



# **The Pre-Quill Conference**

## **April 20, 2024**

Salt Lake City Marriot  
University Park

480 Wakara Way, Salt Lake City, UT 84108

## **Registration**

### **Cost**

\$30 for everyone

## **Schedule**

For a downloadable PDF schedule, [CLICK HERE](#)

## **2024 Classes and Faculty**

# **Novel Writing Tool Kit With Bryan Young**

**Award-Winning Author, Teacher, Storyteller**

In this interactive workshop, Bryan Young will guide you through building a tool kit of resources to help you get ready to embark on your novel, help you flesh out the world, and characters, and leave you at the end with a tangible plan to move forward on your next book!

**Level: Beginner**

**Track: Craft**

## **Presenter bio:**

Bryan Young (he/they) works across many different media. His work as a writer and producer has been called "filmmaking gold" by The New York Times. He's also published comic books with Slave Labor Graphics and Image Comics. He's been a regular contributor for the Huffington Post, StarWars.com, Star Wars Insider magazine, SYFY, /Film, and was the founder and editor in chief of the geek news and review site Big Shiny Robot! In 2014, he wrote the critically acclaimed history book, A Children's Illustrated History of Presidential Assassination. He co-authored Robotech: The Macross Saga RPG has written two books in the BattleTech Universe: Honor's Gauntlet and A Question of Survival. His latest book, The Big Bang Theory Book of Lists is a #1 Bestseller on Amazon. His work has won two Diamond Quill awards and in 2023 he was named Writer of the Year by the League of Utah Writers. He teaches writing for Writer's Digest, Script Magazine, and at the University of Utah. Follow him across social media @swankmotron or visit swankmotron.com.

## **Stylizing Your Poetry with Candace J Thomas** **Diamond Award Winner and Podcaster**

Freeform poetry is a creative artistic expression, but understanding structure and using simple mechanics can amplify your poem and make it something special. In this workshop, we will go over a few specific poetic stylizing techniques and work on your own poetry to make it shine. Be prepared to workshop your work.

**Level: Beginner      Track: Poetry**

### **Presenter bio:**

Candace Thomas is a writer of fantasy, comedy, and poetry, and often approaches creativity differently, like in music and podcasts. She complains about being the busiest person in the world, but it's her own fault. Stop doing so much, Candace!

## **To Editor, or not to Editor? with Christine Nielson** **Utah Editor of the Year 2024**

Navigating the Freelance Editor Scene. Overall Writing/Editing/Publishing process; roles of the editor and where to find one; resources for writers; what to pay for and what not to pay for.

**Level: Beginner      Track: Editing**

### **Presenter bio:**

Yes, I went to college and learned a lot about literature and history. Yes, I am a badass about writing and fighting. But what really matters? My business is WORDS. I destroy dragons and sequence fight scenes. I delve into unknown magical worlds and find homes for misplaced modifiers. I develop cures for apocalyptic diseases and punctuate the formulas. I help mold the flesh onto the skeleton of an author's story. I am an editor; therefore, I edit.

# **The Secrets of Time Taming with Jared Quan**

## **Accomplished Creative Passionate about Community**

Do you need more than calendars and alarms to avoid losing time? You are not alone. There are strategies and resources that you can use to get more out of the 24 hours we all get. Come learn from a seasoned veteran, who for nearly a decade managed to do with his time that which others though was impossible.

**Level: Beginner      Track: Self Improvement**

### **Presenter bio:**

Jared is an Author/Gamer/Writer – Twitch Affiliate, a former writer for SI.com and Yahoo. Published works include Changing Wax and LIFTED. He has served roles with Storymakers, League of Utah Writers, CASWJ, EMAA, BigWorldNetwork, TEDxSaltLakeCity, TABC, LTUE, Utah Poet Laureate Selection Committee, and more. Jared has received awards from two Presidents of the United States, Utah State Governors, Lt. Governors, and League of Utah Writers Volunteer of the Year and Lifetime awards. Has spearheaded projects like Utah Authors Day and Dream Big. He has been interviewed by podcasts, including Artifice, Enlightened Show, Writing Excuses, and First Lady and Friends.

