



# The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

[www.wflf.org](http://www.wflf.org)

November 2015

*You are invited to a Reading and Book Signing*

## In Search of Solitude



by  
**Henry Langhorne**

*Tuesday, November 10, 2015*

Light Hors D'oeuvres & Wine at 6:30 p.m.

**Reading at 7 p.m.**

RSVP: 850-206-4608

*The Parish Hall, Christ Episcopal Church  
18 W. Wright Street, Downtown Pensacola*

Limited parking in front from Wright Street.  
Additional parking in back from Belmont Street.

## NOVEMBER 17 THIRD TUESDAY and OPEN MIC



Abena {Whasayo} Isake is a poet, musician, singer and member of the "Polimbatree Griot Ensemble." Some of Abena's writing and poetry can be viewed in her

book of poetry entitled *Collage of an Ebony Soul*, WFLF's "The Writer As Artist," *The New American Press Newspaper* and *Out Front Magazine*.

**6:30 p.m. SNACKS and  
CAMARADERIE**

**Program at 7p.m. followed by  
OPEN MIC**

**Come with a snack to share and your  
creative prose as well as poetry!**

**5 minute time limit**

Come to listen or also to read. Second Floor  
Board Room, Pensacola Cultural Center,  
400 S. Jefferson Street, Pensacola, FL 32502

**For more information visit [www.wflf.org](http://www.wflf.org)**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Emerald Coast Review, "The Writer As Artist" book launch was a wonderful event launching a wonderful book of which we can all be proud. If you did not get your copy, we still have a few copies available for sale.

December 4, 2015 is the launch of the Children's Poetry Contest Book, "The Sun, Moon, and Stars" in the Portobello Atrium at the Cultural Center. This should be a great event. If it is as big as the readings, it will be a huge opportunity for us to be able to put the Federation in the public eye and increase membership. I highly encourage you all to attend. It is scheduled from 4-6pm, on a Friday night. Come out and support one of our most important annual events.

Open Mic this month is also an event you might not want to miss. Abena (Whasayo) Isake is one of our newest members. She will be reading some of her best poetry from her new book and is looking forward to meeting you and learning more about the Federation.

I look forward to seeing you at the book launch and Open Mic. I hope you all have a very Happy Thanksgiving and one filled with the joy of laughter and merriment as loved ones gather to celebrate.

I extend to all who worked to make both the ECR and Children's Poetry books a success, my most heartfelt admiration and appreciation.

*Mac McGovern*  
*WFLF President*

## Writers Weekly Workshops Room 210 at the Cultural Center

**MONDAY WILD WRITING POETRY WORKSHOP** 2 ~ 4 p.m. Come write, play, and explore the world of poetry in this writing workshop ~ For details contact Ora Wills, [owills@bellsouth.net](mailto:owills@bellsouth.net)

**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. Just show up with a great attitude and willingness to work together. [susanlewisbooks@yahoo.com](mailto:susanlewisbooks@yahoo.com)

**TUESDAY WRITING FOR PUBLICATION** 10 a.m. ~ noon. For seasoned writers and members of WFLF who are working on book-length manuscripts and seeking publication. Manuscripts and written critiques are emailed within members of the group and then members discuss their comments. The group is limited to seven writers ~ Ron Tew, [tuesday@bellsouth.net](mailto:tuesday@bellsouth.net)

**TUESDAY WRITERS' GUILD** 4 ~ 6 p.m.. Each writer brings work, primarily prose, to read aloud and takes others' work home to critique. WFLF membership is required. ~ Ed Stanford, [estanford@cox.net](mailto:estanford@cox.net)

**THURSDAY PORTFOLIO SOCIETY 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 9 - 11 a.m.** This workshop includes writers with a project(s) they hope to accomplish in one calendar year. Sessions involve timed discussions for each participant and can include critiques or discussion of issues as marketing and publishing. Work may include any genre. The self-paced workshop is facilitated by participants. Limited to seven members of WFLF. For more information contact, [dianeskelton@att.net](mailto:dianeskelton@att.net)

**THIRD THURSDAY YOUTH CREATIVE WRITING** 6 ~ 8 p.m. This workshop has been created specifically for writers still attending school. In a non-judgmental and relaxed environment, young poets will be encouraged to explore new ways of thinking in regards to writing, as well as support each other in this endeavor. This class will explore the essence of creativity in writing, while supplying young writers with basic yet critical poetry/creative writing rules. Approximate age range 14-18. [susanlewisbooks@yahoo.com](mailto:susanlewisbooks@yahoo.com)

**Calling All Poets!** Put your poetic talents toward a Clean Energy Future. 350 Pensacola is hosting the Clean Energy Fest during the Foo Food Festival to help our community envision the local transition to solar, wind, geothermal, pedal-power and other clean energy sources.

