

## Student Finalists in the LIAG Scholarship Writing Contest

Six Long Island High School seniors were recognized for their exceptional writing contributions for the first annual Long Island Authors Group (LIAG) Scholarship Writing Contest. The LIAG launched this first annual scholarship writing contest several months ago, which was open to high school seniors in two Long Island School Districts: the Sachem School District and the Bellmore-Merrick School District. Candidates who participated were given a guideline of 500-700 words and

finalists were chosen and four students received "Honorable Mention" for their submissions.

The first place finalist, Sarah Steil, from Sanford H. Calhoun High School, received a one-time award of \$500 for her moving essay about her grandfather. Second place finalist, Stephanie Vogel from John F. Kennedy High School received a \$250 award.

Finalists were invited to attend the "First Wednesday" meeting of the Long Island Authors Group, held at the Bonwit Inn on June 5th in honor of their outstanding achievements.

Students who received "Honorable Mention" are: **Stephanie Cillo, Nick Rooney, and Luke Hassan** from Sanford H. Calhoun HS, and **Kimberly Ponton** from Wellington C. Mephan High School.

According to LIAG President, Dorothy McPartland, the evening was remarkable. "We are proud to encourage the next generation

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asked to write an essay based on the topic/question, "What Long Island personality, past or present, living or dead, has most affected your life and your life's mission?"

After the LIAG scholarship committee evaluated many essay contributions, two

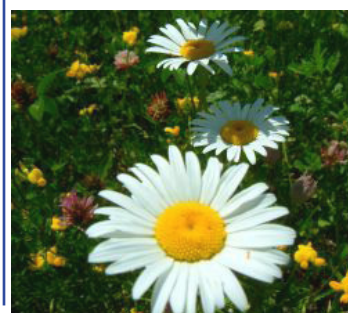
*Pictured above, left: Dorothy McPartland, Linda Steil, Sarah Steil, Cindi Sonson-Braff, and Fred Hofman*

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*Please share your articles and photo submissions with our members. You can send news about your current books, new releases, upcoming events, and accomplishments to [kbonnet7@gmail.com](mailto:kbonnet7@gmail.com).*

Have a safe, fun, relaxing, and happy summer!



# Mill Neck Manor Book Fair and Other News...



LIAG sponsored a book fair at the Mill Neck Manor House in mid-May. There were about 20 members who participated in the event. The LIAG also graciously provided entertainment performed by the talented Dreamlike Puppet Company who brought smiles to youngsters and their parents.

The book fair and puppet performance helped raise funds for the Literacy Collaborative at Mill Neck Manor, which supports the Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, founded in 1949.

Thank you to members who participated, despite inclement weather!

## STUDENT FINALISTS IN THE LIAG SCHOLARSHIP WRITING CONTEST

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of Long Island writers."

Sarah was thrilled to be the recipient of the LIAG scholarship award. "Thanks to the Long Island Authors Group. It is incredibly heart-warming to have published authors read and appreciate my work, and that a career ahead will allow me to write and be paid for it," said Sarah.

Sarah has since learned that she will be receiving an award from the *Long Island Press* newspaper. She is active in her school, and has received recognition for her involvement. She was a Calhoun H.S. finalist for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) writing award this year; is an AP literature student, and is the managing editor of *Hoofbeats*, the HS newspaper. Sarah will be attending SUNY Geneseo as an English major in the fall.

Kim Serpe, English District Chair at Calhoun HS, expressed her gratitude for the award, which recognizes the efforts of HS students to achieve high standards in their writing.



## A Note From Your Editor

Thank you to all members for sharing your article submissions for the last two issues of the LIAG newsletter - I've received many wonderful news items from our membership and had the pleasure of being one of the first to hear about it! Teamwork from our members helps to get the news out on a timely basis, and keeps things running smoothly.

Talking about "teamwork," there are members/committees that are in need of volunteers. Lois W. Stern, Vice President of our organization is requesting help from anyone with expertise in Excel. Please contact Lois at [cosmeticsurgery@optimum.net](mailto:cosmeticsurgery@optimum.net), if you can help. The publicity committee, chaired by your newsletter editor (that's me) is seeking volunteers who can help with publicity (distribution of press releases and public service announcements to the media). If you are able to assist the publicity committee, please send an email to me at [kbonnet7@gmail.com](mailto:kbonnet7@gmail.com).

Come on board and help to spread the good word about the LIAG!

