

TAKE A LOOK AT

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Focus on good writing, not perfection

Having trouble finishing a writing project you've been working on, maybe for years? Wouldn't it be nice if you could blame this problem on a basic philosophy such as one held by the Navajos (as described by Hampton Sides in his book, *Blood and Thunder: An Epic of the American West*)?

"Navajos," Sides writes, "hated to complete anything—whether it was a basket, a blanket, a song, or a story. They never wanted their artifacts to be too perfect, or too closed-ended, for a definitive ending cramped the spirit of the creator and sapped the life from the art. So they left little gaps and imperfections, deliberate lacunae* that kept things alive for another day. To them, comprehensiveness was tantamount to suffocation. Aesthetically and literally, Navajos always left themselves an out."

The only comparison I can make for myself is that I do feel a certain sadness when a writing project is coming to an end, particularly if I think I've done well. But wait, I can't remember when I've ever felt my writing was perfect enough that I stopped the rewrite and editing process. On the other hand, maybe I can forgive myself little gaps and imperfections in my writing.

I'm not sure the following Navajo tradition relates to writing, but since you've probably heard of this, I de-



cid to include it.

"Even today, Navajo blankets often have a faint imperfection designed to let the creation breathe—a thin line that originates from the center and extends all the way to the edge, sometimes with a single thread dangling from its border; tellingly, the Navajos call this intentional flaw the 'spirit outlet.'" (p. 22)

I must say that the one thing that gets me going, gets me out of my rut and back to writing, is a contest. If I don't have a fresh idea, I dig into some old files, look at what's there, try to improve it and put it in the mail. I trust you are all busy doing the same for the upcoming contest.

* I didn't know this word either so I had to look it up. Did you?

— Marilyn Richardson

GET READY FOR **Round-Up**

Friday, September 12	
9 to 11:50 a.m.	Class Activity: Elizabeth Lyon. Manuscript may be included in a publication sold at the museum to help support education work. Fee: \$10.
12 to 12:50 p.m.	Lunch at Marriott
1 to 3:50 p.m.	Class activity: Elizabeth Lyon
4 to 4:55 p.m.	Board meeting
5 to 6 p.m.	Registration: Meet & Greet
6 to 8:30 p.m.	Welcome and Poetry Awards Banquet: Speaker David Sheffield, Hollywood screenwriter
Saturday, September 13	
7:30 to 9 a.m.	Breakfast on your own. Check out 25th Street Restaurant.
8 to 9 a.m.	Registration
9 to 9:50 a.m.	Two sessions of four class choices, including: Sharon Mignerey; Wendy Toliver; James Dashner; Louise Knot Ahern; Elizabeth Lyon; Patricia Wiles; Barbara Passaris; Tami D. Cowden; Stan Trollip; and David Sheffield
10 to 10:50 a.m.	
11 to 11:50 a.m.	Author's panel
12 to 12:50 p.m.	Lunch
1 to 1:50 p.m.	Keynote Speaker: Wendy Toliver
2 to 2:50 p.m.	Classes and speakers to be announced
3 to 3:50 p.m.	
4 to 4:50 p.m.	Agent / editor / publisher panel
5 p.m.	Break: Browse books for sale, visit autograph table, and network with fellow authors
6 p.m.	Awards dinner: Keynote speaker Michael Stanley (Stan Trollip)
7:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Awards ceremony: The "dashing" James Dashner will be the MC

CONTEST UPDATE

CEIL DE YOUNG, CONTEST CHAIR

I received the following email from Jean Reagan of Salt Lake:

"I wanted to share my good news. My 2006 entry in the picture book category, *Missing John*, which won third place, will be published in 2009! Tilbury House, a publisher specializing in "issue" books, will publish it under the title, *Always My Brother*. Placing in your contest gave me the confidence to keep submitting (after several previous rejections!). Thanks for the encouragement!"

Congratulations and thank you, Jean, for sharing that with us. I also noticed that "award-winning author" were the first words in the promotional material for Andy Anderson's newest book, *Women of Courage*. Andy is a past LUW Presi-

dent and won several awards last year.

