

## President's Message

First of all, I wanted to say, Thank you!

Thank you for relentlessly striving to be the best you can by reaching for your dreams. Thank you for the interminable inspiration through your dedication to the craft. Thank you for being the beacon in the dark to help those like myself find guidance in a world dominated by confusion and uncertainty. Thank you for the significant volunteer hours, and tremendous leadership you provide locally and statewide. I want each and every member to know how truly grateful I am for everything they do. I promise to never lose sight of the fact that every action I take represents you and that I am your humble servant.

As many of you know I have been enthusiastic about the League since I was introduced to it. How could I not be passionate about a group whose goal of helping aspiring authors develop their writing skills, so they can get published, and helping published authors make the connections to be successful. Visiting the various chapters, and attending dozens of

events, I realized that the League has some of the best and brightest Utah has to offer.

I am humbled to follow such phenomenal talent as Amanda Luzzader, and Chris Miller. I freely admit that I am both intimidated and relieved to have the unbelievable talent on deck, with the Mr. Johnny Worthen as President Elect.

We had announced at the Fall Conference that we are formally starting annual conferences in St. George and Logan. Not only does it make sense for us to take advantage of the conditions in each location, St. George in the winter, and Logan in the summer, but it will bring a conference to those places to give everyone a chance to afford to attend a local conference. These additional conferences will also allow the League to better serve the state of Utah.

I am so excited to announce that Johnny Worthen and the newly established Conference Committee lead by Chair Terra Luft have been

hard at work on the Spring Conference. As you know we have the amazing Lisa Mangum scheduled to attend, as well as the return of the very popular practice pitch sessions. We are also honored to announce at this time Liesl Seborg Senior Librarian with the Salt Lake County Library System, and conference alum Author Cheree Alsop will both be presenting at the Spring Conference. Also as of today the



Jared Quan  
President, LUW

portal of presentation submissions will be officially launched on the League website. The portal will be up until February 1<sup>st</sup>.

For the fall conference, we are so happy to announce the return of Utah's Poet Laureate Lance Larson and Author Maxwell Alexander Drake. Both will be joining Keynote Author Kevin J. Anderson.

As you know we have opened up ticket sales for Spring Conference at this time. For the first time we would like to announce two League Holiday Conference Packages, available November 1<sup>st</sup> and ending January 1<sup>st</sup>.

The first package for \$150 (a \$200 Value) will include Spring Conference, one advanced

workshop of your choice, Fall Conference, and the Friday preconference workshop of the Fall Conference taught by Kevin J Anderson. (Must be a member to purchase)

The second package for \$170 (a \$225 Value) will include a 1-year League membership, Spring Conference, one advanced workshop of your choice, Fall Conference, and the Friday preconference workshop of the Fall Conference taught by Kevin J Anderson. (Can be purchased as a gift, however additional information will be required)

I want to finish up my first letter to the League by acknowledging all those behind the scenes who have been and continue to work so hard to maintain the League and help it

grow. Also I also want to praise all of those dedicated chapter presidents and their support leadership. Please if you ever get a free moment reach out to your local leadership and board members and let them know that you appreciate them. It is because of their dedication that I can accomplish so much, and without them nothing would ever get done.

Now back to writing before you miss your Nanowrimo goal for the day... and look for more amazing announcements, they are coming.

