

President's Message

Dear League of Utah Writers,

A couple of years ago I was selected to be on a panel at Salt Lake Comic Con FanX. I was intimidated and nervous to share the stage with top tier authors. When I walked up onto the platform and looked out at the 650 packed seats and people lining the room, I wondered what I could possibly offer that these giants in the industry couldn't. I was finally seated with an amazing multi-award winning author on my left and an New York best seller/Hugo Award winner on my right. Before I knew it the panel was over, and I had contributed very little. As a panelist I felt like a failure, walking off the stage I nearly broke into tears, feeling that I had missed such an amazing chance.

I wanted to share that experience with you because every time I go before a potential group for the League to partner with, every time I represent the League at an event, and every time I get up in front of chapters in the League, I walk back up onto that stage. I don't want to let the League down or represent the League as anything else but the tremendous organization that it is.

Your encouragement and inspiration helps me navigate the tough meetings and nervous situations. Because of that, I have some great announcements to make.

I am excited to announce the partnerships with The Watchtower Café, and Paragon City Games. Both offer great opportunities to host workshops, write ins, and other amenities including the use of a podcast studio.

The League of Utah Writers has been accepted into the Amazon Smiles program, which gives people the opportunity to have Amazon donate to the League by making purchases through the following link (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/87-0349819>). Everything costs the same as it would normally, however every time you purchase something through the link, Amazon donates a portion of their profit. It is a really easy way to support the League and help us fund some of our up-and-coming programs.

We have also partnered with Wizarding Dayz (Feb 24th - Feb 25th). League of Utah Writers

members will receive a 25% off discount on purchasing a table, and if you mention to them that you are interested in a Panel or Presentation and are a member of the League of Utah Writers, you will gain some additional consideration. All you need to do to get the discount and be considered for the panels/presentations is email Valerie at wizardingdayz@gmail.com



Jared Quan
President, LUW

We have established the League's twentieth chapter in American Fork. This has given the area of American Fork, Lehi, Eagle Mountain, and Saratoga Springs local access to the League. They will be meeting twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays at the American Fork Library.

I am thrilled to announce the launch of the League's twenty-first chapter in South Salt Lake. This chapter will be based at the Watchtower Café, located right across the street from the Salt Lake Community Colleges South campus. They will meet the first Saturday of the month in the mornings.

We are incredibly eager to hold our First Annual Leadership Conference for the League (February 4th 2017, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.). This event will have great speakers like Tim Keller, Johnny Worthen, and Terra Luft. It will be a great forum for chapter and League leadership to talk about ideas and plans for the

League. This event will also include a League board meeting. This event is free and is open to anyone in the League. All we ask is for you to email me so I can get a good head count (jaredquan@gmail.com).

We had several people receive Presidential Volunteer Awards in the League, as well as Lt. Governor Volunteer awards. I want to thank all the individuals who continue to put in many hours toward the League. There are many in the League that have put in the time and should be recognized for their efforts, as well as others in the League who don't want the recognition. Regardless of which category you are in, please enter your volunteer hours into the Presidential Volunteer site. Just let Terra Luft know if you would like to be left off the awards. We count these hours toward grants and other programs that we are working on. (<https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov> - ROS Key LWN-3904) The Executive Committee and Conference Committee are working

hard on all the projects we currently have in front of us. We are close to making final arrangements to some very exciting guests for our Fall Conference, and we are already making preparations for our Spring 2018 Conference.

The League of Utah Writers will be represented at the following upcoming conferences, please look for us or let people know to come talk to us – LTUE, Wizarding Dayz, Salt Lake Comic Con FanX, and LDStorymakers.

