



# The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

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

October 2015

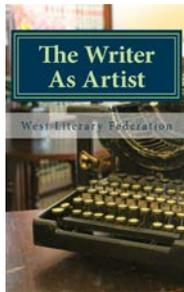
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## JOIN US TO CELEBRATE TWO EVENTS IN OCTOBER

*Emerald Coast Review* release party

**Friday October 16th, from 5:30 - 8**

The Gallery at Pensacola Cultural Center Jefferson Street



### OCTOBER 20 THIRD TUESDAY

The Azalea Trace Literary Guild has completed a publication of work by some of its members. At the October Open Mic, Richard Hurt will read from the publication where only residents of Azalea Trace are included. These printed works are the ideas and desires of these members who are generally 85 plus years in age. Some of the works had not been reviewed in 50 or so years.

Congratulations to the members.

### 6:30 SNACKS AND CAMARADERIE

**7:00 PROGRAM followed by OPEN MIC at 7:15**

**Come with a snack to share and your creative – prose as well as poetry!  
PROSE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED (But remember our 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

October is generally the month when we anticipate a scary ending with Halloween. It is a time many attend parties dressed in costume hoping their costume wins the first prize for the best costume at the party.

This month on the 16<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the launch of the Emerald Coast Review's eighteenth edition titled *The Writer as Artist*. There will be no costumes; instead we gather in celebration of the writer and the artist in a night filled with camaraderie and readings by selected new authors.

You are invited to come and help us recognize the accomplishments of those who submitted some of the best poetry, short-stories, prose, photographs and art in a format that makes this book one of the best the Federation has published.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to all who had a part in helping bring this wonderful book to fruition, especially, Regina Sakalarious-Rogers the Director and Editor, her two wonderful interns Shawn O'Leary and Emily Pendergraft who worked tirelessly promoting, reading, sorting, writing and sending acceptance letters, helping edit the book and much more, Katheryn Holmes, who always seems to be there whenever she is needed, and finally Emily Cole who read. All were invaluable in the selection process. The book launch will be on **Friday, October 16 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. (5:30 – 6 meet and greet) in the Pensacola Cultural Center, Lower Level Gallery, 400 S. Jefferson.**

I would like to see as many of you as possible come out and help make this one of our best launches ever. Please RSVP at [emeraldcoastreview@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldcoastreview@gmail.com) by October 12<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing you there.

My very best to you and yours always.

*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 ~ 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. The group is limited to seven writers ~ Ron Tew [tewsdays@bellsouth.net](mailto:tewsdays@bellsouth.net)

**TUESDAY WRITERS' GUILD** 4 ~ 6. 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)

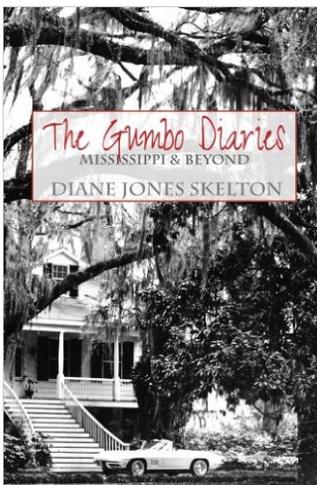
**THURSDAY PORTFOLIO SOCIETY 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs 9 - 11 a.m.** This workshop includes writers with a project(s) they hope to accomplish in one calendar year. Sessions involve timed discussions for each participant and can include critiques or discussion of issues as marketing 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. Approx. age range 14-18 [susanlewisbooks@yahoo.com](mailto:susanlewisbooks@yahoo.com)

## MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to **Diane Skelton!** On National Gumbo Day, October 12, Diane Jones Skelton launched *The Gumbo Diaries: Mississippi & Beyond*, her first book. Flying peanut butter sandwiches, a beer-toting dog, a misappropriated rocking chair and even an Edsel find their way into Skelton's quest for meaning in the 60-plus essays. *The Gumbo Diaries* offers a refreshing slice-of-life collection inspired by family, friends, students and colleagues. Within its pages, Skelton hopes readers will discover the significance of small things and realize that their lives, too, hold stories the world should hear. Part journalist, part English teacher, she writes *The Gumbo Diaries* akin to small town newspaper columns, nothing too philosophical or too long. She then groups them like nouns – the people, places and things that shape her world. Skelton, past president of WFLF, credits the WFLF Portfolio Society critique group for assisting and encouraging her in the completion of her book. The book started as a collection for her grandchildren, but she says it seems to have taken on a life of its own for a much wider audience. The title comes from the name of her blog, *The Gumbo Diaries*. The book is available in print from Amazon, with Kindle forthcoming.

[http://www.amazon.com/Gumbo-Diaries-Mississippi-Beyond/dp/069253184X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1444182392&sr=8-1&keywords=the+gumbo+diaries](http://www.amazon.com/Gumbo-Diaries-Mississippi-Beyond/dp/069253184X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1444182392&sr=8-1&keywords=the+gumbo+diaries)



**Richard and Lynn Hurt** started a literary club at Azalea Trace more than a year ago and it is still going strong. In fact, Richard has copies of a publication of their work. Only residents of Azalea are in the publication. At the October Open Mic, Richard will read some of their poems. Richard says, "Lynn and I are so happy these folks wanted to do this considering they are 80 plus. We are proud of them."

