the Quill



President's Message

Dear League of Utah Writers

In 1978, a phenomenal distance swimmer named Diana attempted something that no one had managed to accomplish previously, swim from Cuba to Florida. This remarkable woman had already set a record swimming 28 miles in seven hours, and fifty-seven minutes just a few years earlier.

On Sunday August 13th, 2PM at the age of 28 years old, she dove into the water and began her swim in the safety of a 20-by-40 foot steel shark cage. Forty-two hours and seventy-six miles later her small team of doctors elected to pull her from the water. The currents and waves had pushed her too far off course towards Texas that it was apparent that she wouldn't be able to make it.

I imagine it was such a catastrophic blow, having been so physically and emotionally exhausted after such an attempt. A supreme effort in the prime of life surrounded by trusted friends

and associates, without reward. As writers, we physically and emotionally pour ourselves into the long-distance marathon that make up our works. We give everything we got. When we run into the pile of rejection letters, or being shot down after a confident pitch, and our family or peers pull us back because we have drifted too far off course, we are so spent it is tempting to give up, and some of us do.

Diana wouldn't jump back into the water at Cuba again until August 7, 2011, 33 years after her initial attempt. This time she upgraded her team and improved her tools. When that attempt failed, she tried again September 23rd, 2011, and again on August 18th, 2012. Each time upgrading her team, and tools.

On August 31st, 2013, at the age of 64, she would jump into the water at Cuba. Covering the one hundred and ten miles in fifty-three hours. Diana emerged from the ocean to make her way onto

the beach, spectators waded into waist-high water and surrounded her, cheering her on. Exiting the water reporters clamored for a comment, and she said, "I have three messages. One is, we should never, ever give up. Two is, you're never too old to chase your dream. Three is, it looks like a solitary sport, but it is a team."

Continued



Jared Quan President, LUW

The team she was referring to was the 35 person team that was with her the whole way. She made this attempt without a shark cage, but had an electronic shark repellent known as a shark shield which was mounted on one of the three kavak that stayed by her side. There was a jellyfish specialist that stayed ahead of the swimmer, helping the innocent but dangerous creatures out of the way. There were divers swimming under her to make sure no sharks or dangerous creatures ventured too close. A medical team that constantly monitored her vital signs, paired with a nutritionist that made sure she was hydrated and had enough protein.

Being a writer is like Diana said, it looks like a solitary sport, but it is a team. Who you surround yourself with, and what tools you have available. Having specialists like she did can make the difference between success and unnecessary frustration. The friends and family, to stay close to us throughout the venture. The critiquing group, to help you stay sharp, and on course. The writing group, to encourage, push you, making sure your vitals are good, and you are well hvdrated. The editor. specialist who helps you avoid the dangerous writing obstacles that can sabotage us. The beta readers, to support us at the end with final details, and support.

If you are missing someone on your team, or are looking for tools to help you make it to the end, please let the people around you know. We are all in this together.

"you tell me what your dreams are. What are you chasing? It's not impossible. Name it." — Diana Nyad

Thank you,
Jared Quan

Writer of the Year

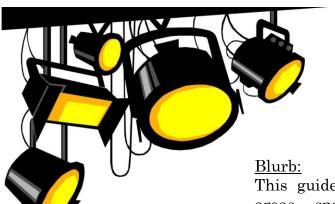
I'll never forget that night. It was the final evening of an amazing League Roundup conference. I was relaxing over a delicious banquet dinner, recalling great speakers, fun visits with friends and valuable insights that taught me more about how to be a writer. Someone began reading the description of the writer who was to be awarded the Writer of The Year. Suddenly, I realized that the description was starting to sound a little bit like me. I listened closer. The description continued to sound like me. Everything the speaker said was something that applied to me. I couldn't believe it. At the end of the narrative, the speaker called my name. I was the new Writer of The Year. I still recall the chills that I felt. I will always remember the thrill that this honor brought me.

Being Writer of the Year is a valuable credential that you never lose. It looks great on a resume. It's a fun fact to tell people. Lots of people notice the plaque above your desk. Your name is always on the League website and in the League directory. It's an accomplishment that pays tribute to your success. Now it's time for all of us League members choose a new Writer of the Year.

