



Write Connections

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June 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

Regular Meeting June 4th, 7:00 PM, Jimmie Keel Library
2902 W. Bearss Ave., Tampa, FL 33618

June's guest speaker is Julie Ann Howell. She is the President of Peppertree Press in Sarasota. Having only been open for business since January of 2006, Peppertree Press already has 83 authors published or in process of being published under 103 titles. Unless I have misinterpreted the Peppertree Press website, they have been very, very busy. Please come out to the general meeting on Wednesday, June 4th at 7pm at the Jimmie Keel Regional Library to hear what Julie Ann Howell and Peppertree Press look for in a manuscript.

Julie Ann Howell, Publisher/President and Teri Franco, Editorial Director, are proud to introduce to you a company that offers **professional publishing** with a personal touch! Together we have planted the book publishing seed and with great enthusiasm have launched this fine company to aspiring authors who have dreams and aspirations of turning their manuscripts into masterpieces.

Although based in Sarasota, Florida, our authors are coming from all over the globe and embracing this opportunity in both hands and are able to share their untold stories worldwide.

All projects that come to The Peppertree Press are thoroughly screened and evaluated before acceptance and are professionally edited and enhanced by our graphic design team. We are proud of our authors, who have incorporated meticulous research and a passion for writing that shows how they care for their readership.

In addition, each author has a relationship with The Peppertree Press for promoting his or her book through public speaking, book signings, reading festivals, and contacts with both print and electronic media.

We welcome you to go on the grand tour of our Web site www.peppertreepublishing.com and take the first step in turning your manuscript into the next bestseller.

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.

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 the May general meeting, then you missed two announcements. The first I am sorry to have to report is the resignation of Beth Miller as TWA's Secretary. She just needed to lighten the burden a bit. But do not fret too much. Beth is remaining a member of the TWA in good standing and is still very much involved in her TWA novel pod. On the bright side, please congratulate Chris Taylor in accepting the position of Secretary. I have seen and talked with Chris at many meetings over the past couple of years and I know she will do a great job. Thank you both, Beth and Chris!

I hope everyone is writing great stuff! Personally, I will be attending the WrathOfCon science fiction convention in Panama City from May 30th to June 1st. Later on in June, I will be signing books at Bo Savino's Sci-Fi and Fantasy Fest at the Barnes&Noble in Carrollwood on Saturday, June 21st from 2pm to 6pm. Both events will be a great time, so drop on by and visit or just look around. It might be a little difficult to visit me in Panama City, but if you know anyone up that way, send them on by. Until next time, have a wonderful month!

Writing Contest Judges Wanted

Each year TWA endeavors to have qualified judges evaluate contest submissions. We have a substantial number of categories. This requires that we have knowledgeable judges in a variety of genres. We do not expect a judge to be qualified in every genre but the more categories they are, the better.

We are now looking for judges for our 2008 contest.

If you know of someone, known to be well qualified, willing to serve in this capacity, please have them contact TWA's Contest Coordinator, James A. Young at jayoung@mindspring.com.

Judging will take place on Saturday, November 1st, 2008 at the home of Sandra Kischuk in north Tampa. We expect this process to take most of the day. Lunch will be provided.

To facilitate maximum fairness and professional opinion, each category will be judged by a panel of two or three judges. All judges must be willing to work with other team members involved in this process.

Judges must make a positive commitment. Showing up is not an option, it is a must.

Contest rules are available at tampawriters.org. Please review the contest rules to become familiar with the categories that will need to be judged and contest requirements.

"A Writer's Life..." by Past President Sandra Kischuk

CHAIN OF UNTRUTH

Ninety percent of the e-mails I receive from a friend are things passed along—jokes, “forward this on to everyone you know or something awful will happen to you” (thanks a whole bunch for that one!), “send this on to show someone you love them,” funny pictures, and dire warnings about threats out there or medical breakthroughs that *absolutely must* be passed on. My finger has gotten quite active on the delete key, even on the “medical alerts.”

If I have any question at all about the truth of e-mail information, I put a few keywords into Snopes.com. Invariably, it tells me that the information is false. I’ve tried a number of times to send the analysis back so the friend is aware of the scam. No response...and the lies keep coming.

There comes a time where I have to stop and ask myself whether there is any sense to filling my head with all this false information only to research and find out later it’s not really true. Receiving these opportunities for luck (just wait ’til you see what happens 24 hours after you forward this!) or misfortune (if you don’t forward this, awful things will happen) is not a favor, no matter how well meant. So, delete frequently happens ahead of any reading of the content.

Too often, we think that seeing something on the Internet makes it true. Maybe what we read supports what we have suspected or confirms the way we would *like* the world to be.

We read it. It must be true. There it is in black-and-white.

Years ago, there was something called “responsible journalism.” Not everybody complied with the unwritten rules, but not paying attention resulted in: 1) being identified for being biased and having an agenda, 2) censure, or 3) getting labeled for writing “Yellow Journalism,” scandalous and sensationalist stories building on exaggeration or untruths. In the late 1800’s these stories sold papers.

Today, “yellow journalism” is everywhere, and not necessarily in the media. Even those who don’t own a computer can go to the library, log on, create a free e-mail account, and write and distribute whatever they want. We truly have a *free press*, and with it, the empowering ability for each of us to tell the world what we think.

So we tell...but we forget the first part.

Think.

We let others tell us what to think, and we forward it, with the impression we have done the world a favor by passing on knowledge.

Many years ago, my husband (now ex) seemed to believe that if he *said* something, that made it true. At first, I thought he was trying to convince enough people to agree with his “take” on things—if they agreed, that would make it true. Later, I found that he really believed that what he said was right, regardless of whether it was or not (don’t confuse me with the truth!) I remember one rather lengthy discussion when he told me the number 40 was spelled f-o-u-r-t-y. When I finally showed him a dictionary proving it was f-o-r-t-y, his response was that the dictionary was wrong and his way was right. Back then, I thought his delusion was unique. Over the years, I have discovered—it’s not.

And I can’t change it.

Over and over again, I run into people who tell me things, as if by saying the words, they can make something real.

If you don’t send this on, you will suffer forever. If you do send this on, you will be blessed.

And I don’t. I consistently choose to break the chain of untruth.

As a writer, you have the skills to tell the truth and tell it well.

But fiction? What is that? Another untruth? No....

You are not a medieval monk trapped into writing over and over again what has already been written. Your thoughts can add to the world, instead of mimicking what is already there.

I used to only read nonfiction, preferring to read things that were “true.” Then I learned that good fiction is creating a story that reveals a larger truth. And it is that “larger truth” that keeps the fiction from being a lie. What truth do you choose to write today?

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

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.
- **Free copy of Wordsmith anthology.** Each member entering the writing contest 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

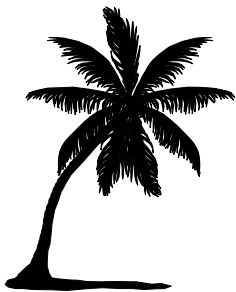
TWA Directory

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	Chris Taylor	813-996-2713	DesigningChris@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	James Durlacher	813-770-2346	onekewlkat@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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