



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

January 2015



January 20 THIRD TUESDAY

OPEN MIC



Local Author to Read from Water Skiing on the Amazon

Patricia Taylor Edmisten, former University of West Florida professor, Peace Corps volunteer, and author of six books, will read from her newest book, *Water Skiing on the Amazon: A Memoir for My Grandchildren*, at West Florida Literary Federation's Third Tuesday Open Mic, Tuesday, Jan. 20.

After Dr. Edmisten's opening reading, other members who have published books during 2014 will present autographed copies to WFLF for the Dr. Francis Patrick Cassidy Literary Resource Center which houses the works of regional writers. The literary library is located in WFLF's office on the second floor of the Pensacola Cultural Center.

Area writers are invited to read their works at the free event which is open to the public.

Pot Luck Refreshments at **6:30** followed by readings at **7 p.m.**

Come to listen or to read.

Second Floor Board Room, Pensacola Cultural Center, 400 S. Jefferson Street



Pensacola, FL 32502 **For more information visit** www.wflf.org

President's Message
My Candle Burns at Both Ends

So much to learn and not enough time to learn it! That's the dilemma I face with my writing goals for 2015. They seem simple enough -- publish the memoir, revise the novel, build an author website, take a course or attend a workshop to better my writing skills.

As a former teacher, the last goal excites me the most. At Pensacola State, Jamey Jones is teaching a poetry class and Andrea Walker is facilitating a continuing education class. Both PSC and UWF continuing ed catalogs list Ed2Go online classes with writing topics ranging from fantasy to mystery, romance, memoir, magazine, children's and screen writing to travel and e-publishing.

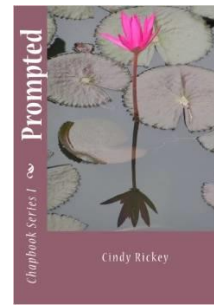
Leisure Learning at UWF is offering special sessions entitled "Afternoons with Eudora Welty: First Lady of Southern Literature," "Unsolved Homicide, Can You Solve the Mystery?" Van Deese as "Storyteller", and "Phenomenal Woman: The Poetry of Maya Angelou." Plus renowned storyteller John Appleyard is gathering a never before told story – "History of Pensacola Citizens' Contributions During World War I & II" – for Leisure Learning.

Decisions. Decisions.

I'm also looking for a close conference similar to Weekend with Your Novel at University of Wisconsin in Madison. But any quality literary event will do, like traveling to Monroeville, Alabama, for the "To Kill A Mockingbird" event or to Montgomery to visit the home of *Great Gatsby's* Zelda and see a performance at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

I look forward to the workshops that WFLF, under new leadership, might offer in 2015. Along with attending my critique group every Wednesday, I hope to see a WFLF workshop on author publishing (aka self-publishing) offered so I can accomplish goal number one – publish the memoir.

Diane Skelton



Prompted, the winning chapbook penned by North Carolina poet Cindy Rickey for WFLF's September Poem-A-Day Challenge, is now available on Amazon. A limited number of copies will be for sale at open mic. WFLF members will be familiar with her poetry. "For My Daughter, So You Understand," one of poems in the collection, was featured in last month's *Legend*. In 2013, three of her poems were accepted for the *Emerald Coast Review*.

Prompted, was compiled and edited by the WFLF team of Katherine Nelson-Born, Ryn Holmes and Dale Fairbanks. The lily pad cover image is symbolic of Rickey's nickname, Pond Poet.

Along with publication and five copies of *Prompted*, Rickey won a \$150 cash prize. Rickey is also a winner of the NYC Office of Cultural Affairs and Mayor Bloomberg's Poetweet contest in honor of National Poetry Month, published in *MetroNY*, and picked up the next day by *The New York Times* blog. The NYC Office of Cultural Affairs also published one of her poems as part of their Envelope Project on their Poem in Your Pocket NYC Facebook page. Her first book of poetry, *A Year in the Life of an Unemployed Poet*, was published in 2011.

