



Write Connections

Volume 23 Number 2

February 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 February 6th, 7:00 PM, John Germany Library, Tampa

The Carrollwood Players will read the winning entries from our 2007 writing contest.

These include:

Warner Conarton “Getting to Know You”

Sandra Kischuk “Planning Perfection

James A. Young “Cedar Key”

Corrections to Wordsmith 2008

I deeply regret that, due to an error made by me, your Writing Contest Coordinator, James Young, incorrect information concerning the author of one of the winning entries was given to the Wordsmith editor, Sandra Kischuk. Sandra had no way of knowing the information was incorrect and published it in Wordsmith 2008.

As a result, credit was given to Max Courson for writing “Luck of the Draw” when in fact the author of this winning piece was Jeff Corydon. Correction to the Wordsmith has been made to all undistributed copies and efforts are in progress to correct those already distributed. I showed my appreciation to Sandra by taking her to dinner and a movie. It was the very least I could do, since I caused her a lot of extra work.

Jeff Corydon has been very gracious about this error and I deeply appreciate his understanding.

Additional recognition is needed for Eugene Orlando who donated a full day of his time and energy as a Writing Contest judge but was overlooked in the credits of Wordsmith 2008.

I know that I, Sandra Kischuk and all other working members of TWA are appreciated for our efforts. You have made that appreciation known, overlooking any shortfalls we may have. We thank you.

Of the twenty-six (26) individuals who entered the 2007 contest, seventeen (17) TWA members won awards. I personally think that high ratio of winners to entrants reflects the fact that TWA has a large number of very good writers. I only wish more of you had entered. Participation in the contest by our membership was, in my opinion, far below what your EXCOM would have liked.

I have heard complaints that the same people always win. I can only respond by pointing out that the same people always enter and they are very good. In most cases, three judges decided the winning pieces and I have a high level of confidence in the fairness of our judging procedure. I suppose we could shoot them and then they'd be out of the way next year but I'd like to keep them around so I can use them again as a measure of my writing ability. True, I never seem to win a first place, but that only tells me that I need to keep working on getting better. I have never concluded the judging unfair.

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 Sandra Kischuk

NOTCHES ON THE BELT

How often do you hear other people tell you just how hard they are working to achieve something, but it never seems to happen? How often do you feel you are beating at a door, and it just won't open?

As writers, rejection is almost synonymous with trying to get published. We see where we want to go—we know we have created the perfect piece for our "dream" publication, or we have crafted the perfect novel that some agent, somewhere, should be wise enough to snap up—it will be a bestseller after all. All that work. It seems only our friends and family, or maybe just we, ourselves, recognize how great it is. Why can't we get what we have written published? Or, why do we have to do it ourselves?

"Not good enough" is a refrain we have heard from our childhood...only it's different now. "Doesn't meet our current needs" or "Doesn't fit with our direction" is hard to understand. We slide the rejection into the familiar slot, "Not good enough," and get discouraged, almost ashamed that we have had the audacity to submit...and been again, rejected. We feel the same sting we felt as children when we were excluded.

Many years ago, I decided that dancing would give me "exercise in air conditioning," and showed up at a swing dance club where they started the evening off with lessons. At that point, my multiple sclerosis had given me numb feet, and I kicked my shoes across the floor for months until I finally got shoes I could TIE on with ribbon. (I have since progressed to dance shoes with snap on or buckle ankle straps.)

For a year and a half I showed up weekly, took the lessons, and waited for *someone* to ask me to dance. It rarely happened.

Then, one night, I decided I was tired of it all, and asked a man to dance...then, another. After six dances, I was exhausted and headed out the door to go home. On the way out, a woman asked where I was going. I told her what I had been doing and that I was exhausted and leaving.

She challenged me. The next week, the first person to dance with ten men—the other person had to buy her a drink.

She was slow showing up the next week and I got tired of waiting—I started working toward my ten. By the time she showed up, I was up to six. And then, she was serious...on the floor for every dance. I decided the only way I was going to beat her, even with my head start, was to get out there and *dance*.

By the time I reached TWENTY, the evening was over. Yes, some men turned me down along the way...but I learned...it was all just notches on the belt...and a rejection just meant I had to ask someone else. Over the years, I actually got the reputation of being "good dancer," but it took a lot of years of practice (and in my case, with the multiple sclerosis, a lot of skinned knees and sprained ankles from falling down on the dance floors).

I remember one man dropped me into a "dip" on one side and popped me back up, then dropped me into a "dip" on the other side, but I couldn't get back up—my "weak leg" didn't have the required strength—after that I made a point of telling the men I didn't do "dips." And although I almost always was the person doing the asking, that was okay. I still got to dance.

I learned. If I wait for someone to invite me, it may or may not happen. If I ask, it may or may not happen—but it's a lot more likely.

Writing is like that. Rejection just means I have to keep practicing, and to ask someone else...The rejections and the wins become the same...just notches on the belt. The ultimate goal may be to publish...but in the meantime...I'm writing.