# **The Muddled Middle (Don't Call It Writer's Block)**

**with Johnny Worthen**

**multiple-genre, tie-dye-wearing author**

It's the hardest part, that little 80% between the beginning and end. But your Muse is on vacation, another project beckons, and the next chapter is in limbo. This is the muddled middle.

Class will explore this terrible phenomenon and offer concrete tools and advice to overcome it and return the writer to the rails.

**Level: Intermediate**

**Track: Craft**

## **Presenter bio:**

Johnny Worthen is an award-winning, best-selling author of books and stories. Trained in stand-up comedy, modern literary criticism and cultural studies, he writes upmarket multi-genre fiction, symbolized by his love of tie-dye and good words. "I wear tie-dye for my friends, but I write what I like to read," he says. "This guarantees me at least one fan and easy dressing decisions in the morning."

Johnny teaches writing at the University of Utah and lives in a house with his wife, sons and assorted cats. There's also a lawn. Find him at: [www.johnnyworthen.com](http://www.johnnyworthen.com)

## **Intro to Writing Groups with Margot Monroe award winning author and instructor**

A writing group can be your best tool for building a writing career. Your group can keep you motivated, help manage too high of expectations or feed you ice cream after a devastating rejection. We'll learn how to find or build the group that's right for you.

**Level: Beginner      Track: Publishing**

### **Presenter bio:**

Margot Monroe lives in Salt Lake City with their husband, daughter, an Italian Greyhound, and a flock of black-capped chickadees and lesser goldfinches in their backyard. They're the North Central Liaison for the League of Utah Writers. You can find them writing romance at [www.gowritemargot.com](http://www.gowritemargot.com)

## **Get to Know the League with Rachael Bush, John M. Olsen, Jared Quan, Bryan Young**

Hear from a panel of the League of Utah Writers Leadership on the benefits of League membership and the different ways members can get involved.

**Level: Beginner      Track: Craft**

## **Point of View and How to Use It Effectively**

### **with Terra Luft**

### **Award-winning author**

You've heard the buzzwords about writing deep point of view, but how exactly do you achieve it in your own writing? In this class we explore different ways to approach point of view, and learn tools to craft stories with characters readers connect with deeply through their worldview and reactions.

**Level: Beginner**      **Track: Craft**

#### **Presenter bio:**

Terra Luft is an award-winning speculative fiction author whose imagination conjures mostly dark tales. An overachiever by nature, Terra tackles every project with coffee and sarcasm and believes all rules exist to be broken. She writes stories that force readers to look at the world differently – including what it means to be human. She resides in the mountains of Utah with her husband and daughters.

## **Be a Better Presenter with C.R. Langille**

### **Horror author, EiC at Timber Ghost Press**

Learn how to give quality presentations so that everyone can understand and receive the information you are giving. This presentation is for first-time presenters/panelists or for those looking to brush up on their public speaking skills.

**Level: Beginner**      **Track: Presenter Training**

#### **Presenter bio:**

C.R. Langille spent many a Saturday afternoon watching monster movies with her mom. It wasn't long before she started crafting nightmares to share with her readers. She is a retired, disabled veteran with a deep love for weird and creepy tales. This prompted her to form Timber Ghost Press in January of 2021. She is an affiliate member of the Horror Writer's Association, the DEI Chair for the League of Utah Writers, and she received her MFA: Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University in 2014.

Follow her here: <https://link.heropost.io/crlangille>

## **Rookie Writing Mistakes to Avoid**

### **With Christina Allen**

### **Author of The Falinnheim Chronicles**

Impressing an editor can be the make-or-break factor in getting your writing published. Learn the rookie mistakes to avoid so editors can invest in your writing without tripping over formatting and punctuation.

**Level: Beginner**      **Track: Writing Mechanics**

#### **Presenter bio:**

Christina Allen (publishing as C.W. Allen) is a Midwestern transplant to rural Utah where she serves as the President Elect of the League of Utah Writers. She writes long stories for children and short stories for former children. Her award-winning middle grade fantasy series The Falinnheim Chronicles is out now, with many more stories waiting in the wings. Follow her latest projects at [cwallenbooks.com](http://cwallenbooks.com).

