

## TAKE A LOOK AT

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Rewriting (and Rewriting and Rewriting ...)*

When I decided upon my retirement from teaching that I would try writing, I wasn't exactly sure how to begin. I thought I'd try writing short stories, but discovered I wasn't very good at it. How, I wondered, do authors come up with a plot idea, make the story about 3,000 words, and how on earth do they figure out how or when to end the story?

Eventually I came up with a few plot ideas, and even some endings. I was proud. Then I discovered the need for the rewrite. *What?* I'd struggled just to get a story written all the way to the end, and then I was supposed to rewrite it?

Recently I reread F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (TGG), including preface notes by Matthew J. Bruccoli of the University of South Carolina. I was amazed to learn that Fitzgerald had published over 160 short stories and essays. Bruccoli states that although Fitzgerald was an alcoholic, he was a serious writer and was not drunk when he wrote TGG. The novel took three years of hard work and the author revised and rewrote during galley proofs—a stage when most authors are finished.

In between and during reading TGG, I also read a long piece in an old *New Yorker Magazine* (Feb. 14-21, 2005)



about Andy White written by his stepson, Roger Angell. What jumped out at me (because I was thinking about rewriting) was the following: "...he rewrote the first page of *Charlotte's Web* eight times, and put the early manuscript away for several months 'to let the body heat out of it.' Then he wrote the book again, enlarging the role of the eight-year-old girl, Fern ..." (p. 142)

Of course, I've come to love the process of self-editing, and perhaps over-do it now. It's easy to lose the life of the story. But if I want to be taken seriously—if I want, as White states in *Elements of Style*, "to write in a way that comes naturally"—I must understand that this doesn't mean my first try will be my last.

— Marilyn Richardson

## What's New? for the 2008 League of Utah Writers Contest

- Beginning this year, we will alternate Children's categories with Teen and Young Adult categories each year. We will start with Children (ages 4 to 11) in 2008, and then Teens (ages 12 to 18) in 2009. Also, the winners of the Children's and Teens categories will now have their own award ceremony. This year's ceremony will be at a luncheon on Saturday, September 13 at 12 p.m.
- Some categories are marked "electronic submissions accepted." You may email as attachment—PDF or XPS documents created in Word or PowerPoint only (WordPerfect files corrupt in transmission). These categories will still accept hardcopies, as well. We'll scan those entries into electronic form so we can email them to the judges. Please email a Personal Submissions Chart with your electronic entry. Also, mail a copy of the email submissions chart along with your entry fees and other hardcopy entries. Write one check for both sets of entries. Next year we hope to make PayPal available for electronic entry fees.
- The League guarantees every entry a critique. But if a category doesn't receive enough entries to be judged, you can waive your right to a critique and instead have your entry fee reimbursed. There is a place on the new submission chart to mark if you would like a critique or a refund. If nothing is checked, we'll do a critique instead of returning the fee.

If you have questions, email [contest@luwrite.com](mailto:contest@luwrite.com), call Ceil at 801-722-4718, or go to the LUW Message board at [www.luwrite.com](http://www.luwrite.com).

GET READY FOR **Round-Up**

This year's theme is

**Dig Deep — Find the Writer Within**

**September 12-13, 2008 at the Ogden Marriott**

We have 40 rooms reserved. To guarantee your room at the special rate of \$89, call 1-800-627-7468 or 801-627-1190 before August 29, 2008.

The Ogden Marriott also has a Web site if you want to check out the amenities. Just go to [www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/slcoog-ogden-marriott](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/slcoog-ogden-marriott)

*Speakers and classes to be announced soon!*

CEIL DEYOUNG, CONTEST CHAIR

# Dig Deep, Find the Writer Within: 2008 guidelines

## General Information

The contest deadline this year is June 16, 2008. The contest is open to members of the League and to non-members who are 14 or older. Beginning this year, the LUW contest will alternate children's categories with teen and young adult categories each year. We'll start in 2008 with the children's categories (ages 4 to 11). In 2009, we'll accept categories for ages 12 to 18.

If you have questions, call Ceil at 801-722-4718, email [contest@luwrite.com](mailto:contest@luwrite.com), or go to the LUW message board at [www.luwrite.com](http://www.luwrite.com).

## Prizes

Judges will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each category. Cash awards for short categories are \$30, \$20, and \$10, respectively. Cash awards for children's, middle grade, and young adult full-length books are \$50, \$25, and \$15. Cash awards for full-length books are \$100, \$50, and \$25.

Up to three honorable mentions (non-cash awards) will also be awarded in each category.

## Entry Rules

- All entries must be the original work of the contestant. Previously published books, including manuscripts accepted for publication before the June 16, 2008, do not qualify for this contest. Published works may only be submitted for Publication Awards
- A manuscript may not be entered in more than one category.
- Manuscripts previously awarded a Roundup cash prize are **not** eligible in subsequent LUW contests.
- The Contest Committee reserves the right to combine any category with fewer than 10 entries with another category or to declare "no contest."
- Every entry is entitled to a critique—even those in categories declared "no contest." If a "no contest" occurs, you may waive your right to a critique and have your entry fees returned instead. To do this, mark "No critique" on your submission sheet.
- Entries are final as submitted.
- Entries that do not follow the guidelines or are in poor taste (as determined by the Contest Committee) will be disqualified and the entry fee forfeited.
- The author's name must **not** appear anywhere on the manuscript, synopsis, or excerpt.
- Double-space your manuscripts. Use 12-point font (Arial, Times New Roman, Palatino, or similar) on standard 8½ x 11-inch white paper with one-inch margins all around. Poetry may be single-spaced.
- Place category name and number in the top right corner of the page. Note that some categories require age group or genre in parentheses on this line.
- Enter the total word count one space directly below the category name, etc. on the top right corner of the page. For poetry, use line count instead of word count. (Do not count the title.)
- Return four spaces and type the title of your entry centered on the page (except for haiku, which do not use titles). Return two more spaces and begin the manuscript (remember to indent paragraphs).
- Do not place a page number on the first page.

