

## Looking for Nominees

by John P. Cardone



It's that time, the time when nominations are open for the Long Island Authors Group (LIAG) 2015 Founder's Award. In one of his most famous speeches, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." While on a much smaller scale, we have this same concept in mind when selecting candidates, what have you done for the LIAG and the LI writing community? In every organization, there are always special people who unselfishly give of themselves while expecting nothing in return. These individuals are the ones who step forward to volunteer, or develop ideas that impact others, or give freely of their time to benefit the organization or the members themselves. Within the LIAG, we are very fortunate to have many such individuals—and this award in many ways says thank you to everyone who has done something while recognizing the special giving nature of one particular person. In addition to recognizing someone within the LIAG, the Founder's Award can be awarded to another group or organization, or an individual outside the LIAG who has in some special way, helped and assisted our organization and the LI writing community.

In the beginning of the year, the very first award went to David Axelrod. Here's an excerpt from the newsletter story I wrote about David's amazing

contributions that earned him the 2014 LIAG Founder's Award: "By selecting David Axelrod as the recipient of the first award in 2014, the LIAG Board has chosen an individual who epitomizes this award's spirit. David is perfectly suited to receive this award for many reasons. His curriculum vitae could fill the pages of this newsletter, but here are some highlights of his accomplishments that reflect his giving side.

From the very beginning, David had been supportive of the idea of a Long Island Authors Group and was one of the original 16 authors who participated in the very first LIAG book fair in 2008. He helped establish our first board of directors and served on the board from its inception through 2010. During that time, David generously allowed the LIAG to receive non-profit status through his own non-profit organization, Writer's Unlimited Agency while our own application was pending.

Over the years, David has provided guidance and advice to each LIAG President on many issues as our organization went through its growing pains. He single-handedly developed the concept for our First Wednesdays' meetings, and took the time to scout and locate a suitable setting. David coordinated those first meetings and recruited LIAG member Suzanne Litrel as the First Wednesdays' meeting

- continued on page 3

## In This Issue

- Page 1 - Article: Looking For Nominees
- Page 2 - Article: Have Book Reviews Lost Their Power?
- Page 3 - Looking For Nominees (continued) First Wednesdays
- Page 4 - Members in the News
- Page 5 - Members in the News
- Page 6 - Spotlight Articles, New Members
- Page 7 - Spotlight Articles, New Members
- Page 8 - Photo Gallery
- Page 9 - Opportunities for Writers
- Page 10 - Board of Directors and Committee Chairs  
LIAG Mission Statement

Please share your articles and photo submissions - send news about your current books, new releases, upcoming events, and accomplishments to newsletter editor, Karen Bonnet at [kbonnet7@gmail.com](mailto:kbonnet7@gmail.com). New members are spotlighted in each edition. Please send a bio and photo so you can be featured in the next issue!

# Happy Holidays!



## Have Book Reviews Lost Their Power?

By Lois W. Stern

Used to jump for joy each time I received another five star review. And then one day, I got my comeuppance when a dear friend posted a four star review on my newest book. True, she included some complimentary commentary, but why only four stars? Where did I fall short?" Next time we spoke I swallowed my pride and asked, "What do you think I should have done differently for that book to have merited five stars?" Her answer really got me thinking:

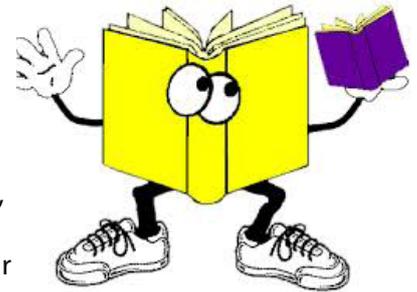
*"You know, when I wrote my first full length novel, in a matter of months twenty-seven people had posted five star Amazon reviews. I was elated. That was while I was in my first blush as a new author. But later I realized that all those stars were part of a popularity contest. Friends and colleagues were pulling for me to succeed and it embarrassed me. There are so many really fine books published these days by both Indie and traditionally published authors, but five stars? I give out very few five star review these days. The book has to be near perfection for me to do that. But I try to convey through the context of my review how I feel about the book. Your book is terrific. I mean that sincerely, and I said so in my review. But five stars? I save those five star reviews for books like James Joyce's Ulysses or D.H. Lawrence's Sons and Lovers."*