Thank you for your support. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or ideas.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Jared Quan

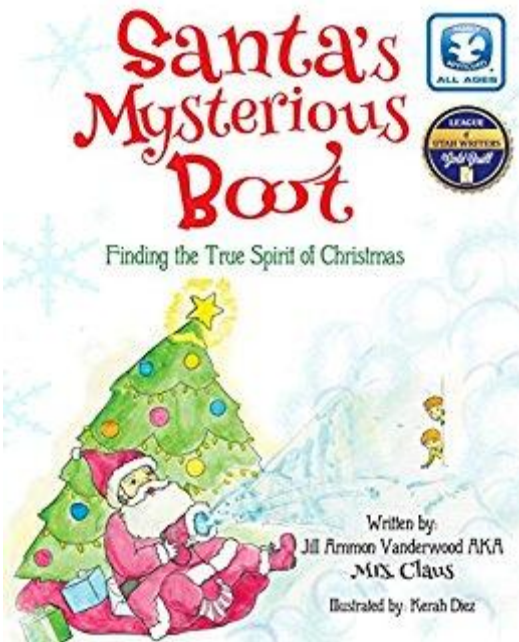


Quill Winner Spotlights

**Gold Quill Winner
Children's Book
Jill Venderwood
*Santa's Mysterious Boot***

Blurb:

Santa's Mysterious Boot: Finding the True Spirit of Christmas. Tim and Tommy Adams have plans to capture the real Santa Claus, but Santa has other plans. His boot has a special part in helping the boys discover the true spirit of Christmas.



Bio:

Jill Vanderwood is the author of nine books. She is the 2008 Writer of the Year. *Santa's Mysterious Boot* was inspired by Jill's husband who is a professional Santa Claus. Jill is a professional Mrs. Claus and together they see hundreds of children during the holiday season.

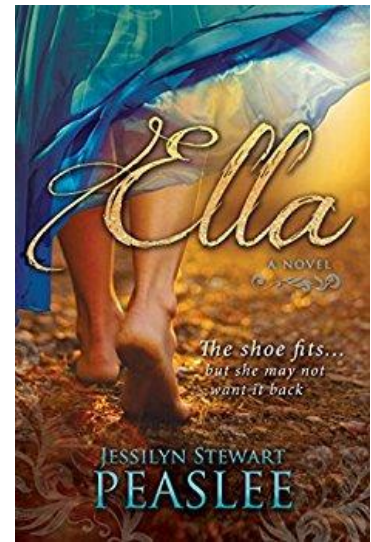
What is the hardest thing about writing, and what advice would you give to people to overcome it?

For me, the hardest part is always having new ideas for books popping into my head. I have a fear I won't live long enough to write all of the books in my head. My first book was published when I was in my fifties. I love writing and I calculate my age expectancy and how many books I can write before I'm eighty-five to ninety.

My advice is, don't wait to get your ideas out there. This is the time. If you're waiting until your kids grow up, then you will wait until your grandchildren are in school. So find the time to write.

We are all fitting our writing in with real life. If writing is your passion, then now is your time.

Gold Quill Winner
YA
Jessilyn Stewart Peaslee
Ella



Blurb:

Reserved yet resilient, Ella Blakeley lives with her cruel stepmother and stepsisters, without hope of escape until the day Prince Kenton announces a ball that changes everything. Even without mice, magic, or fairy godmothers, Ella might discover a life that's better than she ever dreamed. This intricately woven twist on a Cinderella story is an enchanting book you won't be able to put down.

Bio:

Jessilyn Stewart Peaslee was born the fourth of seven children into a family of avid readers, music lovers, movie quoters, and sports fans. Jessilyn graduated from Brigham Young University with a BA in English. She loves going on dates with her science teaching husband and playing with her five rambunctious, adorable boys. Jessilyn grew up in the sometimes-beautiful high desert of Southern California and now resides in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains. As you read this, she is probably folding laundry . . . or should be.

How do you handle frustrating moments as an author?

I majored in English, but that was because I loved to read, not to write. The love of writing actually came about ten years after I graduated college and I was able to write whatever I wanted to. :) I went years without reading an actual novel. I was too busy changing diapers and feeding cute babies and reading them stories on my lap, which is actually where my path to publication began.

One afternoon, four years ago, I was reading a book of Disney stories to my kids and we read the *Cinderella* story. As I closed the book and my kids went back to their Legos, I thought, "What if the slipper fit someone else?" I couldn't shake the question out of my baby food, potty-training, sleep deprived brain. As soon as my boys' pillows hit their Lightning McQueen pillows that night, I ran to the computer and started to write. And in the days and weeks following, I wrote and wrote in every "spare" second I had, or could create. I felt this unbelievable energy and I was amazed as this story that had been somewhere in my mind for years began to take shape. I couldn't sleep. I only wanted to write.

