



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF UTAH WRITERS

A Message from the President

Hello writers!

Against the wishes of the Oracle and the warnings of the thwarted time traveling assassins I am now President of the League of Utah Writers.

I love this organization.

I love that it's full of real people, passionately in love with what I love. Words. Letters. Meanings. Art.

Live in Letters.

That is the theme for this year's Quills conference coming up in August 2019. It's also the theme for this year.

Live in Letters.

It's a call for expression and creativity. A discipline and play at once. A call to relish what we do, celebrate the life examined, the stories told. We are the witnesses of life, the secretaries of history, the muses of imagination.

Carry this theme throughout your days, warm your heart with it, darn your socks, whatever you need to do, and join us in the celebration.

Congratulations to all our contest winners, hurray for the volunteers who put so much of their time and energy into making this organization great. Thanks for all the members who unite around the banner of the Muse.

My people.

I'm excited about the future. Can you tell? The last Quills Conference was fantastic, putting us on target to be a nationally acclaimed conference. A great event, one of the absolute highlights of my life. If you were there, you know what I mean. Don't miss the next one. There are early bird prices now for any flavor of attendance you might want.

And Anne Hillerman is coming!

Check out the website www.leagueofutahwriters.com for more details.



Write on. Live in Letters.

Johnny Worthen,
President, League of Utah
Writers

From the President-Elect

This whole President-Elect thing still feels new to me, so if I get that deer-in-the-headlights look, just point me in the right direction and send me on my way. I'll let Johnny handle the announcements and all that this time around, and I'll be the cheerleader.

I've had a wonderful time visiting a few of our chapters and look forward to a lot more visits in the future, following in the footsteps of Jared and Johnny who have done a great job in visiting chapters. This helps in two ways. First, we bring event reports, updates, and calendar info to you. Second, you have our ear and attention for the evening to help make the League meet the needs of your chapter and you as individuals.

Our two big conferences for the year (Spring Conference and Quills) are coming along nicely, as well as some smaller regional events. Whether you're brand new or a veteran writer, please submit your presentation ideas. Every one of us has something to share. Not all class suggestions will get onto the schedules, but we can't evaluate ideas until you send them to us.

As the new guy on the Executive Committee I want to help each League member to find success. The tricky part is that each of you defines success differently. Some might want to find an agent, or a big five contract, or have a book on Amazon. Others may want to be part of an anthology or an online publication. Some might want to self-publish a family history. Some writers just want to write. A few of you might want to earn enough money to build a house out of gold bricks. The cool part is that no matter your definition of success, there are some common principles at play.

Learn

There is always room to improve. Try new things. Find and fill the gaps in your knowledge. Read something in a new genre or area of study.

Write

Find your pace. Schedule your time. If you're not ready to finish a novel, finish something smaller like a short story or newspaper article. Just finish a project, whatever it is, to show yourself and others that you can do it.

Celebrate

Did you succeed at something? Even things as small as "I wrote today" are worth celebrating. On the flip side, cheer the accomplishments of others. This is not a zero-sum-game. One person's success does not diminish another's. Enthusiasm is contagious.

Excel

I hope to see the League produce Utah's next must-read blockbuster authors. It could be you, or maybe that person you sit next to at chapter meetings. Even if your goals are smaller in scale, excel at what you do. Professionalism and expertise have huge rewards.

Give Back

Utah's writing community is different. We are more helpful, give advice more freely, and use the concept of synergy regularly. I've had a wonderful time learning from experts both inside and beyond the League. My challenge to you is to use what you've learned and pass it along. When you're ready, take that next step to mentor others. Brainstorm with others. Help with critiques. Give presentations. Share what you have and become a strong member of our growing community. We'll all be better for it.



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



2019 LUW SPRING CONFERENCE

April 27th, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
SLCC Student Center, Taylorsville

Register now: <http://bit.ly/LUWspring19>

Use the code **LILSPRING19TEN** if you are a member in good standing for an additional 10% adult prices.

