



Write Connections

Volume 22 Number 3

March 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.



Get Ready to Party March 7th!

Our next regular meeting, March 7, @ 7:00 pm, 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 some road kill to share, a bucket of chicken, possum, collards, pizza, Chinese take-out, cherry pie, whatever. We're not picky, just hungry. This is your grand opportunity to interact with other great writers. **WE WILL NOT BE MEETING AT THE LIBRARY IN MARCH! 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.

March 2007

Membership Dues Increased to \$35.00

As a matter of necessity, TWA has increased membership dues to \$35.00 effective March 2007. We are aware that some of our members are on limited incomes. We'll do everything in our power to make sure that no active member is disenfranchised from membership in TWA due to limited financial resources. Please let us know.

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 \$35 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...Calendar and Notes" from TWA president Sandra Kischuk

This past month, I have been editing our member Lucy Parker's fifth edition of *How to Start a Home-based Writing Business*. (And in reading the whole thing, what a *gem!*) For a little over two years at Superior Writing Services, I wrote résumés, edited the work of other writers, and did agent searches for people who had completed their work and were seeking a market. Within a couple of weeks, I will have completed my third year of sending out my weekly motivational newsletter, which is now e-mailed to over 3,300 people. This past week, I spoke to children at Carrollwood Day school about writing, and worked them through a plot exercise.

A few months after Kirt died (a year ago in April), one other woman who wrote résumés for Superior Writing told me she was having difficulty getting clients, and wasn't sure how to generate more business. I told her that I had no problem—at this point, people come looking for me. The reason probably has a lot to do with the number of years I had worked at Kirt's business, the number of years I had sent out the newsletter, and my willingness to provide speaking services gratis.

Marketing is now like breathing—writing and sending out the newsletter is a commitment I have made to myself. Skipping a week is not an option, and people tell me they are referred to me through past clients who still know how to contact me because they receive my newsletter.

Regardless of whether you are seeking a traditional publisher or decide to self-publish, a marketing plan and a willingness to execute it are essential. Traditional publishers will seldom provide the marketing exposure so critical to your work's success. And while a marketing plan is important, also beware. I had one publisher tell me that they would publish my work if I could provide them with a list of my good, potential buyers (my warm list)—and after they had worked through that list, then I could find other people to sell it to, which was then *my* part of the job (which would be my *cold* market). Needless to say, I walked away from them, the same as I walked away from the publisher at the Suncoast Writer's Conference who told me he would publish my work and all I had to do was pay his company \$10,000 for them to print 1,000 copies of my book. I wasn't quite that eager.

If you are writing something that *everyone* will love, it is more likely that you haven't really put thought into who, specifically, would be interested in your piece. *Everybody* usually means *nobody*. This is why you research agents or periodicals to find those who might be interested in your work. If you mail your query about your romance to an agent who specializes in science fiction, he or she is not going to know the right publishers to pitch it to. Save your energy.

For self-publishing, having an idea of your target market may help you find non-conventional places to sell your book. Member Cathie Astl has found a market for her book, *Inside the Paralegal Profession*—Hillsborough Community College has adopted it as a course textbook. Another TWA member, Jerry Cowling, has taken his *Lincoln in the Basement* (historical fiction) to numerous Civil War reenactments...and guess what? It's a market that loves his book!

Lucy looks at what more information she can bring to her readers—even into the fifth edition. Cathie figures out who can use the information she has compiled and has the courage to build a non-conventional market. Jerry evaluates who would have the greatest interest in his material and then continues to show up to sell his book.

It's persistence, and knowing that if you stop learning, stop improving your craft, stop refining and editing, and stop getting your message out, you won't reach your goal. You do have a choice. If you want to stay where you are, you will find you are standing still.

I, for one, don't intend that the best of my writing is the work I do today. I intend to keep getting better. In the meantime, I will keep practicing my marketing. It's already a habit—and not a bad one.

Wordsmith 2006 & 2007

Unclaimed reserved copies of Wordsmith 2006 are no longer reserved or free. All Wordsmith 2006 are now on sale at \$10.00 per copy. Shipping is \$3.00. Send checks to James Young at the address below.

From this point on, availability of Wordsmith 2007 will be on a first-come first-served basis, so arrange to get it now. 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 A. Young
2826 Keysville Rd East
Lithia, FL 33547

ATTENTION

Hillsborough County Teachers of English Writing Contest Judging!

- **Saturday, March 24:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.—Hillsborough Council Teachers of English judging. Every year the HCTE relies on us to judge student and teacher entries in fiction, non-fiction, and poetry – we make a fun day of it, then get invited to an awesome brunch in May to repay us for our efforts. Come out and judge, see what our youth are writing, and share ideas. Even if you are just a beginning writer, you will learn a little more about what makes effective writing. TWA supplies lunch and we always have a great time. I need to know how much food to get, so give me a call...Sandra Kischuk: 813.935.7760.