With that conversation stored in my memory bank, I began to rethink the whole idea of book reviews. Perhaps my friend was right and we should start rating books more realistically. And if we all agreed to do that, would book reviews lose their power? I think not, but only if we all began to approach them with a different mindset. Maybe the time is ripe for us to stop commenting on the number of stars we receive and instead start quoting an excerpt from the review itself. Some reviewers are tougher than others,

*"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."*

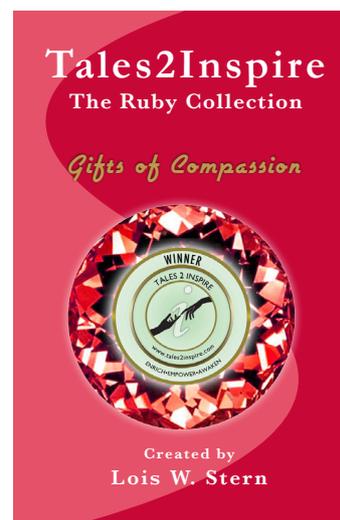
*- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

so star counts are not the definitive answer. But positive comments are and they spur us on, encouraging us to keep working on our craft, while honest, thoughtful critiques help us grow as authors.



I wrote this article for Marie Lavender's blog last June, for her late summer edition. It continues with some tips for getting reviews, so if interested, copy and paste this link into your browser:  
<http://marielavender.blogspot.com/2014/08/have-book-reviews-lost-their-power-by.html?spref=fb>

One more thought: Let's support our fellow LIAG members by writing reviews for some of their books - the ones we have truly enjoyed.



LIAG's Vice President, Lois W. Stern, has released her newest book in the "Tales2Inspire" collection; Tales2Inspire, The Ruby Collection, brings you stories that are heartwarming, powerful and memorable, and features real-life people and the amazing happenings that impacted their lives.



# News and Updates...

## Looking for Nominees.... - continued from page 1

co-coordinator. And even though the location of the meetings has moved, we honor David each time we walk through the doors of the Bonwit Inn and take our places at the table.

He has also been, and continues to be instrumental in shaping our membership standards, and has served on the Membership Committee for all the years we have had one. And amazingly, even though he is now retired from his teaching position at Suffolk Community College, and has since moved to Florida, David continues to serve as a LIAG Membership Committee application book reader and a valued advisor. All of this without asking for anything in return—plus, even though he moved he still pays his annual dues in support of our organization.



But wait, there's much more. David is a three-time Fullbright Scholar, and the only American to win the award back-to-back in

two separate categories. With his third award, David was the first official Fullbright Poet-in-Residence in the People's Republic of China. Meanwhile back at home on LI, he held the post of Professor of English at a Long Island community college. During his tenure, David not only established the creative writing curriculum, but created a visiting writer's program that brought hundreds of authors to Long Island to perform. Over a period of 40 years, David taught writing to an estimated 12,000 college students. Even now in Florida, he has established mentoring programs and continues to be an influence to the LIAG and the writing community wherever he happens to live. And let's not forget he was awarded, and carried out with distinction, the office of the Suffolk County Poet Laureate from 2007 - 2009."

Now, the nominating committee is asking all current LIAG members to consider an individual (or organization) who might win the award for 2015. What is the LIAG Founder's Award? While called the LIAG Founder's Award, it is not named after any one person, but instead reflects an innovative, creative, and giving spirit. It can be awarded as an honor, or in recognition of someone's unselfish giving, or for the work they do (or have done), or for someone who has made a difference, or... for all of the above. While it is designed to be awarded annually, it doesn't have to be if no appropriate candidate is recognized. It is awarded for the prior year; it can be for any year of service. In many ways, just being nominated is an award because it

Long Island Authors  
Group

### 2014 Founder's Award

*In Recognition of  
Your Innovative, Creative,  
and Giving Spirit*

*Presented to*  
**David B. Axelrod**

shows the special ways LIAG members (and those non-members) go the extra mile to support each other and contribute to the LI writing community.