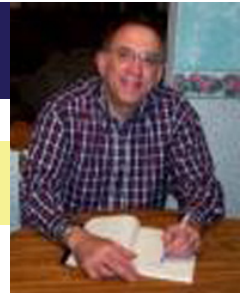
Special thanks to **Jennifer Cusumano, Gloria Golden, Linda Maria Frank, Anne Coltman, Maria Daddino, and Dorothy McPartland** for all your efforts in helping to publicize the Martha Clara Book Fair this past spring. This was an exemplary example of great teamwork!

On a different topic, I had the pleasure of having my book reviewed by Sam Landa, a seventh-grader who lives in Alexandria, Virginia. His review was published in the May issue of the *Long Island Boating Times Magazine*. It was extremely well-written and captured the essence of my book....plus, the best part : he enjoyed the story and recommended it to others - and that's always "music" to an author's ears.

Cheers,

*Karen Bonnet*

*"Happiness resides not in possessions,  
and not in gold; happiness dwells in  
the soul."  
- Democritus*



## Boston, Oh Boston

Boston, oh Boston, the sages  
call out in despair.

What have they done to our city?  
Boston oh Boston,  
what the British couldn't do, could these  
perpetrators do?  
We think not.

So many before,  
have given their lives in defense of liberty; a free  
land, are swirling around in the heavens,  
holding their hands,  
and saying  
Boston, oh Boston,  
don't despair,

The sons of liberty will defend you.  
The Marathoner will run,

again and again on Patriots day.

Whether in heartbreak in the name of the fallen,  
or in sadness and shock, without the limbs they  
started on Patriots day 2013,  
but with their new ones,  
they will run again,  
they will walk again,  
they will live again.

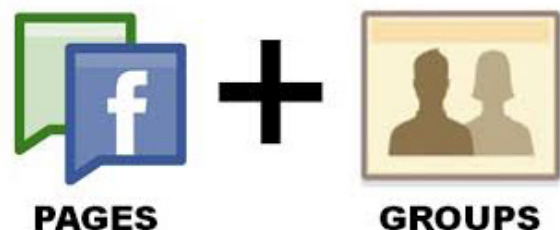
Boston oh Boston,  
don't despair.  
A new day will come,  
when the sages will say,  
they have not destroyed our city,  
But made everyone more aware,  
that Freedom is not Free.

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**D**id you know that LIAG now not only has a Facebook Page but also a Facebook Group? So what is the difference? "Facebook Pages enable public figures, businesses, organizations and other entities to create an authentic and public presence on Facebook." By default, Pages are visible to everyone on the internet and, although anyone who visits the page can leave a comment, only an administrator or administrator designee can do actual posting.

Our Facebook Page is a useful way for the administrator(s) to communicate with all members, but your LIAG board felt that we also needed a way for LIAG members to network amongst themselves. To this end, we recently formed a Facebook LIAG Group, and enrolled each of our LIAG members who are already on Facebook. This Group is the place for our members to communicate, share common interests, discuss issues, post photos and videos, announce our forthcoming events and success stories. Post your book events & poetry readings so we can attend and support you.

Which brings us to our Group's larger purpose - that 'Authors Helping Authors' concept that I speak about over and over again. Here is a perfect way for us to get to know our fellow members and reach out to them in



helpful ways. If you have read one of their books, write a review and post it here. If you think of a venue that might lead to a speaking engagement for a particular author's genre, share your idea with them. If a member has a Facebook author page, LIKES become important, so take a moment to click on the word LIKE on their page. Attend some of our members' book signings events.

We have a terrific group of members - let's keep that ball rolling!

*Lois W. Stern,  
LIAG Vice President*



# Book Expo, Seminars, and Other Tidbits...

## 2013 Self-Publishing Book Expo

The date of the annual Self Publishing Book Expo (SPBE) is scheduled for **November 9, 2013, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** at the Hotel Pennsylvania, 401 7th Avenue at 33rd Street, NYC.

The Self-Publishing Book Expo is a learning center for published as well as aspiring authors. Attendees will have the opportunity to gain valuable information about how to successfully self-publish and market their books. Key members of the self-publishing community offering a variety of services to authors will be on hand, as will representatives from all facets of publishing and the media. Top-notch pros will lead a wide variety of seminars and panels on diverse subjects ranging from how to raise the funds necessary to help you publish, build a team, work effectively with an editor, market and publicize your work, create an ebook and much, much, more.

### PANELS, SEMINARS AND ONE-ON-ONE SESSIONS:

You must purchase a ticket for all panels, seminars and one-on-one sessions. One ticket allows entry for a full day of sessions. There will be 16 seminars and panels (see detailed info on panels page). There will be 8 sessions held in the morning and 8 sessions in the afternoon. (Note: Sessions will be held concurrently.

