



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

July 2014

JULY 15 THIRD TUESDAY



Pensacola Storyteller Wesley Odom will spin a few Pensacola tales to open West Florida Literary Federation's open mic Tuesday, July 15 at Pensacola Cultural Center. He'll present "Beyond the Beach -- Pensacola's Best Stories" in a multi media format. Odom is well known for recreating historic Pensacola tales and the narration for Go Retro, Pensacola's Premier Tour Company. Area poets and writers are invited to share their own works following Odom's presentation. Come to listen or read. Open to the public. Pensacola Cultural Center, 400 S. Jefferson, Second Floor, Board Room.

Open Mic
6:30 Pot Luck Refreshments
7:00 Readings Begin

Second Floor, Pensacola Cultural Center



The Summer Day

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean-
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up
and down-
who is gazing around with her enormous and
complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly
washes her face.

Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the
fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one
wild and precious life?

*Mary Oliver, The House Light Beacon Press
Boston, 1990.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer Writers

Put down that book and pick up a pen -- or start typing.

It's challenging to write during the summer. We are programmed to be summer readers, *not* summer writers. Americans have been in the habit of summer reading since the late 1890s. It's ingrained in our psyche.

We take novels to the beach and on vacation. We read more than usual. Our kids join summer reading programs at public libraries, and we prepare for our fall book clubs. As teachers we read along with our students; as parents and grandparents we encourage our children and grandchildren to read.

I'm looking for a way to reprogram myself. I want to be a summer writer. I need to stay away from the library, steer clear of the bookstore and avoid bookbub.com and its free Kindle books.

I'm looking for incentives. Several podcasts have mentioned a free software program that encourages writers. When Write or Die by Dr. Wicked first came out, writers were penalized if they didn't meet their goals – words erased from their screens right before their eyes. Yikes. Fortunately, the new version offers rewards rather than penalties – a carrot, not a stick. I prefer people over software. My Wednesday critique group provides a great incentive by reading what I've written. Then they hold me to my personal deadlines and encourage me to write more.

Rather than newspaper supplements and escape novels, this summer I'm reading my "Writer's Digest" magazine and books about writing. I'm making myself write along with Natalie Goldberg's prompts as I read her wonderful book *Old Friend from Far Away: The Practice of Memoir Writing*.

I'm preparing my answer for a new end-of-the-summer question.

Come September, I challenge you to ask me "What did you *write* over the summer?"

Diane Skelton, President

WFLF ANNOUNCES SEPTEMBER POETRY CHAPBOOK CHALLENGE OFFERS CASH & PUBLICATION

SAVE THE DATE! JOIN THE WFLF SEPTEMBER
POEM-A-DAY CHAPBOOK CHALLENGE!

LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS IN YOUR AUGUST
"LEGEND" BUT FOR NOW . . .

Here's what you need to know:

- SEPTEMBER 1-30, 2014, WFLF will post each morning on its Facebook page a daily poetry prompt.
- WFLF POETS (MUST BE WFLF MEMBERS OR PLACE MEMBERSHIP WITH CHAPBOOK MANUSCRIPT TO QUALIFY) are challenged to write a poem each day (no matter where you may be on the planet) within 24 hours (or so) from when the prompt is posted. Don't worry: If you fall behind or start late, you CAN play catch up (**NO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED POEMS** PLEASE).
- Poets do NOT have to register or post anywhere to participate.
- The challenge will conclude 24 hours after the final prompt is posted.
- This challenge is unique because poets are expected to take all the material they've written in SEP and create a chapbook manuscript during the month of OCT 2014. (Yes, you can revise material, and yes, the chapbook should be composed of poems written for the challenge—WFLF is using the honor system.)
- Poets have until 11:59 PM CENTRAL TIME FRI 24 OCT 2014 to **submit a manuscript of 15-25 pages in length (not including table of contents, title page, etc.) with no more than one poem per page**. So if you wrote 50 poems in SEP 2014, you have to narrow them down to **your best 20** (or fewer).
- Submit manuscripts online to WFLF with \$15 fee and the subject line: **2014 WFLF SEP PAD Chapbook Challenge**. (The subject line is very important.)
- The goal will be to announce a winning manuscript by WFLF 3rd Tuesday Open Mic NOV 2014.

ENTRY FEE: \$15

PRIZE: \$150 PLUS FIVE (5) copies of chapbook (may also be available via "print on demand" for a small fee).

CONTACT: Katherine Nelson-Born; bcs.editor@gmail.com;
(850) 221-6275 (wireless)

FROM THE BOARD. . .

Next month's Legend will announce the new Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida. The induction date is October 11.