Yours, very sincerely and respectfully,

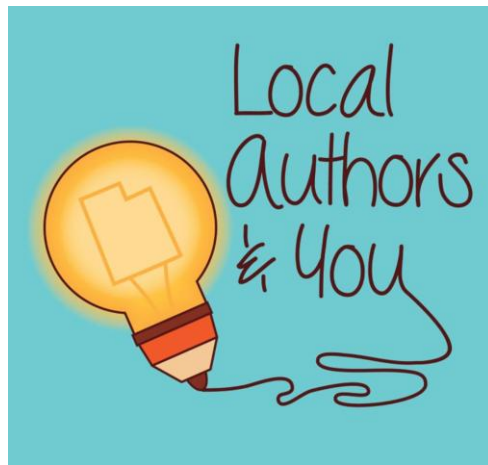
Jared Quan

-President-

**Thanks to everyone who organized, volunteered and/or attended the Fall Conference. It was a huge success!**



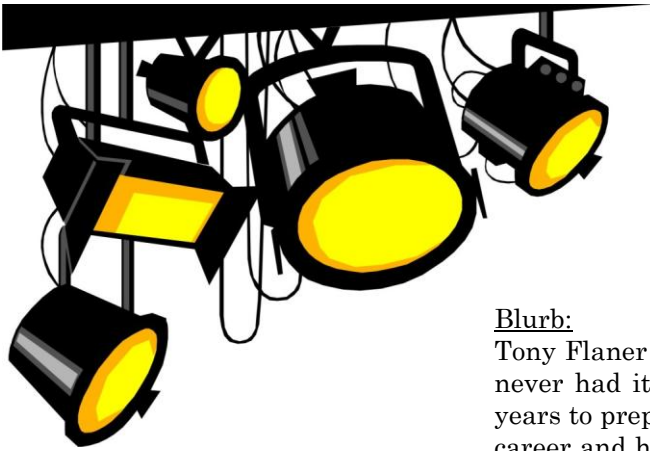
**Looking for a new book to read?  
Need a conference fix?  
Come to the West Jordan Library  
for their annual  
Local Authors & You event  
Saturday November 5th from  
12pm – 5pm**



## Quill Winner Spotlights

**Diamond Quill Winner  
2016**

**Johnny Worthen  
*The Finger Trap***



### Blurb:

Tony Flaner is a malingering part-time comedian, full-time sarcastic, who's never had it hard, and never finished a thing in his life. He's had twelve years to prepare for his divorce and didn't. He had his entire life to choose a career and hasn't. Now time's up, and he's in a world of trouble. But it gets worse. A first date and a drunken party ends with Tony facing prison for the murder of a girl he hardly knew.

Other than that, it was a pretty great party.

To save himself, wise-cracking Tony must discover who the mysterious girl was, what she was involved in, and what the hell she saw in him in the first place. Their lives are linked together at the ends of a Chinese finger trap, like life and death, friends and enemies, arugula quiche and pigs knuckles

### Bio:

Johnny Worthen is a nationally acclaimed, award winning author of books and stories. A son of the Wasatch Mountains, he graduated with a BA in English and Master's in American Studies from the University of Utah. With this basis in literary and cultural criticism plus a lifetime of scars, he writes upmarket, multi-genre fiction seeking truth in narrative. When not presenting at conferences or attending conventions, Johnny is most likely hard at work at his keyboard somewhere in Sandy, Utah with his wife, two sons and cat. "I write what I like to read; this guarantees me at least one fan

### How has the League of Utah Writers benefited you as an author?

Writing is a lonely business. Authors spend inordinate amounts of time sitting alone in dark rooms talking with imaginary friends. We are by nature introverts, sensitive artistic types. The opportunity to meet others of our tribe is always a blessing, if only to compare scars. The League has done that for me. The friends I've made are invaluable, the connections outstanding, and the work rewarding. I've gotten so much from the League—not just the awards, which are freakin' amazing and a HUGE boon to any career, but also camaraderie. Authorship is not a zero sum game. My readers can be your readers (and should be). We can and must and, in the LUW, in do help each other succeed. The League of Utah Writers is more than a professional guild, more than networking apparatus. It's a self-help group, a buttress against rejection, a family of like minded crazies, a school, a club, a party. It is practice, play and progress.



**Gold Quill Winner**  
**Adult Novel**  
**Jeff Bateman**  
***No Peace with the Dawn***  
**(with E.B. Wheeler)**

Blurb:

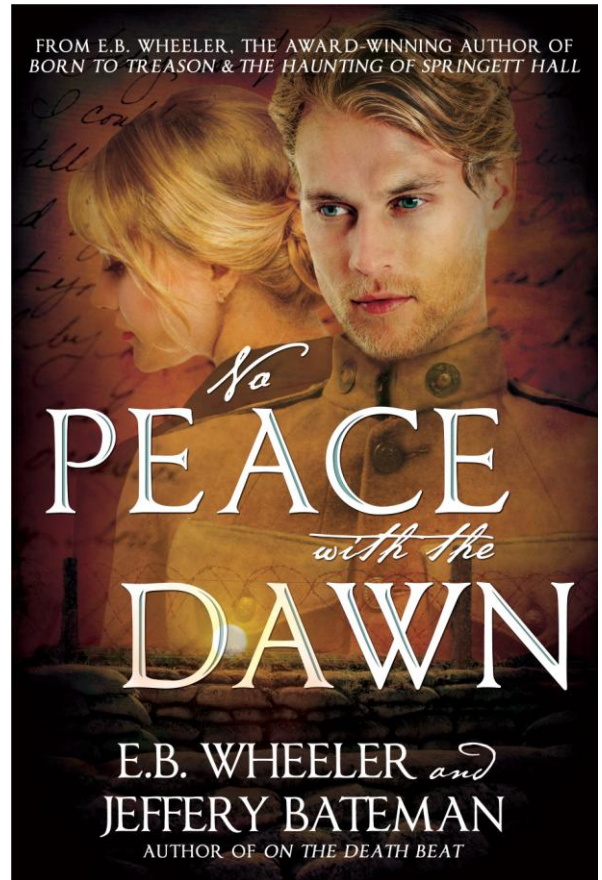
In 1917, the Great War seems far from Logan, Utah. But soon it will change the lives of suffragette Clara, Swiss-German immigrant and LDS convert Trudi, Marine Corps volunteer Reed, and Shoshone seeking U.S. citizenship Joseph. This novel weaves real events with compelling fictional characters into a sweeping tale of war, romance, self-discovery, and sacrifice.

