



# Write Connections

Volume 23 Number 12

December 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

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

You may have missed November, but December's general meeting is just around the corner. The meeting will feature TWA member and award-winning author, **Charles Jacobs**. Charles will speak on his book:

### **The Writer Within You**

**A Step-by-Step Guide to Writing and Publishing in Your Retirement Years**

## **BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

**ForeWord Magazine – Bronze Medal**

**USABook News – Best Books of 2007**

**Indie Awards – Best Books of the Year**

**N.Y Festival of Books – Best Books of the Year**

**Florida Publishers Association – Best Books of the Year**

**Garden State Journalists Assoc – Best Book of the Year**

**Axiom Awards (Jenkins Group) – Gold Medal Best Business Book**

More than 50 years ago Charles helped put himself through Columbia College and earn a Master's Degree at Columbia's famed Pulitzer Graduate School of Journalism by working as a stringer and reporter for the *New York Journal American*. During the course of his journalistic career, he rose to the position of Publisher/President of the

Alameda Newspaper Group in the San Francisco region, and served as Publisher of the North Jersey Herald & News and Editor-in-Chief of Focus, a million-circulation magazine. He has consulted for a variety of magazines and newspapers.

Charles has published more than 750 articles in magazines and newspapers, spanning the country from the *Los Angeles Times* on the West Coast to the *New York Times* in the East and in Canada. He has ghost written several books and published a novel entitled *Blood Bond*.

His writing has been honored with numerous awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, Working Press Association, the New Jersey Press Club and the North American Travel Journalists Association.

Charles has served as Editor-in-Chief of *Travel World International*. Publications throughout the United States and in Canada have carried his travel articles, and he has written for *Grand Circle Travel* and *Overseas Adventure Travel*. He has taught classes in magazine writing and has served as guest speaker for a variety of organizations and at writer's conferences sponsored by the National Writers Association.

---



## Greetings from TWA President Michael Darling

Attendance at November's general meeting was light. All of you who could not make it to the meeting missed a splendid presentation by Robyn Winters on whole brain thinking. She described how right-brain and left-brain are no longer an accurate description of how people think. Indeed, there are four quadrants: analytical, organizational, interpersonal, and creative. Understanding them will help you connect with more readers. For more information on whole-brain thinking, please visit Robyn's website: [www.robynwinters.com](http://www.robynwinters.com).

The St. Pete Times Festival Reading went over well at the TWA booth! Books were sold and info about the TWA passed out. The weather was much nicer than last year despite the early morning rain just prior to the event.

The Town and Country Regional Library is holding a book-selling event on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. They are looking for authors to participate. They have split the event into two halves for authors who cannot attend the whole day. You must act urgently if you want to be an author at the event! For more info, contact Gene Ann Kennedy. Her phone number is 813-932-6485 or 813-931-2226.

Diana Kay Publishing, a new magazine featuring authors from Florida and Georgia, is looking for short stories and poems to publish in their first edition as well as future editions. Guidelines can be found at [www.dianakaypublishing.com](http://www.dianakaypublishing.com). Accepted stories will receive an author spotlight and a writer's group spotlight for those who are members of a writer's group.

Author Elissa Malcohn has made me aware of the following two promotional resources for authors. The Florida Book review ([www.floridabookreview.com](http://www.floridabookreview.com)) features reviews of books with Florida settings or subjects, by Florida authors, or of special interest to Floridians, as well as interviews and essays about Florida's literary scene. And Infinite Worlds of Fantasy Authors ([www.iwofa.net/ROFwebsite2.html](http://www.iwofa.net/ROFwebsite2.html)) is a promo vehicle for authors, publishers, reviewers, etc., working in science fiction, fantasy, horror fiction, supernatural fiction, alternate history, paranormal romance, dark romance, dark fantasy, or magic realism. Thank you, Elissa.

---

## Press Releases

**John Miller's** short story, "*You Can't Pick Up Raindrops*" was published in the November 2008 issue of the online magazine "LOST." Check out the online magazines; they are looking for new writers with new and interesting topics. <http://www.lostmag.com/issue28/raindrops.php>

**Sandi Scionti's** article, "Stone Harbor Holidays: 1950's Memories of the Holiday Season in Stone Harbor," was published in the November-December 2008 issue of the Seven Mile Times in Stone Harbor, New Jersey.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

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

### PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

A writer contacted me this morning, asking how to protect her work from being stolen if she submitted it to a particular venue. This is always a problem for writers and others who do creative or original work—knowing when and how to copyright work, and what is actually covered is a challenge. Copyright covers WORDS, not ideas. Protecting an original idea requires a patent.

