



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF UTAH WRITERS

A Message from the President

Spring Conference was a hit! I want to congratulate and thank everyone who participated—the volunteers, planners, teachers, attendees. Everyone was great.

At said conference, I'd be remiss if I didn't announce that the board honored and humbled me at the board meeting by asking me to serve a second year as President. I accepted, and now we are all doomed! Er... I mean we're going to do great things! Then we'll be doomed.

Looking ahead, I want to direct everyone to two major upcoming League Sponsored events: Summer Writers Symposium and Quills

The league does many things. Conferences are only one of them, but they tend to be the loudest. Hundreds of hours of work go into the planning and production of each event. Each serves different purposes and different audiences. Spring which just finished up, is a celebration of sharing with each other, networking and motivation.

Summer Symposium up in Logan, is serves a similar purpose, class and camaraderie but placed up in the norther corner of the state when Cache valley is the most gorgeous.

Quills as you may know is our professional level conference. We encourage everyone to come to all the conference, there's something to be had for everyone, but Quills is the one where we stretch out for agents and editors, big name authors and teachers outside of our usual pond. It strives to be a regional event, multi-day, hotel vacation and professional immersion.

Summer Symposium is June 15th. You can find out more about it here:

<https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/summer-symposium-2018>

Quills is August 22-24th, and here's where we're building the information for that:

<https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/quills-conference-2019>

Registration for both are open.

Be there or be square!



And remember, Live in Letters!

Johnny Worthen

From the President-Elect

Spring Conference was a great success, and now we head into a series of summer events coming up. We have Spring into Books on May 18th co-hosted with the South Jordan Writing Conference. Then we have our Summer Writing Symposium in Logan on June 15th. We top off conference season with Quills on August 22-24. These are all likely to show up on the LeagueOfUtahWriters.com page as they approach.

Some might think that's a lot of events, and it takes a lot of time and disposable income to go to everything. The thing is, we understand that. Some might only be able to get to a single event per year, or might only be available for chapter meetings. This is why we want to make the most of every event and provide several opportunities with the hope of finding a slot in everyone's schedule. Our chapters are the front line of this battle to provide writers with advice, networking, and friendship while our conferences are the heavy hitters, able to fill more specialized and advanced needs.

Based on early numbers, it looks like a growing number of you have heard about the success of

last year's Quills conference, and I hope to see lots of you there to share time together. I like meeting League members at these events and hearing what you're up to. I especially like hearing the success stories, and love to share them.

We've had writers find agents. We've had writers find publishers. We've seen several new league members publish their very first short story and see their name in print for the first time. Before I joined the league, I remember seeing the shock and amazement on the face of a new writer at winning a slot in an anthology for the first time. Those successes spur me on, and are a major reason why I accepted the position of President-Elect. I want to see you succeed, and I will do what I can to help.

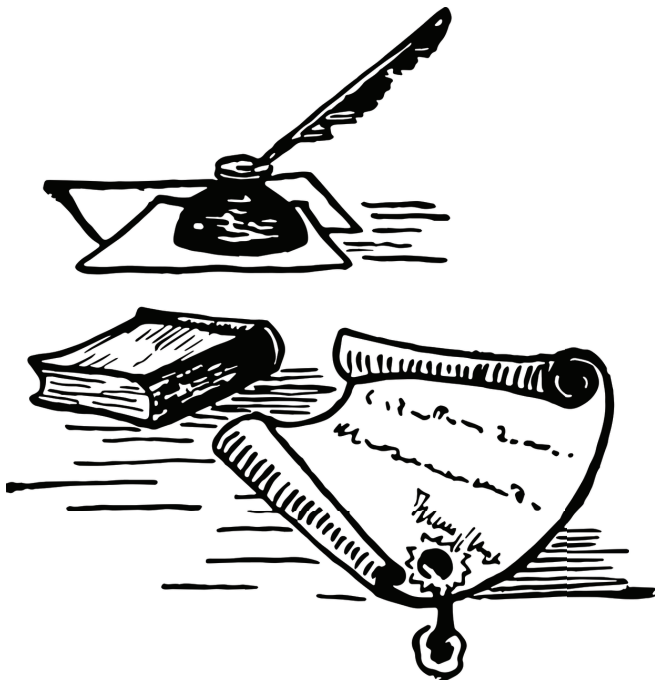
Before the board selected me to serve, I shared with them that I am driven by a thirst for knowledge. This helps as I learn the ropes from Johnny Worthen and Jared Quan. Aside from the writing, I feel the League is getting more organized. We are getting better at obtaining grants. Our events run more smoothly. Our reputation grows. The League is better at serving the members, and the members do better at serving one another. We all grow together. We've seen this in action as our committees and volunteers have jumped in and done amazing things. And we're not done yet.

