

President's Message:

Olive Woolley Burt and the Founding of Our League



Nestled in a grove of trees on the south end of Reservoir Park at 54 Finch Lane (about 1350 East 100 South) sits a shingled building that for the past 77 years has been a center for the arts in Salt Lake City, known simply as the Art Barn. It was there, on Thursday evening, November 21, 1935, that our organization began as the Utah Chapter of the League of Western Writers. Olive Woolley Burt was installed as the first President, and with her, Mrs. Ross Lee Lloyd was selected as Secretary/Treasurer. A *Salt Lake Telegram* article announced that Olive was "preparing to assume duties" the next day.¹ Ms. Burt planned the first Roundup for July 1936 in conjunction with the Journalism Department at the

University of Utah, and in 1938 the third Roundup was held at BYU.² By 1940, the name of the organization had changed to the League of Utah Writers, but the members remained the same. The organization was popular from the start, and many illustrious authors were charter members; but none were more illustrious than our first president.

Born May 26, 1894, in Ann Arbor, MI, to Jed and Agnes Forsyth Woolley, she had eight brothers to contend with, which accounts for her grit and determination. In 1897, the family moved to Salt Lake City, and in 1902 at the age of eight, Olive published her first poem in *The San Francisco Examiner* entitled "When Papa Sells a Gold Mine." She received two dollars for her poem and Olive's career was launched. At age 10, Olive went to work for *The Salt Lake Tribune* on a project where school children would report local news. Her beat included the Hotel Utah, which enabled her to interview many celebrities, including George M. Cohan.

Olive graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Utah in 1918, and immediately began a two-year stint as a high school teacher in Afton,

Wyoming. Later, she taught in American Fork, Utah. On June 7, 1922, Olive married Ray Burt. In 1927 she went to work as the Children's Feature Editor at *The Salt Lake Tribune*, a post that she held until 1945. *The Deseret News* wooed her away for 12 years as its *Salt Lake City Magazine* editor, which lasted until her retirement in 1957. It was while she was at the *Tribune*, however, that her enthusiasm for young writers grew through the "School News and Views" program. The program kindled the interest of many future journalists, including Jack Anderson (successor to Washington columnist Drew Pearson), David S. Boyer (senior writer for *National Geographic Magazine*), Charlotte Knight (foreign correspondent), and Dale

In This Issue:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Roundup Class Schedule | 3 |
| Chapter Chatter | 5 |
| Absolutely Write | |
| First-page Contest Results | 7 |
| Highest Paid Authors | 9 |



Olive Woolley graduating from the University of Utah in 1918.

L. Morgan (distinguished Western American historian).³ As Harold Schindler said in his tribute, "Her influence with aspiring writers and artists was profound as was her capacity to recognize and encourage ability in others."⁴

From 1902 to 1980, she either published a book or an article almost every year. Sometimes Olive published as many as three books a year, with such old publishers as Bobbs-Merrill, Henry Holt, Messner, Winston, John Day, Hawthorn, Oxford University Press, and others. Ms. Burt published over 60 books and countless articles in all, mostly in the Children's and Juvenile genres. She was a member of the Mystery Writers of America, Western Writers of America, National Federation of American Press Women, National League of American Pen Women, League of Utah Writers, Utah Historical Society (fellow - 1964), Utah Folklore Society, and Chi Delta Phi. Among



Olive Woolley Burt preparing for the 1972 LUW Roundup.

her numerous awards and honors are: the Maude Adams Playwriting Prize, 1918, for *Sara*; Lois Larsen Award, 1945; Boys' Clubs of America Award, 1955, for *Camel Express*; the "Edgar" (Allan Poe) Award, Mystery Writers of America, 1959, for *American Murder Ballads and Their Stories*; the Indianapolis Press Women named November 1, 1963 "Olive Burt Night"; Woman of Achievement Award, National Federation of Press Women, 1964; and the Service to Journalism Award, Sigma Delta Chi, 1965.⁵

Her last title was *Rescued! America's Endangered Wildlife on the Comeback Trail*, published by Messner in 1980. She died on September 10, 1981 after a short illness; Olive was 87 years old. Ray Burt had died in 1967. They were parents of two daughters and a son. From Harold Schindler's tribute in *The Utah Historical Quarterly*: "Olive



The Art Barn.