The only way to fully legally protect yourself from having your WRITTEN work stolen is to copyright it with the Copyright Office. From the moment you create it, what you write is your work and has an "informal" copyright which travels with it; however, if you ever want to take it to court and recover financial damages, you have to have a registered copyright.

That being said, you cannot copyright an *idea*. One man I talked to wrote a script which was rejected. Then, within a year, the television station he submitted his work to came out with a HIT television program with the same basic plot and the gender on the characters switched. They didn't steal his WORK, they stole his idea...and he had no legal defense because it was not his WORDS.

Often, it can help to talk with others to find out their experience working with a particular individual. Professionals value their reputations...at least, we hope they do (Remember, a ten year old can have a professional attitude, and a seventy year old not have a CLUE). If people are wise, they realize the importance of not polluting the well if they think they may want to come back for another drink.

But don't be fooled. All the non-professionals and thieves out there want you to think they are reputable.

Many years ago, I co-authored a paper for the refereed journal, *Industrial Management*, on "Intellectual Property Rights: Who Owns the Knowledge?" which discussed work developed while a person was employed at a particular company.

An organization's argument is that they "own" the ideas/designs/inventions a person develops while employed with that company, especially if the assets and facilities of the company are used in that development. After all, their facilities and investment are not set up as a charity—their purpose is to provide a way for the company to succeed financially. For a writer, this situation most often occurs when doing ghostwriting or "work for hire." You are paid by a company or individual to write a piece, and afterwards own no part of it.

If you find your career leaning toward writing articles for periodicals, selling an article to one publication usually precludes offering it to a different market. That's not to say you can't find a way to rejigger the content and sell it to someone else, but you do need to be careful. Often, this is safest if you know the publications have different audiences.

Be careful about not using your employer's computer system or time to prepare your personal material since this opens the potentially legal question of "Who owns the knowledge?" You want to maintain the cleanest possible line between you and your work. If your goal is to build *your reputation*, it doesn't help if you can't claim ownership...

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](mailto:sarkakocicka@hotmail.com).

---

## **TWA Critique Group – Warner D Conarton, Coordinator**

**2nd & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 7:00 pm. NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER.**

Please e-mail submissions to Warner D. Conarton, [warnerdconarton@netscape.com](mailto: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**

---

**4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:warnerdconarton@netscape.com)      Web-page: [warnerconarton.com](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues are \$35.00 renewable annually from date of membership. Visit [www.tampawriters.org](http://www.tampawriters.org)

To join or renew membership in 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**

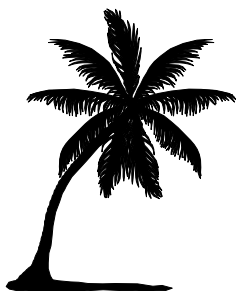
## TWA Directory

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>E-MAIL ADDRESS</b>
President	<b>Michael Darling</b>	813-662-1615	darling@HopliteRenegades.com
Vice President	<b>James Durlacher</b>	813-770-2346	onekewlkat@hotmail.com
Secretary	<b>Chris Taylor</b>	813-996-2713	DesigningChris@tampabay.rr.com
Treasurer	<b>Paul DuBose</b>	813-685-2033	<a href="mailto:ppdubose@aol.com">ppdubose@aol.com</a>
Member-at-Large	<b>Charrie Moscardini</b>	727-726-0814	<a href="mailto:charrie-m@earthlink.net">charrie-m@earthlink.net</a>
Member-at-Large	<b>Marianne Aluotto</b>	850-206-3228	m_aluotto25@hotmail.com
Poetry	<b>Warner Conarton</b>	352-588-3228	WarnerDConarton@netscape.com
Write Connections Editor	<b>James A. Young</b>	813-391-1139	jayoung@mindspring.com
Critique Group	<b>Warner Conarton</b>	352-588-3228	WarnerDConarton@netscape.com
Wordsmith Editor	<b>Sandra Kischuk</b>	813-935-7760	sjkischuk@juno.com
Website	<b>James Durlacher</b>	813-770-2346	onekewlkat@hotmail.com
Publicity/Public Relations	<b>Adele-Ida Walter</b>	813-932-6902	adeleidawalter@hotmail.com
Contest Coordinator	<b>James A. Young</b>	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