Submit your presentation proposal:
<http://bit.ly/spring-proposals>



August 22nd - 24th, 2019

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

Register and submit your
presentation proposals:
[https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/
quills-conference-2019](https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/quills-conference-2019)

The 2018 Quills Conference exceeded my expectations at every turn. What an amazing resource to have here in Utah!

I have attended other writing conferences in other states that are twice the price, yet don't offer the remarkable access to guest authors, agents, publishers, and presenters. Nor do they typically offer reduced pricing for teens. Quills Conference offered all of that, and more, at such a reasonable price that it made it affordable for my teenager to attend with me; the best gift I could have given him!

We attended all three days of the conference, as well as the banquet on the last day, and we knew we would attend the next one before we even left for home! Months later and my teen is still raving about the experience, and even thinking of changing his college major. Quills has opened doors and possibilities for him that every parent hopes for their children, but I could never have provided him without this conference.

-Heather Routh

I heard about the Quills conference from my mother and my League of Utah Writers chapter president. Being a young aspiring writer it sounded like the opportunity of a life time. Three days to speak with and listen to amazing authors, as well as the opportunity to pitch my story to publishers, all at a great price.

It exceeded my already high expectations in ways I couldn't imagine. The opportunities it offered me were supremely helpful. As well as the people involved were some of the kindest, most willing to help, and hard-working. The whole conference was very easy going. It felt like I was an old friend and I was instantly welcomed with open arms and bright smiles. Despite me never being to this conference before and not having the connections, I walked away with a whole new family of writers, eager to help and offer friendly advice and constructive criticism. I will definitely be attending the Quills conference for years to come, always being eager to see what new ideas and opportunities they come up with each year.

-Dylan Routh

Chapter Chatter

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, Mechelle Morrison is VP, Alissa Holyoak is Secretary, and Josie Hulme leads PR. Chapter members live in Utah and five other states. Critique sessions are held twice a month.

Congratulations are in order for these members:

- Bryce Hess's nonfiction book, *The Art of Teaching*, was published in October and is now available as an eBook. Bryce says the book is designed to show teachers how to face themselves as well as their students.
- Camille Smithson's novella, "Fixing Christmas," is included in the anthology, *Sleigh Ride: A Seasonal Anthology*, which was recently published by Literary Crush Publishing.
- Mechelle Morrison published her fourth Amazon book, *Kairos*, a sci-fi story about teenagers sneaking into a dinosaur dig near Vernal, Utah. They find themselves in a nightmarish struggle with real monsters.
- Kathy Davidson won two awards in the LUW writing contest:
 - "Fishing with Heber Stock" won Second Place in New Writer: Creative Nonfiction.
 - "Flash Ants" won an Honorable Mention in Prose: Flash Fiction.
- Josie Hulme won an award in the LUW writing contest:
 - "Wrangler Jeans" won Second Place in Poetry: Light Verse.

Salt City Scribes

- Lori Seppi won FIRST PLACE in the "Children's Book" category for her book, "B&T DETECTIVE AGENCY," in the 2018 Utah Original Writing Competition from the Utah Division of Arts & Museums. She was honored along with the other winners at the Glendale branch of the Salt Lake City Library on Nov. 3.
- Gene Springsteel earned an Honorable Mention in the 2nd Quarter, Vol. 35, of the Writers of the Future contest for a story he critiqued with the Scribes earlier this year. The story was written in the 2nd person POV. Yes, that's no typo, I said 2nd person POV. Gene knew what he wanted out of this tale, and boy did it pay off in a great story.
- Heidi Voss published her first short story, "Breaking Up With An Angel," in the Infinite Monkeys' anthology, A YEAR OF THE MONKEYS. The story also won 2nd Honorable Mention in the "Speculative Fiction: Prose" category in the 2018 LUW writing contest.
- Sara Wetmore published her non-fiction story, "The Bonsai Tree," in the November issue of *The Write Launch*. The story can be read online here: <https://thewritelaunch.com/2018/10/the-bonsai-tree>
- Jahde Cook re-published an updated version of her first book, SECRET POWERS OF THE WORLD: THE BLUE CRYSTAL, a YA urban fantasy. It can be found on paperback here: <https://amzn.to/2B9st0c> and on hardback here: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/jahde-ofelia/the-blue-crystal/hardcover/product-23349138.html>

