

# The Island Muse

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January 2018

## LIAG Holiday Celebration: December 2017

The LIAG holiday party on the first Wednesday of December was an enjoyable, festive occasion. More than 25 members attended, and shared conversation, as well as a delicious dinner at the Bonwit Inn.

As we all look forward to a new year with special hopes and dreams, it comes to mind that the following inspirational poem by Ruth Adams is meaningful to any one of us looking forward to a new year. The poem is entitled,

### A Snowflake Falls

One night I saw a snowflake fall,  
Past memories it did recall,  
And as the snow fell to the  
ground, So quietly without a  
sound, I watched until a blanket  
made, To glistening white brown  
earth did fade.

An untouched cover until the  
dawn, the sun arose it was soon  
gone.

I thought of friendships in the past,  
Seemed perfect though they did not last.  
And family ties once meant so much,  
Now rarely do we keep in touch.  
So quickly life can take a turn,  
Yet slowly we do seem to learn,  
So many things in life can change,  
And suddenly be rearranged.

In our slumber while we do sleep,  
For granted blessings thought to keep,  
For same as night does turn to morn,  
An untouched blanket can get torn,  
The things that we have overlooked,  
Ignored, rejected or mistook,  
As melted snow does turn to slush,  
Relationships can turn to dust.  
So this year for the holiday,  
Praise God for blessings gave today.  
Don't take for granted they'll remain,

That life forever will be the same.  
Let's be the most that we can be,  
For all our friends and family.  
Unlike the snowflake on the ground,  
Let's keep in touch and stay around.



*Pictured above (top): LIAG members at the holiday dinner celebration in December, 2017.*

*Pictured above (bottom): LIAG members, Dorothy McPartland, Jeff Rimland, Roland Allnach, and Anne Coltman.*

# A Note From Your President...Roland Allnach

My fellow authors, I'm excited to be filling the LIAG Presidency moving into 2018. Jeff Rimland, our outgoing president, has left me a big pair of shoes to fill, and we all owe him our gratitude for guiding the group during his term. As for me, many of you already know me from the emails I've sent in my role as Event Coordinator. I'll continue management of our Traveling Bookstore and working with Linda Frank, our Event Chairperson, to bring opportunities for LIAG authors. We had an exciting year for 2017 with the introduction of the Bookstore and a generous list of events, including our first ever visit to Brooklyn Book Fair. Looking forward into 2018 we will build on these foundations with a new set of Bookstore dates and a roster of events, as they become available.



I'm happy to say that our membership is growing, our recognition and awareness is gaining momentum, and we have good energy to propel us into the new year. On a personal note I want to thank all of you, the LIAG membership, for your support. It's easy to have ideas on paper, it's quite another thing to bring those ideas to reality. I continue to believe that with our pooled talent, resources, and creativity there's little we can't

achieve. And on that optimistic note, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season, a Happy New Year, and health & success for the coming year!



## A Note From Your Editor

The holiday season has ended—and my hope is that all of you enjoyed special times with family and friends.

With the start of this new year, many of us have various projects and events to look forward to. One of the events that many LIAG members were involved with over the last five months was the opportunity to present and sign books at the Dolphin Book Store and Cafe in Port Washington. More of these types of events are upcoming, so take advantage of joining them to raise awareness of your book(s) and to make new contacts.

I was a featured author at the Dolphin Book Store on December 19th, and it was a delightful experience. Seven people joined me that night. In addition to talking about my book, *Whale Island and the Mysterious Bones*, and signing books, we shared an interactive discussion about the whole book process, as there were a few people there who were writing their own books.

I enjoy sharing your stories, writer's tips, photos, and book news with the LIAG membership. When you send articles, try to keep the words to 300-400. Pictures are a great addition - everyone loves to see photos, so send those along too.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, safe, successful, and peace-filled 2018!



Pictured above: Karen Bonnet (second from the left) and attendees at her book presentation and signing, December 19, 2017



"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

- Winston Churchill



# Thoughts to Ponder On...Marketing 101

by John Krahn

To be a successful author, you need to have a positive attitude about promoting your book. You wrote a book for people to read and enjoy. The finish line for the author is not getting his book published but getting it in the hands of thousands of readers. Writing is a creative solitary work. Marketing is just the opposite. It is connecting and networking with people and getting the word out about your book in as many forums as possible.

Marketing your book requires patience and perseverance. The book world moves at a much slower pace than any other creative market because reading a book requires a considerable investment of time. A movie takes two hours, a popular song takes only a matter of minutes. Depending upon its length, finishing a book can take days. (Some of Roland Allnach's fine words here.)

Publishers expect their authors to help market their own book. Be proud of what you wrote. Your publisher thought it was excellent, so they

invested their money and time in you and your book. If only a few hundred people buy your book, was it worth all of the time and energy you took to write it and the publisher took to publish it?

Writing a book that few people read benefits no one. There are upwards of a million books published every year in the United States alone. You need to help yours get noticed...and purchased. Once you are published, many will see you as an expert in the field that your book covers.