As soon as I thought it was "finished," I looked up books that were similar to mine in genre, content, and setting, saw who published them, researched their submission process, and submitted it to publishers who 1) didn't require an agent, 2) were willing to work with a lowly, inexperienced first-time author. I sent it in to a couple of publishers . . . who rejected it. It was like someone died. It was like I died. Just kidding . . . kind of. But each time I got it back, I fixed it up.

My third time I submitted it, it was accepted and I cried and cried for joy, and then folded a load of laundry because . . . laundry. Once it was accepted, I learned that this was when the real work begins, and that my book was nowhere near "finished." We edited that little book, cleaned and polished her up, until she was ready to greet the world with her head held high. We decided on a cover that captured the simplicity and humility and quiet beauty of this "Ella" I had come to know and adore. And now that she is out there, my hope is that as people come to know Ella, they will adore her, too.

Community Outreach Project

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

Book drive:

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

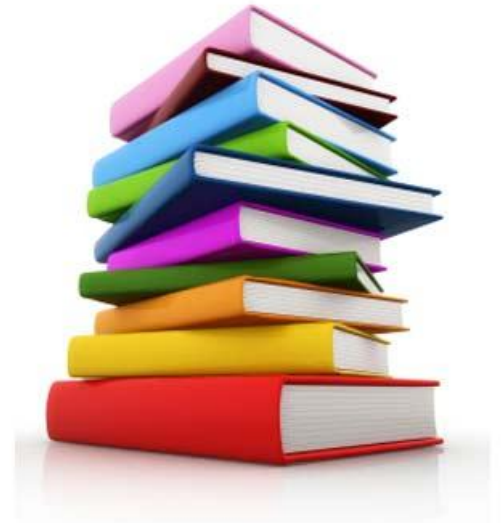
Scholarships:

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

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

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

Margot Hovley, Community Outreach chair
mhovley@gmail.com



Attention:

We have the dates for the Summer Conference Prequel Events:

(Come on, who doesn't love a prequel?)

June 3rd – Editing

July 29th – Marketing

Each will be an intense four hour event. Admission to these will grant a discount for the Fall Conference.

These will mostly likely be held at the West Jordan City Hall

Chapter Chatter

If you have an upcoming or recent release, please let your chapter President know so that they can forward the info for the newsletter. We all want to hear about it!

See the LUW website for more information on chapter meetings.

American Fork Chapter

First off, we're the League's newest chapter, at least for the time being. We had our first meeting on Jan 10, and it was a great success. We officially christened ourselves the "Good AF Writers." We meet every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the conference room on the ground floor of the American Fork Library. Our primary purpose is to help each other improve our writing skills by giving meaningful and useful critique. We are open to all ages, but keep in mind that we *do* have an open content policy. While we do ask that members warn the group beforehand if they're going to read something that could be objectionable, this still means that you might come into contact with writing that does not agree with you.

Our meetings are going to follow a little bit different format than most groups in the League, but it is one that I have great confidence in, not because I came up with it, but because it's been such a big help for me. What we do is we will ask you to read a brief sample of your work, after which you will pass around a sign up sheet. Those who are interested in your piece jot down their name and email address, and you will email the volunteers up to 5,000 words of your piece. The next time we meet, each of the people who signed up for your piece will take turns giving you feedback on what you did well and what you might improve on. You'll also receive a digital copy of the critiqued work. While it is not required that you sign up for any piece you aren't interested in critiquing, we do encourage members to sign up for between 1 and 3 pieces. This helps members in several ways. It acquaints members with the skill of critique, it helps them to recognize patterns and tropes in writing, and it helps them to consciously pin down strategies and writing methods that do and don't work for them.

We already have some excellent members, and we're excited for the rest of the year!

Blue Quill Chapter

My name is Megan Nolen and I'm the new President of the Blue Quill Chapter. I've replaced Jenny Rabe. I haven't really gotten to chat with anyone in my group, and sent out an email asking just last week if anyone had any announcements. I haven't heard back but I'll save it for the next one. I personally have done an interview for USU, which will get picked up by another news source (no confirmation on who yet) on how my location influences me and my published short stories, so folks can watch for that if they like. Otherwise there's not much else. Hopefully I'll have more for you next time!

