

# Liberty States Fiction Writers

*A Multi-genre Fiction Writers Group*



## Liberty States Fiction Writers Conference – March 18-19

**\*\*Please remember there is no March Meeting as it is time for our annual conference\*\***

**\*\*Early Bird Registration Ends on February 18\*\***

**8th Annual Create Something Magical Conference  
Saturday, March 18, thru Sunday, March 19, 2017,  
at the Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel, Iselin, NJ**

**Featuring Keynote Speakers:**

***New York Times* Bestselling Author  
Jennifer L. Armentrout**



***New York Times* Bestselling Author  
Virginia Kantra**



### **FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH**

The event gets rolling with an informal gathering in the hotel bar on Friday evening. Kick back and relax with fellow conference attendees before the ball gets rolling on Saturday.

### **SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 18-19TH**

Saturday and Sunday are two days full of workshops and panels for writers, editor/agent appointments, fun panels for readers, book signings, inspiring speeches, a fun party, and more. **Check out the terrific slate of workshops** we've got lined up for you. Don't forget about the Saturday Night Party. This year the party is hosted by 1001 Dark Nights. The theme is "Ignite Your Fantasies." Come dressed as your favorite fantasy character!

We're opening up Dinner with an Author to all attendees. If you've already registered for the conference and would like to join one of our Featured Authors for Dinner you can tell us who you'd like to join [by clicking here](#).

## **Pricing:**

### **WRITERS TRACK**

LSF Writers Members – \$185

Non-Members – \$200

Conference Registration and Membership Dues – \$225

Price includes access to all writers and most readers track workshops, access to editor/agent appointments, the Saturday night party, as well as three meals. Only published authors who meet LSF Writers qualifications will be eligible to participate in the spotlight book signings.

### **READERS TRACK**

Full Registration – \$95

Day Pass Options:

Saturday Day Pass – \$65

Sunday Day Pass – \$35

Full Registration includes access to all Readers Track panels and events, spotlight signings, the Saturday night party, and three meals.

Saturday Day Pass includes access to all Readers Track panels/events and the spotlight signings held on Saturday, March 18th. The price also includes the Saturday night party and two meals.

Sunday Day Pass includes access to all Readers Track panels/events and the spotlight signings held on Sunday, March 19th. The price also includes one meal.

For more information and to register for the conference, please visit

<http://www.libertystatesfictionwriters.com/conference/>.

## **President's Letter**

When I'm asked what's the best thing about being a writer, my answer is always getting to meet so many interesting people. It's been the most enjoyable aspect of being a published author. That face time with other writers and readers has been invaluable on a career level and rewarding on a personal level. Some of my best friends are readers and writers that I've had a chance to meet at book-related events.

That's why I always look forward to our annual conference as well as the other events I'll be attending over the course of the year.

One of the goals I set for myself at those events is to try to meet at least a dozen new people. Whether it's just a quick conversation to help someone who seems a little lost or lonely or needs help, or a much longer discussion about writing or reading, it's one of the highlights of the event for me.

Now you may think, "But I'm not as outgoing as you." Here's a confession: I am horribly shy or rather I should say that I was horribly shy. I was always a bookworm and hesitant about meeting new people, but little by little I forced myself not to be so reserved and to venture out of my comfort zone.

Law school helped immensely with that, especially Moot Court. It taught me to think on my feet and feel comfortable with public speaking. Not that it was easy. I oftentimes found myself in the restroom before Moot Court, sweating out my appearance.

Do I still sweat? You bet I do, but I try to keep that to myself and I try not to let fear keep me from exploring new friendships and making professional connections.

Not sure you can do it? Just try it with one new person or try it out with me. I won't bite (unless you ask me to of course!).

What else should you think about with our annual conference right around the corner? Make sure you have a stash of business cards handy. Have some goodies ready for conference attendees to promote yourself and your books. Prep your pitch, and, remember, the editors and agents don't bite either.

Finally, and most importantly, have some fun! Take the time to enjoy being with people who all have something in common with you: They love reading a good book!

Caridad (Charity) Pineiro  
President

P.S. – If you like receiving the newsletter, we could use some help with gathering articles and member news. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact me at [caridadpineiro@gmail.com](mailto:caridadpineiro@gmail.com).

