

TAKE A LOOK AT

... what's inside

Articles & News

President's message	1
Roundup update	1
Contest guidelines	2
Contest categories	5
Writing on the edge	7
Publication awards	9
Speakers bureau message	9
Membership message	11
Historian message	12
St. George seminars	17
Spring Workshops	18
Letter from the editor	20

Chapter Chatter

Blue Quill	13
Cache Valley	13
Color Country Nightwriters	13
Heritage Writers Guild	14
Oquirrh Writers	14
Park City	15
Sevier Valley	15
Utah Valley	16

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Remember, keep on writing!*



been treating you well this winter. I certainly have had my share of problems.

Regardless, our Roundup is only seven short months away and the deadline for your writing entries is getting very close.

History, Our Heritage." I'm sure you can write something about uncle Larry or aunt Mary or what happened at your high school prom by then.

Whatever the case, let me encourage you to keep on writing.

My best to you!

Dear Friends:

I hope the weather has

The theme for this year's Roundup is "Our

— Andy Anderson

**Roundup preparations get underway**

Vice President Marilyn Richardson and members of the Heritage Writers Guild chapter continue to be enthusiastic about hosting the 2007 Roundup.

We've signed a contract with Courtyard Marriott, a motel new to St. George, and several speakers have been contacted. There are four or five qualified presenters for every workshop—the difficulty lies in trying to decide who to ask! Our goal is to offer both speakers and subject matter that hasn't been covered in past sessions, but we'll also have workshops on all the basics.

Claudia Keelan from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, will be the speaker Friday evening at the Poetry Awards Banquet. Check her out—her poetry books are available through [www.alicejamesbooks.org](http://www.alicejamesbooks.org).

Candace Fleming is another presenter. You can visit her Web site at [www.candacefleming.com](http://www.candacefleming.com) to see what she has to offer. Also check out your library to see if her latest book, *Our Eleanor: A Scrapbook Look at Eleanor Roosevelt's Remarkable Life*, is available. I loved Fleming's book *Boxes for Katje*, based on a true story that involved Fleming's mother sending care packages to families in Holland following World War II.

— Marilyn Richardson

CEIL ELLIOT, CONTEST CHAIR

# Our History, Our Heritage: 2007 contest guidelines

## Who can enter?

We have categories for almost everyone. Certain categories are reserved for League members, while three categories are reserved for writers who have never won a cash prize in a previous League of Utah Writers competition. For more information on categories, see page 5.

## What are the prizes?

Judges will award first, second, and third places and up to three honorable mentions in each category.

Cash awards for categories 1 to 23 are \$30, \$20, and \$10 for first, second, and third place. Awards for children's, middle grade, and young adult books are \$50, \$30, and \$20. Awards for full-length books are \$100, \$75, and \$35.

## What are the rules?

- Entries must be your own original work.
- Entries must be written in English.
- You may enter each manuscript in only one category.

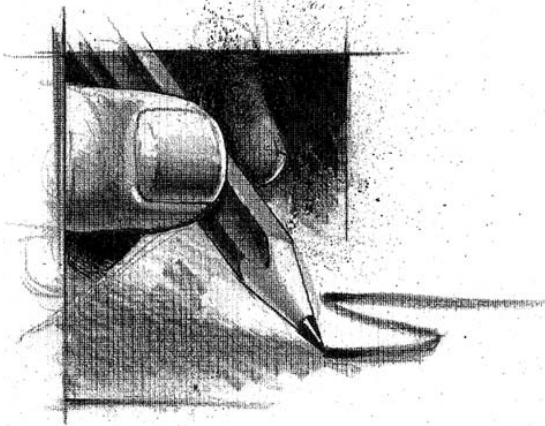
- Your entries must be postmarked no later than Friday, June 15, 2007—no exceptions. Entries are final as submitted and postmarked on or before that date.
  - Your entries must be unpublished and not accepted for publication in any form, including online, before June 15, 2007. Published works are only eligible for the annual LUW Publication Awards. For more information, see page 9.
  - If your manuscript has already won an LUW cash prize, you may not enter it in another LUW contest.
  - If an entry in a “members only” category is co-authored, you and your co-author must both be members in good standing.
  - A category with fewer than 10 entries may be combined with another category or declared “no contest.” In the case of a no contest decision, your entry fee will be returned.
  - You must follow the specific guidelines for each category you enter. If you don't follow the rules and manuscript guidelines, your entries will be disqualified and fees forfeited.
  - Entries in poor taste (as determined by the contest committee) will be disqualified and fees forfeited.
  - After the 2007 Roundup, entries that aren't claimed will be returned to the chapter presidents.
- If you aren't a member of the League, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your entry.

Remember to put enough postage on your envelope (no loose stamps, please).

## How do I format my entry?

Our entry format is similar to those of commercial publishers, but unique to accommodate the blind judging. Please follow these guidelines carefully. Just as publishers will reject your submission if you don't follow their formats, we must do the same if you don't follow ours.

- Each group of manuscripts must be accompanied by a *Personal Submissions Chart* (see page 8). This is the only page in your entry where your name will appear. Use your legal name, not a pen name.
- Don't put your name anywhere on your manuscripts, including in a synopsis or excerpt if either one of these is required.
- Type your manuscripts in 12-point Times New Roman font. Prose must be double-spaced; poetry may be single-spaced. If you're using a typewriter instead of a computer, choose a machine that doesn't type in script because it's hard for the judges to read. (*This is an example of script.*)
- Use standard 8½ x 11-inch white paper with one-inch margins on all sides. Don't try to fit more words on a page by using smaller fonts, reducing margins, or spacing lines more closely together.
- On the first page, type the category name and number in the top



righthand corner. Return one space and directly beneath the category type the total word count for your entry as determined by your word processing program. Please don't guess or estimate the word count. For poetry, type the line count (not including the title) instead of the word count.

- Return four spaces and type the title of your entry, centered and bolded. This excludes haiku poetry, which doesn't use titles.
- On all subsequent pages, type the title or abbreviated title of your entry in the upper righthand corner.
- Number all subsequent pages in the upper righthand corner. Most word processing programs will place the number just above or below the rest of the header. If your program doesn't do this, please type the page numbers in manually.
- Make your work professional quality. Proofread your entries carefully. Errors in grammar, spelling, and typing will receive mandatory penalties.

### ***What's a synopsis, and when do I need one?***

A synopsis is a plot summary, no longer than two double-spaced pages. You must provide a synopsis with certain long pieces (see the individual category rules on page 5). Your name should not appear on the synopsis. Use the same format that you use for the entry itself.

