



Write Connections

Volume 22 Number 2

February 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

February 7th, John Germany Library, 7:00 p.m.

- February 7th: General Meeting, 7 p.m., John Germany Library... An annual favorite! Once again we'll enjoy the Carrollwood Players as they read the four winning plays from our October contest:
 - 1st Place Script Surprise Visit Richard Aellen
 - 2nd Place Script Period Piece Warner Conarton
 - 3rd Place Script The Importance of Having a Good Handbasket Eugene Orlando
 - Honorable Mention What Was Your Price? Sandra Kischuk

Ann Cook Honored

This year's Awards Banquet was full of surprises. For the second year, TWA recognized an unsuspecting member who has made significant contributions to TWA in the past. The sixty-four banquet attendees erupted with emotion and ovation when Ann Cook's name was called.

Ann first served as leader for the Critique group for two years, then as Secretary, then as Vice-president, then two years as President of TWA in the mid 1990's. For a brief time Ann filled in as editor of Write Connections until a permanent replacement was found. This year, Ann served as a contest judge. Ann has always been there when we needed her.

Ann received a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a Carrabas Italian Restaurant gift certificate. Congratulations Ann. Recognition may have been delayed but we haven't forgotten.

TWA Writing Contest Pays Off Big For Several Who Entered

Entering the TWA Writing Contest can be quite rewarding. Just ask Warner Conarton who went home with \$375.00 in prize money. New member, Richard Aellen took home \$300.00. Sandra Kischuk and Terra Pressler each won \$175.00. Kal Rosenberg walked away with a cool \$150.00 for his Hirschberg entry. \$2,150.00 in prize money was awarded. Sure, the competition was stiff but a number of our members had a very pleasant surprise awaiting them. Perhaps some of you who didn't enter in 2006 should consider 2007.

CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT THE JANUARY 18 AWARDS BANQUET!**Children's**

Timmy Gets His Wish	1	Martha McIntosh
Harry The Hedgehog	2	Jan Evans
A Home For Mrs. Carolina Wren	3	Ella Conarton
What Goes Around	HM	Angela Masterson Jones

Fiction

Riding Backward	1	Richard Aellen
The Stamp Collection	2	Jo-Ellyn Guggino
Tall Grass	3	Gregory McColm
Orderly, 1952	HM	Warner Conarton
The Legend Of The Lupins	HM	Sandra Kischuk

Hirschberg

Out From Under The Bus	1	Kal Rosenberg
Clem's Valet Service	2	Sandra Kischuk
Surrendering Names	3	Terra Pressler
The Privy	HM	James A. Young

Non-fiction

Dowsing Stonehenge	1	Warner Conarton
Change Of Heart	2	Judy Mancuso
One Degree of Kevin Bacon	3	Angela Masterson Jones
Gifts	HM	Terra Pressler

Novel

Sleeping Dogs	1	Richard Aellen
Gatemaster	2	Warner Conarton
The Adventures of Spanky McDougal	3	Sue L LaNeve
Of Angels And Archangels	HM	Charrie Hazard Moscardini

Script

Surprise Visit	1	Richard Aellen
Period Piece	2	Warner Conarton
The Importance of Having a Good Handbasket	3	Eugene Orlando
What Was Your Price?	HM	Sandra Kischuk

Poetry

Unburied	1	Terra Pressler
At The Back Door	2	Evelyn Ann Romano
Playground	3	Sandra Kischuk
Sea Sights Forged Like Gold Coins	HM	Dennis Pupello
Monkey Frowns	HM	Lynn V. Sadler
Swimmers	HM	Eugene Orlando
R and B	HM	Eugene Orlando

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Total Power Corrupts Totally	1	Warner Conarton
Snake Eyes	2	Dennis Pupello
An Ill Wind	3	G. Thomas Gill
The Great Red Spot	HM	Eugene Orlando

UTHAYA KUMAR WINS THE TWA/BOUNCING BALL BOOKS PUBLISHING CONTRACT!

I'm not sure if Uthaya is still walking about three feet above the earth, but the expression on his face at the TWA Banquet Thursday night was one of, "I can't believe this is happening."

Becky Salichova of Bouncing Ball Books called the five finalists to the front of the room—Uthaya Kumar, Jim Chaplin, Barry Newberger, Phillip Schneider, and Sandra Kischuk, then worked from the bottom up. Barry Newberger—"Family Jewels" and Sandra Kischuk—"Lucky 13" received Honorary Mentions and were awarded books by this new publisher. Phillip Schneider, whose anthology Dr. Salichova nicknamed "The Aaron Bowe Series," received the "Ink Award." When Jim Chaplin was called forward to receive the "Editor's Choice" for his "Meandering Thoughts of Curious Mind," we all *knew*. I thought Uthaya was going to pass out! Barry commented to me that he looked like the one person left in the Miss America competition when the name of the last runner-up is called.

