

## President's Message

### Start the new year with a resolution to write more

By Marci Elliott

We may be wondering where 2011 went, but 2012 is ahead of us – a shiny, brand new year just waiting for us to make it one of our best.

This is the time to make a resolution to write more, and to polish our skills to write better. The TWA is standing by to help guide you on your road to better writing. We have experts scheduled in our monthly Speaker Series meetings on the third Thursday of each month, our annual TWA Writers Conference set for May 4-6 with



some pretty big names in the writing and publishing world, at least two free weekend workshops coming up on specific aspects of writing, critique groups after every monthly meeting to help you polish your work, community critique groups for members to discuss your writing and ways to make it shine, and loads of news, tips and advice on our TWA Web site ([www.twaonline.org](http://www.twaonline.org)) and in our newsletter.

We also have a new TWA logo, thanks to our vice president and graphic designer, Vicky Laurienzo, and a new banner displaying the logo to show the community who we are. And we have a contest under way that will result in a new name for our newsletter to be announced on Valentine's Day.

With all this going on, the TWA is showing you how exciting it is to be a writer. So jump in and resolve to write more and to write better. Have a happy new year, especially one filled with your writing.

## Program Notes

By Marsha Lyons

### Jan. 19: Collaborative writing panel

**Patricia Browning, Joann Dunn and Karen McColgan**, all of whom live in the Atlanta area, met through their children but remained fast friends. At one of their gatherings, before *The Bucket List* hit the theaters, Patricia mentioned a sorority sister's challenge to write down three things they wanted to do before they died. Patricia said she had always wanted to write a mystery, and thus was born the threesome coming together to write under the pen name **Georgia Adams**. The women – who come from a variety of backgrounds including law (Dunn), psychology (McColgan) and teaching (Browning) – have written and published two books including *Killer Condo* and *A Well Manicured Murder*, which they characterize as humorous murder mysteries. They will speak on Collaborative Writing.

### Feb. 16: Richard Edward Noble

**Richard Edward Noble** is a freelance writer and award-winning columnist. He is the author of numerous books, including fiction, nonfiction and poetry. His newspaper column has received first place for humor from the Florida Press Association. Born and raised in Massachusetts, he migrated to Florida at age 27. The title of his talk is *My Personal Perils and Intrigue in Writing Creative Nonfiction*.

### March 15: Mark Mustian

**Mark T. Mustian**, author of critically acclaimed *The Gendarme*, will be our featured speaker. The Tallahassee city commissioner and attorney had his first book, *The Return*, published in 2000. His fiction has been published or scheduled to be published in *Stand Magazine*, *The Green Hills Literary Lantern*, *Opium*

*Magazine* and other publications. *The Gendarme* has been named as a finalist for the Dayton International Library Peace Prize and was the Gold Florida Book Award winner for general fiction.

## April 19: John Wiley Horton

Tallahassee attorney **John Wiley Horton** will talk to us about *Protecting Your Writes*. His practice in connection with patents is now the largest in northern Florida and southern Georgia. He has received an "AV" rating from Martindale-Hubbell's peer review rating system and has been named in *Florida Trend* magazine as a member of the Florida Legal Elite.

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## Steve Berry to be keynote speaker at 2012 TWA Writers Conference

### Six other authors and editors to head sessions

New York Times best-selling author **Steve Berry**, author of the Cotton Malone series, will be the keynote speaker during the Saturday noon banquet of the **2012 TWA Writers Conference**, scheduled for **May 4-6** at the Holiday Inn and Monroe Street Conference Center in Tallahassee.

Berry has 12 million books in print, which have been translated into 40 languages and sold in 51 countries. He's also an accomplished instructor, having taught writing to audiences across the globe, and will teach one class session at the TWA conference.