We require the synopsis to help you practice an important skill that publishers often require with certain types of material. It will be judged for content and style, with comments

geared toward helping you learn more about what publishers require.

### ***What's an excerpt, and when do I need one?***

An excerpt is a short sample of writing from your entry. It should be your favorite part, but no longer than two double-spaced pages. **You must provide two copies of an excerpt for all entries that are longer than two pages.** Your name should not appear on the excerpt. Use the same format that you use for the entry itself, except that you may print the title on the same line as the page number or one space below.

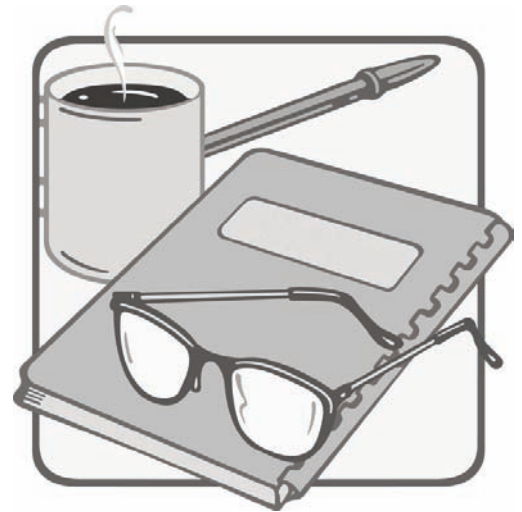
We require the excerpt so a portion of your entry may be read at Roundup if you win a prize. This gives you a chance to show off your writing skills and gives your peers the opportunity to savor the flavor your work. Excerpts will not be judged.

Generally, the first place winner in each prose category will read an excerpt. If a first place winner is not present, the next place winner will be asked to read an excerpt. For poetry, the top three winners in each category will be asked to read their winning works.

For those few categories that don't require an excerpt, such as poetry, **please send two copies of the original work.** One copy will be included in the packet you take home from Roundup, and the other will be used to read at the awards ceremony if you win. If you want both copies returned, see Ceil Elliot (contest chair) after the ceremony.

### ***How do I submit my entry?***

- You may send all manuscripts in one package. Include the *Personal*



*Submissions Chart* (see page 8) with your entries and keep a copy for your own records. This helps the contest committee to track the hundreds of submissions sent to the contest and to return them after the awards presentation. You can find the *Personal Submissions Chart* and a schedule of fees on our Web site at [www.luwrite.com](http://www.luwrite.com).

- Assemble all pages of each manuscript in order. Fill out and attach the *Personal Submissions Chart* to the first page of the first manuscript with a paper clip.
- Total all your entry fees and submit a single check made out to The League of Utah Writers for your entire entry. Double check your figures to make sure you're sending the right amount. If your check is written for an incorrect amount, you may be disqualified.

If you decide to send in additional entries later, submit an updated *Personal Submissions Chart* with the new entries clearly identified as "additional entries."

- If you aren't a member of the League, include a 9 x 12-inch (or larger) self-addressed, stamped envelope so we can return your en-

tries after Roundup. Use your own address as both the sender and receiver to make sure you receive the package. Remember to put enough postage on the envelope. The League will not provide missing postage.

- Submit book-length entries in a sturdy cardboard box. If you aren't a League member, include enough loose stamps in a sealed envelope so we may return your book to you after Roundup. Clearly mark the envelope with your name and address and paper-clip it to your entry form.
- Keep copies of all your entries and

of your *Personal Submissions Chart*. The League is not responsible for lost or misdirected entries.

### ***When will I know if I've won?***

Winners will be announced at the 2007 Roundup, September 14 and 15 in St. George, Utah. Please plan to attend the banquet in which awards for the categories you entered will be presented.

First, second, and third place winners in the poetry contest will be asked to read their winning entries at the awards ceremony on Friday night.

First place winners in prose categories will be asked to read excerpts from their winning entries at the Saturday awards ceremony. If a first place winner is not present, the next place winner will be asked to read an excerpt or entry.

Entries and awards for people who are unable to attend the awards ceremonies will be returned to the chapter presidents or via self-addressed, stamped envelopes where provided.

If you have any questions, please email Contest Chair Ceil Elliot at [contest@luwrite.com](mailto:contest@luwrite.com) or [grannyceil@hotmail.com](mailto:grannyceil@hotmail.com), or call 801-722-4718.

---

## **THE WRITER'S BLOCK**

### **Everybody's a Critic**

If you want meaningful critiques of your writing, chances are you'll have to give as good as you get. But how can you give *and* receive in-depth reviews without hurting feelings? Here are a few pointers:

#### **Honesty, the Best Policy**

- Be tactful, but let the author know if there are problems with the work. That's why you've been asked for a critique.
- Balance your criticism with honestly positive comments. Authors want to know what works as well as what doesn't. Try to end on a positive note.

#### **Keep to the Script**

- Be specific. Point out things that worked or didn't work, and explain why.
- Criticize the work, not the author or the motivation

for writing. This can be hard if you don't like the genre or subject, so let the author know about your prejudices in advance.

- Don't ask questions—make statements. Instead of asking, "Why did the hero do this?" say "I don't understand why the hero did this."

#### **Your Turn in the Hot Seat**

- Don't try to explain your work if you feel a critic doesn't understand what you meant. Remember, you won't be able to explain yourself to a publisher.
- If you disagree with a criticism you receive, make a note of it anyway. After a cool-off period, you may find the criticism is valid.
- Don't ask questions unless you need clarification. When receiving a critique, it's more important to listen. That way, you can devote yourself to understanding the criticism rather than thinking up a response.

CEIL ELLIOT, CONTEST CHAIR

# Our History, Our Heritage: 2007 categories

## Poetry

1. **Poetry for Children** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to 40 lines. Written for children in age-appropriate language, such as for a children's book or magazine. Any form. One poem per fee.
2. **Free Style Poetry** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to 40 lines. Any subject. No patterned rhyming. One poem per fee.
3. **Rhyming Poetry** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to 40 lines. Any subject, any meter. One poem per fee.
4. **New Talent Poetry, Free Verse** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 32 lines. Any style of free verse. Any subject. Open to anyone who has not won a LUW cash award in this category. One poem per fee.
5. **New Talent Poetry, Rhyming** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 40 lines. A rhyming poem, any topic. Open to anyone who has not won a cash award from LUW in this category. One poem per fee.
6. **Haiku** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to three lines. Up to three haiku per entry fee. Put each haiku on a separate page with required headers.
7. **Narrative Poetry** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 50 lines. Any style or subject. A poem that tells a story. One poem per fee.