Uthaya's anthology, "A Ticket to the Moon," demonstrates that even the poorest of the poor can be rich in dignity. Dr. Salichova presented his award from Bouncing Ball Books—a publishing contract. I doubt anything could be sweeter for an aspiring author. His words touched her heart, and when the book comes out from Bouncing Ball Books, we will have the opportunity for him to touch our hearts also. I think we all shared a little of his dream. Thank you to Bouncing Ball Books, Dr. Salichova and her husband (BBB Business Manager and our BBB photographer), Dr. Stedman Carr—a BBB author, and Uthaya for giving us a night we will cherish for a long time.

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

I had an interesting e-mail this past week from the Florida Writers Association 2007 Conference faculty chair (conference is November 9-11 at Coronado Springs in Orlando). George requested that I serve as a speaker, so we're discussing what topics I can present based on their theme of *The Art of Storytelling*. Six years ago, I was a Project Manager at IBM—now I battle multiple sclerosis demons and call myself a writer.

Apparently other people recognize me by that label as well. Twenty years ago, in art school, I identified myself as an artist. Being a creative type back then permitted idiosyncrasy—sometimes it demanded it. More than one student told me I couldn't *be* an artist because I didn't dress like one. While students flounced in wearing over-size hats and hippie-generation cast-offs, I showed up in blue jeans, pastel button-down (always unbuttoned) oxford shirts, and color-coordinated crew neck sweaters. The last year I was there, clinging desperately to a collapsing executive marriage (*he* ran off with the woman who worked under him), I received the top scholarship in fine arts.

How did I get it?

I wrote, reaching into my experience and crafting it into a story...

Since then I have done the same for others, preparing the application for another young woman to get the same scholarship (she did), putting together the story of a paramedic who wanted to become a doctor of osteopathy (he was accepted into D.O. school and graduated), sending a young engineering student from the projects to Germany (he went and Siemens hired him), and preparing unnumbered personal statements for students trying to get into law school (they do). The technique of "story" is invaluable, and no, it doesn't just apply to fiction. Most of the writing I did about research in the College of Engineering required a beginning, middle, end, to communicate the same sense of satisfaction derived from a piece of fiction.

Humans seem to be hard-wired for story, to follow an arc from beginning to conclusion. From the time young children can speak, they beg, "tell me a story." If you try to shortcut a favorite, they are quick to object, "that's not how it goes." From the youngest age, we know what works, what give us that 'yes' response. When young people die, we often grieve because they weren't given the chance to complete their stories. It's like ripping the spine of a book and throwing the back half in the fire. We have the front part of it—we'll always have the front part of it, but it's hard to write the ending to a story when the main character is no longer there.

Today I am writing a different story than yesterday...and it will be different again tomorrow. I like to think I'm still climbing to the apex of the arc, even though gravity seems a little more persistent than it did when I was young. It's that way for all of us. Many friends think my biggest obstacle is the M.S. that keeps snagging my hands and feet—it is not. I have the same obstacle as everyone else. It is something I set aside over and over again, but I now know its name.

Disbelief.

I have to believe that I *can do something* before I can make it happen. If I can believe, I *can*.

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

TWA Critique Group – Al Lucas, Coordinator

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7:00 pm. NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER.

Please send your submissions and other appropriate information to Al Lucas, 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

The Poetry Group

POETRY GROUP. 4th 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

Web-page: warnerconarton.com

Wordsmith 2006 & 2007

Unclaimed reserved copies of Wordsmith 2006 will no longer be free or reserved after February 15th 2007. If you have a reserved copy coming to you but have not picked it up or arranged for shipping by February 15th, it will go on sale at \$10.00 per copy. Shipping is \$3.00. Send checks to James Young at the address below.

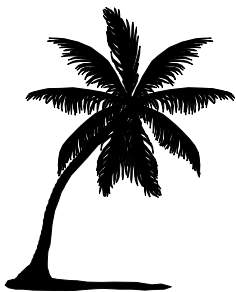
Some TWA members received their Wordsmith 2007 at the January 18 banquet. From this point on, availability will be limited and on a first-come first-served basis, so arrange to pick yours up at a general meeting or let Jim Young know. If you were a member as of December 2006, you are entitled to one free copy—but not forever. If you want it, you gotta get it, and if we're sold out, your chance is gone. Shipping is \$3 per book. Additional and non-member copies are \$10. Send checks to:

James Young
2826 Keysville Rd East
Lithia, FL 33547

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	James A. Young	813-737-1688	jayoung@mindspring.com
Member-at-Large	Robin Knowles	813-645-7640	rhknowles@aol.com
Poetry	Warner Conarton	352-588-3228	WarnerDConarton@netscape.com
Write Connections Editor	James A. Young	813-391-1139	jayoung@mindspring.com
Critique Group	Al Lucas	813-899-0438	ALthePhilosopher@aol.com
Wordsmith Editor	Sandra Kischuk	813-935-7760	sjkischuk@juno.com
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

Stay Cool and **Write On!**



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