### On subsequent pages ...

- Place the title (or abbreviated title) of your entry in the upper right corner of the page.
- Number each page in the upper left corner.

### Synopsis ...

- A synopsis is a plot summary. The synopsis is generally 1 to 2 double-spaced pages in the same format used for the entry itself. The synopsis is part of the manuscript. It should be written in present tense and include the ending.

Excerpt ...

17. Only **one** excerpt is needed, but send two copies of the original work for short categories that do not require an excerpt. One is for the judge to make comments and the other is for you to read at the awards ceremony if you win. For electronic submissions, send only one copy.
18. An excerpt is a sample of your writing from your manuscript. It can be up to 500 words. Your name should not appear on the excerpt. As with your entry, include a heading with the category, category number, entry title, and word count. Then return four spaces and center the word "Excerpt."

**Submission Procedures**

19. Assemble all pages of each manuscript in order. **Use paperclips only.**
20. Fill out a Personal Submissions Chart and attach it to the top of

the first document with a paperclip. Keep a copy of all submissions for your own records.

21. Electronic submissions are entries sent as PDF or XPS attachments, or in the body of an email. Please do not send WordPerfect files because they can corrupt during email transmission. Send submissions to [contest@luwrite.com](mailto:contest@luwrite.com). Send a Personal Submissions Chart with each group of electronic entries. You must also mail a duplicate Personal Submissions Chart along with your fee and any other hardcopy entries. Total all your fees, prepare one check made out to League of Utah Writers, and attach it by paperclip to the submission chart. If you send in more entries later, include a personal submission chart marked "additional entries."
22. Submit book-length entries in a sturdy cardboard box.
23. Adequate postage must accompany all hardcopies. Place loose stamps in a sealed envelope pa-

perclipped to your entry form to ensure the return of your entries. (Entries sent by email will be returned by email after Roundup.) Mail your entries to:

Ceil DeYoung  
224 S Main St., #435  
Springville, UT 84663

**Announcement of Winners**

This will take place at the League of Utah Writers Roundup, September 12 and 13, 2008 in Ogden, Utah at the Ogden Hotel Marriott. Poetry winners will be announced at a banquet on Friday night. Awards for children's categories will be presented at a luncheon on Saturday. All other awards will be presented at a banquet on Saturday night. Only first place winners will read entries or excerpts. In the event that a first place winner is not present, the next place winner will read.

Entries that are not picked up at the awards banquet will be returned via SASE.

**CLICK ON THIS** 

Looking for a poetry forum that's both meaningful and accessible? Go to [www.strongverse.org](http://www.strongverse.org), a Web site created by Orson Scott Card and G. M. Palmer. Their motto is, "Good poetry is meant to be understood, not decoded." Drop by to read works by poets both old and new, participate in discussions, read blog entries, and submit your own poetry for publication.

CEIL DEYOUNG, CONTEST CHAIR

# Dig Deep, Find the Writer Within: 2008 categories

## Poetry

Winners announced Friday night at banquet. **Only two entries per category per person, please.**

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. *Electronic submissions also accepted.*
2. **Free Style Poetry, Subject: A Special Event** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to 40 lines. No patterned rhyming. Event may be a holiday, family gathering, or personal achievement or insight.
3. **Love Poetry** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to 40 lines. Any style or form. May be romantic, of love lost or gained. Must be in good taste.
4. **New Talent Poetry, Free Verse** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to 40 lines. Any style of free verse. Any subject. Open to anyone who has not won a cash award in this category at Roundup. *Electronic submissions also accepted.*
5. **New Talent Poetry, Humorous** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 40 lines. Any form except limerick. Open to anyone who has not won a cash award in this category at Roundup.
6. **Haiku, Subject: Things in Nature that Fly** (Members only, fee \$3.) Three lines. Up to three haiku per entry. Traditional haiku have five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third. It paints a picture with words, capturing the essence of what's happening. *Electronic submissions also accepted.*
7. **Narrative Poetry** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to 50 lines. Any style or subject. A poem that tells a story.
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. *Electronic submissions also accepted.*
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. Include target age with category name at the top of the page. *Excerpt required.*
10. **Children's Story, Ages 9-12** (Member fee \$3, non-member fee \$6.) Up to 5,000 words. A fictional, prose narrative, written for children. Include target age with category at the top of the page. *Excerpt required.*
12. **Children's Article, Ages 3-7** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 800 words. Suitable for children's magazine. Include references. May also include photos (no originals and no personal pictures a judge could recognize). Include target age with category name at the top of the page. *Excerpt required.*
13. **Children's Article, Ages 8-12** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 800 words. Suitable for children's magazine. Include references. May also include photos (no originals and no personal pictures a judge could recognize). *Excerpt required.*

## Children's Prose

Winners announced Saturday at luncheon.

## Full-length Children's Books

14. **Picture Book** (Member fee \$5; non-member fee \$10.) Up to 1,000 words. Suitable for children ages 3-7. Focus on the pictures. Write to give the illustrator inspiration for at least 12-13 good scenes. *Excerpt or copy required.*
15. **Early Chapter Book** (Member fee \$5; non-member fee \$10.) Up to 5,000 words. Suitable for children ages 5-8. Use 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.*
16. **Middle Grade Book** (Members only, fee \$12.) No word limit. Suitable for children ages 9-12.