Woolley Burt, who once had sighed, 'I'm not tall enough to see what I want to see,' left a legacy of love, knowledge, and inspiration to echo her vibrant spirit."⁶

¹*The Salt Lake Telegram*, November 22, 1935, 6. The article

²"Annual Writers' Roundup at Provo," *The Murray Eagle*, July 7, 1938, 7.

³Harold Schindler, "In Memoriam: Olive Woolley Burt, 1894-1981," *The Utah Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 49, No. 4 (Fall 1981) 388.

⁴*Ibid.*

⁵Gale Reference Team, *Contemporary Authors: Olive Woolley Burt (1894-1981)*, Eagan, MN: Thompson Gale 2003) 3.

⁶Schindler, *In Memoriam*, 390.

ROUNDUP 2010 CLASS SCHEDULE

(Revised on Aug. 31, 2010)

Friday, September 17th

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 9:00 am–3:30 pm | Pre-Conference Workshop - Precision Editing Group - \$45 (lunch included) "From Plotting to Final Draft: Getting Your Manuscript Ready to Compete" |
| 4:00 pm–4:55 pm | Board Meeting |
| 5:00 pm–6:00 pm | Registration - Meet & Greet |
| 6:00 pm–9:00 pm | Welcome and Poetry & Publications Awards Banquet, Speaker Cheri Call |

Saturday, September 18th

| | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|---|--|
| | Breakfast on your own | | | |
| 7:00 am–8:30 am | Registration | | | |
| 9:00 am–5:00 pm | One-on-One Meetings (Cedar Fort, Katie Grimm, Blair Hewes, Derk Koldewyn, Kirk L. Shaw, and WiDo Publishing) » Scheduled in Advance « | | | |
| | Room #1 | Room #2 | Room #3 | Room #4 |
| 8:30 am–9:20 am | James Dashner "My Writing Process" | K.C. Grant "To Achieve Writing success —get SMART!" | Jill Vanderwood "Self Publishing" | Mike Eldredge "Writing Historical Fiction" |
| 9:30 am–10:20 am | Marilyn Richardsen "Publishing for Dummies" | Sarah Fitzgerald "Creating Time to Write" | Shanna Beamann "Goal Mentoring, The SMART System" | John Gilstrap "Whose Story Are You Telling?" |
| 10:30 am–11:20 am | Panel (Katie Grimm, Blair Hewes, Heather B. Moore, John Gilstrap, and Kathy Jenkins) | | | |
| 11:30 am–12:00 pm | Lunch | | | |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|---|--|
| 12:00 pm–12:50 pm | Keynote Speaker John Gilstrap | | | |
| 1:00 pm–1:50 pm | Clint Johnson “Triple Duty Writing: How to Maximize Your Story Potential in Every Paragraph and Page” | Shanna Beamann “Goal Mentoring, The SMART System” | Heather Moore “Life After the First Draft: Steps to Self-Editing” | Jill Vanderwood |
| 2:00 pm– 2:50 pm | | John Gilstrap “Broken Bones, Ballistics & Backdrafts: Technical Stuff That Writers Should Get Right” | Sarah Fitzgerald “Creating Time to Write” | Elana Johnson “Building Your Blog Into an Online Platform” |
| 3:00 pm– 3:50 pm | Anna del C. Dye “Writing for Novices, ‘If I Can Do It, You Can Too’” | | Patricia Stevenson & Carolyn Campbell “Anyone Can Write and Sell a Novel” | Elana Johnson “How to Write a Killer Query Letter” |
| 4:00 pm–5:30 pm | Break - Browse books for sale, Autograph table and network with fellow authors. | | | |
| 5:30 pm–6:30 pm | Prose & Writer of the Year Award & Dinner | | | |
| 6:30 pm–7:30 pm | Keynote Speaker Anita Stansfield | | | |
| 8:00 PM | Announcement on next year's Round up | | | |





Chapter Chatter

Absolutely Write

We've had a couple of busy months here in the north. In March we teamed up with Weber State University for a mini workshop featuring Dan Wells, award winning author of *I Am NOT A Serial Killer*, on story structure and pacing. Special thanks to Dan and Weber State for making the evening such a success.

