

Long Island Authors Group The Island Muse

Volume 2 / Edition 5

June/Summer 2014

2014 LIAG Scholarship Essay Contest Winners

The LIAG's second Annual Scholarship Contest was open to seniors at two Long Island High Schools this spring: Sanford H. Calhoun and Bethpage High Schools. Contestants were asked to answer the question, "What Long Island personality, past or present, living or dead, has most affected your life and your life's mission?" Students' entries were submitted by March 31st, 2014 and judges chose the first and second place winners, **Dan Gottlieb** (first place) from Bethpage High School, and **Rachel Kessler** (second place) from Sanford H. Calhoun High School. The winners were honored

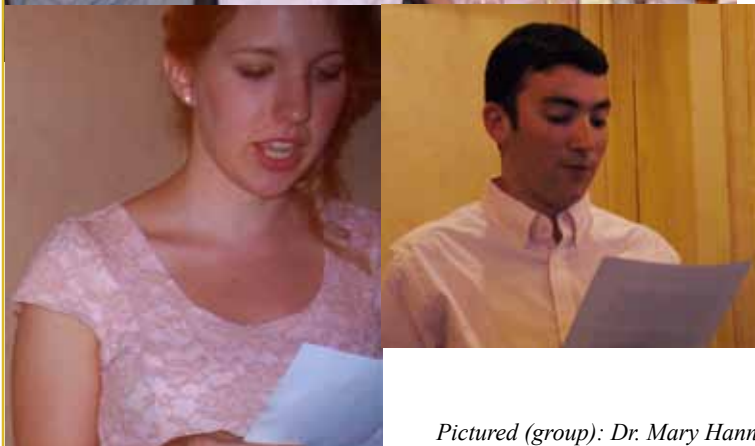
at the June 4th "First Wednesday" meeting where they had the opportunity to read their moving, inspirational essays.

Dan received a \$500 award from LIAG; Rachel received a \$250 award. Along with the two first and second place winners, six students received "Honorable Mention" certificates: **Christopher Johnsen** and **Erum Ahmed** from Calhoun H.S.; and **Samantha Skopas**, **Michael Kappel**, **Sana Fujimura**, and **Michael O'Brien**, from Bethpage H.S.

"This year's high school winners wrote essays that struck a chord with every-

one who read them. They shared personal stories about responsibility, perseverance, and optimism in the face of life's challenges," said

Dorothy McPartland, LIAG President. "Our first place student, Dan Gottlieb, reminded us to 'get lost on the road of life' in his thought-provoking essay on philosophy. The Long Island Authors Group is proud to support these dynamic seniors in our 2014 scholarship essay contest."



Pictured above, left: Rachel Kessler. Right, Dan Gottlieb.

Pictured (group): Dr. Mary Hannon, Director, ELA, Bethpage H.S., Raymond Kessler, Kim Serpe, Director, ELA, Bellmore-Merrick; Seated, Chuck Gottlieb, Dan Gottlieb, and Rachel Kessler.

In This Issue

- Page 1 - Scholarship Essay Contest
Winners Chosen
- Page 2 - Editor's Note
- Page 3 - Authors Helping Authors
- Page 4 - Spotlight Column
- Page 5 - Spotlight Column
- Page 6 - 8 - Members in the News
- Page 8 - April First Wednesday
- Page 9 - June First Wednesday
Article, Linda Frank
- Page 10 - Board of Directors
Committee Chairs
LIAG Mission Statement



Your articles and photos are always welcome!
News about your current books, new releases, upcoming events, accomplishments, and other information you would like to share with our members will make our newsletters interesting, fun to read, and informative! Send your submissions to kbonnet7@gmail.com.

A Note from Your Editor...

This year has offered members of the LIAG many opportunities for spreading the word about their children, young adult, and adult books. Not only have we been able to share events and author tidbits to market and promote our books, we have met awesome speakers at “First Wednesday” meetings, and made many friends along the way. Congratulations to all of our authors who have released new books; the news is always exciting and it’s a pleasure to share it in our newsletter — now named *The Island Muse*, thanks to LIAG member, Matt Pasca.

The LIAG welcomed many new members this year; three of them are featured in this issue. I enjoy sharing their stories and backgrounds with you.

Our 2nd Annual Scholarship Essay Contest recognized eight talented students from two Long Island schools who were presented with awards; two received monetary awards of \$500 and \$250 for their first and second place entries.

