



# Write Connections

Volume 21 Number 11

November 2006

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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.

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## Regular Meeting November 1<sup>st</sup>, John Germany Library, 7:00 p.m.

Our speaker Lou Savary, will be talking to us about “The Life of a Ghostwriter.” Hope to see you there!

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### TWA Writing Contest Update

Well, I hope you got your manuscript in. This year it looks like the competition is not very intense. Entries have declined in several categories. There were no disqualified entries. That means those of you who did submit entries will have an even greater chance of winning. Here’s the list of entries per category.

Fiction – 27 entries – 5 awards – two will be honorable mention

Non Fiction – 15 entries – 4 awards

Hirshberg – 7 entries – 4 awards

Fantasy – 11 entries – 4 awards

Children’s Story – 9 entries – 4 awards

Novel – 14 entries – 4 awards

Poetry – 50 entries – 8 awards – five will be honorable mention

Plays/Scripts – 6 entries – 4 awards

A grand total of 42 members are competing for a grand total of 37 awards. As you can see, in some categories it’s going to be easy pickin’. I expect every one of you at the Awards Banquet on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Bring friends and family. Please send in your reservation if you haven’t already done so. It will make my job much easier if I don’t have all that work to do at the last minute. Thank you so very much.

### Membership renewal time for... you?

*Individual membership renewal notices are now being e-mailed to those members with an e-mail address.*

*Members without an e-mail address will receive a reminder with their newsletter by regular mail.*

*If you did not receive notice, it means that you do not need to worry about your membership expiring.*

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**

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

### TWA Calendar:

#### November 2006

- November 1: General Meeting, 7 p.m., John Germany Library...Lou Savary, "The Life of a Ghostwriter."
- November 20: Write Connections articles due to James Young, jayoung@mindspring.com

#### 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

As you read this, I am expecting our anthologies to be delivered. I will bring them to the November meeting to begin distribution. We have printed very few books beyond those requested, so those who reserved copies will receive their copies first. Those who were members as of December 2005 and RESERVED COPIES get a free copy. Those who reserved additional copies or were not members but reserved copies will need to bring cash or checks made out to the Tampa Writers Alliance for \$10 per copy for each book they requested

#### Festival Of Reading

We hope you visit our booth at the St Pete Times Festival of Reading on October 28, 2006. Several TWA members will be selling their books.

There are things we don't say or talk about in "polite society," whether we are making a political statement, discussing sex, or touching on some other taboo subject. We select what we say by the audiences we are with, filtering our words, observing, and adapting our rhetoric based on the responses of our audience. Early on, as children, we learn we're not supposed to say, at least to the individuals involved, that, "Aunt Myrtle is fat," or "Uncle Ernie is cheap." It may be the truth...but we're not to say it.

As angry as we can get at societal injustices, we cannot take action lest we are labeled psychopaths and locked up. Blowing up mailboxes, sabotaging cars, or stalking someone who has wronged us are activities that could get us in trouble...and besides, they're just *not nice*.

As a writer, when I have something bad happen, I consider myself lucky. The most unfortunate incidents are often the ones that make the best stories.

A number of years ago, I was in a group of people discussing travel abroad. One woman said she had always wanted to go to England, but didn't want to spend the money because she might lose her luggage or miss a connection. I turned to another woman in the group and asked her if she had ever done any international travel.

"Oh, yes," she said.

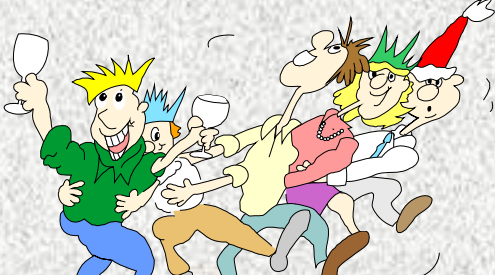
"Anything bad ever happen?"

"Yes," she said. At this point, she was laughing. "We missed a train and had to spend the night in this out-in-the-sticks town." "Were you upset when it happened?" I asked. She nodded. I continued, "And now, of all the things that happened when you were abroad, what is the thing you laugh about most today?"

When something bad happens, write about it. You can turn the experience into an article to keep others from making the same mistake you did. You can script a play and make the ending what you *wished* it had been. You can pour the feelings you have into a poem.

And fiction? You can fictionalize what happened and come up with thing more bizarre than you could imagine – that's what life is like. You can finally say, "Aunt Myrtle is fat," or "Uncle Ernie is cheap." Just don't use their names – after all, this is *fiction*.

And in doing this, you can still be polite *and* tell the truth – maybe not the logical reality-hard head-truth, but the heart-truth that allows the reader to tap into something deeper. Finding and speaking your truth will make you a better writer.

