



# Write Connections

Volume 22 Number 1

January 2007

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.

## Regular Meeting January 3rd, John Germany Library, 7:00 p.m.

January 3: General Meeting, 7 p.m., John Germany Library... An annual favorite! We bring in our membership to speak to our membership and share those tips you can use to improve your writing, increase your chances of being published, and ensure you get the best contract possible. Speakers we have lined up so far:

- Lark Underwood                      The Role of an Editor
- Cathy Astl                                Niche Marketing
- Lucy Parker                              Book Cover Design
- Sandra Kischuk                         A Plot Exercise

## Novel Pod Now Forming!

Thomas Reciniello writes:

I am a member. I have one other person who wants to be in a group. We want to meet at the Borders book store on the corner of Dale Mabry and West Cypress in Tampa on Thursday 11:30am to 1:30pm every other week. If anyone wants to join it would be great. We both write fiction so any genre in that area. No nonfiction. Thanks.

[Tomas\\_Reciniello@nylaarp.newyorklife.com](mailto:Tomas_Reciniello@nylaarp.newyorklife.com) 813-960-4567 home, 813-810-9954 cell

### 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**

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

There are two ways to look at New Year's resolutions—what a person wants to achieve (goal) and how he or she is going to get there (process).

For many years, I have looked at New Year's resolutions and decided that the best I could do was to keep my head down and grind through another year, hoping to accomplish what I wanted. I did a lot of process, but along the way, lost track of the result (goal). I got a lot done—no doubt about that, but I didn't keep my priorities straight. Of course, I never nailed those in the first place.

I recall the children's story about the woman who is granted the wish that whatever she is doing when the clock strikes midnight, she will continue doing for one whole day. She decides that what she will do is count money, so that by the end of the allotted time, she will be a rich woman (goal). But first she starts to prepare, sewing bags to put the money in. She gets so involved in sewing that she doesn't notice when midnight comes, and for the next twenty-four hours, cuts and sews everything she can get her hands on. By the following day, she has torn and sewn every bit of clothing, drapery, and upholstery fabric in her home...and the time is over. She has destroyed what she had and has less than she started with (process).

We spend a lot of time preparing to launch...just like the years I spent pursuing college degrees, feeling that I didn't know enough *yet*, that one more degree, one more scrap of knowledge was all I needed to change the way things were (process). I mistakenly thought that by completing *other* goals, I would move closer to getting my books published. Wrong. Didn't happen.

Without a map, I kept loading my plate, putting aside the things I had thought certain I would complete. I did take two Wordsmiths to publication in six months after I recovered from the two months I lost to illness (process and goals—but not my primary goal).

Last year, I put my own goals aside, and helped others reach what they wanted. I already have other people's goals lined up on my calendar for next year.

Maybe it's time to set my own goals as a priority, also. I know now that there are two parts to making it happen...recognizing the goal and sticking with the process to get there.

Ask yourself, how will things be different for me a year from now?

### **Wordsmith 2006**

The Wordsmith 2006 anthology will be available at the general meeting. Those who purchase copies need to bring cash or checks made out to the Tampa Writers Alliance for \$10 per copy for each book requested. Wordsmith 2006 can also be ordered by mail. Shipping cost is now \$3.00 per copy. Send \$13.00 for each book & shipping.

### **Wordsmith 2007**

The Wordsmith 2007 is expected to be available at the January banquet. Reserve yours today through [jayoung@mindspring.com](mailto:jayoung@mindspring.com). Beyond reserved copies, availability will be limited and on a first-come first-served basis. If you don't reserve a copy, or can't get one at the banquet, you may not be able to get one at all. We will print very few books beyond those requested, so those who reserved copies will receive their copies first. Those who were members as of December 2006 and RESERVE COPIES get a free copy. Additional copies will be \$10, with an additional \$3 per book shipping if you want it sent to you. Send checks to:

James Young  
2826 Keysville Rd East  
Lithia, FL 33547

## TWA Critique Group – Al Lucas, Coordinator

**2nd & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 7:00 pm. NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER.**

Please send your submissions and other appropriate information to Al Lucas, [ALthePhilosopher@aol.com](mailto:ALthePhilosopher@aol.com). 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.