All of us—myself, the judges, and many others—support the contest because of our love of writing and in hopes of inspiring and encouraging writers to succeed.

Already contest entries are beginning to come in and we're gearing up for a fabulous Roundup in September. Please read the guidelines because several things have changed. If you send entries by email, please put the word "contest" in the subject line. Deadline for entries to be received is June 16. Mail entries to Ceil DeYoung, 224 S Main St. #435, Springville, UT 84663 or contest@luwrite.com. For questions, email or call 801-722-4718. Good Luck to all of you.

Look at your mailing label. Does the date show 1/1/2008? If so, you need to mail your \$24 membership renewal check to:

**League of Utah Writers
P.O. Box 18430
Kearns, UT 84118**

If your renewal fee is not received before May 15 you will not be eligible to enter any of the "Members Only" categories and you will not be eligible for the reduced member rates on the contest or on Roundup registration.

In memory of ...

ELLEN JUNE BARRUS

Ellen June Johnson Barrus, a member of the Utah Valley Chapter, passed away on February 18, 2008.

June was an active member of the Maple Leaf Critique Group. Says fellow member Andy Anderson, "We lost one of the dearest, sweetest poets and prose writers of the League."

June served six missions for the LDS church with her husband, including to Mongolia and New Zealand. They had submitted papers for another mission the night before she died.

She is survived by her husband, Walter R. Barrus, her six children, and 15 grandchildren. Below is the last poem June wrote:

Please Sing When I Go

Bring on the music. Turn on tunes of love,
Sing hymns of praise to our Father above.
Play the piano, blow on the flute
Put on a jazz tape, anything will suit.

Let me hear music, let it fly, let it float.
I'm waiting, I'm listening to hear all the notes

A symphony orchestra would be a good start
Even a hoe-down would touch this old heart.

The Tabernacle Choir is a special delight,
Start it right now and play it all night.
I could listen forever to the Three Tenors tones
And would even enjoy a few western drones.

I can't wait for music. I've missed it so long
Have the kids and the grandkids sing me a song.
Play me a tune, press on the keys,
I'm hungry for rhythm, even blues will please.

I need no speakers. They'll bore me to tears
Give me some music. I've been waiting for years.
Play all the notes and let them sound out
I'll be so happy you might hear me shout.

When you gather together to tell me goodbye
Put on the music and turn it up high.
I'm listening and ready. Let's hear the sound
Of beautiful music sung all around

Don't give my history and old accolades
Just play the piano and sing hymns of praise.
Let's hear the Islanders blend each sweet voice
And my heart and ears will simply rejoice.



Ellen June Johnson Barrus
June 11, 1936 – February 18, 2008

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES FOR THE 2008 LUW ROUNDUP

Tami D. Cowden – Writer of Many Genres

Award-winning writer Tami Cowden has presented programs at many writing conferences and retreats across the country and taught online writing classes. Tami is the coauthor of *The Complete Writers Guide to Heroes and Heroines: Sixteen Master Archetypes*, a guide to literary archetypes. Her first novel, *Cruising for Love*, winner of RWA's Golden Heart, was released by Avalon Books. She has also published more than two dozen mystery and romance short stories.

James Dashner – Children's & Young Adult Writer

James Dashner was born and raised in a small town in Georgia, surrounded by a creepy forest that provided many ideas for stories later on in life. His love of books and writing made him dream of being an author someday, and he still can't believe how fortunate he is to have his wish come true. Though previously published, his most recent novel is his first to be nationally released.

Sharon Mignery – Romance Writer

Sharon Mignerey (www.sharonmignerey.com) has written books for Silhouette Intimate Moments, Zebra, and most recently for Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense (another

imprint of Harlequin). *The Good Neighbor* will be out in November 2008.

Sharon's books have won several awards including the Golden Heart, the National Readers Choice Award, and the CRW Keeper Award.

