

The Write Stuff

Long Island Writers' Guild Newsletter

Number Eight

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Visit us at WWW.LIWritersGuild.org

Word From The Editor

The LIWG is beginning to show the signs of becoming a truly important organization here on Long Island. Just look at our progress in the last year alone. The attendance at our workshops have been increasing; new faces and talents share our Thursday night meetings. Members who have been absent for some time have been popping up. More and more people sign up at our web site

We've produced and published a great anthology, enjoyed ourselves at our first annual awards dinner and had a successful book-signing at the prestigious Book Revue in Huntington.

The LIWG has hosted a number of great guest speakers. Janice Levy, the children's book author, who continues to run off with first place honors in major contests. Wendy Aron, playwright and journalist, who gave us a peek into the publishing process with a touch of wit and humor. Young and industry smart, Christina Biamonte who opened the door to agents and their workings. And can we ever forget Dan Mahoney who welcomed us to the real world of being a published author, and did it at length. Come to our April 18th meeting and catch author Edith Layton (more on an other page).

The LIWG is appearing at coffeeshouses to share our craft, our members volunteered to handle the phones on WLIW channel 21 for their fund raising campaign as a public service.

We are beginning to show a presence, and when our next anthology becomes a reality, the LIWG will be ready. People will know about the Long Island Writers' Guild through the laborious efforts of the last year. 2001 was a learning year, much like the lessons Peter sneaks in on us during the workshops.

Each one of us should take that extra step, make that extra effort to make 2002 a banner year. It's spring, and everyone's thoughts should be about making the LIWG the best it could be.

JP

THE WRITE STUFF

THE POET'S PAGE

SPRING

Equinox
Vernal vitality
Arise!
Rise above
Slumbered hibernation
Awaken
Coiled with energy
Springboard vertically
Sing with exaltation
Leap, bound, grow
Lift your spirits
Souls soaring
Rise above
Arise!

--J R Turek

RESURRECTION

When the weather starts to invite
our hearts yearn for life
without walls

No more coats
mittens or boots
No more heaters
Comforters or snow.

Now's the time for
bikinis and frisbees
Bar B Q's, sun tan lotion
fishing and boats to tow.

When once again violets and daffodils
forsythias and lilies are in bloom.
We who have been cooped-up,
tucked in and enclosed
happily flee our winter tomb.

--Marge McDowell

RAIN

I stand by the door waiting for the thunder to stop.
Peering through the window
I see dark clouds
lit by jagged streaks of bright white lightning,
tree branches doing a strange wild dance, and leaves
whirling off trees
falling to the ground
forming a soggy carpet.
I feel I may never get to the safety of my car,
may be here forever, may never get home.

--Joan Marge

SYMBOLS of SPRING

Calico butterflies
meandering brooks
found
whispering
in my prairie dreams.

--Joan Marge

Submissions are being accepted for the SUMMER Issue. They should have a warm romantic theme, but this Editor will use any good poem, I'll jazz them up with pictures if needbe.

THE WRITE STUFF

HERE AND THERE

OUR FIRST ANNUAL DINNER

Needless to say our first annual dinner was a huge and gala event, and as it happened it became a sort of award- night. Our fearless leader, Peter, took it upon himself to award everyone present with a token of his appreciation for the work well done by the members of the LIWG; with special emphasis to the executive board and volunteers who worked so diligently on the anthology.

Not to be outdone, the members of LIWG presented Peter with a certificate of appreciation (well deserved, I must say).

Thanks to the gifted pen of Doris Bush, the certificate read as follows:

“The Members of the LIWG wish to honor Peter Garenani with deep appreciation and sincere affection, for his encouragement, faith and guidance. (Then added in verse)

*There is more beneath the writer's pen than paper
marked with ink*

*The heart and soul, the angst, the ire, we fear
what others think*

*There is history and heartache, and every chance
we've lost*

*There is hope on every page we write and even
those we've tossed.”*

Plans are already in motion for our second annual dinner, our super volunteer, Judy, has the paperwork in hand, and announcements will be forthcoming.

ABOUT ‘2001’

Book sales have surpassed our expectations, and our Odyssey is now available in over 23 Public Libraries on Long Island—and counting!

ANOTHER “FIFTEEN MINUTES”

The LIWG has scored another triumph; plus it was fun!!!!

The call went out to our members for volunteers to handle the phones for a WLIW Channel 21 fund raising drive. Those of us who responded and showed up had a ball. Not only did the camera crews single out most of our members, but WLIW host, Laura Savini, plugged the LIWG and thanked us live on TV several times

Many thanks to our own Laura for arranging this “fifteen minutes” and special thanks to Judy who burned up the phone lines making sure we filled our promised quota.

Photos of the event will be posted on our web site, thanks to our web-master Rob.