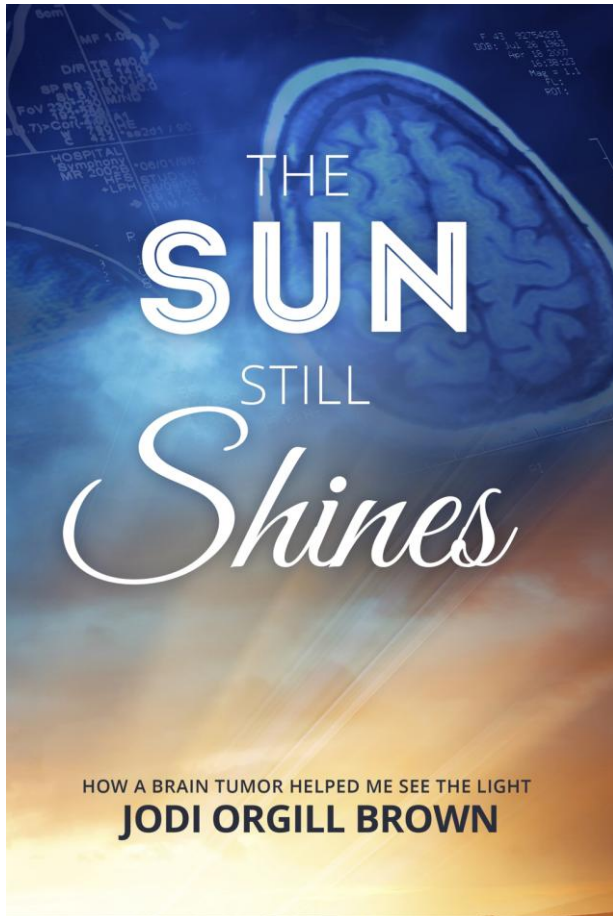
Bio:

Jeffery Bateman is a retired USAF Colonel. A graduate of the University of Washington, he holds an MA in History from Utah State University and an MS in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. Jeff teaches courses in American History at Utah State University. He is the author of *On the Death Beat*, forthcoming from Grey Gecko Press, and co-author of *No Peace with the Dawn: A Novel of the Great War*, Bonneville Books. Jeff lives on a mini-farm in the Wasatch foothills, where horses, gardening, and playing the bass fill the time he isn't writing or teaching.

How do you handle frustrating moments as an author?

The one thing I remember from last year's LUW keynote speech was when the speaker said "no one is waiting for your book." This is SO true. When you try to publish, and then, hopefully, market your book, you wade through a sea of rejection. Often, the response is silence, and this is the worst feeling of all - being ignored. So I remind myself - you do this because you want to, because you enjoy the process (at least the writing process). No one is making you do this and you don't HAVE to do it. So far, my answer is that I'll keep at it because it is an important part of my life - and I quit whining and wondering if my email still works for a day or two.





**Gold Quill Winner  
Non-Fiction  
Jodi Orgill Brown  
*The Sun Still Shines***

Blurb:

In a candid and witty memoir, Jodi recounts how her life was transformed when she was diagnosed with a brainstem tumor and thrust into battle to save her life. When surgery leaves her with a devastating spinal fluid leak and facial paralysis, even her own children fear her new appearance and physical failings. Interweaving the inspiring, provoking, and sometimes disturbing, Jodi reveals the hells and highs of her journey as she fights for hope and purpose—and life.