### EXHIBIT HALL ONLY:

FREE to all attendees. Exhibitors include authors selling and displaying their books, and companies showcasing their goods and services.

The founders and creators of the SPBE, Diane Mancher and Karen Mender are committed to establishing this exhibit as the premiere book event for self-published authors and companies, and to making it a successful and profitable experience for all concerned. With over 50 years of combined publishing experience, Mancher and Mender bring a vast knowledge of the industry and a wide network of resources and contacts with traditional publishers, editors, agents, and media.

### TICKETS FOR ALL PANELS AND SEMINARS:

The SPBE features a series of panels and seminars hosted by the leading experts in publishing. The seminars are designed to broaden attendee knowledge on a wide array of topics, expand audience reach, and assist in making crucial decisions for a book's success. For detailed information on this year's line-up, please click here.

Ticket prices for a full day of panels: BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15, 2013: \$140.00 and AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, 2013: \$175.00. For further information, visit: <http://selfpubbookexpo.com/show-info/>.

## 'First Wednesday' Presentation By

**Lois W. Stern and  
Linda Maria Frank**



What a great group of members we have in our LIAG organization! I knew I wanted to do a video presentation for my scheduled "First Wednesday" session of May 1st, but I don't own a projector. Not only did Ralph Brady offer me the use of his projector and screen, he arrived early to get things set up in advance. I knew part of my presentation would work well in Power Point, and Linda Maria Frank stepped up to the plate to put together a colorful series of Power Point slides to introduce our Writer's Dream/Tales2Inspire collaborative with its platform-building opportunities.

When the proposed cover for the first of my forthcoming Tales2Inspire anthologies appeared on the screen, Linda Reid Bryce not only made a suggestion for an aesthetic improvement, but offered to make the change for me. What a generous bunch! This is what "Authors Helping Authors" is all about. Help comes in many flavors, but valued members have a team approach, thinking not just "what's in it for me?" but "how can I pitch in and offer a lending hand?" I will always be grateful for the day I googled "Authors groups on LI" and discovered LIAG.

*Lois W. Stern*

# Members In the News...



Many of the stories in *Alterations* hark back more than fifty years, unwritten stories that lived in me the way stories do, as a bit of memory – a certain smell, the turn of a head, or the particular sound of a voice. Decades later, they called to me, the memory of them morphing, changing, altering, becoming characters that were and were not them. And I kept writing about the loving and sometimes mysterious bonds of family. I dressed my characters, gave them habits and a particular way to speak, and put them down on the pages, wanting things they could not have, remembering things they wanted to forget.

Link to Amazon: [http://www.amazon.com/Alterations-Rita-Plush/dp/1938758153/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_title\\_0](http://www.amazon.com/Alterations-Rita-Plush/dp/1938758153/ref=tmm_pap_title_0)

Link to Barnes & Noble <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/alterations-rita-plush/1115410411?ean=29400167>

*Rita Plush*



## Matt Pasca Gives Keynote Address at LILAC

On May 17th, LIAG member and Heckscher Museum workshop coordinator Matt Pasca gave the keynote address at the Long Island Language Arts Council's (LILAC) end of the year luncheon/awards ceremony. His speech, entitled "Our Common Core," stressed the importance of vulnerability and connection in both writing and teaching, and featured a number of Matt's own poems for appropriate illustration and support.

The address was enthusiastically received by the students, teachers, parents and administrators in attendance, many of whom purchased Matt's collection of poetry, "A Thousand Doors" at the close of the event. You can catch Matt perform his work this summer at Sip This in Valley Stream on July 2nd at 7:30pm and at the Parkside Lounge in Manhattan on July 21st at 4:00pm.

*Matt Pasca*

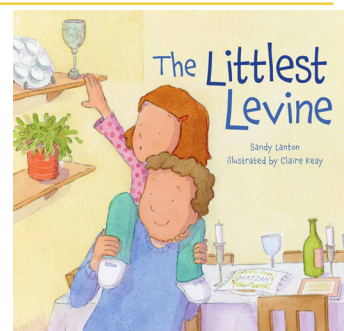


LIAG President Emeritus Kerriann Flanagan Brosky was awarded a Silver Medal in the Religious Fiction category of the prestigious IPPY Awards! Since 1996, the IPPY Awards has been the largest and most competitive writing competition for independently published authors in the world. Out of 5,000 national and international

entries, 250 authors received awards this year, and Kerriann was one of them. She's been invited to attend the awards cocktail party in NYC on May 29th where she'll receive her silver medal for her novel, *The Medal*. In addition, Kerriann found out on May 22 that she was a Finalist in the 2013 National Indie Excellence Awards, again for her novel, *The Medal*.

