



Write Connections

Volume 22 Number 11

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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.

Regular Meeting November 7th!

Our next regular meeting, Wednesday November 7, John Germany (downtown) Public Library Auditorium: Mark E. Leib is Performance Critic for the Tampa and Sarasota Weekly Planet and for WUSF-FM Radio. He teaches drama-related courses at the University of South Florida and Eckerd College. He received the CBS Foundation Prize in Playwriting and four awards for his theater criticism from the Society of Professional Journalists. What makes a script and presentation memorable? Come and hear what Mark will share with us.

Bylaws Changes Proposed

Two changes have been proposed to TWA Bylaws. Voting on these proposed changes will occur at the December regular meeting.

1. Article 6 - Election of Officers shall be changed to make the election one month earlier than is presently called for. Thus, the nominations will be published in December, the election held in January and the executive committee will take office in February.
2. Article 6 - Election of Officers will be amended to remove restrictions prohibiting the Treasurer to retain office for more than one term.

Existing wording is contained in the Bylaws found at our website: tampawriters.org. The new wording for Article 6 follows.

ARTICLE 6 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- A. Only members in good standing may be nominated or elected to a TWA office.
- B. No member, other than the Treasurer, may hold the same office more than one consecutive regular term.
- C. No member shall be offered as a candidate for office without the consent of that member.
- D. Candidates for office shall be sought from the general membership by a three person nominating committee appointed by the executive committee in the October preceding an election year. The nominating committee's slate shall be published in the December issue of the TWA newsletter. Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the December general meeting.
- E. Elections shall be held during the January general meeting and shall be by a show of hands among a simple majority of the members in good standing present.
- F. Announcement of the officers so elected shall be published in the February issue of the TWA newsletter.
- G. Officers shall be installed and take office from the Call to Order at the February general meeting.

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

Many years ago, a woman told my mom that she had not been happy after she moved to another town. She was moving again and afraid her experience would be repeated.

My mother gave her an invaluable piece of advice. "Wherever you end up, get involved. Then you will be happy there."

I was reminded of that this morning when I received an e-mail from a woman who told me that she wanted to get involved with an organization I belong to. She was new to the group. Her comment was, "I find that signing up for a position is the best way to get myself involved."

It is.

How many times do you hear people complain that the "didn't get much out of something." If you ask them about their involvement, most often, they indicate that they never did much because they were waiting to *get*...that after they saw the benefit, then they would put in the effort. After all, why work at something when there isn't a payoff?

It usually doesn't work that way.

How many jobs have you had where you got paid for everything before you did the work?

When you have developed the reputation of getting things done, over and over again, people may give you an up-front retainer (a portion of the money expected to be paid), just because they want to make sure you will reserve the time to do their work. I often ask for a retainer, just because I don't want to work for nothing and I want the buyer to make sure they are really interested in having the work done. (If I don't do the work, my intention is to give the money back, although other writers do keep it. I haven't had anybody change their mind once they have paid the retainer.)

In publishing, this prepayment is called an *advance*, and again, it is based on the reputation you have established. No reputation usually equals no (or minimal) advance. In either case, your efforts (or sales royalties) are applied against what you were paid initially.

For many years, I did not ask for a retainer. (And I should have, because I got burned more than once.) Now, for any job I estimate costing over \$100, I do, unless I am working with a fairly large, established business. The reason I can ask for this, and get it, is that *in the past*, I worked for it. My reputation is that I deliver...and I work to maintain that reputation. It is invaluable.

I joke with my résumé clients that the hiring managers are all listening to the same radio station—WII-FM, acronym for What's In It For Me? The first job of the applicant is to convince the hiring manager they can *do* the job. (How many résumés start with the objective, "To find a position where I can...") This implies that the person's objective is to "find a position"—once secured, then what?) If I tell someone I need the work, that doesn't get me the job. What does is when they see what I can do for them.

When we look at "What's In It For Me?" and forget the other piece, "What can I give?" we focus on what we want, and forget the importance of what we have. Through normal, self-interest, most people are not interested in what you *need*, unless they see your need as a way for them to get what they want. We like to think we are special, and that others can see that. But beware. If someone tells you how perfect/wonderful/special you are, they are usually not doing it because you are perfect/wonderful/special. It's called a con job.

When your focus is on getting (what you don't have) and on what the world *owes* you, you will never have enough. You will find yourself drifting from one organization to another, from one town to another, never feeling satisfied. Nothing is coming back to you, and you can't figure out why.