8. **Historical Poetry** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to 40 lines. Features a moment in history. May be family or local history as well as world or U.S. history. One poem per fee.

## Short Prose

9. **Children's Story, Ages 4-8** (Member fee \$3, non-member fee \$6.) Up to 2,000 words. A fictional, prose narrative written for children. Indicate target group under title. *Excerpt required.*
10. **Children's Story, Ages 9-12** (Member fee \$3, non-member fee \$6.) Up to 3,000 words. A fictional, prose narrative, written for children. Indicate target group under title. *Excerpt required.*
11. **Children's Story, Ages 13-18** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 3,000 words. A fictional, prose narrative written for children. Indicate target group under title. *Excerpt required.*
12. **Middle Grade Nonfiction Article** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 3,000 words. Any topic of interest for youth, fifth through eighth grades. Helps youth broaden their knowledge of the world around them. May enrich school subjects such as history, social studies, or science. *Excerpt required.*
13. **Teen Story** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 3,000

words. This story is a concise, sharply-focused work of fiction that explores a single idea or emotion, set off by conflict. Written for ages 13-18. The action and plot of the story should center on teenagers. *Excerpt required.*

14. **New Talent Personal Essay** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 1,200 words. Nonfiction prose expresses personal experiences and opinions dealing with aspects of everyday life. It can be entertaining or persuasive in nature, varying from serious to light and humorous. Open to anyone who has not won a cash award from LUW in this category. *Excerpt required.*
15. **New Talent Short Story** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 3,000 words. Imaginative narrative typically deals with a limited group of characters involved in a single event or situation. Character is demonstrated through action, which ultimately reveals the message or purpose of the story. Open to anyone who has not won a cash award from LUW in this category. *Excerpt required.*
16. **Short Story** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 3,000 words. Imaginative narrative typically deals with a limited group of characters involved in a single event or situation. Character is demonstrated through action, which ultimately reveals the mes-

sage or purpose of the story. Open to anyone. *Excerpt required.*

17. **Anecdote** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 150 words. A short narrative detailing the particulars of an interesting, true episode. It is often biographical and dramatizes a situation of human interest. Slice of life, humor, and reflections are also appropriate in this category.
18. **Historical Fiction** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 1,200 words. Fictional story centered around an actual historical event. May be a little known event. Family history or local legend. Be careful not to plagiarize. References may be listed at the end. *Excerpt required.*
19. **Article** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to 1,500 words. A prose, non-fiction composition that deals with a single topic. It may be instructive, informational, or persuasive, and focus on people, new ideas, how-to, or personal experience. May include sidebars and references. Usually appears in magazines, newspapers, and journals, and often involves research. *Excerpt required.*
20. **Character Sketch** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 500 words. Create a believable character. Show your character in a scene doing something typical that defines his or her unique personality.
21. **Personal Essay** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to 1,200 words. A personal essay is nonfiction prose that expresses personal experiences and

opinions dealing with aspects of every day life. It can be entertaining or persuasive in nature, varying from serious to light and humorous. *Excerpt required.*

22. **Inspirational Personal Experience** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to 1,200 words. A nonfiction narrative that demonstrates personal insight, reveals heroic conduct, reveals an individual's faith or beliefs, or shows personal stamina. The central character often experiences an epiphany that results in life-altering action. *Excerpt required.*
23. **Short Short Story** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 750 words. This story is a concise, sharply-focused work of fiction that explores a single idea or emotion, set off by conflict.
24. **Speculative Fiction** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 3,000 words. Science fiction, fantasy, or horror. Science fiction must be based on actual or projected scientific principles in biology, physics, social science, mathematics, or logic. Fantasy deals with a world based on magical or mythical elements. It considers questions of morality, principle, and duty. Horror usually takes place in a contemporary setting and deals with aspects of nature that cannot be understood or controlled. *Excerpt required.*
25. **Historical Article** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 3,000 words. A nonfiction composition that deals with a single topic. It may be instructive, informational, or persuasive, and focus

on people, or personal experience, or family genealogy. May include sidebars and references. Usually appears in magazines, newspapers, and journals, and often involves research. (Be careful not to plagiarize.) *Excerpt required.*

26. **Edgy Short Story** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to 3,000 words. Edgy fiction stories are dark, off-beat and gritty, and deal with the hidden and dangerous recesses of human behavior. In content and language, they push the edges of acceptable conduct that the greater adult society generally follows. See page 7 for more information. *Excerpt required.*

### **Book-length Prose**

27. **Picture Book** (Member fee \$5; non-member fee \$10.) Up to 1,000 words. This is a 32 page book, words only. Written for children ages 4-8. *Excerpt required.*
28. **Early Chapter Book** (Member fee \$ 5; non-member fee \$10.) Up to 4,000 words. Written for children ages 5-8. Action, dialog, short-paragraphs, and a simple story line. Vocabulary is not more than 2-3 syllable words with basic sight words included. Helps young readers get ready for full-length children's books. *Excerpt and synopsis required.*
29. **Full-length Children's Book** (Members only, fee \$12.) Up to 20,000 words. Written for children ages 5-12. Character oriented stories that appeal directly to children. Fiction or nonfiction subjects may include adventure or humorous stories written about

families, friends, animals, ethnic heritage, or history. *Excerpt and synopsis required.*

30. **Full-length Middle Grade Book** (Members only, fee \$12.) Up to 40,000 words. Written for 'tweens, generally fifth through eighth grade, but may appeal to younger advanced readers or some young adults. Fiction or nonfiction. Subject appropriate to the target age group such as friends, awakening interest in the opposite sex, trying to fit in, etc. Show, don't tell. *Excerpt and synopsis required.*

31. **Full-length Young Adult Book** (Members only, fee \$20.) Up to 60,000 words. Written for young adults ages 12-18. Fiction or nonfiction. Subjects could include history, adventure, mystery, romance, or suspense with characters and settings relevant to this age group. *Excerpt and synopsis required.*

32. **Full-length Fiction Book** (Members only, fee \$20.) Up to 100,000 words. Written for adults on any subject. If more than one author collaborates, every author

must be a member in good standing. *Excerpt and synopsis required.*

33. **Full-length Nonfiction Book** (Members only, fee \$20.) Up to 100,000 words. Written for adults on any subject. If more than one author collaborates, every author must be a member in good standing. *Excerpt and synopsis required.*

If you have any questions, please email Contest Chair Ceil Elliot at [contest@luwrite.com](mailto:contest@luwrite.com) or [grannyceil@hotmail.com](mailto:grannyceil@hotmail.com), or call 801-722-4718.

