



Write Connections

Volume 23 Number 1

January 2008

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 January 2nd, 7:00 PM, John Germany Library, Tampa

Sandra Kischuk's "Find Your Passion, Energize Your Story" is a dynamic, interactive workshop designed to help you create a most successful, creative, and exciting story by tapping into your individuality and what your true interests are. It was a four-hour feature presentation for the FWA annual conference in November. (Two people actually paid for personal consultations after the FWA workshop!) For our January meeting, Sandra will provide tips to help you bring your characters to life.

Bylaws Changes Passed

Two changes have been made to TWA Bylaws. Voting on these proposed changes occurred 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

BROKEN WINGS

A couple of weeks ago, I woke in the middle of the night, wrote down "Broken Wings," turned over, and went back to sleep. For several weeks after that, I had a number of false starts on a newsletter using that as a title. I thought I was supposed to write something about how we all struggle to fly, even though life has broken our wings. Somehow, that wasn't the complete message.

Two days ago, I remembered.

When I was in elementary school, my nickname was "Nature Girl." I was the kid who brought home snakes I had caught in the field where the grass laid over in golden waves. I ran in the church woods, a one-block patch of trees where the trillium and spring beauties bloomed. At camp, when we canoed out on the lake, I leaned out to catch turtles and frogs. Once, I even crept up behind and snatched a goldfinch—a small bright yellow bird with black wings and cap—singing in a low tree in my backyard. Years later, my mom told me that she had also caught a goldfinch when she was a child.

I raised black swallowtail caterpillars—black and yellow and white striped worms with smelly orange "horns" they extended if they were bothered. They lived on parsley or carrot tops. I kept them in shoeboxes with metal screen crimped over the top.

The caterpillars shed their skins and transformed their bodies into their distinctive three-horned brown cocoons. In a few weeks, or after the winter months, they dragged themselves from their cocoons, and stretched out their wings—now they were large graceful black butterflies, with blue and yellow spots on the margins of their lower wings. After a butterfly hatched, I pinched the thorax to stun it and placed it in a glass jar with cotton soaked in something mom used in her laundry. It was poisonous, but I don't remember what it was.

After the butterfly died, I worked quickly, pinning the body into the center groove of a homemade corrugated cardboard mounting board, spreading the wings flat and pinning strips of paper over them to hold them in place until the butterfly dried.

Between the black swallowtails I raised, the yellow sulfurs and white cabbage butterflies I netted, the large polyphemus moth that hatched from its silky tent, and numerous smaller insects, I created a single display in a glass-topped wooden box my parents had given me. Putting the collection together took me years.

At one point, my brother wanted to share the display with his classmates for show and tell. To prevent the glass from being broken, we removed it, and covered the display with clear plastic kitchen wrap. When he brought the display home, you could see where little fingers had poked into the plastic, breaking the wings off every one of the moths and butterflies in the box. Even meticulous gluing would not repair the specimens. I peeled off the shredded plastic and dumped the contents of the box into the trash.

Part of me was broken that day....

The more we invest in something, whether it is a career, the things we own, a garden, a pet, or a relationship, the more we risk in losing it. The minute we begin to care, broken hearts are guaranteed to happen, whether it is the result of someone else's actions, happenstance, or disappointing ourselves. The only way we escape is if we don't care—we won't lose because we never had it (whatever *it* is) to start with.

This is why some people find it so easy to damage and destroy other people's things, careers, and relationships. When they have not vested their lives in something, the loss does not affect them.

My butterfly collection had no value to anyone except for me. Children's probing fingers pressed against what was supposed to protect, broke through the plastic, and turned beautiful wings into something broken and ugly. What they did meant very little to them. I never collected butterflies again.

Are you breaking other's wings? Why?

Are you breaking your own?

Writing Contest

****The Sandy Writing Contest**

The Crested Butte Writers are pleased to announce the return of their writing contest for unpublished authors, The Sandy.

Polish up your pages and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to get feedback from trained judges, to make a little money, and to get your material in front of industry professionals!

FMI: entry form, rules and sample score sheets, www.thesandy.com

Questions, email contest coordinator, Theresa Rizzo Theresa@theresarizzo.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. No meeting in December. 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

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: Michael Darling
Vice President: James Durlacher
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

Dear Writer,

FREE query letter evaluations are being offered at 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
Helping writers get published since 1998

Last Call To Dinner!

If you act quickly, there is still time to register for the TWA Writing Contest Awards Banquet. The banquet is Thursday, January 17th. Visit our website tampawriters.org and download the reservation form ASAP.

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.

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 **\$35.00** (payable to Tampa Writers Alliance) to:

James A. Young, Treasurer, TWA
2826 Keysville Rd E.
Lithia, FL 33547

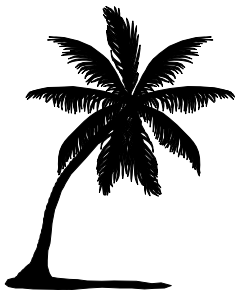
TWA Directory

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

Stay Cool and **Write On!**



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 Lithia, FL 33547