

## NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday, June 3, at 7 p.m.**

**Barnes and Noble Bookstore  
in Carrollwood  
11802 North Dale Mabry  
Tampa, Florida 33618**

### Dr. John Porter, Ph.D

Dr. John Porter is a Certified Grant Writer and Executive Director for the American Grant Writers' Association. He is a National Speaker and Consultant on topics including Non-Profit Business Development, Strategic and Business Plan Development, and Grant Proposal Research and Design. In addition to holding a M.Ed. in Education and a Ph.D. in Business Psychology, Dr. Porter is a member of Who's Who in Business, and Outstanding Business Person of the Year and served on the Small Business Development Council for the State of Ohio. He has over 20 years of grant proposal writing experience.

### A Learning Experience

Do not miss this opportunity to add to your knowledge and skill level of writing. TWA provides professional speakers to help you expand your writing abilities and perimeters. If you are not knowledgeable on the subject of grant writing, your attendance will be of benefit to you. Learning new stuff adds to your success as a writer.

## \$\$\$ for a Slice of Life

Written by Paul DuBose

If you think your life is not worth writing about, you lack confidence and imagination. As a writer, what's in your toolbox?

Take out a sheet of confidence, lay it on the sidewalk, and imprint it with footprints—your footprints. With pastels, crayons, or whatever you choose, color them as you see fit using your imagination. From your toolbox, take out a knife or scissors and cut out your colorful imprints. Display them for the world to see. They're your slices of life.

Paula Stahel brought this to the attention to TWA members and guest on May 6. "Memoirs are not autobiographies, she said. "They are slices of your life. They start with a moment and require tension." Stop! Think! Were there ever any tension-filled moments in your life that would make an interesting story?

## Compete for \$\$\$ with Footprints

Ladies and gentlemen, start your imprints. The competition has begun. TWA is offering cash prizes to be awarded to winning entries in the 2009 Writing Contest (See details at [www.tampawriters.org](http://www.tampawriters.org)).

Enter your slices-of-life imprints in the non-fiction category, or fictionalize your stories and submit your entries in the category of fiction. Fantasize or future-ize a story and you can still enter.

Poems are about people and emotions. You can compete for cash awards in that category also. Life-size your imprints into a novel and compete as a novelist.

What else do you have in your toolbox? You do not have to write about yourself to enter the contest. Pull out a box of creativity and show it to the world. Put on your sneakers with the check-marks and 'just do it'.

## Writing Contest Begins June 1

### Benefits for Entering

First place awards are \$100.00. Second Place is \$75.00. Third place is \$50.00, and honorable mention awards are \$25.00. Winning entries will be published in the *2010 Wordsmith*. TWA members who enter the contest are entitled to one free copy of *2010 Wordsmith*. Entrants who are members are also entitled to attend the Awards Banquet on January 21 free of cost.

Entry Forms and Guidelines at [www.tampawriters.org](http://www.tampawriters.org)

## Establishing New Features

If you have questions or comments, W/C will make the space. W/C may be referred to as a newsletter, but it's really an e-delivery system between members. Think of the editor as a moderator or the guy sitting in the highchair above a tennis match. Yes, you can even argue, but politely. W/C will entertain positive input on writing crafts or skills, writers' success stories, constructive criticism, etc.

Opinions on politics, religion, and soap-box items not related to the craft of writing will be ignored. W/C is not in a position to display excerpts or copies of your work. ALL submissions are subject to editing. Send all questions or comments to [mytwa@aol.com](mailto:mytwa@aol.com).

## What's in Your Toolbox? Readers' Views

TWA members: Drop W/C a line or two about your writing tools. Here's one of mine: When writing in past tense be careful how you use words that imply present tense, such as *this, these, now, ago, today, tomorrow, tonight, yesterday*. I discovered this a few years ago in Bobby Christmas's book *Write in Style*. On page 42 she says, "These words have a subtle push-pull between present and past tense." Even best-selling authors fall into this fault.

## Got Questions? W/C Will Find Answers

Here's a place for TWA members to ask questions. W/C will entertain *answers* from anyone around the world who cares to comment.

Jan Evans asked, "Is flash fiction eligible for the contest? What about children's? There didn't seem to be as many categories this time."

