

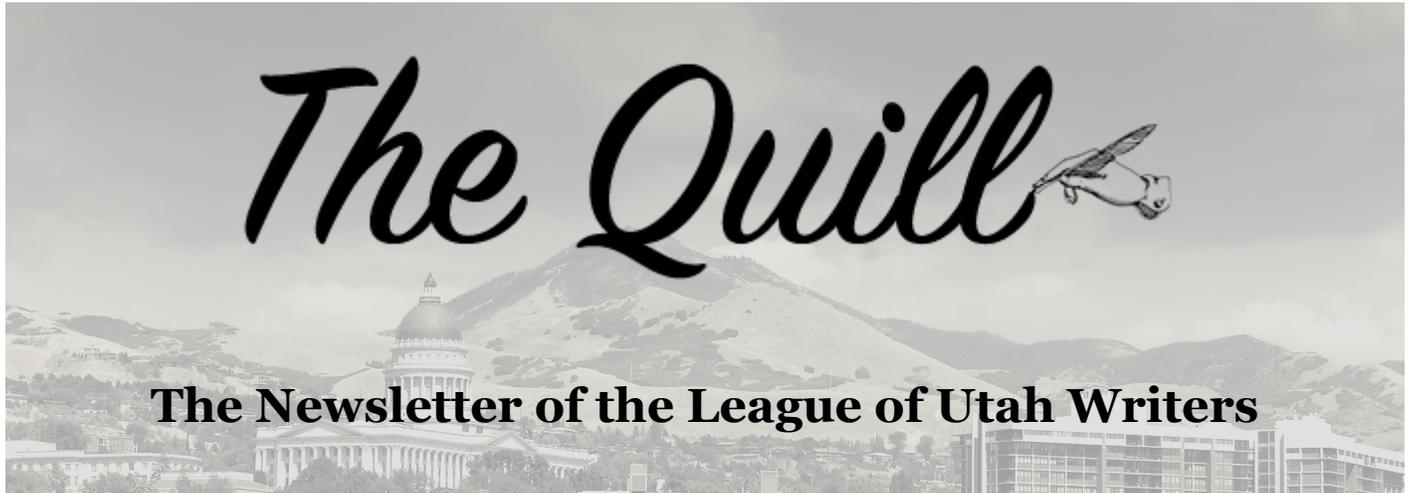
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## The Quill: November 2019

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LUW Newsletter <membership@leagueofutahwriters.org>  
Reply-To: LUW Newsletter <membership@leagueofutahwriters.org>

Fri, Nov 15, 2019 at 10:11 AM



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### A Message from the President

Hello Leaguers!

It is autumn moving toward winter, the time of teas and soups, blankets and quiet. For the league it's a chance to catch our breath after Quills. It is a time to take stock, make plans and prepare for another great year of community, opportunity and excellence.

You'll be hearing those three words a lot this year. It is the year's theme, the motto of Quills 2020. It is what we strive to do. Community, to unite with each other for a common goal, to provide Opportunities and chances for progress, and Excellence to always be improving.

If you're looking for a motto for your next year, you could do worse than adopt this one.

Next year will be the League of Utah Writers 85th year which is amazing. To celebrate 85 years of community, opportunity and excellence, we're putting together a commemorative anthology. The details can be found here:

<https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/luw-anthology>

The theme is The Function of Freedom: "The function of freedom is to free someone else."--Toni Morrison.

There is no cost to submit, provided you are a League of Utah Writers member in good standing. This anthology will be distributed to all attendees at the League of Utah Writers Quills 2020 event, which takes place August 13-16 at the University of Utah Marriott. We are assembling guests and events, so stay tuned for exciting news.

We're going to have another great year. Keep up your writing everyone, and make sure you're reading plenty as well.

Community, Opportunity and Excellence

Johnny Worthen

President League of Utah Writers



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## From the President-Elect

Most would think of the end of the year as a quiet time on the writing conference circuit. All is quiet, and everyone is happily preparing for the holidays. (I hear you snort-laughing as you contemplate long store lines and spending entire days with relatives.)

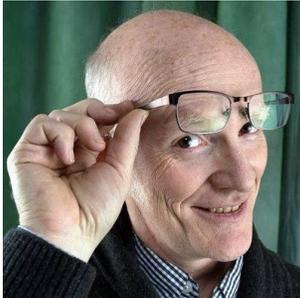
Let me add just one teensy little thing to your holiday to-do list. [Submit a class presentation for our Spring Conference!](#) You have until **December 31**, so don't think it over too long or you'll miss out. We will be at the Redwood campus of SLCC again this year on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. If you don't want to submit, please attend. We've dropped the price for League members to just \$20, and there are opportunities for volunteers to attend for free. Whether volunteering, attending or presenting, we want to see you there. Our writing community is stronger when we gather and share our experiences.

