

Write Connections

Volume 21 Number 9

September 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, September 6th, 7pm, at John Germany Tampa Library

Becky Salichova will be our Guest Speaker in September

Becky Salichova of Bouncing Ball Books (www.bouncingballbooks.com) 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.



Get Ready to Party October 4th!

Our regular meeting next month, October 4, will be a pot luck House Party at the home of President, Sandra Kischuk. Every member, new member, and prospective member is invited. TWA will supply the party-ware plus beer, wine, ice, cheese, and shrimp...yum! Members should bring something to share, a bucket of chicken, possum, collards, pizza, Chinese take-out, cherry pie, whatever. We’re not picky, just hungry. And don’t forget this is the deadline for the writing contest. Bring your manuscripts. Jim Young will be on hand to receive them. This is your grand opportunity to interact with other great writers. **WE WILL NOT BE MEETING AT THE LIBRARY IN OCTOBER! The Party is at Sandra Kischuk’s house, 2107 West Fore Drive, Tampa, FL 33612. Phone 813-935-7760.**

Directions from I-275 N: Exit Busch Blvd. Take Busch Blvd west to Florida Avenue. Turn right onto Florida Avenue and head north to Linebaugh Avenue. Turn left onto Linebaugh Avenue and head west to Armenia Avenue. Turn right onto Armenia Avenue and head north until you come to W. Fore Drive, (on the left.) Turn left onto W. Fore and go to stop sign. Turn right and you’ll see 2107 on the right. Park along the street.

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

TWA Calendar:

September 2006

- 6: General Meeting, 7 p.m., John Germany Library... "What A Publisher Is Looking For" led by Becky Salichova of Bouncing Ball Books
- 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.

St Pete Times Festival of Reading

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. This year we'll occupy two booths. 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.

What are you doing day to day to reinforce your writing? Are you reading anything related to your work? Are you doing research to develop your plot? Are you watching what goes on around you, hearing the pieces of dialog you can take as your own? Are you *writing*, putting in the time and practice to hone your skill?

It is easy to get caught up in all the daily administrivia, and let what we think of as the non-essential slide. *Tomorrow, I'll get to it tomorrow.*

How many *tomorrows* have you promised yourself—tomorrows that never came?

How many times are you going to tell yourself that tomorrow you will write; you don't have time for it today? If you are not setting aside a little time for yourself, for what you want, the message you are sending to yourself is that "who you are and what you want is not important."

Writing, even if it is only journaling daily life, keeps those writing muscles limber. If technique is something you battle with, if your critiques are less than encouraging, if you feel discouraged in your work, know, it is *practice* that will get you to the next level. There are a *lot* of writers who weren't too good to start with, but were willing to put in the time, effort, and rewrites to perfect their craft.

Becoming a published writer results from being willing to listen to your editor or to critiques. If you refuse to listen to an honest critique, you are not ready to be a writer. If you choose to take a quality evaluation as a personal attack, you are not ready to be a writer. If you want an affirmation, adulation to reinforce your self esteem, or people to stand in awe of your writing, give your work to a friend or someone in your family that will love it because it is *yours*.

When someone gives you an analysis of your work, you are getting a response to how your writing has affected them. Admittedly some of the critiques are from those who have their own agendas, or are dealing an emotional insecurity or ignorance, but don't discount *every* evaluation.

If you have to explain what you have written, then you haven't communicated what you need to in your writing. You are not going to be there to explain it to every reader. Decide what you want—if it is to become a published writer, be willing to work at it. Act as if your writing is

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:
Contest deadline is
Looming.**

ATTENTION

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.

Welcome New Members

Aaron C Bennett
David Churchill Barrow
Judy Mancuso
Lynn Rothman
Kimberly Delong

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, September 13, 2006 & Wednesday, September 27, 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



**Note: TWA Membership Application & Other 2006
Writing Contest Forms are on the Website.
Tampawriters.Org**

TWA 2006 Writing Contest ENTRY FORM

NAME _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CATEGORY:

- FICTION SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY NONFICTION
 NOVEL POETRY PLAY/SCRIPT
 HIRSHBERG CHILDREN'S STORY

TITLE _____

WORD or LINE or PAGE COUNT _____ (list the **one** appropriate choice)

Each submission must have its own Entry Form

Send entries to: ↴ **TWA 2006 CONTEST COORDINATOR**
James A. Young
2826 Keyville Road E.
Lithia, FL 33547

E-Mail Contact: **jayoung@mindspring.com****() Current member or****() Membership Application Enclosed****() Check enclosed for membership or HIRSCHBERG****Attach this form by paper-clipping it to your STAPLED submission. Thank you.**

2006 Writing Contest Rules, Judging Criteria

Any submissions not following these rules will be disqualified.