The First Wednesday dinner meetings have been fun and informative because of Anne Colman’s outstanding efforts at organizing excellent speakers and dinner arrangements. Kudos are also extended to Dorothy, John, and the entire Board for their hard work all year long.

Please continue to send your stories (articles, photos,

new book releases, and any information that can help our authors), so that I can include it in future newsletters.

I am stepping down from the role of publicity chairperson because of other obligations, so the LIAG will need someone interested in filling that position. The LIAG will continue to grow and be noticed through publicity/marketing, which benefits the organization and you too! Please contact Dorothy McPartland or send an email to kbonnet7@gmail.com if you are interested in chairing that committee. Many thanks to all who helped with publicizing our events during the year.

The next newsletter will be distributed in November 2014, just before the holidays...you can send articles anytime over the summer and early fall...but let’s not talk about fall. Let’s enjoy the summer months ahead. Wishing all of you a safe, happy, relaxing, and fun-filled summer!



*Cheers,
Karen Bonnet*



On June 11th, 2014, LIAG President, Dorothy McPartland presented students, **Rachel Kessler**, **Erum Ahmed**, and **Christopher Johnsen** from Sanford H. Calhoun High School with certificates for their outstanding essays for the 2014 LIAG Scholarship Essay Contest. Pictured, left to right: English teacher, Mr. Uliano, Rachel Kessler, Erum Ahmed, Christopher Johnsen, Dorothy McPartland, and Kim Serpe, Director of ELA from Bellmore-Merrick School District.

Making Connections...

Authors Helping Authors

Going on vacation? Bet you can't wait! But with a little advance planning, you can combine your fun in the sun with a few book marketing ideas.

Here are a few to set your marketing wheels turning.

1. Think of a topic for your presentation that relates to your books, but isn't just about selling books.

Example:

My current books are filled with inspiring, true stories that come to me through an "Authors helping Authors" project I initiated three years ago. I decided that along with sharing some of these inspiring stories, my workshop would center on How to Write a Winning Short Story.

2. Create a flyer with your name and headshot, title of your presentation, and its proposed length. Be sure to include your contact information: phone and e-mail address.

3. Find a venue for your workshop.

If you want to present at a local library, you should begin well in advance of your trip, as libraries often schedule their events as much as six months ahead. Do a Google search for the closest libraries. Get their phone numbers. Call and ask for the name and e-mail address of the person in charge of booking presentations. Talk directly to that person if you can. It always helps to learn what topic they would be interested in and perhaps tweak your presentation to meet their needs.

If e-mail communication is all that's available, send a brief message putting something like "Follow up to my phone call" in the subject line.

But think of other venues that relate to the topic of your book. If you have a book about photography, think about art centers or museums. If your book relates to an historical event, try to connect with a like minded group or club. The local reference librarian might have just the right venue for you. Again, a Google search is often helpful in connecting you with just the right venue.

Example:

I gave a presentation at the Venice Fl. library this past winter. I decided that along with sharing some of my inspiring stories, I would create a workshop focused on the elements of a compelling short story. I began my workshop by introducing the elevator pitch, giving

aspiring writers some hands-on practice with a most useful skill. After telling each story, I encouraged audience members to record an elevator pitch and share it with the group. With my help, we fine tuned them before moving on to the basic elements of a

winning short story.

Outcome: Aside from selling some of my books, I received an honorarium and met a motivational speaker who entered and received a Finalist Award for her inspiring story: *At Least Nothing Bad Happened*. Her story will be published in the upcoming *Tales2Inspire*

~ *Sapphire Collection, Echoes In the Mind*, so it was a winning day for her as well as me.

Cruise ships often hold talent nights. Why not plan a story-telling event where you share a



compelling scene from one of your books.

Add a bit of drama to hold your audience in rapt attention: wear a special hat, bring a significant object, use different voices, add some background music - anything to grab their attention.

4. Call the local book store in the area where you plan to vacation. Introduce yourself and your book, inquiring if they would be interested in scheduling a book talk/book signing event while you are in the area. There always seems to be an element of mystique surrounding the person from fifty miles or more away!. Be sure you understand and agree on all terms in advance: (i.e. who purchase and returns the unsold books, net to you the author, what publicity they provide and expected audience size.)

5. Think out of the Box for other venues.

Example:

I have a favorite little gift shop I frequent in Venice, FLA with an interesting assortment of costume jewelry, knick knacks, women's purses and more. I am a frequent customer there but never even noticed their small book corner, I brought in proof copies of my Tales2Inspire books and she ordered six of them, paying me cash up front at a 60% / 40% split.

