



Write Connections

Volume 23 Number 5

May 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.

New Meeting Site

Regular Meeting May 7th, 7:00 PM, Jimmie Keel Library
2902 W. Bearss Ave., Tampa, FL 33618

Siouxie Boshoff will talk about web design. Siouxie (pronounced Susie) Boshoff is the CEO of Visual Edge Design, Inc., a full service web design, hosting, and web marketing firm located in the Tampa Bay area. She is also a wife and mother, active in her community as a volunteer, an SEO and Web Marketing expert, author, mentor and more.

As an expert in the web design and SEO field, Siouxie has always had a passion for sharing what she knows. As a result, in 2003 Siouxie wrote a book on the basics of SEO called "How to Get Your Website to the TOP of the Search Engines". The book was released in 2004 and is sold through Visual Edge Design today. Siouxie is currently working on a revised version of her book, which will include additional chapters, case studies and even more resources. The book is due to be released at the end of 2008, however the current book is not out-dated in any way. In fact, most people who read it comment on the fact that the fundamentals are so well explained that even SEO professionals have learned things they didn't expect. The book is based on the principles that have always been in practice for SEO, which will continue to be in the future.

Siouxie has also written articles on both web marketing and SEO that have been published in various periodicals and websites. In addition to the book revisions for "How to Get Your Website to the TOP of the Search Engines," she is also working on a compendium on making a business work through the web. It will include a precise breakdown of the 5 different types of websites and how they generate income and/or become valuable. How to do SEO and think with it based on the type of website and a breakdown of how to get from idea to on-line successfully. This is expected to be released in early 2009.

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.

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

If you missed out on the April meeting, you missed an excellent presentation on copyrights by Attorney David Ellis. Despite the close quarters, he did a great job explaining some of the fine points of how copyrights work. Thank you Mr. Ellis! If you are in need of Mr. Ellis' services at this time or perhaps in the future, please contact him at 727-531-1111 or ellislaw@alum.mit.edu. His office is located at 3233 East Bay Drive, Suite 101, Largo, FL 33771.

The tour of A&A Printing was spectacular. It was a little hard to find, but well worth the search effort. Those who attended saw books in all phases of production. Digital printing presses were running full bore, ultraviolet coating was applied to book covers, and books were bound. Our tour guide, Bill Ashby of A&A Printing, was the most gracious host. Contact Bill at 813-886-0065 ext. 108 if you have any book printing needs or questions. A&A Printing was founded by Bill's father 30 years ago and has always been a local company. You might recall that Bill spoke at a TWA general meeting last year.

So, what did everyone think of the Jimmie Keel Regional Library? I hope all of you will return on May 7th at 7pm for our next meeting. And I hope everyone who didn't make it in April will make it in May. Wasn't it just loads of fun squeezing into that meeting room in the back of the library? Well good news for those of you who might not have liked the squeezing part so much—the library has reserved the large room in the front of the library for May's TWA general meeting. Hooray!

Please come to the May 7th meeting to pick the brain of a real live website design expert. An online presence is essential to promoting absolutely everything these days. And you guessed it—*everything* includes authors promoting their books. It is never too early to start up that all-important website—even before your finish writing it. Actually, the sooner you start a website the more time you have to create interest and receive feedback for your book.

News From Charlie Norman

Thanks to our skillful & industrious web technology team, we now have a blog at <http://charlienorman.blogspot.com/>

At present, we are just getting started, but will shortly have daily additions & updates on the blog. I invite you to visit & participate. Your input is welcome, & invite all your friends to participate.

Our website, www.freecharlienow.com is still growing with added information. Our efforts toward freedom continue, but only with your help.

Some good news in last two weeks: I was recently notified by PEN American Center of NY City, an international literary association that awards several prestigious prizes in their yearly contest, that I had won first place for my prison memoir, "Fighting The Ninja." This work can be read at www.freecharlienow.com.

Charlie

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

TODAY'S DECISION

When we wake in the morning, it may take a few minutes to remember what it was we left unfinished the day before and what new things we have added to our to-do list.

Most probably there are "leftovers," things we thought we were going to get out of the way, but they are on our plates again today. The stuff that just refuses to go away can be frustrating, and often steals our energy. Even worse are the tasks you thought were completed, but you find yourself doing them over—what you thought you fixed broke again, what you were sure was cleaned up spills again, what you did wasn't quite good enough....