ENTRY CATEGORIES, "UNPUBLISHED" REQUIREMENT

Each contestant may enter one (1) work in each of the following categories:

- FICTION
- NON-FICTION
- NOVEL
- CHILDREN'S STORY (Age 12 & under. No Adult Themes. 2006 Floating Category.)
- PLAY/SCRIPT WRITING
- DR. ED HIRSHBERG AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FLORIDA WRITING
- SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY
- POETRY (Several poems may be entered. See Rules).

Entries must be **UNPUBLISHED** at the time of submission. Unpublished is defined as not having been commercially printed and circulated to more than fifty (50) persons.

CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY

The contest is open to adult TWA members (18 years and older). Membership in the Tampa Writers Alliance is required to enter. Membership dues are \$25 per year. (See Membership Application with Entry Form.)

Non-member entries will be disqualified.

DEADLINES

Entries will be accepted on and after June 1, 2006. All mailed entries must be postmarked by October 1, 2006. All other entries must be received by the Contest Coordinator no later than Wednesday, October 4, 2006. **NO LATE SUBMISSIONS** will be accepted.

ENTRY FEES:

- *Make checks payable to **TAMPA WRITERS ALLIANCE**.* Contest fees for **TWA members** in good standing (dues paid as of the contest deadline) are **\$5** for the **DR. ED HIRSHBERG AWARD**. All other categories are FREE.
- Judges evaluations are available for purchase @ \$15.00 per entry. See Judging Criteria.

ENTRY FORMATS (PAPER AND DISK)

All entries must be typewritten on white paper, **double-spaced** (poems need not be double-spaced), with one-inch margins on all sides. A standard 12-point Courier, Arial, or Times New Roman font must be used. Prose entries must be stapled. Pages number and title must appear on each page in the upper right hand corner. The author's name **MUST NOT APPEAR** on the manuscript. See samples.

For each entry, two (2) paper copies of the entry and one (1) completed Entry Form must be submitted. **No paper copies will be returned.** Each poem requires a completed Entry Form with title and line-count information. Contestants wishing confirmation of entries must include a separate self-addressed stamped envelope containing a filled out Confirmation of Entry form. This only confirms that your entry has been received.

In addition to the paper copies specified, contestants **must also** submit electronic format by CD or 3.5" floppy disk. Files must be accessible using Microsoft Word or WordPerfect. The file must be saved in rich text format (rtf). Disks must be labeled with the contestant's **name**, entry **title(s)**, and **category(ies)**. **Disks will not be returned.**

MAXIMUM LENGTHS

- FICTION, NON-FICTION, SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY, CHILDREN'S STORY and the DR. ED HIRSHBERG entries **MAY NOT** exceed **2,500 words**. Entries longer than 2,500 words OR not containing the **exact word count** (not including title) will be disqualified. **Entries with approximate word count will be disqualified.**
- NOVEL chapter entries will consist of a **one or more chapters** with a combined exact word count that **MAY NOT** exceed 5,000 words and a **2-page, double-spaced synopsis** (not part of the word count). Entries not meeting these criteria will be disqualified.
- PLAY/SCRIPT WRITING (film, radio, stage, & TV) entries **MAY NOT** exceed **10 pages** and must be a **complete** play in a standard script format. Entries not meeting these criteria will be disqualified. NOTE: Each element of dialogue and stage directions may be single spaced with double spaces between elements.
- POETRY may not exceed **72 LINES** (excluding title) and may be divided among up to **four (4)** poems. Each poem will be judged separately. Be aware that some printers may change format and cause you to end up with an extra line. Count them after printing. Entries totaling more than 72 lines will be disqualified.

HIRSHBERG AWARD REQUIREMENT

The DR. ED HIRSHBERG AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FLORIDA WRITING is given for a story or essay written about Florida's people, places or history. The piece is not to be a travel article.

CHILDREN'S STORY REQUIREMENT

The CHILDREN'S STORY category is for stories intended for children 12 years of age or less. The CHILDREN'S STORY entry MAY NOT exceed 2,500 words. Submissions may not contain adult themes. Short poems or poem anthologies may not be submitted in this category. UNACCEPTABLE EXAMPLE: Poem rhymes like "Hickory Dickory Dock." Stories may be in the form of rhyme or limerick. ACCEPTABLE EXAMPLE: The works of Dr. Seuss.

PRIZES, ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET, NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS

Except as noted, prizes for all categories are: First Place \$100, Second Place \$75, Third Place \$50 and Honorable Mention \$25.00. Judges may, at their option, award up to 10% of entries Honorable Mention if they deem them worthy. Winners will be announced at the TWA Annual Awards Banquet to be held at the Hilton Hotel, Tampa Airport Westshore, January 18th 2007. (Cash bar @ 6:30 P. M., Dinner @ 7:00 P. M.)