Here is a checklist of things you should prepare ahead of time for your class submission. You don't have to have everything ready up front, but the more prepared you are, the better the chances of being selected.

- Title of presentation
- Solo vs. group presentation
  - If it's a group, have the names of your co-presenters
- Category / track (choose one)

- Craft, publishing, marketing, genre-specific / ask an expert, non-fiction, poetry, practical applications, screenwriting, presenter training
- Beginner / intermediate / advanced
- Blurb to be included in the conference app, targeted to attendees
- Your presenter credentials for this topic
- Where and when have you given this presentation before?
- Short outline of the presentation
- Handout PDF to give to attendees through our conference app

It might look like a long and scary list, but this is the conference where we work to add new voices into the mix. One of those new voices could be you.



John M. Olsen  
President-Elect,  
League of Utah Writers

**The 2020 Spring Conference Presenter Submission Portal  
will close on Tuesday, December 31.**

**[Click Here to Submit Your Presentation Proposal](#)**

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[Register Today!](#)

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## Connect with the LUW on Twitter and Instagram!

The League social media accounts ([@LUWriters](#) on Twitter and [@the.league.of.utah.writers](#) on Instagram) are working to become more active so they can be a valuable marketing tool to members of the League when they have something to promote. We would invite all members to give us a follow and be sure to let us know to follow back so we can amplify your good news when you have it. If you're not on social media, consider starting an account today!



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## 2019 Quill Award Winners: Published Book Contest

Congratulations to everyone who entered the 2019 Quill Awards (published book awards) and especially to the winners! The judges were impressed with

the quality of writing produced by members of the League.



**Diamond Quill for best book of the year:** *On Fly-Fishing the Wind River Range: Essays and What Not to Bring* by Chadd VanZanten

## Collections



**Gold Quill:** *Put Your Shoulder to the Wheel* by Scott Tarbet and John Olsen



**Silver Quill:** *Quoth the Raven* by Lyn Worthen

**Recommended Read (tie):** *Wandering Beautiful* by Candace J. Thomas

**Recommended Read (tie):** *Wings of Change* by Lyn Worthen

## Nonfiction



**Gold Quill:** *Utah Women: Pioneers, Poets & Politicians* by Emily Brooksby Wheeler



**Silver Quill:** *The Poorest Man in Zion* by David Benson

## Youth



**Gold Quill:** *How to Save the Constitution* by Paul Skousen



**Silver Quill:** *The Alamist Queen* by J.S. Jaeger

**Recommended Read:** *Stonebearer's Betrayal* by Jodi Milner

**Recommended Read:** *Kairos* by Mechelle Morrison

## Adult Fiction



**Gold Quill:** *One Bronze Knuckle* by Kenny Gordon



**Silver Quill (tie):** *Clairvoyant* by Mike Nelson



**Silver Quill (tie):** *The Porch* by David Armstrong

**Recommended Read:** *Among These Bones* by Amanda Luzzader

**Recommended Read:** *Finding Anne de Bourgh* by Ronda Gibb Hinrichsen

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## Chapter Chatter

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### Blue Quill Chapter (Ogden)

Ryan Decaria celebrated the publication of his second book, *We Shall Be Monsters (Devil In The Microscope Book 2)*, with a release party at DaVinci Academy in Ogden on October 1. Congratulations, Ryan!

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### Just Write Chapter (at large)

Just Write is the at-large / online chapter. Ann Gordon is president and Lisa Vickers is the new vice president. Our chapter members live in five states. We hold online critique sessions twice a month, with three genre groups in each session.

