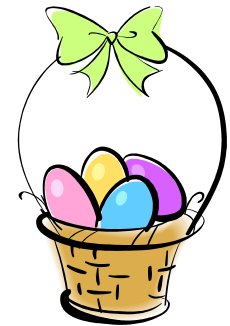
For those of you who will receive this via email, don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour for Daylight Savings Time. For those who have decided they no longer need to party all night long, make sure you Spring ahead so that you can lose that hour of sleep before you go to bed Saturday night. Then, for those of you Party Animals out there, the bars will still be open at 2:00am or 3:00 am (depending on your point of view). You too will lose an hour of sleep, but I'm sure you will make up for it Sunday afternoon.



April is filled with exciting new beginnings. Many of you will go to church in celebration of Easter Sunday. Others may celebrate this holiday on Good Friday.

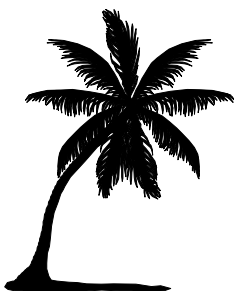
There may be some of you out there that will not acknowledge either, but one thing is for sure that here in America, many children will be wearing new clothes and hopping around hunting eggs.

I miss the days when I colored eggs, hide them and see the anticipation on my kids' faces. Of course, they were on the lookout for that one large egg with money in it. As the price of real estate and gas escalates, inflation is inevitable...I think those things are stuffed with \$10 or \$20 bills now. I remember putting \$1.00 in each big egg...one for each kid. I was always broke after that Sunday. Maybe I should be glad I don't have to deal with the "going rate". Whatever your plans, make April a wonderful month to spend with special friends and family...and find a moment to do something for yourself.



## ***Happy Easter*** 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