Character-oriented stories in which children solve the problems. Fiction or nonfiction subjects may include adventure or humorous stories written about families, friends, animals. *Excerpt and synopsis required.*

### **General Prose**

Winners announced Saturday night at banquet.

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, not necessarily humorous. Something one could sell to a magazine for a short or filler. *Excerpt or copy required. Electronic submissions also accepted.*
18. **Article** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to 1,500 words. A nonfiction 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, references, and photos (except personal pictures the judge might recognize). Usually appears in magazines, newspapers, and journals, and often involves research. *Excerpt required.*
19. **Travel Article** (Members only, fee \$3.) Up to 3,000 words. A nonfiction composition that deals with travel near and far. It may be instructive, informational, or persuasive, and focus on places, people, or personal experience. May include sidebars, references, and photos (except personal photos the judge might

recognize). Usually appears in magazines, newspapers and journals. *Excerpt required.*

20. **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 in this category at Roundup. *Excerpt required.*
21. **New Talent Short Story** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 5,000 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 in this category at Roundup. *Excerpt required.*
22. **Short Short 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. *Excerpt required.*
16. **Short Story** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 5,000 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. *Excerpt required.*

24. **Romance** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 5,000 words. An intriguing plot and well-developed characters with a focus on the romantic relationship. Make us believe that love will indeed conquer all. Most romances have a happy ending. May be edgy and deal with hidden and dangerous recesses of human behavior, but no graphic sexual details or offensive language. *Excerpt required.*

25. **Speculative Fiction** (Member fee \$3; non-member fee \$6.) Up to 5,000 words. Indicate genre in parentheses next to category in the heading (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.*

26. **First Chapter** (Member only, fee \$3.) Up to 3,000 words. Written for adults on any subject. May be the first chapter of novel of a romance, science fiction, fantasy, or whatever. Indicate genre in parentheses next to category in the heading. *Excerpt required.*

### **Full-length Books**

27. **Full-length Book, Fiction** (Members only, fee \$20.) No word limit. Written for adults on any subject. If more than one au-

thor collaborates, every author must be a member of LUW. *Excerpt and synopsis required.*

### **Additional Information**

- For categories that accept electronic submissions, send your entry by PDF or XPS attachment, or in the body of an email.
- Please send work produced in Microsoft Word only (WordPerfect corrupts during electronic transmission to my computer.)
- **You may still send paper submissions** to categories that accept electronic submissions. We'll scan these entries into an electronic form for the judges.
- Paper submissions will be returned the old way. Entries sent by email will be returned by email after Roundup.
- A personal submissions chart must accompany each group of electronic entries. If electronic submissions are sent later please indicate "Additional Entries."
- You must send the fee for electronic submissions by snail mail with your other hard copy entries. Perhaps next year we can use PayPal. Mail entries to:
 

Ceil DeYoung  
224 S Main St., #435  
Springville, UT 84663

Email electronic submissions to [contest@luwrite.com](mailto:contest@luwrite.com).

If you have questions, email [contest@luwrite.com](mailto:contest@luwrite.com), go to LUW message board at [www.luwrite.com](http://www.luwrite.com), or call Ceil at 801-722-4718.

A WARM WEATHER WRITING PICK-ME-UP:

## Blue Quill Chapter to Host Spring Workshop

<b>When?</b>	April 26, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
<b>Where?</b>	9400 South State (in Jordan Commons) at Spaghetti Mama's Restaurant
<b>Planned speakers?</b>	Josi S. Kilpack: "Voice and Style" Kris Bergeron: "Bad Grammar Makes Me [sic]" Kathleen-Dalton Woodbury: "Lucky 13: The First 13 Lines" Jeff Savage: "Plotting Your Novel" Kelley Lindberg: "Conducting Meaty Interviews" Walt Eddy: "Taxes for Writers"

The State Board meeting will be held at this workshop, so all Board members should plan to attend. The workshop is **free** to all LUW members-in-good-standing. Lunch will be served for \$15 per person (we need to have lunch to pay for the use of the banquet room).

Non-members are welcome to attend for \$45, which includes lunch. New members are invited to join at the door for \$39, which includes lunch and one year membership.

Please RSVP to Dorothy Crofts, LUW Treasurer, by April 22.



# 2008 Writing Competition Personal Submissions Chart

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

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

If a category doesn't receive enough entries to be judged, I would prefer:  Yes, send me a critique  No critique, please return my entry fee

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

Questions? Email Contest Chair Ceil DeYoung at [contest@luwrite.com](mailto:contest@luwrite.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  
224 South Main St. # 435  
Springville, UT 84663

Send electronic submissions to:  
[contest@luwrite.com](mailto:contest@luwrite.com)





# 2008 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, 2005 and June 15, 2008**. 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: Ed Smith  
1032 W. 200 N.  
Bountiful, UT 84087

# Chapter Chatter!

## NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

### Blue Quill

Our chapter has turned into a very goal oriented group of writers. Everyone in this group is set on getting their writing projects done. The core group of eight writers attend the meetings regularly and each brings new chapters/pages of work to every meeting. It's amazing to see how our writing has improved since this critique group started in October of last year. And we all marvel at the very helpful feedback we get from each other on our projects. We're presently planning a day on which we'll be working on our query letters. We'll also study the *Writers Market* to seek out the agents who represent our respective genres. It's our goal to send query letters to those agents soon!

