

the Lariat



In this Issue:

- Roundup Wrap-up 2
- 2012 Writing Contest 3
- Chapter Chatter 4
- Writer's Boot Camp 5
- Editor's Corner 6

President's Message

Wow, what an awesome year!

My heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers, Cache Valley Chapter members, and hard-working presenters who made Roundup such a great success. I know I'll miss someone, but I'd like to thank a few people in particular. Big thanks to Mark Moody, who practically camped by his computer for three months, making sure our online reservations system ran smoothly with the website. Emily Younker did a great job with the contest, going above and beyond by customizing the awards, and the efficiency with which she and Ed Smith handled the awards ceremony was greatly appreciated.

Matthew Blackham deserves a Purple Heart for manning the Friday check-in desk thanks Matthew!

Thanks as well to Ed Smith and Margot Hovley, who rolled up their sleeves and jumped on whatever needed attention. The Best in Show winners—Amy Jarecki, Isaac Timm, and Chadd VanZanten—were great sports about being called to read without any advance notice.

Finally, our presenters were wonderful this year, and incidentally they were impressed with the talent and people in the League.

As always, there were some minor issues to handle, but the patience and

understanding demonstrated by those in attendance was greatly appreciated and made me proud to be a member of the League.

I would like to welcome our new board members; Irene Hastings is doing a great job as our new President Elect. Emily Younker is taking the reins of the Lariat. Dianne Hardy is doing a fine job with Membership, and Mike Eldridge has graciously accepted the position of League Historian.

As I write my first column as President, I can't help but remember an evening just a few years ago when I prepared some text for a similar group, this one much smaller but just as intimidating—my first meeting at the Cache Chapter.

My hands shook so badly I could barely see to read my submission to my fellow chapter members. I dove in anyway, but I didn't look up once until I'd finished the last page. Then I dared to breathe, steeling myself for an onslaught of criticism.

"I like it."

That was the opening sentence of my first-ever critique. One by one, the wielders of those slashing red pens offered their compliments, encouragement, and yes, plenty of criticism—but even that was fun. I came, I read, I conquered. For the first time, I began to think of myself as a writer.

We've all felt the thrill of encouragement, the sting of critique,

and the fellowship of cooperative effort. We share in each another's successes and learn from the failures. That is the key—to keep working for even greater successes. I encourage you to enjoy your own (our own) journey, and to fellowship, encourage, and mentor new comers and each another as we work to realize our maximum potential.

During the coming year, I and our new President Elect, Irene Hastings of the Heber Valley Chapter, will again visit as many chapters as possible. I've enjoyed meeting so many of you during those chapter visits this year and at the Roundup. Your hard work and talent genuinely inspired me. I look forward to meeting with you again soon, re-connecting with you, and collecting your ideas to improve the League of Utah Writers.

Chat with you soon ...

-Tim



League of Utah Writers President Tim Keller

Roundup Wrap-up

BEST OF SHOW

Poetry - **Antiseptic** by Isaac Timm Cache Valley
Prose - **Stage Two** by Chadd VanZanten Cache Valley
Manuscript - **Koicto** by Amy Jarecki Color Country Nightwriters

LIGHT VERSE POETRY

1st - **A Dream** by Marilyn Ball Heritage
2nd - **Treasures** by Caren Liebelt Bountiful
3rd - **Ode to a '55 Chevy** by David J. Bowers Oquirrh
1st HM - **A Jewel of Memory** by Marilyn Ball Heritage
2nd HM - **X-Rays** by Grace Diane Jessen Sevier County Chapter
3rd HM - **To Jeff on His 4th Birthday** by David J. Bowers Oquirrh

NARRATIVE & LYRICAL POETRY

1st - **Obligatory Rose Poem** by Isaac Timm Cache Valley
2nd - **ICARUS, 1981** by Isaac Timm Cache Valley
3rd - **Songs Not to be Forgotten** by Isaac Timm Cache Valley
3rd - **Thinking Like Pablo Neruda** by Marilyn Ball Heritage
1st HM - **Making Bread** by Sharon Nauta Steele Bountiful
2nd HM - **To Test, Is Testing, Has Tested** by Barbara Funke Heritage
3rd HM - **Matrimoniales** by Irene Hastings Heber Valley

THEMED POETRY

1st - **Parasaling on Acapulco Bay** by Irene Hastings Heber Valley
2nd - **Karmic Burden** by Betty Vickers Heritage
3rd - **White in 1935** by Rachelle Christensen Heritage
1st HM - **Down Home** by Betty Vickers Heritage
2nd HM - **The Bank Next to the Stream** by Isaac Timm Cache Valley
3rd HM **Tormented** by Jewels Harrison Heber Valley