St George Heritage Writers Guild

- Shelia Kinneer Robb recently published her 4th book in 6 years. AN AMERICAN NURSE IN SAUDI ARABIA chronicles the two years she lived in Saudi Arabia working as an Operating Room nurse, and is [available on Amazon](#).

2018 Quill Award Winners

COLLECTIONS



Gold Quill: **THE HELICON WEST ANTHOLOGY** with Tim Keller, Chadd VanZanten, Amanda Yardley Luzzader, and Felicia Rose



Silver Quill: **APOCALYPSE UTAH** with Johnny Worthen, Jared Quan, Caryn Larrinaga, Matt Cornachione, John M. Olsen, Michael Darling, and Jo Ann Schneider Stringer



Recommended Read: **MIRAGES AND SPECULATIONS** with Lyn Worthen, Paul Genesse, Jay Barnson, Johnny Worthen, and Julie Frost



Recommended Read: **UNDERCURRENTS** with Cindy Hung and Lisa Mangum

NONFICTION



Gold Quill: **THE NATURAL HISTORY OF A CITY CREEK CANYON YEAR** by Kurt Fisher



Silver Quill: **HIKING SOUTHERN NEVADA** by Tom Garrison



Recommended Read: **10 SECRETS TO A BESTSELLER** by Tim McConnehey

YOUTH FICTION



Gold Quill: **FINDING BEAUTY IN THE BEAST** by Jessilyn Stewart Peaslee



Silver Quill: **TERRENCE AND THE MAGICAL SWORD OF COURAGE** by Cody Langille



Recommended Read: **BILLY BLACKSMITH: THE HELLFORGED** by Author Ben Ireland

ADULT FICTION



Gold Quill: **EIGHTEEN** by Cj Maughan



Silver Quill: **THE SEARCH FOR RASHA** by Paul B. Skousen



Recommended Read: **MENDING FENCES** by Lori Johnson Parker



Recommended Read: **UNFORGETTABLE** by Ronda Hinrichsen



Diamond Quill for Best Novel of the Year: **REBEL BOUND** by Shauna E. Black

2018 Writing Contest Winners

I like writing contests. I enter a handful of contests every year. The League's contest holds a special place in my heart. Ask me about it sometime. Everyone likes to win, but the real prize is in the creating.

We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion . . . But poetry, beauty, romance, love, these are what we stay alive for . . . That the powerful play goes on and you may contribute a verse.

- John Keating, *Dead Poets Society*

Congratulations to the winners of the League's 2018 writing contest!

Chris Todd Miller
Contest Chair

NEW WRITER

New Writer: Creative Non-Fiction 2018

- Third Honorable Mention: Making Sense of Mormonism by Brian Perrin
- Second Honorable Mention: Another Rule Broken by Jacqueline Rivers
- First Honorable Mention: Dog-ma by Colleen Callahan
- Third Place: By the Short Hairs by Jelene Kirkland
- Second Place: Fishing with Heber Stock by Kathy Davidson
- First Place: What Are You Living For? by Samantha Thorup

New Writer: Fiction 2018

- Third Honorable Mention: Erotic Hallucinations by Ramiro Torres
- Second Honorable Mention: A War to Bring Peace by Krystal Gerber
- First Honorable Mention: Lester by Patrick Hare
- Third Place: A Painted Smile by Jonathan Humphries
- Second Place: The Maiden's Request by Gregory Lemon
- First Place: Stumblecookies by Garrett Faulkner

