

Just Write Newsletter ~ Volume 6, Issue 3 ~ March 2017

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



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Writing Quotes

“I always kept two books in my pocket, one to read, one to write in.” – *Robert Louis Stevenson*

“Commit yourself to the process, not the project. Invest yourself in the lifestyle, not the particular piece of work.” – *Frances Conroy*

“The writer is an explorer. Every step is an advance into a new land.” – *R. W. Emerson*

“Stories of imagination tend to upset those without one.” – *Terry Pratchett*

Chapter Officers

President / Newsletter Editor: Ann Gordon – ann@gordoncomputer.com

Vice President: Mechelle Morrison – mechellemorrison@gmail.com

Critique Group

Just Write hosts two Critique/Review sessions a month. All Just Write members are welcome to join one of our critique sessions. I believe you'll find the feedback useful, whether you write stories, novels, essays or poetry. *Write On!*

New Members

Welcome to our new members: Carol, Christeena, Josie and Shawn.

- Carol lives in the Springville area; she has one novel finished and several in progress. She has joined us in two critique sessions already and says that she appreciates the feedback she's received.
- Christeena lives with her family in the Millcreek area. She writes children's stories and chapter books. She's currently rewriting several children's books for publication and has already joined us in a critique session.
- Josie lives with her family in North Ogden. She has been writing essays and stories most of her life. Now she is writing YA fiction. She plans to join us in our next critique session.

New Members (continued)

- Shawn lives in Salt Lake. Like me, he is a tech writer and instructional designer who also likes to write fiction. He has completed some historical fiction projects and is now penning a mystery. He plans to join our critique sessions.

A hearty welcome to each of you, and thank you for choosing Just Write!

Writing Website Reviews --**Self-Publishing Needs Content Marketing**

This is one of many instructive articles on the Just Publishing Advice website. As a technical writer and instructional designer I have written many content articles. Most people are drawn to content, so it is a good way to draw customers to your website or blog. During their visit they just might want to buy your book. And that's a good thing.

<https://www.justpublishingadvice.com/self-publishing-success-needs-content-marketing/>



Self-Publishing Success Needs Content Marketing

**Mythcreants: Fantasy & Science Fiction for Storytellers**

What a website, I'm impressed. I found good articles about Worldbuilding, a major hurdle for Sci-Fi/Fantasy authors. Some articles I enjoyed include:

- The Seven Worldbuilding Sins of Storytellers
- Know How Your Magic Works
- Worlds of Good and Evil
- How to Create a Rational Magic System
- Five Superpowers That Will Break Your Story

The "Mythcreants" website contains plenty of articles about writing logical and realistic fantasy and sci-fi. What a great resource. I wish I'd discovered this website sooner. <http://mythcreants.com/>

*Keep writing,
~ Ann*

Conferences, Workshops

- ▶ **LUW – League Spring Conference:** April 8th, 2017 (Saturday). Member price: \$25 (+ 1.62 fee). Time: 11:00am – 6:00pm. Where: SLCC Student Center in Taylorsville, 4600 S Redwood Road. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/league-of-utah-writers-spring-conference-2017-tickets-28188634966>
- ▶ **RWA – Utah Chapter (Romance Writers of America): Online Workshops.** <http://www.utahrwa.com/URWAWorkshopRegistration.html>
 - **Leaping Over Stumbling Blocks.** March 1-31, 2017. Member: \$20; Non-member: \$25.
 - **Finishing Your Novel.** April 1-28, 2017. Member: \$20; Non-member: \$25.

- ▶ **FanX – from SL Comic Con:** March 17-18, 2017. Salt Palace Convention Center, SLC.
<http://saltlakecomiccon.com/>
- ▶ **Las Vegas Writer’s Conference (hosted by the Henderson Writers Group):** April 20-22, 2017. Keynote speaker: Donald Maass, a New York literary agent who sells over 150 novels a year to major publishers. He teaches a full-day workshop. The conference has lots of acquiring agents and editors. It is rather expensive, but I’ve always wanted to attend. <http://lasvegaswritersconference.com/>
- ▶ **LDS Storymakers Conference:** May 11-13th, 2017. Where: Utah Valley Convention Center. Registration is now open. Schedule: <http://ldstorymakersconference.com/schedule-overview/>
- ▶ **LUW Advanced Workshop:** June 3rd. Where: West Jordan City Hall, Community Rm. Workshop highlights an advanced part of the writing craft. I don’t know the registration fee; that hasn’t been posted yet. <https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/events>
- ▶ **Fyrecon – Refining Your Creative Fyre:** June 8th - 10th, Weber State University – Davis Campus, 2750 University Park Blvd, Layton. This Science Fiction & Fantasy conference offers Master Classes by David Farland and Michael Collings (I love their work), Workshops, Teen classes, and an Editing Workshop with free editing of 1 to 3 pages. The fee for the three-day conference is \$40. Visit: <http://www.fyrecon.com/> Registration: <http://www.fyrecon.com/registration/>
- ▶ **LUW Advanced Workshop:** July 29th. Where: West Jordan City Hall, Community Rm. Workshop highlights an advanced part of the writing craft. I don’t know the registration fee; that hasn’t been posted yet. <https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/events>
- ▶ **Colorado Gold Conference (hosted by Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers):** September 8-10, 2017 in Denver. Keynote speakers listed on the website, along with an impressive list of acquiring agents and editors. The conference is rather pricey, but worth it. <http://rmfw.org/conference/>
- ▶ **LUW Fall Conference:** October 6th-7th, 2017. Where: West Jordan City Hall, Community Room. Save the dates. I’ll post the details when they become available. They will also be posted here: <https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/events>