Have someone in mind? Here's Step One. If there is someone (or an organization) you feel is deserving of consideration, write up



a description of what this person (or organization) has done keeping in mind the idea and spirit of the award as described above. Send the description to [Llauthors@aol.com](mailto:Llauthors@aol.com). The deadline for candidates is December 15, 2014. From this group, the nominating committee (the first 4 LIAG Presidents) will select the best candidates and submit these names to the LIAG membership for a final email vote. The winner will be notified and the award will be presented at the March First Wednesdays' meeting.

If you have any questions about the process feel free to email me—John P. Cardone at [Llauthors@aol.com](mailto:Llauthors@aol.com).



## What's New At First Wednesday Meetings

Our First Wednesday Meetings have a new twist as we have been having a free surprise raffle for attending members. So far, our August winner was Karen Levine; September winner was Ron Scott; and October winner, Michael Kannengieser. LIAG hopes to have more free raffles for those attending First Wednesday meetings in the months ahead.

- Anne Coltman

# Members In the News...

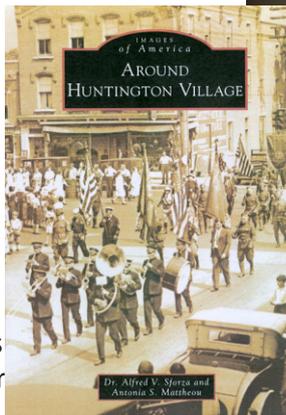
## AROUND HUNTINGTON VILLAGE

by Dr. Alfred V. Sforza    Antonia S. Mattheou

Founded in 1653, the town of Huntington is situated on what is known as the Gold Coast of Long Island. The incorporated villages within the town are Huntington Bay, Lloyd Harbor, Asharoken, and Northport. Huntington has always attracted a population that has created a foundation of diversity. Settlement-era properties, castles of the Victorian period, and main streets still adorn the town as witnesses of the people who lived here and a community that is still thriving. A few of the castles and mansions that once existed in the town have disappeared, some by wear and tear and others through neglect. Still others have been converted into academic institutions and museums. Around Huntington Village shares photographs that give meaning to the events in the lives of the people who lived here.

**Dr. Alfred V. Sforza** is a dentist, local historian, and lifelong resident of the town of Huntington. He is the author of three books on the town history and a three-term member of the Huntington Historical Society Board of Trustees.

**Antonia S. Mattheou** is the Huntington town archivist. She also serves as the committee chair/grants administrator for the Huntington Harbor Lighthouse Preservation Society.



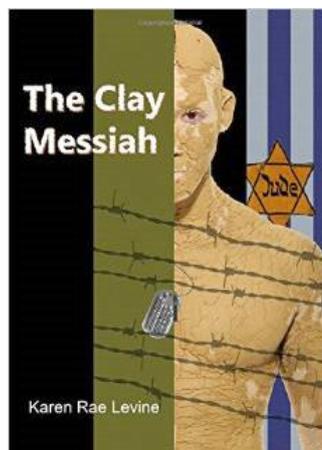
## Book Release: *The Clay Messiah* by Karen Rae Levine

I am excited to announce the release of my historical novel, *The Clay Messiah*. If I had realized the scope of the researching and soul-searching that would be necessary to bring this novel to life, I'm not sure I ever would have considered writing it. My own life evolved tremendously over the nine years it took to complete this book and there were many times I had to put the writing and research aside.

I consider saying, "Finished!" to this story a tremendous personal accomplishment. But, like the gymnast who trains diligently for an Olympic performance, I hope I made it look easy! An early review: "An enchanting and lively novel that brings clarity, light and love to the darkness of the Holocaust with great tenderness, warmth and wisdom. If only the return of the actual Messiah could come about with such novelistic panache."