Answer: The limited categories in the 2009 Writing Contest are broad in nature. Place your children stories in the categories where they properly fit. As for flash fiction: There is no minimum number of words set for entries, only a maximum of 2,500.

Sorry about the reduction in categories. It's a budget situation. Ask Chrysler and GM about it.

## Humor in the Corner

Loosen up. This one should be fun. I don't like anything too serious, anyway. Keep them short and snappy and related to writing. After pecking over my keyboard all day, I can use a good laugh.

My favorite poem reflects why I'm not a poet.

Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
Some poems rhyme  
Some don't

## Twiddy-Ditties

This sounds like it could be a good feature. Let's figure out something to put here. I have no idea what it means, but whose taking notes?

## How Tweet It Is

Use this as a play on words. Remember Jackie Gleason? We use tweet to represent TWA. Send your sweet, (I mean tweet) comments here.

## Where in the World is TWA's Mascot?

In March, W/C created a mascot. She's supposed to draw writers out of their corners or from the chairs along the walls. Teewahcon, named for the initials of TWA and W/C, is supposed to be our social mixer.

She offers a reward to those finding her each month. Send a note to [mytwa@aol](mailto:mytwa@aol.com) every time you find her and your name will be added into a pot of names eligible for a free TWA membership for a year.

She has gone to the corners and to the sides of the room and asked writers to dance. They answer her, "Oh, I'm too bashful to dance. I prefer to sit and watch."

## Welcome New Members

January: Walter Golding; February: Larry Kokko; March: Patricia Faulconer; April: Fred Tomasello, Tanya Gold, Suzanne Wieland; May: Sharon Minor, Elisabeth Moulton, and Alina Vitali.

## Post Your Website Here

TWA members are encouraged to send their website addresses to [mytwa@aol.com](mailto:mytwa@aol.com). They will be posted on [www.tampawriters.org](http://www.tampawriters.org). Don't have a web site? Make it a goal to establish one. Below is a list of members' websites to brose through.

Skip Allen	<a href="http://www.skipallen.com">http://www.skipallen.com</a>
Marianne Aluotto	<a href="http://marianneewriter.blogspot.com">http://marianneewriter.blogspot.com</a>
Nicholas D Brown	<a href="http://www.nicholasdbrown.com">http://www.nicholasdbrown.com</a>
Wendi Christner	<a href="http://www.wendichristner.com">http://www.wendichristner.com</a>
Ann Turner Cook	<a href="http://www.annturnercook.info">http://www.annturnercook.info</a>
Michael Darling	<a href="http://www.hopliterenegades.com">http://www.hopliterenegades.com</a>
George Davis	<a href="http://www.garthurdavis.com">http://www.garthurdavis.com</a>
Jan Evans	<a href="http://www.jan-evans-books.com">http://www.jan-evans-books.com</a>
Charles Jacobs	<a href="http://www.retirement-writing.com">http://www.retirement-writing.com</a>
Sandra Kischuk	<a href="http://www.sandrakischuk.com">http://www.sandrakischuk.com</a>
Sandra Kischuk	<a href="http://www.LivingBeyondLimits.com">http://www.LivingBeyondLimits.com</a>
John Miller	<a href="http://www.quarkspacetravel.com">http://www.quarkspacetravel.com</a>
Charlie Norman	<a href="http://www.freecharlienow.com">http://www.freecharlienow.com</a>
Eugene Orlando	<a href="http://www.eugeneorlando.com">http://www.eugeneorlando.com</a>
Deirdre Powell	<a href="http://www.undergroundwriter.com">http://www.undergroundwriter.com</a>
Chris Taylor	<a href="http://www.chriscoadtaylor.com">http://www.chriscoadtaylor.com</a>
John Taylor	<a href="http://www.johnmtaylor.com">http://www.johnmtaylor.com</a>
Mac Wheeler	<a href="http://home.roadrunner.com/~macwheeler">http://home.roadrunner.com/~macwheeler</a>

## A Writer's Life

By Sandra Kischuk

### The Tyranny of the Dailies

Over recent years I've enjoyed taken on the luxury of "projects". I say luxury because, too often, I get caught up in the "dailies", the brush my teeth, wash my clothes, clean the dishes, sweep the floor, go to work tasks, and I neglect taking action to do what I really want.