### Industry News and Helpful Articles for Writers

"7 Top Book Marketing Tips from DBW 2017" by Diana Urban  
<http://bit.ly/2jwYjLi>

"12 Contemporary Writers on How They Revise" by Emily Temple  
<http://bit.ly/2kn4eUJ>

"The Bad News about E-books" by Jim Milliot at Publishers Weekly  
<http://bit.ly/2jwZ8Eh>

"Best Writing Blogs for Writers Awards 2017" from PostiveWriters.com  
<http://bit.ly/2kmTK7R>

"This Way Be Dragons: How to Evaluate a Publishing Contest" by Susan Spann  
<http://bit.ly/2kiZdN1>

"Resilience: The Key to Reaching Your Writing Goals in 2017" by Anne R. Allen  
<http://bit.ly/2kiZrDQ>

"Wattpad Introduces Video Ads Within Stories" from Book Business Magazine  
<http://bit.ly/2jwXMt0>

### This Month's Writing Tip

This month's writing tip is from our lovely Vice President, Gwen Jones!

## The Book's Done—Now What?

By Gwen Jones

What do you do after you finish writing your book? Well, first you pat yourself on the back, toast with your beverage of choice, then take a well-deserved rest. But what do you do after all that resting is over? After you've nipped and tucked and primed and preened it until it's pink and screaming? After you've made absolutely sure you couldn't get it any better, after you've edited it one more time, after you've saved it in several places, and now you're sitting back and admiring this positively stellar work of art? Well, I'll tell you—now it's business time. And what does that consist of? Let's start with...

- 1. The Dreaded Synopsis and Blurb:** Oh, my aching neck—is there anything worse than writing a synopsis? Yes, a *blurb*, which is a one sentence encapsulation, boiling your 85k word work of art down to its very essence. I thought of one the other day while I was making my lunch, so maybe they aren't as hard as they seem. (Right!) Maybe because they're all foreplay, and you don't have to go for the beginning, middle, and *bang-zoom!* Now synopses...well, they're a bit more of a challenge. Used to be synopses were five to ten pages, but now my agent tells me the industry standard is getting closer to two. And that's double-spaced, with the same formatting rules applying. And don't make it a tease like the blurb—agents and editors will just spank the delete button if you try to play cagey. Give the plot, characters, and theme, and make sure it covers your work from beginning to end and in the present tense. They're looking for content, not for coy. Save that for your fabulous prose.
- 2. More Dread—The Query Letter:** There really is an art to writing these things, no kidding, and you do so need to get them right. Even before you begin your search for an editor or agent, create a good query shell—as once you do, you can tailor it to each house or agency's preferences. There's much more information that you'll need about crafting one than I can give you right now, but [agentquery.com](http://agentquery.com) has some really excellent advice on writing one.
- 3. Now do your research:** What do you write? Horror, romance, science fiction, mystery, commercial or literary fiction? Whatever the fiction (as it's slightly different for non-fiction, and for that, I'm not quite the authority), you need to do your research so you're targeting your work to the right house or agency. If you're a genre writer—romance, sci-fi, mystery, etc.—there are some houses that still accept unagented fiction. It's YOUR job to find out who they are. To do this, you might want to search the web for each publisher, pick up the latest copy of the *Writer's Market* by *Writer's Digest* or their *Guide to Literary Agents* by Chuck Sambuchino, or Jeff Herman's *Guide to Book Publishers, Editors or Literary Agents*. Or take a trip to the library and check out the *Literary Marketplace Database* (the definitive guide, a pricey subscription to get on your own, so use it at the library for free), or *Publisher's Weekly*. But even those guide aren't going to help if you don't know what kind of fiction they buy. I always like to go to the local bookstore and browse the authors I feel my writing is most like, and then check the Acknowledgements page. See which editors and agents they thank, and that should send you in the right direction. Another great source is the database on agents, [Agent Query](http://Agent Query). But nothing will get you in the door better than a personal invitation. Go to writer's conferences (we have a [good one](#) coming up in March!), attend writer's clubs, join national organizations for your genre. At conferences, you'll have the chance to meet editors and agents in person during pitch sessions. At writers' clubs you'll get to hobnob with published authors who might like you well enough to recommend you to their agent or editor. Put yourself out there! Face-to-face is always the most effective.
- 4. Send it and forget it:** Does the manuscript shine? Did all your research? Found the perfect editors and/or agents? Now start querying. Most, if not all agencies and publishers, post their submission guidelines on their websites, so do your research first. Send queries in small

