

TAKE A LOOK AT

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tension keeps readers reading

Ivy Ruckman, author of 15 books for young readers (including *Rob&sara.com*, but perhaps best know for *Night of the Twister*), is my neighbor. In June she attended a critique group where we were discussing a story I'm working on. In a kind and thoughtful way, she spoke about how tension, either rising or falling, is necessary in each chapter to keep the reader turning the page. This is especially true, she said, for young readers. The dark cloud of impending doom must hang over the protagonist until the resolution.

Early in July, I took a long road trip with three granddaughters, ages 9, 11, and 13. On the second travel day, we listened to a book on tape—*Hatchet*, by Gary Paulson.

What a perfect example of Ruckman's advice. The reader/listener barely has time to exhale before the next disaster strikes: divorce, a secret, a dead bush pilot, a crash, escaping the plane, deadly mosquitoes, hunger, the need for fire, food, rest, the porcupine, the skunk, the killer moose, the tornado—you get the idea. And in spite of what you may think, I haven't ruined the story for you because you will also want to pay attention to the rhythm and repe-



tition of words that draw the reader in.

So it's back to the drawing board for me—or rather, the computer—to rework a story I thought was complete. As I go over the words again, I admit to seeing a definite lack of tension, but do I have what it takes to make it right? Time will tell.

Meanwhile, I'll keep rechecking my adult novel and then back to my young adult novel to consider if I've put in sufficient roadblocks and suspense.

Wish me luck, patience, and fortitude.

— Marilyn Richardson

GET READY FOR **Round-Up**

Friday, September 12				
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Pre-conference workshop: Elizabeth Lyon. Fee: \$45 (lunch included).			
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 Carolyn Campbell			
Saturday, September 13				
Morning	Breakfast on your own: Meet up with fellow writers and check out 25th Street Restaurants!			
7 to 8:20 a.m.	Registration			
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	One-on-one meetings—scheduled in advance			
Classes 8:30 to 9:20 a.m.	Sharon Mignerey, Over-the-Top Brainstorming	Louise Knot Ahern, 20 Questions to Being Your Own PR	Patricia Wiles, The Children's Writer's Journey	Tami Cowden. Beyond Superman: Creating Dynamic Heroes
Classes 9:30 to 10:20 a.m.	Wendy Toliver, Middle of the Book	James Dashner, 20 Things I've Learned Since First Getting Published	Elizabeth Lyon, The Non-fiction Book Proposal—from Idea to Contract	Tami Cowden, Beyond Cinderella: Creating Dynamic Heroines
10:30 to 11:20 a.m.	Authors Panel: Sharon, Wendy, James, Patricia, Tami, Stan, and Carolyn			
11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Lunch			
12 to 12:50 p.m.	Keynote Speaker Wendy Toliver			
Classes 1 to 1:50 p.m.	Carolyn Campbell, Interviewing Skills/ Getting that Interview	Stan Trollip, How to Co- Author a Book	To be announced	Wendy Toliver, Finding the YA Voice
Classes 2 to 2:50 p.m.	Sharon Mignerey, Pitfalls and Peaks of the Writer's Life	Stan Trollip, How to Co- Author a Book	To be announced	Louise Knot Ahern, How to Talk to a Reporter
Classes 3 to 3:50 p.m.	Patricia Wiles, Awaken the Child Within	James Dashner, 20 Things I've Learned Since First Getting Published	Elizabeth Lyon, Query letters and E-Queries for Novels: Getting the "Yes, send more."	Tami Cowden, Putting Personality on the Page—Four Steps to Conveying Character
4 to 4:50 p.m.	Editor/Agent/Publisher Panel: Louise, Elizabeth, Felicia, Kevan, Bill, Derek, Kirk, and Cedar Fort			
5 p.m.	Break: Browse books for sale, autograph table, and network with fellow authors			
6 p.m.	Awards Dinner: Keynote Speaker Michael Stanley (Stan Trollip)			
7:30 p.m.	Award Ceremony: The "dashing" James Dashner will emcee			
8:30 p.m.	Roundup ends. Next year's Roundup is in Salt Lake City.			

"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.