On June 30, WFLF submitted a grant application to Florida Humanities Council, thanks to the hard work of John Baradell who initiated the original process, which was approved by the Board. WFLF is applying for funds to assist in hosting the White Sands Writer's Workshop, which will educate writers and community residents interested in writing with concurrent lectures and workshops. By offering a variety of genres, participants can choose topics that most interest them. The workshops ends with a program of local book launches, readings by poets and induction of the new Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida. Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 11. The writer's workshop will be at Pensacola Cultural Center and the evening festivities will be held at Artel Gallery. We hope to have both Dr. Caren Neile, noted Florida Storyteller teacher from Florida Atlantic University, and Dr. Peter Meinke, author and Poet Laureate of St. Petersburg, at the event, along with our own retiring Poet Laureat Julie DeMarko.

500 Voices: Illustrated Children's Poetry of Florida. Under further consideration and careful examination of the needs of our project, The Board of WFLF feels the \$14,021 grant from the State of Florida for a specific cultural project does not meet our needs. The lack of matching funds, misinterpretation of the original procedures and loss of the key artist, has made us unable to continue the grant process.

**WFLF thanks Bingo Paradise
4469 Mobile Hwy, Pensacola, FL 32506
(850) 457-0067
for its continued financial support!**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joyce Smandra
Ann Duncan

Writers Weekly Workshops Room 210 at the Cultural Center

MONDAY PURE POETRY LOUNGE 6 – 8 p.m. 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. ~ 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.

WEDNESDAY SUMMER WORKSHOP 4 – 6 p.m. Temporarily cancelled. If you're interested in reviving this workshop in the fall, contact Andrea Walker ~ andrea48@aol.com

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

CREATIVE WRITING

That We May Bear True Witness

Summertime, and the living is dying
Climate change, digital age, overpopulation rage
The best of times and the worst of times before
Only the worst of times now
Sky really is falling
End really is near
Not of the planet
Just the world
End of family
End of community
End of our country
End of humanity
Still God sees the truth, but waits
What purpose do truthful writers have
When truthful writing is no longer valued
Why does not God deliver us
From this historical hell
Perhaps that we may bear true witness
To this end
That we may chronicle it, record it
On paper
That when the last artificial light goes out
Something will remain
In writing
To tell what happened here.

Scott Mayo

Haiku

Sunset slips into
The shirt pocket of a cloud
Saving its orange light.

Lynn McLargin

***Your creative writing here –
If you don't send it,
we can't print it!***

Tracy's Secret Garden

My neighbor asked me to water a few plants while she and her family were out of town over the weekend. Happy to oblige, I followed her through the back gate for instructions. The fragrance of jessamine, the brilliant St. Augustine grass, and pink azaleas that seemed to laugh invaded my senses at once. I looked around with pleasure.

She chattered, showing me the potted basil, mint, petunias, hibiscus and tiny tomatoes already bearing fruit in shades from green to yellow, orange and red. She apologized for the clutter, but all I could see was happiness. Toys lay in disarray on the shaded patio; chairs and benches welcomed the weary on the patio, sun deck and from against the back fence.

We dodged ants while she told me what needed water and what didn't, and my eyes followed the length of the hose to the side of the house where the faucet must wait. I noticed the grill from which aromatic scents had wafted over the fence into my back yard over the years.

A large oak shaded half the yard; neighboring magnolias and pines reached high with shiny green leaves, big white blossoms and long spindly needles. The birds that I listen to happily every morning flittered back and forth along with squirrels that leapt and scampered, recognizing no boundary of privacy fence. Indeed, the fence is simply part of the squirrels' playground equipment.

I love to think of magic and secret beauty that is hidden until we open our eyes to it. Tracy's secret garden motivated me to go home and work on my own back yard, which I love and enjoy fully. But it made me think of so much more, like how I'd wondered for ten years what it looked like; how such beauty could lie barely beyond my realm of vision; how what we can't see is always around us.

And that's really the best part – how we only need to open our eyes and hearts and souls to the beauty that surrounds us. It's always there; it's always been there. We were too wrapped up in ourselves to see it. *Andrea*

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

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*.

NEW

contest: Poetry Society of Arizona

contest: Poets Roundtable of Arkansas

2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Check out our website at www.wflf.org or like us on Facebook West Florida Literary Federation

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Florida-Literary-Federation-WFLF/255101747857712?ref=hl>

Free Contests for Writers

StoryQuarterly

The Literary Magazine at Rutgers-Camden

StoryQuarterly is interested in literary fiction, including short stories, short shorts, novel excerpts (up to 6,250 words), and creative nonfiction for the January, 2015 edition.

All work must be submitted electronically.

Submissions for the **Annual Fiction Contest** open in June and close in October.

Entries for the **Annual Essay Contest** in March of each year must be submitted by the August deadline.

www.storyquarterlycamdenrutgers.edu/submissions

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 _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ e-mail _____

New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

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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Pensacola, FL 32502-5902



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