



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

December 2015

**DECEMBER 15 ~ THIRD TUESDAY
OPEN MIC ~ HOLIDAY FUN**

This month YOU are the program!

**Put on your holiday cheer,
bring your favorite work of joy to read,
poetry or prose,
and don't forget a festive snack to share.**



**6:30 p.m. SNACKS and CAMARADERIE
Open mic at 7 p.m.
5-minute reading 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**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Today, with heavy heart, I announce to you my decision to not continue as President for next year. I have been offered a new position that will preclude my ability to give 100% to the success of the Federation. My company has agreed to allow me time to complete this year's obligations for Open Mic, Board Meetings, and other duties as your President.

This year there will be three positions that will require filling at the Annual Meeting in February. They are President, Secretary, and one General Board Member. If any of you are interested in filling one of these positions or nominating a member, please contact me or one of the current Board Members.

I wish to thank you all for your support and allowing me to serve you as your President. I believe the current Board is a great group who will move the Federation forward in promoting membership and youth related programs.

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. I am again asking all of you to promote student memberships and memberships from among your friends. Currently, we have three major events we entertain; Open Mic, the Children's Poetry Contest, and the Emerald Coast Review. I encourage the Board to continue to look at events that inspire the members and encourage greater participation.

In particular, Open Mic is our opportunity to socialize and enjoy poetry and prose in a setting that provides opportunities to welcome new members and make announcements in a timely manner. The readings are always a pleasure to hear and fulfill all expectations of quality work and very talented writers. This is one program we must both promote and attend on a regular basis. Our next event is on December 15. Please plan on attending.

Annual dues are due by January 1st. Since I do not have a Secretary, if I could complete our membership list by then, it would be greatly appreciated.

I am grateful to have the support of a wonderful Board. I will continue to support them, you, and the Federation. As circumstance provides, I will remain faithful to its mission, helping members who desire to publish and realize their dream of becoming a published author, as well as participating in Federation events.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and look forward to seeing you at Open Mic.

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

MONDAY PURE POETRY LOUNGE 6 ~ 8 p.m. 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

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

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

THURSDAY PORTFOLIO SOCIETY 1st, 2nd, and 4th 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

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 The workshop will not be in session December but will resume January 21st and continue.

URGENT

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 or any board member.

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

MEMBER NEWS

The Sun, the Moon and the Stars



Susan Lewis and students at the book signing of children’s poetry December 4 at Portabello

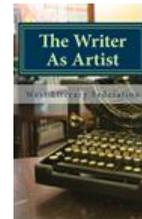


Dr. Henry Langhorne’s ninth book of poetry *In Search of Solitude* is out. I attended his recent reading and signing at Christ Episcopal Church and was glad to see many WFLF members there as well.

In Search of Solitude is filled with the quiet, gentle poetry we’ve come to expect from Dr. Langhorne. It’s an honor to know him. I’m including one poem from this collection. *Andrea*

Karen McAferty Morris received the national honorable mention in the Write a Dear Reader Contest. The essay was presented at their Dec. book club and is available online. Karen said she heard about the contest through the WFLF Facebook page. *Read Karen’s beautiful essay on the WFLF Facebook page.*

*Emerald Coast Review
The Writer as Artist*



Purchase your copy from the office.
They make nice Christmas gifts.



Also, 500 Voices T-shirts for sale.
Large size only ~ **\$10**

Tribute to Trudy

Brain tumor removed in Philadelphia,
Heart patched up in New Orleans,
Ovaries out in Phoenix.
Trudy is on the far side of eighty.
She doesn't worry about gray hair.
Turbans, wigs, and scarves
cannot hide the fact:
She has no gray hair.
No hair at all.
Trudy is fighting Cancer.

Trudy also has deep inside
something that cannot be removed,
perhaps not even named.
It's that thing that a short time ago
urged her to climb and camp for three days
to get to the top of Machu Picchu in Peru,
go bouncing out into the choppy bay
with grandchildren on a wave runner,
flaunt herself in a calendar as a sexy 20's flapper
to make money for the local opera.

It is as if Trudy has preserved a youthful version of
herself
that mocks the frail body that betrays her,
tries to pull her down, battles with her will to live.
Where does the indomitable spirit come from?
Is it courage, a strong faith, maybe a bit of
stubbornness?
Perhaps it grew from the suffering Trudy endured
as a child during the War:
the loss of her beloved 19-year-old brother killed in
first combat,
a clandestine transport out of Czechoslovakia at age
eleven,
only to land in greater peril in Austria, living with
unkind strangers,
then relegated to a refugee camp,
separated from friends and family,
homesick and hungry, often ill.
A girl with nothing to laugh about.

It seems that all these years later that brave little girl
has come back to shore up Trudy,

and she has come back smiling and full of youthful
fire.

Trudy was alone the day her daughter,
ironically stricken with cancer also,
gave up her fight with the fierce killer.
I stay with her until her husband can get a flight
home.
We try to make sense of the tangled mess of sea
green yarn
I have brought for us to unravel when words fail.
Pull hard here, gently there;
Be patient and attentive;
irritation and haste will break the thread,
snarl it worse than before.
Like true poets, we work the metaphor,
slowly setting tangles free.
Trudy manages to laugh.
If only life were that easy.