The Writer of the Year award celebrates the success of the member who has had the best year as a writer. If you know someone whose book/ books have really taken off, or someone who has landed a prestigious writing job or teaching position, please send your nomination to carolync@sisna.com for consideration. Please include any and all writing credits. Nominations must be received by July 31.

Writer of the Year nominations are open to all members of the League. Self nominations will also be accepted. Nominees must be members in good standing at the time of the nomination.

Carolyn Campbell, Writer of the Year Chair



Quill Winner Spotlights

Silver Quill Winner Non-Fiction Tom Garrison Hiking Southwest Utah and Adjacent Areas

This guide is about hiking and generally exploring desert areas, specifically southwest Utah and adjacent areas (southern Nevada and northern Arizona). There is no better way to experience the ruggedness and beauty, the history of settlement by Native Americans and later pioneers, and the solitude than by simply hiking and exploring. The purpose in writing this book is to enhance the enjoyment of all who wish to sample the richness of southwest Utah and adjacent areas.

Bio:

Tom Garrison has explored and hiked the American Southwest for more than 25 years. His wife, Deb Looker, accompanied him on all those treks and every hike in this book.

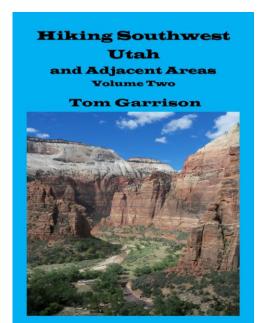
What advice would you give to non-fiction writers just starting out?

First, check and recheck every fact. I write hiking stories (and other non-fiction) and providing incorrect directions to a trailhead could lead to serious problems for the person using my story to find a trail and great embarrassment to me.

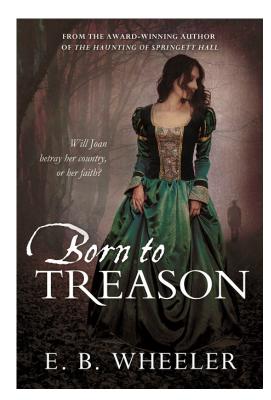
Second, unless demanded by the subject or format, let your enthusiasm for your topic show. No one who reads my stories has any doubt about my enthusiasm for the outdoors.

Third, write to be published. If no one other than judges in a writing contest or friends and fellow writers read your work, what has been accomplished? You might feel good about your work, but so what? Virtually everything I write is published. (More than 85 published articles and four books in the last six years.) Pick a media outlet (e.g., newspapers, magazines, a serious and often used website, etc.) and write an article they can't refuse. I write to inspire people to get out and enjoy nature with my hiking stories and to influence readers with my political/social commentary essays. I also write humorous essays to give readers a smile and a few yucks. For me, writing is too much work to be shared with only a handful of readers.





Silver Quill Winner Adult Novel E.B. Wheeler Born to Treason





Blurb:

Joan Pryce is not only a Catholic during the English Reformation but also Welsh, and comes from a family of proud revolutionaries. But when a small act of defiance entangles her in a deadly conspiracy, a single misstep may lead her straight to the gallows. Now, Joan must navigate a twisting path that could cost her life, her freedom, and her chance of finding love.

Bio:

E.B. Wheeler is the author of The Haunting of Springett Hall, No Peace with the Dawn (with Jeff Bateman) and Whitney finalist Born to Treason, as well as several short stories, magazine articles, and scripts. She's the League's 2016 Writer of the Year. In addition to writing, she consults about historic preservation and teaches history at USU.

How do you handle discouraging moments as an author?

Chocolate and good writing buddies. I think it helps to remember that everyone has to slog through some mucky spots on their writing journeys. If we have a passion for storytelling or wordsmithing, we'll still hit those rough patches, but that passion can see us through to where things get brighter again - we just have to keep going. I try to write every day, even if I'm dealing with discouragement or self-doubt, but I think it's okay to take a few days off sometimes to get things back in perspective and let our creativity bounce back.

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 Fall Conference as well as Spring into Books.

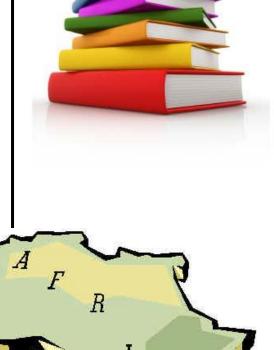
One thousand books make a functioning school library in the schools that are built in remote the areas of Ghana—places without electricity. The children work all day in the farm fields and now, thanks to Empower Playgrounds, the playground equipment generates electricity to charge lanterns so children have the evenings to study and read. But they need books! Please bring your new or gently used children's books to Spring into Books. (Sat. May 20th, 2-6 PM) Books for grades Kindergarten to 6th; please, no adult books or reference books.