Other conference speakers and participants include Tallahassee City Commissioner and author Mark Mustian, who will speak at the conference's Friday night kickoff; editor and author **Jessica Morrell**; young-adult novelist **David-Matthew Barnes**; writing professor and short-fiction writer **Philip Deaver**; author **Nicole Mary Kelby**; and teacher/workshop leader/writing coach/freelance editor **Pat MacEnulty**.

*For more complete conference details, speaker biographies, workshops, schedule and other conference information, visit our Web site at [www.twaonline.org](http://www.twaonline.org).*

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## The Careful Eye: Editors – and why we need them

*By Marina Brown*

So the manuscript is done. Written in the white heat of inspiration. Oh, there are a few punctuation issues. A couple of typos. You did call that character "Diane" in the first chapter? Or by chapter 18, was it "Daisy"?

No author ever creates a piece of wonderment when such details are dragging him or her down. But no author wants to submit a work to an agent or for self- or e-publishing when it's riddled with errors that the artist's eye simply couldn't see.

Enter the editor.

A quick glance at online editorial sources shows an army of people willing to have a crack at your ms. Some, like *Edit911*, promise comprehensive editing from PhDs. *ProfessionalBookEditing* shows bios and photos of its editors, while many anonymous editors will offer just a basic punctuation and grammar check. Prices for a 90,000-word novel range from \$1,098 to \$1,980.

But here at the TWA, we're in luck. Several of our members are editors. They're expert, they're reasonably priced, and best of all, they're here.

Editor **Liz Jameson** says that while a background in journalism or English is probably basic, experience at critiquing manuscripts and wide reading are essential. As a reader she puts away a book a week and keeps up with market trends. **Lynne Knight**, who edits poetry for Anhinga Press, says a good editor must just "love words."

Liz's process is to give the manuscript a "once-over" when she receives it. She then goes line by line, tracking suggestions and corrections in the margin, including scene breaks and formatting. She is subjective in the overview: Does the book really begin at Chapter 3? Is it believable? Is dialogue out of character?

Liz says a good editor will have given a broad review that makes the ms. agent-ready or e-format-ready. Her turn-around time is from four to six weeks and she typically charges around \$2 per page.

For Lynne, who charges \$50 an hour, the process of editing poetry is more collaboration with the author. With text going back and forth many times, the final

edit can take up to eight months.

**Donna Meredith**, author of *The Glass Madonna*, worked with **Paula Kiger** in one of two edits.

"It was absolutely worth it," Donna said. "People aren't perfect ... errors do slip by ... and especially if you're e-publishing without an assigned editor, you don't want to ruin your reputation by putting out amateurish work."

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## Events and opportunities

**Springtime Tallahassee** is set for March 31. This is one of the largest events of its kind in the Southeast – and it's an excellent opportunity for the TWA to gain recognition and for its members to get known and sell their books.

The TWA again will participate with a tented booth. If you'd like to take part and include your book(s) for sale, contact **Michael Whitehead** at whiteheadmj06@gmail.com. Send him your title(s) and price to reserve a place in the TWA booth.

The **621 Salon Reading** will begin at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22, at the 621 Gallery, Railroad Square. **Lynne Knight** will read from her book, *Quantum Entanglement*. FAMU Professor **Andrew Skerritt** will join Lynne and will read from his new nonfiction title, *Ashamed to Die*. Admission is free. Beer, wine, water and books will be available for sale. Bring a jacket; it's cold in there.

