



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.

General Meeting April 4th

Wednesday, April 4: General Meeting, 7 p.m., John Germany Library. Eugene Orlando will present and outstanding workshop on plotting called: BUILD YOUR PLOT ON ROCK, NOT SAND, working in critical exercises on Developing an MDQ (Major Dramatic Question), Brainstorming Technique for Plot Choices, and Converting Real Life to Fiction. Get info that will help you continue to upgrade your writing skills! And there is no charge to attend. What a great opportunity to learn something all writers need to know!



Party March 7th Was A Hoot!

Sorry if you missed the member party March 7th. We had about forty of our members gathered at President Sandra Kischuk's home and it looked like it might have been our best party yet. Uthaya Kumar's rice recipe was a big hit as was Gus Muench's crab cakes. Jim Young's chilli recipe is enclosed for those of you who wanted it. You've got to appreciate the fact that these parties give us the opportunity to get acquainted, network, share ideas and make lots of new friends. So we hope you'll go ahead now and mark your calendar for the next party on the first Wednesday in October. You can't say you didn't have enough advance notice.

April 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

I remember when I started writing my first novel. Somehow I never got around to telling everyone about the novel I was *going* to write, which actually turned out to be a good thing. If we put all our energy into telling what we intend to do, we have little or no energy left over to actually *do* it.

How often do we know people who will tell us about what they are going to do? And if we listen to ourselves speak, we *hear* ourselves declare our good intentions. This is usually at a time where we have so many outside pressures that we feel like we are being *kept* away from producing our masterpiece. Whether it is our laundry, our families, or our jobs, *something is getting in the way*. We *know*, if we could only fix this imbalance, or if we could only get others to stop interfering with our efforts, we could produce that piece in our heads.

Many years ago, when I was concentrating on my art, I told friends I would no longer be available on Tuesdays—that was my day to work on my art. Yes, I was still a full-time mom, homemaker, and children's taxi service, but in-between, I sandwiched in skills development, dropping the kids off for a morning at pre-school, then continuing over to the mall for a few hours of serious sketching, or returning home to work on one of my watercolors. Tuesdays were mine, but defending that time was exhausting. There were people who called every Tuesday, not wanting to let go of the control that they felt when they could interrupt me. Every Tuesday, I repeated the same mantra—"Today is Tuesday. I'm not available on Tuesdays. We can talk tomorrow."

I like the results of the time I spent...I also know, if I hadn't demanded that time and set my work as a priority, I wouldn't have developed the artistic eye or made the pictures that cover the walls of my home.

My kids are grown, but my time still comes in scraps. I keep paper and a pen by the bed and often wake to scribble down ideas. I write in the doctor's office, coffee houses, and book stores. If I end up waiting in my car, much of the time I am writing. Prolific is not a matter of having huge blocks of times to devote to my work...it is in recognizing those little pieces of time and using them for the most critical task of all...beginning.

Yes, to finish is important, and many things we begin are never completed. The thing to remember is that there are very few things we complete in life where we didn't make the effort at some point, to *begin*. You don't need the new year as a "marker." The process of beginning can happen any time—this week, today, this morning. Key to completing a piece of work, finishing that remodeling job, cleaning that garage, writing that novel or poem? It's not talking about it—it's *doing* it. Before you finish, you have to start.

Thank You Judges

Saturday, March 24th, fifteen TWA members assembled at my home to donate their time and energy judging the Hillsborough County Teachers of English Writing Contest! You ALL made it so much easier this year. We had some people we had not seen for a while, some people we depend on, and even a first timer!

To see all of you supporting this effort was uplifting. We had fun. In fact we made it a party! How absolutely wonderful--made it a high for the weekend--I'm still smilin'. Hope my list of judges is complete.

Thank you again Robin Knowles, Chris Taylor, Ella Conarton, Warner Conarton, Rich Reardon, Kathy Small, Paul P. DuBose, Jedd Pope, Jim Young, Michael Pleasant, Annie Madeline, Albert M. Valentine, Sandra Kischuk, Jo-Ellyn Guggino, Mary Scussel Bourassa

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

Start Planning For St Petersburg Times Festival of Reading

- **Saturday, October 27:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.—St Petersburg Times Festival of Reading. This event is of special benefit to TWA members. Each year TWA purchases one or more booths at this event for TWA members to promote and sell their books. This has turned out to be a great opportunity for our published authors. Last year they sold over \$500.00 worth of books. And authors can keep the proceeds of their book sales. Get your seat at the table reserved early lest you get left out. It's first come, first serve. Seats are limited. So, go ahead, mark your calendar and then call Sandra Kischuk: 813.935.7760 to reserve your seat at the table.