batches, though NEVER send an email blast to everyone at once, and NEVER use a form letter. If you've created a good template, you can tweak each letter for each specific agency/agent and publisher/editor. Thank your lucky stars and talent if a request comes back for a partial or a full, though only send attachments upon request or per submission guidelines.

5. **Now get back to writing:** You're only as good as your last book, and writers write! If you're not doing what you should be doing, there's no need to pay attention to any of the above. Now get back to work!

Have a tip to share? Please email it to [contact@lsfwriters.com](mailto:contact@lsfwriters.com).

**About the Author:** Gwen Jones, MFA, is an Assistant Professor of English at Mercer County College, in West Windsor, NJ and a mentor in Graduate Studies at Western Connecticut State University's Master of Fine Arts in Creative and Professional Writing program. She's been married to her husband, Frank, for more years than she'd like to admit, is an unabashed born-and-bred native of Southern New Jersey and the Jersey Shore, and finds all things political the highest form of entertainment. When not civilly espousing a progressive agenda, she can be found trolling neighborhood streets and greenways, perched under an umbrella at several Jersey beaches, or haunting movie theaters or random Tri-State live performance spaces. Associations that have admitted to accepting her are The Romance Writers of America, Liberty States Fiction Writers, and The Association of Writers and Writing Programs. When she's not atop any given flat space reading trashy novels or the occasional liberal diatribe, she's usually writing women's fiction or romance, or essays the odd person has been known to call "humorous." Her work has been featured in *Writer's Digest*, *The Kelsey Review*, and *The Connecticut River Review*. Her novels in the *French Kiss* series from HarperCollins are *Wanted: Wife, Kiss Me, Captain, and The Laws of Seduction*. Visit Gwen on Facebook, Twitter, and at her website [www.gwenjoneswrites.com](http://www.gwenjoneswrites.com).

### Member News

We wish to welcome new members Sha Renée, Anne Breslin, Maria Lokken, Andrea Iskowitz, and Mika Jolie.

Anna DePalo signed a contract with Harlequin Desire for the second and third books in her *The Serengetti Brothers* series. Book two, *Hollywood Baby Affair*, will be out on June 1, 2017.

Caridad Pineiro's new contemporary romance, *One Summer Night*, will be released in October 2017 by Sourcebooks Casablanca. *One Summer Night* is the first book in the *At the Shore* romance series.

Have member news or a new release to share? Please email your news to [contact@lsfwriters.com](mailto:contact@lsfwriters.com).

### Upcoming Book-Related Events

March 23-25: The Write Stuff Writers Conference with Michael Hague, of Hollywood fame, as the all-day workshop leader and keynote. For more information, please visit [www.glvwg.org](http://www.glvwg.org).

April 21-22: Palm Beach Book Festival, FL. For more information, please visit <http://www.palmbeachbookfestival.com/>.

April 22-23: L.A. Times Festival of Books, CA. For more information, please visit <http://events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks/>.

May 2-7: RT Booklovers Convention, GA. For more information, please visit  
<https://www.rtconvention.com/>.

May 6: Hudson Children's Book Festival, NY. For more information, please visit  
<http://www.hudsonchildrensbookfestival.com/>.

May 20. Gaithersburg Book Festival, MD. For more information, please visit  
<http://www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org/>.

May 27-28: Queens Book Festival, NY. For more information, please visit  
<http://www.queensbookfestival.nyc/>.

May 31-June 2: BookExpo/BookCon in New York, NY. For more information, please visit  
<http://www.bookexpoamerica.com/>.

June 1-4: Desert Dreams Conference, AZ: For more information, please visit  
<http://desertroserwa.org/desertdreams>.

June 22-27: American Library Association Annual in Chicago, IL. For more information, please visit  
<http://2017.alaannual.org/>.

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