SHORT FICTION

1st - **Too Soon For Guns** by Chadd VanZanten Cache Valley
2nd - **Lesson Plans** by Betty Vickers Heritage
3rd - **All the Western States** by Chadd VanZanten Cache Valley
1st HM - **X-acto** by Chadd VanZanten Cache Valley
2nd HM - **Never Forgotten** by EA Younker Cache Valley
3rd HM - **Andy's Sonnet** by MaryAnn Dennis Oquirrh
3rd HM - **The Last Man** by Gabriel Taylor

FIRST CHAPTER

1st - **The Seventh City** by Renae Mackley Absolutely Write
2nd - **Landslid** by Cory Webb Bountiful
3rd - **Nowhere Left** by EA Younker Cache Valley
1st HM - **Shill** by J C Smith Salt Lake Chapter
2nd HM - **Menagerie** by Matthew Blackham Cache Valley
3rd HM - **A Christmas Columbine** by Robert Lee Storey Color Country Nightwriters
3rd HM - **Disillusion** by Kendra Fowler Bountiful

THEMED FICTION

1st - **Not Delicious** by Chadd VanZanten Cache Valley
2nd - **The Underduck** by Dianne Hardy Cache Valley
3rd - **A Creator's Apprentice** by Robert Lee Storey Color Country Nightwriters
1st HM- **The Name Game** by Betty Vickers Heritage
2nd HM - **Presumed Innocent** by Betty Vickers Heritage
3rd HM - **Hunting Season** by Aaron Timm Cache Valley
3rd HM - **Evolution In Alluvia** by Caren Liebelt Bountiful

WESTERN

1st - **It Was Never Like This** by Tim Keller Cache Valley
2nd - **Fool's Gold** by Caren Liebelt Bountiful
3rd - **Shootout At The Creamery** by Neil Dabb Cache Valley
1st HM - **The Bear Story** by Renae Mackley Absolutely Write
2nd HM - **The Chickenfest** by Dianne Hardy Cache Valley
3rd HM - **Stealing** by Dianne Hardy Cache Valley

FANTASY & SCI-FI

1st - **The Yellow Duck** by EA Younker Cache Valley
2nd - **A Whisper From The Shadows** by Mark Kraatz Heber Valley
3rd - **Vagrom Angel** by Irene Hastings Heber Valley
1st HM - **Bright Star Falling** by Mark Kraatz Heber Valley
1st HM - **Forgotten Memories** by EA Younker Cache Valley
2nd HM - **The Magic Carpet Of Ackabara** by Neil Dabb Cache Valley
3rd HM - **Weight Of The World** by EA Younker Cache Valley

HUMOR

1st - **The Dawn Of A New Millennium** by Tim Keller Cache Valley
2nd - **Infamous** by Tim Keller Cache Valley
3rd - **In The Day** by Edwin Smith Bountiful
1st HM - **Pee In The Pool** by Dianne Harding Cache Valley
2nd HM - **Playing For Keeps** by Margot Hovley Bountiful
3rd HM - **Heaven Rings** by Patricia Jacobson Heritage

PERSUASIVE ESSAY

1st - **What Are We Teaching Our Kids?** by Rodney Hurd Sevier Valley
2nd - **Geek Warrior** by Tim Keller Cache Valley
3rd - **Who Are You Calling Old?** by Betty Vickers Heritage
1st HM - **Eighty Is Great** by Marie Tollstrup Heritage
2nd HM - **An Unholy Union** by Aaron Timm Cache Valley
3rd HM - **I Believe In Magic** by Richard Hamilton

CREATIVE NON-FICTION

1st - **River Roots** by Marie Tollstrup Heritage
2nd - **The Gift** by Tim Keller Cache Valley
2nd - **Defenders** by Isaac Timm Cache Valley
3rd - **Moving A Family Of Eleven** by Rodney Hurd Sevier Valley
3rd - **Someone To Follow** by Eric Bishop Cache Valley
3rd - **"Two Seventy One . . ."** by Edwin Smith Bountiful

Roundup Wrap-up (cont)

- 1st HM - **Life After Oakdale** by Tim Keller Cache Valley
1st HM - **Deepening Trials** by Irene Hastings Heber Valley
2nd HM - **Bike Among Ruins** by Mary Jo Tanner Bountiful
2nd HM - **Old Echoes, New Voices** by Mary Jo Tanner Bountiful
3rd HM - **Who Put Carrots In The Heater?** by Corrie Lynne Player Color Country Nightwriters
3rd HM - **Home Is the Soldier, Home From the War** by Beth Moore Heritage

