



Write Connections

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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.



Get Ready to Party October 1st!

Our next regular meeting, October 1st, will be a pot luck House Party at the home of Sandra Kischuk. Every member, new member, and prospective member is invited. TWA will supply the party-ware plus beer, wine, ice, and cheese ...yum!

Members should bring something to share, a bucket of chicken, possum, collards, pizza, cherry pie, whatever. We're not picky, just hungry.

Don't forget this is the deadline for the writing contest. Bring your manuscripts. Jim Young will be on hand to receive them. Questions? Call Jim @ 813-391-1139.

This is your grand opportunity to interact with other great writers. **WE WILL NOT BE MEETING AT THE LIBRARY IN OCTOBER! The Party is at Sandra Kischuk's house, 2107 West Fore Drive, Tampa, FL 33612. Phone 813-935-7760.**

Directions from I-275 N: Exit Busch Blvd. Take Busch Blvd west to Florida Avenue. Turn right onto Florida Avenue and head north to Linebaugh Avenue. Turn left onto Linebaugh Avenue and head west to Armenia Avenue. Turn right onto Armenia Avenue and head north until you come to W. Fore Drive, (on the left.) Turn left onto W. Fore and go to stop sign. Turn right and you'll see 2107 on the right. Park along the street.

Last Call For Submissions

The deadline for submissions is October 1st. If you have received a dues renewal notice, please make sure your dues are paid. If you have not received a dues notice, don't sweat it. You must be paid up through October to qualify for the reduced submission fee, free banquet and free Wordsmith.



Greetings from TWA President Michael Darling

Didn't last month's guest speaker, Robert P. Miles just give an outstanding presentation? He had a great story and some valuable insights for writers. The only appropriate follow up to September's general meeting is to celebrate. So, please come on out Wednesday night, October 1st at Sandra Kischuk's home for a potluck party. It is a great chance for members to socialize and meet one another. Got a question you are dying to ask other TWA members? Need an idea to get you past something that has you baffled? This is the perfect opportunity. Also, the party will be the last chance to submit your entries to the 2008 TWA Writing Contest if you have not already mailed them in. Don't forget to bring something to eat and please **RSVP** to Sandra before the meeting if you hope to attend so she can get an idea of how big a party to throw: sjkischuk@juno.com or 813-935-7760.

Time has almost run out your chance to win some money in the **2008 TWA Writing Contest**. October 1st is the deadline! But don't let the lack of time prevent you from entering. You never know, you might find that you work well under pressure. Bring those last minute entries with you to October general meeting at Sandra's Party Central. Have you already entered but found another story lying around collecting dust? Spruce it up real quick and submit another entry. Info and rules can be found on the TWA website: www.TampaWriters.org if you cannot find your copy of them.

The TWA will have a booth at the **St. Pete Times Festival of Reading**. The event will be on Saturday, October 25th. The TWA offers these tables free of charge for its members to sell their books as a benefit of TWA membership—what a deal! Please contact Ken Dye at Jdye608@aol.com or 708-707-7286 to schedule your time in the booth. He will need to know the titles of the book(s) you wish to sell, the amount to charge, and your contact info. Remember that each author is responsible for the taxes of what they sell. The price you give Ken must include taxes, and please have it rounded to the nearest dollar if you can. We wish to make it easy to collect and distribute the money. Ken is a new TWA member who has volunteered to help us organize this event for the TWA. Please thank him for donating his time and effort to the project.

Press Release

Charles Jacob's latest book *The Writer Within You* has had amazing success since its release last October. It is in second printing, a choice of Writer's Digest Book Club and recipient of lots of five-star reviews. The book has been chosen as one of the Best Books of the Year by these organizations.