I have found the days I list what needs to be done are the days I actually complete more things, even if the list itself doesn't get every item checked off. If I don't write it down, I have a hard time even remembering it all. So, writing a list, and making sure I can *find* it, can improve my results.

Sometimes, it seems like weeks pass and all I have gotten done is the "emergencies" that came flooding in, and nothing of what I intended. When this happens, I lose perspective. I forget what is important to me, and feel an irritated frustration. My subconscious is telling me I have been neglecting what is important...not necessarily to the world, but to myself.

And this is where I have to "get quiet." It's not work where I can have a lot of distraction. A little yard-work, housework, garage cleaning...the chores I can do on "automatic" allow the mind to finally start exploring the situation. I *look* like I am busy...and these are seldom tasks that someone volunteers to share with me. Fine. I am doing more than just mowing or sweeping.

I know I cannot ask another person for peace. There is an almost societal belief that the answer is somewhere "out there," that some other person, or country, or institution has it all figured out, and the individual just has to get it from that other source. I have to remember—it is not another person who makes me happy, it is my choice. If I want peace around me, that is what I need to carry within. If I want to receive love, that is what I send out.

Asking someone else to "fill me where I am empty" doesn't work. I have seen those relationships—they usually end up with two people begging each other for affirmation and neither being willing to give it. (And they end up *hating* each other, because the other person never *delivered*.)

Any direction another person gives will usually be relevant to him/her. When people give you direction, they are usually telling you what is important to *them*. For me, their input can provide valuable insight, but it can also be just another layer of veneer, hiding what I'm already having difficulty finding. Maybe both.

I have to dig past to find out where I am and where I want to be, and why I have wandered away from what I thought was my chosen direction. I have to pull out my old written goals and review them, deciding which are still relevant.

Sometimes, it just takes a reminder and setting out small steps to take, starting when I wake up the next morning. Other times, I have to remember that 'no' is just as valid an answer as 'yes.' The interesting thing is that 'no' doesn't mean forever. Writing work that I turned down four months ago has again come knocking...and today I am ready for it.

When you woke up this morning, were you in the right place?

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

**Charlotte Writers' Club Elizabeth Simpson Smith
SHORT FICTION CONTEST**

\$500.00 award

Deadline: May 31, 2008

Charlotte Writers' Club's MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARD!

**Send three copies of one original, unpublished short story,
12 pt ft, double spaced, 1500-4000 word max.**

Do not put name on story.

**Include cover page with name, title, address,
phone number, and email address.**

\$20 entrance fee (\$15 for members)

Payable to Charlotte Writers Club.

SASE for list of winners only.

Winner will be announced in September, 2008.

**MAIL TO ESS Chair, 23266 Kingfisher Drive,
Fort Mill, SC 29707**

Question? Contact: Dorothea Lieberman, 803-396-9912, or

homestar@comporium.net

Carrollwood Players Presents

MY HUSBAND'S WILD
DESIRES ALMOST
DROVE ME MAD
by John Tobias

DIRECTED by Miguel Rodriguez
thru May 4

The Carrollwood Playhouse

4335 Gunn Hwy, Tampa, 33618
between Linebaugh Ave & Casey Rd

Fri/Sat 8pm Sun 3pm
Adults \$14 Students w/ID & 55+ w/ID \$12
RESERVATIONS 813-265-4000

This wickedly funny farce follows the attempts of a sexually frustrated forty-something couple to revive their libido through rather unorthodox methods. Turns out Mr. & Mrs. Griffin have discovered a surefire way to jump-start their slumping sex life: Mrs. Griffin will Shanghai the unsuspecting superintendent of her building and encourage him to seduce her, while Mr. Griffin watches from the bedroom closet. But there's a kink in their kinky plan: a cut-rate cat burglar is lurking in another closet, waiting for his chance to make a break for it. Oh, did we mention that, as part of his sexual therapy, Mr. Griffin spends the entire show in a dress? Find out what happens when the burglar sneezes. Find out what Mrs. Griffin had hidden under her bedroom pillow. And find out why the burglar winds up on all fours, barking like a dog. And you thought BRITISH farces were funny!

THE CAST

Martha Cameron
John Chaplin
Lenny Germinario
Jodi Green
Russell Schultz

Thank you for supporting
Carrollwood Players!

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