



Write Connections

Volume 21 Number 8

August 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, August 2nd, 7pm, at John Germany Tampa Library



Tampa Book Buzz Lisa Ciurro, who originated the Tampa Book Buzz blog <http://tampabookbuzz.blogspot.com/> will be addressing the TWA General Meeting on Wednesday, August 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Downtown Tampa John Germany Library auditorium. Lisa acknowledges that there are many authors who now have blogs. Learn the pros/cons of this new marketing technique. What is blogging, why writers should consider blogging, and how to use your blog to market yourself (and your work) will be topics addressed by this well known and highly visible Tampa literary icon. Lisa has a lot to offer - don't miss this one.



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.

TampaBayIn.Com Has Been Launched

Two Local Authors Interviewed

Tampa Bay has a new Center of Influence. **TampaBayIn.Com.**

They are reporting that "from Monday's Launch to Friday at 4:00pm, tampabayin.com registered almost **51,000 hits**, over 26,000 pages downloaded (video or animation viewed by visitors, or files downloaded) and nearly 3,000 page impressions". **All in 5 days.**

Take a look at it. www.tampabayin.com

In June, local poet, **Art Moore**, passed away. Art wrote and read his poetry locally. He taught poetry at the Pinellas County Schools for the Great American Teach-in, he taught a class on poetry for the local FWA Palm. He organized many local poetry spoken word venues, carted his mic and amp and encouraged new and seasoned poets to share their work. He is greatly missed by his friends and the poetry community. Before June, Art provided the information on local poetry venues for this e-newsletter, so I guess I may miss him most of all. If anyone in the poetry community would like to provide this info in the future, please let me know.

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

TWA Calendar:

August 2006

- 2: General Meeting, 7 p.m., John Germany Library... "Blogging to Market Yourself," led by Lisa Ciurro of Tampa Book Buzz
- 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.

The hot humidity of summer owns our days, and we wait wondering what the hurricane season will bring us. In defiance, I put my butterfly garden in today. I had been delayed by illness for the last six weeks, and I am finally moving again, amazed as the energy returns to recognize how sick I really was.

My focus has turned to reading, both books with stories and books about books.

I found some interesting statements about character development, describing what makes a character "work." First, everything, including characters, needs to be larger than life. The reader only gets a piece of what you put into a character. If you base the character on a real person, it isn't big enough, and the character will seem flat. One book I read said, "No wimps." Readers don't want to read about wimps and wishy-washy people. I think I should write that in big letters and post it on my office wall.

Second, I read that every character must have motivations for specific actions and overall goals. I thought about some of my characters, and realize that I have some major homework to do. I have to figure out what each one wants, even the characters I don't like, and use those needs to create the conflict that moves a story forward. I have been guilty of ignoring the goals of my minor characters. Maybe these characters get in the way of what my main characters want, but it has to be *more* than that...there has to be a reason for why they do what they do.

I have always thought of it as "pushing," taking the slightly bizarre plot things that happen in our lives, and making them just a little "more." I need to do that for my characters. No wimps.

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: No Wimps.

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, August 9, 2006 & Wednesday, August 23, 2006 at 7:pm

Visitors are welcome to attend if interested in joining, but only members' works will be discussed, generally 4-5 pieces per session. 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. If anyone wants a short volunteer project, this is one that is relatively easy and very rewarding. If you are interested in participating, contact Stephen Juers at sljbook@yahoo.com so he can add you to the list.

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

omnipotent • \ahm-NIP-uh-tunt\ 🗣️ • *adjective*

: having virtually unlimited authority or influence

August 1, 2006

Membership renewal time for...

Eduvigia Ancaya, Staci Backauskas, Chris Battle, Robert Brinkman, Lisa Coleman, Valerie Doherty, Joshua Good, Charles Greenwood, David Hackett, Larry Hires, Albert Lucas, Rebecca Macintyre, 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

Adele Ida Walter's letter "**MORE REGULATION FOR 'ADULT' BUSINESSES**" regarding: Question of Adult Use or Misuse was published in the St. Pete Times on June 26.

Ersula Odom & Alicia Warren's interviews on "**Between the Pages**" hosted by Felecia Winton Taylor owner of Books For Thought.

Chris Battle's short movie script, "**The Survivors Club**" will be produced this summer by the Florida Motion Pictures and Television Association. Part of it will be filmed at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Congratulations Chris!!! You can email her for more details at ChrisBattleInfo@aol.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...

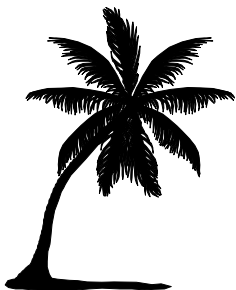
Summer is almost over....yeah right! Not in Florida! Hillsborough County kids go back to school on August 3rd and the roads will once again crowd our morning and afternoon commutes. My message to all of you is be aware and be careful.



Other counties go back: Pinellas & Pasco: August 8th; Polk: August 25th; Manatee: August 7th

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