

# Just Write Newsletter ~ Volume 4, Issue 5 ~ May 2015

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



## **Table of Contents**

- **Writing Quotes**
- **Editorials**
- **Member Article**
- **Conferences, Workshops**
- **Writing Contests**
- **Online Resources**
- **Self Publishing News**

## **Writing Quotes**

“Writing is like a contact sport, like football. You can get hurt, but you enjoy it.” – Irwin Shaw

“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.” – Maya Angelou

“Be courageous and try to write in a way that scares you a little.” – Holly Gerth

“Real writers are those who want to write, need to write, have to write.” – Robert Penn Warren

“The Constitution only guarantees the American people the *right* to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.” – Benjamin Franklin

“Everything you want is on the other side of fear.” – Jack Canfield

## **Chapter Officers**

President / Newsletter Editor: ..... Ann Gordon – [gordoncomputer@yahoo.com](mailto:gordoncomputer@yahoo.com)

Vice President: ..... Mechelle Morrison – [mechellemorrison@gmail.com](mailto:mechellemorrison@gmail.com)

VP Columnist: ..... Edward Massey – [edward@edwardmasseybooks.com](mailto:edward@edwardmasseybooks.com)

## **Editorials: Productivity -The Missing Ingredient**

Productivity doesn't just happen; in fact, it may never happen without **clarity** and well-defined **purpose**, which for a freelance writer are probably synonymous. To increase my performance, productivity and eventually my profits, I have come to realize that I need a clear, detailed idea of my desired outcome along with a workable strategy to get there. In other words, I need **clarity**.

In my former life, when I wrote technical manuals for corporations, I never had to wait for inspiration, never lacked a goal, wouldn't dare procrastinate, and certainly never suffered writer's block. As a contract tech writer I would be hired to write a user manual for whatever widget the company produced, which automatically lent **clarity** to my work. First, I needed to learn enough about the product to understand what the users needed to know. Second, I needed to determine what the users

would need to know first, then second, then third, etc., and then I would place all the information I gathered into the correct order. I did this type of writing for decades, and found it to be fairly easy work because it was so straight forward. When I stopped taking corporate contracts and began writing fiction, I thought I was embarking on a journey I'd wanted for decades, but before long I felt like a small boat left to drift on a big lake.

I had lost **clarity**, and with it, motivation and purpose.

In this free-wheeling world of freelance writing, I have no manager to set goals for my productivity, no one wants weekly progress reports, and I no longer have a ready market for what I produce. In my current writing projects I don't have a logical outline to follow, like Step One, Step Two, Step Three, etc. Now that I'm on my own and writing made-up stuff, I often leave my desk to go shopping or bake cookies or watch TV or clean the laundry room, all because I don't know what to do next. I don't have any solid requirements, no measurable goals, no management or client parameters to meet, and I certainly no longer have a ready-made audience. In the past year of freelance writing I'm afraid that I've unlearned all I used to know about being productive.



Now that I've discovered what I'm lacking in this freelance life, I need to discover how to get it back. To begin with I'm going to read these three books:

- [Writing Habit Mastery: How to Write 2000 Words a Day](#), by S. J. Scott
- [Escaping into the Open: the Art of Writing True](#), by Elizabeth Borg
- [A Writer's Time](#), by Kenneth Atchity
- [Time Management: A Freelancer's Survival Guide](#), by Kristine Kathryn Rusch

I've already blown the first five months of this year, but I hope to make up for it in the next seven. ;-)

*Ann*



### Flash Fiction – Weekly Challenge

This week I discovered: “Indies Unlimited: Celebrating Independent Authors.” I've visited several websites dedicated to independent, self-published authors, but this site offers something new: Every week they host a Flash Fiction Challenge.

While the Flash Fiction category may include stories up to 1000 words, this website only considers stories of **250 words** or less. *Absolutely no more.* They sponsor a Flash Fiction Challenge every week, starting each Saturday at 9:00 a.m. After twelve months, the fifty-two winners of these weekly challenges are published in an anthology. What a neat idea! Check it out: <http://www.indiesunlimited.com/flash-fiction/>

### Member Article: *Ivan Doig* by Edward Massey

In this note I want to recognize the passing of Ivan Doig (April 9, 2015) and celebrate his impact on one writer ... *me*. To all LUW writers he should be notable because Ivan Doig traces a line back to Wallace Stegner. We should all be so graced with talent to follow in a line from Wallace Stegner to Ivan Doig to ourselves.

Ivan's impact on me is personal. I never knew either Wallace or Ivan and I never got to study with either of them. In fact, I didn't know about Ivan Doig until five years back (my literary illiteracy astounds me every day) when someone challenged me to name five writers whose writing was like mine. I could not name even one, which was not an acceptable answer. After that I started a search and found Ivan Doig. His web site lists 15 books that he authored, but I suspect there are more. Two of his books stick out in my mind, [Prairie Nocturne](#) and [Whistling Season](#).

