

Just Write Newsletter ~ Vol 6, No. 7 ~ August/September 2017

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



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Writing Quotes

“The problem in our country isn't with books being banned, but with people no longer reading. ... You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.”

– *Ray Bradbury*

“Writing is something you do alone. It's a profession for introverts who want to tell you a story but don't want to make eye contact while doing it.” – *John Green*

“Write like nobody will ever read it. Edit like the whole world will.” – *Sharon Melton Lippincott*

“You must give into your writing completely. If you are not convinced of the world you are creating on the page, your audience won't be either.” – *Theodor Seuss Geisel*

“When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals. Adjust the action steps.” – *Confucius*

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.” – *C. S. Lewis*

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 our critique sessions. You can submit a story or a chapter from your novel. Members can submit up to 3000 words each session. If you attend every session, your book-length manuscript will be edited and reviewed in no time.

I believe you'll find the feedback useful whether you write stories, novels, articles or essays.

Write On!

Website Review:**Publication Coach: Daphne Gray-Grant**

I've been reading Daphne's blog for years. She writes great articles about writing plus her blog also contains videos and interviews. These are available here: <http://www.publicationcoach.com/blog/> Her website has a good search tool and a Best Of listing.

Her book for writers, **8 1/2 Steps to Writing Faster, Better**, is packed with good information.

She sponsors "The Write Question," a weekly video podcast all about writing. Check out this one about Reverse Engineering for Writers: <http://www.publicationcoach.com/reverse-engineering-for-writers/> In this podcast she lists the steps for completing a book project and then explains how to add a deadline for each step on that list. Doing this keeps you on task and focused; it thwarts procrastination and increases productivity.

*Check it out – and keep writing,
~ Ann*

**Conferences, Workshops, etc**

- ▶ **Colorado Gold Conference – hosted by Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers:** September 8-10 in Denver. I understand this conference has already sold out. <http://rmfw.org/conference/>
- ▶ **Salt Lake Comic Con:** September 21-23 in the Salt Palace, downtown SLC. Prices range from \$60 to \$350. See the ticket options here: <http://saltlakecomiccon.com/>



- ▶ **LUW Fall Conference:** October 6-7th. Venue changed since first announced months ago. Conference will be here: SLCC Student Center, Taylorsville. Special Guests this year are Kevin J Anderson and J. H. Moncrieff. Plus Angie Hodapp of the Nelson Literary Agency in Colorado is a delight; I'm happy she's coming to our conference. I know here and she really knows what sells.

The schedule is now on the website. Check out the presenters and schedule here: <https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/fall-conference-2017>

- ▶ **A Monstrous Taste for Writing – Book Academy 2017 Writing Conference:** September 26 at UVU. Prices range from \$30 to \$60 with lunch. Conference will be held in the Student Center. <https://www.uvu.edu/conferences/book-academy/program.html>
- ▶ **David Farland Writing Workshop – The Writer's Peak:** November 3rd and 4th at the Courtyard Marriott in Provo. Space limited to 20 people. Cost: \$299. Includes two free online seminars. David Farland is an award-winning best-selling author, he's taught writing for many years, and he's a renowned writing contest judge – his co-trainer for this workshop will teach some NLP practices to make writers more productive. This workshop aims to heal writer's block and procrastination. *Note:* David taught Brandon Sanderson, Stephanie Meyer, James Dashner and other successful Utah authors. Learn more about him & the workshop here: <https://mystorydoctor.com/live-workshops-2/>

Resources

- ▶ **How Many Times Should I Edit my Manuscript?:** This article has good information. I think all writers explore these 10 different ways to edit our writing:
<https://www.lisatener.com/2010/12/how-to-edit-a-book-how-many-times-should-i-edit/>
- ▶ **The Snowflake Method for Designing a Novel:** I heard of the Snowflake Method from Stanley, a Just Write member for many years. He told me he planned to apply the methodology to his writing projects. Evidently there are ten steps to the snowflake method. I'm posting two links about it:
<http://www.advancedfictionwriting.com/articles/snowflake-method/> and
<http://www.nownovel.com/blog/understanding-snowflake-method/>