## Writing on the Edge

BETTY J. VICKERS

This article covers the ins and outs of "edgy fiction," a new category in the Roundup contest this year. It's vitally important to understand exactly what edgy fiction entails. Otherwise, you won't be able to write for the category.

Edgy fiction follows all the conventions of regular fiction. While this method is not new, it is currently fashionable and encompasses very specific facets.

### DEFINITION

"Edgy fiction" describes a story that is unusually dark, unsettling, gritty, realistic and/or offbeat.

### FUNCTION

Edgy fiction explores the dark and dangerous recesses of human behavior. It's often explicit and offensive in content and language. In concept and handling, it pushes the boundaries of acceptable behavior of the larger society in that it clings to the edge and is outside the mainstream.

### EFFECTS

Edgy fiction makes readers uncomfortable, but they continue reading and enduring the discomfort for the sake of the story that's being told. It is streaked with darkness, but it's a darkness that illuminates and shows us things that we may prefer not to see and know.

### CAUTION

It's important to understand that one person or group's "edge" is another person or group's reality. For example, young adult and Christian writers have very different edges from each other AND from society in general. Therefore, what is edgy for one writer or readership may not be at all edgy for another.

### EXAMPLES

*The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck

*To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee

*Bastard Out of Carolina*, by Dorothy Allison

*Walkin' the Floor*, by Betty J. Vickers



# 2007 Writing Competition Personal Submissions Chart

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Member:  Yes  No LUW Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry title	Category number	Category	Word/line count	Excerpt included?	Synopsis included?	Fee

Questions? Email Contest Chair Ceil Elliot at [contest@luwrite.com](mailto:contest@luwrite.com) or [grannyceil@hotmail.com](mailto:grannyceil@hotmail.com), or call 801-722-4718. Please pay your fees with a check or money order made out to The League of Utah Writers. You may write one check for the total amount.

Mail to: Ceil DeYoung Elliot  
224 South Main St. # 435  
Springville, UT 84663



MARY BARNES, PUBLICATIONS CHAIR

## What we look for in publication awards

Publications come in all shapes and sizes, including hardback and soft-cover or paperback books, movies and theater, audio recordings on tape and CD — and last, but certainly not least, tactile recordings for the sight or hearing impaired. Every one of these is a legitimate method of sending your information or story to a waiting, hungry audience.

Each year, the League of Utah Writers recognizes published members with Gold Quill Awards, or with Diamond Awards to add to their previously-earned quills. The rules for applying for a publication award are simple: (1) Your entry must be published within the timeframe established by the League, and (2) you must provide proof of publication — an ISBN or other professional registration number.

We accept entries in the following categories:

- Fiction book (including short story collections)
- Nonfiction book
- Journalism portfolio (newspaper/magazine)
- Poetry/music (CDs, tapes, books, sheet music, etc.)

Children's books may be entered in either the nonfiction or fiction categories. But please be aware, a children's book should primarily use the written word to forward the narrative. Children's picture books are *not* considered for publication awards.

Like all works of art, published writing requires energy and effort. Publications are judged on content, structure and navigation, visual design, functionality, interactivity, and the overall experience they provide.

Good fiction presents a well-thought

out plot, vivid description, engaging characters, and cutting-edge dialogue. Nonfiction books should have well-organized content, with a minimum of jargon.

Children's books should be age appropriate with the right vocabulary and theme for that age. They should hold a child's interest, be enjoyable, provide examples of how to deal with problems, help them develop good qualities, and promote positive values.

Finally, whether you select print-on-demand or choose to work with an agent in your effort to be published, you must be prepared to participate in marketing and publicity. When you choose a publisher, look for one that provides good quality illustrations, printing, and binding.

To apply for a publication award, please fill out the application on page 10.

---

## *Speakers bureau taps local expertise, boasts a strong line up*

The speakers bureau has recently been updated with new names, faces and information. If you've been looking for a dynamic speaker to spice up your chapter meetings, now's the time to check out who's who within the League of Utah Writers.

Need someone to speak about cowboy poetry? You can rope him in now. How about how to deal with all those pesky tax issues faced by writers? No need to wait until April 15 — the bureau has just what you're looking for. What if you want to delve into the shadows of horror or fantasy? First check under the bed for spooks, then check out the speakers bureau. From article writing to self-publishing, from fiction techniques to writing a killer query

letter or proposal, and from researching a topic to marketing your finished product, we have it all. However, if you're looking for a speaker to discuss how to craft a best seller without writing a word, you're on your own. Writing anything, whether an 80,000-word book or a 500-word article, is just plain hard work. Make it easier for everyone in your chapter by accessing the local talent right here within the League.

For more information, go to [www.luwrite.com/speakersbureau](http://www.luwrite.com/speakersbureau), or contact Janine Creager at 801-451-5440 or at [jcreager@msn.com](mailto:jcreager@msn.com).

— Janine Creager



## 2007 Publication Awards Entry Form & Rules

### ENTRY INFORMATION

Author name: \_\_\_\_\_

Author address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry title: \_\_\_\_\_

Publication/publisher name: \_\_\_\_\_

### CATEGORY

Check one:

- 1. Fiction book: includes short story collections and children's fiction
- 2. Nonfiction book: includes memoir, historical, self-help, biography, autobiography, art, photography, and children's nonfiction
- 3. Journalism portfolio: includes articles, essays, book reviews, fillers, and photography
- 4. Poetry/music: includes individually published poems or music and collections of poetry or music by a single author (can be self-published)

### RULES

Please read carefully:

1. There is a \$20 fee per entry in each category. There is no limit to the number of qualifying entries you may submit in each category. You may use one check to pay for all of your entries.
2. For each category you enter, you will receive one *Certificate of Accomplishment* per item entered. Quill and/or Diamond Awards will be awarded for outstanding publication accomplishments by League members.
3. You must provide ISBN numbers or similar proof of publication/distribution for all of your entries. Journalism portfolios must contain clippings from magazines, newspapers, newsletters, etc.
4. You may submit a single work, a collection of works, or a portfolio of works published between **June 16, 2004 and June 15, 2007**. If any title in your entry has previously received a Quill or Diamond Award, **your entry will be disqualified and the entry fee forfeited.**
5. Mail entries to:  
Mary Barnes  
975 S Main St., #108  
St. George, UT 84770
6. If you have any questions, email Mary Barnes at [marybawriter@msn.com](mailto:marybawriter@msn.com) or call 435-628-6768 and leave a message.

