



Write Connections

Volume 21 Number 7

July 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.

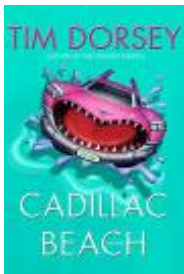
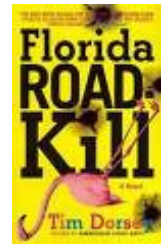
Next TWA General Meeting

Wednesday, July 5th, 7pm, at John Germany Tampa Library



Tim Dorsey – “Living Your Dream”

Florida writing sensation and published author, Tim Dorsey, will entertain the Florida Writers Alliance on July 5th by presenting: “Living Your Dream: Writing Novels about your Interests and



Getting Them Published”. Our July General Meeting of the TWA starts at 7 p.m. at the John Germany Library. Tim is always a popular speaker for us, and has written Florida Roadkill, Hammerhead Ranch, Orange Crush, Triggerfish Twist, Stingray Shuffle, Cadillac Beach, and Torpedo Juice.

Born in Indiana, Tim moved to Florida at the age of 1, and grew up in a small town about an hour north of Miami called Riviera Beach. Tim currently lives in Tampa with his family.

This is one meeting you do not want to miss!

Becky Salichova will be our Guest Speaker in September



Becky Salichova of Bouncing Ball Books (www.bouncingballbooks.com) is listed on the Tampa Writers Alliance as being our July speaker. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Becky has agreed to speak to us on September 6th at 7:00 p.m. Her topic will be “**What a Publisher is Looking For,**” and she will cover the process of publishing, the process of writing, market vision, the advantages of being an independent publisher, and why this particular publisher focuses on children’s books and short story collections. Becky will remind the TWA of the Miami Book Fair International on November 12th – 19th, and kick-off a cooperative Tampa Writers Alliance/Bouncing Ball Books Short Story Collection Contest with a Grand Prize publishing contract.

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

TWA Calendar:

July 2006

- July 5: General Meeting, 7 p.m., John Germany Library... "What a Publisher is Looking For," led by Becky Salichova of Bouncing Ball Books
- July 20: Write Connections articles due

Wordsmith 2005

We still have a few copies left for those who are interested. Mail \$10 per book (along with \$2 shipping per copy if you don't want to pick it up at a general meeting or at Sandy's house) to:

James Young
2826 Keysville Rd East
Lithia, FL 33547

Wordsmith 2006

Last call for those who want to reserve copies...I expect to have the files ready for the printer within the month. Contact James Young, 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.

We mistake a large task for one that is impossible, and in doing so, turn away from the opportunity to grow and learn new things. BIG WORK scares us. Writing a WHOLE BOOK scares us. Maybe, just maybe, we hope, we are one of those gifted individuals born with a golden pen, whose thoughts flow out magically to bless the eyes and ears of the less fortunate. But why is it so *hard*?

We try to find short cuts, tapping our words onto a computer screen, ignoring the fact that the process of writing is not only butt-in-seat thought-transcription exercise, but the editing and re-editing that turns your work from what originally looked so good to you to something a reader treasures. When we finally *communicate* with these fickle individuals, we know we are writers...not just in the sense of someone who scrawls cryptic phrases across virgin paper, but someone who has the ability to change how others live.

Good writers become a part of how people think and feel...they care about what their readers care about, they think and feel what the readers think and feel. I have heard it said that most people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. This applies to writing. If you don't know your audience, if you don't really *care* about them and what they need, why would you even think they would care about what you have to say?

Writing involves a symbiotic relationship. Just as the reader depends on the writer to reveal new truths (even if the writing is in the form of fiction), the writer depends on the reader. This is *who we are talking to*.

When we start writing, it is nice to have validation from others. I will never forget the 4th and 6th grade teacher who continually encouraged my outpouring of grade school writing or the 7th grade English teacher who ran down the hall clutching my poem to her chest. A high school friend took a huge bunch of my poems with him to Florida for his band to turn into songs. He told me how great the work was. He also lost the whole spiral bound notebook—everything—which taught me another hard lesson: the person who most treasures your work (aside from your mother) is you.

As we get older, validation is harder to get. There are always others whose crayon scribbles are better than ours. We find that we have to *work* to create our writing and that when it comes to marketing it, that's our job, too. On the other hand, we find unique things we can offer. Life throws a lot of 'stuff' at us. That stuff can be the start of a new approach...and something that only we, by our experience, can offer.

At the beginning of June, I got a dose of wheat and being very allergic to it, was basically down for close to two weeks. Those who heard me speak on the 7th had no idea how close I came to not making the meeting. I cancelled other presentations and meetings for a fortnight. It was only by the grace of Jim Young, who was willing to drive me there, that I was even able to do my presentation. The experience is fodder...and I may have another website or book out of it. Now just to get the time to get it all down!.....Sandra

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:

It's the little pieces that add up...the sentence that grows into a paragraph, the paragraph to a page, the page to a chapter, the chapter to a book. Have you written that one sentence today?

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, July 12, 2006 & Wednesday, July 26, 2006 at 7:pm

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.