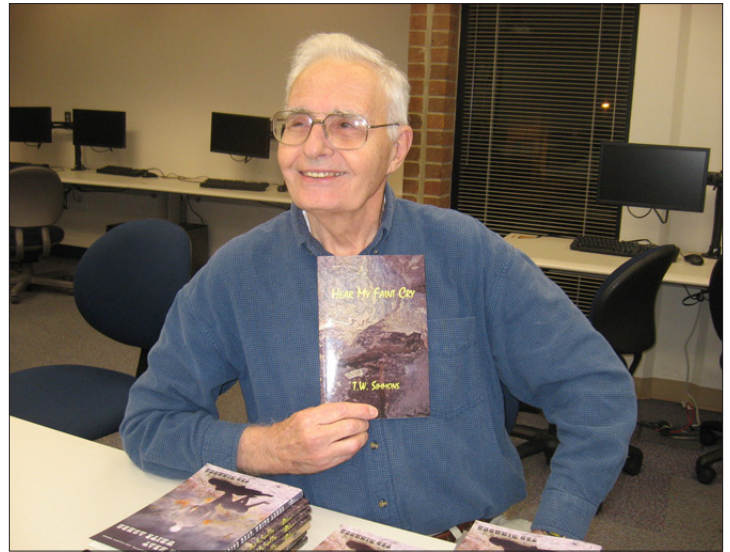
**Janisse Ray** is coming to her old hometown of Tallahassee to do a writing workshop Friday, Jan. 20, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Uptown Café conference room. The workshop title will be "Writing Your Own Story: A Workshop in Memoir and Creative Nonfiction." It is sponsored by **Wandering Writers Workshops**.

**Susan Cerulean** will present a series of classes called "Writing Our Place in the World: Nature Memoir" beginning Thursday, Feb. 9, at 1:30 p.m. at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at The Florida State University. It lasts six weeks on Thursdays.

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## Publishing news

**Ted Simmons** recently published his newest book, *Hear My Faint Cry*. It is the story of an actual murder that



Ted Simmons with his latest book, *Hear My Faint Cry*.

took place more than 20 years ago near Tallahassee. Ted spent a year or more of meticulous research of the murder and the events surrounding it, and he interviewed first-hand the convicted killers and the victim's survivors and families. CyPress Publications of Tallahassee published the book, which is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

**Altha Flowers Manning** has submitted her manuscript for publication under the suggested title of *Slices of Life*. It is a collection of poetry and prose on universal life experiences, love, humor, spirituality, death, loss, grieving, family and celebrations, lessons learned, aging and other life events.

**Julie Matherly** had an article published in the 12/22/11 *Tallahassee Democrat Chronicle*, "Yes, Virginia, there are good Samaritans around us." Here's the link: [www.tallahassee.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011112220318](http://www.tallahassee.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011112220318)

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## Winners

**KiKi BelMonte-Schaller** received a First Place Winners Gold Medal in November at the 2011 President's Book Awards banquet of the Florida Publishers Association. The prize was awarded to KiKi for her young-adult fiction novel, *Gray Rainbow Journey*. For more information on KiKi and



KiKi BelMonte-Schaller

her work, visit her Web site, [www.KBSchaller.com](http://www.KBSchaller.com).

**Felicia Thomas** won the President's Book Awards silver medal at the same event for her young-adult fiction novel, *80 Proof Lives*. Felicia's Web site is [www.feliciaswithomas.com](http://www.feliciaswithomas.com).

The *Delmarva Review* has nominated **Iain Baird** for a 2012 Pushcart Award, the most prestigious award for short-story writers, for his story, *The Guildmeister*. And now Iain's story, *The Flight*, has been awarded first place in the *Delmarva Review* 2011 Short Story competition sponsored by the Eastern Shore Writers Association. The story will be published in the 2012 edition of the *Delmarva Review* in the fall.

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## 2012 Seven Hills Review now available for sale

The TWA's 2012 *Seven Hills Review* has been published and is now available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for \$10 paperback and \$2.99 for the Kindle version. It contains the award-winning fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry from the Seven Hills Literary Contest and the Penumbra Poetry and Haiku Contests sponsored by the Tallahassee Writers Association in fall 2011. If you are unable to purchase copies from Amazon for some reason, limited numbers of the review will be available at TWA monthly meetings. It is also available at the Bookshelf, 126 S. Broad St., Thomasville, GA.