We decided to have our twice monthly critique meetings in a more relaxed and inspiring place. Some time ago Jenifer Zeemer, owner of the Wisebird Bookery in Ogden, suggested that we meet at her old-worldly, quaint bookstore. I mentioned this to our members and everyone agreed it's a wonderful idea. They were familiar with this bookstore, full of character and friendly personal service, and have spent many an hour browsing through rows and rows of carefully selected books. Jennifer is very supportive of writers and encourages book signings at her store. **Barbara (Passaris) Emanuelson** (author of *Through Tempest Forged*) and Eden Writer member Wendy Toliver (*The Secret Life of a Teenage Siren*) recently had successful book signings at Wisebird Bookery.

We're not only working hard on our writing projects—under **Natalie Pace's** leadership, we're in the midst of planning the next League of Utah Writers Roundup! We're very excited about this project and are planning a great line up of speakers and class presenters. It's going to be an amazing Roundup!

Hope to see you at the Spring Workshop!

— *Drienie Hattingh*

### Bountiful

For our January meeting, we hosted author David Woolley. He used a PowerPoint presentation to show examples of his historical fiction. In his text, written as fiction, he highlighted the parts that were factual. The audience was audibly surprised at how he infused fact into his fictionalized account. Very few statements were not documented even though his writing made it sound like a totally created event. His presentation was informative and memorable—actually incredible! The group gained amazing insight into the variables for writing in a time other than the one we live in.

— *Janie Van Komen*

### Color Country Nightwriters

We had three new members join us: **Kris Bronsema**, **Eileen Saunders**, and **Eugene Stehno**. They have some awesome talent and are an asset to the group.

**Ronald Carrier** has self-published a new book, *The Buffalo Soldier and the Indian Warrior*. Ronald writes historical fiction for children on about a fifth grade level. I believe he has a great talent for it.

**Robyn Heitzler** has a feature article on Jennifer Rasmusson published in *Elan Woman*. It's great to have members getting their writings published.

**Christie Perkins** received a letter from the *Ensign* saying that they are going to publish an article she sent to them. She doesn't know what month it will appear. She is really excited about it.

**Sherrie Mackelprang** has sent her book to a publisher. She also had another article, "Gift of Love," published in the December issue of *Desert Saints Magazine*. I told Sherrie, at \$75 dollars an article every month, she'll be a millionaire if she lives to be the age of Methuselah.

— *Scott Holyoak*

### Heritage Writers Guild

We shared Christmas stories at a Christmas tea held at the Santa Clara Library mid December. Members also brought gently used, wrapped books for a gift exchange.

In January, screenwriter Dennis Lynn spoke to the group. In February, Judy Busk, a presenter with the Utah Humanities Council, will talk about the research she did for her book, *The Sum of Our Past: Revisiting Pioneer Women*. Judy will also have stories to tell about

her trip to New Zealand in January gathering material for a new book.

**Marilyn Richardson** is chair for our HWG members-only contest. The deadline for submission is February 19 and the winners will be announced at the March meeting. This is to help us get ready for the LUW annual contest in June.

**Bill Mickelson** has agreed to be our new treasurer (**Becky Jackson** is taking a leave on absence to complete a second master's degree). New membership chair is **Marilyn Richardson**, and new email message sender is **Mary Barnes**.

— Marilyn Richardson

## Oquirrh Writers

Our annual Oquirrh Writers' Awards Ceremony was held in November where we announced winners in the six categories of our 11th annual Writing Contest with the following categories: Poetry, Edgy Fiction, Short Fiction, Nonfiction/Articles/Essays, First Chapter of Novel, and Humor. We ended December with our annual Pot Luck Christmas Dinner, which is always a fun event when spouses and/or partners are invited to attend. Our January meeting was exciting because we had four brand new members who were there for the very first time despite the biting cold temperatures as they arrived and the snow that was falling as they left the meeting.

We would like to welcome our newest members since the last *Lariat* newsletter was mailed: **Tiffany Felix**, **Milton McCoy**, **Jennie Bickley**, and **Jeanne Mendenhall**. **Jeanne Sackett** was at our meeting and has joined

the League, but her membership will be transferred to the Sanpete County Writers as soon as that chapter gets organized. **Angela Ricci** was also at our January meeting and will be joining, so we're glad to welcome all these new writers.

I've been reading a book by Heather Sellers called *Page After Page*. It's a wonderful book with lots of teaching instruction and writing exercise suggestions (that's where I got this compost idea). It would be a good tool for each chapter president to use in planning your monthly chapter meetings. Have you ever thought much about the word "compost"? Do you know what compost is? When I think of compost, I remember the smelly, wet hole in the backyard where we used to throw all our potato and carrot peelings and any other biodegradable garbage, so that over time these things would mix together (compost) and provide a deep richness to the soil. Did you know that each one of us, as writers, have our own compost pile? To find it, you will need to dig deeper into the layers of your life, those things (the garbage) that you have tried to block out of your memory. That's where the good stuff is hidden deep down where it cannot be seen. You will need to practice over and over to get used to digging deeper into this richness, this smelly and most often undesirable material that will be available to you. This buried material is like a treasure that will enrich your writing and bring it to life, but you will need to ignore the fears that surround this urge to dig deeper. It's like panning for gold. You will find that it's a little scary at first when you decide to retrieve this material that will be damp, rich, dark, and complex, but this is your compost—your black gold! Don't just

skim off the top, writing fake, writing ideas—dig deeper! Write what we want to read! Write the good stuff—write the stuff that entertains and sells. Of course, be true to yourself and write what you feel good about writing! That's the most important thing.

**Erlene Johnson** has published a beautiful hard-bound 400 page book with pictures, which is a history of three generations of her family. It's titled *Our Family Legacy, a Treasury of Memories*.

