

Just Write Newsletter ~ Volume 4, Issue 1 ~ January 2015

Just Write: The At-Large Chapter for the League of Utah Writers



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Writing Quotes

“Don’t wait for moods. You accomplish nothing if you do that. Your mind must know it has to get down to work.” – Pearl S Buck

“The greatest sin for a writer is to be boring.” – Carl Hiaasen

“Look back upstream. If you have come to your planned ending and it doesn't seem to be working, run your eye up the page and the page before that. You may see that your best ending is somewhere in there, that you were finished before you thought you were.” – John McPhee

“Write to please just one person. If you open a window and make love to the world, so to speak, your story will get pneumonia.” – Kurt Vonnegut

“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.”
– Alice Walker

“If the noun is good and the verb is strong, you almost never need an adjective.”
– J. Anthony Lukas

10 Essential Quotes on Becoming a Writer: <http://thewritepractice.com/becoming-a-writer-quotes/>

Chapter Officers and Guest Writer

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Guest Article: Robert Evans Wilson – <https://twitter.com/RobEvansWilson>

New Members

Diana Gourley has returned to the League after a 12-year absence. We're so glad she decided to come back to the League and to join the Just Write chapter. Diana lives in West Jordan, where she's an online college instructor. Her current writing project includes compiling numerous journal and diary entries into a book. Welcome to the chapter, Diana.

Megan Merrell lives in Roosevelt. She became a member of the League and Just Write in December on Christmas Day. I am pleased to welcome our first member from the northeastern part of the state. Welcome aboard, Megan!

Critique Group

Ready ... Set ... Go. At last, I'm ready to start the first Critique Group of 2015. Let's plan on starting our next critique session by the end of next week. I'll send an email in a few days with the invitation and dates. Find a short story or chapter of yours (3300 words or less) that you would like to have critiqued by your fellow writers. We'd love to have you join us.

Guest Article: The Explosive Pain of Shame by Robert Evans Wilson, Jr

(Editor Note: For brevity, I deleted the first part of this article. I receive Robert's articles each month. I like the way this one explains the difference between 'shame' and embarrassment.)

Granted, I was motivated by shame, one of the worst feelings an individual can have. I never wanted to feel that again.

People confuse shame, guilt and embarrassment because they are similar, but the roots of these feelings are different. We experience embarrassment when we accidentally make a mistake such as spilling a drink down the front of our shirts. We suffer guilt when we do something we know is wrong. Shame, however, is born of ignorance or of not having mastered a concept - such a social behavior - that we think we've mastered.

We feel shame when we're unexpectedly condemned or criticized for something we didn't know is incorrect. The shame occurs when we recognize the obviousness of our error. It makes us feel stupid. If we know in advance that it is incorrect, the feeling we experience instead is guilt or embarrassment.

So, if shame was such an effective motivator for me, would I recommend using it to motivate others? ABSOLUTELY NOT! Shame is extremely motivating when it comes to eliminating unwanted behavior, but at the same time it is also a de-motivator. Shame is so powerful it can make someone feel worthless and cause them to completely shut down. Shame hits like a fist, and when it comes during childhood, some people spend the rest of their lives trying to recover from it.

Motivate instead with understanding and kind explanation.

Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is an author and speaker. He wrote and published the Middle Grade book, The Annoying Ghost Kid (about a ghost who was a bully); Robert speaks to students about dealing with a real-life bully. Check out this article: <http://newsok.com/the-annoying-ghost-kid-shows-children-how-to-deal-with-bullies/article/3663765>

Writing Conferences and Workshops

- ▶ **Life, the Universe and Everything, 2015:** February 12-14 in Provo at the Provo Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. This year the Guest of Honor will be Toni Weiskopf, publisher of Baen Books. Other guests are shown on the website along with the schedule. This conference always lasts three full (totally full) days. <http://ltue.net/> LUW members get a discount this year.
- ▶ **LUW Spring Workshop:** March 14th at the Larry H Miller SL Community College Campus in Sandy, where it was held last year (9750 S 300 W). It will be held on a Saturday from 1:00 to 6:00 pm. Dan Wells is a confirmed guest (ya!) along with representatives from Eschler Editing who will be holding mock pitch sessions. Authors can come with their query or pitch and do a dry run to receive instant feedback without the pressure of an actual pitch session. Can't wait! The LUW website hasn't been updated yet, but check back later: <http://luwriters.org/spring-conference.html>
- ▶ **Writing for Charity, 2015:** March 21st at the Provo Library at Academy Square in downtown Provo. This is always a great conference, well worth the fee (which is donated to charity). Besides the workshops, writers get to put their manuscript in front of an agent or editor! Check it out: <http://writingforcharity.blogspot.com/>

