



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

April 2014

APRIL 15 THIRD TUESDAY

**April's National Poetry Month Open Mic Program
will feature Jack Brooking (Beach) presenting "Carl Sandburg and Me"**

Jack, who shares his hometown of Galesburg, Illinois, with the Pulitzer-prize winning poet, will discuss poetic things he learned from the works of Sandburg, and anecdotes about seeing Sandburg perform and meeting him in a press conference.

6:30 Social and Pot Luck Refreshments

7 p.m. Program followed by open mic readings

PENSACOLA CULTURAL CENTER

400 South Jefferson Street Second Floor



WFLF will give away a \$25 Apple Market gift card at open mic in April and another at open mic in May. It's your chance to win a grocery shopping spree and support the student poetry contest. Donations are \$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5. Drawing will be held at open mic. Special thanks to Apple Market for the donation of the gift cards and to Bevin Murphy for handling the contributions of area businesses to support the poetry contest.

This year's **Escambia County Student Poetry Contest** has more than 325 entries, according to contest director **Susan Lewis**. Five WFLF members will judge the entries on Wednesday, April 9 with winners announced shortly thereafter. The twenty-four winners will read their poems about "One More Day" to the public at **Books A Million, 6235 North Davis, Pensacola, Saturday, April 26 at 2 p.m.** First, second and third place winners receive cash prizes. Honorable mention winners receive gift cards. Winning poems are published by West Florida Literary Federation, and student poets are later honored at the book's launch. Winners receive a complimentary copy of the book which includes their published poems.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Heart and Hands

Since April is celebrated as both National Poetry Month and National Volunteer Month, it's the ideal time to salute the quintessence of volunteer poets, WFLF's retiring Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida, Juliet Zachary DeMarko.

Since February 2009 Julie has served as poet laureate. In these six years she's tirelessly advanced both our organization and poetry as a community volunteer. She's been the driving force behind bringing two well-known poets, Judyth Hill and Kwame Dawes, to the area for performances and workshops. She's also presented programs at open mics; facilitated weekly Wild Woman poetry workshops; advocated 100,000 Poets for Change; represented WFLF on the Viva Pensacola Florida 500 committee; acknowledged winners in the Escambia County Student Poetry Contest; and addressed groups like American Pen Women. She's presented readings of her poetry at home (Open Books) and abroad (in Mexico). She's helped write grants and cooked for countless poetry events. Even in this interim before the appointment of the next poet laureate, she'll speak at the Santa Rosa Library in Milton for National Poetry Month.

On our website wflf.org, there's a delightful video of Julie laughing as she explains "A poet laureate is someone who's been writing poetry all their life, loves poetry and will do anything to force it on you." Thank you, Julie, for forcing poetry on us, for your countless volunteer hours and for your

gracious embodiment of the role of poet laureate. And thank you, Mike DeMarko, for sharing Julie with us.

In the fall, West Florida Literary Federation will name the seventh Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida. Julie followed a long list of distinguished poet laureates – Adelia Rosasco Soule, Leonard Temme, Mary Hood, Laurie O'Brien, Henry Langhorne. Each shared his or her own unique gift to the role, whether it was love of language, teaching or publishing. Julie DeMarko has given the greatest gift of all – her love of poetry combined with her time as a volunteer -- to make Northwest Florida a better place. We look forward to one more gift from Julie this year – our opportunity to publish and read her newest collection of her poetry.

Diane Skelton

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kate Owens and Charles McCaskill

Something WFLF membership would be interested in attending: **Stephen Dietz, internationally recognized playwright**, will be a guest speaker at an event hosted by UWF Center for Fine and Performing Arts in **the PLT Courtroom, Saturday, April 12th, from 1-3 p.m.**

Writers Weekly Workshops Room 210 at the Cultural Center

MONDAY PURE POETRY LOUNGE 6 – 8 p.m. with Katherine Nelson-Borne Suite 212 Pensacola Cultural Center. A poetry class focusing on both critique and assignments designed to break class participants out of "comfort zones" led by Susan Lewis and Katherine Nelson-Borne. New experiences, old lessons with a different twist and in the end, hopefully the ability to see poetry from a new perspective. All you have to do is show up with a great attitude and a willingness to work together.