Just Write

Ann Gordon is president of Just Write and Mechelle Morrison is vice-president. Our chapter has members all around Utah and in several states so we communicate through email.

We have a dedicated group of writers in our online Critique Group, which holds critique/review sessions twice a month. Members are allowed to share up to 3000 words each session. In addition, Ann sends members a monthly newsletter.

Herriman Chapter

The Herriman chapter is having its one-year anniversary meeting next month on February 23rd at the Herriman Library at 7 PM. The meeting will be a continuation of our monthly guest speakers and critique time, which has been a lot of fun over the past year. Robin Glassey will talk to us about polishing first drafts.

The Infinite Monkeys

The Infinite Monkeys are proud to announce the following releases from our members in the first

Chapter Chatter, cont.

quarter of 2017:

Jay Barnson's short story "Doubleblind" was published in ALTERED STATES II: A CYBERPUNK ANTHOLOGY. His short story "The Queen of Shadows", a pulp-style sword & sorcery tale will be appearing in Issue #5 of Cirsova Magazine in March.

Melissa McShane's book WONDERING SIGHT was released January 19, 2017.

Jana Brown's book FALLEN STONE will release the first week of March with pre-release goodness at LTUE.

Michael Bacera will have a story in the EMAA anthology releasing in time for LTUE.

Mike Glassford is releasing YOU FAILED AT MARRIAGE, DON'T FAIL AT DIVORCE by March.

Michael Darling's GOT HOPE, sequel to GOT LUCK is scheduled for release in March.

Marti Melville's SILVER MOON, book 2 in the Déjà vu Chronicles, was published by Doce Blant Publishing.

Chase C Raymond's THE UGLY INSIDE, a YA contemporary fantasy, was published January 14, 2017.

The Infinite Monkeys have recently expanded our leadership to include Alex Harrow as Writing Coordinator, and Karla Jay as Critique Coordinator. We have also added a second meeting for a monthly write-in on the fourth Wednesday of every month in two locations – High Point Coffee in West Jordan and Fat Daddy's Pizza in Provo. Paid membership in our chapter now includes the benefit of publishing opportunities with our recently announced submission deadline for an anthology releasing in 2018. We will also be opening registration this quarter for our second annual Infinite Weekend Writing Retreat in October.

Oquirrh Writers Chapter

The Oquirrh Writers Chapter is excited for the new year. We have lined up a great list of presenters covering everything from marketing to writing to theme. To better support our members in their writing journey we started doing critiques during the second half of our meetings. We have also created a set of chapter bylaws that will be unveiled at the February meeting.

We are proud of Sherry Brinkerhoff Taylor and Shauna Packer Dansie for successfully selling their memoir Destroying Their God to Zarahemla Books. They should be on shelves this summer.

Salt Lake Scribes

Our group is progressing at a dandy rate. The focus in the scribes has been trying to get everyone published in one form or another. 2017 is our year to do that.

Both, Katherine Goodman and Kevin Shannon published a story/poem about Hats in the Silver Birch Press.

Towards the end of last year, Jef Huntsman had his "Tattered Portrait" novel published by Belray Books.

Our Christmas party was a success. The scribes and the Monkeys got together for a pre-Christmas party of Fun, conversation, and food. Thanks to all who showed up

The Unusual Suspects

On January 18th The Unusual Suspects hosted Tasha Wheelhouse, of coppershock.com and Paragon City Games, who gave us a presentation on 'Nesting the Black Swan, or Developing your Brand as Writers.'

Chapter President James Thompson received the bronze Presidential Volunteer Award issued by the President of the United States for putting in over 100 hours of dedication and service.

Chapter Chatter, cont.

Utah Valley Legends

The Utah Valley Legends are under new management:

President:

Janeé' Livingston is a Native-American Author. She has been writing since the age of six. Her first taste of fame came in third grade when she wrote a play for her class and her teacher enabled her to perform it. Janeé' went on as a teenager to win several creative writing competitions and as a nineteen year old she wrote, produced, and co-directed a play in her hometown in Northern Arizona.

These days Janeé' is living her dream as a writer. She owns several businesses that work with small businesses, tribal nations, nonprofit entities, educational institutions, and government agencies for grant, technical, and business writing purposes. Janeé' also writes creative forms of writing such as plays, nonfiction, and fiction based works.

