

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

I hope you're enjoying your summer, and you're taking advantage of the long days to write long passages of clever dialog, detailed descriptions, and engaging plots.

Let me give you a quick rundown of the summer for the League. I'll go in chronological order:

I'm pleased to report that we had one of our best years ever for submissions to the writing contest. The writing contest is a beloved part of the Fall Conference. I'm looking forward to a fun-filled evening at the awards banquet.

On July 9th we had an Editing Workshop where we were treated to the talents of:

Lisa Mangum—author and editor at Shadow Mountain

Angela Eschler—editor and founder of Eschler Editing

Annette Lyon— editor and award winning author

Emma Hogan—editor at Future House Publishing

Not only did we get instruction, the class included hands on application of the concepts taught by professionals in the industry.

On August 6th, we'll have a similar workshop on How to Query.

Michelle Witte - Agent Mansion Street Literary Management

Terri Baranowski - Agent Gateway Literary

Angie Fenimore - New York Times Bestselling Author and Calliope Writing Coach

Johnny Worthen - Award-winning Multi-Genre Author and Acquisition Editor Omnium Gatherum

We're all at varying levels in our writing lives. If you're ready to take your writing to the next level and get it on a higher platform, then you need to know how to get it accepted by agents. You have to know how to query. See the website for all the details. Such a great opportunity! Space is limited to 50 participants so register today!

On Sept. 9th and 10th, the League will participate with the Utah

Philharmonic Orchestra as they present their annual Memorial Tribute Concert to 9/11. They will provide the music. We'll provide original poetry to honor our first responders.

Finally, our annual Fall Conference! Sept. 23-24 at the Provo Marriott. This year will be two full days devoted to the art and craft of writing. We've put together a great line up with opportunities to learn from talented and accomplished professionals, as well as the chance pitch your own work.



Chris Miller
President, LUW

I'm so excited for the conference and hope to see all of you there!

Let me leave you with this thought by Marianne Williamson.

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be

brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? . . . Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people will not feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine . . . As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give others permission to do the same. As we

are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

Write Here. Right Now.

Chris Miller

-President-

[LUW Happenings:](#)

LUW Querying Workshop

SATURDAY, August 6th, 2016

West Jordan City Hall - Community Room

8000 Redwood Rd, West Jordan, UT

Community Room on the first floor

to the right of the front doors.

1:00pm – 5:00pm

Michelle Witte

Agent Mansion Street Literary Management

Terri Baranowski

Agent Gateway Literary

Angie Fenimore

New York Times Bestselling Author and Calliope Writing Coach

Johnny Worthen

Award-winning Multi-Genre Author and Acquisition Editor Omnium Gatherum

Register Here

<http://www.leagueofutahwriters.org/querying-workshop.html>

Fall Conference

September 23rd - 24th, Marriott Provo Hotel and Conference Center

Registration is now open - early bird pricing through August.

<http://www.leagueofutahwriters.org/fall-conference.html>

Keynote: Mette Harrison

Mette Ivie Harrison is the author of numerous books for young adults. She holds a PhD in German literature from Princeton University and is a nationally ranked triathlete. A member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, she lives in Utah with her husband and five children. She is the author of three novels in the Linda Wallheim mystery series, *The Bishop's Wife*, *His Right Hand*, and the forthcoming *For Time and All Eternities* (January 2017). Chris Miller, LUW President says: "She's probably most known for her books about the LDS Church, but what I love about her is her straight-forward approach. She's very smart (Princeton, hello!) and direct and above all, she knows how to write."

Other confirmed guests: Maxwell Alexander Drake (he'll be presenting Master Level writing courses), Cheree Alsop, Josi Kilpack, Johnny Worthen, Bridget Cook-Burch, Angie Fenimore of Calliope Writing Coach, Utah's Poet Laureate and the Ms. United Nations pageant winner Nora Abu-Dan. There are too many accolades to list them all here, but check out each of these names and you'll find they are multiple award winners and NY Times bestsellers.

