

Just Write Newsletter ~ Volume 4, Issue 8 ~ August 2015

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



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Writing Quotes

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” – *Mark Twain*

“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*

“You must learn to be three people at once: writer, character, and reader.” – *Nancy Kress*

“If the noun is good, and the verb is strong, you almost never need an adjective.” – *J. Anthony Lukas*

“Writing is showbusiness for shy people. That’s how I see it.” – *Lee Child*

“Get in, get out. Don’t linger.” – *Raymond Carver*

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Welcome

A hardy Welcome to our new members: Annie Whittaker, Kathy Davidson, Brenda Hodnett, and Lesli Muir Lytle.

Annie and her family live in Farmington. I haven’t met Annie yet but I checked out her FaceBook page and discovered that I like her sense of humor – which is a lot like mine. :)

Kathy lives in St Charles, Idaho with her husband and a large dog in training for search & rescue. She likes to write speculative fiction stories. The *Idaho Magazine* published one of her creative non-fiction tales about a local fisherman and his 'fishy stories'.

I'm pleased to welcome Brenda to the chapter. I haven't had a chance to request any bio information from her, but I hope she enjoys her stay with Just Write.

Lesli writes as L.L. Muir and Bella Bowen. She has published just about everything including poetry and screenplays. She's published about 25 novels and novellas so far plus stories and serials, and she has dozens more planned. Way to go, Lesli.

Editorial: Running out of Time

This spring it really hit me: I have way too many irons in my fire. Although I have enjoyed being editor of the League's "The Quill" newsletter, a few months ago I gave my notice that I'll resign that position after the August quarterly newsletter. It's been a privilege to serve the League by editing input and creating their newsletter, but after almost three years it is time for someone else to take the position.

But The Quill is only quarterly, so it's not like I work on it every day or even every week. I don't know why I keep running out of time, especially for my own writing projects. I've decided that I need to start an early morning ritual of working on my own stuff before I get caught up in the day. Self-discipline, that's what I need. Where's a staff sergeant when you need one?

I plan to begin my new schedule on August 15th – that is, working on my stories for 2-3 hours first thing every day, before working on anything else. If you see me, ask how it's going! :-)

Ann

Speaking of writing schedules, check out this **Writing Experiment** that Beth Hayden (Pinterest expert) is undertaking this month. It's Ambitious! Her theme? What gets Measured, gets Managed. I like it. <http://www.bethhayden.com/my-writing-experiment/>

Member Article: Mental Toughness by Edward Massey

Writing inspiration comes from the most unexpected places, that is if you are open to it and looking for it. I have been reading *The Head Game* by Roger Kahn, a book my sister-in-law fished out of the Goodwill book bin for a buck and gave to me. She was right. I love the book and I enjoy reading about Baseball Seen From the Pitcher's Mound (the subtitle.)

I was reading the chapter on Don Drysdale, a Dodger pitcher from 1957 to 1969, who said, "Buzzy Bavasi told me he's seen lots of pitchers come and go...It was hard to make the big leagues, sure, but the harder thing was this. Stay there. Stay there. Stay a big leaguer. Stay a winner."

I started to think about the profound insight I was gaining from a baseball book. Certainly the notion of the major leagues is easy to understand. That's where we're trying to go. And the acknowledgment that it was hard to get there rang true. And the notion of work hard to get there, work harder to stay there washed over me. At about the same time that I'm grasping that truth, Drysdale also said, "(I had all of the different pitches)...but none of that, nothing, means a damn thing in the big leagues unless



you have mental toughness.” As I stared at those words they told me what I needed to hear about writing every day.

It takes hard work to get to the big leagues; it takes harder work to stay there if you do make it. And the way you will get there is not just by having all the tools (remember Stephen King’s toolkit in *On Writing?*). You also need to have mental toughness.

Edward

Writing Conferences and Workshops

► **League of Utah Writers Fall Conference: August 28-29.**

This year the 2015 Utah Writers Fall Conference will be held at the Riverwoods Conference Center in Logan. The presenter bios and photos have been posted on the website, along with the schedule. Amanda has worked double-time on the conference, which promises to be educational and fun.
<http://www.luwriters.org/roundup.html>



- **Local Authors & You: Saturday, November 7.** Viridian Event Center, 8030 South 1825 West, West Jordan, sponsored by Salt Lake County Library Services. “Local Authors & You” is similar to Palooza but with the addition of some mini-writing workshops. The event is open to the public and is scheduled from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. This is the main link to the Center.
<http://www.slcolibrary.org/gl/glal/eventcenterviridian.htm>

