

Just Write Newsletter ~ Vol 7, No. 4 ~ June /July 2018

Just Write: The Online Chapter for the L'UW



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Writing Quotes

“Talent is common. What is rare is the willingness to endure the life of the writer.” – *Kurt Vonnegut*

“Many people hear voices when no one is there. Some of them are called “mad” and are shut up in rooms where they stare at walls all day. Others are called “writers” and they do pretty much the same thing.” – *Ray Bradbury*

“We are, as a species, addicted to story. Even when the body goes to sleep, the mind stays up all night, telling itself stories.” – *Jonathan Gottschall*

“If you hear voices inside your head, and they talk like you’re not even there, you’re probably an author.”

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New Members

A hearty welcome to our new members: Alan Paananen and Michele Backman. We’re happy you’ve joined our chapter. I hope you have a great year with the League and with Just Write – and we hope to meet you in person at a workshop or conference. We also have some visitors in this session. Welcome to our visitors. I hope you enjoy your stay.

Write on!

Editorial: How to Avoid Getting Sued When Writing a Memoir

Several of our members are writing **memoirs**. The other day I listened to a most excellent 30-minute teleseminar titled: **“How to Avoid Getting Sued When Writing a Memoir.”** The teleseminar was sponsored by the NonFiction Authors Association (NFAA). This week the speaker was Jonathan Kirsch: an author, book reviewer, and attorney. He was so eloquent I could have listened to him all day. He clearly defined “reasonable expectation of privacy” with real world examples. I think every author (fiction or nonfiction) should make sure they understand this aspect of publishing law, which also covers photographs of relatives or friends or acquaintances that an author might include in their book. (www.jonathankirsch.com)



True Story about invasion of privacy: Years ago I copy edited a memoir for someone twenty years my senior and from another state, so I knew none of the people or places mentioned in his memoir. I was concerned with fixing the grammar and assumed the author had permission to write what he did about his boyhood friends—all of whom he named in the book. After the author self-published and sold copies to his relatives and a bunch of people in his hometown (where he hadn’t lived for over 40 years), he ran into a legal & ethical problem that demoralized him. In the book he detailed a true story of how one of his reckless friends sustained a life-threatening injury by being stupid when he was drunk.

By the time this book came out, that guy had married and had children and grandchildren who had *never been told the truth* about the man’s physical handicap. My client’s report of what really happened just about destroyed that family because the book exposed the lie the boy and his parents had constructed and told everyone. The siblings and descendants didn’t sue the author, although they could have. The author deleted every line of that true story and deleted the person’s name from the MSS. Then he republished the book. He bought back every 1st edition copy of the book he could find by replacing it with the 2nd edition. The memoir author was so devastated by that family’s anger that he swore he would never write again. He eventually did complete his fiction works, but would never writing another nonfiction or even creative nonfiction.

NFAA: I have belonged to the NFAA for years. Every Wednesday at 11:00 Mountain Time they provide a 30-minute presentation by an authority; these presentations cover writing, publication, marketing, legalities, etc. Presentations are geared for nonfiction authors but often apply to fiction authors as well. Paying members can listen to archived presentations, but guests are free to listen to the LIVE presentations by calling the NFAA number Wednesday morning. You can check out their current teleseminar list at: <https://nonfictionauthorsassociation.com/category/upcoming-events-2/>

Keep writing, Ann

Writing Conferences and Workshops



LUW Quills Conference: August 24th-25th in Salt Lake.

This is the League’s fall conference, the largest of the year. This year the conference will be held at the University Park Marriot on Wakara Way.

Conference, registration, and motel information plus Google map are all here:

<https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/quills-conference-2018>

Be sure to check out the schedule and list of presenters.

LUW Summer Symposium – Member Report: [June 16th] This full-day writing conference (held in Logan) was co-sponsored by the LUW and the USU English Department. Alissa (who has served as our chapter's delegate several times) attended the symposium and wrote a short report of her experience. Thank you, Alissa.

The LUW Summer Symposium was well worth my seven-hour round trip to Logan from Sanpete County. I enjoyed every class with topics ranging from the first pages of a novel to bringing your characters to life. But my favorite class was taught by our very own Mechelle Morrison! She talked about writing dialogue in YA literature with emphasis on slang, swearing and portraying teenagers in a realistic and believable way. She did an excellent job, even receiving a compliment from an attendee who was a 17-year-old budding writer. He said she hit the nail on the head. Go, Mechelle! ~Alissa Holyoak

Book Report: *How to Write 10,000 Words a Day*



I purchased the eBook, “2,000 to 10,000: How to Write Faster, Write Better, and Write More of What You Love,” downloaded it to my Kindle, and then promptly forgot about it—for about six months.

Last week I found it languishing among other eBooks I hadn't read and decided, Now is the time! I'm glad I did because this is a fun book full of sage advice. The author, Rachel Aaron, has written a fast paced book about how to write faster.

Her motto is: To write faster, know what you're going to write before you write it. This advice definitely points an accusing finger at low-producing pantsers like myself. Rachel makes convincing arguments for plotting and outlining, and evidently she puts her ideas to work. In 2011 she plotted a novel in three days and wrote the first

draft in two weeks. Holy pencil sharpeners, that's fast!

The chapters & sections include:

- If writing feels like pulling teeth, you're doing it wrong.
- How I went from writing 2,000 words a day to 10,000 words a day
- Staying at 10K a day
- How I plot a novel in 5 easy steps
- Characters who write their own stories
- How to conduct a Boredom Check
- Editing for people who hate editing
- Scrivener Shout Out

She is a fan of Scrivener – but that's not what this book is about. To learn more about Rachel, this is her website: <http://rachelaaron.net/> This is her blog: <http://thisblogisaploy.blogspot.com/> And here are her books, listed by series: <http://rachelaaron.net/books.php>

This book: https://www.amazon.com/2k-10k-Writing-Faster-Better/dp/1548271101/ref=sr_1_8

Write on, Ann

Some Resources

- “Crafting the Personal Essay: A Guide to Writing and Publishing Creative Nonfiction” by Dinty Moore. <http://dintywmoore.com/2010/books/crafting-the-personal-essay-a-guide-to-writing-and-publishing-creative-nonfiction/>
- “How to Write a Novel in One Year” by NY Book Editors. I especially like the part about “copying the Greats.” <https://nybookeditors.com/2017/01/guide-writing-novel-one-year/>
- “Set Up a Writing Schedule” by The Write Life. <https://thewritelife.com/meet-writing-goals-production-schedule/>
- “How to Create and Stick to a Writing Schedule” by The Writing Cooperative. <https://writingcooperative.com/how-to-create-and-stick-to-a-writing-schedule-f9098587e4c0>



Keep writing!

Ann