**Just In!**

**Congratulations to Sandy Lanton on the launching of her new book, *The Littlest Levine*, published by Kar-Ben Publishing!**



LIAG member, **Natasha Guruleva** received The Library Fellow Award for the artist's book, *Day By Day*, from the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Congratulations!





# LIAG's Newest Members

**D**r. Jennifer Cusumano is a media specialist with over 20 years of industry experience. As an educator and lecturer, she has designed curricula with an emphasis towards media trends and communication strategies. As a faculty member of multiple colleges, she has become active in departmental goals, designing and implementing a quality initiative for student standards, and initiating faculty events that foster collegiality.



In the past several years, Dr. Cusumano has received recognition for her research, including the prestigious Top Paper Award from the National Communication Association's Annual Conference. She has become a returning guest lecturer at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine where she works with doctors and teaching fellows to improve practice by applying effective communication and leadership skills.

An avid learner, Dr. Cusumano continues to hone her craft and stay abreast of industry change through continuing

education and practice. She continues to write professionally and acts as a communications consultant for private and charitable organizations. She also works privately as a college career counselor.

Her latest creative endeavors include a novel, *Angels Around Her*, (available on Amazon.com in paperback and as an e-book) and a screenplay. In her spare time, she likes to write poetry, see films, travel, read, cook, dance, and learn languages.

She holds a Masters degree in Communication with a specialty in Media Writing; a Masters degree in Counseling; and a Doctorate degree in Higher Education Leadership.



**R**ita Plush is an author, teacher and interior designer and has lectured on the decorative arts at libraries throughout Long Island, at Hofstra University and CW Post-Hutton House.

She is Coordinator of the Interior Design & Decorating Certificate at Queensborough Community College and teaches several courses in the program.

Her writing practice includes fiction and non-fiction and her stories and essays have appeared in many literary journals including *The Alaska Quarterly Review*, *The Iconoclast*, *The MacGuffin*, *Passager*. She is the author of the novel, *Lily Steps Out* (Penumbra Publishing, May 2012), and she is at work on a second novel that follows some of the characters in "Lily."

Her short story collection, *Alterations*, will be released by Penumbra Publishing—Spring/Summer 2013. Click the link for the review of *Lily*, in *The East Hampton Star* (<http://www.easthamptonstar.com/Books/2013507/Woman-Full>).

You can learn more about Rita by visiting her Website, <http://www.ritaplush.com>, and her Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/ritaplush>



**E**ugene Ligotti was educated at Adelphi University and received his doctorate from New York University. After coming down with Rheumatoid Arthritis, he had to give up his thirty year practice of dentistry.

Ligotti began writing as just something to do after retiring from dentistry, but it soon became a driving force. As an American Revolutionary history buff, he wrote three American History novels about interesting characters of the American Revolution and has given lectures about the impact the Revolution had on Long Island. Although he has written a biography of Dr. Frank Lunati, the first battalion surgeon in Vietnam, his genre switched to suspense thrillers of which he has published five.

Ligotti is familiar with Long Island and all of his novels reflect that setting. The setting for the novel, *Ultimate Betrayal*, is the East End of Long Island where Ligotti spent his youth and knew the land and its waterways quite well. Gene Ligotti lives in Smithtown, New York with his wife, Corbina. He is presently working on his sixth suspense thriller. His website is [GeneLigotti.net](http://GeneLigotti.net).

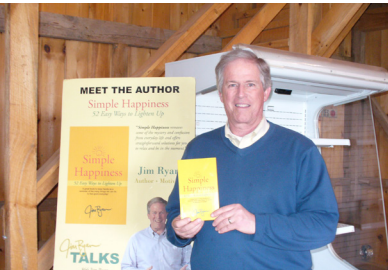
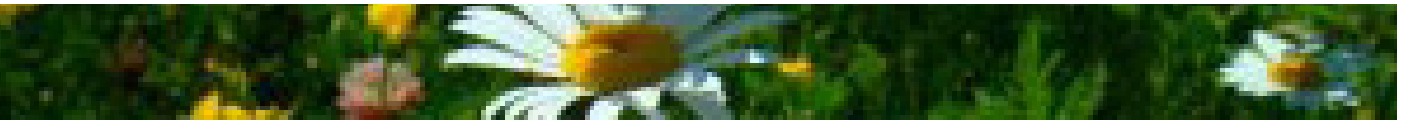
*"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."*



