



# The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF UTAH WRITERS

## *A Message from the President*

### **Spring Conference 2019 is Coming Up**

Let us consider the writer, an artist, a lone voice in the creative wilderness, dreaming and plotting, creating and expressing. Now envision many of these sharing their work together, a collection of creators, each driven to make and imagine, witness and weave. Imagine energy as light and be blinded by the gathering

We are driven by unseen forces, muses, geniuses, the subconscious, working at first alone, listening to the aether for inspiration, testing the limits of our own skill to bridge the quiet moments when the angel is silent. Then perhaps to open our book and our heart to others.

Alone we make, but then, like a great migration, we collect together in miraculous conclaves. It is a wonder. We congregate to congratulate. We share. We understand each others perils, if not our genres. We sympathize with the journey, if not the outcomes. And we share our knowledge and talents to strengthen the community as whole.

It is the best in us.

This is the purpose of our conferences, to reach our dreams by helping others reach theirs. To go forward by helping others come along.

Case in brilliant point: The League of Utah Writers Spring Conference which is happening this April. Here

we summon our own and a few friends to present insights to us all. Small or big— a comma, or a magic system, dialog, setting, plot, all is discussed and examined to improve our craft. For those seeking, there is hard learned advice about marketing tips, netting agents, cornering publishers, blogs and book signings. At every level, with every facet there is something to learn, and something to share.

Spring Conference is a gem of an event. It's priced to allow everyone to come. It encourages us all to be a part of the process. It is a chance to build up our skills, knowledge and resume. It's a chance to be with each other, each of us artist and writer defying the blank page, turning expectations into realities, bucking the odds, enjoying the ride. Dreaming the dream and making it real in letters.

Living in Letters.

Make sure you have April 27th blocked off on your calendar for a casual, exciting, and rejuvenating event. Sign up is now at the League of Utah Writers website.

[www.leagueofutahwriters.com](http://www.leagueofutahwriters.com)



See you at Spring Conference 2019.

Johnny Worthen,  
President, League of Utah Writers

## *From the President-Elect*

We're closing in on the Spring Conference in April. It will be a great conference, and I want to share with you some tricks I've learned on how to get the most from the event.

Several principles are involved in successfully attending a conference. It takes a little planning to maximize your learning and networking experience but it can be a lot of fun doing new things and learning new skills.

If you're an old hat at conferences, that's great, too. Part of the success of an event is to rely on those of you with experience to help the new folks to feel welcome and involved, and to teach them your own personal secrets to a successful event. Here are a few of mine.

### Attend Classes

We have 40+ hours of classes scheduled. You can't attend them all, but you can attend a full day of classes designed to teach a host of writing-related skills.

### Take Notes

Notebooks and keyboards are your friend. Take notes in class. Write down the names and specialties of people you meet. Review your notes later and summarize what you learned by posting on your blog, on social media, or just for yourself.

### Talk to people you don't know

You already know your friends. If you're hanging out with people you know, invite others to join you. If you're on your own, ask to join others. Ask what others write. Find out what you have in common, and what sets you each apart. Learn something new from them and share something of your own. The local writing community can be one of the most welcoming and helpful groups around, so let's earn that reputation.

### Business cards

Collect cards and write on the back why you've added it to your collection. If you have cards of your own, bring them to share.

### Elevator pitches

People usually use the stairs at the Spring Conference instead of the elevator, but you never know when you might have the attention of an agent or editor. They just might say, "Tell me about your book." You might only have thirty seconds, so preparing in advance is important. Ask other attendees about their pitches and share yours with them as practice.

### Even more activities

There is a lot more to do besides attending the classes. Visit a pitch session if you have completed a book. Stop by the vendor tables. Talk to editors. Share ideas with people while you're waiting in a lunch line or sitting around during a break.

### The Net Result

The most important factor in making the event a success is you. It's based on you being there, and on your choices in what to attend and in who you talk to. Like your choice to write, what you do at the Spring Conference can change you, and others, and help you to succeed no matter what your definition of success looks like.



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

## League of Utah Writers 2019 Published Book Contest Submission Guidelines

### **Eligibility:**

To be eligible for this contest, you must be a member of the League of Utah Writers, and your book must be published in 2018 or 2019. Books that have previously won a Diamond Quill, Gold Quill, or Silver Quill from LUW are not eligible. Hard copy books and e-books are both eligible, as are traditionally published and self-published books.