**JoAnn Felix** has republished an 1,150 page family history book that she has been working on for the past 18 months. She received her first 200 books in December and expects 200 more in February.

**Clint Johnson** just joined the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, a pro-writing organization. He is also trying to contact every elementary and junior high school in America (he estimates it will be about 100,000 schools) in preparation to market his book.

**Sara Fitzgerald** has a new romance novella, *Yesterday's Wish* that is now available in print. You can purchase it through [champagnebooks.com](http://champagnebooks.com). She also received an excellent review for another of her romance novels, *Anything for Charity*. Enter her Valentine's Contest to see if you can be the lucky winner of her book. See details at [sarafitzgerald.com](http://sarafitzgerald.com).

**Connie Hall** gave 12 of her grandchildren an individual unique story she wrote just for them. Each story contained that special grandchild's name to make it even more personalized and special for them.

**Jeanne Mendenhall** is writing an historical novel set in the 1870s in Utah.

**Jeanne Sackett** is ready to locate a publisher. Her *Urban Gothic* novel about an immortal is now being rewritten and she hopes to find an agent and/or publisher. She is interested in finding a critique partner.

**Dorothy Crofts** is in the process of writing a comprehensive history of the League of Utah Writers to continue where Dora Flack left off at the end of 1996. She hopes to have the history completed in time to make copies available at Roundup in September.

**Angela Ricci** is writing her first book surrounding the death of her husband, Richard Ricci.

— **Dorothy Crofts**

## Park City

After a New Year's break in January, we plan to resume our first Tuesday of the month 6:30 p.m. critique meetings at the Park City Library in February. We want to remind everyone

### DO YOU NEED SOME DAILY INSPIRATION?

Maybe you just need a kick in the pants! Subscribe to David Farland's free e-newsletter, the *Daily Kick in the Pants*, to receive excellent, in-depth articles about the mechanics of developing, writing, and rewriting your story.

If you'd like to be added to his list, just email [dwolvert@xmission.com](mailto:dwolvert@xmission.com) and say, "Kick me!"

about the two-day, hands on Natalie Goldberg workshop where she will introduce the pleasure of creating vivid memoirs. The workshop will be held at Red Butte Gardens on March 15 from 10 a.m. to 5p.m., and March 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$250 and you can sign up at King's English Bookstore in Salt Lake City, or by calling Beverley Cooper at 801-557-3001 or Bunny Kaufman at 801-575-8533. Local Park City members can contact Lynne Rutan for carpool information at [rutans@comcast.net](mailto:rutans@comcast.net).

— **Barbara Bretz**

## Salt Lake

**Gordon Wright**, Treasurer for our chapter, wrote an article that will be published in the June 2008 issue of *Park City Magazine*. The magazine only publishes two issues a year, so way to go, Gordon!

— **Marsha Lundgren**

## Wordcraft

We meet at the Holladay Library on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. In November, we had a workshop where members wrote short essays and shared them. In December, we held our annual Christmas party. And in January, we joined with the Utah State Poetry Society to hear Theda Bassett present information about writing poetry and entering poetry contests.

Our members keep busy in other ways too:

**Carolyn Campbell** has published an article in *The Writer* about how to write and sell articles for the inspirational market. It will appear in the January 2008 issue.

**Helen Glissmeyer** has been informed that she will have a story published in a book by Guideposts Books coming out in March. The book is called *Miracles and Hope*. Guideposts Books editors invited Helen to submit a story on miracles after picking up a story last summer from her published book, *Help! There's a Tigress in the House* and including it in another of Guidepost's books called *Jest Patriotic*.

**Elinor Hyde** continues to write, edit, and publish a monthly newsletter for her congregation.

**Rod Miller's** nonfiction book, *Bear River Massacre: First, Worse, Forgotten*, will be published next fall by Caxton Press. Also, the winter 2008 issue of *Range Magazine* includes his poem, "Work Ethic."

Amazon Shorts recently included two of Ron's western stories, "Just Like Tully Said," and "After the Burnt Biscuits." This is part of digital download program for short works.

Finally, *American Cowboy* magazine has asked Ron to be a Guest Editor for poetry for 2008. The February/March issue will include a short introductory feature about Ron and his work.

**Janet Peterson** had an article appear in the November/December issue of *LDS Living* titled "Circle of Love."

**Cathy Witbeck** had an article in the April 2007 *BAT*; a story in *Stories for Children—ezine* (online); and in September 2007, a poem in *Stories for Children—ezine*.

— **Judy Olsen**

# SHOP TALK: TECHNOLOGY FOR WRITERS

by Mike Eldredge, Web Site Coordinator

## Voice Recognition Software

I had been flirting with voice recognition software for years, hoping that reality and my dreams of talking while my computer was typing would merge. I finally dismissed the software as too idealistic. Then the unthinkable happened. Early in 2004 I suffered a stroke, and it affected my left side, my writing side! I was despondent, and figured I would never use my computer again. My son had me try a myriad of one-handed keyboards, but they were confusing. I just began typing with one hand, and actually I became quite proficient at it.

One day, about a year or so later, I was talking to an old friend and he was shocked that I didn't use voice recognition software. I pooh-poohed the comment, saying "That stuff will never work." He smiled and asked me where I'd been lately ... Mars? He told me there were two leading software programs, Dragon Naturally Speaking 9, and IBM ViaVoice v. 10. He liked Dragon, and after I read the reviews on Amazon, I decided to go with Dragon as well. For \$60, I figured it was worth a try.