Let's show them that LUW is committed to creating readers around the world!

Karla Jay

Community Outreach Chair





A big thanks to everyone who participated in the Spring Conference. It was a great success, thanks to all of you!

Summer Prequel Workshops

June 3rd

Editing

On June 3rd the League will be continuing its Summer Prequel workshops, offering an advanced editing course for authors looking to take their writing to the professional level. Whether the goal is traditional or self-publishing, the process of editing can be daunting for both seasoned veterans and beginners alike. Building on the successes and opportunities of last year, 2017's editing workshop will include both presentations and a hands-on workshop to help writers understand and practice the intricacies of editing. Editing your own work is unavoidable. We want to make that process as easy (dare we say fun?) as possible. Class space is limited, and a ticket purchased provides a discount to our year-end Fall Conference. More details to follow on the website.

July 29th

Marketing

On July 29th, the League is offering a second Summer Prequel workshop focusing on marketing. Whether indie-, self-, or traditionally published, effective marketing is key to distribute your work and gain the widest possible readership. Authors need to be able to market themselves without drowning their followers in endless self-promotion. This advanced course will feature expert presentations and panels on how to harness author websites, mailing lists, social media, and more to widen your audience and get on their list of auto-buy authors. Class space is limited, and a ticket purchased provides a discount to our year-end Fall Conference in October. More details to follow on our website.

Need your tie dye fix?

Johnny Worthen is teaching a 6 week class called **Writing for Young Adult** at the University of Utah for Lifelong Learning

Writing for Young Adults

Tuesday Nights (6 sessions)

May 16th — June 27th

(No class on June 6th)

6:30-8:30 p.m.

WRITING FOR YOUNG ADULTS (LLWRC 850) From Catcher in the Rye to The Hunger Games, 'YA fiction' seeks to address the problems and transitions of its target audience -- while also having the potential to captivate adult readers the world over. Discover the secrets of what makes fiction 'young adult', and what makes great YA fiction, from an award-winning author of the genre. Learn how to appeal to the 'gatekeepers' (the adults who help guide the young adult reader), avoid genre taboos, and how to manage the responsibilities as an author whose work can impact its reader unlike any other genre.

Link: https://continue.utah.edu/lifelong/class/llwrc_850_writing_for_young_adults

Space is limited.

The League of Utah Writers 2017 Writing Contest is Here!

This is a list of categories that are eligible for the contest this year. Please go to the League of Utah Writers website for more information.

Poetry

Love/Loss

Any style of poem in which the primary theme is one of love, loss, or both
-2 pages max
-Fiction or Non-Fiction

Light Verse

Verse with playful themes written primarily to please, amuse, and entertain -rhyming, metrical, and/or humorous

-40 lines -Fiction and Non-Fiction

Narrative Poetry

Poetry that tells a story. It is usually dramatic, with objectives, diverse characters, and meter

-Open or closed form -2 pages max -Fiction or Non-Fiction

Prose Poem

Prose poetry is written like prose, abandoning the lines breaks of poetry, but retaining poetic elements such as vivid imagery, metaphor, and heightened expression -2,000 words

-Fiction and Non-Fiction

Prose

Creative Non-Fiction

Factually accurate prose about real people and events, written in a compelling, vivid, dramatic manner

-5,000 words -Non-Fiction

Media Article

Any story or article intended for a magazine, journal, or website -3,000 words
Fiction and Non-Fiction

Humor

Written primarily to amuse. May be of any topic, theme, or genre
-3,000 words
-Fiction or Non-Fiction

Short Fiction

Stories that explore themes such as the human condition, interpersonal relationships, and societal issues. May also be described as "short story," "literary fiction," "straight fiction, or "up-market fiction"

-5,000 words -Fiction

Speculative Fiction

Includes genres like Horror, Science Fiction, and Edgy fiction. As well as fantastical genres like Alternate History, Fantasy and Apocalyptic/post-Apocalyptic Fiction
-5,000 words
-Fiction