-Thane Rosenbaum, *The Golems of Gotham and Second Hand Smoke*.

<http://www.amazon.com/Clay-Messiah-Karen-Rae-Levine/>



**LIAG member, Jim Ryan**, delivered the keynote address at Penn State University on October 15 at a conference of University Food Service Managers. He discussed the "Eight Characteristics of Happy People." There were 50 attendees from the Middle Atlantic States area colleges; each one got a copy of his book, *Simple Happiness*.

The talk at Penn State went great. Food service managers came from Villanova, University of Maryland, University of West Virginia, Penn State and several other smaller colleges in the Pennsylvania area.

Then on Oct 22, Jim gave a presentation to about 125 at the Annual Staff Day for the Central Nassau Guidance Organization, a non-profit which provides counseling for many at risk individuals in Nassau County.

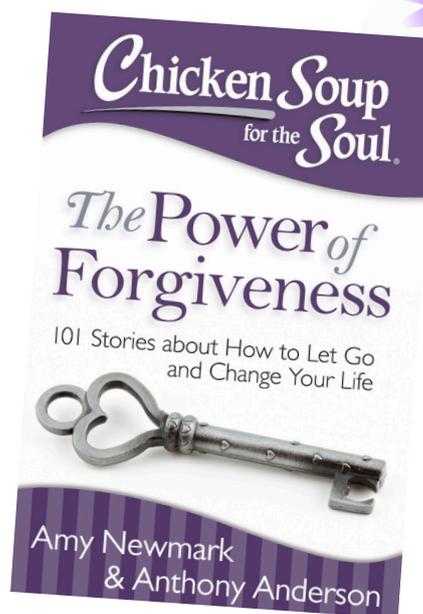
"These people are in the trenches daily working with people suffering from addictive behaviors to severe depression. The Staff Day is a day to appreciate the invaluable work they perform, day in and day out."

# Members In the News...

## Lois Kipnis' Short Story to be Published in Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Power of Forgiveness

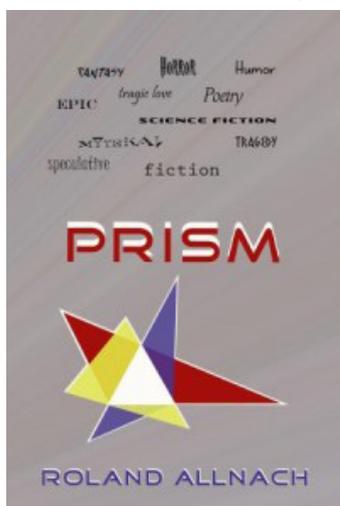
One of Lois Kipnis' short stories, "I Did Not Understand," has been selected to appear in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Power of Forgiveness*, which will be released December, 2014.

Lois Kipnis is a creative arts consultant with forty years of experience as a drama teacher and arts administrator. She is the author of a one-act play, *Things Can Always Be Worse!*, and co-author of *Together We Can Improvise and Have You Ever... Bringing Literature to Life Through Creative Dramatics*.



## Roland Allnach Returns to Cynthia Brian's 'Starstyle' to Discuss His Book, 'Prism'

*Prism* is the newest book by Roland Allnach presenting the best of newest stories together with his most acclaimed published short fiction. These selected stories fracture the reader's perceptions among a dazzling array of genres and styles to illuminate the mysterious aspects of the human experience. "Roland Allnach has been described as a 'star on the rise' (Foreword, Clarion), 'a master storyteller with a powerful pen' (Cynthia Brian, NY Times Bestselling author), with writing that is 'smart, elegant, and addicting' (San Francisco Review)."



## Tom Clavin's Recent Book Releases

*Reckless: The Racehorse Who Became a Marine Corps Hero* was published in hardcover by NAL/Penguin in August. The trade paperback edition of *The Heart of Everything That Is: The Untold Story of Red Cloud, An American Legend* was published in September and as of October 19 has spent its first five weeks on the New York Times paperback nonfiction bestseller list. A previous book, *Last Men Out*, about the fall of Saigon in April 1975, is being developed as an eight-hour cable miniseries.