Greetings from TWA President Michael Darling

Please join me in thanking Sandra Kischuk, Michael Pleasant, Cathie Astl, Jim Young, and Robin Knowles for serving the TWA so wonderfully for the past two years. The other new officers, I am certain, and I look forward to the challenge of the next two years. I am confident that we will continue to offer the same benefits of membership as well as continuing to find new opportunities for the future.

I suppose you might like to know a little about me. I am a married thirty-something with three dogs, but no children. I enjoy writing, reading, worship, sports, and strategy gaming when I can fit it in. I self-published a science fiction novel called *Hoplite Renegades* in mid 2006 via a POD publishing company. I am currently working on a science fiction novella, which I plan to self-publish as well, to complement my novel. There are also a crossover fantasy/modern/supernatural novella and another full-length science fiction novel in the works with ideas for a dozen more short stories and novels waiting for me to get to them one day. So, you can see that writing clearly is a major focal point in my life. I am striving to become a fulltime writer so that I can leave my day job (sound familiar anyone?) in the cigar business as an inventory manager. I have been a successful supervisor and manager for eight years now, so I like to think I am experienced adequately to provide leadership for the TWA.

A goal of mine, unless the membership's disapproves, is to find more opportunities for TWA members to sell and market their books while still helping each other improve our writing skills no matter what level they are. Certainly, we all have full schedules and I am no different, which is why we need everyone to pitch in where they are able and willing.

Please join me in extending good tidings to the TWA's current critique groups, novel pods, and poetry groups that meet around the Tampa area separately from the monthly general meetings. Al Lucas and Warner Conarton both deserve recognition for the services and leadership they have provided these groups every month. And thank you Charles Greenwood for agreeing to lead the critique group in the future. Hats off to Jim Young for putting together the newsletter every month. Please give a large salute to Jim Chaplin and Sandra Kischuk for constantly updating the website. Additionally, I am certain there are more of you whose help is critical and noteworthy in these and other endeavors for the TWA. I hope to meet you soon. If there is anything they need, I will do whatever I can to assist. Time just doesn't allow me to participate in these many fantastic benefits that the TWA offers as I would like to.

Here's an open offer to listen to any member's ideas or concerns about TWA. Please e-mail any such or just a friendly hello to make contact with me at darling@HopliteRenegades.com. I encourage you all to do so at your convenience. Please let me know what resources (anything from moral support to volunteering to information) you can offer to the TWA. Or let me know what the TWA can do better for you. I *really* do want to know what you think.

Ticket to the Moon

Uthaya Kumar's collection of short stories, *Ticket to the Moon*, has been published by Bouncing Ball Books. As members of the Tampa Writers Alliance may recall, Bouncing Ball Books had a contest in 2006 for the best collection of short stories by a member of our group. Uthaya Kumar was the winner and given a publishing contract.

Ticket to the Moon is a marvelous collection of short stories about the beauty and character of the materially poor people of rural India. This collection articulates the extraordinary culture and dignity that simple folk come to embody, thus pointing out the fallacy that culture needs affluence to prosper.

Uthaya Kumar, DVM, was born and spent his childhood in a small village in South India, Muverirundali, Tamilnadu. He was awarded his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Madras College. Dr. Kumar practiced in many villages in India for eight years. In 19991, he and his wife moved to Montana to study molecular biology and eventually settled in the Tampa Bay area where his veterinary office is located. It was from this home in Tampa that Kumar began to recollect the memories from his childhood in India.

The wonderful photographs taken by 80-year old Mr. A. Esakki of Kumar's home village provide the proverbial "icing".

With a look at the picture at the start of each story and then Kumar's words, suddenly you are there.

Kumar is a member of the Tampa Writers Alliance critique group, where his stories first stepped into the light. Beyond the fact that he provides extensive acknowledgement in the book, he would like to thank all members of the critique group for their help in making his dream come true.

Copies of *Ticket to the Moon* are now available from Amazon (<http://www.amazon.com/>), or from Bouncing Ball Books (<http://www.bouncingballbooks.com/>).

Call to Writers



“Neck-Lust and the Chocolatier”

A national invitational of extraordinary neck pieces

Enhanced by

Chocolate Creations

&

Original Writing

Inspired by the title

Writers are invited to participate with an original poem, essay, short story or other literary forms inspired by the title of the exhibition or any of its words or implications. *“Neck-Lust and the Chocolatier”*

- Submissions must be: Received in their final form by February 1, 2008.
A single 8.5”x11” page. Signed and dated
- Ten to twenty submissions will be selected
- Selections will be framed and showcased along with the necklaces or bound in a book
- The writers and their work will be recognized in all press releases, invitations and other printed marketing and public relations materials
- All submissions remain the property of the writer

Exhibition Dates: March 7 – May 10 - Reception scheduled for: Friday, March 7, 6-9pm

Please direct submissions and any questions you may have to: Elizabeth Kozlowski

elizabeth.kozlowski@floridacraftsmen.net 501 Central Ave • St. Petersburg • FL 33701 • 727.821.7391

Photographs of specific necklaces included in the exhibition will be available for additional inspiration after January 22, under upcoming exhibitions @ www.floridacraftsmen.net

From Tom Gill

I submitted LAND OF FIRE, the WWII spy novel I wrote, to the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award contest. Out of 5000 entrants, I am one of 1000 semi finalists. Check out

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B001200CIC/ref=yml_dp and click on the Download for Free button to get the first chapter. You will need an Amazon account, which is basically an email address and a password. I've been using my yahoo email account for this type of thing.

