



Write Connections

Volume 22 Number 9

September 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 September 5th

Wednesday September 5: General Meeting, 7 p.m., John Germany Library: Molli Nickell, former publisher, and now teacher, speaker, and author, will present GET PUBLISHED NOW.

Most, if not all, writers experience anxiety about the process of marketing their manuscripts to agents/editors/publishers or self-publishing companies. In truth, that's a major understatement. Writers feel panic, stress, nausea (and the need for chocolate) when they realize that they must learn a new set of skills in order to successfully market their manuscript.

Molli has taught marketing for writers at UCLA and through the Learning Annex in Southern California, run a publishing company, and reviewed THOUSANDS of query letters and book proposals. She has also published over 1000 articles in general interest magazines including Designer/Writer and Better Homes and Gardens, as well as authoring five non-fiction books. Think she might know what a publisher is looking for?

Molli will address techniques writers can use to make the mental shift from creative writer to creative sales person, which alleviates much of their stress regarding selling their work. Her hand-out resource sheet contains helpful information about the market and the four vital sales tools—queries, cover letters, an enticing first page, and the synopsis.

Mollie's most recent book, "The Guerrillas of Goodness Handbook," was published by Workman. She comes to us through referral of member, Sue LaNeve.

News: The clock is ticking. You have just one month left to get your contest submissions completed. And don't forget to mark you calendar for the TWA Party at the home of Sandra Kischuck on Wednesday, October 3rd. Last chance to turn in contest submissions will be at the party.

Note: Prose, notices, press releases and one time book promotions may appear in newsletter if 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

Years ago, I told Baywinds Adult Learning Facility I wanted to teach a course, "Find Your Passion, Live Your Dream." I wrote it up in PowerPoint, knowing that one of the most difficult things for me to do at that time, due to the multiple sclerosis, was to physically stand up and speak at the same time. That course was the start of my newsletter, which now goes out to over 3,900 people weekly.

It was also the basis for the course I will be doing for the Florida Writers Association Annual Conference in Orlando in November: "Find Your Passion, Energize Your Story." (Do I sense a theme here?) I was going to do an abbreviated version of that class for the TWA this month until Molli e-mailed me—and her presentation was too good an opportunity to let pass.

In the meantime, I am reading to get all the background I can, researching character and plot development, distilling a small portion of the information out there, hoping that what I present will provide tools to help writers improve their skills.

One little nugget I found that has almost nothing to do with the grammatical mechanics of writing (do it *this* way), and yet everything to do with writing as a creative process is *The Vein of Gold*, by Julia Cameron, author of the *Artist's Way*.

Beginning writers often have difficulty is getting into the "interior" of the story—the motivations and details. Their early stories tend to be chronological listings of "this happened, and then this happened," what I often refer to as the "video game narrative." These lack the tease to draw the reader in, the story arc, the climax, the resolution.

Cameron's book talks about the slowing down necessary to "go deeper"—and it is this process that not only touches the body through the physical act of reading, but makes love to the mind and heart of the reader. And yes, there is a theme here.

The story you write is a way of romancing the reader (even if what you write is not *romance*). To write is to risk your own or other's judgment. To write well is being willing to risk the intimacy of letting someone else into the deepest thoughts of your characters, to delve into unknown thought patterns, or to expose how you truly feel.

I know my writing has touched other people...I receive weekly thank yous from people, as well as condemnation from others when the messages have touched something they prefer to keep hidden. That response can be scary.

Which reminds me: Fear is the biggest block to my writing. If I want to be a good writer, I have to be willing to let go of it—fear either controls me or I can choose to control and *use* it.

Doing the latter is a challenge—doing less than that locks me into mediocrity.

I want to leave that behind.

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 \$35 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

e-mail: warnerdconarton@netscape.com

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

TWA Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

Cell Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

To join TWA and receive full membership benefits, fill out the application above and mail it with your check for **\$35** (payable to Tampa Writers Alliance) to:

**James A. Young, Treasurer
Tampa Writers Alliance
2826 Keyville Rd E.
Lithia, FL 33547**

**PARC's SPARC
Self-Published Author's Regional Convention
Holiday Book Expo 2007
Vendor Application/Agreement**

Company/Author name: _____ ("Vendor")

Vendor agrees to sell books and PARC (Pinellas Association for Retarded Citizens) agrees to allow Vendor to sell books at the PARC's SPARC Holiday Book Expo on November 16th and 17th 2007. Registration forms should be received by November 1, 2007 to guarantee space. Vendor spaces are available for 2 authors at each booth. Vendor's are responsible for bringing their own books, booth decorations and supplies for accepting payment for books. Vendor's are responsible for reporting and paying any applicable sales taxes. Registration fees are waived when the registration form is accompanied with a tax-deductible donation to PARC of an amount decided by the Vendor. 20% of all proceeds from sales will be submitted to PARC by Vendor by the end of the Expo. Submission of Vendor Application/Agreement is not a guarantee of space. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Vendor Information
Please print all information clearly and legibly**

Name: _____

(as it should appear on all promotional material)

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please check the days you would like to attend:

Friday November 16th 10am -3pm (Setup begins at 8am) _____

Saturday, November 17th, 10am – 3pm (Setup begins at 8am) _____

Please check the appropriate category for the books you plan to showcase:

General Audience _____ Children's _____ Sports _____
 Religious/Inspirational _____ Business _____ Autobiography/Biography/Memoir _____
 Nutrition/Health _____ Science Fiction/Fantasy _____ Youth/Teens _____
 Related to Florida or the Tampa Bay Area _____ Instructional _____
 Photography/Art Related _____

I understand that by signing this form, I guarantee that none of the books showcased at the PARC's SPARC event have content that is pornographic, sexually explicit or contains racially inappropriate material. Any book found to violate this requirement will be removed from the Expo.

Signed _____ Date _____

Vendor Application Instructions

Please fill out the Vendor Application and mail to JimSam Inc. Publishing, P.O. Box 3363, Riverview, FL 33569

Please include a donation to PARC. The donation may be check, money order or credit card orders. Please make checks payable to PARC. There is no requirement of a certain amount for the donation so give from the heart!

For Credit Card Payments: Card Number: _____

3-digit Security Code on Back of Card: _____

Billing Address for Card: _____

Amount of donation: _____

Signature of Card Holder: _____

Please indicate if you will need an electrical outlet: Yes _____ No _____

A confirmation will be mailed to the address and contact on the Vendor Application. Thank you for your participation and we look forward to seeing you at PARC's SPARC Holiday Book Expo on November 16th and 17th!

Please call Marcia Freespirit at 813-748-9523 or email her at mfreespirit@jimsaminc.com

TWA Directory

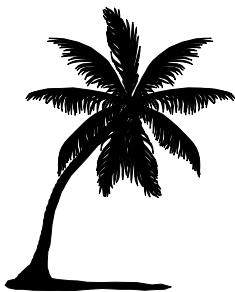
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TWA WEBSITE

WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG

Don't Forget to mark your calendar for the TWA party October 3rd.

Stay Cool and **Write On!**



Tampa Writers Alliance
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 c/o James A. Young
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 Lithia, FL 33547