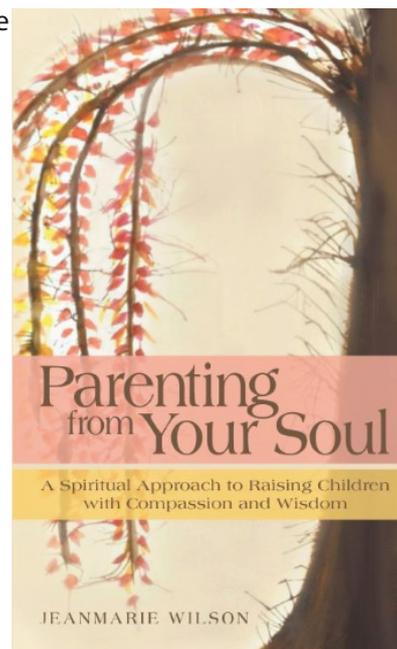


Combining the experience of raising two daughters and extensive practice in the field of counseling with young adults and their families, **Jeanmarie Wilson** was inspired to write a book, *Parenting from Your Soul: A Spiritual Approach to Raising Children with Compassion and Wisdom*, for parents connecting practical guidelines for raising children with spiritual ideology. ([www.parentingfromyour-soul.com](http://www.parentingfromyour-soul.com))

Jeanmarie has a Masters Degree in School Counseling from Long Island University and has been a school counselor in the New York public school system for over twenty years. Previously, she worked as an alcoholism counselor as well as a career counselor. Jeanmarie is also the co-founder of a college consulting company, Your Journey To College.

Jeanmarie has two rescue dogs and helps support animal rescue - a cause that is very important to her.

Influencers along her spiritual journey include Esther and Jerry Hicks, Marianne Williamson, Louise Hay, and Neale Donald Walsch as well as many others listed at the end of the book. Jeanmarie enjoys yoga and meditation, cooking healthy food, gardening, swimming, hiking with her husband and dogs, and spending time at the beach. Jeanmarie lives on Long Island with her husband.



**Frank Vetro** is an Italian American, residing in eastern Long Island. His family came to the United States so their children could have the education and opportunity they never had. In living out his family's American dream, he pursued a career in education. Frank graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1995 and began teaching with certifications in biology, chemistry, and general science. In 1998, he earned his Master of Arts and coaching certification. From 1998-2000, he compiled 90 additional post graduate credits in Educational Pedagogy. In 2001, Frank furthered his education, graduating in 2003 with a Specialist Diploma and certifications as a School Business Administrator and School District Administrator.



Quickly advancing to middle and high school principal in Hampton Bays, NY, his future was bright and promising. However, life can change in an instant without warning. In February, 2006, due to the most unfortunate perfect storm of events, he lost his career, couldn't find employment for many years, and was forced from his home and into his car. He has since recreated his life. He currently works as an educator, working with family and criminal courts, and public school districts in Suffolk County, Long Island. He educates the underprivileged, youths in crisis, and others who have been through the judicial system and need a second chance.

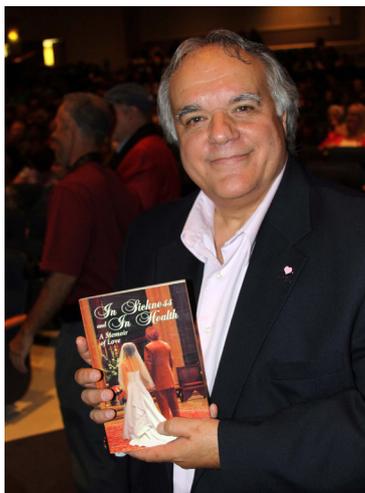
## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# LIAG's Newest Members...