SHOP TALK TECHNOLOGY FOR WRITERS

by Mike Eldredge, Web Site Coordinator

Thank you to a host of people, headed by our current newsletter editor Merri-jane Rice and jack-of-all-trades Dorothy Crofts, whose careful stewardship over the years has preserved the League's legacy. Because of technological advancements over the last 10 years, we now have an electronic database of all known *Lariats* in existence. Merrijane first started providing a PDF (portable document format) copy of *The Lariat* to the Web site two years ago, and inquiries started to come in for any earlier issues. Dorothy pulled out a huge notebook that had all known copies of *The Lariat* going back to 1959, together with a letter dated 1942 that presumably is the first mention of the name "Lariat." After several weeks of scanning, the database is now complete, and what a marvelous collection it is!

The Lariat has gone through many changes, formats, mastheads, etc., that all combine to tell a rich story of our organization, which will be cele-

brating its 75th anniversary in 2010. It's also interesting to follow the technological changes back through the years, from the computers we take for granted today, to the electronic media of the 1980s, to the typewritten mimeograph copies of the 1960s and 1970s. Photo reproduction 30 years ago was particularly challenging, and in some cases, the PDF scan couldn't pick them up. Also, from the late 60s to mid 70s, *The Lariat* came on legal-size paper, which presented a challenge to the letter-size scanners of today. As a consequence, we have two scans per page to get all the text in, resulting in duplication.

In the early years, there were only three chapters in the League: Ogden (which has always been Blue Quill), Salt Lake City, and Utah County. At one time the strength of the League seemed to be centered in Delta. For many years, the League suffered from lack of funding, but in 1978, it quali-

fied for 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit corporation and the League took off. The one consistency that I found throughout the years was the annual Fall Roundup. Looking at the photographs from the 70s, the only way you can tell them apart from last year's Roundup in St. George is by the fashions and hair-dos—and boy are they funky! There are familiar faces today that I found in years past, including Dorothy Crofts, Carolyn Campbell, Helen Glissmeyer, Mary Barnes, and Beth Moore, to name just a few.

As a relative newcomer, for me it was a fascinating glimpse into the past that gave me a greater appreciation for the legacy upon which the League has been built over the years. Now what we need is an enterprising historian to write the definitive 75th anniversary history of the League. In the meantime, I'll be putting the database online in the near future, just as soon as I figure out how to present it.

click on this

SmileVino, a California wine company, is offering writers opportunities to submit both fiction and non-fiction stories to win cash prizes and be featured on their Web site. For more information about the *Stories That Make Us Smile* contest, go to www.smilevino.com or email Nancy Moore at nancy.moore@smilevino.com.

Check out *Working Writer*, a bimonthly newsletter filled with articles about promotion, publishing, freelancing, different genres, how-to, and how-not-to, written by readers across the country. To receive a free copy by email, send a request to workingwriters@aol.com or go to www.workingwriter1.com.

On **YouPublish.com**, you can publish books and articles for free or for fee. It's easy and free to register. You can have your works published in minutes. You retain all rights, including copyrights to your works. Add works to your page on the site or take them down anytime you want.

CONTEST REPORT

CEIL DE YOUNG, CONTEST CHAIR

Judge's Sheets

A "Judge's Sheet" is a paper attached to the front of an entry where the judge traditionally makes comments. At one time, this sheet had four or five headings with numeric scores that added up to 100 points. The poetry judges objected that a number could not be placed on creativity, so I changed the sheets the first year I chaired the contest.

Also that first year, many of the judges wanted to know if they could write directly on the manuscripts. I personally prefer to see my mistake marked on the page it occurred rather than have to read a Judge's Sheet and wonder where I made the error, especially on a prose work of multiple pages. So I gave the judges permission to write on the entries.

To my surprise, some judges discarded the Judge's Sheets and not only scratched up the manuscripts, but also wrote letters such as, "Dear Contestant, Entry #2116. Thank you for your submission. I found your story very compelling but

you need to watch for ..." I felt this was far more helpful than a score with general comments.

Electronic Submissions

As an experiment, this year we allowed electronic submissions on a few small categories (mostly poetry). We thought we could scan any entries that weren't emailed. As it turned out, scanning didn't work. If the work wasn't created in Word, the formatting changed when we scanned it. And on a few entries, scanning actually changed the words. I was forced to send the original hard copies to the judges. Electronic submissions did work well with Haiku. The judge was quite pleased. But other than that, we received very few poetry submissions by email.

Many people wanted to send book length entries over the Internet. But the only way that will work is if everyone who enters a particular category sends electronic submissions in Word (no hard copies).

Why write? Let SUBS help answer that question!