Bio:

Strategist meets Survivor. Jodi is the award-winning author of "The Sun Still Shines, a professional public speaker, and the founder of Amplio Development. She has B.A. in Public Relations from BYU and M.S. in Organizational Communication from the University of Utah. She worked for 15 years in the nonprofit field, and is a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE), but now focuses her time on transforming lives by helping others "Discover Purpose, Apply Strengths and Amplify the Good" in their personal and professional lives.



What advice would you give authors who are just starting out?

Believe in yourself and your platform. Do your research. Find a "template" of writing and put it to work for you (discover the timeframe, schedule and methods that help you be the most productive). Do your part -- join a writers group, go to conferences, get feedback and find critique partners you trust!

## Community Outreach Project

The LUW is pleased to continue its community outreach efforts throughout the coming year.

### **Book drive:**

Please continue to gather books for donation. We are partnering with an organization called Empowered Playground that collects books to send to Africa. We will collect books during the Spring and Fall Conferences.

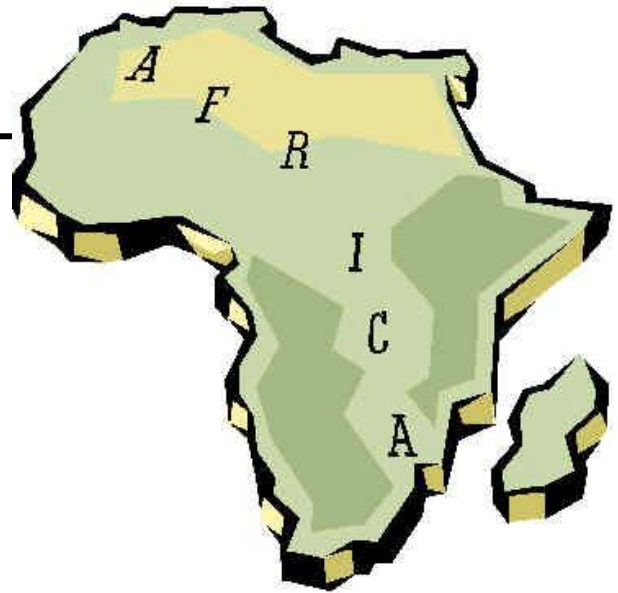
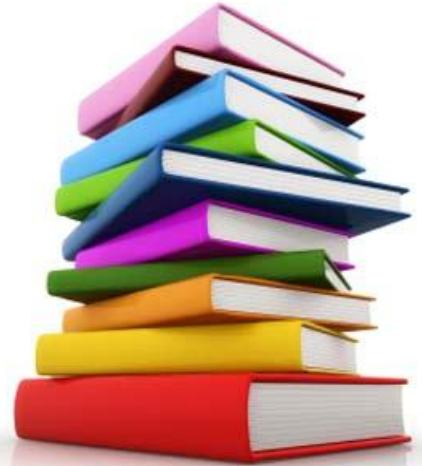
### **Scholarships:**

We hope to greatly increase the number of teenage writers that benefit from our conference scholarship program. We need help getting the word out, so if you have contacts within your local school district leadership, please let me know so we can let as many students know about our program as possible.

We are also hoping to extend scholarship opportunities to the Make a Wish Foundation and Huntsman Cancer Institute.

Our outreach programs not only benefit our members and scholarship recipients, but benefit the organization as a whole as these efforts help us to qualify for grants to fund our conference and other programs. Thanks so much for your continued help with these efforts.

Margot Hovley, Community Outreach chair  
[mhovley@gmail.com](mailto:mhovley@gmail.com)



### **Attention:**

The League is looking for a few good men or women who:

- Have the technical skills to help with the website
- Would like to join the marketing team
- Have experience or would like to learn and help out with grant writing
- Have personal contacts with colleges or organizations that the League might want to partner with

E-mail Jared Quan if you are interested in helping

[jaredquan@gmail.com](mailto:jaredquan@gmail.com)

### **Keep Your Eyes Open!**

The League is working on a publication list that will promote our authors at events and online.

More info to come in December. Get your submissions ready.

## 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 Writer's Guild

Heritage Writers Guild welcomes new Board Members:

Joe Gordon - President Elect, taking over as President in January 2017

Shelia Robb, Membership Chair

Amanda Empey, Web Master

Kathryn Peterson, Editor

Julie Walton - Program Chair

Yeahhhh! How wonderful for our own Amy Jareki - a 2016 Rone Award Winner for Time Travel for her novel Rise Of a Legend. Congratulations, Amy!