Barbara Passaris – Historical Romance Writer

Barbara Passaris is a seasoned educator. She is the author of various materials for curriculum and development. Barbara also is the author of several short stories and poems. She is an amateur historian as an avid reader of history and historical fiction. Most notably, Barbara is the author of the novel, *Through Tempest Forged* (Community Press 2007), an epic family drama/historical fiction of the American Revolution.

Wendy Toliver – Young Adult Writer

Wendy Toliver's debut novel, *The Secret Life of a Teenage Siren*, hit bookstores December 2007. Her second young adult novel, *Miss Match*, is scheduled to come out fall of 2008. She's also written and co-written several nonfiction books, including *The Little Giant Encyclopedia of Inspirational Quotes*. She is a copywriter for Hachette Book Group USA (Warner Books) as well as a freelance editor and article writer.

click on this



Looking for online sources to submit writing? Here's a good one at www.chickensoup.com.

Check out this free writer's e-newsletter: www.PublishingSyndicate.com/wownewscurrent.pdf. April's newsletter includes a review of a new book by Stephanie Chandler called *The Author's Guide to Building an Online Platform*.

For you artist's out there who post your work online, read up on the Orphan's Works Act currently before congress. For more information, go to illustratorpartnership.org. And here's a link to a Web letter-writing program so you can send your thoughts about this bill to congress: www.capwiz.com/illustratorpartnership/home.

Stanley Trollip — Suspense Writer

Stanley was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he did all his schooling, including an undergraduate degree in Statistics. His undergraduate work took twice as long as usual because of sporting activities such as cricket, rugby, and field hockey, as well as his involvement in the anti-apartheid movement.

In 1970, Stanley attended University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where he received a PhD in Educational Psychology. He co-authored three editions of a widely used book, *Multimedia for Learning: Methods and Development* (Allyn and Bacon).

Stan and co-author Michael Sears undertook several flying safaris to Botswana and Zimbabwe. They love to buzz a dirt airstrip to shoo elephants off. Adventures on these trips include tracking lions at night, fighting bush fires in northern Botswana, being charged by an elephant, and having their plane's door pop open over the Kalahari, scattering navigation maps over the desert. These wonderful times have fed their love for the bush, as well as for Botswana. When time allows, they play golf, bike, and hike.

Patricia Wiles — Children's Writer

To be announced.

David Sheffield — Comedy Film Screenwriter

David is a veteran screenwriter whose credits include "Coming to America," "Boomerang," and "The Nutty Professor." Taken together, the films he has written have grossed over one billion dollars worldwide.

His writing career began at Saturday Night Live where he had a hand in creating Eddie Murphy's most memorable sketches, including "Mister Robinson," "Buckwheat," and a musical number called "James Brown's Celebrity Hot Tub," which will soon appear on the Fox Network in a special called "The Fifty Funniest TV Moments of All Time."

Bill Contardi — Agent

For ten years Bill Contardi worked as an editor for NAL, Berkeley, Popular Library, and Avon Books. He was direc-

tor of literary affairs at United Artists and then vice-president of literary affairs at Warner Bros. In their New York offices, he was charged with bringing in books for the studios to develop for feature films. For 11 years, Bill was a dramatic rights agent for books to film and television at William Morris in New York. Since 2002, he has been a literary agent with Brandt & Hochman Literary Agents representing authors and selling their work to publishers. In addition to building a list of new writers at Brandt & Hochman, Bill also continues to represent the dramatic rights of literary properties for some Brandt & Hochman clients and for a few other agencies as well. He is open to all kinds of books, fiction and nonfiction (except for science fiction, fantasy, children's picture books, middle-grade fiction, and self-help).

Felicia Eth — Agent

Felicia Eth from Felicia Eth Literary Representation is an independent literary agent operating out of Palo Alto, California for the last 15 years. Ms. Eth launched Felicia Eth Literary Representation building upon her prior nine years of experience as an agent in New York with Writers House, Inc. Given her west coast location and her east coast knowledge and connections, Ms. Eth sees herself as primarily representing authors based out west to New York publishing houses. Her list is relatively small by New York standards, and consists primarily of adult non-fiction best typified as provocative and intelligent on eclectic subjects including psychology, health, women's and social issues, narrative non-fiction, and travel.