A year has passed since that night.
I must finish my poem.
We laughed together a few weeks ago
as we planned our annual feast for Oktoberfest:
Sauerbraten at my house. Trudy would make the
spaetzle as usual.
We would agree to disagree about apples in the red
cabbage,
and I would surprise her with a Black Forest Cherry
Cake.

The agreed on evening came, but Trudy didn't.
Without fanfare, she had quietly changed her
destination,
accepted the final unraveling,
the breaking of the thread.

Julie DeMarko

*Trudy Cutrone, a long-time member of WFLF,
passed away November 3. A native of Austria, she
had lived in the United States since 1955. A mother
and grandmother, Trudy was active in her church,
and will be missed by many.*

Flash fiction is not exactly new, but I'm hearing more about it lately. If you type *flash fiction* into a search, you'll surely find a definition you like among the many sites that pop up. Short bursts of powerful writing, flash fiction can be any length from six words to 1500.

Here's a famous one by Ernest Hemingway: "For sale: baby shoes, never worn."

I invite you to visit some sites, read some suggestions, techniques and examples; then try your pen or keyboard. Keep it around three hundred words and send it to me for future Legends. Remember WFLF is about all types of creative writing.

Andrea

CREATIVE WRITING

A skein of snow geese
slowly threading their way through
a pale winter sky.

Lynn McLargin

Something Small

Witness the cold December sun
Make shadows of oak limbs
That creep across the wooden porch
As the light of evening dims.

Gaze at the kitchen sink
Half filled with cups and glasses.
Stand beside the decorated window
And wonder how the day passes.

Leave gift wrappings on the floor,
The ornamental tree leaning toward the wall.
Stay in pajamas and drink coffee.
Make much of something small.

Henry Langhorne

Christmas Snow: Belgium '85

Funny,
No snow in Brussels;
Yet ten miles past Waterloo
snow dusts fields,
loiters in black furrows,
In the Ardennes around Bastogne
we are suddenly driving
smack-dab through

a wintry Bruegel painting.

Snow blotches at dusk,
like washed sheets
spread out to dry,
Cling shadowless
to *moule* hills, their
corners weighted down
by squat farms
(to prevent them from
blowing into Luxembourg?)

White Bruegel sky
canopies late afternoon
smoke-mist blurs hollows
where I fancy
peasant crones brew
secret stews
to thick iron cauldrons.
Patchwork houses hobble by,
bombed-out gaps
in their stone walls
plugged with wood or brick,
tar paper, cinderblock –
motley reminders of long wars.

Jack Beach

Gray sky, charcoal trees
swaying in time with the wind
and promise of snow.

Lynn McLargin

Come Winter
(Inspired by Sappho)

I water my garden this evening and think,
When he comes again it will be winter.

The barberry, spilling now like wine, will be
Bare, and so the birch and the tendrilled jasmine.

Gone too will be the sun's tawny touch on my skin
While without pause time will apply featherstrokes
to my eyes.

Now, though, in valediction the sun blazes through
the arbor,
Glazing with copper my hair as it falls across my
cheek:

Fire-flooded skies will warm the approach of winter
nights,
And distant stars, more distinct, will replace their
sister sun.

Karen McAferty Morris

4014
A PREDICTION

Two thousand years ago
A man lived free, but filled with bitterness for
A nation beset with woe
His fragmented image lies strewn before me
Over Russia he reigned
Though by its diminished presence
He vowed to restore his
Land
To its once proud state
Today in the ruins his
Visage lies broken
His arrogance now subdued
The arms and legs lie askew
And across the vast broken land
No life remains
An inscription scattered asunder
Reads "My name is Vladimir

Look on my grandeur, you who dream of greatness,
and
Learn well."
A take on "Ozymandias"

Ora Wills

CONFERENCES

Panama City, FL – The Language & Literature Division at Gulf Coast State College will be hosting the first annual **GCSC Conference for Writers**. The conference primarily comprises three days of small, three-hour, single genre workshops in fiction, screenwriting, poetry and non-fiction. The conference will be conducted by the GCSC English faculty who are published writers and are committed to innovative teaching and mentoring. Attendees will submit a literary work (or works) to be discussed by fellow participants and the workshop leader. Space is limited and registration is required.

- The conference will be held **March 4, 5 and 6, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**
- Tuition is **\$50 for non-students**; \$25 for GCSC and FSU students (full or part-time).
- Continental breakfast each morning and a commemorative t-shirt will be provided.
- Conference faculty include:
 - Lynn Wallace (Screenwriting)
 - Tabitha Parker (Non-fiction)
 - Amber Clark (Poetry)
 - Douglas Wells (Fiction)

The **deadline to register is December 18, 2015**. Detailed conference information and application form can be found on the GCSC Language & Literature web page at www.gulfcoast.edu/la

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/>

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<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 _____

**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.

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



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