ForeWord Magazine – Best of the Year, Bronze Medal
 USABookNews – Best Books of the Year
 Indie Awards – Best Books of the Year
 New York Festival of Books – Best Books of the Year
 Garden State Journalists Association – Best Book of the Year
 Axiom Awards – Best Business Books of the Year, Gold Medal

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

Seldom do we think about our responsibilities as writers. Writing is just something we do. Whether we do it for our own satisfaction or to use our skill to communicate concerns we have about the way things are going is a choice. Those of us who are true introverts probably prefer to work quietly in the background, maintaining our focus of the work we have chosen. Without the discipline of that focus, it is hard to be a writer. Those of us who are extroverts are finding it less and less feasible to get together and socialize—the cost of “getting there” leaves us considering alternatives to activities where previously we had only been concerned with whether to order a regular coffee or a latté.

With the economic hammering we are receiving, it is hard to think of much else besides the risk to our savings and our jobs. We look for ways to cut back on our expenses, not sure when the downward spiral is going to stop and how long it will be before we begin to recover.

- 1) Switch your bank account to one that pays YOU.** You shouldn't be paying for someone to hold onto your money. They should be paying YOU. Take a look at www.ingdirect.com. They pay you on money in both your savings and your checking accounts.
- 2) Sign up for free customer awards plans.** Set up a free gmail account for the mailings and when you need to make a purchase, check the account for coupons.
- 3) Write a list before you go shopping and stick to it.** The stores would LOVE for you to make that impulse buy...but your budget won't.
- 4) Shop for quality used items.** www.craigslist.com has a wide variety of things for sale, job listings, and things people are looking for. You may also find great bargains if you sift through thrift and consignment shops
- 5) Buy appliances based on reliability, not what's cheapest at the store.** Consumer Reports (at the library) can give you some insights, both on quality and on what to look for. Shop comparable items at different stores. Take advertisements and written quotes to competitors and ask them to match or beat the price.
- 6) Give up expensive habits—cigarettes, alcohol, and drugs.** These habits are making SOMEONE ELSE rich—they certainly aren't helping you and your family.
- 7) Make gifts instead of buying them.** Put together all the dry ingredients and spices for an easy crockpot dish in a Ziploc bag and tuck in the recipe. Or throw a potluck and invite your friends over. Give a gift of service...offer a night of babysitting or help put in a neighbor's herb garden.
- 8) Casseroles are “in.”** These time and energy savers usually freeze well, so you can fix a quadruple batch, and freeze three to nuke at a later date.
- 9) Swap those light bulbs.** The new energy saving compact fluorescent light bulbs may cost more to start with, but last 7 to 10 times longer and only use about 25% of the electricity and don't produce as much heat. Just be sure you dispose of CFLs as hazardous waste—like all fluorescents, they contain mercury.
- 10) STOP ordering unread newspapers and magazines.** Most of these are available at your public library. Set up a weekly family trip to read magazines in the periodical section and check out interesting books, CDs, and DVDs—for free!

TWA member, Sarka Kocicka, is wishing to begin a novel pod. Those interested in forming a 4-person novel pod with Sarka, please contact her at sarkakocicka@hotmail.com.

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. In the subject line of your e-mail, mention “TWA Critique Group.” This 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. That’s just south of Stall Road. Fletcher Avenue, an interstate exit, is the intersection just north of Stall Road.

Visitors are welcome to attend, 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.

If you would like to attend the Critique Group and give it a once-over, it is best to let the coordinator know ahead of time so he can forward you the pieces being critiqued that meeting. Otherwise, it’s sometimes difficult to make complete sense out of what people are saying about the submissions. Also, so that you can better participate. Such notification, however, is not a requirement. You’re always welcome.

Also, if you are interested in what Warner Conarton considers “*constructive criticism*,” drop him a line. He’s a bit sensitive about the subject and doesn’t want anyone at the meeting subjected to ridicule, abuse or unfriendly advice. “We’re striving to become better writers, not at tearing people up,” is his most polite statement on the subject.

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

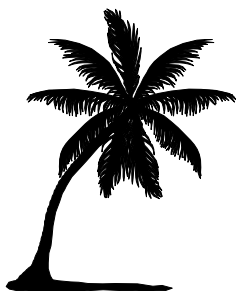
TWA Directory

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!**



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