

The League of Utah Writers  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LEAGUE OF UTAH WRITERS APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT, NAMES WRITER OF THE YEAR AND AWARDS OTHERS AT THEIR 88th ANNUAL WRITING CONFERENCE**

Salt Lake City, UT -- The League of Utah Writers held their annual awards ceremony for the 88th time over the weekend, appointing a new President of the organization, announcing their Writer of the Year award, and giving away more than \$3,000 in cash prizes for their annual writing contest.

Bryan Young of the Salt City Genre Writers chapter ended his two-year tenure as president of the League of Utah Writers and passed the gavel to Rachael Bush of the Ogden based Blue Quill chapter. “This organization has done so much work building a community of writers across the state and I am glad I have been able to serve,” Young said of his time. “We are stronger than we’ve ever been, and are expanding our offerings through partnerships with everyone from Utah Humanities to the State Prison to ensure everyone in the state has an opportunity to tell their story.”

“The League of Utah Writers aims to be the most sought after, accessible, and inclusive writing organization in Utah. We create community, empower the writing and publishing goals of members, and provide opportunities to learn, grow, and achieve through dynamic resources that adapt to the specific needs of each writer from novice to professional,” Bush said. Looking to the future, she continued, “It is my honor to serve and continue to grow the programs my predecessors created while developing new ways to support our members.”

Also named was the new President-Elect of the League, Christina Allen of the West Desert Wordsmiths chapter in Delta, who will succeed Bush at the end of her term, which could last one or two years. “Bryan and Rachael have made such amazing contributions to the Utah writing community,” Allen said, “both through their professional achievements and the countless volunteer hours they donate to make the League of Utah Writers’ educational programming, professional fellowship, and community outreach possible. I’m excited to work with them to help all Utahns tell their stories.”

Every year, the League chooses one writer among its ranks to honor as the Writer of the Year. After open nominations and a tough spate of judging, former League president Bryan Young came out with the top honors. The award is designed to shine a light on the most impressive writer in Utah, one who has accomplished something with their publishing, and offered mentorship to their fellows. Young exemplifies this through the work he’s done with the League of Utah Writers as well as his publishing credits. He’s worked in universes ranging from *Doctor Who*, *Robotech*, and *Shadowrun*, to *BattleTech* and *Star Wars*. His work just in the last year won more than a dozen awards from the League’s own contest. His novella, *BattleTech: Ghostbird* won the Diamond Quill, his second time winning that award. His non-fiction book, *The Big Bang Theory: Official Book of Lists* is a bestseller and took home a Silver Quill. His novel, *BattleTech: A Question of Survival* won a Bronze Quill in its category, as did his collection of novellas in that same universe, *BattleTech: Fox Tales*.

The Emerald Typewriter award, the top honor for a published short work of fiction, journalism, or poetry, went to Salt Lake City Weekly's Carolyn Campbell for her cover story "Obsessed" about the victim of a stalker.

The Diamond Quill award, the League's highest honor for full-length work, was bestowed on two works because of a tie. The first was Bryan Young's novella, *BattleTech: Ghostbird*, about a young Clan MechWarrior taking her Trial of Position. The second was the novel *The Stonebearer's Redemption* by Jodi Milner, which is the third installment of the Shadow Barrier Trilogy from Stone Orchid Press.

Other Quill Award and contest winners are listed below the press release in their entirety.

The League of Utah Writers is a nonprofit organization supporting aspiring and established writers with outreach, education, and publishing opportunities. With more than two dozen chapters throughout Utah, from Logan to St. George, it is the state's oldest and largest writing community. Established in 1935, the League of Utah Writers sponsors contests, conferences, classes, and other events throughout the year. Aspiring Utah writers of all ages, styles, and experience levels are invited to join the league and take the next step in their writing career.