Her poetry has also been published in *Blueline*; *Avocet*, *A Journal of Nature Poems*; *Avocet Weekly*; *Kakalak*; *Red Fez*; *Poetry Pacific*; *The Mountaineer*; *Miller's Pond Poetry Magazine*; *On Your Mark*; *Sacred Visions*; and several anthologies. She holds a B.S. in English from Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, NY, and an M.S. in Health Services Administration from Iona College, New Rochelle, NY. She is a member of Academy of American Poets, North Carolina Poetry Society, and Mountain Writers of Western North Carolina.

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. 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 tewsd@bellsouth.net

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 Wednesdays. 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 ~ Ora Wills owills@bellsouth.net.

Save the Date -- Saturday, February 14 -
- spend Valentine's Evening with lovers of
literature at the annual meeting at the home
of Joe and Marilyn Howard in Gulf Breeze.
An evening to remember -- bring a covered
dish and something you love to read.

PUBLISHED A BOOK IN 2014?
Let WFLF preserve it for you

Part of WFLF's tradition is to preserve the literary history of West Florida. To achieve this, we shelve and house works by area writers along with the WFLF's publications in the Francis P. Cassidy Literary Resource Center. Please ensure that WFLF preserves your words for the future generations of Northwest Florida. If you've published a book in 2014, please bring an autographed copy to January's Open Mic for official presentation to the library. Your autographed donation is meant for reference, not checkout, so it's nice if you bring a few copies to sell. We know of at least FOUR members who published a book in 2014!

Membership renewals were due at the end of December, but it's not too late. You will not receive an invoice for renewal, simply go to the www.wflf.org website and click on the "JOIN" tab and use PayPal to renew or print off the membership renewal form and mail it to the office with your check.

Thank you to the 21 members who responded to the WFLF Open Mic Satisfaction Survey conducted on Survey Monkey at the end of 2014.

Your voices were heard, and your input continues to be valued. The small number of participants limited the validity of the survey, coupled with some technical issues with the survey format; nevertheless, the information is being shared with both outgoing and incoming board members.

Never hesitate to share with your volunteer board your ideas for improving your organization. The West Florida Literary Federation (WFLF) values the opinion of

each WFL member as an opportunity to learn and improve for the future. Your board looks forward to serving you in 2015.

Word of South, a festival of literature and music with its inaugural event scheduled for **April 11-12, 2015**, is a unique blend of writers and musicians and an exploration of the relationship between the two disciplines. The festival, sponsored by Tallahassee Community College, will feature authors who write about music, musicians who also are authors, authors and musicians appearing together, and everything in between. From Ann Patchett to the gospel group Sweet Honey in the Rock to the joint appearance of the writer Mary Gaitskill and the musician Peg Simone, the festival promises excitement and interest to all who love books and music.

Word of South also boasts a tremendous children's program, with authors and musicians appearing who appeal specifically to children ages 2 to 18 (and above!) Click on the "Kids" link for children's events. The festival takes place on four different stages in Tallahassee's award-winning Cascades Park, which opened in 2014.

The festival will also include 50 vendors booths selling new and used books, antiquarian books, children's books and music. For more information visit

<http://www.wordofsouthfestival.com/artists/>

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

MEMBER NEWS

Karen McAferty Morris' poem "Aubade" has been accepted for publication in *Off the Coast* Winter 2015 edition. *Off the Coast* is an international poetry, writing, and photography journal based in Maine.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Mike Beck ~ Susan Feathers
Marc Livanos ~ Donna Malies
Linda Maragliotta ~ Paula Saunders**

Literary Discussion with Andrea Walker offered through continuing ed at PSC, 3 – 5, Mondays, 1/26/15 – 3/2/15 **OR** Wednesdays, 1/28 – 3/4. \$60

Theme for the **2015 Student poetry contest** will be "**The Sun, Moon and Stars...**"

Our county cradles future writers that not only need to be pushed but need to be given prompts that allow their imagination to jump up and out of themselves. That being said, "The Sun, Moon and Stars..." is easy enough for the 1st and 2nd grade division to grasp while allowing the 11th and 12th grade division to explore the outer limits of their belief structure, expand their minds and explore the dark side of the moon. I'm beyond excited to see what our county's budding authors send in this year. Please inform teachers, principals and students of the contest and its accessibility via the WFLF website as well as contest entry forms available at the main library. Let's make this the most successful year to date!