Therefore leave your humbleness and shyness at home. See yourself as others now see you as a published author. They will more readily buy a book of an expert they respect. Be bold and enthusiastic about your new book. Enthusiasm is contagious and will help sell your book.



“Don't forget – no one else sees the world the way you do, so no one else can tell the stories that you have to tell.”

—Charles de Lint

# New Member News...



## Debbie De Louise



Debbie joined LIAG this past summer and was officially added to the group in September. Since I've always believed that the best way to become involved in any group is to volunteer, I responded to the request that came with my welcome email that asked for PR help. I heard from John Cardone, the founder of LIAG, who proposed a project in which I would help the group update their website. I agreed to take on this job and began corresponding with other members in charge of various events.

Roland Allnach sent me information about the traveling bookstore and the fairs that LIAG attended; Linda Maria Frank emailed me about the Dolphin Bookstore's LIAG author's series; and Anne Coltman sent me the updated list for the First Wednesday meetings.

After compiling this information, I forwarded it to Jeff Rimland who approved it and told me I could send it to the webmaster, Joe Giaquinto. In addition to

updating the listings, Joe also made some changes on the pull-down menus and added the current newsletter. Since I may not be able to attend too many Wednesday meetings because I work at my library that night, I was glad to be able to meet people through participating in the website updates. I also thought it would be a good idea to send an article about myself to Karen Bonnet for the newsletter.

Besides working as a librarian at the Hicksville Public Library, I write the Cobble Cove mystery series featuring a librarian, newspaper publisher, and a library cat in a small upstate New York town who solve various crimes in each book. The series, so far, includes *A Stone's Throw*, *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, and *Written in Stone*. These books are published by Solstice Publishing and are available in paperback and eBook on Amazon and other online sellers. The eBook is also part of the Kindle Unlimited program.

In addition to my series, I have written short stories of various genres that have appeared in Solstice Publishing anthologies and a romantic comedy novel, *When Jack Trumps Ace*. I was always interested in writing and have degrees in English and Library and Information Science from Long Island University/C.W. Post where I received a journalism award for my feature writing on the campus newspaper. I also wrote for

various cat and pet magazines and received a special award from the Cat Writer's Association, for my article, "Brush Your Cat for Bonding, Beauty, and Better Health," and that was featured on the Catster.com website.

My first published short mystery, *Stitches in Time*, appeared in the *Cat Crimes Through Time* anthology. My first published book, a paranormal romance, *Cloudy Rainbow*, was written after the loss of my 15-year old cat, Floppy, who was a character in it. The book was self-published in 2008 using Booklocker.com.

Currently, I am working on a new cozy mystery series as well as the fourth installment of the Cobble Cove mysteries. My standalone mystery, *Reason to Die*, was recently accepted for publication by Solstice Publishing.

LIAG members can connect with me through social media on my Facebook author page: <https://www.facebook.com/debbie.delouise.author/>; on twitter: @deblibrarian and/or through my website: <https://debbiedelouise.com>. I hope that my association with LIAG will further my contacts in the publishing field because I strongly believe in the power of local author networking.

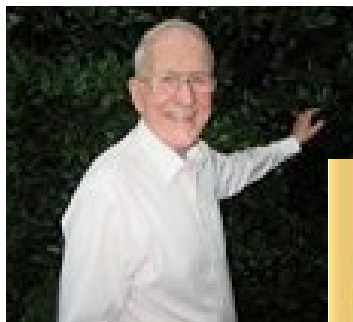




# Members In the News...

## Rev. Dr. John Krahn

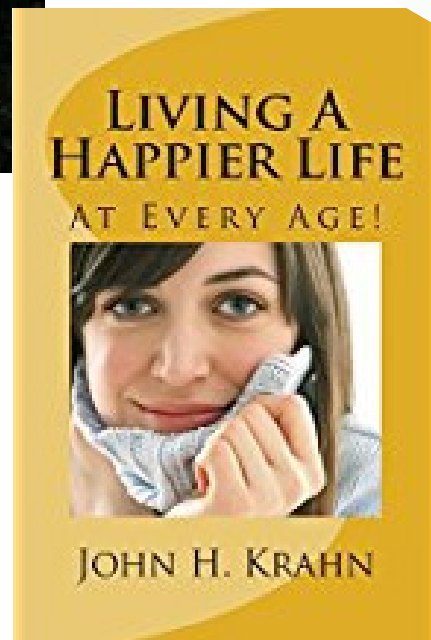
LIAG member and Author, Rev. Dr. John Krahn has written a treat of a book, *Living A Happier Life*. Here's a little bit about it:



All of us would welcome more happiness in our lives. In this 152-page book, John Krahn shares many ways to achieve a more joyous life. Some of the fourteen chapters in this book are:

*Choose a Happier Life*  
*God Made You and God Doesn't Make Junk*  
*Eliminate Worry – The Joy Thief*  
*Living Life at its Highest Level*  
*The Power of Impossibility*  
*Growing Old Gracefully*  
*Awaiting Wonder*

Available on <https://www.amazon.com>.  
Visit John Krahn's Amazon Author Page, [https://www.amazon.com/John-H-Krahn/e/B01MQT7G4L/ref=sr\\_](https://www.amazon.com/John-H-Krahn/e/B01MQT7G4L/ref=sr_)



## Doctors' Waiting Room Magazine

A gift from a grateful patient; the name and address label have been removed, office protocol. The 10 most favorite Holiday Fruit Cake recipes is my cover story; a bit dog eared.