I installed the program without a hitch, and then it was time to "train" the program. I plugged in the headset that came with the program, and it adjusted the volume for me. Next, it asked me to read any one of a number of selections; I chose John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address. I figured that my unintelligible speech was pretty close to President

Kennedy's Boston accent. When it told me to begin, I really got into it! I mumbled along with my poor enunciation, all the while thinking, *No program could ever recognize what I'm saying*. Before I got to say, "And so my fellow Americans, ask not ...," the program chimed "finished."

*What? How could it be finished?*

But it was, and I was ready to start my first project. I brought up my WordPerfect X3 program, and found that Dragon worked with it seamlessly. (It does with Microsoft Word as well.) I took out my copy of *A Tale of Two Cities* and began reading, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ..." and magically, it printed out on my computer. It even copied, "the epoch of incredulity" without a hitch. I was stunned—even with my occasional slurred words, it copied almost

perfectly. I had to get the commands for punctuation down, but that didn't take long. And when I wanted to pause to take a phone call, or talk to my wife Michelle, I spoke the command, "Go to sleep," and like a good little program, it did. When I was ready to resume, I spoke into the microphone, "Wake up," and it promptly did as I commanded.

Needless to say, I'm sold! I use the standard version, but for more eloquent speakers, there is the Preferred model for about \$135. You can even get versions for medical terms and legal terms. After all, *ignorantia legis non excusat!*

In case you're interested, I dictated this entire article and edited in four places. The Latin term for, "ignorance of the law is no excuse," alas, was not recognized by my program.



DOROTHY CROFTS, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

# LUW to add two new chapters, and more

The 12 chapters of the League of Utah Writers should have all held at least one chapter meeting for 2008 by the time this *Lariat* gets delivered. I hope all members are taking advantage of (and appreciate) the time your chapter president puts in on your behalf. It's a scary experience and quite time consuming for some of us as we try to schedule speakers and lessons and discussions for every month. Please take a few minutes (right now) to email your chapter president and let him or her know your appreciation—and remember, the best way to show your appreciation is to show up at the meetings. If you don't know who your president is, or if you don't know when or where your chapter meetings are held, please give me a call and I will give you that information (my email and phone numbers are shown at the end of this article).

It's **membership renewal** time! Please write your \$24 check to LUW and mail it to:

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

If you don't know your membership expiration date, please look at the mailing label on the front of this newsletter, or the mailing label on your yellow *2008 Membership Directory*. Here is the payment schedule of how much you need to send, depending on your expiration date so we can get everyone brought to a January expiration date (expired members can-

not pro-rate—they must send the full \$24 amount):

IF YOUR EXPIRATION DATE IS ...	THEN YOU SEND ...
1/1/2008	\$24
2/1/2008	\$22
3/1/2008	\$20
4/1/2008	\$18
5/1/2008	\$16
6/1/2008	\$14
10/1/2008	\$30
11/1/2008	\$28
12/1/2008	\$26

I'd like to keep my master list as correct as possible. Please take a minute to look at the mailing label on this newsletter and check to make sure everything is spelled correctly. If there are any corrections that need to be made, or if you have changed your email address or phone number, please contact me. If you keep me updated with your current information, there won't be so many mistakes in the next directory when it comes out in September. Thanks to all those who have already emailed me with changes in their mailing information.

We are in the process of getting a new chapter organized in the Sanpete County (Moroni) area. If you know of anyone living in that area who is a writer, please contact them and encourage them to join the League (by sending in the Membership Application Form and a \$24 check to me at

the address shown below). We would like to see a good strong chapter in that area. We already have a chapter president and three other members, but we need at least one more member so they can officially be organized. We're also trying to get a chapter organized in the Tooele area. Please do the same if you know of writers in that area who might be interested in joining the League.

Some of the chapters are not sending me application forms with the registration of new members. I absolutely need the application form to be filled out and mailed to me. Presidents, please make sure you have some of the forms available each month at your chapter meeting. You can print them off at [www.luwrite.com](http://www.luwrite.com).

Members of the Executive Board of the League of Utah Writers are always open to your suggestions and input and we are always looking for enthusiastic writers who are willing to get involved in a leadership capacity. I guarantee you that if you will get involved in leadership, either within your local chapter or on the state level, you will gain much more from your League membership. Please let me know if you are interested in a position on the state board or in your chapter.

If any member ever has a question about membership, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. Email me at [dorothycrofts@luwrite.com](mailto:dorothycrofts@luwrite.com), or call me at 801-898-0606 or 966-8830.

DOROTHY CROFTS, TREASURER

## Take advantage of Roundup opportunities



Since there are so many new members who have joined the League over the past couple years, I'd like to take just a minute to make everyone aware of the change in the League year. The

2008 year began on November 1 and will run through October 31. However, State League officers and Chapter officers terms-of-office run from Roundup to Roundup.

We have not received word yet from the Utah Arts Council about our 2008 grant application request. We should hear something soon. Because there are so many expenses involved in planning the annual Roundup—contest awards, winner certificates, the annual membership directory, syllabi, bringing in big-name speakers, editors, agents, and publishers, etc.—I encourage every member to support the Contest and Roundup by getting your contest entries sent in as early as possible, and then start saving your dollars

and mark your calendar for the Roundup weekend.