Writing Contests

- ▶ **Glimmer Train, Submission calendar for 2015:** <http://www.glimmertrain.com/writguid1.html>
- ▶ **Glimmer Train Very Short Fiction:** Deadline: January 31, 2015 - \$15 Entry Fee. Cash prizes. They receive thousands entries; tough competition. <http://www.glimmertrain.com/veryshort.html>
- ▶ **Psychopomp Mag Short Fiction Prize:** Deadline: January 31, 2015 - \$15 Entry Fee. They look for fiction that "pushes the boundaries." Cash + publication. <http://psychopompmag.com/contests/>
- ▶ **Top of the Mountain Book Award:** Deadline: February 1, 2015 - \$25 Entry Fee. Fiction & creative/narrative nonfiction. Certificates + cash. <http://www.northerncoloradowriters.com/upcoming-events-mainmenu-133/writing-contests/374-top-of-mountain-book-award>
- ▶ **American Shorter Fiction Prize:** Deadline: February 1, 2015 - \$15 Entry Fee. Short fiction under 1000 words. <http://americanshortfiction.org/2015/01/05/american-shorter-fiction-prize/>
- ▶ **Able Muse Write Prize:** Deadline: February 15, 2015 - \$15 Entry Fee. For poetry and flash fiction. Cash prize and publication. Fiction entries should be Flash / Short, Short stories under 1500 words. Fiction & poetry guidelines here: <http://www.ablemuse.com/>
- ▶ **Big Brick Review Essay Contest:** Deadline: February 17, 2015 - \$15 Entry Fee. Cash prizes. This year the contest theme is based on the concept of building. Essays must be narrative non-fiction (that is, they must explore a truth of a human experience as interpreted/experienced by the author) and not exceed 2,000 words. <http://www.bigbrickreview.com/contest.html>

Some Freelance Markets

▶ **CHICKEN SOUP: THINK POSSIBLE**

Using a positive attitude to improve your life. We're looking for true stories of no more than 1,200 words about how you changed your life, solved a problem, or overcame a challenge because you used positive thinking. Pays \$200 and ten copies of the book. Deadline April 30, 2015. <http://www.chickensoup.com>

▶ **AE Sci-Fi**

We publish exclusively science fiction, though our interpretation of the genre can be quite inclusive. We are interested in stories from 500 to 3,000 words in length. We are not soliciting poetry or screenplays at this time. Pays seven cents/word. <http://aescifi.ca/index.php/submissions>

▶ **Darkhouse Books**

We're seeking stories for "Destination: Mystery" – a collection of mystery and crime stories set in locations popular for vacations. We're looking for stories residing on the cozy side but no puff-pieces. We prefer stories with locations where average people vacation, places forever enshrined in generations of family photo albums. Since we want the locations to be recognizable, stories should not be set prior to mid-twentieth century. <http://darkhousebooks.com/seeking-submissions/>