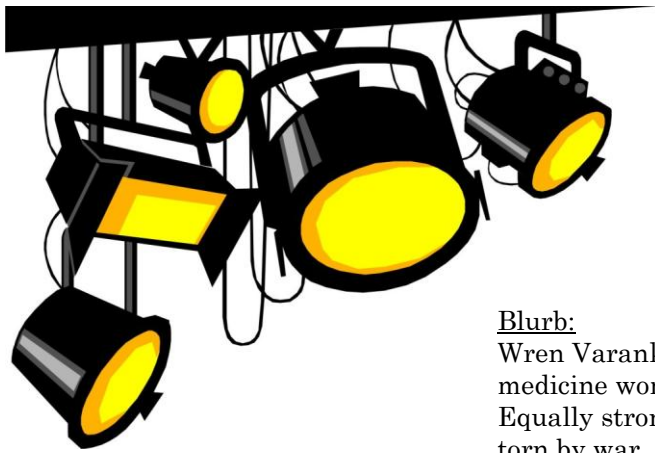
Other Stuff

The LUW Marketing Team is looking for a few good people who would be interested in helping out.

Contact Jared Quan at jaredquan@gmail.com

Anyone savvy with web design? The LUW needs you!

Contact Jared Quan at jaredquan@gmail.com



Quill Winner Spotlights

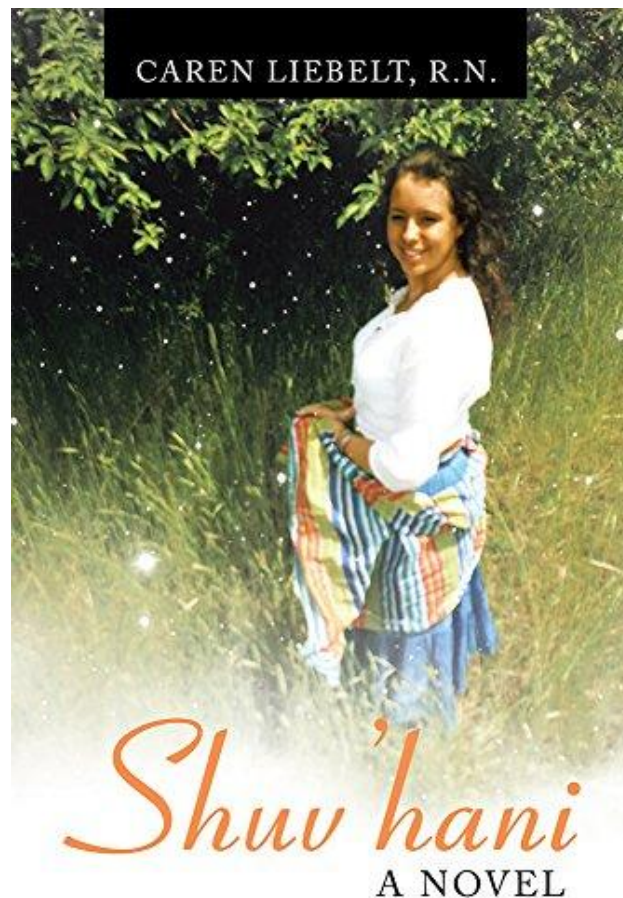
Diamond Quill Winner
Caren Liebelt
Shuv'hani: A Novel

Blurb:

Wren Varankai is destined to become a heroic Shuv'hani, a clairvoyant medicine woman said to possess powers over the earth, seas, and air. Equally strong predictions warn she will face death and danger in a land torn by war. Separated from her family, she dedicates herself to the fight against slavery, serving as a spy for the Underground Railroad and a nurse in America's Civil War. Can she fulfill a destiny of greatness, or will she meet her death and lose her loved ones forever?

Bio:

Caren Liebelt is a registered nurse and author.