Contest Information

Annual 2006 Mom's Choice Children's Book Awards

The Just For Mom Foundation has announced their 2006 Mom's Choice Children's Book Awards. Winners will be announced November 1, 2006. The prestigious Mom's Choice Awards designation will be given to entries whose content and design are stellar and notable. The Mom's Choice Awards designation will assist parents, teachers, and loved ones in choosing approved materials for their children.

Submissions will be accepted from **May 1** until **September 1, 2006**. For [guidelines](#), entry fees, more information and an official [entry form](#), please visit:
<http://www.momschoiceawards.com/>.

2006 DIY Book Festival

The 2006 DIY (Do It Yourself) Book Festival has issued a call for entries for its annual program, which celebrates the success of independent authors and publishers.

The DIY Book Festival will consider self-published or independent publisher nonfiction, fiction, children's books, how-to, photography/art, comics, 'zines, fan fiction, poetry and e-books released after Jan. 1, 2005. All entries must be in English and must have been self-published or issued by an independent house that has published less than fifty works since the entry cut-off point. (**Please note that iUniverse authors are eligible.**)

Grand prize for the 2006 DIYBF Author of the Year is \$1500 and a flight to Los Angeles for the gala awards ceremony.

The deadline for submissions in each category is by the close of business on **September 25, 2006**.

AWARDS: Winners of the 2006 DIY Book Festival will be honored at a gala ceremony held in October in Los Angeles. You do not need to be present to accept your award or accompanying prizes.

Visit: <http://www.diyconvention.com/> for more information

*****Mark Your Calendars **** September 22 & 23 2006**
Double Tree Busch Gardens

Sortn' Through Your Memories Retreat

The Stars are Coming Out!!!! Scheduled to appear:

Paula Stahel - Oral History Expert
Uwezo Sudan - Griot
Myron Jackson - Musician
Yolanda Decoursey - Creative Consultant

Hands On Work Sessions - Discussion with a "Ghost" (writer)
Journals - Why & How - Memorabilia - Preservation & Display - Much, Much More

Register now \$100 after 7/31/06 \$125

<http://www.profcs.com/app/netcart.asp?MerchantID=84679&offerID=21299>

Did You Know? Additional Family Members **25% OFF!!!** [Pay for yourself and family members](#)

WORD OF THE MONTH

quirk • \KWURK\ • verb
: curve, twist

“READ UP A STORM” BOOK DRIVE July 1-31 2006

REBUILDING HURRICANE AFFECTED SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN MISSISSIPPI & LOUISIANA ONE BOOK AT A TIME

Please help us restock the libraries of Louisiana and Mississippi schools destroyed by the 2005 hurricane season. Your donation ensures their children can go back to school with books and learning tools.

Simply purchase a book suitable for any school-age child (K-12) and leave it with the cashier. Books will be collected the entire month of July and delivered by Barnes & Noble booksellers on behalf of its customers in August 2006.

BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKSELLERS

Barnes & Noble Carrollwood 11802 N. Dale Mabry Highway
813-962-6446 813-962-4799 fax

July 1, 2006

Membership renewal time for...

Eduvigia Ancaya, Staci Backauskas, Chris Battle, Robert Brinkman, Kathryn Carson, Cynthia Chalu, Lisa Coleman, Jerry Cowling, Valerie Doherty, Joshua Good, Charles Greenwood, Ian Greig, David Hackett, Larry Hires, Robin Knowles, Albert Lucas, Rebecca Macintyre, Doug Maloney, Claire Norton, Ursula Odom, Lucy Parker, Rockford Rathgeber, Frances Robinson, Brian Roth

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.

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

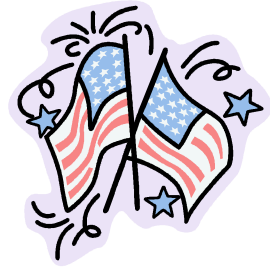
Each Novel Pod is limited to just a few writers who are actively creating a novel-length book of fiction. Authors read each others work-in-progress offering beneficial ideas and positive critiques. Is what ‘you’ve’ written clear? Is what you’re attempting to convey coming through? A TWA Novel Pod can help you write a better book.

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...

Independence Day is but a few days away, and I wanted to elaborate on the true meaning. Is it being on the boat catching a bunch of fish? Is it lying on the beach, working on that dark tan (or in my case, a bunch of freckles and a sunburn)? Is it going out with friends, getting drunk while the fireworks are shot into the sky? Maybe its about "vacation" and being with friends and family. Maybe its about camaraderie with co-workers and "just hanging out".



Webster-Merriam Dictionary defines Independence Day as:

Function: *noun*

: a civil holiday for the celebration of the anniversary of the beginnings of national independence; *specifically* : July 4 observed as a legal holiday in the U.S. in commemoration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776

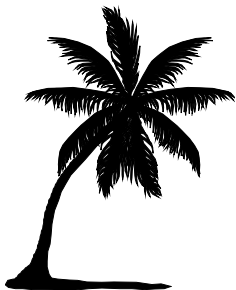
The 4th of July is all of these things and more. America – Our Home – Our Independence to be FREE!

So, while you are eating those BBQ Ribs, laughing and enjoying life with your family, watching the skies light up around you, please remember our troops all around the world who are fighting for our continued freedoms.



Stay Cool 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