Flash Fiction

A story with a fully developed theme, plot, and story arc in fewer than 1000 words
-1,000 words
-Fiction or Non-Fiction

First Chapter (Novel)

The first chapter of a novel that is intended for an adult readership, but of any genre or style

-6,000 words -Fiction or Non-Fiction

First Chapter (Young Adult)

The first chapter of a novel that is intended for the young adult or middle grade market but of any genre or style
-6,000 words

-Fiction or Non-Fiction

Children's Story

The text of a children's book. May be fictional or nonfiction and may explore any topic, theme, or genre, but intended for children

-1,500 words -Fiction or Non-Fiction

Spiritual Essay

Spirituality can have many different definitions, depending on who is asked. It can be something as simple as looking for a higher meaning to life, or something so complex that one can base their beliefs, religion and overall life around it

-2,500 words -Fiction or Non-Fiction

New Writer (New Voices)

-Must never have been paid for writing to enter as a New Writer

First Chapter

The first chapter of any style or genre of book.
-6,000 words
-Fiction or Non-Fiction

Creative Non-Fiction

Factually accurate prose about real people and events, written in a compelling, vivid, dramatic manner

-5,000 words -Non-Fiction

Fiction

Stories that explore themes such as the human condition, interpersonal relationships, and societal issues. May also be described as "short story," "literary fiction," "straight fiction, or "up-market fiction"

-5,000 words -Fiction

Poetry

Any style or type of poem -2,000 words -Fiction-Non-Fiction

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.

Blue Quill

March 20th, Jenny Rabe, past president of the Blue Quill group, published a story in an anthology titled Mindagames. Here is a little blurb about it:

Sometimes the mind does more than play tricks on you-it plays twisted games. In this collaboration, wrap your brains around 25 stories ranging from soul-bending heartbreaking to enchanting and sublime. Follow a teacher trapped at a mysterious convention, a man whose only chance at survival is a finicky love potion, a student who sees the monsters in others, a Syrian boy coming to grips with a new reality, and many more. This collection features award-winning offerings from established and up-and-coming authors from the LDS Beta Readers group. Are you ready to play?

You can find it on Amazon.

Cache Valley

It's been a cold but productive winter here in Cache Valley.

Amanda Luzzader, Chadd VanZanten, Felicia Rose, Isaac Timm, and Tim Keller were included with writing greats like Dinty Moore, Jack Remick, Charles Waugh, and more, in the Helicon West Anthology, a 10 year collection of featured readers.

Amanda Luzzader's short story "Daphne" appeared in the anthology, *Chasing Magic*. And "The Day the Cats Went Missing" was featured in the Utah Horror Writers anthology, *Apocalypse Utah*.

Jeff Bateman's essay "Shooter" was featured in *Proud to Be*, an anthology of essays, fiction, and poetry, by military-service personnel, veterans, and their families.

Felicia Rose's Essay "An Issue of Heels" was published in the *Cache Valley Voice*.

Felicia has also written several columns and essays, including but not limited to "Miriam's Kitchen" and "Minimalism and the Homesteading Life", for *Mother Earth News*, a bimonthly magazine with a circulation of over half a million.

J. Anthony Gohier's short story, "Piper" appeared in the anthology, *Chasing Magic*

Tim Keller presented on critique groups and the LUW for the Cache Valley Writing Center, on flash fiction writing for the Creative Writing Club at USU, and on critique group practices at the LUW Leadership Conference.

Shauna Leavitt's articles "The Passion of Penstemaniacs" and "Orphaned Bear Cub Rehabilitation" were featured on *Wild about Utah*. While her articles "Leaving it to Beavers" and "The Long Drive of Dreams," were appeared in the *Utah State Magazine* fall and winter issues. Shauna's articles, "Bear Cubs Head back to the Wild" And "Pelicans at Strawberry Reservoir, What Do They Eat?" were featured on the DWR blog.

Felicia Rose, Isaac Timm, and Amanda Luzzader received invites to join *Poetry at Three*, a prestigious, University-affiliated poetry group. Emily Wheeler (Critique Groups) and Britney Johnson (Marketing) presented at the LUW Spring Workshop.

