

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

**LEAGUE OF UTAH WRITERS APPOINT NEW PRESIDENT AND NAME WRITER OF THE YEAR AMONG OTHER AWARDS AT THEIR 85th ANNUAL WRITING CONFERENCE**

Salt Lake City, UT -- The League of Utah Writers held their annual awards ceremony for the 85th time last night, appointing a new President of the organization, announcing their Writer of the Year award, and giving away almost \$3,000 in cash prizes for their annual writing contest.

Johnny Worthen of the Infinite Monkeys chapter ended his two-year tenure as president of the League of Utah Writers and passed the gavel to John M. Olsen of the Herriman chapter. "It's been an absolute privilege to serve in this organization," Worthen said of his time. "We are stronger than we've ever been, and we've been going for a while. I'm confident the League will continue its tradition of offering community, opportunity, and excellence to its members."

"The League is a great resource for local writers through our conferences and other events which are mostly online at the moment," Olsen said. Looking to the future, he continued, "We have a wonderful, vibrant writing community in Utah. Moving forward, we will concentrate on fresh ways to teach, to network, and to help one another learn and grow and achieve our goals as writers. Each generation of writers learns from the one before, and then becomes the mentors of those who follow them, and I love being a part of that."

Also named was the new President-Elect of the League, Bryan Young, who will succeed Olsen at the end of his term which could last one or two years. Young previously served as the Historian of the League and is the president of the Salt City Genre Writers chapter. "I'm deeply honored that I've been chosen to help continue the legacy of this august organization," Young said. "For 85 years it's provided mentorship and learning opportunities for writers of all skill levels and I can't wait to take a turn advancing it toward the end of its first century as we seek to create a safe, diverse, and inclusive place for writers."

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, Charlie N. Holmberg 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. Holmberg exemplifies this through the work she's done with the League of Utah Writers as well as her publishing credits. She is the award-winning author of the Numina series, *The Fifth Doll*, and many others. Her Wall Street Journal bestselling *Paper Magician* series was optioned by the Walt Disney Company. Charlie's stand-alone novel, *Followed by Frost*, was nominated for a 2016 RITA Award for Best Young Adult Romance. 2020 saw the release of her latest, *The Will and the Wilds*.

The Diamond Quill award, the League's highest honor, was bestowed on the novel *#Lured* by Jo Schneider.