In April we enjoyed a demonstration of the *Snowflake Pro* writing software created by Randy Ingermanson, (The Snowflake Guy) author of *The City God* series and *Writing Fiction for Dummies*. Thank you Angela Citte and Jonene Ficklin for your fun and informative presentation.

We received over 200 entries in our first annual First Page Contest that closed on April 23, 2010. (See results on page 7.) Thank you for your support and participation.

Our chapter meetings are held monthly at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday at the main branch of the Weber County Library.

May 12, 2010, The Best of State Award-winning author, Nancy Campbell Allen, *Legend of the Jewel* and the *Faith of our Fathers* series, and Whitney Award finalist, Ronda Hinrichsen, author of, *Missing*, presented on how to create a writing project notebook and how to avoid common pitfalls in the publishing industry.

Watch for our next Workshop to be announced soon.

Joy Spraycar's released her first paranormal romance, *Quicksilver*, on the first of March. It's getting a lot of attention, and has been well received. Several New York agents reviewed the book and requested a second manuscript, *Phantom Wolves*.

Ronda Hinrichsen's second book, *Trapped*, hit the stores May 6, 2010. It is a romantic suspense with a hint of paranormal fantasy. We're so excited for her.

Congratulations Ronda and Joy.

- Board of Absolutely Write

Oquirrh Writers Chapter

We are so proud of our Oquirrh Writer members and their accomplishments!

Doug Brown had a story published in the March 2010 *New Era* and *Liahona* magazines titled "Getting the Best of a Bully". In December, his personal weight lost story will be published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Shaping the New You*. It is titled, "What Did I Have to Loose?"

Dorothy Crofts published three volumes entitled "MY LIFE in Texas" during the nine months she was in the Dallas area where she was transferred with the company she works for. But, she's back and she looks forward to seeing everyone at Roundup this year.

And, anyone interested in seeing the three beautiful hard-bound books will be welcome to see what she has been accomplishing while she's been away from the League.

Susanne Morley has just finished ghost writing and editing two books, "Seek and He Shall Find You" and "The Whirlpool - -- Surviving a Loved One's Addiction." Susanne loves this kind of manuscript work and is ready for her next project. She can be contacted zanmorley@aol.com.

Marti Melville has some exciting events going on with the launch of her novel, *Midnight Omen Déjà vu*. The launch party was held in August at Dancing Cranes in SLC, Utah.

Barataria Faire - August 7-8 in Springfield, MO, signed books at this two-day Pirate street faire.

BrethrenCon Pirate Festival - September 18 in Denver, CO - She will sign books and give a reading.

October, 2010 (date to be determined) - She will speak in Flower Mound, TX at a Book Club meeting.

Pirate Festival - October 16 in Dallas, TX - She will sign books at their festival.

- Shauna Dansie



Bountiful Chapter

The Bountiful Chapter has had a great year! We took a few months' break from meetings during the summer, but we're anxiously anticipating Roundup in September and joining with other members across the state. We'll also keep our fingers crossed as we wait to hear about winners from the writing contest! We've always had good representation from our group. Until then, we'll applaud the success that our group has had with their own individual efforts.

Margot Hovley has recently had a YA novel accepted by Covenant! Though the title is undecided as of yet, its working title is *Get Real*. She's no doubt enjoying being initiated into the world of Editors and deadlines. And if her blog is indication of how popular she'll be . . . she just passed 60,000 hits on her site, www.mynewoldschool.com. We're all excited for her.