Doing "projects" may require that I put the "dailies" aside—usually until I can't stand the mess anymore, and it takes a Herculean effort to bring order back into my life. The problem is that I keep expecting to maintain the "dailies" AND change the way things are, so I can get the project done.

A project may only take a day or so. Some require weeks or even months—which actually give me time to integrate the "new". If I can set aside the "dailies", completion of the project, itself, may eliminate the need for a particular chore. I have to look past the mess of the project in process and remember the goal. Seeing where I am going may be the only thing that drives me through the tedium of doing, what seems to be, an interminable task.

### Unfinished Projects

Losing sight of the end is where people often stop in the middle of what they were doing. They leave a littered path of unfinished projects and a frustrated sense that life shouldn't be that hard. It shouldn't be. If they do ninety percent of the work on ten projects, but never finish one, they exert enough energy to finish nine of the ten they started out on. They have to ask themselves why they picked up another project before they finished the one they were working on.

This half-done work strangles their future attempts at new projects. The fact that a project is not completed drains energy. If they consider the project to be significant, and they fail to complete it, it is quite easy to lose self-respect. This is because what they *say* is important, and what they *do* are two different things. More than once, I have talked with clients who started college degrees, but got sidetracked for whatever reason. Twenty years later, they still bemoaned that unfinished task.

Unfinished projects usually are recognized only by others who become aggravated by the continued inconvenience of ignored dailies, extra mess, and unresolved problems.

Fear of other's disapproval for unfinished work is often the reason people feel paralyzed about even starting a project. But without doing the work, things don't usually get better. Few people win the lottery or have fairy godmothers looking out for them.

Cinderella would be quite a different story if she had the gumption to set aside her "dailies" and figure out how to change things herself instead of relying on a godmother and a prince.

### So, what does this mean for a writer?

If you are feeling frustrated because you never seem to get to your writing, you are probably letting the "dailies" get in the way. Or worrying about failing to meet other peoples' expectations about roles you have fulfilled in the past. Or doubting that you could finish something as monumental as what you are considering doing.

Writing is not one-day work. It is a *project*. It is setting aside some of the "dailies" and making room for *the important*. It is making writing a part of your "dailies."

If you are a writer, writing is the soul-fulfilling work you do that gives meaning to the rest of your life. If you are a writer, and don't make space in your life for writing, is it any wonder you feel as if something is missing? No wonder. You are denying the very essence of who you are.

### Coping With Run-Away-Mouth Syndrome

By Paul P. DuBose

A funny thing happened to me on the way to my mailbox. I found this hilarious email from a friend in Canada. Let me know if you can read it without taking a breath.

Do you remember me telling you about Bill Young that is 85 and a few months ago while in Vancouver seeing a doctor about what can be done about his legs which was finally diagnosed as spinal stenosis and while in Vancouver had time on his hands and went to St. Patrick's Catholic school which he attended to look around and a man approach him and asked him if he could help him and Bill told him the story about going to school there but was never able to graduate even though he had the credits because the War broke out and he joined the Merchant Marines. (There was more.)

Honest, I cannot make this stuff up. It's a true story. I didn't even change the names or facts. This is an example you do not want to follow in your writing. Don't get cute, and don't try this at home. Yes, I know Tom Wolfe is successful with snake-like sentences, bless his white suit. But, if you are no Tom Wolfe, don't do it.

Run-away Mouth Continued on page 4

## Pick It Up and Take It Home

By Paul DuBose

When having the choice of going to a meeting or staying home, my preference is always the same. Truly, there's no place like home. Yet, over the years, I have preyed myself up and out the door to hundreds of meetings. I always justify my actions by saying, "If I can take home just ONE good point, it's worth my while."

The May 6 presentation by Paula Stahel on "Writing Your History" may have had little appeal to TWA writers. The scanty meeting attendance disappointed the speaker and embarrassed our president. For those who stayed home, what they missed was their loss.

As for me, I took home several good points, but one in particular is going to make a major difference in my new novel series. I could not have received a more important revelation from a \$600 seminar.

## Home is Where the Heart Is

The lead character for the fictional series I'm working on is in place. His name is Milt. I've given Milt a sidekick partner and a pet cat. In a notebook, I've defined their unique characteristics and personal descriptions.

