

Just Write Newsletter ~ Volume 5, Issue 6 ~ June 2016

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



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Writing Quotes

“Writing is ... a matter of doing everything you can to avoid writing until it is about four in the morning and you reach the point where you have to write.” – *Paul Rudnick*

“You don't start out writing good stuff. You start out writing crap and thinking it's good stuff, and then gradually you get better at it. That's why I say one of the most valuable traits is persistence.”
– *Octavia Butler*

“The easiest thing to do on earth is not write.” – *William Goldman*

“I write 2,000 words a day when I write. It sometimes takes three hours, it sometimes takes five.”
– *Nicholas Sparks*

“One of the most difficult things is the first paragraph. I have spent many months on a first paragraph, and once I get it, the rest just comes out very easily.” – *Gabriel Garcia Marquez*

“If I waited for perfection, I would never write a word.” – *Margaret Atwood*

“For me, writing a short story is much, much harder than writing a novel.” – *Lynn Abbey*

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New Members

A hearty welcome to new members Britney Mills, Jared Hurst, Jeffrey Huenke, and Liam Dorel. Thank you for joining us. Britney is participating in the current critique session and Jared and Liam plan to be with us next time. Yay!

Critique Group

June– Next Critique/Review Session Starts June 15th: Please join us in the next session of our Critique & Review group. We have a nice cadre of determined authors who provide useful feedback. All Just Write members are welcome to participate. Mechelle and I take turns moderating.

We hold two critique sessions a month, one starting the 1st and the other starting around the 15th. We send invitations to interested members. Let me know if you want to be on the mailing list for the critique sessions. You can join often or sporadically.

Write On!

Editorial: Flash Fiction

In public school many kids called me Flash because of my last name. Back in the 50s (a super long time ago) Flash Gordon shows were still on TV. Now flash forward to 2014 when I wrote my first Flash Fiction story. It won an Honorable Mention in the LUW contest. This year I entered my second Flash story in a contest and it took first place. I think I'm getting the hang of this.



In the LUW creative writing contest, the categories that receive the most submissions are Flash Fiction and 1st Chapter. Most Flash fiction stories don't do well because the authors don't understand what's expected in this genre. It's not just about writing a piece that's only a 1000 words long.

This approach works for many Flash authors: First think of a flashpoint, or plot point, and build out from there in both directions. Include limited or no backstory, only enough characterization to pique interest, limit the number of characters, focus on powerful images, add a simile or metaphor, and go for emotional impact at the end.

For me, writing a short story is fairly easy, but in its original form my stories are always too long. That's where a good thesaurus comes in handy (or Thesaurus.com). I don't use obscure or super-long words, but I try to use the right word, going for intense instead of wordy. Remember that Flash stories should end with a poignant sentence that hits the reader in the gut. Many times this final sentence makes readers want to reread the story to experience that final punch again. If you haven't written Flash stories, you might want try it. Short short stories are popular now; they're just long enough for people to read on their phone or tablet during a break.

See "Thirteen Tips for Writing Flash Fiction" <http://flashfictiononline.com/main/2015/04/thirteen-tips-for-writing-flash-fiction/> and "The Ten Rules of Flash Fiction" - <http://www.urbanfantasist.com/blog/the-ten-rules-of-flash-fiction>

Keep writing!

~Ann

Member Article: Three Reasons to Review by Edward Massey

Last year, either as a judge or reviewer, I read 41 novels published in 2015. For this article I decided to justify myself by offering three reasons to review:

1. It helps your writing the way a critique group does. When reading to review, you have to look for good writing along with certain aspects of the novel. Later, when you read your own writing, you cannot help look at your own work with the same critical eye.
2. It helps your writing career by building a platform. Not many people remember the names of reviewers or judges, but each bit of recognition helps. It also helps build relationships among peers in the writing industry.
3. It helps your writing for publication by forcing you to develop synopsis skills. I hate writing the obligatory synopsis that goes in a query letter, but I like the challenge of catching a novel in a few words during a review. Now if only I could step back and write a review of my own story before struggling to write the synopsis.

So I encourage you to read for others and for your own writing, especially since I cannot stop myself.

~ Edward

LUW Anthology:

The latest anthologies published by the **League of Utah Writers** are now on Amazon. **Mirrored Realities** contains my Selene story, which placed in the 2014 LUW contest. I hope you buy a copy: http://www.amazon.com/Mirrored-Realities-Collection-Prose-Poetry/dp/0988236737/ref=sr_1_1

LUW Creative Writing Contest winners have a chance to be included in these anthologies.