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

The play, *Red Things and Sharp Edges*, a dark drama by Kal Rosenberg, was a winner in the 3rd Annual Playwright Festival Competition. Along with two other one-act plays, it will be presented at the Florida's Hippodrome State Theater in Gainesville for eight performances, May 11th through May 14th. The playwright was also a winner of the 1st Annual festival competition in 2004.

Contact Theater

thehipp.org
373-5968
375-4477

Contact Playwright

info@kalthewriter.com
www.kalthewriter.com

Jim Young's Chili

2 lb	Lean ground beef
¼ lb	Finely diced bacon
28 oz	Can Diced tomatoes
28 oz	Can Tomato Sauce
15 oz	Can Light Red Kidney Beans
30 oz	2 ea 15 oz Cans Pinto beans
1 ea	Large Onion (diced)
1 ea	Large Green bell pepper (diced)
3 ea	Bay leaves
¾	Pickled Green Jalapeno pepper (finely diced)
2 tbsp	Minced Garlic
2 tbsp	Apple Cider Vinegar
1 tbsp	Oregano
3 tbsp	Olive oil
1 tbsp	Ground Cumin or Sugar
????	Salt

1. Dice bacon as fine as you can. In a large skillet, fry bacon until done. Add ground beef and olive oil. Crumble ground beef to a fine mix and cook until brown. Put in crock pot.
2. Dice onion and bell pepper. Cook until soft. Put into crock pot.
3. Dice ¾ of one pickled jalapeno pepper as fine as possible and add to crock pot.
4. Add all other ingredients to crock pot. Bring to boil 30 minutes, then simmer @ 200 degrees F. until ready to eat. Remove Bay leaves.
5. Very carefully salt to taste and serve.

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

Writing Opportunities-

From TWA member Amber Frangos:

Nancy Slonim Aronie has a Sirius Satellite Radio show and she wants writers to submit work for air play. Her email address is writingfromtheheart@lime.com. More information can be found on lime.com. The show is aired a couple of times, and if the writer is chosen and has access to Sirius, they can hear their's broadcast.

Unsolicited E-mail to Newsletter Editor:

My name is Jessica Carlo. My address is 7841 NW 3rd St. Apt. 105, Pembroke Pines, FL 33024. My cell is 954-274-9650.

I'm working on a book about a very rare disease. "Syndrome" is my daughter's true story. I need help on finding a professional writer/editor so I can get my book published. There is no book about this condition and I'm writing it for awareness purposes. I think this is the best way to invest in my daughter's future because if this book gets published and sold, maybe in 2008, we can start a learning center for the deaf in south Florida.

Alliance for Families with Deaf Children, a non-profit organization, is leading the effort for this center. We just need funds.

I would like to publish this book no later than end of this year. I'm very serious about this book. But I need guidance. Any information would be greatly appreciated. This means a lot to me and I'd really appreciate it if you can respond ASAP. Thank you.

Congratulations Cathie Astl

Saturday, March 10, 2007 at 3:24 a.m., Cathie Astl delivered. Here's the statistics as we got them.

Dean Alexander Astl

5 pounds 13 ounces

18 inches

MORE REVIEWS: CHRONIC NIGHTS

A novel by Frank Cáceres, award-winning author of *Because They Were*

Frank Cáceres, PhD, got a jolt of bad news some years ago when he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, but he has turned it into fodder for a very interesting new novel, **Chronic Nights** (\$20.95, iUniverse), one heck of a thriller that begins with a man in a wheelchair crossing a speeding van's path. When the driver wakes up in the hospital, he learns that his wife and daughter are dead and embarks on a course of vengeance. Meanwhile Bill Colon has been forced to accept his MS, attending a mobility disabilities support group. He is shocked to learn that its members are falling prey to a crazed serial killer. When his brother-in-law, a homicide detective, gets assigned to the latest case, Colon feels compelled to get involved in the investigation. The question is whether they will find the killer before Colon becomes the next victim? This is a very well written and suspenseful story whose previous novels, "Because They Were" and "By Reason of Privilege" have gained him a growing group of fans. To learn more, visit <http://www.novel-guy.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.

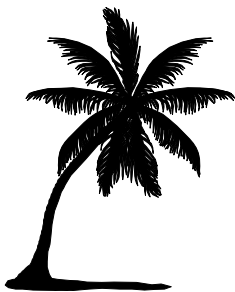
TWA Directory

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TWA WEBSITE

WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG

Stay Cool and **Write On!**



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 c/o James A. Young
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 Lithia, FL 33547