We do all these great things because of you, the members. You are the secret sauce whether you serve on the board, on a committee, in chapter leadership, as a regular member, or even as a new member just figuring out what the League does. You inspire me, and you inspire each other, and it's an honor to serve with you.

I'll see you around.



John M. Olsen
President-Elect,
League of Utah Writers



Quills Conference Updates

The Conference Committee is hard at work with final preparations for this year's Quills Conference to be held August 23-24, 2019 at the University Park Marriott in Salt Lake City.

Keynote speakers are NY Times Bestselling authors Anne Hillerman and Michael A. Stackpole, both of whom will also be teaching classes during the conference.

Special guests this year are Rhonda Penders, editor-in-chief of The Wild Rose Press, and Angie Hodapp, Director of Literary Development at Nelson Literary.

Three agents will be in attendance this year: Samantha Wekstein of Writers House, Lauren Bieker of Fine Print Literary Management, and Sharon Belcastro of Belcastro Agency.

Two editors who can acquire un-agented manuscripts will also be in attendance this year: Chantelle Aimee Osman of Agora (an imprint of Polis Books), and Caroline Larsen of Jolly Fish Press (an imprint of North Star Editions).

Other confirmed guests are: Warren Hammond, Michael Brent Collings, Charlie Holmberg, Bryan Young, DJ Butler, and McKelle George.

Attendees can add an additional day of multi-hour workshops on Thursday with classes taught by Michael A. Stackpole, Chantelle Aimee Osman, Angie Hodapp, and Bryan Young.

Full faculty and preliminary schedule will be published in mid-June. Registration and information on guests is available at <https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/quills-conference-2019>.

This year's format is similar to last year with two full days of hour-long classes on Friday and Saturday culminating with the annual Quills Award Banquet on Saturday night where the League will announce this year's winners of both the Published Book and Creative Writing Contests and crown Writer of the Year.

New this year are more individualized pricing options including single-day tickets or multi-day bundles, and more affordable options that do not include meals. Hotel room rates are also lower this year with a reserved block of rooms for attendees priced at \$134/night. Book directly online with the hotel before August 2, at <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1554753130421&key=GRP&app=resvlink> where you can also find details on the host hotel.

Did you know? All attendees can participate in Live Critique panel sessions with professional authors, agents and editors. This feature is included for everyone at no extra cost and offered throughout the day both Friday and Saturday. Each submitted selection is read anonymously by a designated reader then constructive criticism provided by the panel. Submissions accepted day of the event at the information desk on a first-come basis.

Polish those first few pages and get valuable feedback on your writing. Or, attend as an observer to learn from the critique of others. Those wishing to submit should plan to bring five copies of their first three pages (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins).

Do you already have a complete project? Agent and editor pitch sessions will be available to purchase when the schedule is finalized and published in mid-June. If you registered for the early-bird three-day bundle, one pitch session is included in your ticket. You will be contacted with details via the email you used to register before the event.

Want to get involved as a volunteer during the conference? Let your chapter president know since they will be the first notified when the time comes.

Any questions contact Johnny Worthen, president@leagueofutahwriters.org, or the Conference Committee Chair, Terra Luft, at events@leagueofutahwriters.org.



August 22nd - 24th, 2019

Marriott Hotel
University Park
480 Wakara Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84108

Register at:

[https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/
quills-conference-2019](https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/quills-conference-2019)

with code MEMBERS10Q19LIL

We have a lot of great guests coming to teach at Quills this year, but I wanted to give you all a heads up about the two I might be most excited about. First is New York Times Bestseller Michael A. Stackpole. For those who are into Star Wars, Stackpole is already a household name. He wrote the X-Wing series, among other Star Wars books and that's only a fraction of his career. He's written for Battletech, Warcraft, and a dozen other licensed properties. He's been teaching writing for years, even joining the Arizona State University faculty for a time. I've learned so much from him and he was the person who gave me the push to take my writing to the next level. He's going to do the same for all of you.