THEMED NON-FICTION

- 1st - **I Prefer Baths To Showers** by Dianne Hardy Cache Valley
2nd - **Enough Is Enough** by Dianne Hardy Cache Valley
3rd - **A Kindred Spirit In Marseille, France** by Mary Jo Tanner Bountiful
1st HM - **Phantom Reality** by Marie Tollstrup Heritage
2nd HM - **Cousins** by Dianne Hardy Cache Valley
3rd HM - **My Little Penna** by Dianne Hardy Cache Valley

PICTURE BOOK

- 1st - **I Love You Baby Goodnight** by Mandy Medina-Sparks Blue Quill
2nd - **The Friend No One Could See** by Susan K. Hickenlooper
3rd - **My Own Sunbeam** by Christy Monson Blue Quill
1st HM - **Snow Horse On The Mountain** by Sharon Nauta Steele Bountiful
1st HM - **Blending** by Christy Monson Blue Quill
1st HM - **Bedtime Battle With The Snizzer Snazzer** by Christy Monson Blue Quill
2nd HM - **Grab That Frog** by Kendra Fowler Bountiful
3rd HM - **Rumble! Grumble! Growl!** by Anne Taylor
3rd HM - **The Fifth Floor Feast** by Caren Liebelt Bountiful

2012 Writing Contest

It is never too soon to start thinking about next year's writing contest. I would like to thank everyone who participated and I hope to see all of you next year as well. We will be announcing the contest categories at the beginning of the year but that isn't any reason why you shouldn't start thinking about what to submit.

-Emily Younker

CHILDREN'S MANUSCRIPT

- 1st - **Sing Down the Year** by Sharon Nauta Steele Bountiful
2nd - **What Shall I Be When I Grow Up** by Sharon Nauta Steele Bountiful
3rd - **Scotty – the Cookie Monster** by Dianne Hardy Cache Valley
1st HM - **Jump Boys** by Ali Cross Oquirrh Writers
2nd HM - **Scotty Rocks The Bully** by Dianne Hardy Cache Valley
3rd HM - **Scotty And The Tar-Baby** by Dianne Hardy Cache Valley

YOUNG ADULT MANUSCRIPT

- 1st - **Shatter** by Nicole Trionfo Wordcraft
2nd - **Become** by Ali Cross Oquirrh Writers
3rd - **The Spirit Thieves: Moon Lake** by John McCullough Wordcraft
1st HM - **The Burning** by Heather Moore Utah Valley Writers
2nd HM - **Hatter** by Daniel Coleman Cache Valley
3rd HM - **The Beast Within** by Sara Fitzgerald Oquirrh Writers
3rd HM - **Lost In LeVan** by Kathleen Murphy Oquirrh Writers

GENRE FICTION MANUSCRIPT

- 1st - **Eyes** by Daniel Coleman Cache Valley
2nd - **The Samaritan's Pistol** by Eric Bishop Cache Valley
3rd - **Veljón** by Caren Liebelt Bountiful
1st HM - **The Botanist** by Liesel Hill Absolutely Write
2nd HM - **Persistence of Vision** by Liesel Hill Absolutely Write
3rd HM - **Splice** by EA Younker Cache Valley

SCREEN/STAGE PLAY

- 1st - **Into The Bayou** by Liesel Hill Absolutely Write
2nd - **A Boston Window: An American Tinderbox** by Julie W. Hawk Heritage
3rd - **Angela** by Mike Eldredge Wordcraft
1st HM - **Souls Of Fire** by Caren Liebelt Bountiful
2nd HM - **The Space Magician: The Ultimate Casino** by Neil Dabb Cache Valley
3rd HM - **The Lost Boys Of Elk Creek** by Andrea Laren Salt Lake

NOVEL

- 1st - **Kremlins** by Liesel Hill Absolutely Write
2nd - **Hidden Mickey 5: Chasing New Frontiers** by David Smith Heritage
3rd - **Metropol-2032** by Dean Cody Utah Valley
1st HM - **When Winter Comes** by Celestia Whitehead Oquirrh
2nd HM - **Red Rover** by José Madrid Oquirrh
2nd HM - **Rising Sun, Falling Star** by Vickie Hall Wasatch
3rd HM - **The Tour** by Tim Keller Cache Valley

Chapter Chatter

BOUNTIFUL

Kim Grant received the Silver Quill Award for her 2nd novel, *Abish: Mother of Faith*.

Ruth Asay won 1st place in the Utah Arts Council 2010 contest for her juvenile fiction book, *The Witch Broom Maker of Goblin Valley*.

