

JAY NEWMAN

WRITER ♦ PHOTOGRAPHER ♦ EDITOR

CONTACT

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PROFILE

Me: An award-winning verbal and visual storyteller with 25 years' experience in publishing; a prolific wordsmith with an editor's grasp of grammar who can improve your branding and communications, or just write funny, informative articles

You: A publisher, company, nonprofit, or news/entertainment site that could really use a Me on your team

SKILLS

- COPY WRITING
- GHOSTWRITING
- CONTENT CREATION
- CONSULTING
- COPY EDITING
- PROOFREADING
- RESEARCH
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- TRAINING

EXPERIENCE

Freelance Writer | 2016–present

- ♦ Head writer for the “Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader” nonfiction humor trivia series (more than 15 million books in print). Compose 200+ pages of facts, lists, and articles—from my own pitches and research—covering history, pop culture, science, nature, politics, tech, sports, language, crime, and more
- ♦ Contribute 40 new pages for each installment of Portable Press’s “Strange” series (*Strange History*, *Strange Crime*, *Strange Science*, *Strange Hollywood*, and *Strange USA*)
- ♦ Write original stories and dialogue for “BrittKids Buddies Astro Adventures” monthly comic strips for the Britt Music & Arts Festival in Jacksonville, Oregon
- ♦ Write articles for publications. Past clients include *Ranker*, *Reader’s Digest*, *Mental Floss*, *History101*, *Today I Found Out*, and *Neatorama*
- ♦ Researched and wrote jokes and life lessons for the 2017 book, *Life Is a Joke: 100 Life Lessons (with Punch Lines)*

Developmental Editor | 1998–2016

Portable Press, a division of ReaderLink Distribution Services

- ♦ Wrote 1,000+ articles for 70 nonfiction books in the Uncle John’s line
- ♦ Worked closely with the editor-in-chief on all aspects of production: planning and compiling, editing and rewriting, and polishing the manuscripts
- ♦ Appointed by the editor-in-chief as “Keeper of the Voice” of the series; created and maintained a style guide, trained in-house and freelance writers
- ♦ Served as managing editor for 15 humor and trivia books; formulated ideas and titles, wrote advanced marketing copy, wrote the bulk of the manuscripts, hired and managed freelance writers
- ♦ In charge of editorial for three book lines: “Uncle John’s Briefs”; “Facts-To-Go” e-books; and the “Weird, Weird World” illustrated hardcover books
- ♦ Served as art director for 35 book covers by working closely with designers, ensuring that the various editors’ instructions were clearly communicated

EDUCATION

Radford University

Bachelor of Science in
Interdisciplinary Studies, 1993

English, Psychology, and Education

Student-teacher (1st and 5th grades)

AWARDS

- ◆ 2016 Benjamin Franklin Award Gold Winner in Humor for the illustrated hardcover edition, *Uncle John's Weird, Weird World*, by the Bathroom Readers' Institute (Portable Press)
- ◆ 2018 Independent Publisher Book Award (IPPY) Bronze Award for Best Regional Nonfiction—West-Pacific for the book *Crater Lake & Beyond: The Land of Fire & Ice*, by Jim Turner; photography by Jay & Sue Newman (Rio Nuevo Publishers)

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- ◆ WordPress, Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft Word, and Excel
- ◆ Pop culture, music, books, movies and TV, politics, space, nature, rock-hounding, gardening, and writing the next great American novel

ONLINE PORTFOLIOS

- ◆ JayNewmanWriter.com and NewmanImages.com
- ◆ Facebook: [JayNewmanWriter](https://www.facebook.com/JayNewmanWriter) and [NewmanImages](https://www.facebook.com/NewmanImages)
- ◆ Instagram and Threads: [@NewmanImages](https://www.instagram.com/NewmanImages)

- ◆ Launched Portable Press's successful "Strange" series; compiled the first book and created a new template for the gift market; part of the team that launched Uncle John's "For Kids Only" series
- ◆ Wrote and edited book introductions, cover copy, marketing copy, catalog blurbs, newsletters, social media posts, and web copy; answered reader mail

Photographer | 1996–present

- ◆ Landscape, wildlife, concert, and event photographer with a library of over 5,000 images
- ◆ Co-owner (with my wife, Sue) of NewmanImages Photography since 2012
- ◆ Collaborator and writer of the 2018 coffee table book, *Deep Blue Volcano*
- ◆ Contributed the photos and wrote the captions for the 2017 book, *Crater Lake and Beyond: A Story of Fire and Ice*
- ◆ Contributed photographs to the coffee table book, *Ashland, Oregon* (2013), and its sequel, *Ashland, Oregon: Day Trips* (2016)
- ◆ Volunteer Concert Photographer for the Britt Music & Arts Festival in Jacksonville, Oregon; shoot six concerts per season and submit edited photos
- ◆ Wrote the copy and contributed photos for monthly "Weekend Wandering" columns for Ashland's LocalsGuide (2013)
- ◆ Admin of social media pages on Facebook and Instagram
- ◆ Past clients include Rogue Credit Union, Ashland Chamber of Commerce, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Oprah's Oscar Special (2012)

