



President's Message

As I take over this column from Mike Eldredge, I am brought up short in my presumption that this is easy. Mike made it seem so, and if it was for him, please don't confirm that to me. The presumption that I can place words before those whose great talent it is to make words have meaning leaves me feeling ... well, exposed. In any case, Thank you, Mike, for your calm hand on the rudder, your patient direction, and your caring heart.

One of my favorite reads is a small book by James Allen, *As A Man Thinketh*. My first and only copy was given to me by my father when I was sixteen. Inside the front cover, he signed it and left this inscription:

"One never knows what another thinks unless they read the same pages."

I assumed he meant that I should read the book, and I would know what to think. It was some

years later, long after Dad had passed away, that I found myself in his library. As I perused the titles on the shelves, pulling a volume here and there, I realized I had read nearly every book in his collection. There was poetry by Burns, tales by Dickens, the sagas of James Fennimore Cooper, *Magnificent Obsession*, and *The Big Fisherman*. *Lord of the Rings* (the long versions) and Dumas' *The Count of Monte Christo* were there.

Holding my father's "thoughts" in my hands, I reflected back on how *deprived* I had been not to have had the internet, video games and, horror of horrors, a daily overdose of TV. Instead my gray matter absorbed the entire Hardy Boys collection, all the Nancy Drew series (don't tell anyone), all of Cooper, most of Shakespeare, Hemingway, and Pearl Buck. The list seemed endless.

One recent summer I read the entire works of Louis L'Amore. What does that say about me? The point is, my father was right. As I read what he read, I understood what he was like, what he wanted to be like. Though I am certain the

images I saw in my mind were different than those he saw, I understood the way he felt, the way he reasoned, and how his philosophy had been shaped. Those thoughts are woven into the fabric of my life. They are who I am.

Allen continued the intent of his thesis, "...as a man continues to think, so shall he become." Words have meaning. They have the ability to shape our thoughts and thus our lives.

Remember that as you write.

Ed Smith
President, LUW

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2011 Contest Chair

With the approval of Natalie Pace, our nominating chair, we have appointed Emily Yonkers from Logan to chair the contest committee for this contest year.

Emily has solid writing credentials and a tremendous work ethic. Several from across the League have stepped forward to offer her their support, including Natalie Pace, Marsha Lundgren, and Dorothy Crofts. We appreciate their willingness to volunteer and extend our best wishes support to Emily and her committee in this important assignment. We look forward to a rewarding and professional contest.

It is gratifying to see how much talent and ability there is across the League and how quick and willing folks are to step up and help shoulder the load.

Sincerely,

Ed Smith
President, LUW

About Emily:

Emily has always enjoyed weaving a good tale. Even as a child, she knew she wanted to be a writer, regaling her friends and family with one story after another.

As Emily grew up, the responsibilities of adulthood reared their ugly heads. And since she doesn't enjoy starvation, she completed a degree in technical writing from Utah State University in 2006

Emily makes her living as a technical writer/editor, writing product reviews. But her true love remains with the creative side of the craft. She has placed in several writing competitions and had two short stories picked up this year. Her short story "Painted Death" is published in *A World of Their Own*, a fantasy anthology from Nightfall Publications. Emily's new story, "Bloody Truth," appears in the mystery/thriller anthology *The Wrong Side of the Law*, from Night Fall Publications.

She lives happily with her husband and a Pooka in Northern Utah.

Membership Update

On November 13, 2010, the State Board for the League of Utah Writers voted to increase membership dues to \$25 for the year 2011. This small increase will pay for the convenience of being able to pay dues online through the use of PayPal. The increase is effective immediately, whether you choose to use PayPal or pay by mail. PayPal will be available for use after January 1, 2011.

When paying by check or money order, please remember to put your chapter name on your payment and include any address, e-mail, or phone number changes. New members must enclose a New Member Application. You may send your dues payment of \$25.00 to:

League of Utah Writers
PO Box 1359
St. George, UT 84771

Those who paid in advance (prior to Nov. 30, 2010) do not have to pay the additional dollar.

Questions?

E-mail Mary Barnes at marybawriter@msn.com



League of Utah Writers 2011 Categories - Theme: Writing on the Edge

Cat. #	Category	Age Range	Lns/Wrds	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Fees		Prizes
						Member	Non-Member	
POETRY								
1	Light Verse (Rhyming, Metrical, and/or Humorous)	Open	40 lines			\$4	\$8	1st - \$60; 2nd - \$40; 3rd - \$20
2	Narrative/Lyrical Poetry (Open or Closed Form)	Open	2 pages, max.			\$4	\$8	1st - \$60; 2nd - \$40; 3rd - \$20
3	Theme Category, Edgy/Experimental	Open	40 lines			\$4	\$8	1st - \$60; 2nd - \$40; 3rd - \$20
SHORT PROSE FICTION								
4	Short Fiction	Open	3000 words	X		\$6	\$12	1st - \$60; 2nd - \$40; 3rd - \$20
5	First Chapter of Book	Open	3000 words	X	X	\$6	\$12	1st - \$60; 2nd - \$40; 3rd - \$20
6	Theme Category, Edgy/Experimental	Open	3000 words	X		\$6	\$12	1st - \$60; 2nd - \$40; 3rd - \$20
7	Western	Open	3000 words	X	X	\$6	\$12	1st - \$60; 2nd - \$40; 3rd - \$20
8	Fantasy/Sc-fi	Open	3000 words	X		\$6	\$12	1st - \$60; 2nd - \$40; 3rd - \$20
9	Humor	Open	2500 words			\$6	\$12	1st - \$60; 2nd - \$40; 3rd - \$20
SHORT PROSE NON FICTION								
10	Persuasive Essay	Open	2500 words		X	\$6	\$12	1st - \$60; 2nd - \$40; 3rd - \$20
11	Creative Non Fiction	Open	3000 words		X	\$6	\$12	1st - \$60; 2nd - \$40; 3rd - \$20
12	Theme Category Edgy/Alternative/Experimental	Open	3000 words		X	\$6	\$12	1st - \$60; 2nd - \$40; 3rd - \$20
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE								
13	Picture Book	2 to 5	Full text to 1500 words	X	X	\$10	\$20	1st - \$75; 2nd - \$50; 3rd - \$30
14	Children's Manuscript	6 to 11	First 3 chapters	X	X	\$10	\$20	1st - \$75; 2nd - \$50; 3rd - \$30
MANUSCRIPT								
15	Young Adult	Y/A	First 3 chapters	X	X	\$20	\$40	1st - \$150; 2nd - \$100; 3rd \$75
16	Genre Fiction	Open	First 3 chapters	X		\$20	\$40	1st - \$150; 2nd - \$100; 3rd \$75
17	Screen/Stage Play	Open	First Act			\$20	\$40	1st - \$150; 2nd - \$100; 3rd \$75
18	Novel	Open	First 3 chapters	X		\$20	\$40	1st - \$150; 2nd - \$100; 3rd \$75
19	Creative Non Fiction	Open	First 3 chapters		X	\$20	\$40	1st - \$150; 2nd - \$100; 3rd \$75