Our bottom line is to sell our books. But how we go about it makes all the difference. Always think in terms of how you can give back and you will stay ahead.

I invite you all, in the spirit of "Authors Helping Authors" to share one marketing ideas that has worked for you.

Lois W. Stern



LIAG's Newest Members...

WELCOME
To Our New
Members!

Michael Bobelian is an author, lawyer, and journalist whose work has covered issues ranging from legal affairs to corporate wrongdoing to human rights.

Upon graduating from the University of Michigan's Business and Law Schools, Michael worked at a Wall Street law firm before earning a Master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

As a contributing writer at Forbes.com, Michael covers a variety of topics, including the Supreme Court, Wall Street reform, regulatory agencies, and high-profile trials. He has also written for Legal Affairs Magazine, Reuters, the Washington Monthly, and the New York Law Journal, where he worked as a staff reporter. Michael's media appearances include C-Span's BookTV, NPR's "Word of Mouth," and NPR's "Leonard Lopate Show." He is a recipient of a grant from The Nation Institute Investigative Fund and a contributor to the December 2006 issue of *American Lawyer*, which won a Neal Award for the best single issue of a magazine. In 2011, Michael was a Wertheim Scholar at the NYPL. And in 2013, the Columbia Journalism School selected Michael's feature story, "Vartkes's List," as one of the school's "100 Great Stories" in celebration of its centennial. Michael is also the author of *Children of Armenia: A Forgotten Genocide and the Century-Long Struggle for Justice*, which was published by Simon & Schuster.



Jim Perez is fairly new to the craft of creative writing. Born and raised in Floral Park, he has worked in public education on Long Island for over twenty years with children of all ages. Jim began his career as an elementary school teacher but soon found his calling outside of the classroom. After several years as a high school counselor, he earned a doctorate in psychology. Jim currently works as a school psychologist, with a small private practice as well.

A self-described comic book geek, Jim has long been drawn to fantasy and science fiction, particularly those tales grounded in the real world – more Harry Potter, less *Lord of the Rings*. His favorite stories are based on the notion that something fantastic could be lurking just out of sight. Jim's first novel, *Maia and Icarus*, grew out of a love for Greek mythology and – given the preponderance of male-centered fantasy adventures – a desire to explore the epic journey of a young heroine. In this case, one named after his niece, Maia, who maintains a rather mundane existence in the village of Sea Cliff until she wondrously gets swept up in the drama of the Greek gods.

Jim lives in Huntington with his husband and three-month old daughter, Ellie. In addition to working on a sequel to *Maia and Icarus*, Jim has recently started writing picture books. Not surprisingly, his first features a little girl named Ellie. Jim's other passions include, but are certainly not limited to, the reality television show *Survivor* (he has applied several times to be a contestant), all things Disney (Ellie's first trip to Orlando has already been booked), and singer Amy Grant (he once got up on stage and sang with her at an appearance in NYC). He is very proud to have been accepted into the group of extremely imaginative and talented authors that comprise LIAG.

Note: Jim will be a participating author in the Book Revue's Children's Book Fair on Saturday, June 28th, 11 a.m. For information, call The Book Revue at 631-271-1442.

Pictured above, right: Jim Perez with his niece, Maia (who was the inspiration for the main character of his book) at his book launch at Book Revue in January 2014.





LIAG's Newest Members...

Vito Gentile is a new member of our writing group. He claims to have been writing all his life, but not always on paper and not always using words! And as he turns

seventy, he has no plans to stop.

In the last year alone, he's published *Fifty Poems About Spring*, a second volume of poetry; *Painting the Roses*, a five character drama; and *Things to do on Christmas Eve*, a hard-hitting thirteen-character study. All this while putting the finishing touches to a five-hundred-page memoir.

As his LIWG bio states, Vito has written more than thirty plays, screenplays, and teleplays, as well as non-fiction books, numerous articles for periodicals and textbooks, and seventeen collections of poetry, while working both here in the United States and in England. He also taught dramatic writing, technical writing, and computer science at New York University for several years.

Why the rush to keep writing? Well, as Vito puts it, "When you're born with dyslexia and no one knows what

that is, and you're kept in the back of the classroom until you're old enough to be kicked out without an education, all you really want to do is try to find a way to get all your thoughts down on paper. When that connection was finally made, nothing stopped me from getting all those characters and images onto the page, and which, thank God, are still pouring out.