Kevan Lyon — Agent

Kevan has been with the Dijkstra Agency since 2004. She handles women's fiction, with an emphasis on commercial women's fiction and all genres of romantic fiction. Her particular interest is historical fiction of all types. She is also interested in non-fiction representing authors in the areas of memoir, environment, parenting, and current events. Kevan holds an MBA from the Anderson School of Management at UCLA and comes to the agency with 17 years of experience on the retail and distribution side of the publishing business. Her background on the buying and retail side of publishing affords her unique insight into what types of books will sell and how to market them.

She is particularly drawn to stories that draw the reader in and loves a sweeping, complex story with strong female characters. Her authors in women's fiction span a broad range of genres from more literary, commercial projects to all genres of romance including historical, contemporary, suspense, and paranormal. She loves to be surprised by a unique plot or characters and is always looking for a new, fresh voice or approach. With non-fiction projects she looks for topics that she is passionate about or that speak to issues of particular concern to women and families.

Cedar Fort Publications – Acquisition Editor

To be announced.

**Kirk Shaw – Covenant Communications
Acquisition Editor**

To be announced.

Derk Koldwyn – Deseret Book Acquisition Editor

To be announced.

Louise Knot Ahern – Author Coach

Louise spent eight years as a newspaper reporter and three years in non-profit public relations before launching her own author coaching service, The Working Writer Communications. After reading and writing thousands of press releases and news articles, Louise knows what does and does not grab the media's attention.

Elizabeth Lyon – Independent Book Editor

Elizabeth Lyon, owner of Editing International, works as a writing teacher and as an independent book editor, and has over 20 years of experience. She is the author of six books for writers on all aspects of craft and marketing. Elizabeth Lyon lives in Springfield, Oregon. See her list of client successes on www.4-edit.com and www.elizabethlyon.com. Contact her at elyon123@comcast.net or call 541-344-9118.

SCHEDULE FOR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Friday Dinner

David Sheffield

Renowned comedy screenwriter and speaker

Screenplays: "Coming to America" and "Nutty Professor" movies and Saturday Night Live

Saturday Lunch

Wendy Toliver

Best-selling young adult author

Secret Life of a Teenage Siren, Simon Pulse (presently in second printing)

Miss Match, on sale Spring 2009

Saturday Dinner

Stanley Trollip

International best-selling suspense author

A Carrion Death, Harper Collins

Published in United States, England, Australia, Italy, France, and South Africa

The Second Death of Goodluck Tinumbu, Harper Collins, will be released next year

“Dig Deep – Find the Writer Within” 2008 Roundup Registration

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____ Chapter: _____

CONFERENCE VENUE & HOTEL RESERVATIONS

- I will be staying at the Ogden Marriott!
 - Located in Ogden at 247 24th Street
 - Special room rate if reserved by August 15 is \$89 a night plus tax
 - To make reservations, call 801-627-1190 or 1-888-825-3163
 - The hotel is not responsible to meet any specific dietary requests or requirements

GENERAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PRICES

Full registration includes meals, workshops, speakers, and syllabus for Friday and Saturday, September 12 to 13, 2008.

- Member price up to August 15 \$ 98
- Member price after August 15 \$ 128
- Non-member price \$ 160

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION

- I want to register for the full conference. \$98
- I want to itemize my registration, as indicated below (only League members may itemize):
 - Friday night poetry dinner \$30
 - Saturday luncheon \$20
 - Saturday night awards dinner \$30
 - Saturday morning workshops \$25
 - Saturday afternoon workshops \$25