While I was sorry to learn of his death, he died at age 85 and that is a good run. I don't aspire to write like Ivan Doig, but I do aspire to write, like Ivan Doig.

Edward Massey, [edwardmasseybooks.com](http://edwardmasseybooks.com)

## Writing Conferences and Workshops

- ▶ **Spring Into Books**, sponsored by West Jordan Arts Council and LUW Oquirrh Chapter: Saturday, May 23, 2015. Viridian Event Center, 8030 South 1825 West, West Jordan. Fun for the Whole Family, including Children's Superhero Carnival, writing & illustrating presentations, book readings, book signings, games, prizes, snacks. <http://www.viridiancenter.org/ev/index.htm>
- ▶ **Writing and Illustrating for Young Readers:** June 15-19 at The Waterford School (1480 East 9400 South), Sandy. The conference offers detailed workshops where the writers really do work. Get information here: <https://www.wifyr.com/blog/2015-conference/> You might want to check out their blog too: <https://www.wifyr.com/blog/blog/>
- ▶ **IndieAuthorHub:** June 19-20 at the Marriott Hotel, downtown Provo (101 West 100 North). This conference has options for one or two days of the conference. Information about the 2014 and 2015 conferences on the website: <http://www.indieauthorhub.com/> Early bird registration open.
- ▶ **League of Utah Writers Fall Conference: August 28-29. Please mark your calendars.** This year the 2015 Utah Writers Fall Conference will be held at the Riverwoods Conference Center in Logan. Currently some of the Presenter bios and photos have been posted on the website, but the schedule is still being finalized. When it's ready for prime time, Amanda will have it posted on the website. She's been working double-time on this conference, which promises to be both educational and great fun. <http://www.luwriters.org/roundup.html>

## Writing Contests

- ▶ **Glimmer Train, Submission calendar for 2015:** <http://www.glimmertrain.com/writguid1.html>
- ▶ **The New Letters Literary Awards:** Deadline: May 18, 2015 – Entry fee \$20. Cash prize to first place winners of these categories: poetry, essay, and short fiction. Fiction and essays should not exceed 8,000 words. A single poetry entry may contain up to six poems. <http://www.newletters.org/writers-wanted/writing-contests>
- ▶ **Dragon Knight Chronicles Semi-Annual Fantasy Writing Competition:** Deadline: May 31, 2015 - \$5 Entry Fee for first story, \$2.50 per additional story. They want Fantasy, Paranormal, or Dark Fantasy. <https://dkchronicles2013.wordpress.com/2015/01/02/semi-annual-fantasy-writing-competition/>
- ▶ **Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction:** Deadline: May 31, 2015 - \$30 entry fee. Should be 40,000 to 75,000 words in length. Open to all residents of North America. <http://www.ugapress.org/index.php/series/FOC>

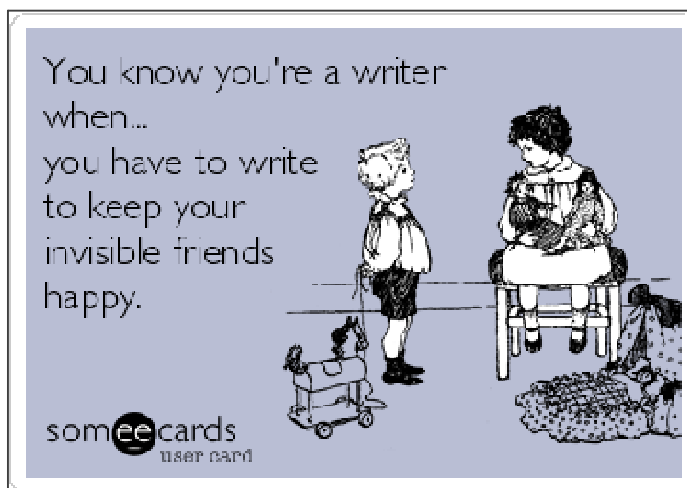
- ▶ **League of Utah Writers Contest: Deadline: June 1, 2015** – various entry fees. The Creative Writing Contest and the Published Book Contest have the same deadline. For information see the Quill newsletter. Go here to open the Category Guide: [http://www.luwriters.org/pdf/contest\\_category\\_and\\_guide2015.pdf](http://www.luwriters.org/pdf/contest_category_and_guide2015.pdf)
- ▶ **Tiferet Writing Contest:** Deadline: June 1, 2015 – Entry fee \$15. Sponsored by the Tiferet Journal. Cash prizes. See <http://tiferetjournal.com/2015-writing-contest/>
- ▶ **Colorado Gold Writing Contest, by the Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers:** Deadline: June 1, 2015 - \$30 Entry Fee. If you pay \$55 (instead of \$30) you will receive feedback from one of the first two judges. Enter the first 4000 words of your manuscript and a 750-word synopsis. The contest has lots of categories and subcategories. Final judges are publishers and acquiring agents/editors. <http://rmfw.org/contest/> and <http://rmfw.org/contest/contest-categories-and-subgenres/>
- ▶ **Book of the Year Award, Independent Author Network:** Deadline: June 30, 2015 – Entry fee: \$39 for one, \$69 for two. No publication or copyright date requirements or word count restrictions; 18 fiction & nonfiction categories. Prizes exceed \$10,000. Winners posted on Facebook, Twitter, and the [Independent Author Network](http://www.IndependentAuthorNetwork.com) website. For competition parameters and guidelines, visit: [www.IndependentAuthorNetwork.com/book-of-the-year.html](http://www.IndependentAuthorNetwork.com/book-of-the-year.html)
- ▶ **Royal Nonesuch (Mark Twain) Writing Contest:** Deadline: July 10, 2015 – Entry fee \$12 or \$22. Humor writing contest; up to 7000 words. <https://twainhouse.submittable.com/submit/38076>
- ▶ **The Golden Quill Awards:** Deadline: July 15, 2015 – Entry fee \$15 to \$20. Flash fiction, short fiction and poetry. Cash prizes. Theme: Transformation. <http://www.thegoldenquillawards.com/>
- ▶ **Amygdala Short Story Contest:** Deadline: August 12, 2015 – Entry fee: \$35. This contest for a cash prize and inclusion in a short-story collection is sponsored by a Utah-based company. This is the contest announcement page: <http://www.dwighthurst.com/contest>
- ▶ **Dragon Knight e-Magazine Writing Competition:** Deadline: January 15, 2016. Dragon Knight is looking for stories for a new e-Magazine. Formatting, submission guidelines, and word count are listed here: <https://dkchronicles2013.wordpress.com/annual-e-magazine-writing-competition/>