**Irene Fulmer** is a holistic nurse and coordinator/developer of the Complementary Integrative Medicine Program at the North Shore Hospital in Syosset/Plainview, New York. She has designed effective pre-operative and stress reduction programs. She created two guided imagery relaxation cd's: "**Irena's Dream**" and "**Healing From the Heart.**" Over her thirty-year nursing career she was Principal Investigator in two formal research studies using guided imagery with cancer patients and obese patients. During twelve of those years she led interactive group therapy for the drug and alcohol and depressed populations. Irene is a public speaker for holistic nursing conferences, and spiritual conferences, She was invited to speak for the Nursing Honor Society, American Nurses Association, and participated in a panel discussion on the Gary Null show with Dr.Oz. Since she has now entered into a semi-retired lifestyle; she recently became an

ordained minister and today leads weekly spiritual groups on Long Island. Her passion is to bring the heavenly realms of Glory to heal mankind. She has seen miracles, some during goodwill outreaches in Zambia, Africa, in Israel, and Palestine.

Irene's favorite pastime is spending time with her family, especially her four grandchildren. She loves the water, gardening, walks in nature, and reading spiritual books and autobiographies of great leaders. She loves to travel and explore other cultures and enjoys visiting art museums.



**M**ore than five decades prior to writing an inspiring and engaging book, *In Sickness and In Health: A Memoir of Love*, **Joe Satriano** was born into a traditional Italian Catholic family who lived in Brooklyn, New York. After high school, he went to Brooklyn College and earned a master's degree in math education.

While attending Brooklyn College, Joe met an attractive young Jewish woman named Susan who was also studying to be a math teacher. After graduation, Joe and Sue married, moved to Oceanside, New York, and shared life together until she died of a 13-year battle with breast cancer in 2006.

Until he decided to give up his career to care for his wife, Joe taught math to high school students for almost 30 years. In recognition of outstanding service to Roslyn High School, the board of education granted him early retirement.

Joe and Sue had two sons: Matthew and Justin. Despite the challenges they faced during their mother's illness, both were great students. Matthew graduated

from Princeton University and Berkeley and is currently employed as a PhD in mathematics teaching and doing research at the University of Michigan. His younger brother, Justin, received a bachelor's degree in computer science from Brown University upon his graduation in 2011.

In 2006, Joe started the Susan Satriano Memorial Scholarship Foundation in honor of his wife. The non-profit organization awards college scholarships to high school seniors, or as he refers to them, the "Silent Sufferers", who have had a parent die of cancer or who have a parent currently battling the disease. The Foundation, which receives proceeds from sales of the book and accepts tax-deductible donations, has already helped over 700 students across the country with scholarships totaling in excess of \$400,000. Since it is a "Mom and Pop" organization, 100% of the proceeds collected go directly back to students to defray the large expenditures of a college education. Joe's hope is that one day, as recognition of the Foundation increases it can reach out and help every "Silent Sufferer".

Joe presently gives motivational and humorous book talks and is in the midst of writing his second book, a sequel. The focus of the new book is about how he and his boys are dealing with Sue's death and how they are able to somehow move forward to lead very productive lives. Knowing that both Joe and Sue were High School math teachers, the title of the book just had to be...*After Math: Life Without Sue*. Please visit : [www.susansatrianofoundation.com](http://www.susansatrianofoundation.com) for more information about his book and foundation.

# Photo Gallery - November First Wednesday At Bonwit



At the November First Wednesday meeting, members had a chance to mingle together at the bar/lounge area to talk socially before dinner. Prior to eating our meals, all members in attendance gave a three-minute presentation about their books, shared current plans, and any upcoming book releases and/or events.

It was a delightful evening of camaraderie. **Kudos to Anne Coltman** whose ideas to make positive changes to our First Wednesday meetings have come to fruition!

# Opportunities for Writers...

## Long Island Writers House

I am happy to announce that my dream is becoming a reality. No, it's not a book. It's a house: a house just for writers, at any level of skill or notoriety, to converse, learn and network, all in a setting that's been likened to "a New England retreat." The first LIWH event was the opening of our art gallery, highlighting the artwork of LIAG president, Dorothy McPartland. This season's events include seminars, classes and readings. Many highlight LIAG authors. More information can be found on <http://liwriters.org/>.