She has completed several internships with publishing houses and is currently completing an internship with a Hollywood Screenwriter

Vice President:

Holly M. Anderson grew up loving to read. At a young age, she would hide books under her pillow and read at night by flashlight. She read every Babysitters Club book and wanted to solve mysteries just like Nancy Drew. She fell in love with fantasy when she picked up *Ella Enchanted* at age 13. In high school, she would climb a tree in her backyard to read and write.

Holly won a spot, for her poem, *Living My History Book*, in the 9/11 Memorial Concert with the Utah Philharmonic Orchestra, in 2016. She wrote a Mother's Day tribute that was published on LDSliving.com, in 2016. She is a motivational speaker and puts on writing workshops for teens and tweens. She is currently on the look out for the perfect agent to represent her book, *The Wish Gardener*, a Middle-Grade fantasy novel.

Holly describes her writing as, "wholesome, entertaining stories where the reader can idolize characters for their courage, honesty, intelligence, and creativity, not just good looks or fighting skills."

Holly currently lives in Northern Utah with her husband and four children.

Utah Valley Legends - Valentine's Day competition details. \$100 cash prize for the winner.

1. This is for the Utah Valley Legends members.
2. In order to submit you must be an actual paid member of the League of Utah Writers (remember we are a chapter of their organization).
3. You must attend at least one meeting prior to submission.

Submission details - All Genres Welcome:

- A. No more than 5,000 words.
- B. Include a romance aspect (the judges preferred not to read sexually explicit scenes).
- C. You may submit up to 2 submissions.
- D. Submit to our chapter email address: utahvalleylegends@gmail.com.
- E. Submission closes Feb 14th at midnight.

WordCraft Chapter

Our WordCraft Chapter just keeps making themselves proud with NEW achievements/publications:

Carl Beckstrand: He is about to release his 18th book, *The Bridge of the Golden Wood: A Parable on How to Earn Money*. The story of a child with a knack for solving problems helps some hungry fish, and finds a treasure. Illustrated folk tale teaches the value of work and comes with money-making activities. (for ages 5 and up).

Elinor Hyde: She has two poems (*Love is Looking Up* and *A Few Years and This Will Be You*) included in the just released 2016, Volume 33/34, Utah State Poetry Society, Panorama. She prepared and presented a

Chapter Chatter, cont.

couple of profile biographies for her ward Relief Society, and is currently working to complete *'The Second Twenty-Five Years'*, a history of the Chuck-A-Rama restaurants (this will be privately published).

Playwright/Director, Joyce Thorum Wilson: Her latest living history drama, *"Legacy" Guess Who?*, had its premiere on January 12, 2017 at the University of Utah in the Olpin Little Theatre. Maud May Babcock came West from Harvard University in 1892, founded the Theatre and Physical Education Departments at the U where two institutions bear her name - Babcock Theatre and Babcock Performing Readers.

Bonnie Glee: Her poems, *Scattered Sleep* and *Abandoned Amphitheater*, have been chosen for 2017 publication of *Sand and Sky: Poems from Utah*, sponsored by Rumi Poetry Club.

Members of the League of Utah Writers make up the majority of the authors in this installment of Utah Horror Anthology. Preorder it now on Amazon now!



Twelve Apocalyptic horsemen of the Rocky Mountains have come together in this terrifying anthology of Utah Horror. After years of dystopian fiction, these twelve writers won the challenge to portray how the apocalypse would occur.

Questionable kittens, ritualistic killing, destroying angels, ancient gods seeking punishment, lawless renegades, practioners of the dark arts, and zombies will haunt every corner of your mind as you read these thrilling accounts of what could happen during the end of days in Utah.

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The Quill is published four times a year by the League of Utah Writers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to offering friendship, education and encouragement to the writers of Utah.

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



Hi everyone!

If you're frustrated with your lack of progress in writing, take a moment and read below. Breathe, read it again and then make a change.

Cliché? Yes. True? Yes. Easy? That depends...



Jo Schneider, Oquirrh Chapter

LUW Facebook Group

Please remember to join the League's Facebook Group. After you login to Facebook, search for League of Utah Writers, or you can to this page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LeagueofUtahWriters/>

This Facebook group is only open to members of the League.

