



Write Connections

Volume 23 Number 4

April 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.

Yeah, New Meeting Site



Regular Meeting April 2nd, 7:00 PM, Jimmie Keel Library
2902 W. Bearss Ave., Tampa, FL 33618 (Not at the John Germany Library.)
Guest speaker David R. Ellis.
Subject: Protecting your creations and hard work.

Directions from I-275 N: Exit Bearss Avenue. Take Bearss Avenue west, go about half a mile west of Lake Magdaline Blvd, on the left you'll see the library @ 2902.

Proposed AMENDMENT to TWA BYLAWS

A proposal has been approved by the EXCOM to AMEND TWA's BYLAWS. Presently, ARTICLE X, Section D. says "Each member in good standing at the time of distribution shall receive one copy of the TWA anthology, Wordsmith, each year."

New wording will replace wording in this section to read "Each TWA member in good standing entering the annual writing contest will be eligible to receive one free copy of the Wordsmith anthology containing the winning manuscripts for that contest."

Voting on this proposed change will occur at the April Regular Meeting.

The reason for this change is that we have very little demand for Wordsmith other than those who enter the contest. We are wasting too much money by printing too many copies.

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.



Greetings from TWA President Michael Darling

Are you excited about the new meeting location for April 2nd at 7pm? I know I certainly am. A special thanks to Beth Miller for arranging the meeting with the library staff.

I am also excited about the guest speaker for this month, Attorney David Ellis. His bio reads:

DAVID R. ELLIS

David Ellis is a Largo, Florida attorney practicing copyrights, trademarks, patents, trade secrets, and intellectual property law; computer and cyberspace law; business, entertainment and arts law; and franchise, licensing and contract law. A graduate of M.I.T. and Harvard Law School, he is a registered Patent Attorney and **Board Certified in Intellectual Property Law** by the Florida Bar. He is also the author of the book, *A Computer Law Primer*, and numerous articles in legal, business and technological publications. He has lectured widely throughout the country and taught Intellectual Property and Computer Law as an Adjunct Professor at the law schools of the University of Florida and Stetson University.

For more information, see his website www.lawyers.com/davidrellis

Impressive, is it? Please bring a notepad, something to write with, yourselves, and your legal literary questions to the TWA general meeting at the **Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library** at 2902 W. Bearss Ave., Tampa, FL 33618 (813-273-3652) **on Wednesday, April 2nd at 7pm**. Learn how to properly protect your creations and hard work.

The TWA will be judging submissions for the **Hillsborough County Teachers of English contest**. The actual judging process is to begin Saturday, April 5th at 9am at Sandra Kischuk's home. Volunteer judges are now being accepted. Please contact Sandra at 935-7760 if you are interested in helping. This is a great opportunity for TWA members to give back to the community.

On a personal note, I have two book signings coming up if you would like to show support or just visit. Or better yet, buy a signed book! On March 29th, I will be signing at Wahoo Mortgage in St. Petersburg from 5pm to 8pm. And on April 12th, I will be signing at the Barnes & Noble in Brandon from 2pm to 4pm along with some other awesomely talented local authors.

Uthaya Wins Again

Dr. Uthaya Kumar,

I write to tell you that *Ticket to the Moon* has been awarded the Bronze medal in General Fiction of the Florida Book Awards for 2007.

A letter follows confirming this information and providing further details, including prospects for formal recognition of your award. As word gets out, you may be contacted by your local media.

Heartiest congratulations!

John J. Fenstermaker, Chair
Executive Committee
Florida Book Awards

"A Writer's Life...Calendar and Notes" from Past President Sandra Kischuk

PLANNING

Those of us who are "planners" pull out the maps or run Mapquest to determine how we are going to get from "here" to "there," noting the roads, tenths of miles, and turns we need to take at an extreme level of detail. That doesn't always succeed.

I remember, as a life insurance agent, running Mapquest to find a client's house and driving two miles out on a deeply rutted rural road that had nothing to do with where I needed to be. I don't think I ever found the right address, and the cows out there definitely were not going to tell me where the house was hiding.

Those who are not "planners" to the same extent often look at the larger picture and "guestimate" how far in what direction they need to travel to get to their target...then start heading that way, figuring they will turn when convenient until they end up where they need to be. This works when there are signs along the way letting them know whether they are moving in the right direction or not. It also helps if there are not too many dead ends.