**Gold Quill Winner
Creative Nonfiction
Kase Johnstun**

Beyond the Grip of Craniosynostosis

Blurb:

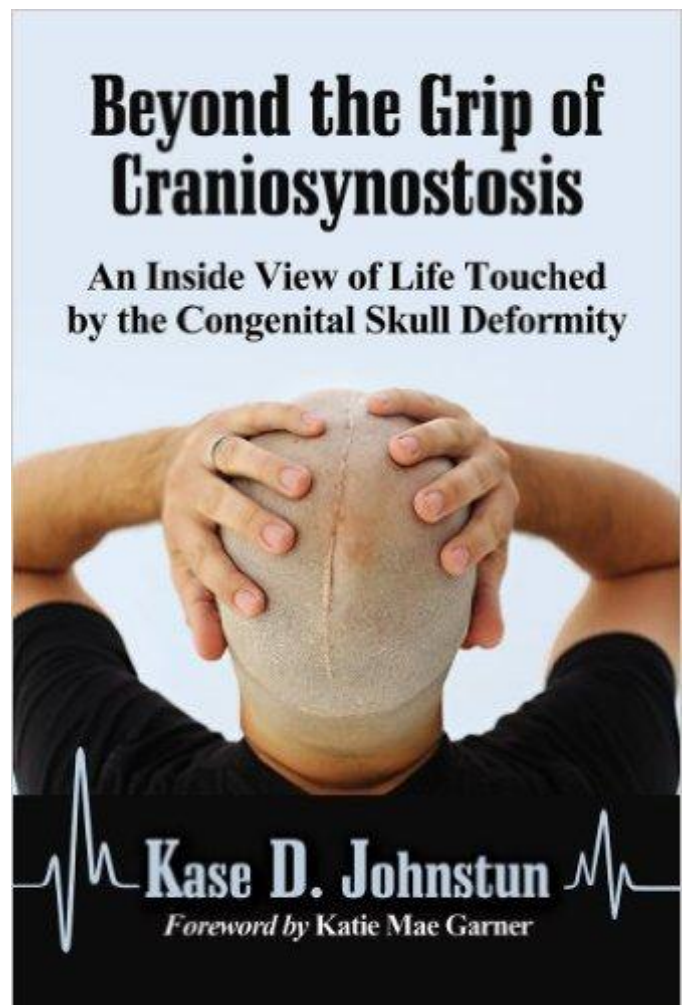
Both a memoir and a medical study, this unique work explores the extensive and tragic reach of craniosynostosis, the premature fusing of the cranial sutures in infants. The author--born with craniosynostosis in 1975--documents his and his family's struggles, weaving his story into a broader view of this birth defect. Included are interviews with respected craniofacial surgeons, neurosurgeons and pediatric anesthesiologists, an explanation of the major types of craniosynostosis, and a summary of the modern medical history of cranial sutures, as well as ancient treatments dating to the time of Hippocrates. The experiences of 11 American families affected by craniosynostosis are chronicled, demonstrating the uniqueness of each case and each treatment. Their stories illustrate the surgical techniques now being used to release cranial sutures, allowing the brain to grow naturally--though not every story ends this way.

Bio:

Kase Johnstun is an award-winning essayist, an author, and editor whose work has appeared nationally and internationally in journals and magazines such as Creative Nonfiction Magazine, The Chronicle Review, Label Me Latina/o, Prime Number, and as a regular contribution to The Good Men Project. He is a writing lecturer at Utah State University.

What advice would you give writers when they feel discouraged about their work?

If you are getting discouraged about your work, it means that you care, that you have truly invested in it, and that you are on the right track. Established writers get discouraged — I would like to say less rarely, but that is not the case — all the time too. It comes with letting the world see your heart out in the world. What do I do? I try to become a better literary citizen. I buy other people's books and review them on Amazon or Goodreads. I host a reading or poetry slam. I reach out other writers and ask how I can help them feel less discouraged. By being a literary citizen, you pull out of yourself — it makes it all better and worth it.



