



Write Connections

Volume 21 Number 6

June 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, June 7th, 7pm, at John Germany Tampa Library

Hooks Workshop

Does your writing capture the reader from the very beginning? How do you create the kind of work that's 'sticky'—once you get it in readers' hands, they can't put it down?

If you go fishing, you bait your hook so the fish take the worm and then can't let go. Your writing can do the same thing so you can reel in readers.



'Hooks' are essential and universal. This is a tool you can use:

- in your query letter to intrigue a potential agent,
- on your back cover copy to entice the reader to open your book,
- in the first sentence, the first paragraph, and on the first page
- at the end of a chapter to transition to the next chapter, making your work a page turner
- within your non-fiction work to move the reader into and through your piece

TWA President Sandra Kischuk, who writes a motivational newsletter distributed to over 3,000 readers weekly, will lead a hands-on hooks workshop at the General Meeting on June 7 at 7 p.m. at the John Germany Library. You will learn the keys to creating a winning hook, and get practice doing it.

Sandra has had articles about research in the USF College of Engineering published statewide and nationally.

ExComm Positions Filled

Michael Pleasant has been appointed to the position of Vice President. After a long absence with no Publicity Chair, Adele Walter has taken over that position. Thanks to both of you for stepping up as a volunteer in a leadership capacity for TWA.

June 1, 2006

Membership renewal time for...

Kenneth Clanton, Usman Chani, Vee Dayton, Karen McKinney, Bryan Meckley, Michael Molony, Stephanie Moore, Thomas Reciniello, Lynn Rothman Venus

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.

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

TWA Calendar:

JUNE

- June 7: General Meeting, 7 p.m., John Germany Library... "Hooks Workshop," led by Sandra Kischuk
- June 20: Write Connections articles due
- Thank you for Michael Pleasant for stepping forward to be our new Vice President!
- And thank you again for Adele Walter for volunteering to serve as our Publicity Chair!

Wordsmith 2006

I am assembling the Wordsmith 2006 publication. Receiving a free copy requires that you were a current member of TWA on December 31st 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.

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, call him at 813.391.1139.

The prize structure will be:

- \$100 for 1st place in each category
- \$75.00 for 2nd place in each category
- \$50.00 for 3rd 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.

Some of the work coming through the critique group, the novel pods, the poetry workshop, and the TWA annual contest is refreshingly well done, a delight. Some is not.

Writing is one of the most democratic of pursuits. Given paper and a pencil, or access to a word processor or computer, anyone can call him- or herself a writer. Even without those tools, there are some who claim to be writers waiting for the inspiration for their yet unwritten best seller. A lot of us dream of overnight success, that we will be recognized as extraordinary, and achieve fame if only we can find that influential someone to promote us...or at least we know *other* writers like that.

I have been amazed more than once by the poor quality of work presented to the critique group or submitted to the TWA contest. Poorly written, unfocused ramblings, with one tired, overused phrase strung onto the next are presented as if optimism was a substitute for talent and hard work. I liken it to the attitude in rock music that volume is a substitute for talent. I think the only person fooled is the one who thinks they are fooling everyone else.

Badly written material lacks plot or character development, or in the worst cases, both. Convoluted, run on sentences, or broken phrases completely lose the reader. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar mistakes turn our reading into a painful stutter. We see poetry with words splattered across the page, perhaps written in sonnet form as if the form would excuse the lack of content. We are supposed to be impressed by thoughts so deep we can't understand them.

"Read this for me," is a request I have heard more than once from an aspiring writer. "See what you think."

I choke. I look at the work which has probably never seen an editor.

Mr. or Ms. Babble continues. "I need a little help with the grammar and punctuation, and then I need to find an agent."

"You need an editor, or else run it through a critique group." I try to phrase it delicately, suppressing the yawn or horror the work inspires.

"Oh, the writing is fine. I only need a little help for the punctuation and spelling. The rest is perfect."

"Good luck," I say handing the material back to them. I have no interest in spending the hours and days that would be required to clean it up. They don't have any interest in paying to have the work done. In a few months, they will send their unedited, self-published work out into the world, where their friends and family will buy it. No one else will pick it up.

That is the reality of not being willing to practice the craft, to edit (or pay for editing), and rewrite. There are no shortcuts.

~*~*~

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, 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:

Overnight successes do not just happen. Practice, practice, practice to make your dream a reality.

ATTENTION

Interested in being in a NOVELPOD! Now is the time to make your interest known. Contact Jim Young immediately at jayoung@mindspring.com
Note: Jim has spamblocker so you'll have to confirm your e-mail isn't spam to get through.

Carrollwood Area Novel Pod

Members Barry Newberger, Tom Gill, and Stephen Juers are looking for a 4th to create a new novel pod. **Anyone interested?** Details have not been worked out. Contact Sandra Kischuk at sjkischuk@juno.com or 813.935.7760 and your interest will be passed on to those involved.

TWA Critique Group – Al Lucas, Coordinator

Al Lucas has stepped in to take over the job of coordinating the Critique Group. Please send your submissions and other appropriate information to him from now on at ALthePhilosopher@aol.com

Al's a great guy. For those of you who were around when we critiqued Al's novel know that he is one hell of a writer. His critiques are always kindly, often humorous, but right to the point. As for his organizational skills, Al often works as a substitute teacher for lower grade school classes. He is almost as crazy as a bunch of us. What more could one ask?