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

- Friday manuscript 6-hour class with Elizabeth Lyon (includes lunch) \$45
- Friday night poetry dinner guest (Name: _____) \$30
- Saturday luncheon guest (Name: _____) \$20
- Saturday night awards dinner guest (Name: _____) \$30
- One-on-one session with David Sheffield, screenwriter \$25
- One-on-one session with Felicia Eth, agent \$25
- One-on-one session with Bill Contardi, agent \$25
- One-on-one session with Kevan Lyon, agent \$25
- One-on-one session with Derk Koweldyn, editor Deseret Book Publishing \$25
- One-on-one session with Kirk Shaw, editor Covenant Communications \$25
- One-on-one session with editor, Cedar Fort \$25
- Sales table reservation for self-published authors and vendors \$25
- Renew membership for current member \$24
- New membership for non-member (lasts to January 2010) \$34
- Extra copy of syllabus \$10

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Check number: _____ Total amount enclosed: _____

Make your check payable to the League of Utah Writers and send it along with this form to:

League of Utah Writers
P.O. Box 18430
Kearns, UT 84118

For more information, call Dorothy Crofts at 801-898-0606 or email dorothycrofts@luwrite.com. For additional copies of this form or to get a membership application, go to www.luwrite.com.

Chapter Chatter!

NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

Blue Quill

Greetings from Ogden, Utah—this year’s venue for the League of Utah Writers Roundup! It’s been crazy over here, and it will get crazier still as we get ready to host the Roundup in September. I’m now on first name terms with agents in New York and California, although it could be that they see my phone number on their caller ID and just don’t answer (just kidding)! Actually, I was surprised how readily available and friendly these agents were. So we’ve managed to corner quite a few agents and they are really looking forward to coming the conference. Some are even coming earlier or staying later to enjoy our neck of the woods. And Natalie rounded up at least three acquisition editors from local bookstores. These agents and editors are ready to listen to your pitches.

Natalie Pace (LUW President Elect), **Jeff Martinez**, **Michele Mckinnon**, and I are on the planning committee for the Roundup. We’ve been meeting on a regular basis and things are going smoothly. There have been a lot of after-midnight emails between Natalie and me, and we’re meeting with the local business association and the mayor’s office to entice contributions of any kind to our conference. This will help us to make the 2008 Roundup the best ever. The rest of our chapter writers will soon be asked to contribute their unique talents during the upcoming months. It’s been great fun and we cannot wait to welcome the rest of the League, as well as writers, agents, authors, editors, publishers, and class presenters

from across the U.S. I’m getting goose bumps just thinking about autumn and writing and hanging out with like-minded people like you!

A couple of weeks ago, I did an interview with up-and-coming author Stanley Trollip for a South African magazine. Stan and his best friend, Michael Sears (also South African), are the talk of the town—or rather, the talk of the U.S. and Europe. These two retired professors published their first novel, *A Carrion Death*, through Harper Collins. “Smashed skull, snapped ribs, and a cloying smell of carrion. Leave the body for the hyenas to devour—no body, no case.” Is that a great pitch or what?! Their agent sold a two-book deal to North America, England, Italy, France, and South Africa. And thus Botswana’s extraordinary Detective Kubu saw the light of day and a new series was born.

Michael and Stanley write under the pen name of Michael Stanley, and are getting amazing reviews from all over. *Euro Crime* (England): “A rip-roaring read ... Detective Kubu is set for many great things.” *Publishers Weekly*: “Intricate plotting, grisly sense of realism ... make this a compulsively readable novel.” *Booklist*: “Fast-moving story ... Rich with the atmosphere ... well-drawn characters ... exciting debut.” *Library Journal*: “... will enthrall readers.” *Genre Go Round Reviews*: “The police procedural story line is superb” *New York Times*: “Kubu is also hugely appealing – big and solid and smart enough to grasp all angles of this mystery. Readers maybe lured to Africa by the land-

scape, but it takes a great character like Kubu to win our loyalty.”

Of course, being on the planning committee for Roundup, I was one-track minded. I asked Stan if he would, by any chance, be in America in September. He said he could be. So Stan agreed to be one of our keynote speakers at Roundup and will also present a class on co-writing a novel.