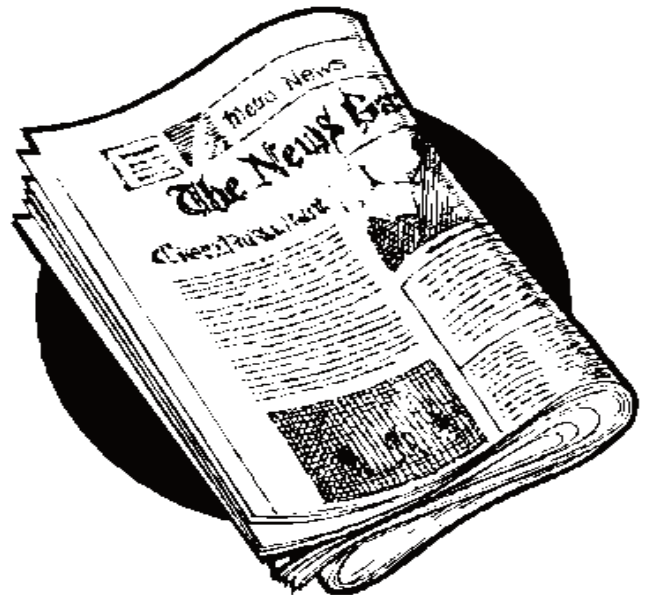
Every member should take advantage of this annual event. Roundup is the culminating event of the League-year as well as the beginning event of the new League-year. Please plan to join us on September 12 and 13 at the Ogden Marriott.

For the few dollars it costs to attend Roundup each year, you can't afford to miss this opportunity to rub shoulders with over a hundred other writers, both published and unpublished. It is also your chance to meet nationally acclaimed authors, agents, editors and publishers (maybe even meet one-on-one with them).

DOROTHY CROFTS, HISTORIAN

## Wanted: missing back issues of *The Lariat*

I have an urgent request and hope someone out there will be able to help. I am missing two issues of the League of Utah Writers' *Lariat* from our League History. They are: February 1999 (the spring issue) and August 1999 (the summer issue). If you can supply me with either, or both, of these issues I would greatly appreciate your help. Please mail them to P.O. Box 18430, Kearns, UT 84118.



## Paying the Bills: How to Get Editors to Buy Your Articles

BY ALYICE EDRICH

Ever wonder what it takes to get editors to buy your articles? Here are four quick tips to help you sell your articles:

1. As an editor, it can sometimes be difficult to choose which articles to keep and which to pass on. There are times I'd love to buy a whole bunch of articles, but the budget just isn't there. During times like these, I've discovered it's easier—and pain-free—to accept the submissions that require very little editing and/or tweaking. And passing on the rest, no matter how much “potential” the articles have. So key one is to do your best the first time, regardless of how much the publisher pays.
2. The second key to getting an editor to say yes is to **never** come off as an irritant in your emails. Don't pester editors about your submission if there's a timeframe for correspondence in the writers' guidelines. And never show the editor that you **did not** take the time to read the writers' guidelines by asking questions that have been covered in the guidelines themselves: like asking about pay or how long the article should be.
3. The third key is to **never** get snippy with an editor if he/she comes back with an email stating your submission doesn't fit; especially if you've told the editor in an email that you know the article isn't what the publication normally accepts. And if a rewrite is requested, and you don't want to do it, back out graciously. Don't tell the editor off by stating how great of a writer you are. All writers understand that rewrites are inevitable, even when we believe we've written the perfect piece!
4. Finally, show respect. You may not agree with the editor's decision or the requests for changes, but that's no reason to be cruel. You are entitled to disagree. If you really don't like the changes and cannot reach a compromise, graciously turn down the offer then submit your piece elsewhere. You never know where your editor will end up, so don't burn any bridges.

*About the Author: Alyice Edrich writes work from home e-books designed to help parents earn extra cash while spending more time with their children. To learn more, visit [thedabblingmum.com/ebookstore](http://thedabblingmum.com/ebookstore).*

### New journal seeking submissions, all genres

*The Sigurd Journal* is eagerly seeking submissions of memoirs, travel writing, poetry, creative nonfiction, and short fiction of all genres. Payment is 50 cents per line for poetry and about \$10 per 500 words for prose. For submission guidelines and a free sample copy of *The Sigurd Journal*, email [calebwarnock@yahoo.com](mailto:calebwarnock@yahoo.com) or write to P.O. Box 93, American Fork, UT 84003.

### LDStorymakers writing conference planned for March 2008: register today!

Registration is now open for the 2008 LDStorymakers Writers Conference on March 21-22 at the Sandy, Utah CottonTree Inn.

The feature presenter is Timothy Travaglini, Senior Editor at G.P. Putnam's Sons (a division of Penguin Group, USA). There will be manuscript review sessions, pitch sessions, 21 workshops, a panel of LDS publishers, and more.

For more information, go to [www.ldstorymakers.com](http://www.ldstorymakers.com) or email Annette Lyon ([Annette@annettelyon.com](mailto:Annette@annettelyon.com)) or Heather Moore ([hbmoore01@yahoo.com](mailto:hbmoore01@yahoo.com)).



# The What's, How's, and Why's of Narrative Poetry

BY HOLLY BLISS

I adore writing poetry. I'll arm myself, with pen and paper at the ready, and accept any challenge of conquering a new poetry form.

Last year was the first time I questioned whether or not I could meet the challenge and bury it on the battlefield. Sure, I'm a perfectionist, but what could make a person who's played with poetry for almost thirty-five years hesitate before charging? It was the narrative form.

I'm not talking about the ballad or epic—which are types of narrative poetry—or other rhyming narratives. I'm referring to the more modern, freer, narrative poetry. It was different than anything I'd ever done before. To me, it seemed more like a story than a poem. I even remember wondering how they could get away with calling it poetry.

## EXAMPLES TO READ

(Both easy to find on Google if you aren't familiar with them.)

- *Those Winter Sundays* by Robert Hayden
- *The Wood-pile* by Robert Frost

I write stories and poetry, but when I write a poem—I'm in poetry mode, and I felt stuck in neutral. How could the Poet-in-Me mix the two?