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## QUILL AWARD WINNERS

**The Quill Awards are the highest honor for writers in Utah for works of novella length or longer, published in the previous year. The Diamond Quill is awarded to the piece with the highest score across all categories.**

### DIAMOND QUILL:

Bryan Young "Ghostbird"

Jodi L. Milner "The Stonebearer's Redemption"

### NOVEL

Recommended Read - Gail Knezevich "A Whisper on the Wind"

Recommended Read - Brooke Losee "You Wish"

Recommended Read - Erica Richardson "Dragonbreath and Prejudice"

Bronze Quill - Lisa Forsyth "Sojourn: A Time Travel Romance"

Bronze Quill - Bryan Young "A Question of Survival"

Silver Quill - Ralph Dellapiana "Twice a Victim"

Gold Quill - Michel Nelson “The Stickmaker”

## **YOUNG ADULT**

Recommended Read - Blake Penn - “The Skystone Chronicles Book 1: Dragon Thief“

Recommended Read - Janilise Lloyd - “The Whisperer's Wish”

Recommended Read - Off the Hook - “Mindy LeMieux”

Bronze Quill - Elizabeth Drysdale - “The Exile's Promise”

Silver Quill - C.W. Allen - “Tales of the Forgotten Founders”

Gold Quill - Bruce Jacobs - “Zeke Zooter and the Eye of Balor”

Gold Quill - C.W. Allen - “The Secret Benefits of Invisibility”

## **MIDDLE GRADE**

Silver Quill - Jill Vanderwood - “Cheers: The Path You Choose #3”

Gold Quill - Daniel Swenson “GingerSnap: A Redheads Guide to Not Being Eaten By a Dragon: Chapter 1”

## **NOVELLA**

Recommended Read: Jayne Osborne - editor - “A Boy, His Surfboard and the Storm”

Recommended Read: Bryan Young - “Shadowrun: Mercy Street”

Bronze Quill - Sara Wetmore - “The Christmas Script”

Silver Quill- Caryn Larrinaga - “Mouse Trap”

Gold Quill - Bryan Young - “Welcome to Paradise”

## **NONFICTION**

Bronze Quill - Jared Quan “Lifted”

Silver Quill - Bryan Young “The Big Bang Theory Official Book of Lists”

Gold Quill - David Alan Armstrong - “A Walk With the Master”

## **COLLECTIONS**

Recommended Read - Jared Quan "Shattered Worlds"

Bronze Quill - Bryan Young "Fox Tales"

Silver Quill - Daniel Yocom "Kindred Spirits"

Gold Quill - John Olsen "The Best of the Planetary Anthology Series"

Gold Quill - Cody Langille "Dead Stars and Stone Arches: A Collection of Utah Horror"

### **TYPEWRITER AWARD WINNERS**

**The Typewriter Awards are the highest honor for writers in Utah for short works published in the previous year. The Emerald Typewriter is the highest scoring piece across all categories.**

### **EMERALD TYPEWRITER**

Carolyn Campbell - "Obsessed"

### **SHORT STORY**

Recommended Read - Alexis Hansen "Bleeding Heart"

Recommended Read - Inna Valerie Lyon "Mermaid's Justice"

Recommended Read - C.W. Allen "The Platinum Option"

Bronze Typewriter - Bryan Young "A Last and Final Will"

Bronze Typewriter - Danielle Harward "Challenge Accepted"

Silver Typewriter - Elizabeth Suggs "Technicolor Tears"

Silver Typewriter - Alexis Hansen "Blood in the Water"

Silver Typewriter - C.W. Allen "All in a Day's Work"

Gold Typewriter - Masha Shukovich "FOUR LISTS"

Gold Typewriter - Inna Valerie Lyon "Secret Society of the Master's Seven Muses"

### **NONFICTION**

Bronze Typewriter - Valarie Schenk "Mousetraps"

Silver Typewriter - Valarie Schenk "The Humble Earthworm"

Gold Typewriter - Carolyn Campbell "Cold Comfort"

## **MEDIA ARTICLE**

Bronze Typewriter - Bryan Young “Star Wars: How the Imperial Senate Functioned (Until it Didn’t)”