### **Categories:**

The 2019 published book categories are Novel, Youth Fiction (YA, MG, chapter books and picture books), Nonfiction Book, and Collection (Anthologies and Chapbooks). Categories may be combined if there are insufficient entries. A book may only be entered in one category, but you may submit multiple books in any category. Each category will be awarded Gold and Silver Quill awards, and the Diamond Quill award recognizes the highest score among all entries. The categories may also include Recommended Read awards.

\*An author only needs to have a piece in an anthology or chapbook to enter the collection. If multiple authors are in the same anthology or chapbook, they can submit a joint entry.

As in past years, each category will be judged by an experienced writing professional outside of the League of Utah Writers, and the judge's feedback will be returned to contest entrants. Judges' decisions are final.

### **Submissions:**

Submissions will be accepted by postal mail and electronically. If submitting by postal mail, send a copy of the book. Hard copies cannot be returned; they will be donated to libraries, book drives, or similar entities. If submitting electronically, you must email an Acrobat file (.pdf) or MS-Word document that is .doc and NOT .docx. Judges agree to delete the file as soon as judging is complete.

Entries will be accepted from February 5th to March 25, 2019, and winners will be announced at the League of Utah Writers Quills Conference (August 2019).

The fee is \$35 per entry.

Email any questions about the contest to: [LUWpub@gmail.com](mailto:LUWpub@gmail.com)

### **Submission Procedure:**

- If your submission is electronic, email it to [LUWpub@gmail.com](mailto:LUWpub@gmail.com) as a PDF or .doc. Submissions in print need to be sent to the address below.
- Fill out the Contest Entry Form and mail or email it.
- Pay submission fees online through the League's website or send them to:

The League of Utah Writers  
P.O. BOX 6772  
North Logan, UT 84341

## League of Utah Writers 2019 Writing Contest

Although sponsored by LUW, we welcome entries from across the nation.

### DEADLINES AND ELIGIBILITY

- Submission period begins March 1st and closes May 31st.
- All entries must be the original work of the contestant.
- Previously published works do not qualify for this contest.
- Entries may not be entered into more than one category.
- Works previously awarded a LUW cash prize do not qualify for this contest.
- Submitted entries are judged as initially submitted.

### SUBMITTABLE

The submission process, judging, and feedback will all be done via Submittable.com. You'll find the categories listed below.

- Open the category of your choice and read the guidelines.
- Click to submit.
- Fill in the required fields for your entry, and your payment information. You will find two entry fee options: one price for members of the League and one price for non-members.
- Click Submit.
- You will either sign in to your Submittable account or create a free account before actually submitting your entry.

For questions regarding the Submittable website, please see their help pages:  
<https://submittable.help/>

### **NOTE: All JUDGING IS DONE BY A PROFESSIONAL THIRD PARTY UNAFFILIATED WITH THE LEAGUE OF UTAH WRITERS**

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**In no way does the League of Utah Writers or Submittable share your personal information with any third party. Any information of such a nature is only for use in contacting the submitter or allowing Submittable to identify your account should you need assistance.**

Please make sure your Submittable account includes a mailing address, along with your email address. You need not be present at the awards ceremony to win. If you are not present and you place in a category, we will mail you your award.

### SCORING

All categories are judged on a scale of 1 - 10, ten being the best score, with the exception of the Grammar category. Grammar is judged on a scale of 1 - 5, five being the best score. There is also a field for the judges to leave their feedback on your work.

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**IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN BLIND JUDGING, your name or any other identifying information should NOT appear anywhere on your entry: not in the header, not in the body of the entry, not in the file name, no URL references, etc. Names are tracked through the Submittable account info, to which the judges have no access.**

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## **FORMATTING GUIDELINES: Fiction and Poetry**

### **FICTION**

- Use a 1" margin on all sides
- Begin numbering with the first page of the text of the book, usually the introduction, prologue, or chapter one.
- Use a header on each page including the title of your entry, and the page number. e.g. Bohemian Melancholy/12
- Start each new chapter on its own page, one-third of the way down the page.
- The chapter number and chapter title should be in all caps, separated by two hyphens: CHAPTER 1—NOT MY MONKEYS NOT MY CIRCUS.
- Begin the body of the chapter four to six lines below the chapter title.
- Indent five spaces for each new paragraph.
- Double-space the entire text.
- Use a standard font, 12-point type. Times New Roman, Arial, or Courier

### **POETRY**

- Type one poem to a page, single-spaced with double-spacing between stanzas.
- Leave at least a one-inch margin on all sides of the page.
- Use a header on each page with the title of your entry, e.g. Thoughts of a Young Lyricist
- The title of your poem should appear centered, six lines underneath your header.
- Begin the poem one line beneath the title.