Last but not least, our chapter now consists of two critique groups. One group meets twice a month at Wise-bird Bookery, and the new group meets once a month at the Athenian Restaurant on historic 25th Street. Our chapter writers are anxiously getting their stories and manuscripts ready for the Roundup writing competition. We’re also practicing our so-called “elevator pitches,” and our pitches for those one-on-one meetings with the powers-that-be.

Hope you are having a great spring and will have an awesome summer!

— *Drienie Hattingh*

Color Country Nightwriters

For our April meeting, **Bonnie B. Robinson** of the Wordcraft Chapter spoke to our group about copyrights and self-publishing. She gave an excellent presentation on both subjects. If other chapters are interested in the same type of information, I suggest they give Bonnie a call.

Tom Baldwin and **Robert Storey** came up with an interesting idea

about getting stories published by having them put on CDs or DVDs. **Eric Bohman** is trying to see what he can do to help them with this project.

John Ault took time out of his busy schedule to send us some information about what Southern Utah University has to offer.

We also welcome new member **Wes Stephenson** to our group.

— *Scott Holyoak*

Heritage Writers Guild

We hosted an in-house contest to help members get ready for the Roundup contest. We also hosted a Spring Workshop on April 12 with the following presenters: **Julie Hawk** on the technique of interviewing, **Russ Estlack** on screenwriting, **Bill Mickelsen** on the importance of accuracy in setting the scene, and **Gary Christian** on the narrative poem.

Go-getter **Lin Floyd** now has a weekly column in the *Senior Sampler*, titled "Looking Back." She has been writing like mad and is ready to get published. Lin also leads an active writing group in Sun River.

Congratulations to **Marlie Warren**. Her poem took the "People's Choice Award" this year at the Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery Spring Salon 2008. What a nice honor.

Barbara Paape had four of her poems selected by artists in Mesquite who were inspired by her words to paint something new. Other chapter members who had the same honor were **Marie Tollstrup**, **Elliah Terry**, and **Candy Fowler**. Artist **Bill Wits-**

berger has had several awards for his paintings in recent months.

Welcome to new members **Barbara Funke**, **Shannon McBride**, **Leah Zollinger**, **Roy Jolley**, **Scott Wood**, and **Callie Johnson**.

— *Marilyn Richardson*

Oquirrh Writers

We hosted a very successful Spring Workshop on April 26 at Spaghetti Mama's Restaurant in Jordan Commons. Sixty people attended and the speakers were just wonderful. I heard comments from those in attendance that this was the best workshop they had ever attended (but I must admit that there were a lot of people there who had never attended a Spring Workshop before). The accommodations were great and the food was delicious.

Our guest speaker for May 15 will be **Eric Swedin** who will speak on "Writing Non-fiction."

Since Dorothy will be out of town, the June and July chapter meetings will be held at the home of **Anna del C Dye** (Natty). Her address is 6119 S. Don Leone Dr. (2940 W.), by the water tanks. If you have questions, call 964-0828.

Please come prepared to do some writing exercises and/or bring something you are working on to read and critique.

In August, we will hold our annual Summer Potluck Dinner at the regular location beginning at 6:30 p.m. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share. Also, bring something to read to the group for the program.

For new members or those who have never been to a chapter meeting, in August we will meet at 5075 West 4700 South #204 (office of Shadow Ridge Estates).

— *Dorothy Crofts*

Park City

We continue to meet the first Tuesday of the month 6:30 p.m. at the Park City Library for our monthly critique session. It has been fun to watch some of the projects in progress become more and more polished.

Irene Hastings has been busy with more news articles and preparing to teach another creative writing class for UVSC community education in June. If I know Irene, I'm sure she is putting the finishing touches on several entries for Roundup contests.

— *Barbara Bretz*

Sevier Valley

Grace Diane Jessen received second place in the Sevier County Farm Bureau Essay contest.

