



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.

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 5th, @ 7pm, Jan Platt Library
3910 S. Manhattan Ave., Tampa, FL 33611.

Our next regular meeting, beginning at 7pm on Wednesday, November 5th at the Jan Platt Library will feature **Robyn Winters**. She will present “Write the Way They Think – Be an Innovative Author Using Whole Brain Thinking.” Robyn really has an interesting session planned for us writers and hopefuls. So be sure to be at the meeting!

Top New York Agent to Make Florida Writers Tense

Dedicated writers from all over the country will gather in Tampa, FL this November for a three-and-a-half day course devoted to the creation of breathtaking, page-turning fiction. The workshop, November 6-9, 2008, will be conducted at The Bay Harbor Hotel, in Tampa, Florida.

Through lively discussion and structured exercises dealing with student manuscripts-in-progress, New York literary agent Donald Maass, author of *Writing the Breakout Novel*, will teach writers how to make their novels irresistible—to agents, editors and readers. Representing more than one-hundred fiction writers, Mr. Maass understands the key to publishing success, selling in excess of a hundred novels per year to top publishers in America and overseas.

The secret ingredient: Unrelenting tension. As Maass puts it, “One of the misconceptions of strong writing is that tension means plot. Set the main conflict quickly, and you’ve got your reader hooked. Wrong! What keeps us reading is micro-tension on a line-by-line basis. Thus, I stress building tension on every page—meaning tension in dialogue, action, and exposition. Then tension in scenes. Next, tension in premise. Finally, and only then, tension in plot.”

In addition, the workshop will feature FIRE IN YOUR FICTION: A brief intensive on using passion to add life to the narrative. As part of this session, Maass will share all-new material from his upcoming book.

Space is limited, with reduced rates available for members of local writing groups. Pricing is \$499 thereafter for previous Free Expressions attendees/\$529 thereafter for new students. Tuition includes all classroom sessions, refreshments, breakfast each morning, lunch Thursday-Saturday and a reception on Saturday evening.

Visit the web site, www.free-expressions.com, or call 866-I-WRITE-2 (866-497-4832) to register or obtain additional information.

CONTACT:

Brenda Windberg

brenda@free-expressions.com

Ph: 866-497-4832



Greetings from TWA President Michael Darling

Please stop by the **St. Pete Times Festival of Reading** on Saturday, October 25th. I know that's not in November, but come on out and enjoy the festivities anyway. You can visit fellow TWA members selling their books, buy some of those books (they make great Christmas gifts!), and/or enjoy a family outing. Website = <http://www.festivalofreading.com/>

Vulkon, a science fiction convention in Orlando will be October 31st to November 2nd. I do not plan on attending, but some of you may be interested. All of these science fiction conventions have authors attending them. Website = <http://vulkon.com/site/index.php>

The **Miami Book Fair International** will be November 14th to November 16th. I understand it is a rather big event. <http://www.miamibookfair.com/>

The **4th Annual Grand Central District Chili Cookoff Festival** will be held on November 29th. Register to sell your book there!!! Come on out for a great afternoon of fun! Website = <http://www.grandcentraldistrict.org-a.googlepages.com/chilivendorsandentrants>

Here's a tip for those who have published books: you can do a quick listing for your book on www.BookHitch.com for free. They offer a \$19.95 per year package for those who want a premium listing instead. Readers visit BookHitch.com in search of good books.

I also have a personal announcement to make...I have published a science fiction action novella, *Mila Jeffers: Making of a Mercenary*. It is published by local publisher, JimSam Inc. and printed by local printer, A&A Printing. This novella is a spinoff story of one of the characters from my full length science fiction novel, *Hoplite Renegades*. I am currently selling *Mila Jeffers: Making of a Mercenary* at events I attend, including the St. Pete Times Festival of Reading at our TWA booth. It will soon be available on www.JimSamInc.com, www.BarnesandNoble.com, and www.Amazon.com.

Press Release

Dennis Pupello had his short story "Saving Grace" and poem "New World Gone Askew" published in **Unpolished, An Anthology of Short Stories** by the Belle Letters Writers group in October of 2008. His poem "The Melody of the Spheres" was published in the first edition of the online magazine **Melisma** available at <http://www.theverbfori.co.uk/Melisma.html> (pages 10 & 11 -- press F11 to maximize your browser window).

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

We take the concept of zero for granted, assuming that it always existed. Although ancient Egyptians, Babylonians, and East Indians understood the concept of zero and assigned a word to the null value, the first known use of "0" as a mathematical operator was in Pānini's (Afghanistan) 5th century B.C. algebraic structuring of the Sanskrit language.

Somewhere between the 4th century and the 1st century B.C., Mexican Olmecs used zero in a base 4/5 numbering system (base 20—the numerals "10" would mean one twenty and zero ones). I think they were counting on their fingers and toes. Today we use base 10 and just stick with our fingers (10 means one ten and zero ones).

If you want to see the difference the Arabic numbering system has made, try a simple two-digit multiplication problem with Roman numerals, say 10 times 44. In Roman numerals, that would be written X times XLIV. The answer, 440, seems easy, but CDXL, which means 100 [C] less than 500 [D] plus 10 [X] less than 50 [L] hardly is something you can count off on your fingers. Good luck! I'll take my Arabic numerals with the zero any day.

Zero what makes the difference between 10 and 100 and 1000, and although it often used to mean "nothing" by itself, it gives value to whatever it is associated with.

Today, we understand there is a difference between zero, the placeholder, and a "null value," the void that exists when "nothing" is not even acknowledged. In word terms, "null" is not even understanding there is "nothing."

When we acknowledge the absence of something, we have at least assigned it "place" and given it a value of zero. I cannot understand that I have zero "shahedras" in my life if I do not even know what a shahedra is. (And whether or not there is something in some language called a shahedra, I don't even know. This is just an example.)

On the other hand, I may have a lot of shahedras in my life, but not knowing what they are, if someone asked me, I would assign it the value "zero." Sometimes we don't recognize what we have.

"Nothing" can a zero placeholder (like invisible air where we say there is nothing there, but we're still breathing) or it may be a vacuum (incapable of sustaining life). There is a difference.

Sometimes we feel like we have nothing to say...but we don't define whether that means zero (there is a place for it in our lives), or null (there is nothing there and no space for it).

The truth is, we don't exist in a vacuum...

We may think there is "nothing" there. We probably just aren't looking close enough. We have to decide whether we have saved a "place" for it to exist.

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

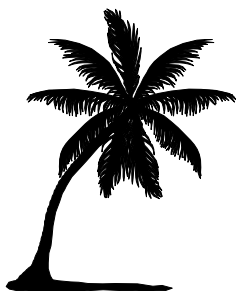
TWA Directory

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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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
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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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