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

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

MEMBERS IN MEDIA

JUST REVIEWED: CHRONIC NIGHTS

A novel by Frank Cáceres, award-winning author of *Because They Were*
Cynthia Lea Clark, Psy.D., for Futures Mystery Anthology Magazine:

"On the way to an afternoon concert with his family, a man swerves to avoid hitting a man in a wheelchair in the crosswalk. This simple action causes a wreck that kills the man's wife and child. Not able to get over his grief, he blames wheelchair bound men, for what he calls the murder of his family. This distorted views causes him to plot is revenge on the murder. But, he does not know who that man was that was in the crosswalk that fateful day, so any wheelchair bound man is a target.

"Bill Colon is quite the accountant, having worked for the IRS. He now suffers from MS which sometimes necessitates his need for a wheelchair. His brother (in-law) Luis is a cop who drinks too much and has a miserable marriage. Rosa, Luis's wife runs a genealogy business until she crosses paths with low life criminal Ernest Thomas.

"Luis harbors much resentment for Bill and secretly suspects or hopes that his brother (in-law) Bill is either the killer or will be the next victim. But as Luis and his partner solve the pattern to the crimes, Rosa decides she wants out of her marriage (and not by divorce) and Bill feels he should help catch this crazed killer, the many sub plots merge together in a heightened edge of your seat way to keep you guessing what will happen next.

"Frank Cáceres writes of Bill Colon with the passion and commitment of one who truly knows as Frank was diagnosed with MS in 1996. He uses his own experiences to add the touches necessary to make the book so real you'll feel you're right there. Frank paints a picture of the disease, not in a preachy or poor me way, but in an informative, hey look at me, I am a survivor kind of way. It's uplifting and suspenseful at the same time.

"CHRONIC NIGHTS is suspense with a twist. Excellent read.

"On a scale of 1 to 5, I give it a 4.6!"

Dr. Clark is a Forensic Psychologist, writer and actress who has interviewed more than 100 serial killers, mass murderers and rapists. Visit her web site at: www.cynthialeaclark.com

REVIEW BY PUBLISHED MYSTERY NOVELIST, PERRI NASH:

Chronic Nights is a tight, well-constructed story with believable, wholly formed characters that I could relate to – warts and all. Frank Cáceres' quietly informative, humorous handling of people with disabilities, especially the effects of MS, is remarkable for its telling without being a distraction from the conflict of the thriller – the mystery of the murders.

Perri Nash, Author of the Cassie Doolin Mystery Series www.perrinash.com

Available through all bookstores, BarnesAndNoble.com, Amazon.com, iUniverse.com, or order a signed copy through the author's site at www.novel-guy.com. Frank Caceres, Ph.D. Award-winning author of "Because They Were," "Chronic Nights" and "By Reason of Privilege" - mysteries to die for.

The **February 2007 issue of Circuits Assembly Magazine** has a reprint of **Tim Wright's** paper, "Mathematical Modeling of Solder Paste Stenciling for Process Control" that Tim had presented in September 2006 at the Surface Mount Technology Association International Conference in Chicago and published in the conference proceedings.

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

Writing Contest Opportunities-

Writer's Digest Contests

Writer's Digest Annual Writing Competition

Writer's Digest is now accepting entries in its 76th Annual Writing Competition. There are over \$30,000 in cash and prizes. Top winners will be listed in the December 2007 issue of *Writer's Digest*. You can compete and win in all 10 categories.

Deadline: 5/15/2007

The *Writer's Digest* International Self-Published Book Awards

For 15 years *Writer's Digest* has honored self-published authors with the Annual Self-Published Book Awards. Now is your chance to be part on this exclusive competition. With over \$15,000 in prizes, this could be your chance to win valuable cash prizes and gain national exposure for your book.

Deadline: 5/1/2007

Your Story #5 (August 2007)

Win \$100 and publication:

Deadline: 3/10/2007

Your Assignment #198

Win \$100 in *Writer's Digest* Books:

Deadline: 7/10/2006

Your Assignment #76 For Kids (March 2007)

Attention kids ages 13 and under-a special monthly assignment just for you. This month: Winners receive online publication, gift certificates to Barnes & Noble, and more! Check out this month's assignment.

Deadline: 3/10/2007

Visit the *Writer's Digest* website, writersdigest.com, for rules, entry forms and other information on these contests.

TWA 2007 Writing Contest Rules Coming Soon

Your TWA EX-COM is currently working on the rules for your writing contest. We expect to be able to publish these on our website sometime in March or early April. In addition, we'll probably include them as part of our newsletter in April.

Some of the anticipated highlights:

- We'll continue to have our Awards Banquet at the Hilton Hotel, January 17th, 2008.
- We'll start dinner a half hour earlier to give us more time to eat before starting awards ceremonies. Dinner will be @ 6:30 pm.
- Were eager to see you enter the contest and attend the banquet. After all, we're doing it for you..
- We'll incorporate the Wordsmith Cover Photo Contest into the writing competition and use the same October deadline.
- We once again anticipate delivery of the 2008 Wordsmith at the Awards Banquet.

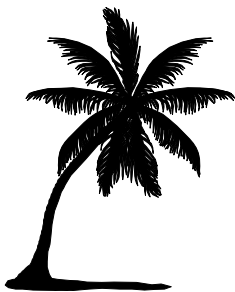
TWA Directory

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-Ida Walter	813-932-6902	adeleidawalter@hotmail.com
Contest Coordinator	James A. Young	813-391-1139	jayoung@mindspring.com

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