Pinellas is like that, with a large proportion of the streets, which run north and south, and avenues, which run east and west, sequentially numbered. Addresses actually correspond to street numbers, thus 234 South Third Avenue tells you that the address is on the third avenue (east and west) south of "Central" on the block between Second and Third Street. If someone gives me an address in the county, I probably don't need a map...I just keep heading in the direction the addresses tell me I need to be going until I end up in the right location.

Most of life is not that clearly marked.

Some people just start "going there," with the general assumption that whatever road they take will eventually get them where they want to be. The street signs along the way are not relevant except the individual is "looking for something familiar" and knows they will "recognize it when they see it." These people seldom stop to ask directions, but frequently enough get to where they want to go...which is a seductive danger.

In training animals, the most effective way to reinforce behavior is to do it INCONSISTENTLY. When the expected reward is not received for a given behavior, that behavior gets repeated in an attempt to elicit the withheld reward. That is why quieting a child's temper tantrum with a piece of candy is so effective at reinforcing the misbehavior.

"But I only did it once," the parent argues.

And what has the child learned?

Temper tantrum = reward. If the reward doesn't come, maybe the tantrum isn't loud enough.

In this case, we're talking about the same lesson, different age. By not planning ahead, I have a chance of getting where I want to go—at least it works—sometimes. And, planning may be a waste of time. After all, road closures, accidents, car breakdowns, and weather can all get in the way of what I plan.

Just like life.

Regardless of whether the "how" is planned or unplanned, it is still important to know what the "THERE" looks like so we know when we've arrived. The turn-by-turn approach works if there are no changes. An overall view works if we're willing to backtrack and adjust along the way. The "Gee, I'll find it when I get there," may work if there is some familiarity with the target. And even when there are no maps, we still need to know the general direction to head toward.

Have you planned where you want your writing to go?

Have you locked in the 'how' so tightly that you have no idea how to respond to roadblocks?

Which is more important, where you go or how you get there?

Are you missing the journey?

EXCOM Makes Changes to 2008 Writing Contest

- Multiple submissions will be permitted in every category.
- Members will pay \$5.00 per submission.
- Non-members may enter and will pay \$10.00 per submission.
- All first prize money will be the same regardless of category.
- The Awards Banquet will be free to TWA members who enter the contest.
- The Awards Banquet will not be free to non-members and TWA members who did not enter the contest.
- Winning submissions will not be read at the Awards Banquet.
- Wordsmith will be free to TWA members who enter the contest.
- Wordsmith will not be free to non- members and TWA members who did not enter the contest.
- The floating category will be “Emerging Writers Fiction/Non-fiction. Open only to TWA members who have never won TWA writing contest prize money.

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

Carrollwood Players
4335 Gunn Hwy, Tampa, 33618
813-265-4000

11th Annual One-Act Weekend

REMINDER to all playwrights and aspiring playwrights! April 1st is the deadline for submissions to the Carrollwood Players Annual One-Act Weekend. Please don't miss this great opportunity to have your One-Act play, of 10 to 15 minute duration, performed on our stage.

Remember, we do require a \$10 check with each submission. The majority of this fund is awarded to the playwrights named as "favorites" by our audiences.

A single copy of scripts, typed, may be submitted by U.S. Mail (no e-mails), postmarked no later than April 1, 2008, to: **Carrollwood Players, P.O. Box 270116, Tampa, FL 33688, Attn: One-Act Play Producer.**

For additional information go to www.carrollwoodplayers.org.

URINETOWN The Musical

Make your reservations now. 813-265-4000. Musicals are a sellout! Don't be disappointed. March 14 - April 6. Adults are \$18. Students w/ID and 55+ are \$16.

My Husband's Wild Desires Almost Drove Me Mad

A hysterical American sex farce. April 18- May 10. A women in lingerie and her husband in drag. You won't believe what happens.

Blithe Spirit

Noel Coward's ingenious classic! May 23 - June 14.

Plaza Suite

Classic Neil Simon. June 27 - July 19.

**Thank you for supporting
Carrollwood Players**

www.carrollwoodplayers.org

www.myspace.com/carrollwoodplayers

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:

Paul DuBose Treasurer, TWA
501 Royal Wood Court
Valrico, FL 33594

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