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

**POETRY GROUP. 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Barnes and Noble Booksellers (North) Just south of Stall Road which is just south of Fletcher on North Dale Mabry. 7 PM, way in the back of the store.**

When the Poetry Group meets, it's always, expectantly, extraordinary. Poets, mostly, as you know if you are one, are an unlikely sort. Strangely, we/they hear music, drum beat, joy and tears in words. Some say it's a right-brain thing. But, I'm asking, where's the poetry in that? Beginners and non-poets are welcome. Mayhap, such tentative status might improve, might even fly.

If possible, do supply us copies of your work (or favorite poems) so we can collude along. Songsters' guitars, ukes, banjos, bongos, Jew-harps, recorded work and/or accompaniment are not unlikely occurrences. You can even dance around as you emote or sing, (some actually do.) As for passive behavior, it's permitted - on occasion, if not encouraged. Believe this, you'll hear nary a harsh word of criticism. If you're a poet-Scrooge or Grinch, stay away! The rest, y'all come. Hear? Warner D. Conarton, Tampa Writers Alliance Poetry Group Coordinator

e-mail: [warnerdconarton@netscape.com](mailto:warnerdconarton@netscape.com)

Web-page: [warnerconarton.com](http://warnerconarton.com)

## Wordsmith 2007 Photo Contest

The winning entry for the Tampa Writers Alliance Wordsmith 2007 Cover Photo contest was submitted by James Young. We are trying to get the 2007 Wordsmith ready for delivery at the January 18<sup>th</sup> Awards Banquet.

### MEMBERS IN MEDIA

Angie Jones' poem "Waves" was published in the Fall 2006 issue of *Literary Liftoff*. "Letting Go" and "Caught in the Current" won Honorable

Mentions in the 2006 National League of American Pen Women water-themed writing contest in the short story and journalism categories, with "Uncharted Waters" garnering the Runner-up prize for poetry.

**Information for this feature must be sent before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to:**

[jayoung@mindspring.com](mailto:jayoung@mindspring.com)



209 9<sup>th</sup> St. W. Bradenton, FL 34205 941-746-2862

**Writers Workshop with David Hagberg  
January 20, 2007  
9am-noon**

ArtCenter Manatee is proud to present a three hour workshop with international bestselling author David Hagberg. In this workshop Mr. Hagberg will discuss:

- what types of fiction sells in today's volatile world
- how to search your own background to come up with the stories that agents and editors cannot live without
- how to develop characters and events and places in a no-fail plot machine
- and how to prepare and successfully market your manuscript, including how to find (and keep) an agent and a publisher

*David Hagberg has published more than 70 novels in a career that has spanned three decades. With more than ten million copies of his books sold in eight languages in thirteen countries, Hagberg has been nominated for The American Book Award, is a three-time winner of the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Allan Poe Scroll and has won Mystery Scene's Best American Mystery three times. He resides with his wife Laurie in the Sarasota-Bradenton area.*

Workshop fee: \$75. Please reserve your space in advance by calling ArtCenter Manatee at (941) 746-2862.

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## **Florida Horror Writers - Mass Author Event Feb. 3rd, 1-4pm - Tampa, FL**

Join us for a reading and booksigning event with horror, fantasy, paranormal romance, and thriller authors from all over the Sunshine State.

Barnes & Noble - Carrollwood  
11802 N. Dale Mabry Highway  
Tampa, FL 33618  
813-962-6446

Join authors: Jeff Strand, Jane Toombs, Andrea Dean Van Scoyoc, Lynne Hansen, Carnifex Press, Belea T. Keeney, Richard Lee Byers, and many more.

The Florida Horror Writers group functions primarily as a networking organization for local authors. It provides peer support and networking with a relaxed, informal atmosphere. The group also works to promote horror literature and writing. Check us out on the web at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/flhorrorwriters/>  
Or contact Aaron Bennett (813) 317-3276 or [jlbenet@jeanloupbenet.com](mailto:jlbenet@jeanloupbenet.com)

**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 Picata**

*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.**

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

**Send reservations to:** ↴ **TWA 2006 CONTEST COORDINATOR**

James A. Young  
2826 Keysville Road E.  
Lithia, FL 33547

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

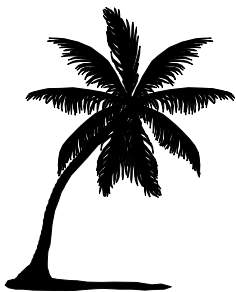
**( ) Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 per person**

**Please come out in support of your Tampa Writer's Alliance!**

## 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>James A. 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	WarnerDConarton@netscape.com
Write Connections Editor	<b>James A. 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 Keyville Rd E  
 Lithia, FL 33547