TUESDAY WRITING FOR PUBLICATION 10 ~ 12. For seasoned writers and members of WFLF who are working on book-length manuscripts seeking publication. Manuscripts and written critiques are emailed within members of the group and

then members discuss their comments each Thursday from 10 ~ 12 in the WFLF office. The group is limited to seven writers ~ Ron Tew tuesday@bellsouth.net (**temporarily rescheduled from Thursdays 3 – 5**)

TUESDAY WRITERS' GUILD 4 - 6. Each writer brings work, primarily prose, to read aloud and takes others' work home to critique. ~ Andrea Walker ~ andrea48@aol.com ~ Richard Hurt ~ rchurt2@att.net

WEDNESDAY PORTFOLIO SOCIETY ~ This goal-oriented workshop, facilitated by Jeannie Zokan and assisted

by Diane Skelton, runs from 9:30 -11:30 on Wednesday mornings. Each participant is working on one or more yearlong projects. Sessions involve timed discussions for each participant. WFLF membership is required; the group is limited to seven members. Work may include any genre. If you are interested in the Portfolio Society, contact Jeannie Zokan by email 4zokans@att.net.

THURSDAY WILD WRITING POETRY WORKSHOP 9:30 ~ 11:30 a.m. Come write, play, and explore the world of poetry in this writing workshop ~ Julie DeMarko

NEWS:

The WFLF Board meets monthly at 6:15 on the first Tuesday of the month in the WFLF office.

Thanks to **Patricia Edmisten** for the recent donation of several books on publishing and agents, plus a multi-year collection of Poets & Writers magazine to the Patrick Cassidy Resource Library. They are available for member checkout.

John Baradell, Diane Skelton and Andrea Walker represented WFLF at the National Day of Service volunteer event on April 1 at City Hall. The event was hosted by Habitat for Humanity, United Way and the Mayor's Office.

Richard Hurt will present a reading on Tuesday, April 8 at the annual banquet of the Archaeology Society of Pensacola.

Jack Fabian and Jack Beverly will present a special reading at Carpenter's Creek Senior Living Facility on April 27.

Due to the increase in the number of cell phones, the Board has voted to stop telephone service in the WFLF office. Wi-Fi service will still be available. The Wi-Fi login is posted on the wall by the computer. The savings will be nearly \$50 a month.

CREATIVE WRITING

HAIKU

Fresh flowers will fade
So savor them while you may
Life is quite fleeting.

Not really a spa
Blackbirds splash in a puddle
Relish it for free.

Sating sinews
Sensuous crape myrtle limbs
Twining interlaced.

Cannot run or hide
No place to escape your love
Embrace me O God.

Lynn McLargin

Ancestry

There once was a Foley from Limerick
Who found word games quite a trick.
He boarded a ship
And made a long trip
As Americans didn't know Irish shtick.

John Baradell

Chrysalis

Warm,
Impervious.
Familiar leaves abound.

Comfort
ever present.
No risk
Exists in the world.

Nature's call
startles the new butterfly
Without notice
from the familiar.

Beautiful wings
spreading clumsily
in first flight.
Awkward attempts
causing pain.
Torn attempts.
New wings
now unguarded.
Flower refuge,
healing nectar,
temporarily welcome.

Finally healed.
Beauty heightened
with earned scars
covering old.

The butterfly finds
her freedom
at once new.

Spreading wings
now confident in her glory.
Sipping ambrosia
from color-laden flowers.
in her journey of discovery.

Long migration
now possible.
Her rebirth

finally allowing her
proper freedom.

Butterfly kisses
despite boundaries
Allow her the ability
to love all
without fear.

John Baradell

Rag Mop

(from the Thangs series)

Propped up here in my corner
between garbage can and sink
I think it's been a bad hair day
or maybe week . . . year?
No fear, I'm not complainin'
and too shy to try to explain.

With a frump like me
first impressions is the
lastin' ones: I am the
weariest, dullest, dreariest
soul in this whole
third-floor walkup--period.

Some days I try to
make a difference—like
mopping tracked-up linoleum
shining and clean
But then, I ain't real sure . . .
Know what I mean?

I'm pretty wrung out now
most of the time
dealin' with a life that's
full of mold and grime.
So I slump here in my corner
and, Lord, I don't know why,
seems like I'm sad an awful lot—
sometimes I cry.

Jack Beach

The Bandit's Note *an original story*

Seven year old Timmy enjoys teasing his father when he comes home, but his father has not been in such spirits as to relish being teased, recently. Randall, the father, lost his job as an office clerk several months earlier and as a result, his savings are almost depleted.

He has spent the last couple of weeks looking for another job, and in addition, the past two days trying to obtain a loan from his local bank. The bank manager has asked that Randall return the next day for an answer, but that a determination in Randall's favor looks doubtful.

"All your money or your life," reads the note printed boldly in black on the index card Timmy waves while dressed in a bandit's outfit complete with neckerchief, boots and a cap pistol.

"Oh, Timmy, you got me. You can have all of it, all seventy-five cents," Randall replies as he swoops up Timmy in his arms while placing the bandit's note in the right hand pants pocket of his navy blue pin-striped suit. "Timmy, don't tease me today."