To answer the question "Why write?" I went to the internet, hoping to find something witty to grab your attention. Instead, I found an astounding number of solid reasons to write. I think Boris Kortiak, a Philadelphia area COBOL programmer, expresses it best (COBOL is a widely used computer programming language). In part, he says:

"It is to pass on what we know, understand and feel to the future. Just as I talk to my children and try to guide them in how they make their way through the world, I would like to leave something of myself for my great-grandchildren's great-grandchildren.

"Not that I'm a particularly smart individual, but that we are all taken together a very smart individual. We pass on our shared wisdom farther into the future through our writing than we can through our spoken words (ok, technologically this isn't any longer true). We can read the words of Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, Euripides, Homer, and the forgotten names of countless others who have brought us stories of the human condition.

"Maybe that is why I really write. To pay forward my debt to those who have written before. Fact of the matter is that I really don't know. I had hoped that by writing this I would get a better idea of the answer to the question: 'Why write?'"

I have another question: Now that you've written (and probably paid someone to publish or print your words), what do you want to have happen to your writing? Easy question. You want someone to read your words, and to laugh, cry, learn, or take comfort from them.

A little-known connection between the League of Utah Writers and the Utah Arts Council is a project called Save Utah Books Sensibly (SUBS). This project is one more way to put your writing in the hands of more readers. Please donate one new, unused copy of your published book (autographed, if possible) to SUBS by bringing your book to Roundup 2008 on September 12-13, 2008, or mail your book to SUBS Chair Mary Barnes at 975 S. Main St. #108, St. George, Utah 84770. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at marybawriter@msn.com.

All books received will be listed and transported to the Utah Arts Council in Salt Lake City for inclusion in the collection. The only requirement is that the book be published with an ISBN number. Any genre is welcome and appreciated, whether hardback or soft cover. Please participate and help us Save Utah Books Sensibly.

— Mary E. Barnes

Chapter Chatter!

NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

Blue Quill

We're as busy as ever with our respective writing projects. It's amazing how we all write in different genres—children's picture books, young adult fiction and nonfiction, self-help, historical fiction, memoir, romance, fantasy—but we still help each other with awesome ideas and critiques.

We now have 16 writers who attend regularly. To accommodate everyone, we've had two critique groups since last April. From past experience, I've learned that eight writers is the perfect number for a critique group. The original group (**Jeff Martinez**, **Christy Monson**, **Michele McKinnon**, **Dave Durkee**, **Deborah Schroader**, **Natalie Pace**, **Mandy**, and **Drienie Hattingh**) still meets at the Wisebird Bookery twice a month. The other group, under Jeff Martinez's guidance (**Pete Basset**, **Jim Hutchins**, **Don Lee**, **Ken Young**, **Mindy Parslow**, **Elaine Rozelle**, and **Ann Stephens**), meets at the Athenian Restaurant once a month. Welcome to Elaine and Ann who just attended their very first critique meeting! More writers have shown interested in attending, and if they do, we'll start a third critique group. I feel blessed to be part of this chapter and to have such wonderful writers read and critique my work!

With Roundup now only a month away (cannot wait!), we've written our "elevator pitches" and our pitches for one-on-one meetings with agents and editors. We're also almost done writing our synopses and, of course, we aim to get our manuscripts critiqued before the conference. Who

knows—an agent or editor might think our book ideas are best selling material. We have to be ready to send off our manuscripts!

President Elect Natalie Pace and the rest of the planning committee are pleased about how everything is coming together. Of course, we're disappointed that David Sheffield, our previously planned speaker for Friday night, had to cancel because of major back surgery. He's doing well and might still come to the conference, but not as a speaker. He was very disappointed to cancel and is wishing us all of the best for Roundup.

Regardless, we're very happy with David's replacement—our very own **Carolyn Campbell**. As you all probably know, Carolyn's articles, stories, and interviews have been published nationwide more times than she can probably remember. I spent some time with Carolyn during the 2006 Roundup and have been a fan of her work ethic and success ever since.

Finally, I'm having so much fun working on decorating ideas for Roundup to go with this year's theme—all to do with digging deep and finding "gold and diamonds" within! See you all at the Roundup!

— *Drienie Hattingh*

Color Country Nightwriters

Our chapter has been a little slow during the summer. Hopefully it will pick up later when it cools down.

In July, we reorganized the group with **Scott Holyoak** as president,

Sherrie Mackelprang as vice president, **Christie Perkins** as secretary, and **Marian Ashdown** as treasurer.