Silver Typewriter - Bryan Young “The Northman Is A Dream For Akira Kurosawa Fans”

Gold Typewriter - Bryan Young “Steven Spielberg's The Fabelmans Hits Close To Home”

## **FLASH FICTION**

Bronze Typewriter - Danielle Harward “Conflicting Opinions”

Silver Typewriter - Patrick Partridge “If You Could Forget One Thing”

Gold Typewriter - Heidi Voss “Guardian”

## **POETRY**

Gold Typewriter - Talysa Sainz “Life Is Not a Poem”

## **PALETTE AWARDS**

**The Palette Awards are the award for best cover designed in books published by Utah writers in the last year. The Lapis Lazuli Palette is awarded to the highest scoring cover across both categories.**

### **LAPIS LAZULI PALETTE**

CJ Connor “Board to Death”

### **TRADITIONALLY PUBLISHED**

Bronze Palette - Bryan Young “BattleTech: Fox Tales”

Silver Palette - Ona Siporin “If Two of Them Are Dead”

Gold Palette - Bryan Young “The Serpent's Head”

Gold Palette - Bryan Young “The Aeronaut”

### **INDEPENDENTLY PUBLISHED**

Bronze Palette - Bruce Jacobs “Zeke Zooter and the Eye of Balor”

Silver Palette - Nathan Andersen “Ten Talking Tacos”

Gold Palette - Daniel Yocom "Kindred Spirits"

## **OLIVE WOOLLEY BURT AWARDS**

**The Olive Woolley Burt Awards, named for one of the first presidents of the League and longtime editor at the Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News as well as prolific author, honor unpublished works from members of the League of Utah Writers.**

## **GENERAL & LITERARY FICTION**

Honorable Mention - Masha Shukovich "The Invisibles"

Honorable Mention - Stephen Capone "An Account of an Early Miracle Performed by the Child Jesus (as Reported to Roman Authorities)"

Honorable Mention - Denis Feehan "The Mattress Tag"

Third - Sky Simons "Desiccated Tears"

Second - Christopher Jones "A Proper Name"

First - Megan Condie "The Pastor's Wife"

## **SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY**

Honorable Mention - Charlene Harmon "Crisis Point"

Honorable Mention - Alberto Squassabia "To Nurse a Taint of Hope"

Honorable Mention - Tim Heare "The Fight for Luna"

Third - Charlene Harmon "Cosmic Concerto"

Second - Jessica Zarnofsky "The Final Altar"

First - John Olsen "Scrappers of the Great Starship"

## **ROMANCE**

Honorable Mention - Wendee Valentine "Janus"

Honorable Mention - Talysa Sainz "Inevitable"

Honorable Mention - Amanda Hill "A Wicked Kilt"

Third - Terra Luft "Tempting Truths"

Second - Inna Valerie Lyon "Love Catharsis"

First - September Roberts "Hart and Soul"

### **MYSTERY & THRILLER**

Honorable Mention - Bryan Young "When the Bough Breaks"

Third - Inna Valerie Lyon "Robert Frost is to Blame"

Second - David Rodeback "I Helped the Police"

First - Josie Hulme "Avaris"

### **HORROR**

Honorable Mention - Melissa Schack "The Fever"

Honorable Mention - Emily Robyn Clark "Where Wolves Feed"

Honorable Mention - Terra Luft "Trial of Shadows"

Third - Brenda Goates "Ashes to Ashes"

Second - Heidi Voss "Siren Ascending"

First - Katherine Monasterio "A Conspiracy of Cartographers"

### **SCREENPLAY**

Second - Bryan Young "Doxxed"

First - Candace Thomas "Fate and Karma Meet for Coffee"

### **SHORT COMIC OR SCREENPLAY**

Honorable Mention - Bryan Young "The Fine Print"

Honorable Mention - Bryan Young "The Break Up"

Third - Emily Robyn Clark "Apocalypse Messiah"