I'm in the process of planning events for the winter/spring season of LIWH. If anyone has an idea for a class, seminar or reading, please let me know. In particular, I'm looking for an expert blogger who can teach the basics to beginners. Currently, LIWH hours are Sunday through Thursday, 10am to 2pm. I hope you can find time to visit this writer's oasis in Huntington. The lounge, a library, a mini-café and free Internet are yours to enjoy. Books by LIAG members can be included in LIWH's consignment bookstore. Feel free to contact me by phone, (516) 242-5556, or email, [Karen@liwriters.org](mailto:Karen@liwriters.org).

- Karen Levine

## The Writers Dream

**The Writer's Dream** provides viewers with an in-depth look into the worlds of writing, publishing and marketing. Guest authors on The Writer's Dream talk about their books and describe the journeys that have brought them a published work, or at least, a work in progress. It is a rich source of information for aspiring writers.

Producer, **Linda Maria Frank**, author of *The Annie Tillery Mystery Series*, seeks to bring guests to the program from every aspect of writing; poetry, screen writing, plays, etc. To date, we have interviewed nearly 100 authors.

Interviews are conducted by Frank, **Karen Bonnet**, editor, publicist/marketing consultant, and author of *Whale Island and the Mysterious Bones*, and **Dina Santorelli**, journalist, editor, and author of *Baby Grand*. Credit must be given to **Lena Trbojevic**, who is the engineer who makes the recording of the shows possible, and **Genevieve Lee**, the director and camerawoman.

**If you are a published writer and want to be on the show, contact Linda at [lmf217@hotmail.com](mailto:lmf217@hotmail.com).**

The Writer's Dream can be seen on the facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Writers-Dream/144688198966801?ref=bookmarks>, and on YouTube, <http://http://www.youtube.com/user/lindamariafrank>



**Where:** The Woodbury Country Club  
(small office party night)  
884 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury, NY

**When:** Friday, December 5, 2014  
6:30-10:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$70.60 per person which includes:  
Cocktail hour  
Three-course Dinner  
Dessert  
Open Bar  
Music & Dancing



For information, email: [jeffrimland@msn.com](mailto:jeffrimland@msn.com)

# Board of Directors and LIAG Mission Statement

## **LIAG LOVES ACTIVE MEMBERS! YOUR THOUGHTS AND GOOD IDEAS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

#### **2014 Long Island Authors Group, Board of Directors and Officers**

**Dorothy McPartland, President**

**Lois Stern, Vice President**

**Jeff Rimland, Treasurer**

**Sandy Lanton, Secretary**

**Linda Maria Frank**

**Gloria Golden**

**Anne Coltman**

**John P. Cardone, Founder & President Emeritus**

**David Axelrod, Advisor to the Board**

**Kerriann Flanagan Brosky, President Emeritus; Advisor to the Board**

#### **Committee Chairpersons**

**First Wednesday Meetings, Anne Coltman**

**Membership, John Cardone**

**Newsletter Editor and Art Director, Karen Bonnet**

**Events, Linda Maria Frank**

**Outreach, Gloria Golden and Anne Coltman (Co-Chairpersons)**

**Communications, John P. Cardone**

**Website, Joe Giaquinto**



**Long Island Authors**  
Group

### **The LIAG Mission Statement**



**The mission of the Long Island Authors Group is to encourage, support and promote authorship, primarily in the Long Island, New York area.**

**We are a group of local book authors who have joined together to conduct activities and events that add to the availability of our published works while promoting the Long Island writing community. Our group works with retail bookstores arranging book talks and signings, and conducts events at various locations that are open to the public.**

**Our group fosters knowledge and experience by conducting educational seminars on assorted topics such as writing workshops, marketing techniques, promotion strategies, and the use of emerging Internet outlets & new technologies.**

**Join Us For LIAG's next First Wednesday Meetings**

**7:00 PM**

**The Bonwit Inn**

**1 Vanderbilt Parkway**

**Commack, NY**