- The 1st place winner of the **DR. ED HIRSHBERG AWARD** may choose between being awarded a full scholarship (worth \$250) to the 2007 SUNCOAST WRITERS CONFERENCE or a cash prize of \$150. . The decision of the winner must be communicated to the contest coordinator within three (3) days following the awards dinner. If no decision is communicated within that time period, the award will be the cash prize.
- At the banquet, one winning piece in each category (except PLAY / SCRIPT WRITING) will be read. In each category, this honor will go to the highest placed author present.
- **The NOVEL winner, if present, may read the first 10 pages of the work and the 2 page novel synopsis.**
- Staged readings of PLAY/SCRIPT WRITING entries will be presented at TWA's February 2007 general meeting in lieu of presentation at the banquet.
- All members are encouraged to attend the awards banquet. Contest winners are **not** notified prior to the Banquet.
- Winners will be published on the TWA website (www.tampawriters.org) in February 2007.

PUBLICATION IN WORDSMITH 2007, OBTAINING COPIES OF WORDSMITH 2007, AUTHOR RIGHTS

- Winning entries will be published in *WORDSMITH 2007*, the Tampa Writers Alliance 20th Annual Anthology of Writing, to be distributed in the Fall.
- Other entries **may** be published in *WORDSMITH 2007* at the discretion of the *WORDSMITH* editor. Emphasis will be on excellence of writing.
- All TWA members are entitled to one (1) free copy of the *WORDSMITH 2007*, provided they joined

prior to 12/31/06 and reserved a copy prior to publication. Copies will be available for sale. All rights revert to the author following publication in *WORDSMITH 2007*.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The TWA Contest Coordinator will recruit qualified judges. Their identity will be kept secret until the awards banquet. Judges will be asked to consider certain fundamental criteria in evaluating submissions. In all categories except POETRY and PLAY/SCRIPT, a judge's evaluation sheet will be attached to each entry for this purpose. A copy of this evaluation form is attached, so you may see what we are asking judges to consider. A manuscript evaluation **may be purchased** for any category, except POETRY and PLAY/SCRIPT, provided this option is elected prior to judging and the contestant includes payment of \$15.00 for each entry. You will not be receiving this completed judge's evaluation sheet if you fail to designate this option for a specific entry at submission and enclose a \$15.00 payment per evaluation. Purchased evaluations will be mailed early February 2007.

Some aspects of writing excellence are positive, meaning they are desired qualities found in every winning manuscript. Others are negative; they are not desired. Entrants are encouraged to incorporate the positive aspects into their work and exclude negative aspects as much as possible. If you are uncertain of what these criteria are, we advise you to download from TWA's website the document titled "Writing Tips For Manuscripts." We suggest you apply them to your manuscript, when and where appropriate.

Sept 1, 2006

Membership renewal time for...

Daniel Barrett, Sharon Bentley, Robert S. Brookover III, Ella Conarton, Mike Darling, Laddy Del Castillo, Paul DuBose, Angela Edward-Mangione, K. Cyrus Ghaedi, Neville Goedhals, Susan Harmon, Steve Hess, John Miller, Barbara Nickels, Eugene Orlando, Cynthia Preston, Robert Rafferty, Howard Reeves, Anela Reig, Evelyn Ann Romano, Douglas Russell, Louise Smith, Brian Thometz, Marc Yacht

Members may bring their \$25 annual dues to the next General Meeting, or mail it to:
James A. Young, 2826 Keysville Rd East, Lithia, Florida 33547

MEMBERS IN MEDIA

Information for this feature must be sent
 before the 20th of each month to: jayoung@mindspring.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

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	Robin Knowles	813-645-7640	rhknowles@aol.com
Poetry	Warner Conarton	352-588-3228	warnerc@quixnet.net
Write Connections Editor	Jim Young	813-391-1139	jayoung@mindspring.com
Critique Group	Al Lucas	813-899-0438	ALthePhilosopher@aol.com
Wordsmith Editor	Sandra Kischuk		
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...

Our **HUGE THANKS** go to **Lisa Coleman** for her extraordinary effort in producing "Write Connections" for TWA over the last several months. However, Lisa is swamped with other responsibilities. Jim Young has agreed to take over publishing the newsletter until another eager publisher wants a shot at it.

Stay Cool and **Write On!**



Tampa Writers Alliance
Write Connections
 c/o James A. Young
 2826 Keysville Rd E
 Lithia, FL 33547