



Write Connections

Volume 23 Number 9

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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

Wednesday, September 3rd, @ 7pm, Jan Platt Library
3910 S. Manhattan Ave., Tampa, FL 33611.

Robert P. Miles will be presenting, “Write Your Passion: How You Can Become A Published Author.” Don’t miss out!

Robert P. Miles is an internationally renowned speaker, author, and acclaimed Warren Buffett expert. Pursued by journalists and media moguls on just about each and every move that Mr. Buffett makes, Robert is not only a long term shareholder of Berkshire Hathaway [nyse: BRKa/BRKb], he has had the great honor of getting to know Warren Buffett, the man and the remarkable wealth-building strategist.

Robert is the author of three books, has created assorted audio and video programs, and has appeared on many radio and television programs on five continents, including CNN, Channel News Asia, Sky Business News, Shanghai Today, CNBC Asia, CNBC Africa and Bloomberg TV. His Buffett CEO book was featured as a special on National Public Television's Nightly Business Report.

As the writer of the top-selling books *The Warren Buffett CEO: Secrets From the Berkshire Hathaway Managers* and *101 Reasons To Own the World's Greatest Investment: Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway*, Robert has relentlessly followed his passion and found great success in doing so. Known for his subtle wit and entertaining stories, he has shared his valuable insights, strategies, philosophies, and anecdotes with enthusiastic audiences throughout the world.

Robert is the author and presenter of *Warren Buffett Wealth: Principles and Practical Methods Used by the World's Greatest Investor* [Wiley (book) and Nightingale (audio)]. Several of his books have been translated into many foreign languages. He is host of the *Buffett CEO Talk* video series, conversations with the Berkshire Hathaway managers filmed before live studio audiences and broadcast on public television. Miles has given presentations throughout North America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. He has literally circled the globe with daylong workshops and keynote presentations in Singapore, Beijing, Shanghai, Sydney, Queensland, Delhi, and Bombay.

Robert P. Miles is a graduate of the University of Michigan Business School and resides in Tampa, Florida.

Writing Contest Participation Dismal! The Deadline is Looming!

Did you know, to date **ONLY FIVE PEOPLE** have entered the TWA 2008 Writing Contest? With over \$2,000.00 in prize money at stake, it would be a shame to see the contest cancelled from lack of entries. TWA reserves the right to do that if the situation does not improve dramatically. The more entries you submit to TWA's 2008 Writing Contest the more chances you have to win. There are many categories to choose from. And you don't even have to be a TWA member to enter. Don't delay any longer! Go ahead and do it! You might get your story published in the TWA's 2009 Wordsmith! Please help us spread the word and make it a great event that we can be proud of! Details can be found on the TWA website: www.TampaWriters.org.



Greetings from TWA President Michael Darling

The TWA will have two tables at the St. Pete Times Festival of Reading. The event will be on Saturday, October 25th. So, you members out there, mark your calendar. Those of you who are not members, what are you waiting for? Sign up! The TWA offers these tables free of charge for its members to sell their books as a benefit of TWA membership. I have attended conventions to sell my book at that cost up to \$275 a table. The cost gets even higher for other conventions, too. We will soon be registering TWA members and their books. Remember that it is free for TWA members. If you or a TWA member you know is willing to organize this event for the TWA, please shoot me an e-mail or volunteer in person at the September 3rd general meeting.

I have even more wonderful news for the TWA. As you may have heard, Deep Carnivale is a great literature festival being held on Saturday, September 27th in Ybor city near or on the HCC campus. For those of you, like me, who have a published book, you can rent a table space for just \$50 to peddle your pride and joy. Ybor City – what a great venue! Books – my favorite topic! Check out their website for more info at www.deepcarnivale.com. The organizers of the event have offered the TWA a free table to promote our great writers group. So, I am looking for volunteers to tend the table, talk with passers by, and hand out TWA brochures. If you are able to help in this capacity, *please* contact me ASAP at darling@HopliteRenegades.com so we can at least put up an organized front. I will not be able to watch over the table myself as I have previously rented a table to sell my book at the same venue. Events like this are great for new and locally known authors to get out there and sell a few books. You never know whom you might meet or impress. Since the TWA table is free, we cannot sell anything there—you will have to rent a table for yourself to do that (and I encourage all to do so). The director of the event, David Audet, can be reached at daudet@hccfl.edu.