### **CATEGORY GUIDELINES**

**The contest is open for traditionally non-published work only. Self-published work is allowable provided you have sold fewer than 100 copies.**

Each submission to the League of Utah Writers 2018 Creative Writing Contest may be entered into one category only. These guidelines are meant to assist you in deciding which category to choose for each of your submissions. Entries are weighted on objective standards, such as formatting and length limitations, but these guidelines are less firm than elements such as form, genre, style, and intended readership. Some submissions might be appropriate for more than one category. For example, a funny 1,000-word story about a botanist and flight commander stranded on Mars might be suitable for short fiction, genre fiction, romance, or flash, but may only be submitted to one of these. It is ultimately up to you to decide the category in which you feel your submission will fare best.

**However, if you have three different pieces that are all Romance, you can enter all three in the Romance category.**

## Category Descriptions

### Poetry

- 1 - **Light Verse – (rhyming, metrical, and/or humorous)** - Verse with playful themes written primarily to please, amuse, and entertain.
- 2 - **Narrative Poetry (open or closed form)** – Poetry that tells a story. It is usually dramatic, with objectives, diverse characters, and meter.
- 3 - **Prose Poem** - Prose poetry is written like prose, abandoning the line breaks, but retaining poetic elements such as vivid imagery, metaphor, and heightened expression.
- 4 – **Word Play** - Any style of poem incorporating wit in which the words become the main subject of the work, primarily intended for amusement.

### Prose (maximum 4,000 words unless otherwise noted)

- 5 – **Creative Nonfiction** - Factually accurate prose about real people and events, written in a compelling, vivid, dramatic manner.
- 6 - **Media Article** - Any story or article intended for a magazine, journal, or website.
- 7 – **Romance** - The focus of the story should be on the relationship and romantic love between two people, and must have an emotionally satisfying and optimistic ending.
- 8 – **Horror** - The focus of the story should be on creating a feeling of fear, dread, repulsion and/or terror. The story can feature supernatural elements such as ghosts, witches, or vampires (if you must), or they can address more realistic modern day threats or psychological fears.
- 9 – **Short Fiction** - Stories that explore themes such as the human condition, interpersonal relationships, and societal issues. May also be described as “short story,” “literary fiction,” “straight fiction,” or “up-market fiction.”
- 10 - **Speculative Fiction** - Includes genres like Science Fiction, and Edgy fiction. As well as fantastical genres like Alternate History, Fantasy and Apocalyptic/post-Apocalyptic Fiction.
- 11 - **Flash Fiction – (Fiction or Nonfiction)** - A story with a fully developed theme, plot, and story arc in fewer than 1000 words.
- 12 - **First Chapter (novel)** - The first chapter of a novel that is intended for an adult readership, but of any genre or style.
- 13 – **First Chapter (Young Adult)** - The first chapter of a novel that is intended for the young adult or middle grade market but of any genre or style.
- 14 - **Children’s Story** - The text of a children’s book. May be fictional or nonfiction and may explore any topic, theme, or genre, but intended for children.
- 15 – **Spiritual Essay** - Spirituality can have many different definitions, depending on who is asked. It can be something as simple as looking for a higher meaning to life, or something so complex that one can base their beliefs, religion and overall life around it.

### New Writer (New Voices)

- 16 - **First Chapter** – The first chapter of any style or genre of book.
- 17 - **Creative Nonfiction** - factually accurate prose about real people and events, written in a compelling, vivid, dramatic manner.
- 18 – **Fiction** - Stories that explore themes such as the human condition, interpersonal relationships, and societal issues. May also be described as “short story,” “literary fiction,” “straight fiction,” or “up-market fiction.”
- 19 – **Poetry** – Any style or type of poem.



## Chapter Chatter

### The Infinite Monkeys

As a chapter, we are planning our fourth annual writing retreat held this October. We have a new location that fits us better and will bring our costs down. Registration opens in April.