350 Pensacola is building a movement to unite the world around solutions to the climate crisis. 350 is the number of parts per million of atmospheric carbon dioxide that scientists considered a safe level to sustain life as we know it.

What kind of transformation will happen in our area? For poets, what is that internal shift that might make it happen? What are the values, feelings, ethics that might emerge?

Get out your ink pen and start writing. Join the Clean Energy Fest to help us understand what might happen, how it might change us, get us somewhere we've always wanted to go, or whatever comes to your creative mind about energy reformation.

Please contact Susan Feathers to arrange for a poetry reading during the Clean Energy Fest:

[520-400-4117](tel:520-400-4117) [susanleefeathers@gmail.com](mailto:susanleefeathers@gmail.com)

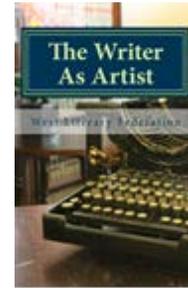
**READING WILL TAKE PLACE SATURDAY, NOV. 14, in conjunction with the art exhibit. Time TBA**

[Panoplyzine.com](http://panoplyzine.com) announces its **Call for Submissions for Issue 2**. The submission period ends at midnight, **November 22, 2015**. Please visit <https://panoplyzine.submittable.com/submit/> for guidelines and to submit. We appreciate your interest! Please limit submissions to 5 items per issue (poetry and prose considered as separate entries). Flash fiction and flash non-fiction will be considered in each category, limited to 500 words. To maximize diversity, we publish no more than one work per contributor per issue. We read 100% blind, so do not include your name or any other identifying information.

**Please visit the site for more detail.**

## MEMBER NEWS

### *Emerald Coast Review* *The Writer as Artist*



Purchase your copy from the office  
or order from Amazon.

**The WFLF BOARD still has an immediate opening for SECRETARY. Please consider “giving back” to your organization with your skills and minimal time. Or, if you know someone who may be interested, please ask him or her to contact Mac McGovern at [poetrybymac@aol.com](mailto:poetrybymac@aol.com) or any board member.**

#### **The 2016 Alabama Writing Workshop**

Homeric Writers' Retreat & Workshop is excited to announce The Alabama Writing Workshop — a full-day “How to Get Published” writing event in Birmingham, AL on **February 19, 2016**.

<http://alabamawritingworkshop.com/2015/06/01/the-2016-alabama-writing-workshop-feb-19-2015/>

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



2015 Escambia County  
Student Poetry  
Book Launch

*You are cordially invited to the launch  
of the 2015 Escambia County  
Student Poetry Book,  
which contains the winning poems  
from West Florida Literary  
Federation's  
2015 Student Poetry Contest  
"The Sun, Moon and Stars."  
Light refreshments will be available.*

**Date:** Fri., Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Time:** 4:00pm-6:00pm

**Where:** Portobello

Pensacola Cultural Center  
400 South Jefferson Street  
Pensacola, FL

*Students will be asked to sign  
the Literary Federation's copy  
as well as the  
contest director's copy.*

*If you have questions, please contact  
contest director, Susan Lewis  
susanlewisbooks@yahoo.com*

CREATIVE WRITING

Captive

Angie wanted goldfish  
So we bought goldfish  
For a couple of days they  
Swam in the bowl  
But the next day they floated on  
Their backs, dead as doornails  
And Angie cried

We bought other goldfish  
And they died  
And out they went  
And Angie cried

We bought all kinds of creatures  
Some crawled out of their  
Boxes and under the house  
Where they died

Should we cease to keep these  
Creatures captive  
Let's observe the  
Ones who flutter about  
In their natural habitat  
See how free they are  
And how miserable must be  
The creatures kept in zoos  
Or performing tricks in circuses  
Can we be so un-nerved  
When  
Some jungle cat attacks its trainer  
Or some other creature  
Goes berserk and kills the object of  
Its torment?  
Should we not let these creatures  
Roam free rather than suffer  
For our momentary  
Amusement?