Writing Conferences and Workshops

- ▶ **Writing Mini-Conference: June 18, 10 am to 12:30 pm. WSU Davis Campus, Rm D2-114**
Free for LUW Members. Hosted by the Wasatch Writers chapter. Presenters: Kelly Lindbert, Angie Fenimore & Michael Sheen, and Clint Johnson. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.
<http://wasatchwriters.weebly.com/>
- ▶ **LUW Editing Workshop: July 9, 1 pm to 5 pm. West Jordan City Hall.** \$30 for members.
Information on attached flyer and on the LUW website.
- ▶ **LUW Querying Workshop: August 6, 1 pm to 5 pm. West Jordan City Hall.** \$30 for members.
Information will be posted on the LUW website.
- ▶ **LUW Fall Conference: September 23-24. (They changed the date & venue.)**
This is the League's biggest event. The conference will be in Provo at the Provo Marriott. Details will be posted in the League newsletter "The Quill" and on the League website. <http://luwriters.org/>
Please keep these dates open. Saturday night is when LUW contest winners are announced and awards given. I hope to see you there.
- ▶ **Colorado Gold Conference – Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers: September 9-11, 2016.** Denver, Colorado. This is their 34th Annual writing conference. They always have a dozen agents and acquisition editors from publishing houses. It's a good place to pitch your book. The Conference will be held at Renaissance Hotel, Denver. <http://rmfw.org/conference/>

Writing Contests

- ▶ **League of Utah Writers Contest: This is a great contest!** The deadline is June 12th. The League uses an outside source for judging to eliminate favoritism. Good! LUW now uses *Submittable* so we no longer send our stories, chapters and poems to the League contest chair. For submission details, go here: <https://luwriters.submittable.com/submit>

NOTE: The **LUW Creative Writing Contest** and the **LUW Published Book Contest** are **separate** contests with different requirements, but with the SAME due date: **June 12th.**

- ▶ **FutureScapes Writing Contest from UVU:** NO FEE to enter. Deadline: July 15th. Cash prizes and winners are published in the anthology. <http://www.futurescapescontest.com/>
- ▶ **The 17 Best Flash Fiction Contests (according to BookFox):** <http://thejohnfox.com/2016/03/flash-fiction-contest/>
- ▶ **Flash Fiction Challenge for 2016 – This is different from most writing contests. It costs more but everyone gets feedback:** <http://www.nycmidnight.com/Competitions/FFC/Challenge.htm>
- ▶ **The Masters Review – Short Story Award for New Writers:** Fee: \$20. Deadline: July 15th. Cash prizes and publication. 6000 word limit. For emerging authors only (those who have not published a novel). Check it out: <https://mastersreview.com/short-story-award-for-new-writers/>



Online Resources

- ▶ **35 Things I have Learned so Far as a Writer:** <http://timigurung.com/2016/06/06/35-things-that-i-have-learned-so-far-as-a-writer/>
- ▶ **Why I'm a Coward:** This is an interesting post about not writing due to fear. <https://authordanobrien.com/2016/04/05/why-im-a-coward/>
- ▶ **How to Invoke the Spirit of Writing & Overcome Writers Block:** <http://www.bloggingtipstoday.com/overcome-writers-block-356.html>
- ▶ **How I Learned to Write a Novel in Ten Minutes a Day:** <http://www.10minutenovelists.com/write-a-novel-in-ten-minutes/>
- ▶ **10 Writers Conference Substitutes for the Poor & Xenophobic:** Subtitle: "If you're a writer of any artistic credibility then you have no money and you're kind of afraid of people." <http://www.10minutenovelists.com/top-10-writers-conference-substitutes-for-the-poor-xenophobic/>

Coaching

- ▶ **Brooke Warner** <http://brookewarner.com/>
This week I listened to a teleseminar with Brooke titled, "Publishing Industry Secrets to Self-Publishing Success." She owns **She Writes Press**. She actively blogs on *Huffington Post Books* and on *SheWrites.com*. Check out her website and blog. She knows a LOT about the publishing industry.

Publishing Opportunities

- ▶ **Chicken Soup for the Soul books:** They are looking for submissions for their next 11 books. Check out this list: <http://www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/uncategorized/chicken-soup-for-the-soul-several-deadlines-approaching-11-books/>
- ▶ **Flash Fiction – Top 20 Websites looking for Flash Fiction:** This website gives you an idea of how many people actually visit these sites and read the fiction. Many of these online journals publish longer fiction, nonfiction. <http://thejohnfox.com/flash-fiction-submissions/>
- ▶ **Novellas – 33 Publishers & Journals seeking Novellas:** According to Forbes, the eBook format has energized the novella form. <http://thejohnfox.com/journals-accepting-novellas/>



*Happy Writing (and Editing),
Ann*