Stephen Minot said, in *Three Genres—The Writing of Poetry, Fiction, and Drama*, “Narrative is as natural a structure for poetry as it is for prose.”

Poet-in-Me then rationalizes that Story-Writer-in-Me borrows stuff from

the “Poet's Toolbox” to write more effective stories, so why not knock on her door and borrow a couple of things?

## NARRATIVE POETRY BASICS

### *Brief History*

Narrative Poetry is poetry that tells a tale and can be traced back to Homer's Iliad and possibly beyond.

### *Must Haves*

- Tell a story.
- Pay particular attention to rhythm and sound.

### *Could Haves*

- **You** choose the form or whether or not to even use a particular form (aka ballad, etc.)
- Imagery—depth of imagery up to the author—but keep in mind that a primary part of poetry is imagery, and you are writing a poem

that tells a story, not a short story.

- Rhyme—use it or not—internal, external or none.

Since I've tried using narratives in my poetry, I feel as if I've written some of the best work I ever have in my life. It has opened a door I never knew was locked and I crossed a threshold into a land I never knew existed.

Simply, It has helped me grow as a writer.

**Writing Exercise:** If you are a writer that really considers yourself more of a poet, try out narrative poetry as a way to build a bridge to story writing. If you consider yourself mainly a storyteller, use the narrative form to ease your way into poetry.

*About the Author:* Using writing as paint on the canvas of her life, Holly Bliss is a newsletter editor and author on [www.writing.com](http://www.writing.com), a site for poetry.

## *In memory of ...* ROSS W. WHIPPLE



Ross W. Whipple, long time member of the Cache Valley chapter, passed away at age 85 on February 1, 2008 in Logan. He was born December 4, 1922 in Salt Lake City. He attended Granite High School and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He graduated from the University of Utah where he was affiliated with the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. As a respected Geophysicist, he did consulting work for various mining and engineering companies including U.S. Steel, Kennecott, and Texaco. He was also an accomplished author and cartoonist.

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DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 14.  
WINNER NOTIFIED BY  
FEBRUARY 20.

## Anything for Charity

Sara Fitzgerald of the Oquirrh Chapter has a new novel! Here's a review:

"This has to be one of the sweetest, most charming stories I have ever read. *Anything for Charity* combines wonderful characters with an engaging plot producing a great story.

"Charity is sweet and finds deception very difficult as does Ryan. Both characters have been hurt in the past, which shapes their reactions now. The secondary characters really round out the story, adding humor and poignancy to it. *Anything for Charity* is an all around wonderful story—I highly recommend it."

By Tara Renee,  
[TwoLipsreviews.com](http://TwoLipsreviews.com)

## Red Dragon Codex

Are you a fan of the New York Times best-selling *A Practical Guide to Dragons*? Then be sure to check out this all-new series based on that book. It's written, of course, by the venerable R.D. Henham himself (Scribe in the Great Library of Palanthas). But this time he's assisted by Oquirrh Chapter's very own **Rebecca Shelley**!

The first book in the series, *Red Dragon Codex*, follows the story of a young man named Mudd and his sister Hiera. They're thrown into sudden adventure when a vicious red dragon attacks their village and kidnaps the village seer, Shemnara. Will Mudd find the silver dragon's powerful pendant in time to save her, or will he fall prey to a clever scheme cooked up by Kirak and the red dragon? Go to [www.mirrorstonebooks.com](http://www.mirrorstonebooks.com) to order your copy and find out.



off the mark.com

by Mark Parisi



“ Sit down and put down everything that comes into your head and then you’re a writer. But an author is one who can judge his own stuff’s worth, without pity, and destroy most of it. ”

— Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette

## SUBS—Saving Utah books one author at a time!

When the League of Utah Writers was first organized and incorporated, it set up a program to help Utah authors, called SUBS (Save Utah Books Sensibly). Any Utah writer who had a book published was asked to donate one book to the SUBS program.

I would like to get this program back in place and functioning because we have so many Utah authors who are published. We would like to request that each author donate a copy of your book to the League of Utah Writers, then these books will be labeled and turned over to the library at the Utah Arts Council.

Please mail your published book to:

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

If you would prefer to save postage and hand-deliver your books, you can take them to 5075 West 4700 South (office of Shadow Ridge Estates).

If you have questions about this program, please feel free to contact me (Dorothy Crofts) at dorothycrofts@luwrite.com or call me at 801-898-0606 or 801-966-8830.



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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

# LUW service rewards you and others

I was a little stumped about what to write this month that would be worthwhile to you. As an amateur writer, I have only so much advice to give. So instead, I have something else to share—something you may not have considered—that can really add a lot of value to your experience as a writer.

You might have noticed that Dorothy Crofts wrote at least five articles for *The Lariat* this issue. Why? Because she holds so many different positions on the State Board and elsewhere that were not otherwise filled. Perhaps you're asking yourself, *Does she have a death wish?*

I think not. Instead, Dorothy really loves this organization and enjoys working hard to provide great experiences for everyone involved. I also enjoy serv-

ing on the Board as newsletter editor. Besides the added practice I get in editing and designing layouts, I enjoy reading about members' successes and providing a service that helps them reach their writing goals.

Wouldn't you like to get in on something as good as this? If you're interested, there are lots of opportunities to serve. If you'd like to be Treasurer, Historian, or just about anything you'd like to try your hand at, you'll be welcomed with open arms.

In fact, if you'd like to help with the newsletter, I'd be happy to train and share my knowledge with you!

— Merrijane Rice