Congratulations are in order for these members (alphabetical by first name):

- Alexander Copley, 14, won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the League's 2019 Children's Book category for his book: *Misadventures of the Just Us Chickens*. The contest reviewer / judge wrote that Alex had created "Great characters." This young man is getting an early start as a novelist!
- Haley Cavanagh has signed a contract with Covey Publishing for her novel: *Astraeus II: Retaliation*, with a release date in December or January. She is publishing her *Astraeus* novels under the pen name Roxanne Howard.
- Kathy Davidson has published her novel, *The House at Dietrich Hollow*, with Amazon. She shared her interesting book with our critique group. One of her short stories was published in the *Spirals Anthology*, a collection published by the Brigham City Chapter. She is giving a presentation of her work on November 12th.
- Mechelle Morrison: Her YA sci-fi novel, *Kairos*, won the Recommended Read award in the League's 2019 YA Book Contest. This YA thriller is available on Amazon. The Just Write critique group read the manuscript this year – it's an edge-of-the-seater. At the Summer Symposium in Logan, Mechelle gave a presentation about writing YA dialogue.
- Tamara Copley: In the League's 2019 writing contest, Tamara won an Honorable Mention award for her religious essay, "Battered Wings." She recently self-published a children's book, *Cali the Silly Frenchie Goes for a Walk*, along with "If You Give a Cat the Boot," a snarky sci-fi rewrite of the "Puss in Boots" story. The collection *Short Fiction Break* contains Tamara's sci-fi lightning story, "Before the Pruning Shears." You can read it here: <https://shortfictionbreak.com/before-the-pruning-shears/>

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## Salt City Genre Writers

The Salt City Genre Writers are now publishing weekly fiction from their

members on *Medium* by way of a flash fiction competition. The winners are curated into a publication that releases regularly. We invite everyone to check in regularly to read the fiction: <https://medium.com/salt-city-genre-writers> For more information about how it works or to participate, check in with the Flash Fiction Contest editor, Grace Vesely (writing as Blithe Anderson), at [blithandersonauthor@gmail.com](mailto:blithandersonauthor@gmail.com).

Salt City Genre Writer Caryn Larrinaga celebrated the release of her latest cozy supernatural mystery, *Donn's Shadow (The Soul Searchers Mysteries, Book Two)*, with a reading and signing at Crone's Hollow in Salt Lake City on October 22. She'll be signing copies of that and her other novels at the new Barnes & Noble store at Farmington Station Park on Saturday, November 23 from 1-5pm.

Salt City Genre Writer Grace Vesely began publishing both poetry and personal essays on *Medium* in April of this year under the pen name Blithe Anderson. Her work has been curated by the editors of *Medium* several times, giving her writing visibility on the front page, as well as showing up in readers' emails. She's also recently been added to a publication called *Assemblage*.

Salt City Genre Writer Crystal Whitehead, writing as Crystal Lee, has a new book coming in December. *The Child Inside*, a book of holiday memories and poetry for children, will be released by Page Publishing.

Salt City Genre Writer president Bryan Young has been contracted to write a novel in a licensed universe coming out in 2020. He also has 40,000 words of fiction coming out in the Robotech universe with the December release of *Robotech: The Macross Saga Roleplaying Game*. His writing is also appearing regularly in print at *Star Wars Insider* magazine and online at *Syfy* and *Slashfilm*, among others.

Vice President Cassidy Ward has a regular weekly column at *Syfy* that might be of use to writers, as he delves into the science behind science fiction.

At the 2019 Quills conference, the Salt City Genre Writers received 7

manuscript requests from agents and publishers and are currently working on submitting them.

The Salt City Genre Writers leadership team (Vice President Cassidy Ward, Secretary Stephanie Restivo, and Writing Coordinator Monica Simons) have been overseeing National Novel Writing Month for the Salt Lake County region and have been able to bring in a lot of new attention to the League through a partnership between the two organizations.

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### **Writers Bloc (Tooele)**

Our Chapter has been having a great time critiquing and encouraging each other. We usually have 2 teens with the 3 or 4 regularly attending adults. We love helping in all genre's and many participated in a chapter challenge to enter a free contest. We have several participators in NaNoWriMo this year and it's been fun to see the excitement of progress.

*The Quill* 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.



### **Get More Involved!**

The league is always looking for energetic, enthusiast volunteers for all kinds of things, from conference help to leadership positions, committee appointments and more!

If you have time, skill, and interest, please contact [president@leagueofutahwriters.org](mailto:president@leagueofutahwriters.org) and let us know.

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Council, the Utah Division of Arts  
& Museums, and Salt Lake  
County Zoo, Arts, & Parks.

**President: Johnny Worthen**

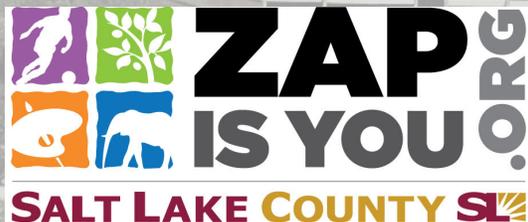
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