Toy Developer | 2017–18

Discover with Dr. Cool in Ashland, Oregon

- ◆ Created STEM toys for the company's National Geographic-branded products—focusing on science and chemistry experiments
- ◆ Wrote and edited packaging copy, instructions, and booklets for science toys and activities—focusing on educational content

TV Producer, Director, and Instructor | 2001–05

RVTV Cable Access in Ashland, Oregon

- ◆ Completed and then co-instructed the Producer Certification Workshop; taught composition, lighting, blocking, and writing
- ◆ Produced and/or directed more than 100 cable access shows—including talk shows, cooking shows, nature documentaries, local election coverage, and musical/stage performances
- ◆ Camera operator for Southern Oregon Public Television pledge drives

Copy Editor | 2000–04

Ask Janis Editorial in Ashland, Oregon

- ◆ Edited and proofread manuscripts, medical journals, and ESL term papers

Northwest Regional Trainer | 1995–99

Kinko's Copy Centers in Portland, Oregon

- ◆ Traveled to branch offices throughout Oregon and northern California; taught new coworker orientation; instructed and certified coworkers in customer service, company protocols, and proper use of the equipment

Soccer Coach, Referee, and Arbitrator | 1993–96

- ◆ Coached a competitive teenage boys team in Virginia; state-certified referee of K-12 games; sat on the board that arbitrated disputes

Letters of Recommendation

♦ **Gordon Javna—Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the Uncle John’s Bathroom**

Reader book series: Jay Newman has worked for me since 2000. Over the last 18 years he’s served as a writer and editor on dozens of book projects, and was our art liaison, working with designers and illustrators on many of our book covers. In addition, he managed our website for several years, developed a series of ebooks, wrote marketing copy, and contributed to our operation in numerous other ways.

Not only is he a top-notch writer and editor, he’s creative and a good problem solver. Jay has two other qualities that I value highly: loyalty and trustworthiness. He’ll take on any project I assign to him and he always delivers. Jay has been a pleasure to have in the office; I believe he would be an asset to any workplace.

♦ **Jim Turner—Arizona Historian, and author of *Crater Lake & Beyond: The Land of Fire and Ice*:** It has been my privilege to work with Jay Newman for the past year on our upcoming book about Crater Lake. He is reliable, dedicated, and able to follow directions to the letter. In addition, he brings an enthusiasm to his work that is invaluable, and often made innovative suggestions that improved our book.

Jay spent more time than we expected on the project, going back over the work several times to make sure we got the best results possible. He is that rare combination of a perfectionist who also knows when to let up in order to meet deadlines.

When we met in Ashland, we enjoyed long conversations about writing and editing and I could tell that he has “an ear” for the right words and phrases that appeal to the general reader. No matter what position you need to fill, Jay is intelligent, a quick study, and has a pride in his work that drives him to do his best.

♦ **Barbara Tricarico—Author of the coffee table books *Ashland, Oregon* and *Ashland, Oregon: Day Trips*:** Jay Newman was an invaluable source of information when I was writing and compiling my books. Not only did Jay supply many of the beautiful photos in both books, but he also sat down with me and brainstormed when I was in the rough planning stages. He is an excellent writer (and thinker)—full of creativity and sensible ideas. He has an extensive knowledge of the book writing process.

When I first moved to Ashland six years ago, Jay regularly wrote a column for a local newspaper about his travels. I always enjoyed picking up his latest issue. It enticed me to travel and photograph the area myself. Later, when I was in need of a specific image for my books, I’d call upon Jay. He never hesitated to go out “on location” and shoot a series of photos for me (many of which I used). He also provided detailed information about the landmark or area featured in the books.

With Jay’s pleasing personality, immense energy, and abundant creativity, I know he would be an asset to any organization. I’d highly recommend him.

Jay Newman

♦ **Jordan Willing—CEO of JMW Sales, Inc., an educational toy company in Ashland, Oregon:** If you're looking for an intelligent and highly capable person who knows how to get things done, I would strongly recommend that you consider Jay Newman for your position. During his time at JMW he successfully completed a very complex product development project for our company. In his role as product developer, Jay created a series of chemistry kits that involved research, group demonstrations, write-ups, sourcing, and compliance.

His tremendous work ethic and dedication were apparent in everything he did. Jay's ability to take an open-ended project and break it down into specific variables was the key to the successful completion of this project. His unique skillset would be a tremendous benefit to any organization.