DOROTHY CROFTS, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

# Don't forget to renew your membership!

It's membership renewal time! Please look at the mailing label on the front of this newsletter. If you see a yellow highlight, it's time for you to mail in your \$24 renewal check. Please mail it to this address:

Dorothy Crofts  
LUW Membership Chair  
P.O. Box 18430  
Kearns, UT 84118

Welcome to the newest members of the League who've joined in the past couple of months! We wish you success in all of your writing endeavors. New members by chapter are:

## Blue Quill

Cindy Bryan  
Jonene Ficklin  
Nell Heller  
Tamara Lei Peters

## Bountiful

Richard Bodily

## Cache Valley

JoLynne Lyon

## Oquirrh Writers

Lewis Herring, transfer from *Just Write*  
Cheri L. Chesley  
Katharine English  
Anthony Freeman  
Erlene Johnson

## Park City

Melanie Atkinson  
Amy Barker, transfer from *Just Write*  
Jan Jaworski

## Salt Lake

Christine Wink, transfer from  
*Oquirrh Writers*

## Sevier Valley

Dallen Anderson  
Jarrett Nash  
Linda Hunt Anton,

## Utah Valley

Keith N. Fisher  
26 members from *SoUTC*o (that chapter has been dissolved)

## Wasatch Writers

Mervin Allen  
BJ Burrows, transfer from *Blue Quill*  
Shaunna Johnson

## Wordcraft

David Frost  
Pat Greenwood  
Donna Graves  
Judy Olsen

This is going to be a memorable year for League members, and I hope you don't miss out on any of the memory-making experiences. If you ever have questions about your membership (or anything about the League), you're welcome to email me at [dorothy-crofts@luwrite.com](mailto:dorothy-crofts@luwrite.com).

It's time to start getting your poetry, essays, articles, short stories, and full-length manuscripts ready to enter in the 2007 writing contest. But, remember, you won't be eligible for the "members only" categories unless you renew your membership and bring it up to at least a January 2008 expira-

tion date. And if your membership is up-to-date, your contest entry fees are half the cost for a non-member.

Another benefit of renewing your membership is *free* admission to the Spring Workshops, which are coming up soon. We're holding three Spring Workshops in different locations throughout the state this year. The first one will be Saturday, April 7 in the Salt Lake area; the second one will be in Ogden at Melina's Restaurant in May; and the third one will be held near the end of June in Cedar City. That way, writers can visit the Shakespearean Festival in the same trip. More information about these events will be coming in the future. (See the RSVP and Spring Workshop notice on page 18.)

For those whose membership expiration date is before February 2007, this will be your last issue of *The Lariat* unless you renew. And just think of the history-making experience you will miss out on by not attending the Roundup in St. George this September. The League was organized in 1935 and this is the first time Roundup has been held in St. George — the Heritage Writers Guild members are definitely making history this year.

Now, for the numbers! With the majority of our member's expiration dates coming due in January, we have a lot of people who need to get their checks mailed in. As of the date this article was written (in January), we have 250 members in good standing throughout the state and 174 whose membership will expire at the end of

January. The chapter breakdown is as follows:

**Blue Quill**

22 in good standing  
7 due

**Bountiful**

20 in good standing  
16 due

**Cache Valley**

10 in good standing  
10 due

**Color Country Nightwriters**

3 in good standing  
12 due

**Heritage Writers Guild**

19 in good standing  
35 due

**Just Write**

8 in good standing  
5 due

**Oquirrh Writers**

25 in good standing  
8 due

**Park City**

8 in good standing  
3 due

**Salt Lake**

15 in good standing  
6 due

**Sevier Valley**

15 in good standing (way to go!)

**Utah Valley**

43 in good standing  
28 due

**Wasatch Writers**

22 in good standing  
12 due

**Wordcraft**

40 in good standing  
19 due

Please spread the word to your friends about the League of Utah Writers. Many times we associate with people and never have a clue that they might be writers. And most writers

have no clue that the League even exists unless someone happens to mention it to them.

I love the League and appreciate the opportunity to serve as the membership chair on the state board. I don't always have the chance to meet the membership chairs for the individual chapters, but I appreciate the time they put into keeping the membership records and checks organized.

I have a special request for *all members* — please write a sketch about how you heard about the League of Utah Writers, when you attended your first meeting, where the meeting was held, and who has encouraged and motivated you to continue to write. Is there anything (or anyone) specific that gives you encouragement to keep pursuing your dream to become a published author? Please write your “success story” and mail or email it to me as soon as you can.

Again, feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I'd love to hear your suggestions and concerns, as well.

## ***Remember to keep those history submissions coming!***

Remember, if your chapter has activities or events that should be recorded for this year's history, please send me the information via snail mail or email.

Pictures add to the history and I'd like to include one or more for each of your events. If you send pictures, please identify both the activity and each person in the photo.

Think about asking one of your chapter members to write a little blurb especially for the history. Write something different from the information you send to *The Lariat*, because I already keep copies of those.

Please send submissions to:

**Bruce Allen**  
LUW Historian  
454 E 1310 S  
Kaysville, UT 84037  
Phone: 801-451-6256  
Email: [quillworks@msn.com](mailto:quillworks@msn.com)

# Chapter Chatter!

## NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

### Blue Quill

Our chapter is growing by leaps and bounds. We gained several new members from the September Roundup and our Christmas party. We especially want to welcome **Zac** and **Harrison**, who remind us what it was like to be young.

Our chapter meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Ogden Main Library (24th & Jefferson). We welcome anyone who has an interest in any kind of writing. Members of our group include writers of plays, fantasy, sci-fi, poetry, and romance.

Speaking of romance, member **Lisa Dawn MacDonald** is quickly finding success in the field of romance. She's also known by her pen name, KyAnn Waters. Lisa was recently interviewed by Carol Ann Erhardt — you can read about it online at [carolannerhardt.blogspot.com](http://carolannerhardt.blogspot.com). I guarantee you won't be disappointed. We're all excited for her success.