We also have several members with milestones to celebrate:

- **Ann Hunter's** *North Oak #6: Dark Horse* releases March 1st. This is the first book she has released since 2017. She is also offering ARCs for anyone who follows her on booksprout: <https://booksprout.co/author/4832/ann-hunter>.
- **Lyn Worthen** has been up to many things recently! Her anthology, *Quoth the Raven* was voted "Best Anthology of 2018" by the Critters Annual Reader's Poll. It is also currently on the Preliminary Ballot for the Bram Stoker Award from the Horror Writers Association (the final ballot will be announced on Feb. 23 - we're keeping our fingers crossed!). Her anthology *WINGS OF CHANGE: Stories about Dragons* is in pre-order and will be released on Feb. 28. Several other Monkeys have stories in this collection including Jana Brown, Joni Haws, and Lisa Taylor. This is Lyn's fifth anthology. [www.Books2Read.com/WingsOfChange](http://www.Books2Read.com/WingsOfChange)
- **Joe Monson** has published his first anthology, *Trace the Stars* <http://hemelein.com/catalog/anthologies/trace-the-stars/>
- **Alex Harrow's** debut adult LGBTQ+ science fiction novel, *Empire of Light*, pitched as "Gay Firefly with Magic" about an assassin who will set the world on fire to save the guy he loves, will be published with NineStar Press on February 25. Find out more and preorder it here: <https://ninestarpres.com/product/empire-of-light>

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, Connecticut and Georgia. We have an active group and hold critique sessions twice a month.

Congratulations go to these members (in alphabetical order):

- **Alissa Holyoak:** Her poem, "A Super Hero's To-Do List," was published in *Spider*, a children's magazine (6 to 9). It was included in the February edition.
- **Camille Smithson:** Her novella, "Her Sweet Pursuit," will be published in *Kissing in the Rain: A Seasonal Romance Anthology* by Literary Crush Publishing. It will be released in March.
- **David Armstrong:** In January he published, *The Porch*. The novel features an autistic adult who faces relationship challenges but learns to love. It is available on Amazon.
- **Josie Hulme:** Her short story, "Raising Kids," has been accepted for publication in the *Utah Humor Anthology*, to be published sometime this year.
- **Kathy Davidson:** Her creative nonfiction story, "Fishing with Heber Stock," has been accepted for publication in the *Utah Humor Anthology*. The story will also be published in the next LUW anthology.



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>

## Chapter Chatter

### Salt City Genre Writers

- The Salt City Genre Writers will be releasing their Chapter Anthology, *A Little Wrong*, featuring stories entirely from chapter members and forewords from chapter president **Bryan Young** and League President **Johnny Worthen**. A release event will be held in mid-March in tandem with the publication. Visit [saltcitygenrewriters.com](http://saltcitygenrewriters.com) for more information on that event as it gets closer.
- We have two authors in our chapter, **Sarah Chorn** and **Alex Harrow**, with books releasing. They are holding a joint signing event. The *Empire of Light* and *Seraphina's Lament* signing will be held at High Point Coffee (7800 S. Redwood Rd., West Jordan, UT) from 7:30pm-9:00pm on Friday, March 1st. We would love to see any interested members of the league come and support them on their tremendous accomplishment.
- Our member, **Sarah Murtagh**, has a short story in the *Quoth the Raven* anthology. The Anthology is on the shortlist for a Stoker award and we wish to congratulate her.
- The chapter president, **Bryan Young**, has just had his second essay published in a Marvel Star Wars comic book. The most recent was in *Age of Republic: Anakin Skywalker*.
- For those looking to make publishing a priority for their writing, the Salt City Genre Writers are happy to be your second chapter to help advance those goals.



### Salt City Scribes

- In small part due to networking and pitching at last year's Quills Conference (and in LARGE part due to her dedication to her craft), **Heidi Voss** signed a contract with The Wild Rose Press to close out 2018! Her YA novel, *Frogman's Response*, was accepted for publication and should be out later this year; she's been diligently working with one of TWRP's fabulous editors to get final revisions done. Many of the Scribes helped her with critiques on sections of the story that she submitted to our group over the past couple of years, then beta read it when the whole manuscript was complete.
- **Heidi Voss** will also be presenting at LUW's Spring Conference AND at FanX's spring event (April 19-20) on a panel about writing realistic fight scenes, along with her MMA coach. (Yes, folks, this girl writes and fights like a pro. Don't mess with her.)
- **Cindy Hung** will have a new short story, "THE SOUL BY WHICH WE MEASURE OURS," released Feb. 28 in Camden Press's *Wings of Change* anthology -- a collection of stories all about dragons! The anthology was edited and compiled by Lyn Worthen (of the Infinite Monkeys chapter) and can be pre-ordered in paperback or ebook format in most major outlets here: <https://books2read.com/WingsOfChange>

### Tooele Writers Bloc

- We are hard at work, in so many genre's! Meeting together once a month, we usually have a quick (and short) lesson about the writing craft, then we usually critique several pages of story, from whomever brought something for that purpose. We have gained 4 regular teen attenders and they bring excitement for the work to those of us, who have too much negativity ;)



*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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## 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](mailto:president@leagueofutahwriters.org) and let us know.



**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>