The Cache chapter drew a good crowd as the featured guests at Helicon West's first winter reading, among the highlights:

Jeff Bateman and Emily Wheeler, Writer of the Year for the League of Utah Writers, wowed the audience with selections from the LUW Gold

Chapter Chatter, cont.

Quill Winning book, No Peace with the Dawn. https://www.amazon.com/No-Peace-Dawn-Novel- Great/dp/146211900X/ref=sr_1_1

Felicia Rose had them rolling in the aisles with her award winning essay "Tête-à-tête, the Language of Hair".

Isaac Timm recited his Best-in-Show winning poem "Beast Man" as only he can. While Jeremy Gohier kept us spell bound with his Poetry award winner Wordplay "Facing Despair."

Last but most certainly not least, the 2015 League of Utah Writers Writer of the year, Chadd VanZanten, owned the room with his award-winning short story "And Once She Could Fly." Not a dry eye in the house folks, not one

Herriman

The Herriman chapter will man a booth at Fort Herriman Days on June 24th to get the League some publicity in our little corner of the valley. Come out and say hi!

We will be here: W&M Butterfield Park 6212 W 14200 S

Heritage Writers Guild

WHOPEE. We are proud to announce that we web have our own page (Heritagewritersguild.com) thanks to web master Amanda Empey. Although some of us are slow to send in pictures and needed info we plan to do better.

Next big news—HWG has applied for a grant from RAP money to support our group and with the efforts of Joe Gordon and Sue Leth, it looks like we might get it this time around.

Our critique groups continue to meet on a regular basis and those who attend love every minute.

At our April meeting, President Joe Gordon gave a lesson on how he approaches writing a new novel. He is what would be called a Macro Planner (see our web page) and loves all the steps necessary to plot the book before beginning to write.

Winford Wallace has completed another book, Second Chance, by Chance, a romance novel and has an idea for the next.

Evan McKinney spends most winters in Alaska, on the advice of booksellers in that state, printed up copies of his book on the history of the railroad in Alaska High Iron to Fairbanks – with the hope of selling it to tourists.

Sue Leth is working on two or three things as once, including a memoir of her time as an interior designer for big business in the SLC area.

Marilyn Richardson is almost (and it's about time as she has been working with illustrator Bill Witsberger for 15 years) on a picture book for active moms and their kids "Oh, Mom." She has a new cover and title for her multiple dimension book now called, The Mysterious Tale of the Red Jade, formerly Red Silk, Red Jade. But uploading to kindle isn't as easy as it should be. For some reason the page breaks and indents don't hold. But she is persistent and it will happen.

Denis Feehan, who travels from Mesquite, continues to write clever and witty short stories. He will soon have enough for a collection. Denis and several other members look forward to seeing their work in the LUW Anthology.

Two of our members, Marie Tollstrup and Mary Ann Mejdrich, had their entries selected for publication in the St. George Magazine.

Chapter Chatter, cont.

Infinite Monkeys

Melissa McShane released her latest novel "Wondering Sight" in January.

K Scott Foreman was invited to speak to the Weber State University Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society at their induction ceremony.

Jay Barnson's short story "Crawlers" was published in Vol 12 Issue 1 of Electric Spec magazine.

Michael Darling's "Got Hope", sequel to the best-selling urban fantasy "Got Luck" published in March.

Johnny Worthen will be teaching a course on writing for YA through the University of Utah Lifelong Learning.

The second annual Infinite Weekend Writing Retreat sold out in a record 20 minutes.

Just Write Chapter

Ann Gordon is president (ann@gordoncomputer.com) and Mechelle Morrison is vice-president. Just Write has members all around Utah and in several states.

We have an active review/critique group and hold critique sessions twice a month. Members are allowed to share up to 3000 words each session. Ann creates a monthly newsletter for chapter members. Here is some member writing news:

- * Shawn Pollock has signed a publishing contract with Cedar Fort for his novel, The Road to Freedom.
- * Brenda Hodnett's New Adult novel has been published by Crystal Publishing, LLC. The title of her coming of age love story is Blemished Beauty.

- * V.J.O. Gardner, author of the Tales of Asculum (a group of fractured fairy tales) held a book signing April 22 at Pioneer Book in Provo. She also had a table at SLC ComicCon FanX in March.
- * This spring Ann judged entries for an international mystery contest. She said most entries were so-so, but she was happy to give one entry the highest possible points. She reminds her chapter contest entrants to remember to "write tight."