Next, I must give Milt a desire, a need, an *objective*. Without it there is no story. This widowed character has been married four times. He lives mostly on the road in a travel van with his cat. He's a not-so-successful writer. So, what does Milt want? What does he need? A blockbuster story? A successful career? This story cannot be written until the lead character has an objective.

While I was taking notes during Paula Stahel presentation, she asked a question. "What is the most important word that imparts emotion into our lives?"

My mind immediately centered on *love* or *sex*.

"Home," she answered. "Home implies security. It's our most emotional desire."

The lights went on. That's it! Milt needs a home. I will build in a ton of obstacles that prevent Milt from finding the security and happiness of a home no matter how hard he tries.

Actually, she said, "Studies have shown the word 'home' resonates with people more than any other. It connotes security. The home you had as a child. The home you have now. The home you lost. The home you strive to build for yourself. If you can work the word 'home' into your story, you grab your reader. Home is where the story begins."

Are you able to read W/C and take one point home?

## Run-away Mouth Continued from page 3

Keep your sentences short and shorter. Mix them up with a few longer ones. And keep your cotton-picking words simple. It's difficult. But it works. I opened to a random page in Janet Evanovich's novel *Plum Spooky*. Page 175 contained 251 words. They were spread within 35 sentences. That's an average of seven words per sentence. On one line I read, "You have a nice house. It's cozy. It's a family house." Only one long sentence appears on that page: Nineteen words.

The longest, most complicated words on page 175 of Janet's book are these: *contraptions* and *mesmerized*. I hope you don't jump up for a dictionary.

Why do I refer to Janet's work? *Plum Spooky* hit #1 two weeks after its release on January 6, 2009. One reason for her success is because she keeps her sentences short, sweet, and simple. Follow her example and don't be infected with run-away-mouth syndrome.

## The Adorable Little Period

It's true. Curvy commas are much sexier than the plain cold facts of pin-headed periods. Want-a-be sophisticated writers believe the more commas they add to a sentence, the more mature their writing will appear. Do unpublished writers believe using short sentences expose them as being unskilled? Don't fall into this trap. Don't shun the pointy little periods. Learn when to shut up and move on. The reason I'm mentioning this, is because I recently read several manuscripts submitted for critique, by TWA members, in which I observed an overabundance of compound sentences, with subordinate clauses, containing three or four words and a comma, then two, three, four, or more words, and more commas, until I lost my breath, before the sentences continued with run-on sentences, and more cute, little, sexy commas. I'm serious. Can you see how badly I just screwed up this sentence? For obvious reasons, I'm not including the examples from our members.

As a writer, are you too embarrassed to KISS (*keep it simple, stupid*) your work? Writing simple has worked for James Patterson and Dan Parker for years. Do they use commas? Oh, yes. But they don't get carried away and demand that you read the sentence twice to understand it. Even the in-depth work of Pat Conroy is kept simple.

When you use an army of commas, do it with purpose, and keep your thoughts understandable. The following example demonstrates an expert use of a complex sentence using phrases and commas. But, consider the source; Tom Wolfe is an expert.

Continued on page 5

## BOOTH RENTAL NOTICE

Seventeenth Annual

### St. Petersburg Times Festival of Reading

University of South Florida St. Pete Campus

Saturday, October 24, 2009, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

<http://www.festivalofreading.com>

Bookseller/Vender and Self-published Author Applications are online. Booth packages range from \$195.00 to \$250.00.

### TWA Members' Booth

TWA members are invited to share a 10-foot booth with two tables for only \$10.00. If you are an author with books to sell, please mail your request and \$10.00 application fee to TWA treasurer immediately. If we receive more than ten applications we will rent an additional booth.

### TWA Critique Group

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Barnes and Noble bookstore

11802 North Dale Mabry Highway.

Please e-mail submissions to Mac Wheeler

[mwheeler@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mwheeler@tampabay.rr.com).

