



# Write Connections

Volume 22 Number 5

May 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.

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## General Meeting May 2nd

Wednesday, May 2: General Meeting, 7 p.m., John Germany Library. Member Neal Schupbach, author of *Flying the Canyons of the Sky: Navigation of an Aviator's Soul* will present 42 tips for self-publishing and introduce us to his printer, Billy Ashby of A and A Printing. Get the inside scoop on getting your book to market.

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## HCTE Judging Party March 24<sup>th</sup> Was A Hoot!

Sorry, if you missed out, but a number of us had a great time reading manuscripts and picking winners for the Hillsborough County Teachers of English's annual writing contest. Not only was the judging educational for us, we got to eat some great pizza for lunch too! Of course our judges were also invited to HCTE's Awards Brunch on May 5<sup>th</sup>. BONUS!

Special thanks go out to everyone who gave of their time to this noble effort.

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## TWA 2007 Writing Contest Categories

We hope you are planning to have your entries ready by October. Don't get left out of the money. Start writing now. See rules on our website: [tampawriters.org](http://tampawriters.org).

Each contestant may enter one (1) work in each of the following categories:

- FICTION
- NON-FICTION
- NOVEL
- ADULT THEMES (2007 Floating Category.)
- PLAY/SCRIPT WRITING
- DR. ED HIRSHBERG AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FLORIDA WRITING
- SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY
- POETRY (Several poems may be entered. See Rules ).
- WORDSMITH COVER PHOTO

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

I just finished editing the resources section of the fifth edition of Lucy Parker's *How to Start a Home-Based Writing Business*, adding in a large section on blogs and dropping in notes about the availability of free e-newsletters. I was amazed at the information available for minimal or no cost. It has been an enjoyable project, first to work with Lucy, and second, for what I learned, and know I can learn by going back to the books and Web sites I researched.

I seldom buy books—they cost money I don't have, and then I have to figure out where to store them. A public library card is essential—I know I can log on from home and direct any book in the library system to be sent to my neighborhood facility...and if the book is not available locally, I can request a free inter-library loan. I may have to make an exception for Lucy's book—there is just too much information I will continue to need.

I wasn't always a writer. Over the years, I sold computers, computer training, life insurance, and my own artwork. I worked as a project manager at IBM—reviewing legal contracts, generating budgets, and monitoring project status. I did public relations for the USF College of Engineering. More recently, I write résumés, edit, do desk top publishing, and work as a life coach.

Any one of those "careers" was no predictor of what I would do next—and the lack of continuity may be what kept me from earning the "big bucks." It has provided a wealth of experience to write about—everything from academia, to the corporate environment, to a call center, to unemployment.

In the 1980s, I ran my own writing/art/desk top publishing business. I find myself back there now. Initially, I fought falling back into it, knowing the money was not there as much I would hope. My multiple sclerosis knocked me down, and the fatigue was overwhelming. Before, it was like trying to climb ladders with rungs that kept breaking. Now, I don't climb ladders.

Sometimes we make plans for the direction we intend to go, but a lot of what happens to us is accidental. It is how we process those "accidents" and adapt to them. We can be bitter about our losses, we can give up, or we can change what we want and figure out a different way to get there.

What you want is *not* engraved in bedrock. You can change it, figure out what works, and move in your new direction. The best time to start? Today.

### **Thought for the Month:**

"When do things start to change? At the moment you decide they do."

## Wordsmith 2006 & 2007

Unclaimed reserved copies of Wordsmith 2006 & 2007 are no longer reserved or free. All Wordsmith 2006 and 2007 are now on sale at \$10.00 per copy. Shipping is \$3 per book. Send checks to James Young at the address below.

**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 & 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

**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

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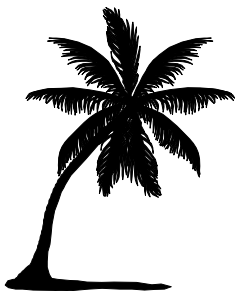
## TWA Directory

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**TWA WEBSITE**

**WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG**

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



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