Ora Wills

## Dolphin Morning

In the silence of sunrise on Thanksgiving morning  
We take our coffee out to the end of the dock.  
The gold pollen glow of the eastern sky  
Bathes the smooth sea,  
Briefly it glistens like honey.  
Soon the water darkens to pewter, the grainy air  
Clears and sharpens.  
We glimpse a school of mullet submarining  
Just underfoot and in excited whispers discuss  
Getting the net for a lucky toss—  
When suddenly, nearby, part of the sea arches  
In a quick crescent of liquid gray—  
A dolphin feeding in the season's bountiful depths,  
And, transfixed, I track its desultory journey  
Until no more sickle strikes cut the water.

The winter, spring, and summer pass in a life  
Blocked like a play with inconsistent direction—  
Sometimes inspiring, largely mundane,  
Occasionally shaken by sorrows and  
uncompromising conflicts.

And often I think of the dolphin's smooth, curving  
surfacing,  
And how very like the truth it is—how  
We are permitted only shiny seconds of it and how  
It is different for each of us, according to where we  
are standing,  
The angle, the glint of the sun, the sheen of water  
cascading off—  
How we must be content to catch sight of it at all  
When most of our hours are spent as weary  
watchers  
Of the opaque, sunblinding sea.

*Karen McAferty Morris*

## Feet of Clay

She thought I walked on water  
like the man from Galilee,  
for I could do no wrong,  
or not any she could see.  
Through the years we share as one,  
she watched me as I fell.  
My feet are made of clay,  
but she loves me just as well.

*Richard Hurt*

### **Review of *The Gumbo Diaries*** by Diane Jones Skelton

A light memoir, fun to read describes Diane Jones Skelton's *The Gumbo Diaries*. The book is a collection of short essays arranged as Skelton says as nouns, some people, places and things of her life. Each separate piece, however, resides comfortably in that fourth noun category, ideas. Themes of love, fear, courage, friendship, helping others along with the rewards of teaching, and family life weave in and out of the vignettes, seasoned with generous measurements of humor.

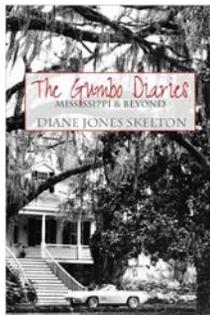
The places are set from Florida through the Deep South of Mississippi and Louisiana, to Texas and into Kansas. The regional flavor of New Orleans' beignets, smoked mullet in Mississippi, and, of course, gumbo no matter where she's living make the reader's mouth water. Skelton also takes the reader to Cuba with dreams of seeing places of her ancestry and on her travels to England, Scotland and Wales. Her literary allusions will satisfy the best of readers.

Skelton works with all the senses: the frozen squirrel in "Icy Demise," the cotton candy gumbo in "It Smells Like the Fair," myriad noises of the loud family in "The Sounds of Silence," and always the visuals: picking plums along the roadway, the heavily-wooded grounds where deer freely roam, a lime green rocking chair, and the still life of the redbud tree.

Tucked inside the humorous slices of life, the human factor transcends time and place. Skelton discusses the three students she “may have saved,” the friendly people in Mississippi, the courage of her ancestor who migrated 720 miles across the Gulf of Mexico in a sugar barrel, and the memory of speaking with her best friend just days before she died.

*The Gumbo Diaries* cooks up to a delicious pot of vignettes. Skelton’s writing skill turns everyday experiences, observations and things into delectable morsels you’ll savor for a while, a little book you’ll treasure and return to when you want to feel good.

*Andrea Walker*



**2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
WEST FLORIDA LITERARY FEDERATION

President: Mac McGovern

Vice President: Ed Stanford

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Director: Charlotte Crane

Director: Susan Lewis

Director: Janet Thomas

Director/Legend editor: Andrea Walker

Directors can be contacted at

WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com

For submissions contact Editor: Andrea Walker

[andrea48@aol.com](mailto:andrea48@aol.com)

Check out our website at [www.wflf.org](http://www.wflf.org) and “Like” us on Facebook, (under) West Florida Literary Federation. Please visit often for updates and other Federation news.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Florida-Literary-Federation->

[WFLF/255101747857712?ref=hl](http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Florida-Literary-Federation-WFLF/255101747857712?ref=hl)

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

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

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

I would like to sponsor  
(NAME)

To sponsor a new member in WFLF. Add \$20 to total payment & include member information on a separate form.



**West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.**  
**Pensacola Cultural Center**  
**400 South Jefferson Street Suite 212**  
**Pensacola, FL32502**