Sharon Steele had a poem "Seasons" recently published in actress Lisa Cerasoli's (of General Hospital, et al) Memoir *As Nora Jo Fades Away: Confessions of a Caregiver*. This book was named winner of the 2010 Paris Book Festival. Another poem, "Dandelions" appeared in the July 2010 Wasatch Range Writing Project Anthology.

Kim Grant also continues to have success in the publishing world as she's had two more novels accepted and waiting to be released. *Their Mothers Knew*,

a sequel to *Abish: Daughter of God* is scheduled for January 2011. A suspense novel still waits for an official release date, but since waiting is often part of the game, she's keeping busy working on its sequel.

We look forward to a great year of speakers and learning in the upcoming year, so we'll continue to write on!

- Bountiful Chapter

Salt Lake Chapter

Gordon Wright's article *A "Little Norway" in the New Land* was published online as an extension of stories submitted to "Sons of Norway" magazine for their immigration feature. The magazine is published for members of the Sons of Norway group, which is dedicated to promoting and preserving the heritage and culture of Norway. The Sons of Norway organization currently has over 66,000 members.

- Marsha Lundgren

Utah Valley Chapter

Conflict filled our chapter at our July meeting as we hosted Clint Johnson: *Conflict and the Mechanism of the Story*. Clint's interactive presentation lasted almost the full two hours. Part lecture and part audience participation, we worked within our own stories to create or to increase the conflict in our stories. Clint pulled examples from the attendees and gave many insights on how they could each develop their story by throwing the character out of the frying pan and into the fire. We discussed the ways characters react to conflict and why. It was an excellent meeting and by

the end of the night, we almost had to be dragged out so that they could close down the building--more conflict.

Our June meeting consisted of member critiques. Each attendee brought three pages and we took turns sharing them in small groups with a round of feedback after each one. Those who didn't bring a sample worked in another group on an impromptu writing session and critique. It seemed to be a success and we have since decided to meet at 6 P.M. each month before our regularly scheduled event to continue the critique groups.

We want to thank everyone who attended our Spring Workshop this past May. It was a great success. It was a full day of workshops and presentations and dancing. Woohoo! We hope to see you all again next year.

- Toby DeGraw

Wordcraft Chapter

The Wordcraft chapter meets at the Holladay Library the first Wednesday of each month at 7 P.M.

May's meeting proved to be fun and enlightening as we took turns sharing a "first page" of an in-progress work for our Absolutely Write! contest.

In June, Nanice Ellis of ECKO House Publishing shed light on the "ins and outs" of self-publishing by using the services provided by her company.

July's meeting brought us Carol Quist, who gave a helpful presentation titled "The Galloping Grammarian."

Our members have also been busy:

Brenda Bensch, who recently transferred to the Wordcraft chapter, will soon begin teaching fiction and nonfiction writing classes at the Indian Hills Middle School. She took first and second place in the Ogden chapter's Absolutely Write, First Page contest with her reading from following works:

1st place: Adult Historical Fiction - Boudica's Head

2nd place: YA Mystery - Maggie Snedden: Actress, Detective

Carolyn Campbell published an article in the May edition of City Weekly titled "Nine Lives."

Val Greenwood had an article published in the online magazine *Meridian* on May 24, 2010 titled "Jehovah: The Loving God of the Old Testament."

Elinor Hyde had a poem titled "The Children Traveled Well Today" published in *Daughters of the Utah Pioneers* magazine, May 2010 issue. She also had a letter to the editor published in the

Deseret News June 11, 2010.

Janet Peterson published "Skin Cancer: It Doesn't Just Go Away" in *Senior Review*, Vol. 3, #3. Also, "Grow Old Along with . . . the Church," on meridianmagazine.com (July) and "Young Women of Zion" in June.

Carol Quist continues her work at Sunstone, contributing her talents to issue 159. One article she particularly enjoyed working on was about Quist family history.