Susan Lewis

WFLF Student Poetry Contest Director

The Slate of Nominees for the 2015 Board of Directors reads

President Mac McGovern
Vice President Ed Stanford
Directors: Tabbi Barrow, Charlotte Crane, Susan Lewis, Janet Thomas, Andrea Walker

Robert (Mac) McGovern was born in Dubuque, Iowa and lived there most of his youth. Most of his adult life he served in the US Navy as a Chief Hospital Corpsman, retiring in 1995. After retiring from the Navy, he was a Home Improvement Executive and Licensed Roofing Contractor. He retired from all business in 2009.

Mac is the author of ten books of poetry and one book on Home Improvement Contracting. He is an avid supporter of children learning poetry, not as a written or spoken form to be feared, rather as the educational tool

that teaches reading, writing and the arts as no other single genre is capable.

In May 2011, he invented a new poetic form called "Interchanging Poetry," the purpose... to develop interchanging literary devices to enhance poetic discourse.

Today, Mac resides in Pensacola with the love of his life, his wife Sandra.

Ed Stanford has lived in Pensacola most of his life, having received undergraduate degrees from Pensacola State College and the University of Alabama and graduate degrees from Troy State University and the University of West Florida. He retired from the Escambia County School District in 2011 after a 38 year career that included teaching, serving as a guidance counselor, project coordinator, and school social worker.

He currently attends the Tuesday afternoon writer's group and loves the support and how the members motivate each other to keep on writing. Over the years, he has served on the boards of Ever'man Natural Foods, Learn to Read of Northwest Florida and Escambia Retired Educators Association. Hobbies include reading, photography, writing and learning.

The West Florida Literary Federation plays an important role in the community by being a creative outlet for writers and poets and nurtures and encourages local talent, all of which serves to immeasurably enrich the local cultural environment.

Susan Lewis has served on the Literary Federation's Board in the past, is the Director of the WFLF Student Poetry Contest, is V.P. of the Gulf Coast Authors, was a finalist for Northwest Florida's Poet Laureate and has published five books. She has volunteered with Hospice for the last 20 years, hosts a monthly support luncheon for Military Loved ones, has mentored Marines and Marine spouses through MCFTB/MATSG-21 for the last 5 years, and teaches poetry to elementary school children on a volunteer basis. Married for 27 years to GySgt Steve Lewis (retired) together, they have three children, Steve, Minnie and Ben.

Janet Thomas is a writer, photographer and editor for *Gosport*, a weekly paper produced for Naval Air Station Pensacola under a Ballinger Publishing contract. She roamed around the country as a Navy "brat" before landing in Pensacola. She is a graduate of the University of West Florida, and her work history includes 27 years with Gannett newspapers including *the Pensacola News Journal*, the *Montgomery Advertiser* and *USA Today*.

Charlotte Crane was business editor for 26 years for Pensacola News Journal, retiring in 2002. She then joined

Florida Trend magazine as Northwest Florida correspondent, covering 20 counties; she retired in 2012 to devote more time to writing poetry, prose and history.

Charlotte grew up in Wisconsin and has a bachelor's and a master's degree in journalism from University of Wisconsin; she has been a Pensacola resident since the 1960s. Among life's adventures: being the mother of two sons and a daughter and grandmother to one, and getting to know through her PNJ career the region's economic foundations and top entrepreneurs.

Writing continues to top her list of favorite pursuits, but she's also sometimes known as The Cookie Lady, baking monthly for Gulf Coast Kids House and sharing the kitchen hobby with neighborhood kids and friends. Volunteer service also includes writing newsletter stories and a history for Pensacola Habitat for Humanity.

Tabitha "Tabbi" Barrow is a happy mother of two young boys, Rexton (5) and Theodore (1.5). She is also an Adapted (Special Ed) Physical Education teacher in Escambia County. She has dreamed of being a writer since she was in first grade and has been hard at work on her first novel, a young adult fantasy/sci-fi, for a few years now. She feels the progress she is making would not be possible without the WFLF weekly writer's group, a diverse group with vastly different writing styles who share a passion. At times she believes she owes her sanity to the Federation. Therefore, she is honored and humbly accepts the nomination to serve on the Board of Directors. She will do all that she can to raise awareness and support of the WFLF while on the Board and beyond.