As they like to say on the science programs, 'Life always finds a way!'"



Matt Pasca Wins LIAG Newsletter Naming Contest

Congratulations to LIAG member, **Matt Pasca**, who was chosen as the winner of the LIAG newsletter naming contest. The contest was open to all LIAG members in the month of March. It was judged by Jaci Clement of the Fair Media Council.

The LIAG newsletter now proudly displays Matt's creative name, *The Island Muse*. Thank you, Matt for giving us a new face!

Many thanks to Jaci for finding the best contestant!



Pictured, above: Matt Pasca and his wife, Terri Muuss, with Dorothy McPartland and her husband, Phil Krawchuk.

Members in the News...

On the weekend of April 26th, LIAG member, **Jim Ryan** travelled to Bozeman, Montana to give a talk to the Auxiliary of the Montana National Guard. They had a weekend conference and he gave the closing program.

To open the program, he sang "Wild Montana Skies", a John Denver song. He used a guitar borrowed from one of the Guardsmen, since "it can be a real pain taking a guitar on a cross country trip, especially when having to change planes." Fortunately it was a quality instrument and the song went well. Jim spoke about the "Eight Characteristics of Happy People".

Each of the attendees purchased *Simple Happiness* (52). It was a short trip, but one he will always remember.



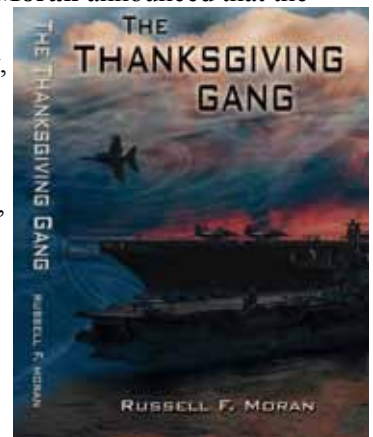
LIAG President Emeritus **Kerriann Flanagan Brosky** has been the recipient of two recent awards, and she also is working on her 7th book, due for release in October of 2015. On June 7th, Kerriann received a "Women of Distinction" award from Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci from the 10th District, for her outstanding achievements and service to the community. In May, Kerriann was a Finalist in the International Book Awards for 2014 for her novel, *The Medal*. This is The Medal's 4th award. Traditional publisher, History Press, in South Carolina approached Kerriann over the winter and commissioned her to write another non-fiction, historical/ghost book. She is once again working on this project with LIAG web master and clairaudient medium Joe Giaquinto. The title of the book is *Historic Haunts of Long Island; Ghosts and Legends from the Gold Coast to Montauk Point*.

Pictured with Kerriann, (above) is Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci with the 10th district, presenting her with the award.

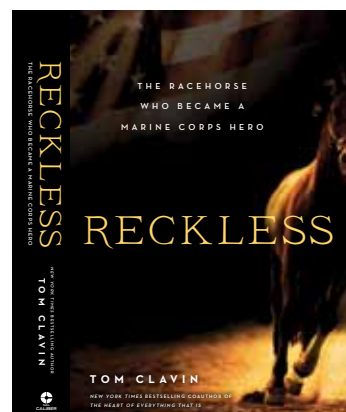
LIAG member **Russ Moran** announced that the second book in the series, *The Time Magnet*, was published in June. The book, *The Thanksgiving Gang*, is the sequel to *The Gray Ship*, the first in the trilogy.

For a look at a video trailer of *The Gray Ship*, follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgAKq-3lnk4>



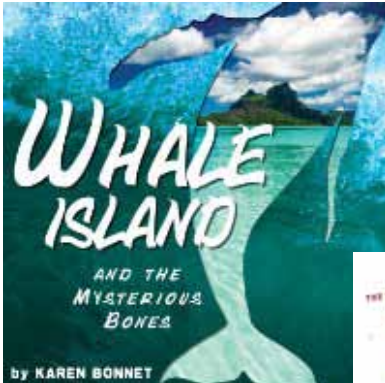
Tom Clavin's next book, *Reckless*, will be released on August 5th from NAL/Penguin. Congratulations, Tom!



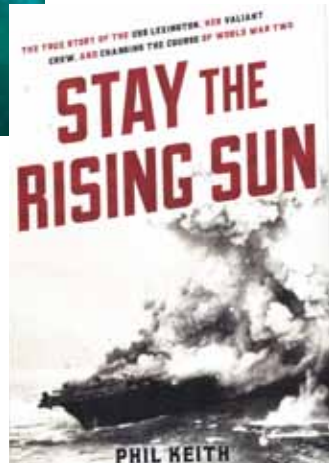
Members In the News...



