



Write Connections

Volume 22 Number 7

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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.

No General Meeting July 4th

Wednesday, July 4, we will not be meeting because it is a holiday and by evening many of us will be too pooped to do any more celebrating. So we hope you'll have a nice family outing or get together. Drive safely if you go out because there will be a few drunks on the road. Enjoy the fireworks in your area. Keep writing material for the writing contest and we'll see you in August.

St Petersburg Times Festival of Reading Looming Ahead!

Do not procrastinate any longer. 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

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.

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

How often do we tell ourselves, "I need to *make* some time...then I will...whatever"?

Parents tell themselves they need to make the time to talk with their children. Spouses *need to make the time* to talk with each other. We don't *have the time* to clean a closet—we promise ourselves we will *make time* for that tomorrow. We will write that novel, when we have time.

We usually see the need to *make time* for something that is not on our schedules. Sometimes, we say that we want to *find the time* to do something, like pay the bills. "I will hem the skirt, if I can find the time to do it," we say. The skirt usually sits on the mend-it pile for six months because it is *hard to find the time*.

Like money, we *spend* time—we also *lose* it and *waste* it, although whether time is wasted on something or not often a matter of opinion. I may tend to think of time spent watching a sports event as wasted...another person may think I waste my time writing less than stellar prose. I can argue the same for money...people spend it on things for which I see absolutely no value, and I know there are a lot of people who shake their heads in disbelief at how I spend what little cash I have.

We can look at another person and try to push our tasks off on them, paying someone to take over some of the tasks. After all, we argue, they have more time...or at least, *their time* is not *my time*, or they are not spending it on what I consider important.

What is most misleading in our language is that we speak of *making time* the same as we do *making money*. They aren't the same thing. We can make money, earning it where we didn't have it before. Most of us are caught in the trap of *trading* money for time (it's called wages). Whether we do well financially or not is dependent on how much money we manage to trade our time for, how well we hang on to what we've got, and how well we invest (which is where you get away from trading money for time.)

We always have *time*. . .maybe not enough of it...but what we choose to do with it can determine whether and how much we succeed in accomplishing what we want. And the man or woman who figures out how to *make* it, will be rich indeed. If I could get an extra six hours in the morning somewhere between the hours of 6 and 7 a.m., I could get a lot more done.

In college, I tried to figure out where to get more time, and like many, I cannibalized my sleep ...which tends to be a zero-sum game. What I gained in hours awake, I lost in efficiency and health. How often are we told that, if we want to add something to our lives, just get up an hour earlier? This may work if what you are adding is exercise, since one of the payoffs of exercise may be the need for less sleep, but often the result is that you are grumpier and less able to use what hours you have.

The most common viewpoint in the Western world is that time is linear, sequential, and stubbornly inflexible. Doing one thing with our time usually precludes doing something else. Multitasking is, for the most part, a myth. At its worst, it involves very rapid, alternating, but still sequential, processing.

At its best, it is a way to use time that might otherwise be lost. When I am downloading files on my computer, I often multitask by cleaning my office—it beats staring at the screen and waiting for the computer to finish. If I try to do another task on the computer, it may shut *both* processes down and I have to start them both over again. Multitasking also works in doctor's offices or other places you find yourself *waiting*—there is usually no reason to not do a little something with those scraps of time...and they do add up. I won't recommend filling the time at stoplights with other activities. Guaranteed, just about the time you become fully focused on your new task, the light changes and the driver's behind you get irritated.

Time is often more democratic than money...how much you get may be a little bit determined by how well you take care of what you have...but it is no guarantee that an airplane will not fall on your house.

When you want to add something to your life, the key is replacement. When you want to add something to a full one-quart measuring cup of lots of different kinds of beans, something had to come out. You can just pour more beans in and let whatever overflows fall out, or you can decide that you are going to remove the lima beans, *replacing* them with the new kidney beans.

Avoiding the decision about what to remove means does not mean that nothing "goes away," it just means that you don't get to decide.

Do you want to add more writing to your life?

What are you willing to remove to create the 'space' and 'time' you need?

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

Wizards of Words

The 2007 **WOW** (Wizards of Words) Writers' Conference will take place September 14, 15 in Tampa, Florida. Featured presenters are **Florida authors, Tim Dorsey, (international best-selling mystery author); Linnea Sinclair, RITA (c) award-winning author of Sci-Fi Romance; John Strelecky, international best-selling author of *The Why Cafe*.** Florida authors presenting workshops are: Rita Milios, MSW, *The Mind Mentor*, author, psychotherapist & speaker, Susan C. Haley, *The Power of Networking*; A. J. Rodriguez, D'Maria Scaglione and Betty Fasig, conducting Story Time for Children.