Timmy's father, a good and kind man, has some careless habits. One of these is not carrying a wallet in his back pocket as do most men. Rather, he carries his I.D. and a few checks in his front pants pocket.

The next morning, Randall, who is wearing the same blue suit that he wore the previous day, drives to his bank hoping to have a positive answer for his loan application.

Upset and disappointed, he then goes to cash a check, but instead of it being a check angrily placed at the teller's counter, it is Timmy's bandit index card with bold black letters which read, "All your money or your life."

Richard Craig Hurt

Book Review

Distant Witness: Social Media, the Arab Spring and a Journalism Revolution

By Andy Carvin
CUNY Journalism Press, 2012

I huddled over my *National Geographic Atlas* as author Andy Carvin took me into the tents in Tahrir Square, through Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain, Libya, Syria and Yemen with his nonfiction account of the Arab Spring. Carvin wasn't there, but as a National Public Radio strategist he followed the uprising in real time through social media. His account, *Distant Witness*, reads like a novel but is told with thousands of Twitter messages from dozens of voices reconstructed in chronological order. He weaves the tweets with expert narration and a spellbinding, riveting style.

From the safety of his office in Washington D. C., Carvin documented both the tweets of CNN and Al Jazeera reporters as well as the rebels, who carried "a rock in one hand, a cell phone in the other." He admits being "merely a distant witness to these events; but a witness nonetheless, and it had moved me profoundly." Carvin was so connected to his tweets that when he spoke to a Georgetown University graduate class on the night of a Bahraini protest, he only remembers calling up tweets for the class. He talked in a nonstop blur as violence poured out 7000 miles away, and he witnessed it via his smart phone.

Rarely does Carvin or the reader know what the characters look like or their full names, but we share their movements, fears and injuries through their tweets. We meet families caught in the unrest, use tweets to search for a lost child and sob at the death of a citizen journalist – his Twitter feed suddenly stopped.

As a journalist test pilot in social media, Carvin details assembling a team of reliable

sources using social media, especially in Libya where he knew no one. He explains geotagging which allows smart phones to mark tweets and photos with exact longitude and latitude and validate messages. He admits his mistake in a hurried tweet reporting a child being readied for surgery. In actuality, the boy was being washed for burial. Carvin apologizes for not thinking, not realizing the cultural difference. In Bahrain where both sides are social media savvy, he tried to report both sides but found himself being chided for retweeting pro-government messages. In a global effort, he uses his team of citizen journalists to expose a bogus blogger.

Distant Witness is a collection of today's war stories told through social media and is recommended reading in some college journalism and social media classes. The book should be required reading for all journalism students and those of us that cherish the integrity of reporting in an evolving media world.

Diane Skelton

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Competitions and Workshops:

Alabama Writer's Conclave 2014 Conference

www.alabamawritersconclave.org

Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet
July 11-13, 2014
University of South Alabama Campus
Fairhope, Alabama

Call for Submissions:

Deadline: April 30

Awards of \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25 will be awarded for the first through fourth place in the following categories:

First Novel Chapters (1,500 wds)
Short Story (1,500 wds)
Flash Fiction (500 wds)
Juvenile Fiction (1,500 wds)
Creative Nonfiction (1,500 wds)
Poetry (1,000 total word count, may include more than one poem)

See the Alabama Writers Conclave website for details about the conference and for information on the contest judges.

*Note:

Jeff Santosuosso, WFLF member and Board Director, won the \$75 award in 2013 for his poem, *Carnival*. You can find Jeff's poem in the Alabama Writer's Conclave publication at www.alalit.com.

Bitter Oleander Press Library of Poetry Book Award

www.bitteroleander.com

4983 Tall Oaks Drive
Fayetteville, NY 13066

Paul B. Roth, Editor

The annual prize is given for a poetry collection.

Deadline: June 16, 2014

*Note:

Tom Holmes of Hattiesburg, Mississippi won the 2013 Library of Poetry Book Award for *The Cave*. He received \$1000 and his book will be published in the fall of 2014

2014 Renew/Join with the West Florida Literary Federation

Dues:

For your first year, prorated for the month you join plus for the number of months remaining in the year:

Individual \$2.50/month ~ Couple \$4.25/month ~ Student \$1.25/month

Subsequent years, due annually January 1st:

Individual \$30 ~ Couple \$50 ~ Student \$15 ~ Two years ~ individual \$50 ~ couple \$85

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Circle the items you *do not* want published in the WFLF "members only" directory: (1) address (2) phone or (3) email. If no item is circled, we will include all your information in the next published directory

Mail with your check to: West Florida Literary Federation (Tax Deductible!)
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