Silver Quill Winner
Creative Nonfiction
Chadd VanZanten and Russ Beck
On Fly-Fishing the Northern Rockies:
Essays and Dubious Advice

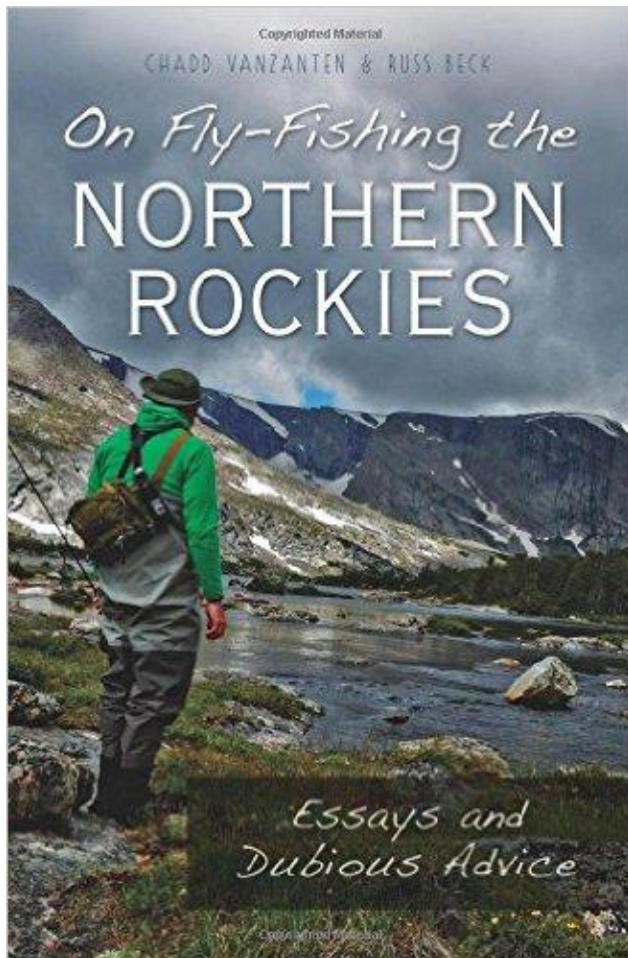
Blurb:

Anyone would be hard-pressed to find a pastime more emblematic of the western spirit than fly-fishing. Liberating, poetic, wild, soothing and inspiring, it pushes the boundaries of the mind. In essays ranging from introspective to ironic, angler authors Chadd VanZanten and Russ Beck distill the purest truths of fly-fishing into essential, often humorous rules of thumb. With kernels like "always tell the truth sometimes" and "all the fish are underwater," wade into the blue ribbon waters of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Utah to reflect metaphysically on these lines of practical wisdom.

Bio:

Chadd VanZanten's essays on fly-fishing appear in the online fly-fishing journal *Eat Sleep Fish* and in The History Press anthology *Utah Reflections*. His short fiction can be found in *Between Places*, an anthology of poetry and prose by LUW Press. Chadd lives in Logan, where he works as a professional editor. When he is not writing, he is fishing. The opposite is also true.

Russ Beck received the Frederick Mannford Award for creative writing from the Western Literature Association. He edits and contributes to both howsmallat trout.wordpress.com and Braidedbrook.com. He teaches writing at Utah State University. This is his first book. (Bios from Amazon)



**Silver Quill Winner
Young Adult Fiction
Neils Knudsen
*The Singing Stones of Rendor***

Blurb:

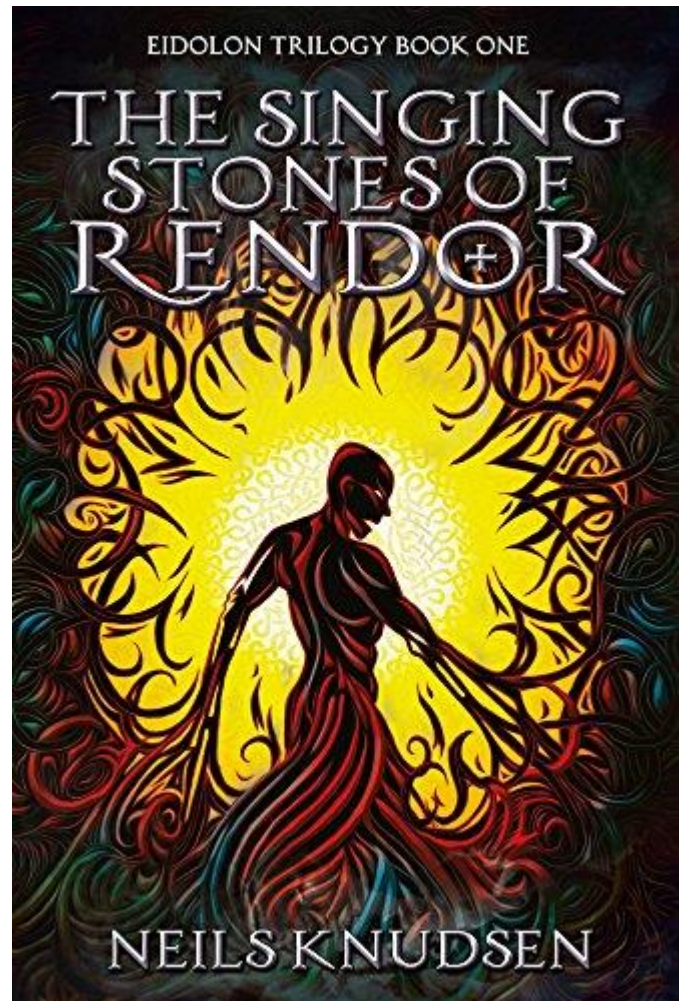
Endowed with a magical ability not seen since the ancient Rendor Empire, life for K'Las just turned dangerous—and he's not even born yet. His parents hide him in plain sight for several years until they learn of a plot to seize an heirloom and enslave the powerful magical voices that blend with the family treasure. The family manages to escape the clutches of cold-blooded zealots from the Grand Peer that chases them to one of Rendor's mysterious great henges.

A wild and shrewd wizard who hides within the henge, learns of the family's secret treasure and vanquishes one of the zealots, but not out of altruism. He too is covetous of the powerful treasure the family holds dear.

Trapped between a ruthless killer and a crazed wizard, K'Las must quickly learn to control his nascent skills to help his parents best their foes. If he can't, it won't matter which of their foes wins—his family will surely die. Even if he does succeed, the hostile and unstable world order will not permit such unrestrained magic.

Bio:

Neils Knudsen was born in 1948 in Honolulu, Hawaii. He moved a lot during his childhood and early adulthood. Each location had its own traditions and ways of life. He tended to adopt many of those nuances and in each new micro-culture he became a little more fanciful. As a result his foundation as a writer of fantasy fiction was under construction. Neils now resides in Utah and writes under the gentle guidance of his wife and hard-nosed muse, and the encouragement of a much admired brother-in-law. The only pets he lives with are his peeves.



Community Outreach Project

The League of Utah Writers has a community outreach program, where we provide services for the larger writing community. Not only does this help people around the state, but also qualifies the League for certain grant funds that help immensely with putting on our conference and other projects.

Projects:

The League is conducting an ongoing **book drive** throughout the state. Local chapters gather books for donation, keeping track of the numbers. At the end of the year, the totals are compared, and the chapter with the most donations will win a significant prize. The change for this year will be that the chapter will find a local place to donate the books and directly donate them rather than the League gathering all the books into one place. This should reduce the issues of trying to transport books to a central location, and will get the books into the hands of those who need them faster. This should really simplify participation in some of our far-flung chapters. The League will continue to have a book drop at our events such as the Spring Workshop. Please look through your bookshelves for items that can benefit others rather than gathering dust.

To participate, chapters should send the following information to Margot Hovley at mhovley@gmail.com:

Number of books donated
Where they were donated
Chapter name

This information can be submitted periodically throughout the year or tallied and submitted at the contest deadline, which will be next year's Fall Conference.

The League also conducts a **youth scholarship program**, where teenage writers can earn free attendance to the Spring Workshop and the Fall Conference. For details on applying for scholarships, please contact Margot Hovley.

We also welcome other ideas for outreach opportunities. Please contact Margot if you have any thoughts on this.

Margot Hovley, Community Outreach chair

mhovley@gmail.com



Chapter Chatter

If you have an upcoming or recent release, 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.