Andrea Walker has been an active member since 2005, facilitating workshops, assisting on various committees and with open mic, previously serving on the board, and currently editing *The Legend*. She is a semi-retired English teacher who will write about almost anything. She has a collection of published *Pensacola News Journal* "Viewpoints" and has work included in *Emerald Coast Reviews*, Gloria Gaynor's *We Will Survive* and several other anthologies. When not teaching at Pensacola State or writing, she fills her hours with WFLF, reading and book clubs, long walks, Tai Chi and yoga, and prayer groups. As recipient of WFLF's first scholarship awarded in 1988, she is forever grateful and dedicated to WFLF. She and her husband Bob lived in Atlanta from 1989 to 2004 where they now frequently visit two sons, their wives and two grandsons. She is also thankful for her sweet and supportive daughter Amanda who lives nearby.

*A prompt, a prompt, my kingdom for a prompt –
Oh – that was a horse. Well, I got your attention
anyway. Remember Kafka’s “Metamorphosis?”
Try this: Write a story or poem in which something
transforms into something else. Send me your
creative writing so I can use it here.*

Andrea48@aol.com

Use the words legend submission in the subject heading
please.

CREATIVE WRITING

Haiku

Gray, no sun again
bringing melancholy thoughts
the day slows its pace

~

The pond looks black just
like a cast iron skillet
it matches the sky

~

Like cymbals clashing
waves cresting then crashing
dancing to the shore

Lynn McLargin

This January Morning

The smoldering ashes of sunrise have
Cooled into a silver-blue morning.
The sky and sea are distinguished only by their
textures.

The water gleams like a vast vein of mica
Under a heavy quilt of clouds.
A school of fish puckers the smooth
Surface in a lazy whirlpool, and farther west
A solitary duck glides, black
Against the still, polished sea.

Thirsty for meaning and beauty,
This morning I have been handed both
In a glass with an amethyst stem
Held in delicate balance over my palm.

Karen McAferty Morris

Overboard

In the water.
One with the sea
Joining my congenital twin.

No sound.
Ready for the flash.
Recalling the umbilical cord.

How free.
No regrets.
Trying not to laugh.

Calmness entrances.
Follow nearby fish.
Residing in Davey Jones Locker.

The sea claims.
It does not share.
Its welcoming stay ever known.

Reminding all -
we are but visitors,
mindful of forever no more.

Marc Livanos

BOOK REVIEWS

The Three-Mile Bridge: A Ride Worth Taking by Jack Beach

This collection of 30 poems, the poet’s
first, speaks intimately to anyone who crosses a
bridge on a daily basis – whether it’s in
Pensacola, Boston or New York. The
collection’s inspiration, the Three Mile Bridge
that crosses Pensacola Bay in Florida is real,
and the poet takes us there, morning, noon,
afternoon and night. From boats on the horizon
and cars in the next lane to wildlife above and
beneath the spans, the poems personify the
bridge’s entire environment. The height of the
bridge at midpoint is a recurring theme.
Melodious sounds, assonance, consonance,

occasional rhymes, unique word play and surprising similes showcase the poet's versatility. All the poems are strong in imagery and thought provoking. "Turning Point" is deep in symbolism while "Redneck Riviera" prompts a few chuckles. My favorite is the narrative "Miss Bonnye Sue Bonnifey Takes a Spin." Its musical refrain tells of a coed's adventures and leaves just enough to my imagination. Jack's Beach's *Three Mile Bridge* puts me in a car, listening to the radio, and takes me through a world only three miles long – and it's the best poetry trip I've ever experienced.

Diane Skelton

Review of *Water Skiing on the Amazon*
by Patricia S. Taylor Edmisten

Patricia Edmisten calls *Water Skiing on the Amazon* a memoir for her grandchildren. This narrative of an adventurous life provides a straightforward reflection readers of all ages can relate to. Edmisten begins with her background of German grandparents and early childhood living above their bakery in Milwaukee. The neighborhood of the early 1940s feels idyllic with descriptions of playing games like "Kick the Can" outside until the street lights came on. In the winter, ice skating at Washington Park and playing "Crack the Whip" were favorite activities. She is honest in the chapter "Things I Wish I Had Not Done," admitting to the sort of shenanigans most adolescents try at least once. But her Catholic upbringing and good conscience most often steered her right.