I've seen it said in another way..."Grow where you are planted." It's only by putting down roots that you draw the nourishment you need to grow. And putting down roots takes effort. Wherever you are, get involved—that's your roots—and that's where the "pay-off" begins.

Are you hanging back, expecting the world to give you what you want?
Or are you willing to get involved?

Scripts Contest

The Richey Suncoast Theatre is taking submissions for a one act play weekend. Send your submissions to:

Charlie Skelton
Richey Suncoast Theatre
P.O. Box 188
New Port Richey, FL 34656-0188
www.richeysuncoasttheatre.com

ATTENTION

New Novel Pod Forming

Beth Miller, a new member, is coordinating a novel pod in the Carrollwood/Lutz area. She is a stay-at-home mom with four kids, working on her second novel. Her first novel is a family saga/literary piece; her second is a contemporary comedy. All genres are welcome. Prefers daytime or weekend meetings. If you have been looking for a more intense writing experience and really want to hone your skills, a novel pod is invaluable—and probably one of the least expensive and most efficient ways to improve your writing. For more information, contact Beth at tishm@tampabay.rr.com.

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



FICTION AMONG FRIENDS

ST. GEORGE ISLAND WRITERS' RETREAT

With author-in-residence

Adrian Fogelin

November 12-16, 2007

St. George Island, Florida

Relish the idea: Four nights and five days of writing, reading aloud, workshops, critiquing and consulting with Adrian Fogelin, author of seven highly-acclaimed novels for young adults.

The retreat will be held at a lovely beach view home with private pool and Jacuzzi in a gated community on St. George Island, with all meals and activities onsite.

A limit of just seven guests in-residence and four commuter participants guarantees opportunities to address your particular writing needs and interests. Commuters participate in all activities and meals. The St. George Island Writers' Retreat is not limited to those writing fiction, but all who attend should have a work in progress.

Once again the St. George Writers' Retreat welcomes Dawn Radford, author of the just-released *Oyster Flats*, presenting a reading from her works.

Details and registration at www.FictionAmongFriends.com. Questions? Contact Perky Granger, 518-623-9305 or FictionFriends@aol.com. Space is limited, so call early.

Tampa Writers Alliance **Benefits of Membership**

- **Meet and get acquainted with other writers.** TWA hosts two member parties a year. These provide all members a chance to make new friends and enjoy old ones.
- **Educational programs of interest to writers.** Each monthly meeting offers an opportunity to learn something that may help your writing skills grow.
- **Writers critique group.** Two monthly critique group meetings offer members a chance to have their manuscripts evaluated by their peers.
- **Poetry critique group.** Two monthly poetry critique group meetings offer members a chance to have their poetry evaluated by other poets.
- **Eligible to promote and sell books at St Pete Times Festival of Reading.** Each year TWA pays the fees necessary for one or more booths at the one day St Petersburg Times Festival of Reading. TWA members can promote, display and sell their books at TWA's booth.
- **Eligible to join others in judging manuscripts for Hillsborough County Teachers of English annual writing contest.** Each year TWA members are asked to judge manuscripts for HCTE. This opportunity allows our members to apply their knowledge and skills in helping young writers find their talent.
- **Eligible to enter annual writing contest and win hundreds of dollars.** Each year TWA awards \$2,200.00 in prizes to the best entries in our writing contest.
- **Attend TWA's Annual Awards Banquet.** In January of each year our members gather to recognize the winners of the writing contest and hear the best of the best manuscripts in each category.
- **Free copy of Wordsmith anthology.** Each member is eligible to receive a free copy of TWA's Wordsmith anthology. The Wordsmith contains all the winning entries from the writing contest.
- **Receive TWA's "Write Connections" newsletter with information on events, writing contests, programs, conferences, etc.** Every month our members receive news of interest to writers.

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, TWA
2826 Keyville Rd E.
Lithia, FL 33547

TWA Directory

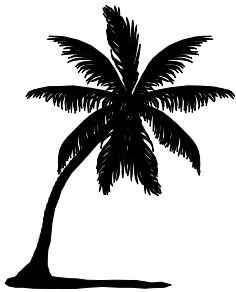
TITLE	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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Secretary	Cathie Astl	813-994-5455	cathieastl@hotmail.com
Treasurer	James A. Young	813-737-1688	jayoung@mindspring.com
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Wordsmith Editor	Sandra Kischuk	813-935-7760	sjkischuk@juno.com
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Publicity/Public Relations	Adele-Ida Walter	813-932-6902	adeleidawalter@hotmail.com
Contest Coordinator	James A. Young	813-391-1139	jayoung@mindspring.com

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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 Lithia, FL 33547