Caren Liebelt's new novel, *Autumn's Calling*, is out. It's the story of an LDS family dealing with muscular dystrophy and Alzheimer's. Caren is donating 10% of the proceeds from the sale of this book to the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Utah.

— *Esther Williams*

Utah Valley

Here's what's happening with the members of our chapter:

Nichole Giles won first place in the LDStorymakers first chapter contest in March. It isn't a guarantee of publication, but because of the win Lisa Mangum from Deseret Book asked for the manuscript and Nichole is waiting to hear back.

Andy Anderson's newest novel, a collection of short stories about young women from ages 11 to 24 titled *Civil War Women of Courage*, is now available on Amazon.com as is his other novel, *More Than A Job, An Adventure*. He co-wrote *Civil War Women of Courage* with **Kristi Sandgren**.

In March, **H.B. (Heather) Moore** won a 2007 Whitney Award for Best Historical for *Land of Inheritance*, her 4th and final volume of her *Out of Jerusalem* series. She also won the 2008 Grand Prize in the BookWise contest for her unpublished thriller, *QUEEN*. Her new Book of Mormon series, *Prophets of the Promised Land*, was recently accepted by Covenant Communications and *Volume One: Abinadi* will be out September 2008.

Michele Paige Holmes won the Whitney for Best Romance for her first novel, *Counting Stars* (beating our Stephenie Meyers' *Eclipse!*).

Annette Lyon was a Whitney finalist for Best Historical for her fifth novel, *Spires of Stone*. And in about a week, the results for the Best of State awards will be announced. Annette is a nominee for Fiction, and she won it last year, so we're crossing our fingers that she'll get it again.

Lu Ann Staheli is currently under contract to write the film adaptation of *Seasons of Salvation*, a novel by Dennis Mangrum. With principal photography to begin early in June, producers

plan to release the film in time for the 2008 Christmas season. Lu Ann has several other projects in the works, including co-authoring an autobiography of entertainer Alan Osmond.

Ellen Hawkins published two essays in the premiere issue of the Sigurd Journal, a new literary journal.

— **Ellen Hawkins**

Wordcraft

Our chapter meets at the Holladay Library the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

For our February meeting, we held our annual Valentine's Day contest expressing thoughts on romance in prose or poetry.

In March, we had two speakers—Lisa Mangum from Deseret Book and Lyle Mortimer from Cedar Fort publishing. They both gave us helpful insights about getting published.

In April, Shirley Bahlmann delighted us with her witty discussion of how she has built her own book-writing career. She is the author of numerous books, including the *Odd* series of pioneer stories.

Our members have been busy too:

Carolyn Campbell had an article published in *Senior Review*. She also had her articles "Marathon 101" and "Making Sweet Memories" published in *Utah Business*.

Julie Emmet won 1st place in the chapter contest for February with her prose titled "Everyone Surprises Me."

Val Greenwood was honored for his book *How Oft Would I Have Gathered You* on MyPage.com as one of the "Top Ten Reads of 2007" by Carolyn Howard-Johnson.

Helen Glissmeyer had two articles published in *Senior Review*: "Humorous Milkman Memories" in the January-February issue, and "Help! There's a Tigress in the House" in the March-April issue. She also had a story called "Miracles of Hope" published in a *Guidepost* book published in March. In addition, she publishes a column and articles each month in the *Holladay Insider*, a newsletter.

Elinor Hyde continues to publish her monthly newsletter for the Mt. Olympus 5th Ward.

Judy Olsen's novel, *Beyond the Horizon* published by Covenant, was honored as a finalist for the Whitney Award in two categories: Best Historical Fiction and Best Book by a New Author.

Janet Peterson has published a book, *Faith, Hope, and Charity: Inspiration from the Lives of General Relief Society Presidents*, with co-writer LaRene Gaunt. Published by Covenant Communications, Inc., it arrived on bookstore shelves in March 2008.

Carol Quist led a workshop on April 3 at the Ladies Literary Society in Salt Lake City about writing personal essays. She also helped with the production of *Sunstone*, issue 148, in December. In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, the *Deseret News* published limericks submitted by readers, and Carol had two of hers included.