- Judy Olsen

ABSOLUTELY WRITE - 1ST ANNUAL FIRST PAGE CONTEST

| CATEGORIES MAIN | SUB | LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | ENTRY TITLE | Places |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|---|--------|
| Adult & YA | Action/Adventure | Hurst | Jennifer | Dragon Cathedral | 1 |
| | | Brunson | Robert | The Guardian Eagles | 2 |
| | | Irvine/Perry | Ailey/Noel | Five Girls, Four Kings, and Three Hundred Dragons | 3 |
| Adult | Fantasy | Nance | Debbie | Timeweavers: Secrets of the Kalaghata | 1 |
| | | Pellett | Karen | The Nedaran Prophecy | 2 |
| | | Dean | Scott | Blade of Dreams | 3 |
| Adult | General Fiction & Western | Eldridge | Linda | The Color of Ignorance | 1 |
| | | Lundgren | Marsha | Lady in Blue | 2 |
| | | Eldridge | Linda | Cody, Kisses and Christmas | 3 |
| Adult | Historical Fiction | Bensch | Brenda | Boudica's Head | 1 |
| | | Baldwin | Tom | Pilgram | 2 |
| | | Nielson | Cally | Sea King | 3 |
| Adult & YA | Horror | Lundgren | Marsha | Halloween in Choctapoosa County | 1 |
| | | Estlack | Russell | The Legend of the Weeping Beauty | 2 |
| Adult & YA | Humor | Brunson | Robert | Missionary 'Duct Tape' Emergency Kit | 1 |
| | | Keller | Tim | Casually | 2 |
| Adult | Mystery | Eldridge | Linda | Shave and a Haircut . . . And Murder | 1 |
| Adult | Paranormal | Tollstrup | Marie | Phantom Reality | 1 |
| | | Elliot | Sandra | The Viscount's Potion | 2 |
| | | Kilpack | Josi | Shut Up Already | 3 |
| Adult | Romance | Elliot | Sandra | Winds of Betrayal | 1 |
| | | Hurst | Jennifer | Fallen | 2 |
| | | Jewell | Julie | Remember the Lillies | 3 |
| Adult | Science Fiction | Hutchins | Jim | The Broken Jaw of the Lost Kingdom | 1 |
| | | Brunson | Robert | The Time Corps | 2 |
| | | Yunker | Emily | Splice | 3 |

| | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|-------------|
| Adult | Suspense & Thriller | Tracy Heitzler Dean | Diana Robyn Scott | The Caretaker's Kiss Six Uninvited | 1 2 3 |
|-------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|-------------|

| | | | | | |
|-------|----------|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Adult | Thriller | Combined with Adult Suspense | | | |
|-------|----------|------------------------------|--|--|--|

| | | | | | |
|-------|---------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Adult | Western | Combined with Adult General Fiction | | | |
|-------|---------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|

ABSOLUTELY WRITE - 1ST ANNUAL FIRST PAGE CONTEST

| CATEGORIES | | LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | ENTRY TITLE | Places | |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------|--|
| MAIN | SUB | | | | | |
| Young Adult | Action/Adventure | Combined with Adult Action/Adventure | | | | |
| Young Adult | Fantasy | Caldwell Maw Mittan | Alice Leisha Karen | Sisters5 Echoes Find Excalibur's Sheath | 1 2 3 | |
| Young Adult | General Fiction | Comford Smith Jensen | Angela Emalee Kimberly | Desert Rice The Hidden The Suicide Diary | 1 2 3 | |
| Young Adult | Historical Fiction | Moore Hall | Beth Connie | City of Dreams - A Tale of Nauvoo A Passage in Time | 1 2 | |
| Young Adult | Horror | Combined with Adult Horror | | | | |
| Young Adult | Humor | Combined with Adult Humor | | | | |
| Young Adult | Mystery | Brunson Bensch | Robert Brenda | Who the Heck is Jake Maggie Snedden: Actress, Detective | 1 2 | |
| Young Adult | Paranormal | Lee Jackson Spraycar | Kenneth Lisa Joy | Darkness Post-Mortal Parents and the "Seven Child" Leaders of Earth The Ghost | 1 2 3 | |
| Young Adult | Romance | Dame Dye Lovell | Steven Anna del C. Taffy | Bipolar Grrl Kingdom by the Sea Two Hearts | 1 2 3 | |
| Young Adult | Science Fiction | Spraycar Brunson Lovell | Joy Robert Taffy | Time Tunnels Forgotten Memories Standing Asleep | 1 2 3 | |
| Young Adult | Suspense | Brunson | Robert | The Door | 1 | |
| Young Adult | Thriller | No Entries | | | | |
| Young Adult | Western | No Entries | | | | |