Her Peace Corps years make for fascinating reading on all levels. The Peace Corps was just getting started in the early sixties, and serving in this (loosely-organized at the time) organization required a great deal of fortitude. Although rewarding work, some of the incidents she describes are heart-wrenching. These two years enhanced her beliefs and laid

the foundation for the life of service the author has continued.

Enhanced with travel photos and family pictures, this memoir is a thought-provoking account of a remarkable life. She continues with details of marriage, children, the tragedies that touch us all. What struck me the most was the strength with which she was able to deal with change, travel, and adversity. There is not a weak bone in this woman's body. Not only will her grandchildren appreciate and cherish this book for years to come, readers will get to know someone who knows herself quite well and has no qualms about standing up for what she believes.

The book is an easy read, written in short, concise segments that are packed with information. *Water Skiing on the Amazon* delivers everything that catchy title promises.

Andrea Walker

Review of *Misfits, Hell-raisers and Orphans*
by Susan Lewis

Susan Lewis knows poetry, and poems become characters in her latest book. The title appropriately names the rebels and strays she has corralled into this collection. But tame them, she has not. Within this slim but powerful volume are poems too wild to be labeled. Lewis explores the guts of her topics then describes what she finds in her familiar, knowing voice.

Searching for beauty, read "Eve." The poem opens with "Walking on dew drops." Looking for romantic and sweet, turn to "Ella, You and Me." "Dirty Pockets" journeys deep inside a dark and wondrous place, a metaphorical wound. Life's experiences have given Lewis rare insight and compassion which she ignites with words and concrete imagery like no other. She calls them forgotten children, but they will not be forgotten.

Andrea Walker

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Emerald Coast Review Editor Regina Sakalarios-Rogers announces that beginning January 1, WFLF's literary anthology *Emerald Coast Review* will accept submissions of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, photography, graphic design and art for its 2015 publication. All artists, photographers, writers and poets are invited to submit entries celebrating the writer as artist, though submissions are not limited to this theme. ECR is a regional publication containing works about the Emerald Coast or by authors living along the Emerald Coast. The book has been published biannually by West Florida Literary Federation since 1989. Complete submission guidelines are available online at wflf.org. Reading and submission fee \$10 for four poems, up to six photos or illustrations or up to 2000 words fiction. Student entry fee \$5. Artists and writers with work selected receive a complimentary copy of *Emerald Coast Review*. Detailed submission guidelines at wflf.org. Deadline May 1. ECR will use the most popular of all online submission sites, Submittable. If you were published in the 2013 ECR and submitted via US Postal Service at that time with a check, you may request to use the same type of submission this year.

READERS NEEDED FOR *EMERALD COAST REVIEW*

If you are interested in reading submissions and helping select content for the next issue of ECR, please contact Gina Sakalarios-Rogers at ginaasr@gmail.com. We need three readers to work with Gina and an intern to read through the submissions. Readers are not barred from

submitting to ECR since submissions are blind. You will be reading most submissions from the submittable.com site, so no copying costs or bombardment of emails cluttering your inbox. Most communications between readers and editor will be via email with one meeting necessary for final decisions and sorting out of split votes.

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**Emerald Coast Review Submission Form
For mail-in payments**

Author Name _____

Phone or Email _____

Submission Options

Titles Included in Each Category

Option 1: 4 poetry entries, up to 400 lines, \$10

Option 2: Short fiction, flash fiction, nonfiction, 1 entry \$10

Option 3: Art, photography, 6 image limit \$10

Option 4: Student entry, \$5 category

Total submission payment included _____

West Florida Literary Federation ~ Join or Renew ~ 2015

Memberships are good for one calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31. Individual membership is \$30/year. New members joining after July 15, pay \$15 or may pay \$45 which also pays for the following year. Subsequent years are due annually by January 1.

One Year ~ Individual \$30 ~ Couple \$50 ~ Student \$15 ~ *Two years* ~ Individual \$50 ~ Couple \$85

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

I would like to sponsor

(NAME)

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.

Use PayPal at <http://wflf.org> and email this form to westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com or mail your check and this form to

West Florida Literary Federation, 400 South Jefferson Street, Suite 212, Pensacola, FL 32502



West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.
Pensacola Cultural Center
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