Here's a list of topics for our upcoming meetings:

- March: Critique session with Bruce Allen
- April: Doug Miller speaks on historical fiction and nonfiction
- May: We're trying to schedule a tour of a publishing house, thanks to Bonni Burrows

Our chapter is sponsoring a Spring Workshop again this year (see page

18 for more information). We're currently working on scheduling some very exciting speakers, including Lisa Dawn MacDonald (KyAnn Waters). We hope you will all put this on your calendar and join us.

— Natalie Pace

### Cache Valley

Our chapter continues to grow and each month we have great turnouts at our critique groups. We have lots of great talent. Here's just a sampling of our member's latest accomplishments.

**Cami Checketts** signed her first novel, *Fourth of July*, an inspirational romantic suspense story, with Wild Rose Press on November 8, 2006. Her second title, *The Broken Path*, a contemporary romance, was signed on January 5, 2007, with Wild Rose Press.

**Gina Wickwar's** latest book, *Toto of Oz* (243 pages with 144 illustrations) was published in September 2006 by the International Wizard of Oz Club ([www.ozclub.org](http://www.ozclub.org)). It is clothbound with a beautifully colored dust jacket and is richly illustrated in black and white by Anna-Maria Cool. *Toto of Oz* sells for \$24.95 retail and is available from the IWOC Web site and selected books stores. A limited case-bound edition with color plate frontispiece is available for \$100.

Gina's first Oz book, *The Hidden Prince of Oz*, was published in 2000 by IWOC to celebrate the centennial of L. Frank Baum's classic, *The Wizard of Oz*. *The Hidden Prince of Oz* is available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for \$24.95.

**Marion Jensen's** latest book is titled *Bullies in the Headlights*, a sequel to *Chickens in the Headlights*. Publisher Covenant Communication is releasing his new book in May 2007. His pen name is Matthew Buckley.

**Bill Wilson** has the following news:

- In its upcoming issue, *Sunstone* magazine will publish part of his essay about the Levi Peterson novel *Backslider* and its impact on an LDS convert from the mission field.
- **Segullah** will publish his essay, "Consider Your Navel," in the *He Says* department of its spring issue.
- His essay, "Snatched from the Jaws of Death," will be published in a brand new anthology titled *Spiritual Visitations* sometime in 2008. This anthology, edited by Heather Froeschl, has more than fifty contributing authors. For more information, go to [www.quilldipper.com](http://www.quilldipper.com).

— Kristen McLain

### Color Country Nightwriters

We are off to a great start for 2007. We had two new members join the League in January. **Vickie Treadway** has published a book, *My Charming Protector*, and has authored four short stories, as well. **Sherrie Mackelprang** received back a reply for her manuscript *Successfully Stepparenting in Ten Mostly Easy Steps*. They liked her work, but because she doesn't have a degree in counseling they won't publish it. She is looking for someone to

help endorse her book. If anyone has expertise in this area and would like to help Sherrie, you can call her at 435-867-4285 or email her at [sherrie.mackelprang@iron.k12.ut.us](mailto:sherrie.mackelprang@iron.k12.ut.us).

**John Ault** is having an article published in the March issue of *The International Journal of Selection and Assessment, a Business Psychological Journal*. His research is titled, "Validity of the Hartman Color Code Personality Test."

**Ronald Carrier** is self-publishing his second book, *Frontier Friends*, which is geared toward fourth and fifth graders. I'm sure this will be another great book.

**Marian Ashdown**, our poet, gave those who attended the Christmas party in December a copy of her book, *One Year*. It contains two to five poems for each month. Great Christmas gift, Marian — thanks!

At our April 12 meeting, we'll have guest speaker Linda Weaver Clarke. She wrote *Melinda* and the *Wild West*. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting at 7 p.m. in the Cedar City Library (303 N. 100 E.). For more information about Linda, go to [www.lindaweaverclark.com](http://www.lindaweaverclark.com).

Our group is looking forward to hosting a Spring Workshop, probably June 30 (see page 18 for more information).

**Gayle Lister** has started her own business and therefore resigned as chapter secretary. She felt she couldn't do justice to both her new business and our group. But she'll still attend meetings when time permits. Good luck to Gayle!

— Scott Holyoak

## *Heritage Writers Guild*

Chapter members enjoyed a Christmas party full of surprises and prizes. Winners of the annual fall contest were announced that evening by Contest Chair **Betty Vickers**, who was also responsible for planning the party. Much to President **Beth Moore's** surprise, she won four times, a record. In her presidents column in the *HWG News and Views*, Moore stated that she felt her wins provided a good lesson.

"I'm 79," she wrote, "and still in there trying. After all these years I'm finally having a book published by a publisher. I've enjoyed the experiences and people I've met as a result of self-publishing my *Path to Mountain Meadows* book.

"In 2006, Blackhawk and I published a few copies of *Legends of the Chiefs* while we search for an agent or publisher. But to have a publisher (University of Oklahoma Press) take my book, *Bones in the Well, Haun's Mill Massacre, 1838*, is the dream of a lifetime.

"The point is," she continued, "I never gave up, nor do I intend to now. Sure I wish it had happened when I was younger, but it didn't and I'll enjoy the 'now.'"

Our chapter welcomed new members **Dorothy Varney**, **Julie Merino**, and **Minnie Benson**.

A half-day workshop with Dian Thomas is planned for Friday afternoon, March 9. Workshop Chair **Becky Jackson** requested and received a grant from the St. George Arts Committee to help cover costs. For more information, see page 17.

— Marilyn Richardson

## *Oquirrh Writers*

During our January chapter meeting, we had quite a variety of writers present to participate in discussions and writing exercises. **Sylvan Crofts** provided food for thought about *Writing for the Reader* and had everyone come up with their own endings to different comic strips. As we went around the room and the writers introduced themselves, we discovered authors of children's stories, children's books, fantasy, historical, short stories, futuristic novels, youth fiction, poetry, fiction, political, family history, training manuals, marketing, script writing, technical, articles, critiques, journalism, documentary, correspondent, memoir, life experiences, and personal journals.

**Shauna Dansie** just started a new job as a freelance script writer for the Waterford Institute. **Connie Hall** writes for LDS Writers Blogck. Her entries are posted every Wednesday and can be found at [www.ldswritersblogck.blogspot.com](http://www.ldswritersblogck.blogspot.com). **JoAnn Felix's** book, *Miracles of the Martin Handcart Company* (4th Edition, 150th Anniversary Edition with 24 pages in color) is in the process of publication. **Dorothy Crofts** has scheduled two presentations for her scripture poetry at Relief Society Enrichment Nights.