Karen Bonnet, Editor of LIAG's newsletter, *The Island Muse*, is pleased to announce that she has recently released the audio version of her book, *Whale Island and the Mysterious Bones*, an exciting fiction story for children ages eight to eleven years-old. The audio book was narrated by Elizabeth Rowe, professional storyteller, and is sold via Audible.com, iTunes.com, and Amazon.com. Below is a the link to the page on Amazon.com: http://www.amazon.com/Whale-Island-Mysterious-Bones/dp/B00I51RZ72/ref=tmm_aud_swatc_0?_



Whale-Island-Mysterious-Bones/dp/B00I51RZ72/ref=tmm_aud_swatc_0?_



LIAG member and Past President Phil Keith's next book will keep him in the non-fiction, military market for at least one more title. "After this I may go 'off the rails' and do some more fiction, but we'll see," Phil says with a smile. After two award-winning Vietnam books with St. Martin's Press, Phil's next book will be with Zenith Press, an imprint of British mega-publisher Quarto, and with this book, entitled *Stay The Rising Sun*, Phil steps back from Vietnam all the way to World War Two. "I wanted to do something for all those marvelous men and women of the 'Greatest Generation,' to honor them for their service," Phil says, "and it also gets me back to my own Navy roots." In *Stay The Rising Sun*, Phil chronicles the immensely important May, 1942, Battle of the Coral Sea through the experiences of the men who served aboard the USS Lexington, one of the Navy's first aircraft carriers. Sadly, the Lexington is sunk during the battle but not before helping inflict tremendous losses on the opposing Imperial Japanese Navy fleet and, most importantly, stopping the continued expansion of the Japanese Empire on its march across the Pacific and Southeast Asia. The Battle of the Coral Sea was the first time the US Navy had sent aircraft carriers into combat and it was an important prelude to the even more crucial Battle of Midway, just one month later. "A few—too few—of the brave men who were aboard that ship are still with us and I wanted to do this book for them and also for those many avid readers of literature about this era," Phil added. *Stay The Rising Sun* will debut by the end of 2014.

Second LIAG Author Wins '50 Great Writers Award'

Roland Allnach was recently flattered to receive placement among the "50 Great Writers You Should be Reading" competition hosted by "The Authors Show." Hosted by Don McCauley and Danielle Hampson, The Authors Show is an internet based broadcast of authors discussing their books and their experiences as authors. After interviewing for his second book, *Oddities & Entities*, Roland entered the "50 Great Writers" competition.

Based on reader voting, the "50 Great Writers" competition is unlike other book awards. While there is no substitute for the recognition of national book awards, there likewise is no substitute for readers actively supporting authors whose work they prefer. In the very crowded publishing world, it can be difficult for authors to reach readers. Placing in the "50 Great Writers" competition is therefore a way to both reaffirm an audience and help build its numbers through the contest's various media outlets and its printed volume of winning authors.

Along with this honor, Roland's books recently earned two more national awards, adding to prior awards in National Indie Excellence, ForeWord Reviews Book Awards, Readers Favorite Book Awards, and USA Book News Best Book Awards. His first book, *Remnant*, received a Bronze Medal in the Shorty Story category of the Feathered Quill Book Awards, and his second book, *Oddities & Entities*, as a "Winner" in the Horror category of the Pacific Book Review Book Awards.



Pictured: Roland with Linda Maria Frank in "The Writer's Dream."

Members In the News...



On June 28, at 2:00 p.m., LIAG members **Linda Maria Frank** and **Charlene Knadle** will appear at the Sachem Library in Holbrook as mystery writers to talk about writing and reading mystery novels. The sponsoring organization for this four-person panel is the Long Island chapter of Sisters in Crime (LISinC). The four people on the panel will introduce themselves and give a short history of their own writing, then discuss elements of mystery stories from both the writer's and the reader's point of view. The panelists will answer questions from the audience, exploring reasons for the great appeal of mystery and the ways writers achieve their effects.

Sisters in Crime (SinC) is a national organization devoted mainly to bringing equity to women writers of Crime and Mystery. Its influence has helped to reduce the dominance of females as victims in crime writing and to increase the use of female sleuths and detectives. Sisters in Crime does not exclude men, and the Long Island Chapter (LISinC) has male members--Brothers in Crime.