Heritage Writers Guild Chapter

- The Heritage writers workshop on June 11, keynoted by Maxwell Alexander Drake, was rewarding for the many that attended. We learned that "the best way to write a character is to know you are not that character."

- Our member, Russell Estlack, genre, historical war non-fiction has had two books accepted for publication. The publishers have asked for a screen play for one of them.

- The guild is anticipating a visit from Jared Quan in August. He'll be busy!

- Contests keep coming our way, the Spectrum newspaper will publish winners of the contest in the St. George Magazine. Many of our writers are entering the Washington County Fair writing contest.

- Writers Improvement Group, Heritage Writers Guild continues to draw new writers, as our monthly newsletter graduates to higher levels of readership.

Just Write Chapter

Ann Gordon is president (ann@gordoncomputer.com) and Mechelle Morrison is vice-president. The "at large" chapter has members all around Utah and in several states. Most members are either too far away from a chapter to attend meetings or too busy to attend scheduled meetings in their area.

We have an active critique group and hold critique/review sessions twice a month. Members are allowed to share up to 3000 words each session. Just Write members also receive the chapter newsletter each month. Here is some member writing news:

- Bradeigh Godfrey won second place in the Mormon Lit Blitz contest in June. Her Flash story is titled, "Fresh Courage Take."

- V.J.O. Gardner, author of the *Tales of Asculum* series, held a book signing at the St. George Barnes & Noble on July 29th.

- Ann Gordon won first place in the Flash fiction category in the Oquirrh Writers contest (Oquirrh is her second chapter). The story is titled, "The Big Score."

- Lesli Muir: In June and July she published *Brodrick* and *The Gathering* for *The Ghosts of Culloden Moor* series. In July she published *Kilt Trip* for the *Tempting the Highlander* series. In the last few months she has signed books in Las Vegas and San Diego; she will host a table at the Utah Readers Luncheon in October (in Layton).

Infinite Monkeys

We're holding our first annual writing retreat - The Infinite Weekend - October 6-9th.

Registration is now open to other chapter members. If interested, details and registration forms can be found on our website:

<https://luwgenremonkeys.wordpress.com/infinite-weekend-retreat/>.

After months in the query trenches, Stephanie Floch, pen name Alex Harrow, is now represented by Michelle Johnson of the Inklings Literary Agency.

Karla Jay's book, *Speaking in Tungs*, has been nominated for the 2016 Thurber Prize for American Humor.

Candace J. Thomas has a new book, *Vampire-ish: A Hypochondriac's Tale*, releasing and is now available for pre-order.

Chapter Chatter, cont.

Infinite Monkeys will host a public write-in event during National Novel Writing Month on November 9th from 6:00 until midnight. All League members are invited. Details on location can also be found on our website once finalized.

We wish to thank those chapters who joined us for our summer picnic in July - six League chapters were represented plus our friends from the Utah Horror Writers Chapter. Next year we will figure out a better way to get the word out. Apologies to those who might not have heard about it, you were not excluded on purpose!

Oquirrh Writers

Oquirrh Writers is a presentation chapter focusing on writer development through monthly classes on the craft. We meet at the West Jordan City Hall every 3rd Thurs at 7 pm. We love visitors!

Notable Member achievements:

Our in-chapter Spring Contest uncovered several writing gems, here are the winners:

First Chapter:

1st Place – Futures Unseen, by Eliza Cosby

2nd Place – The Unthinkable, by Barbara Wilson

3rd Place – Finding Dorothy, by Eliza Cosby

Poetry:

1st Place – TheTop of the Mountains, by Susan Knight

2nd Place – Crossroads, by Michelle Frazier Egan

3rd Place – Untitled, by Susan Knight

Short fiction:

1st Place – Skull Collector, by Jodi Milner

2nd Place – Downtown Man, by Shauna Dansie

Flash fiction:

1st Place – The Big Score, by Ann Gordon

More excellent news -

Tara Mayoros signed a contract to publish her novella "The Christmas Bike" this winter.

Nicole White signed a contract to publish Stars Bright, her first novel, with Trifecta Books in the spring of 2017.