— **Judy Olsen**

SHOP TALK TECHNOLOGY FOR WRITERS

by Mike Eldredge, Web Site Coordinator

As an instructor at the University of Phoenix, I'm faced daily with questions of what constitutes good Web research. Google is the best search engine, but it retrieves the good, the bad, and the ugly all at the same time. Here are a few general observations that usually hold true.

- **Wikipedia is NOT a good source:** The nature of Wikipedia's format—anyone and everyone can contribute—lends itself to questionable sources. For example, a prominent individual was referred to as a questionable figure in the Robert Kennedy assassination. The report was false and malicious, but it took forever to get the information off of Wikipedia. When you open a Web site to all comers, you're asking for trouble. However, Wikipedia can be used for general information—a road map if you will—but it must be corroborated by credible sites.
- **Government sites:** Information such as statistics from the Commerce Department Web site or reports on world conditions from the State Department is generally viewed as cred-

ible. I do a lot of historical research, so I regularly visit the Library of Congress and National Archives Web sites. Federal government Web sites usually have simple URLs (Web site addresses), like www.loc.gov, www.archives.gov, and www.sos.gov.

- **Private organizations that require your identity:** Sites like www.archive.org or www.newspaperarchive.com require you to login. Sites ending in .org usually have no fees or minimal fees because they are nonprofit organizations. A .com extension usually means you have to pay. The Newspaper Archive is a good example. I can become a member for a year or a month, depending on my research project. Seldom do I see fees over \$100. But that doesn't mean they are not out there!
- **State and University Resources:** Several state agencies, like the Utah Historical Society, offer credible resources for online research, as do universities, often through their libraries. The topic of your research should guide you to the data that you

seek. These resources always provide citations so you can physically go to the library to view the document.

- **LDS sources:** Everyone who's done genealogical research knows the Ancestral File is only as good as the person who sent in the information. However, there are some very credible and invaluable sites provided by the LDS Church. One site was the feature of Will Bagley's presentation at last year's Roundup in St. George. The Church has assembled a multitude of overland trail journals that chronicle the Mormon migration westward at <http://www.lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysources/>

There are no hard and fast rules to tell you what's credible in online research. You have to use common sense and critical thinking to evaluate everything. Consult other writers in your subject or genre to learn from them what to look for. When in doubt, this rule of thumb has never let me down—if your online research cites a written reference or document, consult the original source of your research to validate it.

off the mark .com by Mark Parisi



“ Don't use words too big for the subject. Don't say 'infinitely' when you mean 'very'; otherwise you'll have no word left when you want to talk about something really infinite. ”

– C. S. Lewis



P.O. BOX 18430
KEARNS, UT 84118

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PERMIT NO. 310

PRESIDENT

Marilyn Richardson • 801-423-4019
jayrich@infowest.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Dorothy Crofts • 801-898-0606
dorothycrofts@luwrite.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

WEB SITE

www.luwrite.com

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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Ready! Set! VOLUNTEER!

Okay, folks. In the last issue, I talked to you about the joys of serving, especially your fellow League members. Well, if that message sank in, now's the time to let us know.

Here's a list of State Board positions that are currently available to fill for next year:

- President Elect
- *Lariat* Editor (*hint, hint*)
- League Historian
- Nominating Chair
- Contest Chair
- SUBS Chair
- Spring Workshop Chair—north
- Spring Workshop—central

- Spring Workshop—south
- Chapter Presidents, where necessary
- Chapter Treasurers, where necessary

I know, I know. I hear you saying, "I can't do *that* job! I don't know anything about it!" I said the same thing myself. But don't worry—former Board members are ready and willing to show you the ropes. That's what the League is all about—teaching and learning. How could we exist with no one willing to teach and no one willing to learn?

So if you want to learn a new skill, pad your resume, serve your friends, and generally improve your life, just send an email to dorothycrofts@luwrite.com today. We *really* need you!

— Merrijane Rice