New Writer: First Chapter (Fiction or Non-Fiction) 2018

- Third Honorable Mention: CHARLY&NELLA by Tara Creel
- Second Honorable Mention: MIDNIGHT by Natalie Evjen
- First Honorable Mention: The Shadow Master by Justin Cole
- Third Place: Weight of It All by Paul Warburton
- Second Place: Quests & Confusion by Jenna Harris
- First Place: Ruthless by Patrick Hare

New Writer: Poetry 2018

(only three entries – no honorable mentions)

- Third Place: Charge of the Dark Brigade by Zoe Stoffel
- Second Place: The Passenger by Lori Reichard
- First Place: Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School February 2018 by Daniel Cureton

POETRY

Poetry:

Encore Poetry (any category) 2018

- Third Honorable Mention: OUT SLIPS MY THUMB by Jef Huntsman
- Second Honorable Mention: The Tainting of My World by Lorraine Jeffery
- First Honorable Mention: This Mundane Life by Anna Marasco
- Third Place: STEPPING INTO LIGHT by Marie Tollstrup
- Second Place: Rebel by Anna Marasco
- First Place: THE REUNION by Jef Huntsman

Poetry:

Prose Poem 2018

- Third Honorable Mention: METHOD TO MADNESS by Marie Tollstrup
- Second Honorable Mention: Norihiko's Bonsai by Jo Harline
- First Honorable Mention: The Ride Home by C.H. Hung
- Third Place: ARCHES by Marie Tollstrup
- Second Place: RED RIVER CHURCH by Marie Tollstrup
- First Place: Scapegoat by Alex Leavens

Poetry:

Light Verse (Rhyming, Metrical, and/or Humorous) 2018

- Third Honorable Mention: Raincheck by Jeremy Gohier
- Second Honorable Mention: Video Game Guy by Cesanne Greathouse
- First Honorable Mention: The Perfect Pancake by Nathan Wright
- Third Place: Old Gooselbine's Pumpkin Strudel by Alexis Tate
- Second Place: Wrangler Jeans by Josie Hulme
- First Place: Summer Sandcastles by Charlene Harmon

Poetry:

Narrative Poetry (Open or Closed Form) 2018

- Third Honorable Mention: ON SEAFORD HEAD by Kevin Shannon
- Second Honorable Mention: Out of Reach by Alexis Tate
- First Honorable Mention: WAR'S BEAUTIFUL FACE by Marie Tollstrup
- Third Place: This by Lorraine Jeffery
- Second Place: Stepmom by Felicia Rose
- First Place: Straining to Hear by Lorraine Jeffery

Poetry:

Word Play 2018

- Third Honorable Mention: Traffic Jam by Amy Leskowski
- Second Honorable Mention: The 105 by Daniel Cureton
- First Honorable Mention: Magpies are Bitches by Candie Thomas
- Third Place: A Body of Work by Denis Feehan
- Second Place: Pineapple Rules by Pam Tucker
- First Place: X-ploring by Grace Jessen

PROSE

Prose:

Children's Story 2018

- Third Honorable Mention: As to Plan by Johnny Worthen
- Second Honorable Mention: Heroes Inside of Me by Rachael Jessop
- First Honorable Mention: Just Like Max by Robyn Buttars
- Third Place: The Elusive Socks by Jo Ann Stringer
- Second Place: The Day the Spigot Broke by James Crofts
- First Place: S Is For Small by Robyn Buttars

**Prose:
Creative Non-Fiction 2018**

- Third Honorable Mention: Switchbacks by Jill Bowers
- Second Honorable Mention: SWIFTCURRENT by Jef Huntsman
- First Honorable Mention: Boyfriend by Rena Lesué
- Third Place: Aura by Dianne Hardy
- Second Place: Why We Live on a Homestead by Felicia Rose
- First Place: Klatch by Tim Keller

