



# Write Connections

Volume 22 Number 12

December 2007

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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.

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## Regular Meeting December 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, John Germany Library, Tampa

HOLIDAY TREAT! Author of **five New York Times best sellers**, and **one of the nation's best-known sports authors**, **PETER GOLENBOCK**, will give us insights into his unique, behind the scenes sports writing. His best-known books include *The Bronx Zoo* (New York Yankee pitcher Sparky Lyle), *BUMS: An Oral History of the Brooklyn Dodgers*, *Personal Fouls* (a look at college basketball corruption), *American Zoom* (a history of NASCAR), and *Wild, High and Tight* (a biography of Yankee manager Billy Martin). Other best-sellers are *Balls* with Graig Nettles, *Number 1* with Billy Martin; and *The Forever Boys*, a look at major league baseball from the eyes of retired ballplayers. In *The Last Lap*, Golenbock profiles the men who lost their lives on the NASCAR race circuit His latest book, *Seven*, an intimate and sometimes outrageous biography of Mickey Mantle, is currently available at Inkwood Books (Tampa's only full-service independent book store).

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### 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](http://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.

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**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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

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

In November, I was a speaker at the Florida Writers Association Annual Conference in Orlando. Speaking was how I paid for my attendance—FWA comped my room, conference fee, and most of my meals...in exchange, I gave a double "feature" session, "Find Your Passion, Energize Your Story," and two regular sessions, "Using Word™ Instead of Letting it Use You," and "Motivation and Time Management for the Writer in You." After one of the sessions, two people requested private consultations with me.

Since I returned, I completed coding the presentations for the Web—they are now posted in the Toolbox on my writing site: [www.SandraKischuk.com](http://www.SandraKischuk.com). If you feel like you can use the information, it's free.

In my e-mail yesterday, I received a request from Rasheed Muhammad in Pakistan to help him promote his self-published novel...not necessarily what I do (why do I cringe when I see an AuthorHouse publication? – see <http://anotherrealm.com/prededitors/>). I sent a response back to him...but my e-mail only begins to tell how small the world is, and how we are stitching it together with words.

This month I also went out to Town & Country Elementary for the Great American Teach-in to talk to the children about being a writer. I read my story, "The Whose-its and Whats-its," which I submitted last year to the TWA writing contest—it won nothing at that time. After my presentation, some of the children came up and *asked for my autograph!* This "give-back" had no financial payment, but...as I wandered back to my car, at least a dozen children and some of the teachers came up to me and either thanked me or told me how much they liked my story. Somehow, in sharing what I had written, I touched lives, just as I had at the FWA conference. Becky Salichova from Bouncing Ball Books is begging for me to finish the watercolors for the story by April so she can take it to publication...through a personal relationship which we developed when I coordinated her TWA speaking a year ago. (Yes, there are benefits to volunteering.)

Another e-mail came yesterday—Michael Pleasant, Jedd Pope, and Eugene Orlando pulled together a slate of officers for our TWA elections. It is encouraging to see new names, people stepping forward to lead our organization. These volunteers are the ones who make the difference, who bring new and fresh ideas. We may agree with them, we may not...but they will help us to learn and grow...if we let them. (And if you really want an organization going in *your* direction, be ready to step up and do the work!)

To those who have agreed to run for office, thank you. For those who may not get elected, or don't have their name on the ballot, the board is only a small piece of what TWA is about. We have for years operated with a very "thin" board...doing a *lot* of things. Some of the people in our novel critique group know nothing about the general meetings. Some of those who attend general meetings haven't participated in the novel critique group or the poetry group.

People have called to suggest changes—"Why don't you..." There is a limited amount one or two or three people can do...so we either limit what we offer, or we have a few people working too hard. We have begged for an Event Coordinator, someone to pull together the Hillsborough Council Teachers of English competition and the St. Pete Times Festival of Reading—and I would hope that however the election goes, we will have a new volunteer to organize events.

I don't know if it is characteristic of writers or just how the world is today. We don't eat when food is offered—we want it on our schedule, when we are hungry. In writing, that translates to all the workshops we ignore, until we decide we want information because now, we *need* it. Then, we expect the source to provide the same stuff they offered when we were too busy to listen. Anyone who is a mom will recognize this—a lot of effort goes into the preparation of a meal, but the child pushes the food around the plate, then says he or she is not hungry. Two hours later, that changes, and mom is expected to drop everything and re-do what she has already done. If she does, the child becomes spoiled, expecting the world to be just as centered on the child's needs as the child is.

Shutting out opportunities and demanding that we get them when we want, instead of taking advantage of them when they are there, means we will miss ninety percent of life. Some things only happen once. People move away or die. Deadlines come, and once they pass, we may not get a second chance. Leftovers are seldom as good as the first time around (except pizza and spaghetti). If we want the best, we probably should get there when the best is served.

Dinner is on the table. What are you going to do about it?