▶ **Science Fiction & Fantasy Publications: Unbound Anthology**

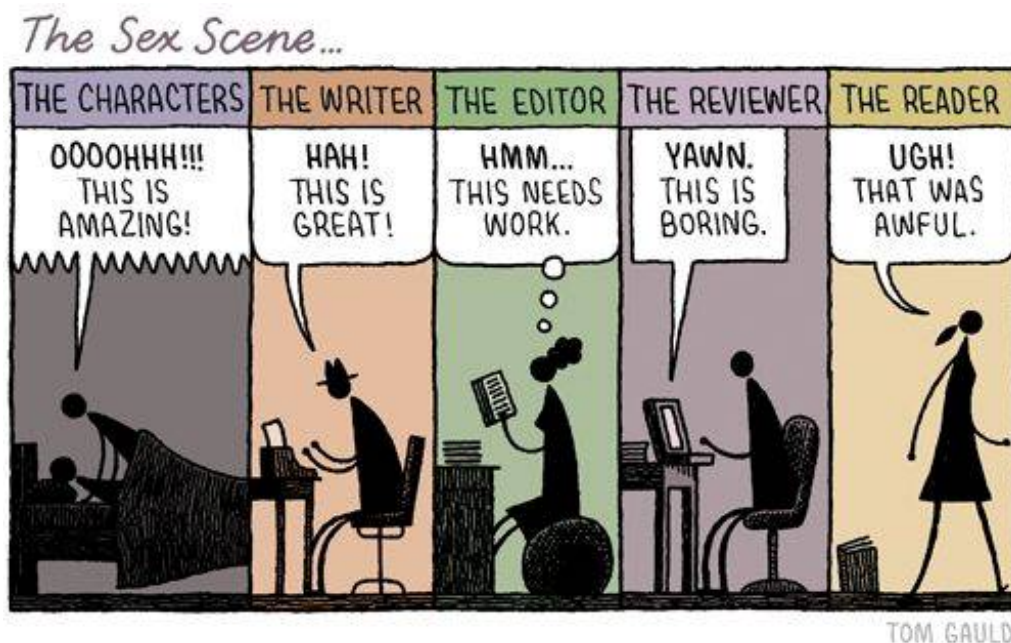
Unbound is accepting stories between 3,000 to 20,000 words. If you are interested in submitting, please check the short story submissions page for details. Please keep in mind the theme of this anthology is "Lost Friends" in a SciFi world. Submissions close March 31st. ---- The second Unbound is also open for submission; the theme is "Changing World" with a closing date of September 30th. Submissions are acceptable in both SciFi and Fantasy worlds. <http://www.scififantasypublications.com/submissions/short-story-submission/>

Online Resources for Writers

- ▶ **New Year's Resolutions for Writers: 5 Goals to Amp Up Your Writing This Year:** <http://thewritelife.com/new-years-resolutions-for-writers/>
- ▶ **Protecting your Copyright in Anthology Contracts**, a blog post by an attorney, featured on the RMFW blog: <http://rmfw.org/protecting-your-copyright-in-anthology-contracts/>
- ▶ **Henry Miller's 11 Commandments of Writing and Daily Creative Routine:** <http://www.brainpickings.org/2012/02/22/henry-miller-on-writing/>
- ▶ **Treat your eBook as your Readers First Date + Editing Tips:** <http://www.indieauthornews.com/2014/11/treat-your-ebook-as-your-readers-first-date-editing-tips.html>
- ▶ **Before You Start a Blog:** <http://www.erindorpress.com/2014/12/want-start-blog/>
- ▶ **The 5 Steps to become a Full-Time Writer:** <http://thewritepractice.com/how-to-become-a-full-time-writer/>
- ▶ **Building your Platform:** <http://www.erindorpress.com/2014/05/platform-building-primer/>
- ▶ **Why we should eliminate Very, Really, Suddenly and That – from Writer's Circle:** <http://writerscircle.com/2014/04/very-and-other-useless-words-to-erase-forever.html>
- ▶ **Don't Wait for Inspiration: 3 Surefire Ways to Beat Writer's Block:** <http://thewritelife.com/dont-wait-for-inspiration-beat-writers-block/>

Some Publishing News

- ▶ **Tips on how to create your own Logo – watch Aaron Draplin:**
<http://www.adweek.com/adfreak/watch-designer-who-really-knows-what-hes-doing-create-logo-scratch-161942>
- ▶ **How to Organize Your Book's Front Matter:** (I've had to refer to this page myself)
<http://www.thebookdesigner.com/2012/02/self-publishing-basics-how-to-organize-your-books-front-matter/>
- ▶ **The Skinny on Giving Away your eBooks through Amazon:**
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/23/books/23kindle.html>
- ▶ **4 Harsh Truths That Will Help You Sell More Books:**
<http://services4authors.com/2015/01/08/4-harsh-truths-that-will-help-you-sell-more-books/>
- ▶ **Social Media 4 Writers:** <https://flipboard.com/section/socialmedia4writers-buwHwH> This is one of those Flip Page websites, very cool indeed. This article begins on the third flip page: **9 Ways to Utilize Social Media for Storytelling.**



Happy writing!

~ Ann