I believe August will be a fun month for the group, because that's when we have our Annual Ice Cream Social.

— *Scott Holyoak*

Park City

What a fantastic summer we are having in the mountains! I think many of our members are finding it difficult to sit behind a computer or spend the day scribbling on a legal pad when the days have been so gorgeous. We've cancelled a meeting here and there lately because there is so much going on—writing has taken a back seat. However, we do have a few announcements.

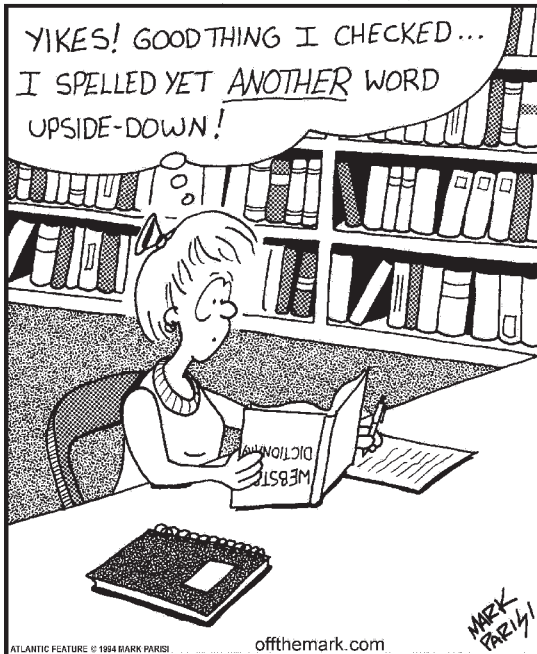
Irene Hastings is busy, as usual, teaching a new community education class at UVU and is enjoying being part of the process of shaping up some great writers. She continues to do articles and feature pieces for her local newspaper.

Jan Jaworski has graciously consented to step into the president's role for our chapter this year. We thank Jan for doing this and welcome her to the post.

As outgoing president, I'd like to thank everyone who takes the time to participate in the group. It's been great fun to see projects being developed and folks moving forward with great ideas. Best of luck to everyone with projects in progress.

— *Barbara Bretz*

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



“ Character gives us qualities, but it is in actions—what we do—that we are happy or the reverse ... All human happiness and misery take the form of action. ”

– Aristotle

Marilyn Brown novel competition moves to UVU

On July 1, the Marilyn Brown Unpublished Novel Competition moved to a new and permanent home in UVU's Department of English & Literature. The \$1,000 competition award will now be given annually instead of every other year and is open to any author, not just UVU students and faculty.

Brown said she envisioned the award being able to benefit “writers of any race, locale, or religion who wish to compete.” She selected UVU because the university had the means, status, and community-oriented policies to allow the award to meet that vision.

In addition to the monetary assistance, the award also gives novelists helpful encouragement in their efforts to see their work published. “Publishing a novel is a genuine challenge these days,” said Jen Wahlquist, Associate Professor of English & Literature at UVU and administrator of the award. “Winning the Marilyn Brown award can provide a boost to new novelists, and can add strength and credibility to their resumé when they approach a publisher.”

Novels submitted for the competition must be at least 200 pages in length and unpublished. The novel must also be mainstream and focused on realistic cultural experiences of the Utah Region. Science fiction or fantasy novels will not be considered.

Entries for the award must be submitted by October 1. For more information on entry format or about the award, contact Jen Wahlquist at wahlquje@uvu.edu or check the UVU Department of English & Literature Web page.





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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Signing off, but not tuning out

I won't be continuing as newsletter editor after Roundup, so this is my last chance to write to a captive audience.

I feel so fortunate to be a writer. Oh, I'm nothing special, but I've always felt blessed with a desire to express myself in writing. I think many of us share this feeling.

Why do we write? Do we just want to be understood? Do we love the thrill of communicating across time and space with people we've never met—who may not even be alive yet? Or do we share a basic human need to create?

Whatever the reason, writing—whether it be letters, journals, stories, poetry, or articles—is deeply satisfying to our souls. I'm glad to be associated with a

group that promotes such fulfillment and joy.

- Thank you, fellow League members, for having patience with my mistakes and giving me a chance to learn and serve.
- Thank you, board members and chapter presidents, for participating so fully and providing the meat and potatoes of every issue. You fill these pages with information that's both useful and fun.
- Good luck to the new newsletter editor. I hope you have as much fun as I've had!

— Merrijane Rice