ABSOLUTELY WRITE - 1ST ANNUAL FIRST PAGE CONTEST

| CATEGORIES | | LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | ENTRY TITLE | Places |
|---------------|--------------|------------|------------|---|--------|
| MAIN | SUB | | | | |
| Children | Picture Book | Hurst | Jennifer | Mrs. Pig's Tree House | 1 |
| | | Jordan | Lana | Lullaby Fairies | 2 |
| | | Yunker | Emily | Edgar the Elephant | 3 |
| Children | Transition | Lundgren | Marsha | The Adventures of Orlie the Flying Turtle | 1 |
| Children | Chapter Book | Brunson | Robert | Vampire Stew | 1 |
| Children | Middle Grade | Madsen | Laura | The Corgi's Quest | 1 |
| | | Maw | Leisha | Eddie and the Magic Staff | 2 |
| | | Hall | Connie | A Friend for A Season | 3 |
| Children | Tweens | No Entries | | | |
| Non-Fiction | | Tollstrup | Marie | The Power of Names | 1 |
| | | Hutchins | Jim | The Seven Deadly Synapses | 2 |
| | | Estlack | Russell | The Lonely Road to Hell | 3 |
| Short Stories | | Madsen | Laura | Triage | 1 |
| | | Tollstrup | Marie | The Poison Within | 2 |
| | | Lee | Kenneth | The Century Plan | 3 |
| | | Irvine | Jo Ann | Flowers from God | H |

Highest Paid Authors

(Earnings from June 2009 to June 2010)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. James Patterson \$70 million | 6. Dean Koontz \$18 million |
| 2. Stephenie Meyer \$40 million | 7. Janet Evanovich \$16 million |
| 3. Stephen King \$34 million | 8. John Grisham \$15 million |
| 4. Danielle Steel \$32 million | 9. Nicholas Sparks \$14 million |
| 5. Ken Follett \$20 million | 10. J.K. Rowling \$10 million |

Source: Forbes.com



Editor's Corner

Tapping your creative potential can be challenging, so here are five quick tips I've found to help you on your journey:

1. Keep a dream journal next to your bed so you can capture them while they are still fresh in your mind.
2. Use nature for inspiration. Pay attention to colors, patterns, shapes, sounds, and smells.
3. Have a date with yourself every week. Block out a period of time to do something you love, giving yourself a chance to nurture your inner artist without the distraction of other people.
4. Pick a book at random and flip it open to any page. You may find an idea to help get your creative juices flowing.
5. Stop the negative self-talk. It's not too late. Dreams do matter. Creativity is not a luxury. You can pursue your dreams right now.

See you at Roundup!

Jamie Lawson

PRESIDENT

Michael Eldredge * (801) 930-5049
mse2850@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Mary Barnes * (435) 619-0331
marybawriter@msn.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jamie Lawson * (801) 785-5853
lawson_jamie@hotmail.com

The Lariat is published four times a year by the League of Utah Writers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to offering friendship, education, and encouragement to the writers of Utah.

This project is supported by a grant from the Utah Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C.



www.luwriters.org

PO BOX 1359
ST. GEORGE, UT 84771
Return Service Requested

[Recipient]