Also: Richard Hurt's short story, "It Is a Fine Day, Is It Not?" will be featured in the November/December issue of the *National Mensa* magazine. The story is from his book, *A Wounded Angel* and was selected as only 8 out of 200 submissions to score a perfect 10 from all five judges. The consensus of the judges was "Beautifully handled plot, characters, setting. Emotional thump of an ending. Nothing the author did took us outside the world he created. Just lovely." Congratulations, **Richard!**

**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.**

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

The 2016 Alabama Writing Workshop: Feb. 19, 2016 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/>

## CREATIVE WRITING

### A Gnarled Apple Tree

A gnarled apple tree, a Golden Grimes,  
grips the soil in the old orchard  
where it has withstood onslaughts  
since having been planted in 1890  
by farmer Abe Banner.

I will use the feminine to describe her.  
She has been split and charred by lightning,  
battered by wind, scorched by sun,  
maimed by ice  
and hollowed by age.

A twisted bare limb no longer feels  
the wounds, but the rest of her,  
oh..., the rest of her...,  
dances to the seasons, hosting bees in spring,  
birds in summer and deer in fall,  
when her fruit-heavy boughs drop their tart treasure,  
age no obstacle.

*Patricia S. T. Edmisten  
August 22, 2015, Montezuma, NC*

### Dear Diary,

Mother is stupid and Daddy is horrid. I'll show them both. You'll see, diary! Mother says I can't go out with H. anymore. He's not "proper society" -- just because his parents are divorced and H. had to take a job and drop out of school.

I called H. tonight. I went over to Trish's house and she let me use her cell phone. If only I had a private cell phone -- Mother is always peeking at it when I'm not looking -- and if Mother weren't so mean, then I wouldn't have to sneak around like she's always accusing me of doing.

H. says he guesses I'm the sweetest "little girl" he's ever had, and he said he's going to fix it so we don't have to stop seeing each other, even if he can't come to the house anymore. I'm meeting him sometime soon, but I can't tell you where, or when, diary. I think Daddy might be snooping in my room some and I can't take a chance on him finding out. If Mother only knew what **he's** doing! She'd die -- serve her right.

I'll write some more tomorrow. 'Bye.

*Charlotte Crane*

### Rendezvous

The yellow sunset sky, the sun behind  
Towering mountains  
Horseback riders along a trail  
Traveling to a destination  
Where a campfire will  
Blaze  
And from the weathered backpacks  
The evening meal emerge  
In the distance a lone coyote  
Howls  
The sound reverberating through the hills  
Lonely wayfarers in this  
Barren land  
Traveling to who knows where or  
Why  
A rendezvous with some unknown  
Fate

*Ora Wills*

## Pass the Liquid Paper

Newspaper lore says the inventor of the linotype machine went crazy because his invention was so complicated. The mammoth pressroom monster looked like a guillotine. But instead of a blade, it hoisted a pot of hot lead using gears, belts, chains and cables as the operator sat in front of its 90-key keyboard.

I learned to appreciate the machine's genius when I worked near one using the quiet, clean equipment that would replace it. As a student at the University of Southern Mississippi in 1968, I prepared camera-ready pages as *The Student Printz* newspaper transitioned from hot lead to cold type.

The campus press operator or a fellow student would type student reporters' stories using the metal-clunking linotype, turning hot lead into small characters that became words, then a line of type. Lines slid into a tray and eventually formed justified paragraphs and stories as the machine clanged, banged and labored.

My silent tools included a light board, Vari-Typer Headliner machine, X-ACTO knife, T-square, metal pica ruler, a bottle of Liquid Paper and a warm wax conveyor belt. As the paste-up artist, I trimmed linotype stories and waxed them into place under headlines, around ads and next to photos to form a newspaper page. I loved working with the tools of both an artist and writer in one job.

Even before college I cherished machines that created words. At home I plunked away on a gray Royal manual typewriter. My mother had capped its keys with blank aluminum covers so she could perfect her touch typing skills. I taught myself on that typewriter and consequently developed a unique typing style. After she became the fastest gal in the typing pool she removed the caps, but not even a high school typing class could correct my bad key-searching habits.

That Royal was a dear friend – even though her lid often popped open when I moved the carriage return and she was missing the right shift key. I learned to craft stories on her so fast that at times the type bars would jam. I'd remove the Band-Aid I used to tape down the cover, pop it

open, separate the bars, slam the cover down and keep typing. Despite errors I could type 57 words a minute – that's fast.

At various jobs I mastered different typewriters from a clunky Olivetti manual to a sage green IBM Selectric. No whistles, but all had dingy bells.

Now I write on a silent, sleek black Lenovo laptop. After working next to the clamor of a linotype and typing with carriage-return dings, it's almost too quiet. I still don't use the right shift key – the missing Royal key – even though every typewriter since has boasted one. I continually transpose right and left index fingers in search of the "y" thanks to the blank key caps. Though my typing skills have changed little, I know my writing skills have improved because I strive for accuracy.

In our modern 24-hour news cycle, with all its fancy, laborsaving computers and warp-speed telecommunication devices, I haven't seen in increase in accuracy. But I suspect the monks wrung their hands in despair when Gutenberg started cranking out those Bibles lickety-split.

By the way, speaking of accuracy, that old newspaper legend is wrong. Ottmar Mergenthaler, inventor of the linotype, had Tuberculosis and spent time in a TB sanatorium, not a psychiatric one.

*Diane Skelton*

### **2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

WEST FLORIDA LITERARY FEDERATION

President: Mac McGovern

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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>

## 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**