



Write Connections

Volume 22 Number 6

June 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.

General Meeting June 6th

Wednesday, June 6: General Meeting, 7 p.m., John Germany Library. Retired, 33-year Hillsborough County Sheriff's Deputy Candace Sugarek will answer your questions about the putting the pieces of the property crime puzzle together and the intrigue of working as an undercover narcotics deputy. Starting her career when female officers were rare, Candace used her gender to advantage in getting the "bad guys" to confess to crimes. How? Be there and ask her!

TWA Writing Contest Kicks Off!

Do not procrastinate any longer. This month kicks officially kicks off our annual writing contest with hundreds of dollars just waiting to be claimed. Last year our big winner was Warner Conarton who walked away from the Awards Banquet with a check for \$375.00. Not bad. So, get with it.

And, don't forget to put the **St Petersburg Times Festival of Reading** on your calendar. Last year TWA members sold over \$500.00 in book sales. Why pass that opportunity up. It doesn't cost you a thing. Call Sandra Kischuk immediately and reserve your seat at the table. 813-935-7760.

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.

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

Sometimes when it feels like we are running on "empty," we are tempted to ask other people who have happened to bumble into our lives, "What have you done for me lately? Fill me up. Entertain me. It's not fair that I feel bored."

We know there are people in our lives who will never *give* anything, and typically, where we feel we have poured out what we have 75, 80, or even 100 percent, this other person lets us know it's only 15, a paltry 15 at that, and not good enough. Unless we have a reasonable and clear plan to repay a "favor," it won't happen. These people keep score—and by letting us know just how we tally-up, they can control how we feel. If we let them.

When I was a child, I went on a picnic with a girlfriend and her mother. Thirsty from the heat of the day, I asked for more water in my glass. My girlfriend balked.

"Janet," her mother chided her. "You can give Sandy more water. It doesn't cost anything." (This was in the days before designer water.)

It was clear to me then that for some people, giving was something you did if you didn't have to pay for it. Since then, I have watched people sell things that belonged to other people (I think this is called "conversion"), with apparently no concern for whether it was the right thing to do or not. They got money for it—I doubt they felt better about themselves.

I was at a meeting recently where people wanted me to sign up and pay \$1,995 to be part of an elite group—and then I would have the ability to sell that same package to others. The people who were doing this told me what a great financial opportunity it had been for them. I sat there thinking, "Why would I want to sell it, when I can give it away?"

Backwards?

Yes and no. I don't necessarily have the greatest income, but the payment comes back in other ways—the thank yous and appreciation and knowing I made a difference. But that's not all of it. I don't "chase the buck," and it still comes back to me.

The motivational newsletter, which I write weekly and send out free to over 3,600 people has turned out to be a marvelous (although unintentional) marketing tool. The people I give it away to, because they know I am not keeping score, come to me with their requests and offer to pay for what they need—a résumé, a professional profile project, a coaching job, an bit of editing, a company newsletter. Because I write and *give it away*, people request that I do other, paying jobs.

My question today is not, "what have you done for me lately?" My job is not to "fill your basket," neither is it reasonable to expect you to fill mine.

More important than that outward-focused question is one that puts the responsibility with the person who can do something about your situation—"What have you done for yourself lately?"

I hope the answer includes writing.

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 & 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.

Yes, the Tampa Writers Alliance has a meeting for poets. We meet at the Barnes & Noble Booksellers (North) just south of Stall Road on North Dale Mabry Hwy. We get together at the tables in the back on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 PM. If you're lucky, all you'll need is a bunch of copies of your work (We average about 15 poets per meeting, plus who-knows-what.) Copies are not even compulsory. You can read yours or sing yours or have someone else do it for you. If you only appreciate poetry, bring your favorite to read. We go round and round the table. If you want critique, ask for it. Otherwise, we're there just to enjoy hearing each other emote and comment. Seriously, something bazare almost always happens, so be ready. As for that, we always manage to have a lot of fun anyway, yes, in spite of everything. Give us a try. Free admission.

Warner D. Conarton, Tampa Writers Alliance Poetry Group Coordinator

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Web-page: warnerconarton.com

FRANK CÁCERES, THE NOVEL GUY, HAS ANOTHER SHORT STORY PUBLISHED

Futures Mystery Anthology Magazine will publish the short story entitled, “A Difference of Opinion” in its next issue. This is a mystery/suspense story, peppered with the wry humor characteristic of Frank’s works. The magazine is available in both “hard copy” and electronic formats. Visit <http://www.twilighttimesbooks.com/fmam/Jan07contents.html> for ordering information. You will, no doubt, notice that the upcoming issue is the January/February 2007 release. FMAM is a great mystery magazine, but an updated calendar is sorely needed. At any rate, visit the site: you’ll be glad you did.

“Chronic Nights” has been selected by a cinema production company to be made into a movie. Details will be sent as they are available. In the meanwhile, pick up a copy of the novel; they say the book’s always better.

A man in a wheelchair crosses the path of a family in a van, causing the driver to lose control of the vehicle, which results in the deaths of a woman and her daughter, the surviving husband/father bent on a path of revenge toward men in wheelchairs.