Congratulations to Marie Tollstrup and Mary Ann Mejdrich who were winners in the St. George Magazine Summer Writing contest. Watch for their entries to be published soon.

The October Heritage Writers Guild meeting was delighted listening to fifteen winning entries of the Fall LUW Conference. Special recognition was given to Tom Garrison, this year's Silver Quill Award recipient.

Congratulations to our members Marilyn Ball, Marie Tollstrup and Julie Walton for their published work in Volatile When Mixed.

Marilyn Richards, Joe Gordon, and Michelle Clements will teach a formatting workshop on November 5, 2017. \$20.00 from 9:00 to 1:00 at 1313 West Lake Drive in St. George, Utah.

Heritage Writers Guild - calling for entries: 8 chances to win.

Get Ready, Get set, Go - WINTER SOLSTICE WRITING COMPETITION IS HERE. Entries submitted from Oct. 1 to Nov. 15. Ask for Details!

Congratulations to Tora Moon, her new book is available on Kindle, and to David Vaughn who recently published Dark Canyons, alias, Robert Dwyer.

### Herriman Chapter

John Olsen just got his certificate for an Honorable Mention in the Writers of the Future 3rd quarter 2016 contest. Jon has heard it described as one of the best rejection letters you can get. :)

### The Infinite Monkeys Speculative Fiction Chapter

We held our first annual writing retreat Oct 6-9th. From Thursday night to Sunday morning, twenty one attendees collectively wrote just over 144,000 words. Several attendees were focused on editing but those words are harder to count. The magic of a writing sprint and collective writing goals has sparked plans to incorporate a second monthly chapter meeting devoted to writing. This second monthly meeting will be finalized and added to our chapter calendar by year's end.

We are hosting a NaNoWriMo Write-in event open to all members of the League - November 9th from 6:00pm to Midnight at the Village Inn in Sandy located at approx 10600 S State Street in the southwest corner of the Southtown Mall. You, yes you, are invited to join us if you can make it.

We are proud of all our members who entered the annual League writing contest. We had too many winners to list individually but they included three winners in the published book contest and eleven winners in the writing contest - including first place in the Short Fiction category and a sweep of the First Chapter Novel category.

## Chapter Chatter, cont.

We have several members with publishing news:

Maureen Mills' new book "Fires of Hell: The Alchemystic" released August 17th and is available on Amazon in print and ebook.

Jay Barnson's short story "The Priests of Shalaz" will be featured in Cirsova Magazine Issue #4 (Winter 2016). It should hit the virtual newsstands in the beginning of December. More information at <https://cirsova.wordpress.com/cirsova-magazine/>

Candace J Thomas' book "Everstar", final novel in the Vivatera Series, will be released November 5th. Signing at Local Author and You Event at the Viridian Center that night from 1-5pm.

The Infinite Monkeys want to be everyone's second chapter (because we don't want you to abandon your current chapters) and hope you'll join us at a meeting soon. We meet the second Wednesday of every month in Draper or Sandy Libraries.

### **Just Write Chapter**

The Just Write chapter still holds two critique sessions a month, which works out great for those of us who want to participate online either because of our schedule or where we live. We have "the regulars" who join us every session and we also get to welcome new participants each month. This is a fun group of writers.

This is what some members have been doing lately:

Brenda Hodnett launched her second novel on October 15th. It is a Young Adult book titled Blemished Beauty, published by Crystal Publishing. The book is available on Lulu at: <http://bit.ly/Blemishedbeauty> She will have a book signing on Oct. 22nd in Sheridan, WY.

Jeffrey Huenke won an award in the Children's Book category of the LUW creative writing contest. His entry is titled, "Willowbee's Workshop."

Bradeigh Godfrey's story, "Life, Death and Betta Fish," was published by Intima, a journal of narrative medicine. You can read the story here: <http://www.theintima.org/life-death-and-betta-fish/>

Another of Bradeigh's stories, "The Thicket," won 3rd Place in the Sunstone Fiction Contest. The story will be published in an issue of Sunstone magazine. Read about the contest here:

<https://www.sunstonemagazine.com/2016-sunstone-fiction-contest-winners/>

### **Millcreek Chapter**

The Millcreek chapter has rebranded itself as The Unusual Suspects. We have also added a meeting onto our schedule. We now meet the second Saturday morning of every month, at 10:00 am, and the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm.