*Pictured, bottom: Back, (left to right): Kathleen Ryan, Karen Cleveland, Linda Maria Frank, Vivian Sanzeri, John Nolan
Front, (left to right): Allison S., Charlene Knadle, Marilyn Levinson, Sharon Pape*

Linda Maria Frank was the guest author/presenter at The Book Revue in Huntington on June 12th where she gave an excellent talk on her new book, *Secrets in the Fairy Chimneys*, the third in the Annie Tillery Mystery series. Many LIAG members were in attendance. Congratulations, Linda!



June 'First Wednesday' Presentation...

LIAG's own Cindi Sansone-Braff, author of *Grant Me a Higher Love*, gave LIAG members an informative, significant presentation on the topic, "No More Writer's Block," at the June First Wednesday meeting.

Cindi's message included "looking and observing the world around you, doing your research, doing something physical, and then pausing for inspiration." Pausing stimulates the intuitive right side of the brain and engages it when we take time to reflect. Doing these things help your left and right sides of the brain to work together, resulting in the "light bulb moment" when the right side of the brain meets the logical left side. This is when inspiration is born! Cindi pointed out, "Once we know what we need to do and what we want to say, there is no more writer's block."

Pictured with Cindi (right) is Jeff Rimland, Karen Bonnet and Sandy Lanton.



April First Wednesday Presentation...

After introducing herself as the Executive Director of The Fair Media Council, Jaci Clement explained the mission and functions of the Council. As stated in their Handbook, "The power of local news is an awesome force. At its best, news opens the door to the world. It educates, even inspires . . . and is the first step toward a solution, whatever the town. At its worst, news is the problem. Inaccurate coverage creates problems that don't really exist. A lack of coverage enables issues to escalate. When erroneous messages and perceptions are relayed to the public in the press, the news has the incredible ability to close minds. That's why we're committed to fighting for the best quality local news in the country. The Fair Media Council is the source for everything adults (and kids, too!) need to know about local news."

Clement then conducted an informal conversation with the authors, addressing their many concerns about using the media, especially social media to get



their works out to the public. She clarified many of the social media terms, and explained the advantages of using twitter, facebook and google+, pointing out how each offers a different aspect of boosting the author's presence in the Internet world.

The presentation was informative, engaging, sensitive to the needs expressed attendees, and addressed the special concerns of authors.

Linda Maria Frank

You are the Featured Author on 'The Writer's Dream'

Members, Karen Bonnet and Linda Maria Frank, have been producing, directing, and hosting a TV show for authors on local access television. The show is called *The Writer's Dream*. The interview format of the show is designed to allow authors to showcase their works, how they write, publish, and market them. To date, twenty-seven LIAG members have been interviewed.

Some vital statistics regarding *The Writer's Dream*:

- The studio is at LTV-EH in Wainscott, next to the East Hampton Airport. The drive, although long, is scenic and lunch at an East End bistro can make the day.
- The interview, lasting one half hour, is not live, which allows interviewees relief from stage fright or an unrelenting coughing, maybe even laughing, fit.
- The folks at LTV produce a DVD of the show, which can be purchased for \$12.00.
- The studio has state of the art technology as well as bathrooms, is interesting to visit, and has a friendly staff.



The Marketing Benefits are:

- Every interview is put on YouTube, enabling authors to download a code which can then be imported to facebook, twitter, and other social media sites, as well as your own website. Help for this process is available from either Karen or Linda.
- The show is aired at LTV and all the Cablevision local access (channel 20) stations on L.I.
- When your show is aired, Linda will send you an email with times and dates. You can share this with friends.

Linda continues to cycle all the interviews through the three Cable stations on a regular basis, so your interview is aired multiple times.

By the way, the video seen on our website is *The Writer's Dream* interview with then-president, Kerriann Flanagan Brosky, and founder, John Cardone.

To schedule an interview, email Linda at lmf217@hotmail.com. Visit us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Writers-Dream/144688198966801>

Linda Maria Frank

Board of Directors and LIAG Mission Statement

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

2014 Long Island Authors Group Board of Directors and Officers

Dorothy McPartland, President

Lois W. 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, Advisor to the Board

John Cardone, Founder & President Emeritus

Committee Chairpersons

First Wednesday, Anne Coltman

Membership, John Cardone

Newsletter Editor, Karen Bonnet

Events, Linda Maria Frank

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

Communications, John Cardone

Website, Joe Giaquinto



The LIAG Mission Statement

<http://www.longislandauthorsgroup.org>

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