Our annual writing contest will open June 16 and accept entries until October 1. More information about the categories will be available in the May issue of *The Lariat*.

Beginning February 3, our chapter will hold a second monthly meeting on the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. This meeting is open to anyone who wants to attend, regardless of what chapter you belong to.

Please spread the word to members of your chapter who can't attend monthly meetings because of other evening involvements.

Our meeting schedule for the year is as follows:

February 3, 10 a.m.  
*Writing Exercises* by Sylvan Crofts

February 15, 7 p.m.  
*Rhyme Time* by Dorothy Crofts

March 3, 10 a.m.  
*Rhyme Time* by Dorothy Crofts

March 15, 7 p.m.  
*Bringing Your Nonfiction to Life* by Janine Creager

April 7, 10 a.m.  
All day Spring Workshop

April 19, 7 p.m.  
*Plotting the Short Story/Novel* by Judy Olsen

May 5, 10 a.m.  
*Understanding Contest Rules & Guidelines* by Dorothy Crofts

May 17, 7 p.m.  
*Echoes From the Past* by Tristi Pinkston

June 2, 10 a.m.  
Reading & critiquing (bring 10 copies for critique)

June 21, 7 p.m.  
Open topic (review plans and assignments for Summer Workshop)

July 7, 10:00 a.m.  
All day Summer Workshop

July 19, 7p.m.  
Open topic/nominations for 2008 officers

August 4, 10 a.m.  
Open

August 16, 7p.m.  
Summer pot luck party

September 1, 10 a.m.  
Open

September 14 & 15  
Roundup in St. George

October 6, 10 a.m.  
Open

October 18, 7p.m.  
Reading of Roundup award winners

— Dorothy Crofts

## Park City

We are now meeting the first Tuesday of each month at the Park City Library. We're happy to report that we've been having some super critiquing sessions with several of us continuing to refine projects that are dear to our hearts. It's fun to find out a little more about these interesting characters each month.

**Irene Hastings** is busy working on a brochure for the Utah Heritage Foundation featuring historic homes to be published in March. She also continues to write feature and news articles for *The Wave*, Heber's local newspaper.

**Phyllis Whitfield** just sold another mystery to *Woman's World Magazine* called "Too Cool," due to be published April 10. Her mystery, "Stormy Weather," was printed in the December 26 issue.

— Barbara Bretz

## EDITOR'S

### TOP 3 CLICKS

#### Alcor Software

Rhyming dictionaries in 20 languages, from Afrikaans to Yiddish  
[www.alcor.com.au](http://www.alcor.com.au)

#### ReadPrint

Free online library containing thousands of works by classic authors  
[www.readprint.com](http://www.readprint.com)

#### AcqWeb's Directory of Publishers and Vendors

Comprehensive list of all types of publishers with Web site links  
[acqweb.org/pubr.html](http://acqweb.org/pubr.html)

## Sevier Valley

**Pam Williams'** entry for the Worst Beginning Sentence contest was published in Ann Cannon's *Deseret Morning News* column on October 30, 2006. Also, Pam's fourth novel is now in the hands of Mary Barnes.

**Caren Liebelt's** new book for young adults, *Trouble at Coral Cove*, is out.

**Diane Jessen** had a poem published in *Encore*, a publication of the Na-

## Language for Lexophiles (WORD LOVERS)

- A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.
- A backward poet writes inverse.
- In a democracy, it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
- A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.
- If you don't pay your exorcist, you can get repossessed.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.
- A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France and resulted in Linoleum Blownpart.
- You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
- He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

tional Federation of State Poetry Societies.

**Judy Busk** informed us that the Utah Historical Society will digitize the collection of World War II oral histories that her high school English students completed some time ago.

**Garrett Nash** has a continued story in the Richfield High School paper, *Cat Tracks*.

**Esther Williams** won first place in the Utah Farm Bureau essay contest. Her entry was published in the *Farm Bureau News*. She also had an article in *Country Extra Magazine*.

We said a fond goodbye to long time member and historian, **Revo Young**, who passed away on November 9, 2006 (see article on page 19). Revo had been a mentor and inspiration to many of us through the years, as well as being the author of several local history books.

Our annual holiday brunch was held on December 9, 2006, at the home of

new member, **Linda Anton**. It was a combination Thanksgiving and Christmas event. Each year our gift to one another is a collection of special poems and stories we compile into a keepsake booklet. These booklets contain not only some fine writing, but some wonderful memories to enjoy for years to come.

— *Esther Williams*

### Utah Valley

We are pleased to have new members among us—the SouthUtah County Writers are now part of our chapter. We're thrilled by the new infusion of people, ideas, and talents. Strength in numbers, as the saying goes.

We've been favored by several excellent speakers over the past few months. In October, **Annette Lyon** gave us practical tips on how to clean up our manuscripts, making them more appealing to editors and agents. Annette is a professional proof-reader/editor as well as the author of several fictional novels.

In November, Tristi Pinkston, author of several historical fiction books, spoke to our group on writing realistic historical fiction. We now have greater appreciation for the research that goes into historical fiction novels.

In January, BYU Professor John Bennion spoke to our group on storytelling and writing fiction. Professor Bennion teaches creative writing and writes fiction about the Mormon communities in the western Utah desert. He is currently searching for a publisher for his novel, *The Burial Pool*.

**Heather Moore's** book, *The Promised Land* was released this September. Congratulations Heather!

We look forward to more member achievements in the coming year. Something I learned in 2006 is that writing is a tough business, and it helps to just work on it a little bit each day to stay focused. I'm going to try to remember to write for the joy of writing all through 2007.

— *Ellen Hawkins*



# St. George Seminars

WITH DIAN THOMAS

Author and public speaker Dian Thomas will share her expertise in two seminars to be held on Friday, March 9, from 9 to 12 a.m. at the Udvar Hazy Building on Dixie State College campus (St. George).

Thomas will speak to small business owners about free publicity. Hosted by the Dixie Business Alliance and the St. George Chamber of Commerce, the cost of this workshop is \$39.

Thomas has published 13 books and recently created and compiled an information kit titled *How to Get a Million Dollars' Worth of Free Publicity*. This kit is based on her 26 years of experience working with the media.

An afternoon session from 2 to 5 p.m. will be hosted by the Heritage Writers Guild chapter of the League of Utah Writers. Local authors are in-

vited to learn "How to Write and Market a Bestseller." Cost for the afternoon session is \$30 for members and \$39 non-members.