We meet at the Millcreek Community Library.

Scott Tarbet, member of the Millcreek chapter, won the short fiction category at the LUW Fall conference.

### **Oquirrh Chapter**

At Oquirrh Writers, we've been privileged to hear presentations from fellow authors and professionals. This quarter we've enjoyed "Writing Action Scenes" with Ali Cross, a critiquing workshop by Nicole White, and of course the completely awesome summer social.

Many of our current and past chapter members presented at this year's hugely successful Fall Conference, including Angela Fenimore, Ben Ireland, Candace Thomas, Jared Quan, Jill



## Chapter Chatter, cont.

Vanderwood, Jo Schneider, Jodi L. Milner, Kim Williams-Justesen, L. G. Rollins, Mark Minson, and Michael Jensen.

We are very excited for our valued member Jared Quan to be League President this year and wish him all the best.

### Red Butte

The Red Butte Bards have enjoyed a few awards in their inaugural year. Kathy Goodman, President of the Bards won The Red Butte Garden's Spring Poetry Competition with BLUE SKIES BECKON and took third place in Spring Into Books for FOREVER MOOR. Kevin Shannon, Vice President, was awarded Honorable Mention at Spring Into Books for his lovely homage to ANTELOPE ISLAND. Jeff Huntsman, President of the Salt City Scribes, and Bard member, took two awards at the LUW Fall Conference. A Second Place for the hilarious GROWLING TOILET, and an Honorable Mention for the brilliant HOMONYMIUM.

We hosted a free workshop on Cowboy Poetry, by Rod Miller. Rod is the three-time winner of the coveted Spur Award given by the Western Writers of America and author of the famous Rawhide Robinson series. We hope to host another workshop like this next fall.

Please friend us on Facebook at Red Butte Bards and enjoy the poetic side of writing. We are a small group of wordsmiths who enjoy the poetic setting of Red Butte Gardens. An inspiring environment in which to exercise your writing skills and a great cure for that nasty illness called writer's block. Anyone interested in joining the Red Butte Bards, contact Kathy Goodman through the LUW website.

### Wasatch Writers

We meet on the Second Monday at Clearfield Library, and we are open to more members.

### Wordcraft Chapter

David Barnes: Presented his autobiography, *Insanity of Wars*, at the Salt Lake King's English and during a radio/TV broadcast in Chicago. Copies available from David on [insanityofwars.com](http://insanityofwars.com).

Joyce Wilson: *Playmates, Another View*, a delightful children's story was published.

Bonnie Glee: Presented her latest novel, *Invisible Son*, during book signings at Weller Book Works, Wisebird Bookery, and will lecture and sign her novel at the Viridian Event Center, Local Authors & You, on November 5, 2016, from 1:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M.

Rod Miller: Published, *The Lost Frontier* (moments in the old west you may have missed). Also, he recently signed a contract with Five Star/Cengage for publication of *Rawhide Robinson Rides a Dromedary*. This is Miller's third novel featuring the tall tale telling cowboy. The first, *Rawhide Robinson Rides the Range*, won a Western Writers of America Spur Award; the second, *Rawhide Robinson Rides the Tabby Trail*, was a Spur Award finalist and won the Western Fictioneers Peacemaker Award. Miller will teach two workshops at the Kanab Writers Conference, October 28-29, and participate in Salt Lake County Library System Local Authors and You event November 5 at the Viridian Events Center.

Gordon Wright: Published an article in the Park City Magazine.

Andrea Hughes: Publications, *Connections* (essays and short stories) and *The M Story*, can be viewed on [aimhighbooksann.blogspot.com](http://aimhighbooksann.blogspot.com)

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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.

**This project is supported in part by grants from the Utah Arts Council and the Utah Division of Arts & Museums.**



## Hi everyone!

The holidays are practically here. That wonderful time of the year when writing time seems to get sucked up by anything from family to service to binge watching Netflix to shopping.

Personally, I get exactly nothing accomplished on the writing front between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Which is frustrating.

This year is going to be different. This year I'm not planning anything big. Instead I think I'll download a few books in my genre onto my phone so I can read them. Or maybe a (gasp) non-fiction book. You know \*cough\* research.

That's a reasonable goal, right? I challenge you all to do the same. Set a reasonable, perhaps even fun, goal for the holidays. Don't set yourself up for failure, but plan to be ahead of where you are now when the new year starts.

Jo Schneider, Oquirrh Chapter



## 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.