- ▶ **Need a Beta Reader?** Best friends, lovers, parents and siblings are not optimal beta readers - they are prejudiced. They tell us our MSS is great, which is nice, but we need a beta reader who reads a lot and will tell us the truth about what we need to cut or change.
<https://www.justpublishingadvice.com/tips-a-writer-can-use-to-reject-rejection/>
- ▶ **Character-Driven or Action-Driven?** Some people write character-driven fiction while others write active-driven fiction. The lucky ones are good at creating both. Learn more about the two approaches and how to combine them here: <https://www.writersstore.com/character-driven-or-action-driven/>
- ▶ **Time to Kill a Book – Realizing when it's time to abandon a book project:** There are times when we need to admit one of our book projects just isn't worth the effort anymore and should be dumped for something more promising. <https://dahaines.com/time-to-kill-a-book/>

Writing Contests

- ▶ **Omnidawn Fabulist Fiction Chapbook Contest:** Deadline: Oct 23rd. Fee: \$18. The winner of this Competition gets \$1,000, publication of the story chapbook with a color cover, 100 free copies of the winning book, and extensive publicity. Fabulist Fiction includes magic realism and literary forms of fantasy, sci-fi, horror, fable & myth. <http://omnidawn.com/contest/fiction/>
- ▶ **The Larry Brown Short Story Award:** Deadline: Oct 31st. Fee: \$10. Submit story, less than 4,000 words. Cash prize for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. <https://pitheadchapel.com/the-larry-brown-short-story-award/>
- ▶ **Writers at Work Flash Fiction Contest:** Deadline: Oct 15th. Fee: \$10. Cash prize is \$300 and publication on website. Submit a flash fiction piece up to 1,000 words. Read the guidelines:
<https://www.sequestrum.org/new-writer-awards-fiction-nonfiction>
- ▶ **Ghost Story Supernational Fiction Award:** Deadline: Sept 30th. Fee: \$20. Twice each year TGS awards \$1,000 and publication in "The Ghost Story" to the winner of their short story competition. Two other writers will receive Honorable Mention awards that include publication and cash prizes. Winning stories will be published on Midsummer's Eve and October 31. Story length: Between 1,500 and 10,000 words.



Publishing Info and Opportunities

- ▶ **The Big 5 Trade Book Publishers:** First a little backstory about me: In the 1990s I was a textbook field sales rep for Simon & Schuster covering Utah and Nevada. S&S had recently purchased Prentice-Hall; they had already purchased several other textbook publishers including Silver-Burdett and Ginn. So when I walked into a school to introduce myself to teachers and administrators, I stated my name and that I was representing Simon & Schuster, Prentice-Hall, Silver-Burdett and Ginn. The whole thing – several times a day. I thought it was funny – as did most of the people I ran into.

S&S and Random House and a few others kept purchasing other publishing houses until now there are just five main book publishers in the U.S. This is a quick article about the Big 5 Publishers:

<https://www.thebalance.com/the-big-five-trade-book-publishers-2800047>

- ▶ **Sky Horse Publishing:** Publishers Weekly called them the fastest-growing small publisher in America. The company isn't too small though – they do have 18 imprints. They publish non-fiction and children's books. Check them out: <http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com/>
- ▶ **Publishers Who Accept Unsolicited Manuscripts – Writing Academy Blog:** Interesting list; some are bigger than others, but it's a good list. I bookmarked this page: <http://blog.writingacademy.com/publisher-who-accept-unsolicited-manuscripts/>
- ▶ **Skybound Books:** In 2017 Atria Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, and Skybound Entertainment, responsible for hit TV shows, comics and graphic novels, announced a new co-publishing imprint, **Skybound Books**, which will focus on science fiction, fantasy and horror properties. Initially they will publish four to six titles a year from original works of fiction and nonfiction. This is good news; it will give authors more options.

I checked the Skybound website. They're still selling their graphic novels, comics and videos.

Nothing about the publishing venture, yet. <https://www.skybound.com/> and

<https://www.skybound.com/comics/january-2017-books-announced-solicits/>



Happy writing!

Ann