- Mother Teresa



# Photo Gallery - LIAG Spring Book Fair





# Photo Gallery - LIAG Spring Book Fair



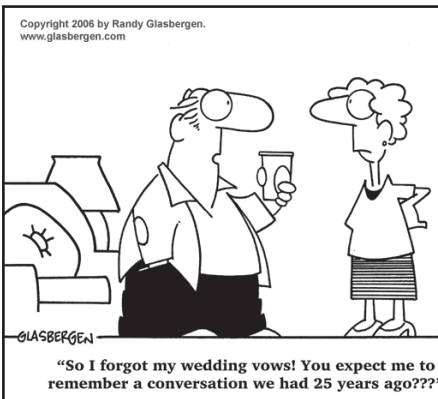


# Author/Illustrator Nights

Author/Illustrator Nights are special events for authors of children's books. Some of LIAG's members were invited by Long Island elementary and middle schools to participate in these wonderful occasions. They had the opportunity to talk to children and their parents, as well as sell their books in an atmosphere of learning and fun. Below are some of the highlights from Author/Illustrator Nights at various schools during the year, and the LIAG members who attended.



## A Chuckle a Day Keeps the Doctor Away



# Event-Fulls...

**A**uthors are always thinking about how to promote their books. To that end, your LIAG provides opportunities to sell your books through events. Making these events successful by appealing to the right audience, and drawing them to the events is tricky business.

*So, what's an author to do?*

Every member author can help with the advertising aspect of our events. The first thing to address is finding the right audience. In keeping with our mission to promote reading and writing, our audience may be found in the library book clubs and writing circles, in book store book clubs, and in university writing classes. If each LIAG author would visit two libraries and follow these guide lines, we can build a data base of contacts:

1. Find out when the book club or writing circles meet. Attend one session, and ask the moderator to let you say a few words and distribute flyers. Make a request of the members to give their emails to receive notices about our future events.
2. Make use of your social media. LIAG has a facebook page, but if you have one, and post the event, it multiplies the effect.
3. Send the event flyer to your email contacts.
4. Send the flyer using your newsletter services, like iContact or Constant Contact.
5. Enlist the aid of your publisher, if you have one.
6. Use websites like Goodreads, Amazon Author page, AuthorsDen, etc.
7. Contact your local paper and have them do a story about you as a local author having an event.

If every member uses all their resources to reach readers and writers, we can increase the attendance at our events.

**These are our upcoming events:**

- July 13th - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Northport Arts Coalition (NAC) Art in the Park. Look for LIAG tent book sales. Poets may sign up for an open mike.
- Oceanside Gazebo, (Work in progress), <http://www.meetup.com/Oceanside-Summer-Gazebo-Reading/>.
- September 8th - "Books on the Bay," East Quogue (more details to come!).
- September 16th - 6:30 - 9:00 pm - General membership meeting at Half Hollow Hills Library, Dix Hills. Sandwiches, refreshments, and raffle prizes!
- October 5th - 6th - Plan to attend the Fall Harvest Festival/Book Fair at Bayard Cutting Arboretum on these dates. Stay tuned for more details about this event!

**LET'S SUPPORT EACH OTHER BY ATTENDING OUR FELLOW AUTHOR'S INDIVIDUAL EVENTS!**

Please feel free to contact me and make suggestions: [lmf217@hotmail.com](mailto:lmf217@hotmail.com), 516-798-0341.

*Linda Maria Frank*

Note of Correction: In the last issue of the LIAG newsletter, Cindi Sansone-Braff was highlighted for her First Wednesday seminar, which should have read, "Blogging Your Way to Success." The name of Cindi's book is *Grant Me a Higher Love*.





# Board of Directors and LIAG Mission Statement

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

### **2013 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**

**Karen Bonnet**

**David Axelrod, Advisory Board**

**Kerriann Flanagan Brosky, President Emeritus**

**John Cardone, Founder & President Emeritus**

### **Committee Chairpersons**

**First Wednesdays, Laurie King**

**Membership, John Cardone**

**Publicity, Karen Bonnet**

**Events, Linda Maria Frank**

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

**Communications, John Cardone**

**Website, Joe Giaquinto**



## **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**

*July "1st Wednesday  
"Summer Fun"  
Look for info from  
Laurie King about this  
unique evening!*

**See the LIAG website for the full schedule: [www.longislandauthorsgroup.org/](http://www.longislandauthorsgroup.org/)**