Workshop Chair Becky Jackson was mentored by Thomas when she was working on her nonfiction book about igniting creativity in young minds. "Dian," said Jackson, "gave me invaluable help and support."

Thomas was a 29-year-old home economics teacher when she wrote *Roughing It Easy*, a collection of mouth-watering recipes for family weekend campers and rugged outdoorsmen alike. She sent her book to *The Tonight Show*, offering to demonstrate some of the activities in her book. Johnny Carson took her up on her offer!

In 1975, a national audience watched Dian teach Johnny how to start a fire with steel wool and flashlight batteries. Shortly after, her book soared to the top of the *New York Times Best Seller List*, eventually selling over a million copies.

Thomas' appearance on *The Tonight Show* opened the door to over 5,000 television appearances. These included bi-monthly appearances for over eight years on *The Today Show* as well as regular appearances on *The Home Show* and *Good Morning America*.

These seminars are made possible in part by funding from the City of St. George. For more information or to register for these events, contact Cindy Stagg at 435-986-1461 or [cindy@car-data.com](mailto:cindy@car-data.com).

“ There are no ‘good’ or ‘bad’ people. Some are a little better or a little worse, but all are activated more by misunderstanding than malice. A blindness to what is going on in each other’s hearts ... nobody sees anybody truly but all through the flaws of their own egos. That is the way we all see each other in life. ”

— Tennessee Williams

**R.S.V.P. FOR SPRING WORKSHOPS**

You are invited to attend one or more of the Spring Workshops. Members may attend free, except for cost of lunch (\$10). Non-members pay \$30 for the workshop, plus \$10 for lunch. We would like everyone to eat lunch with us at the restaurant. Please mail this form with payment to Dorothy Crofts, LUW Treasurer.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which Spring Workshops will you be attending?**

- April 7, Sizzler in West Valley City (3429 South Redwood Road)
- May 12, Melina's Mexican Restaurant in Ogden (2651 North 1850 West)
- June 30, Cedar City (location to be announced)

**TAKE YOUR PICK:**

**We've got *three* Spring Workshops this year!**

**OQUIRRH WRITERS SPRING WORKSHOP**

**When?** Saturday, April 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

**Where?** Sizzler Banquet Room (back door entrance)  
3429 South Redwood Road, West Valley City

If you plan to attend, please call Dorothy Crofts at 966-8830 or 898-0606 because seating is limited.

**BLUE QUILL CHAPTER SPRING WORKSHOP**

**When?** Saturday, May 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

**Where?** Melina's Mexican Restaurant  
2651 North 1850 West, Farr West/Ogden

For more information, email Natalie Pace at [natpace@yahoo.com](mailto:natpace@yahoo.com).

**COLOR COUNTRY NIGHTWRITERS SPRING WORKSHOP**

**When?** Saturday, June 30 (time to be announced)

**Where?** Cedar City (location to be announced)

Future developments will be passed on to the chapter presidents. For more information, email Scott Holyoak at [sjholyoak@sisna.com](mailto:sjholyoak@sisna.com).

*In memory of ...***REVO MORREY YOUNG**

Revo Lucina Morrey Young passed away November 9, 2006 in Richfield, Utah. She was 99 years old.

Revo was a charter member of the Sevier Valley chapter of the League of Utah Writers, participating for 38 years. Fellow chapter member Grace Jessen says of Revo, "She was a re-

markable woman and she will be greatly missed by the members of the Sevier Valley chapter and many others who knew her."

Revo published three history books: *Ten Penny Nails*, *Sevier County — Past to Present*, and *Great-Grandmother Was a Pioneer*. She also contributed to several other books and magazines, including *Utah Historical Magazine*, *The Richfield Reaper*, and the Utah State Parks book. When she died, she was working on her personal history with the help of Rachel Olsen. Friend LouElla Lee remembers, "She was an excellent role model for other members with the high quality of her writing and publishing."

Revo received the Governor's Award from the State of Utah for "Woman of

the Year," and in 2001 the Richfield Rotary Club named her their "Woman of the Year" to honor her writing. Also, she was recently honored by the Sons of Utah Pioneers as a modern day pioneer. Her other accomplishments include a 42-year teaching career and three LDS missions to Texas-Louisiana, Glasgow, Scotland, and Boston, Massachusetts.

As an active member of the community, Revo participated in the Richfield Study Club, the Sevier County Farm Bureau Auxiliary, Central Sevier County Daughters of Utah Pioneers, and the Sevier County Preservation committee.

Revo is survived by a large and loving family, including two daughters, 17 grandchildren, 90 great-grandchildren, and 48 great-great-grandchildren.

**off the mark.com** by Mark Parisi



“ I love being a writer.  
What I can't stand  
is the paperwork. ”

— Peter De Vries



P.O. BOX 18430  
KEARNS, UT 84118

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BOUNTIFUL, UT 84010  
PERMIT NO. 310

PRESIDENT

Andy Anderson • 801-423-4019  
president\_andy@luwrite.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Dorothy Crofts • 801-660-5618  
dorothycrofts@luwrite.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Merrijane Rice • 801-298-7059  
merrijane@writing.com

WEB SITE

www.luwrite.com

Thank you to Deseret Mutual Benefit Administrators for donating the printing of this issue.

*The Lariat* is published four times a year by the League of Utah Writers. The League of Utah Writers is a non-profit organization dedicated to offering friendship, education, and encouragement to the writers of Utah.

**This project is supported by a grant from the Utah Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C.**

## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# New year, new writing goals

If January was the time to take stock of the past and make plans for the future, then February is the time to start putting those plans into action.

I hope everyone made room on their New Year's resolution lists for some meaningful writing goals. Are you finally going to complete your book, send in your favorite poem for publication, or try your hand at a new genre? Do you plan on attending more local chapter meetings, volunteering with the League, or joining a critique group? When it comes to writing, there's a goal to match every ambition—from completing the great American novel to completing a single journal entry every day. And if there's one thing I've learned from my own writing, it's that the only failure is in not trying.

One thing to keep in mind is that every new year brings a new League of Utah Writers Roundup contest. If you've never entered before, this is the perfect opportunity to advance your writing goals. Not only do you have something concrete to work for, but you also have the chance to receive meaningful feedback from judges who want to *encourage*, not *discourage*, your aspirations.

So let's throw caution to the wind! Let's take the chances and make the effort! Then in our future best-selling memoirs, we can recall this time as the turning point—the year that made all the difference in our writing careers.

— Merrijane Rice