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**

### **DIAMOND QULL:**

#Lured by Jo Schneider

### **NOVEL**

Gold Quill: Founding Sheriff by Edward Massey

Silver Quill: Retaliation by Haley Cavanaugh

Recommended Read: Siege & Sacrifice by Charlie Holmberg

Recommended Read: Thicker Than Water by Johnny Worthen

Recommended Read: Not the Bodyguard's Baby by Lorin Grace

### **YOUTH**

Gold Quill: Elmer's Feelings by Kari Milito

Silver Quill: We Shall Be Monsters by Ryan Decaria

Recommended Read: Zoo by Ann Hunter

Recommended Read: Farm Families by Robyn Butters

### **COLLECTIONS**

Gold Quill: Cresting the Sun by Nicholas Adams et al

Silver Quill: Yearning to Breathe Free by Lyn Worthen et al

Recommended Read: Grifty Shades of Fey by Johnny Worthen et al

Recommended Read: Robotech: The Macross Saga by Bryan Young et al

Recommended Read: Spirals by Keri Montgomery/The Brigham City Chapter

## **NONFICTIONS**

Gold Quill: Searching Isaiah by David Armstrong

Silver Quill: Heartbeats by Jef Huntsman

## **CONTEST AWARD WINNERS**

### **NEW WRITER**

#### **NEW WRITER: CREATIVE NONFICTION**

First Place: The Haunted Castle - Steven Wight

Second Place: Fear and Wonder in Apple Valley, Minnesota - Elijah Foster

Third Place: Vic Mignogna VS Funimation - Kiara Horowitz

#### **NEW WRITER: FICTION**

First Place: The Champion - J Schnader

Second Place: King Billy the Wicked - Glenn Reschke

Third Place: When Boys Have Breasts: The First Kiss - Frank Jones

First Honorable Mention: You're Nobody Until Somebody Loves You - Maxwell Nobis

Second Honorable Mention: Durango - J Schnader

Third Honorable Mention: Out and Through - Anna Bessesen

#### **NEW WRITER: FIRST CHAPTER (FICTION OR NON-FICTION)**

First Place: The City of Schemes - Bill Garwin

Second Place: Matt Mabie and the Adventures of the Morning Star - Justin Glauser

Third Place: Relatively Normal Secrets - Christina Allen

First Honorable Mention: Alchemy's End - Mary Johnstun

Second Honorable Mention: The Search for Macadamia - A Quest Most Noble

Third Honorable Mention: Tides of Blood - Jessica Zarnofsky

### **NEW WRITER: POETRY**

First Place: Growth - Danielle Harward

Second Place: Gender Scale - Kam Hadley

Third Place: Life In the Time Of Corona - Carolyn Marlin

First Honorable Mention: Phoenix - Windy Talbot

## **POETRY**

### **POETRY: LIGHT VERSE (RHYMING, METRICAL, AND/OR HUMOROUS)**

First Place: Night Ride - Robyn Buttars

Second Place: Cereal Killer - Charlene Harmon

Third Place: Daydreaming - Charlene Harmon

First Honorable Mention: A Vary Mary Christmas - Denis Feehan

Second Honorable Mention: Love of Lisa - Jef Huntsman

Third Honorable Mention: Addiction - Gregor Deluca

### **POETRY: LOVE/LOSS**

First Place: Eiderdown - Lorraine Jeffery

Second Place: Sleeping Alone: The Wife Left Behind - Charlene Harmon

Third Place: Deafening - Michael Lopez

First Honorable Mention: Kyles Room - Jef Huntsman

Second Honorable Mention: Obituary - Sue Leth

Third Honorable Mention: Beyond the Blossoms - Grace Jessen

### **POETRY: NARRATIVE POETRY (OPEN OR CLOSED FORM)**

First Place: Face of My Father - Jayrod Garrett

Second Place: Blind Amanda and His Eyes - Lorraine Jeffery

Third Place: Cemetery Service - Grace Jessen

First Honorable Mention: First Signs - Jef Huntsman

Second Honorable Mention: Sunshine Walls - Jayrod Garrett

Third Honorable Mention: Hope and Despair - Krystal Gerber

## **POETRY: PROSE POEM**

First Place: Maverick Jazz - Marie Tollstrup

Second Place: First Lady of the Wild World - Frank DeCarla

Third Place: Nestled in Nature - Claudene Gordon

First Honorable Mention: The Islands of the Dead - Cara O'Sullivan

Second Honorable Mention: Twilight Walk - Marie Tollstrup

Third Honorable Mention: Dear Dora, - C. Butler

## **PROSE**

### **PROSE: CHILDREN'S STORY**

First Place: The Squawk - Caroline Peterson

Second Place: The Cookie Fix - Arlena Harmon

Third Place: Loose Tooth on the Loose - Robyn Buttars

First Honorable Mention: Halloween Haunt - Robyn Buttars

Second Honorable Mention: Clarion - Tim Heare

### **PROSE: CREATIVE NONFICTION**

First Place: Eulogy for My Living Brother - Sara Wetmore

Second Place: A Maid Named Maria - Sandra Montanino

Third Place: Clarke Gable Drops the F-Bomb - Chris Todd Miller

First Honorable Mention: Confessions of a Claustrophobic - Denis Feehan

Second Honorable Mention: The Poison Within - Marie Tollstrup

Third Honorable Mention: Baseball Bats and Crystal Balls - Rachael Bush

### **PROSE: FIRST CHAPTER (NOVEL)**

First Place: Haunts Apparitions and Things Left Undead - Ryan Decaria

Second Place: The Brigham - Scott Tarbet

Third Place: Antoine's Run - Jef Huntsman

First Honorable Mention: The Weight of Salt - Sandra Montanino

Second Honorable Mention: The Fires of Mortality - Cara O'Sullivan

Third Honorable Mention: Unproven - Nick Jensen

**PROSE: FIRST CHAPTER (YOUNG ADULT)**

First Place: Legendary Mellie - Christina Allen

Second Place: How to Survive Seventh Grade - David Rodeback

Third Place: Kinda Quaker Deenie - Lauren King

First Honorable Mention: Rise of the Stripling Warriors - Scott Tarbet

Second Honorable Mention: Snow So White - Kathryn Ferriello

Third Honorable Mention: The Alchemist's Coin - Rachel DeFriez

**PROSE: FLASH FICTION**

First Place: Stepping Out - Marie Tollstrup

Second Place: Dinner for Halgaroth - Heidi Voss

Third Place: Sucker - Autumn Rust

First Honorable Mention: Patient Zero - Amanda Barusch

Second Honorable Mention: Unforgettable - Elizabeth Suggs

Third Honorable Mention: The Opportunity - Rock Thompson

**PROSE: HISTORICAL FICTION**

First Place: Hippocrates - Bryan Young

Second Place: Uncle Robert - David Kennedy

**PROSE: MEDIA ARTICLE**

First Place: Flying Solo - Marie Tollstrup

Second Place: Phantom Reality - Marie Tollstrup

Third Place: Confronting Suicide - Marie Tollstrup

First Honorable Mention: High Wire Act - Marie Tollstrup

Second Honorable Mention: 'Revenge of the Sith' Opened the Door to Exploring 'Star Wars' Afterlife - Bryan Young

Third Honorable Mention: The Birds and the Bees - Alice Batzel

**PROSE: SCREENPLAY**

First Place: Help Wanted - Bryan Young

Second Place: Nightmares - Bryan Young

Third Place: Honky Tonk Gals - Lonnie Bradley

**PROSE: SHORT FICTION**

First Place: Me and Liz - Josie Hulme

Second Place: Canceled - Monica Simons

Third Place: Missing Margaret - Donna Graves

First Honorable Mention: Her Voice - David Rodeback

Second Honorable Mention: It Could Have Been Us - Tyler Nelson

Third Honorable Mention: Ketchum - Bryan Young

**PROSE: SPECULATIVE FICTION**

First Place: A Sense of Justice - Johnny Worthen

Second Place: Winds of Fate - Krystal Gerber

Third Place: Anything - Bryan Young

First Honorable Mention: No Soliciting - Caryn Larrinaga

Second Honorable Mention: The Waiting Nightmare - Aren Hatch

Third Honorable Mention: The Reaper - Josie Hulme

**PROSE: SPIRITUAL ESSAY**

First Place: From Nun to None - Marie Tollstrup

Second Place: The Fallen Sparrow - Krystal Gerber

Third Place: Truth - Lorraine Jeffery

First Honorable Mention: 10,000 Hours to Michelle Obama's Arm Muscles - Vicky Oliver

Second Honorable Mention: Joel - Claudene Gordon

Third Honorable Mention: A Gender Queer Follower of Christ - Kam Hadley

**PROSE: WESTERN**

First Place: The Wild Bunch Barber - Bryan Young

Second Place: A Turn to the South - Molly Sturdevant

Third Place: Justice - Tim Heare