Also, another incredible opportunity for those who wish to sell their wares. Check out the Grand Central District of St. Pete's Chili Cookoff Festival to be held on Saturday, November 29th. Here is the link for more info: <http://www.grandcentraldistrict.org-a.googlepages.com/chilivendorsandentrants>. Despite being a Chili Cookoff, they have extended invitations to authors to join in the fun. Yes, even us authors can rent a table to expose others to our delectable creations. Oh, and you can make your own chili to enter the contest as well. I will have a table, no chili—I really cannot cook worth a crock. 1,700 attendees came out last year including the mayor of St. Pete. Not sure if mayor is the correct title, but you know what I mean. Even if you don't have a book to sell, I bet you have taste buds. So come on out to buy a book and eat a lot of chili if you don't have anything to sell.

And yes, I have one more chance for you to promote your book. It took a lot of time to write it, so do whatever you can to sell it! And if you are close to finishing another novel, first enter it in the TWA writing contest then publish it so you can sell it at venues like this. There is a new strip mall out in Odessa that is allowing authors, among other vendors, to come out with their own table and/or tent every Saturday night from 5pm to 8pm for free. I seem to have lost the details, but contact Dan Harri to register as a vendor for anyone one or all of the remaining Saturday nights from now through September 13th (I think). Dan's e-mail address is danh@yourplumbers.com. Dan may be a plumber, but I hear he is a rather good artist as well. I have it from a good source that 150 people attended Saturday, August 16th. It might be small, but it's free! Marcia (oops, I mean "the source") got a good contact out of that 150, too.

Press Release

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..." by Past President Sandra Kischuk

Pandora's Box

Years ago when I was studying page layout for newsletters and brochures, I read of a common error novice graphic designers often make. Many writing and e-mail programs contain a lot of different lettering styles (fonts), and the capability of typing them in regular, italics, bold, superscript, and subscript, and a variety of sizes. When the beginning designer discovers the individual letter colors can be changed, the lid is off Pandora's box. It's like a kid with a new box of crayons...ya gotta try all of them.

The end result of all this "creativity" is usually a hard-to-read mish-mash. After a few attempts at finding out just what can be done, the designer settles down and starts using what works instead of everything it's possible to use. He or she discovers that it doesn't *all* have to be different...and if it is, then the impact of *different* is lost.

As an artist mixing paints, I found out what worked and what didn't. If I mixed too many colors together, the result was mud—the beauty of each individual tint was lost. Playing too many non-harmonizing musical notes at one time becomes noise...like a little kid pounding adjacent keys on a piano, as contrasted with a selected, ordered arrangement of notes we recognize as music.

Writing is the same way. If you "mix" a lot of voices for one character, the consistency is lost. People will have a hard time "getting" your character. A change in who your character is and how they express themselves usually has to have a "reason"—this *change* can be part of what your story is all about. If the character keeps changing for no reason, the impact of the critical change that is supposed to make your story is lost.

Greetings from Gulf Coast Writer's Association!

Please share with TWA members.

We are writing to announce a Call for Submissions of short fiction to our second GCWA anthology. There is no entry fee. GCWA will pay \$25.00 (or two free copies) to contributors whose work is selected for one-time publication rights -- all rights revert to authors upon publication.

Stories must be set in The South and clearly capture a southern tone. Themes might include: coming-of-age, family relationships, fitting in, social life (in its many facets), dreams/aspirations. We will also consider previously published stories that meet this criteria. Deadline for submissions is March 15, 2009.

Please share this information with members and friends. Interested writers will find all the information they need to submit at: <http://gcwriters.org/>

We are eager to include voices from many southern states in this collection!

Thank you very much and all best to our fellow writers!

Dixon Hearne, Co-Editor
GCWA

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 – Warner D Conarton, Coordinator

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

Please e-mail submissions to Warner D. Conarton, warnerdconarton@netscape.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

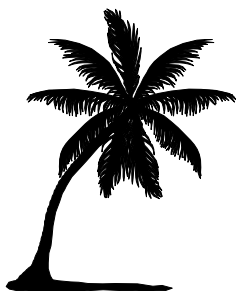
TWA Directory

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	Warner Conarton	352-588-3228	WarnerDConarton@netscape.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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