<p><b>Note: TWA Newsletter, Membership Application, Banquet Reservations &amp; Other Forms can be downloaded from the Website.</b></p> <p><b>Tampawriters.Org</b></p>	<p><b>Writer Weblinks</b> TWA is linking to member's websites. E-mail your name and web address to our webmaster, James Chaplin, at <a href="mailto:jpcflorida@hotmail.com">jpcflorida@hotmail.com</a>, so we can link up with you and people that find TWA can find you!</p> <hr/> <p><b>Thought for the month:</b></p> <p>As a writer, you have a privilege that few others in our society have. How are you using it?</p>	<p><b>ATTENTION</b></p> <p>October 4<sup>th</sup> party was a big success! We hope you made it. There were over 30 people in attendance, tons of food and an equal amount of fellowship.</p> 
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## 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](mailto: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, November 8, 2006 & Wednesday, November 22, 2006 at 7:pm. NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER.**

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](http://www.tampawriters.org)

## The Poetry Group

The Tampa Writers Alliance Poetry Group meets on the 4th Thursday of every month **except November and 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) or 352-588-3228



**TWA 2006 Writing Contest**  
**Hilton Hotel, Tampa Airport Westshore**  
**January 18<sup>th</sup> Banquet Reservations**  
**6:30 P. M. Cash Bar, 7:00 P. M. Dinner**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Indicate Your Entree Choice:**

**Seared Salmon**  
*with Blackbean Cake and Plantain  
served with Mango Mojo*

**Chicken Piccata**  
*Breast of Chicken Dipped in a Parmesan Egg  
Battered and Sauteed in a Lemon, Caper and  
White Wine Sauce*

*All Dinners include: Appetizer consisting of Fresh Seasonal Green Salad with Choice of Dressings.  
Chef's Choice of Seasonal Vegetables and/or Starch where Appropriate, Warm Rolls and Butter.  
Raspberry Swirl Cheesecake Desert. Freshly Brewed 100% Colombian Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee  
and Select International Teas.*

**Vegetarian's ARE accommodated. Please contact the Contest Coordinator to arrange this.**

**Print the FULL names of others in your party and indicate their entree choice.**

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|-------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ | <input type="radio"/> Seared Salmon | <input type="radio"/> Chicken Piccata |
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| _____ | <input type="radio"/> Seared Salmon | <input type="radio"/> Chicken Piccata |

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

**E-Mail Contact:**                    **jayoung@mindspring.com**

**( ) Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 per person**

## **MEMBERS IN MEDIA**

Kal Rosenberg recently received a copy of this review, which came on the heels of a favorable one from Kirkus. Needless to say, he is pleased.

“SOLD AS IS is an impressive debut novel with well developed characters, a strong style, and a very sharp sense of place: Miami in the 1970s. You can most feel the heat shimmering off the used car lot as the salesmen move in for the kill. Kal Rosenberg puts us inside the mind of Corey Doctoroff as he descends into the inferno of a psychotic breakdown, loses his job and his marriage, and then slowly rebuilds his life while working in the limbo of the used car business in Southern Florida. We learn all the tricks of that warped trade and the lingo of the salesmen. As in *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *What Makes Sammy Run*, or *The Sweet Smell of Success*, we get an inside view of an unsavory side of the business world. The used car lot is dog-eat-dog, a war zone, yet Corey, a wiseacre with a sometimes violent temper but the soul of a philosopher, survives and grows as he tries to find meaning in an occupation that can corrupt souls and destroy lives.”

Andrew Gordon, co-editor "Studies in American Jewish Literature," and Professor of English, University of Florida.

**Information for this feature must be sent before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to:**  
[jayoung@mindspring.com](mailto:jayoung@mindspring.com)

## ***The Writer's Digest* Short Short Story Competition**

Show Us Your Shorts! *Writer's Digest* is now accepting entries in its 7th Annual Short Short Story Competition. They're looking for fiction that's bold, brilliant...but brief.

[Enter today](#) for your chance to win cash and prizes including a \$3,000 top prize.

**Deadline is December 1, 2006**

**Details on [www. Writersdigest.com](http://www.Writersdigest.com)**

## **Writer's Digest Popular Fiction Awards**

***Writer's Digest* is also proud to announce the 2006 WD Popular Fiction Awards. Compete & Win in five categories including Romance, Mystery/Crime Fiction, Sci-Fi/Fantasy, Thriller/Suspense and Horror. You could win the \$2,500 Grand Prize.**

## TWA Directory

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>E-MAIL ADDRESS</b>
President	<b>Sandra Kischuk</b>	813-935-7760	sjkischuk@juno.com
Vice President	<b>Michael Pleasant</b>	813-325-0314	pleasmw@aol.com
Secretary	<b>Cathie Astl</b>	813-994-5455	cathieastl@hotmail.com
Treasurer	<b>Jim Young</b>	813-737-1688	jayoung@mindspring.com
Member-at-Large	<b>Robin Knowles</b>	813-645-7640	rhknowles@aol.com
Poetry	<b>Warner Conarton</b>	352-588-3228	warnerc@quixnet.net
Write Connections Editor	<b>Jim Young</b>	813-391-1139	jayoung@mindspring.com
Critique Group	<b>Al Lucas</b>	813-899-0438	ALthePhilosopher@aol.com
Wordsmith Editor	<b>Sandra Kischuk</b>	813-935-7760	sjkischuk@juno.com
Website	<b>Jim Chaplin</b>	813-835-4255	jpcflorida@hotmail.com
Publicity/Public Relations	<b>Adele Walter</b>	813-932-6902	adeleidawalter@hotmail.com
Event Coordinator	<b>Position open</b>		
<b>TWA WEBSITE</b>			<b>WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG</b>

*Stay Cool* and **Write On!**



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