BLUE QUILL

Christy Monson just released a book through Bonneville Books/Cedar Fort called "Texting through Time - A Trek with Brigham Young." She has already experienced a couple of book signings and done very well. For more information go to www.christymonson.com.

Lynda Scott & Drienie Hattingh, along with several other writers, compiled a book entitled "Tales From H.E.L. (Huntsville, Eden, Liberty) and Beyond" that is also doing very well. This is a self-published book and has surpassed the 1000 sold mark. They are already working on book two, which will be just as exciting. For more information go to <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Tales-From-HEL-and-Beyond/220206798015721>.

Patricia Gerard is working on the re-release of her self-published book "Faery Sight," with a new and exciting cover. She also has a very exciting book trailer that has been put together. I didn't see it on her website, but maybe if you go to her website and request it, she will put it up. Her website is <http://www.patriciabossano.com>.

HEBER VALLEY

Heber Valley Writers are setting new goals for the upcoming year, one of which is writing a book, with individuals members involved, for publication. We are also making plans for membership recruitment. We enjoy the ambience of meeting in a bookstore, surrounded by shelves and displays of books, along

with a cozy fireplace for winter comfort. We wish all of our chapters and writers happy holidays.

WORDCRAFT

The Wordcraft chapter enjoyed a very helpful presentation by author Heather B. Moore in October. Heather told us about "life after the first draft," how to more effectively revise manuscripts. Rick Nordgren has published short stories in *Toasted Cheese Literary Journal*, *Foliage Oak*, and *Allegory E-Zine*. Carolyn Campbell wrote "Seven Secrets for Avoiding High Calorie Temptations," in *Senior Review*. She also took second place for her novel "Maddie and the Missing Mon" in the Utah Arts annual writing competition. Janet Peterson published "Old-Fashioned Facetime: The Importance of Friendships" and "Good Reasons to Keep Cooking" (*Senior Review*) and "More than Just "Interested": The Vital Work of the Young Men Program and "Daughters in My Kingdom": Helping Us Know Know Relief Society's History and Work" on www.meridianmagazine.com.

SALT LAKE CHAPTER

Gordon Wright will have an article published in the *Park City Magazine* Winter/Spring edition, which hits the newsstands January, 2012. It is a high-end magazine published twice a year. Another of his articles has been accepted by *Family Chronicle*, which is a genealogical magazine for people researching their family tree, family history, heritage, and genealogy roots.

Richard Goms has been successful in submitting several articles for publication. The Indiana Historical Society will publish his article in their July, 2013 issue. It is one of the largest and oldest historical societies in the United States. The Outdoor Writers Association will print one of

Richard's articles next month in their publication called *Outdoors Unlimited*. *Family Chronicle* will publish, "Dangers and Joys of Cemetery Research" in their January issue. Richard also did a reading recently with the Community Writing Center entitled, "The Secret of White Deer Valley."

Way to go Gordon and Richard!

Five members from the Salt Lake Chapter attended a fascinating Fall Workshop in Bountiful hosted by the Absolutely Write chapter on October 22, 2011. Charles Euchner presented a unique brain-based writing system called the Writing Code. It was a great five-hour session and very reasonably priced – many thanks to the Absolutely Write chapter for sponsoring this workshop!

To be a writer is to sit down at one's desk in the chill portion of every day, and to write; not waiting for the little jet of the blue flame of genius to start from the breastbone—just plain going at it. -- John Hersey

Monday, September 19, 2011 - Writer's Boot Camp

I spent my morning trying to keep my insides from turning into a demented pretzel - the butterflies in my stomach were little winged demons working out how best to take over. I managed to beat them and conquer the self doubt monsters gnawing at my brain. All it took was counting 1 through 4 over and over again like a metronome.

I walked into the Copper Mill and a few stray memories came to life. One of a little black mouse that I got from the pet store years ago - not something a teenage girl is suppose to carry in a little white box with her into a restaurant. And another of cold buttered shrimp that I had for my wedding night dinner (wish we ate it when it was hot). These were pleasant distractions to keep my mind busy and how I didn't end up being a gooey mess melted into the carpet.

Critiques I worked on that week were finished but my regular fears of coming off as an arrogant fraud crept through my thoughts. I looked for Tim because he always knows what's going on, or does a damn good job at faking it all the time. He's an excellent judge of human behavior and has a quirky sense of good taste - two qualities I admire. This means he could direct me through all the BS to where I need to go. He pointed me over to a table in the corner of the room.

The three I critiqued were waiting, Nikki is younger than I thought she would be, Michael is older, and Edwin I didn't know by name but by face. I wanted to stop the clock and run back to my computer to rewrite the critiques now that I see who the work belongs to. Perhaps it's a good thing we can't stop time and repair making an ass out of ourselves, because I for one would never get anything done if I kept doing that. Along with the three there waiting was the man I was a nervous wreck to meet - Alexander Gordon Smith. He came across the ocean and read my first chapter.