EDITOR’S NOTES:

The attendance at the Cup coffeehouse has been waning. The same tried and true members attend with a few exceptions. We need more participation from the LIWG. It’s a great place to read some longer or experimental works without time restrictions. Laura has done a great job setting this up—Let’s support this endeavor and make it a LIWG success. Plus the coffee is great!

Please support Dennis’ similar efforts getting us to appear at the DECAFE, in Merrick on March 27th, check our web site for full details. This coffeehouse offers a menu so you can snack and listen and enjoy.

THE WRITE STUFF

GUEST SPEAKER

On Thursday, April 18th, at the Levittown Library, romance novelist, **Edith Layton** will be our next special guest speaker. She has published 24 Historical Romances, 19 novellas in various anthologies, written feature pieces for such publications as the NY Times, Newsday and Publishers Weekly. Edith will speak on how she got started, how to keep going and how to overcome obstacles in the writing process. Ms. Layton will gladly answer questions at the end of her talk, and there will be plenty as usual. Her latest novel, "The Devil's Bargain" will be out from Harper Collins in May. Visit her on her website: www.edithlayton.com

During WWII, a soldier sent his father a poem he had written. The father sent the poem to a large newspaper. The person sent back this note: "Better your son became a butcher."
Note: The son was Rod Serling.

--Joel Saltzman "If You Can Talk, You Can Write"

BITS & PIECES

Writers are funny people
With pen names, it's hard to say
Do you call them by their real name
Or by their AKA?

--J R Turek

*

Senior Citizens take heart:
5% of all the works of genius have been
done after the age of 80.

--Wilfred Funk

*

for Rona

Neuroses are red.
Depressives are blue.
Insight is Home
And so are you.

-Stephen Loomis

*

Thought is impossible without words.

--John Dewey

*

Plans are in the works for our fourth anthology. Take a moment and consider what you feel would be a good theme or subject matter, and drop me a line, post it on our website or bring it up at one of our regular meetings

Congratulations:

Joan Marge and Bill LaGrassa, tying the knot, Mar. 17th.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Mar.	21	Levittown Library	7:00-10:30
Apr.	4	Bethpage Library	7:00-9:30
Apr.	18	Levittown Library	7:00-10:30
May	2	Bethpage Library	7:00-9:30
May	16	Levittown Library	7:00-10:30

THE WRITE STUFF

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THE WRITE STUFF

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES—Florence Gatto
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Am I a writer? I belong to LI Writers' Guild, Italian American Writers Association and I subscribe to "Writers Digest". Does that qualify me?

I wrote for my Junior High and High school yearbook. I write a column for "The Golden Lion" of memoirs called "Then and Now". I've been published in Newsday, St. John's Alumni Magazine and Bellmore Life, and been rejected by every paying publication that I submit work to. I think I have a best-selling novel (210 pages) on the computer that recently crashed on me and another on the small yellow papers stuck all over my car and desk.

There are so many stories in my head and on the scraps of paper on the floor in my writing room. All I have to do is get them down on paper or electronic mode and burden the public with them. So far, there has been no money for my published endeavors, just a bit of glory.

Luckily I have a day job. I am an Educational Evaluator for the NYC Board of Education.

My writing incentive comes from my life experiences. I have four children, five grandchildren and a significant other. I have traveled to India, Kashmir, Morocco, Turkey, Greece, South and Central America and Europe. Italy is my favorite and I usually set my short stories there.

The Long Island Writers' Guild has been a lifeline for me in many ways. This writing community is educational, supportive, motivating and honest. I have met wonderfully bright and talented people here. I promise, if ever I get to be an Oprah author, I'll reserve the first row of the audience for the LIWG! Who knows?

--Florence Gatto

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No, no, no...MUSE...M-U-S-E.

Critical Acclaim for "2001-A Long Island Odyssey"

"I read your book-absolutely brilliant. I smiled, I giggled and was moved by tenderness, pain and surprise." --Barbara Dolan Rice

"My congratulations to your group, and keep up the great work." --Peggy Ellis (NC)

"We are envious of your group, such marvelous stories and poems, you should be proud. I will cherish my copy." --Marie Spinner (NC)

Dick Cavett: (He didn't answer my letter)

Nelson DeMille: Signed my copy of "2001" at his book signing.

"Gee Dad, I didn't know you could write. Thanks for the book." -- Kiki Driscoll (New Hartford)

SPRING

Spring is just around the corner.
Flowers bloom before our eyes.
There will not be many rainy days,
Just hot and sunny skies.

The birds will fly
In the air
And children will be playing everywhere

Up to our ankles
The grass will grow
And the clear blue stream
Will flow real slow.

So don't be surprised
Because spirits will rise.
Spring is finally here,
It's the best time of the year!

--Amy Valenti

(As promised in last issue)

SPRINGTIME

Springtime
Seedtime
Sowtime

Springtime
Saplingtime
Solartime

Springtime
Sleepnesstime
Solittletime.

--J R Turek