Bill Colón, diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and forced to use a wheelchair on occasion, realizes that he, too, is a potential target. One by one, unwitting men in wheelchairs are murdered, including several members of a disability support group that Bill attends.

The killer, his ultimate victim and a pair of brothers whose lives have traveled in opposite directions, all converge in a desolate warehouse to confront each other.

Feel the hatred of a cold-blooded killer and the fear in his victims, who have already been relegated to a life of loss.

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

Awards & Contests (Deadline June 17th)

\$4,000 in Prizes, plus publication in NMW and on the Web at
www.NewMillenniumWritings.com

\$1,000 for best Story; \$1,000 for best Poem; \$1,000 best Nonfiction

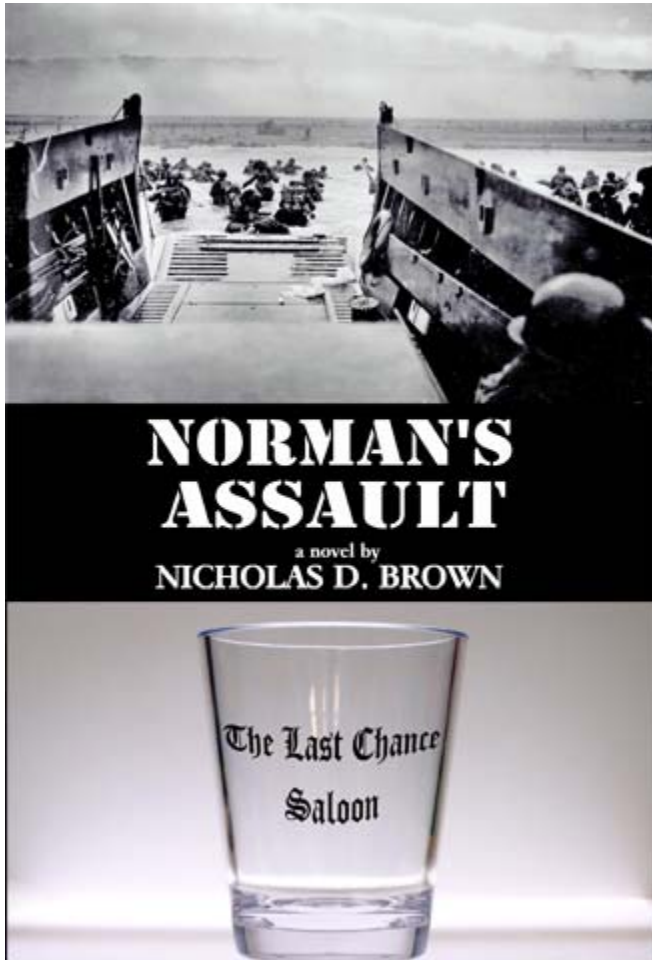
(Nonfiction includes humor, memoir, creative nonfiction, travel, opinion, essay, interview, features, investigative reporting, etc.)

Plus, \$1,000 for best Short Short Fiction (1,000-word limit)

NORMAN'S ASSAULT

a novel by

Nicholas D. Brown



Novel

310 pages

6x9

Published by AuthorHouse™

Hardcover – ISBN: 978-1-4343-0269-4 –
\$25.99 (List)

Paperback – ISBN: 978-1-4343-0268-7 –
\$15.99 (List)

Norman D Beech enters the world on D-Day just as the mighty Allied armada is landing on the shore an ocean away. He is marked at birth as different from others, a sign of divinely infused belief conflicted by a compelling bias toward self-indulgence. George Beech, moderate in all things except his unlimited love for his firstborn, is later rewarded with insolence, rebellion, and estrangement.

Norman, a lowly foot soldier in the war between good and evil, wanders into the dangerous no-man's-land of mediocrity. The prodigal son's comic misadventures turn deadly as the action shifts from Washington, DC, to New England. His war is waged on a battlefield where the markers between the real and the imaginary are constantly shifting as he seeks escape in an alcoholic fog. To know Norman is to love him; to love him is to put your sanity, if not your life, in peril. He leaves bottles, beauties, and bodies in his wake as he wages his relentless assault on the world.

Penitent, Norman seeks forgiveness from his earthly father, only to find him hopelessly lost in the miasma of Alzheimer's. He fights on, searching for love, knowledge, and God, while risking everything to the demons of selfishness, drunkenness, and despair. Teetering on the brink of extinction, he is driven by unseen forces to a final showdown at the Last Chance Saloon.

Nicholas D. Brown was born in 1942 in Washington, DC. A graduate of Gonzaga High, he received bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Catholic University. His engineering career included aerodynamic testing and analysis, utility power systems and synthetic fuels development, rocket motor design, and missile systems analysis. NORMAN'S ASSAULT is his first novel. He is currently residing in Florida.

Note: Press releases and one time book promotions may appear in newsletter as space permits and you submit to the editor before the 20th of each month.

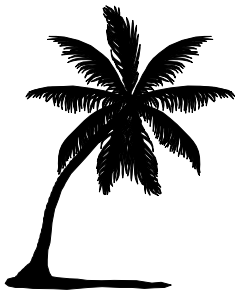
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TWA WEBSITE

WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG

Stay Cool and **Write On!**



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