Writing Contests

- **I is Another - Short Story Competition:** Deadline: August 31st – No Entry Fee. Sponsored by Holland Park Press in London. They want a story in first person but one that is not autobiographical, under 2000 words. Winner receives cash prize; runners-up published online.
http://hollandparkpress.co.uk/magazine_detail.php?magazine_id=348&language=English
- **Tethered by Letters – Short story, Flash fiction, and Poetry contests:** Deadline: August 31st – Fees: \$7 and \$15. Cash prizes. <http://tetheredbyletters.com/submissions/contest-submissions/>
- **Parody – The X. J. Kennedy Parody Award:** Deadline: September 1st – Fee: Enter 3 poems for \$10. Parodies must be metrical. \$500 prize. Winning poem and runners-up published by Measure Press. <http://www.measurepress.com/measure/index.php/the-journal/kennedy-parody-award>
- **United Authors Association (UAA) – Flash Fiction & Short Story Contest:** Deadline: September 15. Entry fees differ for UAA members and non members. Small cash prizes plus possible publication in their anthology. Guidelines: <https://theuaa.org/events/contests2015/>
- **Writers of the Future Contest:** Deadline: September 30th – No Entry Fee. This contest is always open with quarterly deadlines. Contest is open to new and amateur writers of science fiction short stories and novelettes. Contest page: <http://www.writersofthefuture.com/enter-writer-contest/> Contest Rules: <http://www.writersofthefuture.com/contest-rules-writers/> The L. Ron Hubbard estate supports

this contest. He produced 250 published words of fiction and holds four Guinness World Records, including “Most Published Works by One Author.”

- ▶ **Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest:** Deadline: September 30th – Fee: \$10. Contest’s 13th year. You can submit published or unpublished work. Cash prizes, plus top 12 poems will be published online. <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/tom-howard-margaret-reid-poetry-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/>

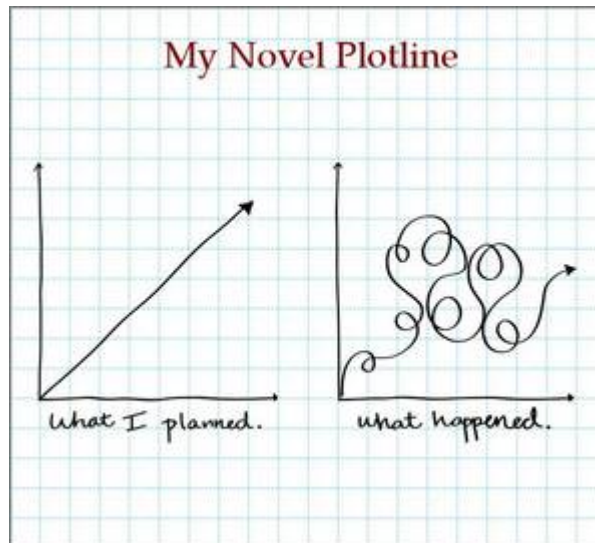
Online Resources for Writers

- ▶ **Top 10 Tips for Writing a Crappy First Draft:** <http://clairefuller.co.uk/2015/07/28/top-10-tips-for-writing-a-crappy-first-draft/>
- ▶ **21 Things I Wish I’d Known Before I Started Writing - Must-read Advice for Writers at All Levels:** <http://www.thereviewreview.net/publishing-tips/21-things-i-wish-id-known-i-started-writing->
- ▶ **20 Tips from World-Class Authors – How to Write a Book:** <http://writetodone.com/how-to-write-a-book-20-tips-from-world-class-authors/>
- ▶ **How to Write a Personal Essay:** <http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/tip-sheet/article/61591-how-to-write-a-personal-essay.html>
- ▶ **How Authors can Write Superior Comments Online:** <http://bookcoaching.com/how-authors-can-write-superior-comments-online/>
- ▶ **Create an Engaging “About the Author” page:** <http://bookcoaching.com/have-you-completed-an-engaging-about-the-author-page/>

Publishing Opportunities

- ▶ **Luna Station Quarterly:** Deadline: August 15th. No Fee. Submissions by women only. Looking for speculative fiction stories, 500 to 7,000 words – fantasy to new fairy tales. They send small payment of \$5 per story published, plus lifetime subscription to the magazine. <http://www.lunastationquarterly.com/submissions/>
- ▶ **Maudlin House [online monthly literary publication].** No fee and No deadline. This fledgling publication has a continuous open call for material. They only hold onto first publication rights for 30 days. They accept flash, poetry, art, video and fiction, looking for “literature that explores the human condition.” Guidelines: <https://maudlinhouse.submittable.com/submit>
Read past issues: <http://maudlinhouse.net/>
- ▶ **Rose Red Review – The Halloween Issue:** Deadline: September 12th. Accepting submissions for the Autumn 2015 issue. There’s a loose theme in honor of Halloween (ghosts and mediums, tarot, the broad theme of channeling, etc.) but will look at anything Fall related. Rose Red Review is published quarterly. <http://roseredreview.org/> Guidelines: <https://roseredreview.submittable.com/submit>

- ▶ **Waypoints [online journal]**. Deadline: October 1, 2015. Waypoints is open for submissions of journey-themed poetry, fiction, and art. Looking for writing that embodies a sense of what you've encountered on your journey. <http://waypointsmag.com/>
- ▶ **Flash Fiction Online:** They publish fiction from 500 to 1000 words in length. The best ones have strong, interesting characters, plots, and settings. Pays \$60 for first electronic rights. All other rights remain with the author. Guidelines: <http://flashfictiononline.com/main/submission-guidelines/>
- ▶ **Full Moon Publishing:** They publish non-traditional mysteries, books that combine mystery with an element of paranormal, fantasy, or horror. <http://www.sdtooley.com/FullMoonPub.html>



Happy writing everyone!

~ Ann