## **Making It Strange with David Rodeback**

### **Author of two collections of short fiction**

Art works by stripping away cliché, convention, and familiarity, helping us to see what we've stopped seeing, or compelling us to see it differently. But defamiliarization (or "making it strange") is also a tool in the writer's toolbox. Learn what it is, how to recognize it, what it can do -- and practice using it.

**Level: Beginner**      **Track: Craft**

#### **Presenter bio:**

David Rodeback lived for years in Colorado, Idaho, and New York on his way to American Fork, Utah. By day he is Chief Marketing Technology Officer at a Utah manufacturing firm. By night (and on the best weekends) he writes fiction. He published two collections of short fiction in 2023 and plans to send a novel into the world in 2024. His academic background is in Russian language and literature, political science, and political thought. He has taught writing, Russian language, and Russian literature at Cornell University, Brigham Young University, and elsewhere.



## **A Writer's Guide to Rejection with John M. Olsen**

Rejection is part of writing, just like it's part of life. Understanding how to make rejection work for you instead of against you will put you miles ahead of your more discouraged peers. We'll talk about several sources of rejection, how they can differ, and how to respond productively.

**Level: Beginner      Track: Editing**

### **Presenter bio:**

John M. Olsen edits and writes speculative fiction across multiple genres and loves stories about ordinary people stepping up to do extraordinary things. His short stories have appeared in dozens of anthologies. He's also written several novels across multiple genres.

He loves to create and fix things through editing and writing, just like when he's working in his secret lair equipped with dangerous power tools. In all cases, he applies engineering principles and processes to the task at hand, often in unpredictable ways.

# **Your Voice is More Than Your Vocal Cords**

## **with Lauri Schoenfeld**

### **Author of Little Owl**

So often, we rely on our vocal cords to be our voice but forget about all the other beautiful ways we can express and connect. In this presentation, we'll explore just how powerful our inner voice is and the stories that want to be heard, understood, and spoken through our art.

**Level: Beginner      Track: Craft**

#### **Presenter bio:**

Lauri Schoenfeld resides in Utah, overlooking the mountains from her front yard. She's an author, editor, motivational speaker, creative mentor, and teacher. Lauri's the owner of Inner Enlightenment, a business built around supporting others to find their voice through safety, expression, creativity, and connection. She's a frequent guest speaker with multiple youth and writing groups.

After losing her voice in 2021 for fourteen months, Lauri's learned what it means, "Your voice is more than your vocal cords."

She's the host of The Enlightenment Show, Editorial Manager at Twisted Whisperings Press, and the author of the psychological thriller, Little Owl.

## **Intro to Characters with Rachael Bush**

### **President of the League of Utah Writers**

Want to know how to make a character that comes to life on the page? In this presentation, we'll discuss character flaws (and why they're important), we'll take a look at a character worksheet, learn how to do a character interview, and discuss goal, motivation, and conflict.

**Level: Beginner      Track: Craft**

#### **Presenter bio:**

Rachael Bush published her fourth book, Love on Location, with The Wild Rose Press in 2018 under her pen name, September Roberts. As September, she writes romance that's smoking hot and always happy ever after. As Rachael, she writes the Botany for Everyone series, because everyone should know the basics of botany. You can find out more at [botanyforeveryone.com](http://botanyforeveryone.com). When she's not writing, she volunteers as the President of the League of Utah Writers, serves as the Blue Quill chapter president, and builds the app for their conferences. For nerdy science and art, follow Rachael on Instagram @botanyforeveryone

## **Interviewing for Impact with Richard Shaw**

### **Former news reporter, editor and publisher**

Interviewing the proper way, with good research and proper technique is the key to almost any good story. The road to success in getting the most out of interviews depends on building rapport with the person being interviewed and understanding their concerns about how information they provide will be used.

**Level: Beginner      Track: Publishing**

#### **Presenter bio:**

Richard Shaw has been freelancing articles for local and national magazines for forty years. He has written about everything from cleaning toilets to cold case murder investigations. For fifteen years he worked in the newspaper business where he started as a government/sports reporter, then editor and finally the publisher of two community newspapers. He was the President of the Utah Press Association in 2010. He presently owns Red Dog Communications, a venture which gets in the way of retirement. He is now writing fiction and poetry, the value of which remains to be seen. He lives in Helper, Utah with his wife Sherill and six dogs.