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## Link to our Web site

If you have an author Web site and would like to have it listed on the TWA member Web site page, e-mail the URL to Donna Meredith at [meredithds@comcast.net](mailto:meredithds@comcast.net). If you're already listed, there's no need to do it again. It's under the member tab at [www.twaonline.org](http://www.twaonline.org).

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## New TWA mailing and e-mail addresses

The TWA has changed its mailing address. Effective immediately, the new address is

**Tallahassee Writers Association**  
**2910 Kerry Forest Parkway D-4-357**  
**Tallahassee, FL 32309**

Please send all postal mail, including membership application and renewal forms with a check for your dues, to this new address.

The TWA also has a new e-mail address: [talwritersassn@gmail.com](mailto:talwritersassn@gmail.com). Don't forget to put the "n" in there. You can contact TWA secretary Jenny Crowley or one of the officers at this address if you have any questions or comments.

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## Rename the newsletter contest

We're going to change the name of our TWA newsletter – and you can be a part of it!

The TWA is holding a "Name the Newsletter" contest now through Jan. 31. The winning name will be announced on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14 – and the person who submits it will win a one-year membership in the Tallahassee Writers Association. If the winner has already paid dues for 2012, the free membership will be for 2013.

We want the new name to be modern and updated, and it should reflect what we do: writing. Submit your newsletter names to the TWA e-mail address, [talwritersassn@gmail.com](mailto:talwritersassn@gmail.com), and type "Name the Newsletter" in the subject line.

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## Dues are due

A friendly reminder: TWA membership dues are due for 2012. If you haven't already paid, you can find a membership application/renewal form on our Web site, [www.twaonline.org](http://www.twaonline.org), bring the completed form with a check for your dues (\$35 for individuals) to the monthly meeting, or mail the form with your check to our new mailing address, Tallahassee Writers Association, 2910 Kerry Forest Parkway D-4-357, Tallahassee, FL 32309. Any questions, contact us at [talwritersassn@gmail.com](mailto:talwritersassn@gmail.com).

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## Newsletter news

Have you won an award? Published a book? Landed a contract? Won a prize for a short story? Let us know! Write a brief but complete article for our newsletter and e-mail it to Marci Elliott, president and newsletter editor, at [marci2elliott@aol.com](mailto:marci2elliott@aol.com). Include important

facts like date, place, sponsoring organization or publisher, Web site, and an e-mail address and phone number where you can be contacted if more information is needed. The newsletter is written about TWA members for TWA members. By all means, send us a photo of yourself to go with your news. All submissions will be considered but not guaranteed to be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

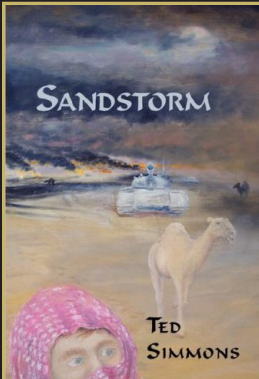
## Join us

We welcome Tallahassee-area writers, published and not-yet-published, of every genre and description

(within reason). If you're not a TWA member, download an application form from our Web site, [www.twaonline.org](http://www.twaonline.org), fill it out and send it to us with your membership check (\$35 for individuals).

The Tallahassee Writers Association holds Speaker Series meetings on the third Thursday of every month (unless otherwise noted) at the American Legion Hall on Lake Ella off North Monroe Street in Tallahassee. Meetings start at 6:30, include snacks, and usually last about an hour to an hour and a half.

If you'd like to be a speaker at one of our meetings – or recommend one – contact our vice president of programs, Marsha Lyons, at [marsha.lyons@lyonsandfarrar.com](mailto:marsha.lyons@lyonsandfarrar.com).



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Marci Elliott ----- Editor  
 Vicky Laurienzo ----- Designer

Visit the  
 Tallahassee Writers  
 Association's Web site at  
[twaonline.org](http://twaonline.org)

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 suggestions to be considered, contact  
 TWA President and Editor Marci Elliott at  
[marci2elliott@aol.com](mailto:marci2elliott@aol.com).