Second - Bryan Young - "The Strike Out"

First - Emily Robyn Clark "Suffer Her Rage"

## **SPIRITUAL ESSAY**

Third - Callie Stoker "Life's Ride"

Second - Alberto Squassabia "The Confusion About Blessings and Hair Dressings"

First - Marie Tollstrup "Born Again"

## **NONFICTION**

Honorable Mention - Rachel Webb "Why I Threw my Autistic Son Into Shark Infested Waters"

Honorable Mention - Lorraine Jeffery "Legacy of Reading"

Honorable Mention - Stephen Capone "From Coal Country to Park City: A Review of King Coal"

Third - Michelle Chamberlain "Spring Chicken"

Second - Doug Gibson "The Wilding"

First - Rachel DeFriez "Finding the Moment"

## **CREATIVE NON-FICTION**

Honorable Mention - Megan Condie "A Daughter Like Me"

Honorable Mention - Anna Bessesen "Manic State of Mind"

Honorable Mention - Inna Valerie Lyon "From Russia, With Borscht"

Third - Monica Williams "One of Them"

Second - Megan Condie "The Good Girl's Chemical High"

First - Olivia Engstrom "The Stars on Our Skin"

## **FIRST CHAPTER - ADULT**

Honorable Mention - Patrick Partridge - "Fast on Fifty"

Honorable Mention - Patrick Partridge "John Francis Robinson III"

Honorable Mention - Cambria Williams "A Night Without Stars"

Third - Stephen Capone - "Living Through - Chapter 1 - Day One (again)"

Second - David Rodeback "The Earl's Third Son"



First - Anna Bessesen "Between Impossible and Inevitable"

### **FIRST CHAPTER - YA**

Honorable Mention - Rachel DeFriez "Kingdom of the Blind"

Honorable Mention - Johnny Worthen "Between Two Hills"

Honorable Mention - Austin Wrathall "Abel Excelsior"

Third - Jodi L. Milner "Like Sand, Like Glass"

Second - Amanda Empey "White Crown"

First - Megan Condie "Blood Horse Empire"

### **FIRST CHAPTER - MIDDLE GRADE**

Third - Inna Valerie Lyon "Runaway Letter"

Second - Evelyn Furbish "A Debt of Care"

First - Claire Bahamón "The Giving Gifts"

### **FLASH FICTION - WRITING DANGEROUSLY**

Honorable Mention - Michelle Chamberlain "Love Tantrum"

Third - Heidi McDonald "The Man With Seven Doors"

Second - Inna Valerie Lyon "Return to Itaka"

First - Patrick Partridge "The Break Out"

### **FLASH FICTION - AUTHOR'S CHOICE**

Honorable Mention - Patrick Partridge "If My Mom Wanted Children"

Honorable Mention - Denis Feehan "Fame"

Honorable Mention - Jo Lynne Harline "Belle, From Elko"

Third - Denis Feehan "The Illusionist"

Second - Rufo Tolentino "Wasted"

First - Inna Valerie Lyon "Farewell, Ladies"

## **POETRY - NARRATIVE POEM**

Honorable Mention - Jef Huntsman "The Love Story"

Honorable Mention - Jef Huntsman "One Shot"

Honorable Mention - Jef Huntsman "Predator"

Third - Jef Huntsman "Holding Memories"

Second - Lillian Angelovic "As Yeats Lost Love"

First - Andy McQuinn "The Story of Steven"

## **POETRY - LIMERICK**

Honorable Mention - Charlene Harmon "Star Cycle"

Honorable Mention - Brandy Woolley Green "Ironical"

Honorable Mention - Charlene Harmon "Bladder Control"

Third - Brandy Woolley Green "Twittering"

Second - Charlene Harmon "Haunting Season"

First - Valarie Shenk "Badger Blues"

## **POETRY - HAIKU**

Honorable Mention - Charlene Harmon "Territorial Butterflies"

Honorable Mention - Charlene Harmon "Darkness Rising"