### Ditty Night

By Mac Wheeler, Coordinator

On May 27 TWA Critique Group held a special meeting called a "Ditty Night". What is ditty . . . please link to

<http://tampawriters.org/cg/WhatIsADitty.htm>

### TWA Poetry Group

Warner D. Conarton, Coordinator

4th Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Barnes and Noble bookstore

11802 North Dale Mabry Highway.

e-mail: [warnerdconarton@netscape.com](mailto:warnerdconarton@netscape.com)

Web-page: [warnerconarton.com](http://warnerconarton.com)

Yes, Tampa Writers Alliance has a meeting for poets—about 15 poets per meeting. If you appreciate poetry, bring your favorites to read. All you need is a bunch of copies of your work. Copies are not even compulsory. You can read yours, or sing yours, or have someone else do it for you.

### Continued from page 4

This is from chapter one of *A Man in Full*:

For a while the freaknik traffic inched up Piedmont . . . inched up Piedmont . . . inched up Piedmont . . . inched up as far as Tenth Street . . . and then inched up the slope beyond Tenth Street . . . inched up as far as Fifteenth Street . . . whereupon it came to a complete, utter, hopeless, bogged-down glue trap halt, both ways, northbound, southbound, going and coming, across all four lanes. That was it. Nobody was moving on Piedmont Avenue; not anywhere, not any which way; not from here; not for now.

Until you can write like Tom Wolfe, stick with the adorable little periods, and keep your sentences short and simple.

### How Fast Can You Write?

By Paul DuBose

Last month I asked, "Can you write two novels a year? You can write two 60,000-word novels by writing 10,000 words a month. You need to write 500 words per writing-day to meet your goal of 10,000 words per month. The writer who sets aside five hours for writing during each three-day period can easily reach his/her goal of two novels per year."

### Edit and Revise

I spun this article like a politician. Not saying I lied, just that I left out some facts. I did not mention the time it takes to edit and revise. Based on last month's assessment, you need to double the amount of time for writing and revising, or limit yourself to one book a year.

Paula Stahel said editing is the most important part of your writing. "It's like condensing a sauce," she said.

### Nicholas D. Brown Announces Second Novel

The author of *Norman's Assault* has written his second novel, *Norman Bereft*. The 304 page novel deals with depression, anxiety attacks, alcohol-induced blackouts, unemployment, DUI charges, and revenge as a troubled 40-year-old engineer struggles to get his life in order. It is available from AuthorHouse.

Nicholas Brown now lives in Plant City. He is preparing a program for TWA. Check out his website and read excerpts at [www.nicholasdbrown.com](http://www.nicholasdbrown.com).

**June 6—FWA:** The [Tampa/Wesley Chapel](http://www.tampawriters.org) group will host a mini query letter workshop conducted by Mollie Nickell, former Time-Life editor. Contact Chris Taylor. 813-996-2713

**June 11—FWA:** Author K. L. Nappier will address the [St. Petersburg](http://www.stpetersburgwriters.org) group about "Exploring E-Publishing and the Internet." [www.floridawriters.net](http://www.floridawriters.net), "writers groups"

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, 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.

## TWA Directory

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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 P DuBose</b>	813-685-2033	mytwa@aol.com
Past President	<b>Sandra Kischuk</b>	813-935-7760	sandra_writer@verizon.net
Member-at-Large	<b>Ken Dye</b>	708-707-7286	JDye608@aol.com
Poetry	<b>Warner Conarton</b>	352-588-3228	WarnerDConarton@netscape.com
Critique Group	<b>Mac Wheeler</b>	813-237-5140	mwheeler@tampabay.rr.com
Write Connections Editor	<b>Paul P DuBose</b>	813-685-2033	mytwa@aol.com
Wordsmith Editor	<b>Sandra Kischuk</b>	813-935-7760	sandra_writer@verizon.net
Website	<b>Dennis Pupello</b>	352-799-8667	dpupello@earthlink.net
Publicity/Public Relations	<b>Adele-Ida Walter</b>	813-932-6902	adeleidawalter@hotmail.com
Contest Coordinator	<b>Paul P DuBose</b>	813-685-2033	mytwa@aol.com

**TWA WEBSITE: [WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG](http://WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG)**

Note: Prose, notices, press releases and one time book promotions may appear in newsletter if space permits. Submit to the editor before the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. All material submitted to "Write Connections" is subject to editing.

### *Tampa Writers Alliance* *Membership Application*

Name (I am 18 or older) \_\_\_\_\_ 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**