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US

Back in the year 1935, the League of Utah Writers was born—and so was I. The LUW has been serving members three-quarters of a century, and I have been serving only ten years. However, our aims have been the same: to do whatever we can to help writers become even better and to guide them toward eventual publication of their hard work.

Although my services on the LUW board and in chairing this year's contest committee have been eliminated, my aim and intentions regarding the LUW remain the same. I will continue to serve my LUW colleagues in our identical goals of improving our writing. I wish to thank the members who have helped me in so many ways over the years, and especially in selecting me as this year's Writer of the Year. What a great honor! Thank you.

- Betty J. Vickers



Chapter Chatter

Bountiful Chapter

The Bountiful Chapter is going strong! We've had a lot of success among our various members.

Let's start with Chris Miller who entered the 79th annual *Writer's Digest* writing competition and had his entry, *Machinations of Dark Intent: A Sower's Tale*, awarded **59th place in Genre Short Story category**. This is an incredible accomplishment if you consider that there were thousands of entries nationwide.

And Margot Hovley is still hard at work editing her manuscript for her YA novel that will be published with Covenant Communications. Kim Grant's next novel with Covenant, *Abish: Mother of Faith*, is being proofread as we speak and will be out March 2011.

Besides all of that great success, we also had wonderful representation in the 2010 Roundup writing contest. Kendra Fowler won 2nd place in Youth Story for "Not Another Tie," Ed Smith was another 2nd place winner with his essay, "A Warm Place in the Sun," and we had Sharon Steele take 3rd place for her non-rhyme poem, "Convertible." We also had several members receiving honorable mentions as well. Way to go Bountiful Chapter!

- Kim Grant

Tooele Writers

Scott Bryan worked with a professional editor to fine-tune his children's novel, and the two agents he spoke to at Roundup this year requested pages. He's working on his next book while he waits to hear back from them.

Nicole Grane submitted her work, by request, to two agents who are now looking it over. She is awaiting their responses.

Karen Hoover celebrated the release of her first YA novel, *The Sapphire Flute*, published by Valor Publishing Group in March of 2010.

Chapter President, Cheri Chesley, celebrated the release of her first YA novel, *The Peasant Queen*, through Cedar Fort on December 8, 2010. She will be signing at various Costco stores along the Wasatch front through December.

Lizzy Hughes, one of our teen writers, finished her first novel this year.

- Cheri Chesley

Wordcraft Chapter

We have had a wonderful summer and fall. In August we held our annual picnic and in September attended Roundup. For October, Patricia Stevenson, from our own Wordcraft Chapter, spoke on, "Anyone Can Write and Sell A Novel."

Our members have also been busy:

Carolyn Campbell wrote the cover story for *City Weekly*, 10/7/10.

Shirley Manning took 2nd place in the Poetry category in Whispering Prairie Press's 2010 Writing Awards for her poem "Message from a Crow." Congratulations, Shirley!

Janet Peterson wrote "Seniors and Social Networking" for *Senior Review* (September), as well as "Miracles Plus One" for *Meridianmagazine.com*, September 17.

Carol Quist, helped with Sunstone issue 160, the comics issue.

- Judy Olsen

Lariat Submissions

Anyone who would like to submit items for the next issue of *The Lariat*, please e-mail them to Jamie Lawson at Lawson_jamie@hotmail.com

by Saturday, January 29.

Thanks, and happy holidays!



Editor's Corner

This holiday season, I've been thinking a lot about gifts. With all that is involved with gifts – the shopping, the wrapping, the giving, the receiving – it's easy for me to become stressed out by the whole process. I don't look forward to fighting the crowds, struggling to stay within budget, or rushing to make sure gifts to far away loved ones are shipped in a timely manner. I much prefer to focus on the intangibles – the gifts that we were born with or are striving to develop, like the gift of writing.

I'm grateful to LUW for providing a forum where aspiring writers like me can find tools to improve our skills, as well as receive support and encouragement from others who have similar goals. I'm amazed by talent we have in the League, and I'm thrilled to associate with people of such caliber.

As the New Year approaches, I look forward to enjoying the gifts you have to share, and to learning even more about how to fine-tune my own gifts related to the written word. Happy 2011!

Jamie Lawson



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