Got to laugh, just heard the receptionist wish a leaving patient a pleasant Independence Day week-end.

Umm, you think I've been here a while?

It's her, the lady with the soft and pleasantly scented hands for her monthly check-up.

I must be her favorite, she always picks me up.

Today's appointment is important to check on her progress and To see if any additional steps need to be taken beyond what she is doing now.

Nervously, she peruses, the article on Christmas decorations while her husband checks for any messages from the kids.

The nurse approaches, "Hi, would you both please follow me; The doctor will see you in a few moments." She gently puts me down, takes a deep breath. Her husband gently wraps his arm around her waist to show his always support,

She quickly stops, bends down to pick-up an eyeglass case which had fallen out.

She is going to be alright!

Of an elderly lady's purse handing it to her with a smile; she graciously thanked her. You know; I have a good feeling about what is going to happen today.

- Tom Young



### WANTED

Articles and photos for the newsletter.  
Send to [kbonnet7@gmail.com](mailto:kbonnet7@gmail.com) any time.

For more exposure and to  
share with visitors to LIAG's  
Facebook page, post to:  
<https://www.facebook.com/>

# Members In the News...

## Gloria Golden

One of my newest books, *PHOTOGRAPHY: AN INTIMATE APPROACH*, was published in 2016 by Xlibris. The LIAG website has a description of the book written by Joe Giaquinto. In addition, one of the photos in the book, Side by Side, was recently selected "BEST IN SHOW" in the PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL ART CATEGORY by the Contemporary Art Gallery.

*Pictured right: This image was photographed in a Chinese marketplace.*



Another photograph contained in my book was included in the Exposure Award collection and has been viewed by more than 10 million photography enthusiasts from across the globe. *THE CHINESE FARMER*, as part of this collection, was presented at the Louvre Museum in Paris on July 13, 2015. I received a book with all the images presented at the Louvre.

*- Gloria Golden*

# Members In the News...

## Charlene Knadle



## Garden of Editing

It's rare for my husband to write anything that's not related to his primary focus of engineering. But a local issue capturing the attention of a lot of people—namely, red-light cameras that dot the area—motivated him to write an article for the prominent newspaper. When he'd finished it, he brought it to me—a teacher, writer, and the go-to person in my household for anything and everything. I looked it over and noticed immediately that, though it was well-written—and punctuated correctly—it needed tightening.

Dick has a wonderful facility—the ability to explain a complex concept or procedure in simple enough terms that others can comprehend it. He runs a weekly four-hour amateur radio show called the “Tech-Net,” to answer questions listeners call in. There is never a shortage of questions, most of them dealing with practical engineering matters or “do-it-yourself” projects of some difficulty, but also many about theoretical physics or astronomy. Others are invited to call in comments as well, and those inspired to do so include university professors, company CEOs, and one president of a many-armed television broadcasting company. It is a popular forum.

I, too, have my amateur-radio license, which required a lot of study and an official FCC exam, so comprehending technical material isn't as hard for me as it might be for most humanities-oriented,

non-technical people. But explaining things orally is much more relaxed and spontaneous than it needs to be in writing.

Dick's manuscript put me through an editing process that I always find fascinating, for the way it can transform my very perception. It's similar to weeding a neglected garden. At first I remove the tallest and most otherwise noticeable weeds—repetitions and other “extra” words. Only then do the primary ideas come through as clearly as needed. Only then do I notice the smaller weeds—more subtle editing needs such as removing unnecessary adjectives that cause overstatement and damage objectivity. The process of paring or re-wording continues further, and each set of changes typically necessitates changes to the punctuation.

These steps apply for any kind of writing, not just for technical material. It's rare for a writer to do this kind of editing as he or she goes. Few gardeners clear out all, even the tiniest, weeds in a single small spot before tackling another one. Those who do work that way admit to progressing very slowly.

Either way, the result of editing helps to make the writing shine or the garden bloom. It's worth the effort or cost.



# Board of Directors and LIAG Mission Statement

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

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

**2018 Long Island Authors Group Board of Directors,  
Officers and Committee Chairpersons**

**John Cardone, Founder**

**Roland Allnach, President**

**Jeff Rimland, Treasurer**

**Linda Maria Frank, Events Chair**

**Russ Moran, Secretary**

**Linda Maria Frank, Event Chairperson**

**Anne Coltman, Coordinator of "First Wednesdays"**

**Dorothy McPartland, Literary Award Chair**

**Brandy Scott, Literary Award Committee**

**Tom Young, Trustee**

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

**Website Master, Joe Giaquinto**

**David Axelrod, Advisor to the Board**

**Kerriann Flanagan Brosky, Advisor to the Board**



## **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 Meeting**

**7:00 PM**

**The Bonwit Inn**

**1 Vanderbilt Parkway**

**Commack, NY**