The other is Chantelle Aimee Osman. Chantelle is an editor and writer in her own right and I've had the distinct pleasure of having a short story of mine chosen in an anthology she edited. Her ability to cut to the bone of what work a piece needs is uncanny and she's brilliant at teaching that in a classroom setting. Currently, she's the acquiring editor at Agora, a division of Polis Books and is taking pitches at Quills. If you've got an unconventional and diverse mystery thriller, you're going to want to see her.

I'm delighted that they'll both be at Quills teaching all three days of the convention. Get in on Quills now. Use the code MEMBERS10Q19LIL for a discount even deeper than the one being offered for getting on board early.

- Bryan Young

Writer of the Year

It has been twenty-two years since I was named Writer of the Year. I still remember the thrill of that night as if it happened yesterday. I can vividly recall the way my heart pounded when the description of the new Writer of the Year began to sound more and more like me. Twenty-two years later, writing is still the thing I love most.

Please take a moment now to nominate a new Writer of the Year for 2019. The Writer of the Year is a wonderful award.. The Writer of the Year is chosen by other writers, by peers who respect this writer. Writer of the Year is a credential that the winner will never lose. It looks great on a resume. It sounds good in a talk. It can buoy a writer up on those dark days that every writer experiences. Please submit your nominations to me, Carolyn Campbell at carolync@sisna.com. If you have any questions, please contact me at 801-664-0433.



Chapter Chatter

Blue Quill Chapter

The Blue Quill chapter has very exciting news! We're publishing an anthology! The process has already begun and we are expecting publication by spring of 2020!

Kenny B Smith is excited to release the final book on the Evolution trilogy - X-Evolution. Find out what happens to D and her comrades in this alternative historical fiction. Available at all major retailers and ebook in October.

Teapots Away Media announces it's new junior (under 18) author Ken Mears debut novel *Stones of the Middle Lands - The Castaway Hero*. This middle-grade fiction is available at all major retailers with exclusive in town rights at The Printed Garden in Sandy. Ebook also available. Read it with your kids today.

Cache Valley Chapter

The League of Utah Writers and Utah State University English Department are proud to present the 2019 Summer Writing Symposium, featuring renowned authors, university writing educators, and presenters from the League of Utah Writers. This is a full day of creative writing classes and presentations for just \$25. (\$30 after May 31)

Intensive critique sessions and lunch are also included! Event to take place on Saturday, June 15 - Visit the LUW website to register. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-summer-writers-symposium-league-of-utah-writers-registration-60967916680>



Infinite Monkeys

The Infinite Monkeys have extended and deepened our partnership with the South Jordan Arts Council and will be moving to the Gale Center facility for our meetings beginning in August 2019 and into 2020.

The 4th annual Infinite Weekend Writing Retreat has openings. This year we have a new location in Herriman with more comfy places to write and bunk-style sleeping. If you're interested in joining us October 17-20, 2019 visit our website at luwgenmonkeys.wordpress.com.

- **Karla M. Jay's** historical fiction novel, *When We Were Brave*, is out. Here's the Kirkus Review: "Jay's (*Speaking in Tungs*, 2018, etc.) account is impressively ambitious, offering a sprawling view of the wages of war from three distinct perspectives. She ingeniously braids them into a coherent narrative tapestry, and along the way, she realistically describes the human degradation experienced by prisoners in the Nazi camps." -Kirkus Review

Heritage Writers Guild

- Heritage Writer guild writing contest winners:
 - First place in fiction, Christopher Jones with "Hey Soos"
 - First place in Poetry, Sue Leth with "Hormonal Women"
 - First place in Flash Fiction, Marie Tollstrop with "For the Good Times"
 - First place in First Chapter, Michael Banebrook with "Cogency"
- HWG Summer party potluck is June 15 2019 at 5:30pm with outdoor entertainment. Email Tome Garrison at tomgarrison98@yahoo.com to RSVP.
- There will be a weekend writing retreat at Pine Valley later this summer, more details coming soon on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/heritagewriters/>
- St. George Literary Arts Festival coming Oct 8th-Oct 12th at Dixie State University
- Find us at our second Tuesday guild meetings at St. George Library at 6:30pm (Summer party will replace the June meeting)