Writing Contests

- ▶ **Gemini Magazine Short Story Contest:** Entry: \$5. Deadline: March 31, 2017. All finalists published in June issue of Gemini. Five cash prizes. Any subject, style, genre or length. <http://www.gemini-magazine.com/contest.html> **Note:** On the website you can read many of the past contest winners of both the Short Story and Flash Fiction contests.
- ▶ **Winning Writers: Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest:** No Entry Fee. Deadline: April 1, 2017. Up to 250 lines. Cash prizes and publication for winners. <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/wergle-flomp-humor-poetry-contest-free>
- ▶ **Winning Writers: Tom Howard/John Reid Fiction & Essay Contest:** Fee: \$18 per entry. Deadline: April 30, 2017. Up to 6,000 words. Cash prizes and publication for winners, which are announced in October. Top 12 entries will be published online. <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/tom-howard-john-h-reid-fiction-essay-contest>
- ▶ **Winning Writers: Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest:** Fee: \$12 per poem. Deadline: September 30, 2017. Up to 250 lines. Cash prizes and publication for winners. <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/tom-howard-margaret-reid-poetry-contest>

- ▶ **LUW – League Writing Contest:** Deadline: Should be in June. The League’s annual creative writing contest categories include Fiction, Nonfiction and Poetry. I sent members the LUW contest categories last week. **Note:** The Cache, Heritage Writers, SL Genre Writers, Oquirrh and other chapters are already writing and peer reviewing their submissions! I hope many of our Just Write authors are getting ready too.

Remember, winners not only get awards and cash, but a chance for publication in the League’s anthology. When they are available the details, including word count, will be posted here: <https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/2017-luw-writing-competition> I will send members any contest information I receive.

Resources

- ▶ **Four Techniques to Show Rather Than Tell:** Article with good examples. <http://marcykennedy.com/2013/01/four-techniques-to-show-rather-than-tell/>
- ▶ **9 Statistics Writers Should Know About Amazon,** by Jane Friedman: <https://janefriedman.com/9-statistics-writers-know-amazon/>
- ▶ **Lessons Learned from 1000 Books,** by Nat Russo: I follow Nat on Twitter. In this article he shares what he’s learned as an INDIE publisher who has sold 1000 copies of his book, *Necromancer Awakening*. <https://www.erindorpress.com/2014/05/lessons-learned-from-1000-books/>



- ▶ **Science in Sci-Fi, Fact in Fantasy:** Website with a ton of articles about science that you can use in your stories. Science and facts include physics, astronomy, genetics, biology, military strategy, psychology, space travel, computers, magic, warfare, superstition and habitable atmospheres. Great resource for checking our facts. <http://dankoboldt.com/science-in-scifi/>
- ▶ **The Art of Storytelling by Pixar – Perspectives and advice for great storytelling:** <https://www.khanacademy.org/partner-content/pixar/storytelling>
- ▶ **Described It: Fear / Panic – Descriptive:** Detailed information for describing Fear or Panic in your story and characters, including descriptions of facial expressions, body language, internal reactions, mannerisms, and voice. Love it. I will use this site in every story from now on. <https://descriptive.wordpress.com/2017/02/28/describe-it-fear-panic/>

Publishing Opportunities

- ▶ **Anthology Seeking Horror/Suspense/Thriller Stories – Anthology title: “Two Eyes Open.”** By MacKenzie Publishing. Submissions due by: March 31, 2017. Actual anthology publication date: August 2017. <https://mackenziepublishing.wordpress.com/call-for-submissions-adult-horror-anthology/>

► **Chicken Soup for the Soul:** They have the following book deadlines for this year:

1. Christmas and Holiday Collection / October 31, 2017
2. My Crazy Family! / June 30, 2017
3. My Kind (of) America March 31st, 2017
4. Positively Happy! / May 31, 2017
5. Step Outside Your Comfort Zone / March 31, 2017
6. Stories of Redemption / August 31st, 2017

Example: Stories of Redemption pays \$200 for an accepted story plus ten copies of the book. Story length: Up to 1200 words. <http://www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/uncategorized/chicken-soup-for-the-soul-several-deadlines-approaching-11-books/>

► **Anthology of Food-Related Romance “The Way to My Heart”:** Kelly Ann Jacobson is looking for romance stories or nonfiction pieces up to 3000 words or three poems. Food/drink should play a vital role in all submissions, but stories and poems should center around a human romantic relationship. <http://www.kellyannjacobson.com/anthologies/the-way-to-my-heart>

► **Profane Journal:** Open for submissions of essays, stories and poetry until July 31st. Please read past issues of the journal before submitting. Past issues are free on the website. <http://www.profanejournal.com/submissions.html> Besides accepting submissions they also have contests. To discover submission parameters and word counts, go to the Submittable page and click MORE for the desired category. <https://profane.submittable.com/submit>

► **Panoply - A Literary Zine:** For issue 6 they are accepting submissions until April 2nd. *Panoply* is read in 120 foreign countries. The theme of this issue is “daylight.” They accept flash fiction and short, short prose and poetry. <https://panoplyzine.com/>

► **Golden Walkman Magazine:** A literary magazine in the form of a podcast aimed at giving the written word a voice. I’ve provided voiceovers for training courses so I’m totally interested, even though it doesn’t pay. <http://www.goldwalkmag.com/> Most info on the Submissions page.

Happy writing!
Ann