Eliza Crosby is releasing her sequel to Whispers of Minersville, Curse of the Lost Love, July 30th.

The Spring into Books event was a huge success, thanks to all the terrific authors from League and around Utah who came to meet the public. We had a great turnout and plenty of support from the community. Another big thanks goes to the committee who went above and beyond expectations.

Herriman Chapter

In case you haven't heard, Charlie Holmberg's Paper Magician series has been optioned by Disney. Check out the article here:

<http://www.ksl.com/?nid=1205&sid=39333688>

Wordcraft Chapter

David Barnes: We are delighted to share that his first illustrated (non-fiction!) autobiography, INSANITY OF WARS, was published. It has 130 photos and 10 maps and exalts Salt Lake City!

Copies available from David or insanityofwars.com

Joyce Wilson: Cottonwood Heights Arts Council plans to produce her musical, "They Came to Union Fort". Their Historic Committee plans to film the production. The musical has been produced previously at

Chapter Chatter, cont.

Historic Wheeler Farm Amphitheatre, Social Hall This is the Place Heritage Park and Cottonwood Creek Stake Center where audiences during intermission visited adjacent Union Pioneer Memorial Cemetery grave sites of pioneers being portrayed in the musical.

Two scripts: "Over or Under" was performed in Southern California, "The Barretts" was performed in Maryland Dinner Theatre.

Current novella, "Playmates" was featured at Butlerville Days display. Azevedo Studios is currently reviewing her children's literature.

Bonnie Glee, newly sworn in Wordcraft Chapter President, will launch her new Literary Novel, INVISIBLE SON, July 24, 2016, Parents' Day. It will be available in e-book and paperback at Amazon.com, Well Book Works, or contact Bonnie at bjthomas8@juno.com. She has been invited to participate on panels with 'Author's in the Round', Salt Lake County Library Series. Her next panel and book signing will be at the Whitmore Library, 2197 Fort Union Blvd, August 17, 2016 from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. Johnny Worthen and Patricia G. Stevenson have also been invited to participate with the 'Author's in the Round' library series. All three participated at the Hunter Library, June 27, 2016.

Heber Valley Chapter

Melica Hudgens, Flim Flam & Other Such Gobbledygook, Children's book featuring barnyard animals learning to get along and be inclusive.

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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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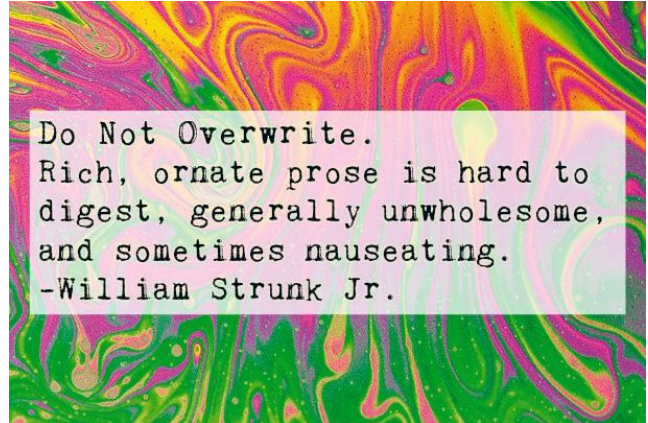


Hi everyone!

Anyone else ever get flowery with their language? For me it seems to go from “the door is red” to “the blood red surface of the door glistened in the striking light of the setting sun, leaving me with a bitter, acrid, iron taste in my mouth.”

Here’s a bit of advice I picked up recently.

Try not to nauseate your readers.



Do Not Overwrite.
Rich, ornate prose is hard to digest, generally unwholesome, and sometimes nauseating.
-William Strunk Jr.

Jo Schneider, Oquirrh Chapter

P.S. If you have a book coming out, or have won an award, let your chapter president know. They will let me know and then everyone will know. Because everyone reads the newsletter?

LUW Facebook Group

Please remember to join the League’s Facebook Group. After you login to Facebook, search for League of Utah Writers, or you can to this page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LeagueofUtahWriters/>

This Facebook group is only open to members of the League.