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.

This month: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 & 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Visitors are welcome; but, to be critiqued, you must be a TWA member. Dues are only \$25 yearly beginning the month you join. For further information, visit our Website at: www.tampawriters.org

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 or 352-588-3228



The 14th Annual *St. Petersburg Times* Festival of Reading is scheduled for Saturday, October 28, 2006 at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus. Last year our authors took advantage of the opportunity to sell their books through the TWA sponsored booth. If you are interested in participating, let me know so I can add you to the list. We are hoping to fill *two* booths this year. Deadline for signups is the October 4, 2006 meeting, but I really need to know before then so I can reserve our required space. If anyone wants a short volunteer project, this is one that is relatively easy and very rewarding. Call me to reserve or to volunteer. Sandra Kischuk, 813.935.7760, or e-mail at sjkischuk@juno.com.

Publishing Information

Worth Remembering Publishing, Inc. is a new publishing company that creates wonderful books filled with tributes to people "worth remembering." We are looking for freelance writers who are interested in seeing their work in print AND who would like to be compensated for their effort. This is an exciting opportunity for your members. The details are available in the "Writer's Workshop" at our website, www.worthrememberingpublishing.com

Book Marketing Solutions, LCC a unique publishing company with a wide range of services from publication, to marketing and PR. Our business includes the online bookstore, ReadingUp.com, and four publishing brands:

~AustinHamilton (fine literature, novels, memoirs, poetry)
~BMS Expert (business, self-help, personal development)
~Harvest Day Books (Christian faith)
~Holy Cow Publishing (uplifting books for children)

We exist to meet the professional publishing goals of our very select group of authors. Our company purposefully constructed our business model to be "author friendly" and we personally direct each project and oversee our team of talented editors, designers, printers, marketers, and more.

Because each book is unique and the best approach may be rather intricate, we conduct personal brief consultations to better understand the individual needs of each author. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to reply to this e-mail and I will personally respond as quickly as possible, or visit our website at www.BookMarketingSolutions.com. The authors in your group can truly benefit from the outstanding services we provide. Please share this great resource with them and give them my email address or phone number if need be.

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LEGEND PRESS SHORT STORY CONTEST

Legend Press is running a writing contest exclusively for FanStory.com writers. This is your chance to win a cash prize and be published in Legend Press's sequel to the successful short story collection [The Remarkable Everyday](#). We are looking for fictional stories that follow a character for a single day from a particular cultural angle. This is a real opportunity to put your writing talent to the test.

The contest winner will be published and also receive a cash prize. All runner-ups will also be considered for publication. Deadline: Tuesday, June 27th. Go to <http://www.fanstory.com/contests.jsp#legend> for contest rules.

Florida Writers Association is accepting submissions for their annual contest. Contest rules and guidelines can be found at www.floridawriters.net. ALL submissions must be postmarked by: **July 1, 2006.**

WORD OF THE MONTH

foodie • \FOO-dee\ • *noun*

: a person having an avid interest in the latest food fads

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

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. 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 nd draft projects
Citrus Hills	Lou Kiefer	kiefers@digitalusa.net	Open
South / Central Tampa	Sarah Byrne Greenwood	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 mqlakis@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	Sandra Kischuk	813-935-7760	sjkischuk@juno.com
Vice President	Michael Pleasant	813-325-0314	pleasmw@aol.com
Secretary	Cathie Astl	813-994-5455	cathieastl@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Jim Young	813-737-1688	jayoung@mindspring.com
Member-at-Large	Eugene Orlando	813-657-2636	tpg@eugeneorlando.com
Poetry	Warner Conarton	352-588-3228	warnerc@quixnet.net
Write Connections Editor	Lisa Coleman	813-662-5115	mectampa@tampabay.rr.com
Critique Group	Al Lucas	813-899-0438	ALthePhilosopher@aol.com
Wordsmith Editor			
Website	Jim Chaplin	813-835-4255	jpcflorida@hotmail.com
Publicity/Public Relations	Adele Walter	813-932-6902	adeleidawalter@hotmail.com
Event Coordinator	Position open		
TWA WEBSITE			WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG

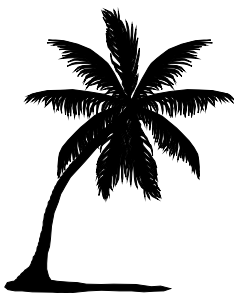
On producing your monthly Write Connections...

Summer is here...the beach, the pool, amusement parks, or just hanging around inside where it is cool makes for lazy days. OK, so, I'm dreaming, but I do manage to get to a wonderful beach (at least once a month) between Jacksonville and Amelia Island. It is a state park called Little Talbot Island and it is my heaven. If any of you get to take a vacation and you love the beach, this state park is a highly recommended must! You can check it out at:
<http://www.floridastateparks.org/littletalbotisland/default.cfm>



Stay Cool and **Write On!**

Lisa Coleman – Write Connections Editor



Tampa Writers Alliance

Write Connections

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