Honorable Mention - Charlene Harmon "Butterfly Rumble"

Third - Charlene Harmon "Squid Souffle"

Second - Brandy Woolley Green "Grandfather of Haiku"

First - Marie Tollstrup "In Pendant Splendor"

## **POETRY - LIGHT VERSE**

Honorable Mention - Charlene Harmon "The Library's Raining"

Honorable Mention - Charlene Harmon "Eye of the Beholder"

Honorable Mention - Brandy Woolley Green "Wildly, the Wormwood"

Third - Greg Goodman "Gravity"

Second - Charlene Harmon "Here and Not Here"

First - Charlene Harmon "The Ancient Willow"

### **POETRY - FREEFORM**

Honorable Mention - Lillian Angelovic "Revelation"

Honorable Mention - Denis Feehan "Erik"

Honorable Mention - Marie Tollstrup "All Right Rant"

Third - Josie Hulme "Cancer"

Third - Lillian Angelovic "Winter Gardening"

Third - Valarie Shenk "Rain is the Starward Soldier"

Second - Josie Hulme "Love Poem to Gravity"

First - Brandy Woolley Green "We, the Sisters Three"

### **OLIVE WOOLLEY BURT AWARDS - NEW VOICES**

**The New Voices Category of the Olive Woolley Burt Awards is open only to writers who have never been paid for their work previously, giving a shot to new writers across a number of categories.**

### **NEW VOICES - FIRST CHAPTER - ADULT**

Honorable Mention - Megan Condie "The Summer We Danced"

Honorable Mention - Brandy Wooley Green "Chapter 1: Lyonesse"

Honorable Mention - Anne Stark "The Gamble"

Third - Megan Condie "The Summer Tango"

Second - Charity Nelson "Bionic Woman"

First - Christine Dixon "Lost in Their Yesterdays"

### **NEW VOICES - FIRST CHAPTER - YA/MG**

Honorable Mention - Breanna Frost "Nature's Guard: King's Wrath"

Honorable Mention - Bob Carey "The Knot"

Honorable Mention - Pablo Mendez "The Nightroamer"

Third - Brandy Woolley Green "Chapter 1: The Undying Sea"

Second - Emily Miner "Legends of Llyria"

First - Debbie Melander "Wings of Night"

#### **NEW VOICES - GENRE FICTION**

Honorable Mention - Stephen Harmon "The Ghost of Montezuma Canyon"

Third - Alberto Squassabia "To Nurse a Taint of Hope"

Second - Pablo Mendez "The Blue Door"

First - Brandy Wooley Green "The Undone"

#### **NEW VOICES - GENERAL & LITERARY FICTION**

Honorable Mention - Gail Boling "The Spelling Lesson"

Honorable Mention - Debbie Melander "Tech-niche"

Honorable Mention - Marion Hanson "Dystopia Disrupted"

Third - Megan Condie "Fowles and Saint Peter"

Second - Caudine DiScala "Cosmic Call"

First - Megan Condie "The Smell of Books"

#### **NEW VOICES - POETRY**

Honorable Mention - Megan Condie "To RJ Walker: From the Block on Top of Your Brick"

Honorable Mention - Megan Condie "To the Black Person I Did Not March With"

Honorable Mention - Brandy Woolley Green "Iridon of Sacrifice"

Third - Daniel Moreschi "A Glacier's Glide"

Second - Megan Condie "Have I Done Any Good in the World Today?"

First - Brandy Woolley Green "The Artist's Portrait"

#### **NEW VOICES - NON-FICTION**

Honorable Mention - Tori La Rue "Unperfect Me"

Honorable Mention - Patti Smith "Who Gets the Ventilator"

Honorable - Mention - Lisa Hoelzer "Out of Agony Comes the Cure"

Third - Brandy Woolley Green "What Now?"

Second - Anne Stark "The Kings and Queens of Portugal"

First - Sharman Ober-Reynolds "Shadow Boxing"