Bob Sanders, co-founder of Mundania Press Publishing, will speak on "**How to Get a Publisher to Say Yes.**" The Young Writers workshop will be conducted by Claudette Milner & Associates.

For advance online registration and complete schedule of workshops and presenters go to: www.wizardsofwords.org. Saturday lunch is complimentary. Advance hotel registration may be made at the Quorum Hotel, 700 North Westshore Blvd, convenient to I-275. (813-289-8200) <http://www.quorumtampa.com/> Conference rates available.

Dahris H. Clair - Committee Chair, WOW Conference, wizards5@verizon.net

Awards & Contests

\$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)

To Enter, follow these Guidelines, or enter on-line at www.writingawards.com.

1. No restrictions as to style, content or number of submissions. Previously published pieces OK if online or under 5,000 print circulation. [Enter as often as you like.](#)
2. Winners and selected finalists published in our [2008 issue](#) and/or on-line at www.NewMillenniumWritings.com.
3. Send between now and [midnight of July 31, 2007](#) (postmark OK).
4. Simultaneous & multiple submissions welcome. Previously published material welcome if under 5,000-circulation or online only in previous dissemination.
5. Each fiction or nonfiction piece is counted as a separate entry, and should total no more than 6,000 words except Short-Short Fiction (no more than 1,000 words).
6. Each poetry entry may include up to three poems, not to exceed five pages total per entry.
7. [Include name, phone, address, email & category on cover page or letter only.](#)
8. Manuscripts not returned. Include email address or SASE for list of winners.
9. Include [\\$17 check payable to NMW](#) with each submission.
10. Send to: "NMW" Room EM, PO Box 2463, Knoxville, TN, 37901.

[To order our current issue, add \\$10.](#)

CRAB CAKES OR DEVEILED CRAB

(Source unknown)

2 cans crab meat (drained)
3 Tbsp butter
3/4 cup dry bread crumbs
1/4 cup diced onion
1/4 cup diced celery
2 beaten eggs
1/2 cup milk or cream
1/2 tsp dry mustard
1/2 tsp paprika
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
2 Tbsp chopped parsley
Dash of Tabasco sauce

Sauté' onion and celery in butter, add crumbs and seasoning. Mix in milk, eggs and crab. Chill. Shape into cakes, dust with crumbs and brown in fryer. Serve immediately.

For Deviled Crab, put filling into crab or other sea shells and bake 15 minutes at 350 or use for stuffing fish, shrimp, game birds, etc.

Gus Muench's Party Crab Cakes

(From a fickle crabber who never uses same recipe twice or measures amounts.)

Ingredients:

About 2 lbs. blue crab or stone crab meat
1 egg any size
¼ cup or less Old Bay Crab Cake Classic
¼ to ½ cup mayonnaise
About a ¼ cup bread crumbs
About a ¼ teaspoon or more Worcestershire sauce
About a teaspoon of dry mustard
About 4 shake of Crystal Louisiana's Hot Sauce

1. In any size bowl mix all ingredients except crab meat.
2. Add crab meat.
3. But, unlike all other recipes DO NOT gently mix crab meat.
4. Using back of large soup spoon, mix crab meat and ingredients together until crab tissue is broken down and thoroughly mixed together with ingredients.
(Tissue being broken down creates a mixture in crab cakes like fiber glass, binding cakes together. Personally believe cakes are tastier.)
5. Take a portion from bowl, about the size of a pin pong ball and roll in bread crumbs. Actually, like to fool party guest by making different size crab cakes.
6. Take portion rolled in bread crumbs and place between thumb and middle finger that are touching and press into a small crab cake.
7. I usually chill over night, but that's not necessity.

Cook cakes any way you like. Because I'm usually frying fish, Best Ever Hush Puppies, shrimp, soft shell crabs; crab cakes are deep fried between 325 and 350 degrees until brown, about 2 to 3 minutes. Caution, never cook over 350 degrees, because bread crumbs burn easily.

*Send me your favorite recipes and we'll share them with our members as space permits.
jayoung@mindspring.com*

TWA Directory

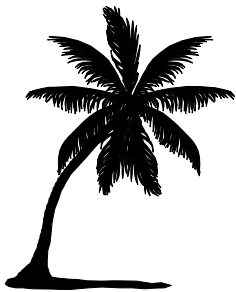
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TWA WEBSITE

WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG

Adele Walter's one act play "Oh My God" is scheduled to be performed by the Carrollwood Players the weekend of August 3-5 2007. Congratulations Adele!

Stay Cool and **Write On!**



Tampa Writers Alliance
Write Connections
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