### Online Resources for Writers

- ▶ **The Gift of Fear** – Interesting article about Thrill Writing: <http://thrillwriting.blogspot.com/2011/12/book-review-gift-of-fear.html>
- ▶ **Should I use a Publisher? 10 Questions to Ask:** <http://www.derekhaines.ch/justpublishing/should-i-use-a-publisher-10-questions-to-ask/>
- ▶ **Publish Short and Publish Often:** [*That's just what I plan to do ... Ann*] <http://www.derekhaines.ch/justpublishing/self-publish-often-and-short/>
- ▶ **Chocolate: Good for you and your writing:** <http://bookmarketingtools.com/blog/why-chocolate-is-good-for-you-and-your-writing/>
- ▶ **How to Write a Book and Get It Done:** <http://writetodone.com/how-to-write-a-book/>
- ▶ **9 Ways to Self-Promote Your Work Without Being a Jerk!** <http://positivewriter.com/promote-writing/#sthash.JennDIgb.dpuf>
- ▶ **4 Tips to Write a Summer Blockbuster:** <http://thewritepractice.com/write-blockbuster/>

## Self Publishing & Freelance

1. **Do you know about DRM?** To post an eBook on Amazon you need to know about DRM so you can indicate whether you want it or not. Some people like it and some don't; if you don't know how you feel about DRM, check out this article from Derek Haines, an author who doesn't like it and explains why. <http://www.derekhaines.ch/justpublishing/what-is-drm-and-why-i-dont-like-it/>
2. For books, **Video Marketing** is hot! I'm just starting to make some book videos. I learned a lot from how-to presentations on YouTube. Here's an article about this revolution: <http://www.business2community.com/video-marketing/secrets-behind-video-marketing-01227194>
3. The following links are about **eBook Pricing**, a decision I've had to make six times now. *Please note:* Most OnDemand publishers don't let authors decide on the price for their eBook. But when you publish the eBook yourself, you get to set the price. Here are some articles about eBook pricing:
  - ▶ **The Hard Facts about eBook Pricing:** <http://robmcclellan.thirdscribe.com/2015/05/14/the-hard-facts-about-ebook-pricing/#.VVZ-AU3naM8>
  - ▶ **The Shocking Secret about eBook Prices ... that will help you price your eBook:** <http://bubblecow.com/the-shocking-secret-about-ebook-prices-that-will-help-you-price-your-ebook>
  - ▶ **eBook Pricing** (by J A Konrath): <http://jakonrath.blogspot.com/2010/09/ebook-pricing.html>
  - ▶ **7 Must-Consider Strategies for eBook Pricing:** <http://www.digitalbookworld.com/2013/what-is-the-value-of-an-ebook-hint-it-has-nothing-to-do-with-the-cost-of-paper-and-ink/>
  - ▶ **Set the Right Price for your Self-Published Book:** <http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2013/09/how-to-set-the-right-price-for-your-self-published-book/>



**Happy writing!**

~ Ann