## 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](http://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](mailto:tishm@tampabay.rr.com).

### 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 \$35 yearly beginning the month you join. For further information, visit our Website at: [www.tampawriters.org](http://www.tampawriters.org)

### The Poetry Group (No Meeting in December.)

**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.**

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](mailto:warnerdconarton@netscape.com)

Web-page: [warnerconarton.com](http://warnerconarton.com)

## TWA Executive Committee Nominations

The Ballot of TWA members (in good standing) who accepted their nominations and are running for TWA Executive Committee positions, for a two year term beginning in fiscal year 2008, are as follows:

President: Al Lucus  
Vice President: James Durlacher  
Vice President: Mike Darling  
Secretary: Elizabeth (Beth) Miller  
Treasurer: Paul DuBose  
Member at Large: Charrie Moscardini  
Member at Large: Marianne Alluto

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Pleasant  
TWA Nominating Committee  
(813) 325-0314

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Dear Writer,

FREE query letter evaluations are being offered at [www.getpublishednow.biz](http://www.getpublishednow.biz). No kidding! They're free!

As a former publisher, I've evaluated thousands of query letters and book proposals. The information on my website will help you learn to write the professional and effective marketing documents you need order to open the door and take the first step toward becoming a published author.

There's lots more on my website to help you get published! Check it out.

Write On!

Molli Nickell  
Speaker-author-marketing coach  
[www.getpublishednow.biz](http://www.getpublishednow.biz)  
*Helping writers get published since 1998*

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### Family and friends,

I've received official notification that my novel entry is eligible for the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award.. My dream is that "*Where Seagulls Fly*" wins first place. I expect to be notified no later than January 15, 2008 if my entry will advance to the semi-final round. The award is a publishing contract with Penguin Publishing and a \$25,000.00 advance. Entries were limited to 5,000 submissions.

Paul Philip DuBose

## A KEY TO THE TREASURE

by James S. Chesnut

An excellent holiday gift for your young readers, this novel of adventure and suspense on a voyage to the Florida Keys will intrigue teenagers and young adults.

Beneath the crystalline waters just offshore of the Keys lie hundreds of shipwrecks from the days of Spanish exploration. Such a setting is the ideal place to hunt for lost treasure in Chesnut's recent novel, featuring a St. Petersburg family with four teens aboard their father's sailboat, "Aikane".

Their vessel is searched by the U.S. Coast Guard in the middle of the night, they encounter what appear at first to be "pirate" ships, are caught in the midst of a fierce summer thunderstorm, and even get to board the famous Treasure Search, Inc. ships.

Readers will hold their breath as the teens dig for buried treasure on a small Key, but find themselves too near a dangerous encounter between the Coast Guard and a gang of drug smugglers. Although searching for the treasure comes first, finally they find that their sailing voyage brings them something far more valuable than gold!

**To order: 1-888-280-7715 or visit [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com)**

Online at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, etc. OR contact: James S. Chesnut, 727-865-2136 or [chesnujs@eckerd.edu](mailto:chesnujs@eckerd.edu)

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### Tampa Writers Alliance 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 Keysville Rd E.**  
**Lithia, FL 33547**

## TWA Directory

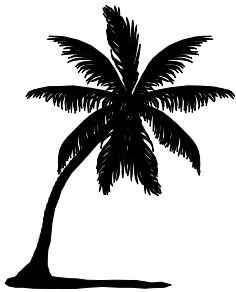
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>E-MAIL ADDRESS</b>
President	<b>Sandra Kischuk</b>	813-935-7760	sjkischuk@juno.com
Vice President	<b>Michael Pleasant</b>	813-325-0314	pleasmw@aol.com
Secretary	<b>Cathie Astl</b>	813-994-5455	cathieastl@hotmail.com
Treasurer	<b>James A. Young</b>	813-737-1688	jayoung@mindspring.com
Member-at-Large	<b>Robin Knowles</b>	813-645-7640	rhknowles@aol.com
Poetry	<b>Warner Conarton</b>	352-588-3228	WarnerDConarton@netscape.com
Write Connections Editor	<b>James A. Young</b>	813-391-1139	jayoung@mindspring.com
Critique Group	<b>Al Lucas</b>	813-899-0438	ALthePhilosopher@aol.com
Wordsmith Editor	<b>Sandra Kischuk</b>	813-935-7760	sjkischuk@juno.com
Website	<b>Jim Chaplin</b>	813-835-4255	jpcflorida@hotmail.com
Publicity/Public Relations	<b>Adele-Ida Walter</b>	813-932-6902	adeleidawalter@hotmail.com
Contest Coordinator	<b>James A. Young</b>	813-391-1139	jayoung@mindspring.com

**TWA WEBSITE**

**WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG**

**Don't Forget to mark your calendar for the TWA party October 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

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



Tampa Writers Alliance  
**Write Connections**  
 c/o James A. Young  
 2826 Keyville Rd E  
 Lithia, FL 33547