**Prose:
Encore Prose (any category) 2018**

- Third Honorable Mention: Bubble by Lorraine Jeffery
- Second Honorable Mention: Tempest by Tim Keller
- First Honorable Mention: Jamaica Rush by Jef Huntsman
- Third Place: Matching Baggage by Tim Keller
- Second Place: Thing That I AM by Paul Warburton
- First Place: THE SIREN CALL by Marie Tollstrup

**Prose:
First Chapter (Novel) 2018**

- Third Honorable Mention: The Fates of Stars and People by Daniel Martin
- Second Honorable Mention: Forever, Ethan by Rachel DeFriez
- First Honorable Mention: Salt Lake Sorceress by Heidi Voss
- Third Place: What Comes From Darkness by Amanda Luzzader
- Second Place: A Killer Frost by Amanda Luzzader
- First Place: COYOTE SPILL by Jef Huntsman

**Prose:
First Chapter (Young Adult) 2018**

- Third Honorable Mention: The Unenchanted by Emily Wheeler
- Second Honorable Mention: Felicity by Lynne Allen
- First Honorable Mention: Paige Sampson: Misfit Rebel by Kathryn Ferriello
- Third Place: Grey Matters by Rachel DeFriez
- Second Place: SUNK by Maggie Adams
- First Place: THE CHIME CHILD by Lisa Taylor

**Prose:
Flash Fiction 2018**

- Third Honorable Mention: Exhibition by Jeremy Gohier
- Second Honorable Mention: Flash Ants by Kathy Davidson
- First Honorable Mention: Suburbia by Tim Keller
- Third Place: Falling Off My Shoes by David Rodeback
- Second Place: Marie by David Rodeback
- First Place: No Man's Land by Krystal Gerber

**Prose:
General Fiction 2018**

- Third Honorable Mention: I Made Muffins by David Rodeback
- Second Honorable Mention: SANCTUARY WITHIN by Marie Tollstrup
- First Honorable Mention: THE DEATH OF SAMANTHA ROSE by Warren Stucki
- Third Place: MASKS by Marie Tollstrup
- Second Place: Synthetic Heart by September Roberts
- First Place: The Switchboard Operator by Denis Feehan

**Prose:
Media Article 2018**

- Third Honorable Mention: Faceless But Not Forgotten by Robyn Buttaris
- Second Honorable Mention: CONFRONTING SUICIDE by Marie Tollstrup
- First Honorable Mention: Heels by Felicia Rose
- Third Place: “Flaunt It Friday” or “One Woman’s Domestic Tale” by Alice Batzel
- Second Place: The Hunger, Anthology, Book Review by Daniel Yocom
- First Place: Local Governments in Ancient Egypt by Sariah Horowitz

**Prose:
Mystery / Thriller 2018**

- Third Honorable Mention: New Job by Denise Johnson
- Second Honorable Mention: Hunger Moon by Sariah Horowitz
- First Honorable Mention: The Model by Neil Dabb
- Third Place: A Cup of Hot Chocolate by Lorraine Jeffery
- Second Place: Regret by Keri Montgomery
- First Place: DISTURBED by Jef Huntsman

**Prose:
Speculative Fiction 2018**

- Third Honorable Mention: Tilting Scales by Richard Timothy
- Second Honorable Mention: Breaking Up With an Angel by Heidi Voss
- First Honorable Mention: City of the Bees by Carol Nicolas
- Third Place: A Friend in Need by Caryn Larrinaga
- Second Place: Missing Persons by Emily Wheeler
- First Place: Life Blossoms by Chris Todd Miller

**Prose:
Spiritual Personal Essay 2018**

- Third Honorable Mention: THE TELLING OF THE BEES by Katharine Goodman
- Second Honorable Mention: Of Crayons and Angels by Amanda Luzzader
- First Honorable Mention: Seek, Find, Be by Julie Walton
- Third Place: The Piglet by Felicia Rose
- Second Place: The Topsy-Turvy World of Our Inherited Wolf-Stories by Shaunna goldberry
- First Place: Within My Glass Box by Joni Haws

***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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