Herriman Chapter (Chocolate Goodness)

- The Herriman City has been rapidly expanding over the last few years and the Herriman Chapter has seen rapid growth just this past month as more writers in the Herriman, Riverton, and South Jordan area are discovering us.
- We typically meet at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of every month at the Herriman Library. (Check the calendar on the League's website: <https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/our-chapters> for verification of time and location.)
- Each month, we enjoy learning from guest speakers who teach on a variety of writing topics, after which we take time to give constructive feedback on each other's work.
- In February of this year, *Put Your Shoulder to the Wheel, A Mormon Steampunk Anthology* edited by chapter member and League president elect, John M. Olsen was released. It's the second book in the Mormon steampunk series. At this year's LTUE 2019, chapter members Jared Quan, John M. Olsen, and Robin Glassey participated as moderators, and panelists. One of the highlights of the conference was Jared's guest appearance on Writing Excuses. And at the League's Spring Conference, Glenn Hammer taught a class on Loglines while Robin Glassey taught beginning authors some tips on free and low-cost marketing.
- The Herriman Chapter is comprised of writers of multiple genres. It's a great place to land if you're looking to expand your writer's toolbox, get support on your writing journey, or can't attend the chapter closest to you because it doesn't fit your schedule. And as our name suggests, thanks to Kelly and John Olsen, there's often a bag of chocolate passed around at the meetings.

If you have an upcoming or recent release, or other writing-related news, please let your chapter President know so that they can forward the info for the newsletter. We all want to hear about it!

See the [LUW website](#) for more information on chapter meetings, and for the email address to send your chapter your writing news, so it can be shared with the League.

Just Write Chapter

Just Write is the at-large & online chapter. Ann Gordon is president and Mechelle Morrison is VP. Our chapter members live in Utah, Idaho, Arizona, California, and Connecticut. We have an active group and hold critique sessions twice a month.

Congratulations go to these members:

- **Haley Cavanagh:** Her science fiction novel, *Astraeus*, has been released as an audiobook through most audiobook outlets. *Astraeus* (Covey Publishing) won the 2018 Paranormal Romance Guild Reviewer's Choice Award. Haley has also published several romance books, writing as Roxanne D. Howard.
- **Edward Massey:** In April his historical novel, *Fugitive Sheriff*, was released. His publisher, Five Star Publishing, has scheduled his next book in the series, *Founding Sheriff*, for publication in June 2020. In April, Edward gave four presentations about his Summit County research for the books: the SLC office of Parsons, Beble & Latimer; the Kaysville Library; Silver Peak Chapter in the Kamas Library; and a session at the LUW Spring Conference.
- **David Armstrong:** He has written and published a collection of insights about the book of Isaiah titled: *Searching Isaiah: Learning Line Upon Line*. This is available on Amazon Kindle, along with his insightful novel, *The Porch*, published in January.
- **Andy J Winder:** Andy recently published these essays: "A Whole String of Failures" published in *Name and None*, issue 2; "Transference in Transition" published in the *Hashtag Queer* anthology by Quommunicate Press; and "I Had to Live for 3 Years in Women's Housing Even Though I'm a Man" published in *HuffPost Personal*.

Millcreek Chapter

- WRITE YOUR LIFE

The Millcreek Chapter is an open group, and we are writing our life stories. We meet on the second Thursday of every month at 1:30 at Millcreek Community Center: 2266 E. Millcreek Avenue. We meet in the Millcreek Room on the first floor (go through the lounge with the fireplace, second room on the right).

The Quill is published four times a year by the League of Utah Writers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to offering friendship, education and encouragement to the writers of Utah.

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Utah Division of
Arts & Museums

A DIVISION OF THE UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF HERITAGE & ARTS



SALT LAKE COUNTY SL



GET MORE INVOLVED!

The league is always looking for energetic, enthusiast volunteers for all kinds of things, from conference help to leadership positions, committee appointments and help in more ways than we know.

If you have time and skill and interest, please contact president@leagueofutahwriters.org and let us know.



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