He's going to critique my work and tell me that I have a LONG way to go before I will ever make it. He'll be stern and relentless because he knows how fantastic of a writer he is. I'm sure of it. My hero is going to tell me it's time to move on.

His greeting was warm with a touch of nervous laughter - I liked him immediately. Whoever said that it's not a good idea to meet your hero is full of it - or at least has crappy heroes. The lunch went on with wave after wave of good information coming and going between all the people on my table. I hope I did as well for them as they did for me. The conversations about each other's writing invigorated me for the four hours we talked it over and still shines bright in my thoughts.

I can't help it, I really can't, I mean when a man with a cute smile and an adorable British accent tells me that my work is "brilliant" along with useful information on how to sand off the rough bits I get all mushy inside.

It's awesome to enjoy being that wrong about myself, and in the end I don't feel like a fraud. I also made some new friends and got to know Edwin more personally.

When we went upstairs the dinner was good, but the company was better. I wish I could've heard people, but my hearing-aids were almost making it worse with how many people were in the room. I couldn't filter out the sounds so it was a cacophony of chit chat. I did my best to read lips, but I know I missed some of the conversations. I liked talking to Mark, Matthew, Daniel, Emily, and Josh. They made me feel like I was home and that's what really matters to me. Good food, and good friends.

Later going up to the poetry awards I met Mary, the sweet lady I had gotten defensive with on Facebook the day before. She asked if I was Mrs. Mark, since I was standing next to him. I gave him a smile and said sure, I like him well

enough, I can be Mrs. Mark. He laughed and said yes, we are fond of each other. Then, of course, I told her who I was. With a shy look on her face she said, I'm Mary. All I could do is reach out and give her a hug. Told her how sorry I was and thanked her for being as understanding of me having a bad morning on Facebook. She grinned and said she understood. I liked her right away.

It was a treat to listen to Waddie Mitchell - cowboy poet. If anyone ever sees that name and gets the chance to watch/listen to him I HIGHLY recommend it. His poems touched my heart and my funny bone all at once. When he ended on Sam McGee I can honestly say in all the times I have heard that performed I have NEVER heard it like this.

When the awards were handed out Isaac won many awards in poetry. And for anyone who knows him or has read or heard his poetry it's not hard to understand why. Aaron, his wife, was a wonderful cheerleader. We all clapped loudly and were, are, very proud of Isaac. It's really cool to see quality get rewarded like that.

I went home exhausted to find my husband waiting for me. With a mix of worry, joy, and relief Brett greeted me with open arms. I fell in love all over again and told Brett how much I'll always need and want him. Because without him by my side I'd never have the courage or even the ability to make it in life. And I certainly couldn't have made it to Boot Camp.

This was a good day. =]

-Amber Gabbits

Always dream and shoot higher than you know you can do. Don't bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself. -- William Faulkner

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The Editor's Corner

One of my friends has a blog and posted a portion of his novel for his followers to read. He wanted their feedback. What he got back was a lot of comments that were critical and discouraging. I have noticed that when the critique is anonymous and has a large audience the comments tend to be more negatively focused. The other end of the spectrum is when close friends or family are offering critiques and are overly positive. Neither critique is helpful in the long run.

When you are asked to review a piece make sure you give useful feedback. Don't just make blanket statements but give reasons behind why you think something should be changed. On the other hand, I love to hear when people really liked my story, but if I am trying to get it published then I want more than just "I liked it." Explain exactly why the piece was good. Make sure to be positive overall. It is possible to be critical of the work and still inspire hope.

It doesn't matter if the writer is published or not. It doesn't matter if the reviewer is being paid for their services or not. It doesn't matter who you are or who they are. Treat writers and reviewers with respect.

Be A Sublime Fool

To sum it all up, if you want to write, if you want to create, you must be the most sublime fool that God ever turned out and sent rambling.

You must write every single day of your life.

You must read dreadful dumb books and glorious books, and let them wrestle in beautiful fights inside your head, vulgar one moment, brilliant the next.

You must lurk in libraries and climb the stacks like ladders to sniff books like perfumes and wear books like hats upon your crazy heads.

I wish for you a wrestling match with your Creative Muse that will last a lifetime.

I wish craziness and foolishness and madness upon you.

May you live with hysteria, and out of it make fine stories—science fiction or otherwise.

Which finally means, may you be in love every day for the next 20,000 days. And out of that love, remake a world. --Ray Bradbury



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