Millcreek

The Millcreek Chapter hosted Dave Butler at our Thursday night meeting, he talked on how to successfully market your book, getting those in attendance to workshop their elevator pitches.

Oquirrh Writers

Oquirrh Writers Chapter had a blast at this year's LUW Spring Conference, members Craig Kingsman and Jodi L. Milner each gave fantastic presentations and many of our members came to learn more about the craft. Thanks to the organizers for this great event. Eliza Crosby will be releasing her middle grade novel "The Eyeball Mysteries" in May. Watch Facebook for info about the release party. Way to go, Eliza!

Brenda Birch Gallaher is publishing a short story in a magazine. Details to come!

Jodi L. Milner's story "Skull Collector" was shortlisted in SQ Magazine's Story Quest Contest. Issue info will be listed on her Facebook page when available.

With cooperation with other LUW chapters, we are working to make this year's Spring into Books event Utah's Awesomeist Author Signing. Our goal this year is to work closely with many of Utah's favorite publishers as well as our talented indie authors. Save the Date! May 20th at the Library's Viridian Event Center in West Jordan.

Chapter Chatter, cont.

Author tables are still available - go to http://LUWOC.com for more info.

Chapter meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month in the West Jordan City Hall's Community Room at 7pm. We split the meeting into two halves. The first half is a presentation and the second is for critiques of writing projects.

Salt Lake Scribes

The Salt Lake Scribes have been streaming forward with lots of new stories and books on the horizon. Our group has been growing rapidly this last few months with some terrific new scribes.

Cindy Hung is our new Vice President. She has set up a new Facebook page that is beginning to take off. Big thanks to her.

We are planning on filling up the pages of the next issue with our accomplishments, but for now we're pacing ourselves.

Wasatch Writers

Wasatch Writers has been around for over 30 years with some of our members being involved since the beginning. We meet on the second Monday of each month at the Clearfield Library from 6:30 to 8:30 in the evening. We are also meeting on the fourth Monday at the Kaysville Library during the same time period. We are currently accepting new members. If you are interested, drop our chapter President a line at patlundeen@hotmail.com. Visitors are always welcome.

We have writers concentrating on short stories, historical fiction and non-fiction, sci-fi and fantasy, as well as non-fiction, informational. However, we are not genre specific and love to read and learn about all genres.

We have several activities coming up. May 8th we will have Kelley Lindberg speaking with us on the topic: "Writing Effective Query Letters." Then, on July 10th we will have Eric Swedin giving us some tips on keeping history straight in our writing. We have Tiffany Stockholm scheduled for August; she will speak on "The Four Pillars of Critiquing." All of our speakers have expertise in their fields and we appreciate their willingness to speak to our group. Hope to see some new faces at our upcoming meetings.

Wordcraft

I just received some news from our Wordcraft Member Joyce Skidmore: She's been involved in a 10 week pilot program for readers theatre. She wrote the scripts, directed the final event, and it was a huge success. Yesterday (April 19, 2017) she was interviewed for an hour and five minutes by EngAge Utah, ZAP, Utah Arts and Museums, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

We had our annual February Wordcraft Chapter writing contest with the theme SECRETS, and the winners are:

First Place: Sharee Hughes

Second Place: Tie - Eilene Bodell and Lynn

Hoins

Third place - Janie Ruff.

Lynn Hoins entered the 2017 UTSPS contest. Good luck to her.

President Jared Quan

lecriveur@gmail.com

Membership Chair **Bruce Richardson**Bruce@bdrichardson.com

Newsletter Editor **Jo Ann Schneider** jschneider.writer@gmail.com

Web Site: www.luwriters.org

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!

Does anyone else get frustrated with their manuscript? With their lack of progress on a manuscript? With the ease that they are distracted by the internet, or chocolate, or sleep, or I don't know, air?

Or is it just me?

Some aspects of writing are fun, others are a chore, and others I avoid like the plague. Like dishes and weeding. (I know, I know, someone likes weeding...)

Unfortunately, we've all decided that the end product of our toil is worth it, so it's time to gird those proverbial loins and get to it.

What is your writing goal for the summer? What are you going to do to make it happen? Do you have your team set up to help you (See Jared's message on the first page)?

Each day is a new day. Let's do this thing!

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.