Click on the view it now button, and you can read the first chapter. There are a couple of transcription errors, but hopefully they are not fatal.

I would appreciate a review of the book, along with a five star rating. And please pass this link along to all of your friends for them to review it as well. I need a lot of positive votes to propel me to the next level.

Let me know what you think. Tom Gill

ATTENTION

New Critique Group Coordinator

Charles Greenwood is our new Critique Group Coordinator. Charles is a Vietnam veteran and most of his stories are accounts of his experiences in that war. He is collecting them into a book for his daughters titled, "the book of Dad." He also dabbles in poetry and science fiction. Two of his Haikus and one of his short stories, all concerning Vietnam, have appeared in the TWA's Wordsmith Anthology.

TWA Critique Group – Charles Greenwood, Coordinator

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7:00 pm. NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER.

Please e-mail submissions to Charles Greenwood, charles_greenwood@yahoo.com. We accept and critique all genres except 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. Works to be critiqued are distributed to TWA members via e-mail approximately two weeks before the next scheduled meeting. The author has a chance to respond after verbal critiques are finished. Emphasis is on constructive criticism. For further information, visit our Website at: www.tampawriters.org

The Poetry Group

4th Thursday of each month @ 7:00 p.m. NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER.

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 bizarre 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 2007 Writing Contest Results

Fiction

- 1st Place – The Cold Call – Judy Mancuso - \$100
- 2nd Place – A Woman With Balls – Sandra Kischuk - \$75
- 3rd Place – Fireworks and Freezing Water – Dennis Pupello - \$50
- Honorable Mention – Luck of the Draw – Jeff Corydon - \$25

Non Fiction

- 1st Place – U S Healthcare – Sandra Kischuk - \$100
- 2nd Place – Presidential Flipflops: Footballing 101 – Jeff Corydon - \$75
- 3rd Place – Zapatos – John Miller - \$50
- Honorable Mention – North to Alaska – James Young - \$25

Hirshberg

- 1st Place – Mickey, His Brother-in-law- Kal Rosenberg - \$150
- 2nd Place – The Handshake – Charles Norman - \$75
- 3rd Place – I'll Never Forget September 1896 – James Young - \$50
- Honorable Mention – Sunshine Dreams – Sandra Kischuk - \$25

Fantasy –

- 1st Place – Werewolves of Westshore – Charles Norman - \$100
- 2nd Place – The Servers – Jack Thrift - \$75
- 3rd Place – The Shattering – Dennis Pupello - \$50
- Honorable Mention – In Between – John Miller - \$25

Adult Theme

- 1st Place – Confessions of a New York Tit Man - Kal Rosenberg - \$100
- 2nd Place – In Her Pants at the Dance – Paul Dubose - \$75
- 3rd Place – The Voyeur – Sandra Kischuk - \$50
- Honorable Mention – It Was August – Gill Thomas - \$25

Novel

- 1st Place – Getting Along Without Her – Eugene Orlando - \$100
- 2nd Place – Where Seagulls Fly – Paul Dubose - \$75
- 3rd Place – Slideshow – Sandra Kischuk - \$50
- Honorable Mention – Beyond the Law of Attraction – Terra Pressler - \$25

Poetry

- 1st Place – Remembrances of Five – Charles Norman - \$100
- 2nd Place – The Petals – Amarilys Ressler - \$75
- 3rd Place – The Ruling – Kaye Coppersmith - \$50
- Honorable Mention – Letting Go - Kal Rosenberg - \$25
- Honorable Mention – Mountain – Gill Thomas - \$25
- Honorable Mention – Baggage - Kal Rosenberg - \$25

Plays/Scripts

- 1st Place – Getting To Know You – Warner Conarton - \$100
- 2nd Place – Planning Perfection – Sandra Kischuk - \$75
- 3rd Place – Cedar Key – James Young - \$50

Photo – 12.TIF – Sandra Kischuk - \$50

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 over \$2,000.00 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 Keyville Rd E.
Lithia, FL 33547

TWA Directory

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
President	Michael Darling	813-662-1615	darling@HopliteRenegades.com
Vice President	James Durlacher	813-770-2346	onekewlkat@hotmail.com
Secretary	Beth Miller	813-909-8970	tishm@tampabay.rr.com
Treasurer	Paul Dubose	813-685-2033	ppdubose@aol.com
Member-at-Large	Charrie Moscardini	727-726-0814	charrie-m@earthlink.net
Member-at-Large	Marianne Aluotto	850-206-3228	m_aluotto25@hotmail.com
Poetry	Warner Conarton	352-588-3228	WarnerDConarton@netscape.com
Write Connections Editor	James A. Young	813-391-1139	jayoung@mindspring.com
Critique Group	Charles Greenwood	727-733-2186	charles_greenwood@yahoo.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!**



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