



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

September 2015



SEPTEMBER 15 THIRD TUESDAY

6:30 SNACKS AND CAMARADERIE

7:00 OPEN MIC

**Come with a snack to share
and your creative – prose as well as poetry - writing!
Bring your friends!**

**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

It matters not why you write, or how you write, or when you write, because no matter what you write, someone will love it.

Having said this, is it time to write that book or dust off that old manuscript and consider publishing? I believe writing gives us peace and leaves a legacy for future generations to know us through our writing. Publishing is the method and the answer.

I realized a few years ago when my mother passed; I knew her from birth, but knew nothing about her childhood. I knew nothing about her hopes and desires for the future. Her likes or dislikes, her experiences, her thoughts about growing up in the Great Depression, WWII, or the times...all were lost to me and can never be recouped. It is history lost forever. I thought about my grandparents, father, uncles, aunts, and cousins now gone, all the same.

Often, there is a fear of rejection, criticism, negative critique, or ruination of family relations; especially with memoirs. In the past, traditional publishing was the only way for us to publish. I am sure there are many of us in the Federation who have experienced the difficulty of pursuing this route.

Today, we have self or independent publishing that is a great option for those of us who want to leave a record, poetry, novel or other writing as our legacy and gift to our future generations. The unique benefits of being a member of the Federation are the groups that help edit and provide feedback prior to publishing. Many of us have self-published and understand the process. We can help you through the publishing process and best of all, it is free. Once you publish, your books cost an average of less than \$3.00 each.

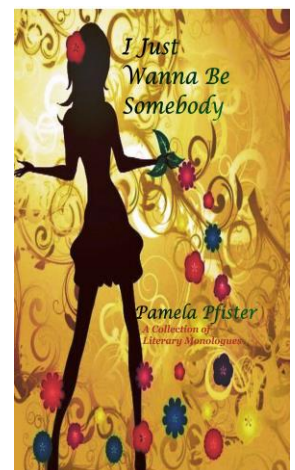
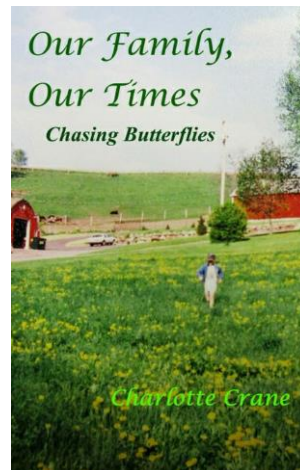
There is no better time to publish and there is no better feeling than being a published author.

It matters not why you write, or how you write, or when you write, because no matter what you write, someone will love it. Write today, publish tomorrow and take advantage of what your membership has to offer.

My very best to you and yours always.

Mac McGovern
WFLF President

MEMBER NEWS



Charlotte Crane recently published her family history *Chasing Butterflies*, and **Pamela Pfister** published *I Just Wanna Be Somebody*.

Welcome new member

Jill White

**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. 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

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

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

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

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

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.

MORE MEMBER NEWS

U.S. Coast Guard Dedicates “Rescue Me” Painting at Hurricane Katrina Memorial Ceremony

New Orleans, La. – August 26, 2015 –To coincide with tenth anniversary memorial ceremonies marking Hurricane Katrina’s devastating assault on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, the United States Coast Guard conducted a dedication ceremony for “Rescue Me,” a painting by **Dale Fairbanks**, artist and former resident of Louisiana. The 10' x 14' oil on canvas painting features a U.S. Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin helicopter which served as an icon of hope and aided in the Coast Guard rescue of more than 33,500 Katrina survivors.



Rescue Me



Dale Fairbanks and
Admiral David Callahan

The ceremony was held Tuesday, August 25, at the Hale Boggs Federal Building in New Orleans and was attended by representatives of the Coast Guard, the General Services Administration, and local dignitaries.

Rear Admiral David Callahan, Commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District, accepted the painting on behalf of the Coast Guard, "When I view this painting, I think of the sacrifice that all first responders must be prepared to make – to put themselves second in order to serve that others may live. In this room, I see those who gave so much in the face of great personal loss including active duty, reserve, civilian, and retired; this painting is for you. It will hang in the Hale Boggs Building in our headquarters, but truly it means so much more and belongs to so many more."

"Rescue Me" is artist **Dale Fairbanks'** expression of gratitude to U. S. Coast Guard members who never gave up and left no one behind. "I worked for two years on the big orange bird flying over the Ninth Ward and Industrial Canal. It's the most emotional painting I have ever done," said Mrs. Fairbanks. "I am deeply honored that the United States Coast Guard has accepted 'Rescue Me' to commemorate the brave and determined men and women who saved so many lives." Limited edition giclée reproductions of "Rescue Me" are available [here](#).

Marian Wernicke will give a lecture on memoir at the library of **Pensacola State College on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 2:00 PM.** The title is *Telling Our Stories: The Art of the Memoir*. She will also read from her recently published memoir about her father entitled *Tom O'Shea, A Twentieth Century Man*. Copies will be available to purchase if anyone is interested! Look forward to seeing some of you upstairs at the Chadbourne Library on College Blvd.

Poet Laureate Jamey Jones is teaching a poetry class at PSC in the fall. It's titled "In Place of Yourself; Entering the Stream of Poetry," and a broad theme of the class is the exploration of one's sense of "place." Each week there will be different readings and writing assignments that encourage students to use material gleaned from their own experiences (observations, epiphanies, memories,

dreams, etc.) and their relation to their physical and mental landscapes, or "personal geographies." Jones first taught the class last spring and said he "was blown away and inspired by the work and energy of the students! I'm excited to be teaching it once again." The class runs M/W 1:15 – 2:50 from September 9 through December 11. Contact Jones at jjones@pensacolastate.edu with any questions about the course.

According to **Regina Sakalarios-Rogers**, *The Emerald Coast Review XVIII* is nearing completion. The book will be printed in early October and there will be a launch party shortly thereafter. All will be announced in *The Legend* and on the WFLF website. It has shaped up into a very eclectic and visually striking edition thanks to all of our talented contributors.

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

**WRITING PROMPTS:
Have you had a writing or literary adventure?
Tell us about it.
Andrea48@aol.com**

CREATIVE WRITING

Power of Terra Incognita

Sometimes we search all over the world and find exactly what we're looking for right in our own backyards. I witnessed that August 22 when I viewed two different photography exhibits directly across the street from each other.

The first show, the 22nd Annual Power of Photography Show sponsored by Pensacola's Wide Angle Photo Club, featured outstanding works by local photographers. As I viewed the photos, I realized many of the winners had traveled to India

or Africa or Georgia or Nebraska or Ohio to snap their prize photos. That's great for the "travel" or "open" categories, but the former photography teacher in me wants photographers to look at their own surroundings for the categories like people or elements of design. We have enough interesting people here that there's a "People of Pensacola" Facebook page. Tourists and locals alike call this place Paradise, and professional photographers use the beach and Fort Pickens instead of studio backdrops.

My school teacher conviction was validated when I crossed the street to see Richard Sexton's photographs at the Pensacola Museum of Art. His exhibit "Terra InCognita: Photos of America's Third Coast" fills two upstairs galleries with black and white photos of the "marsh, scrub lands, dunes, beaches, swamps and forests along the Gulf Coast from the mouth of the Mississippi River to the Florida Panhandle." The photos are so remarkable they almost take your breath away. Even one depicting rolled newspapers dumped in the bayou is mesmerizing (*Unbottled Messages: Newspapers in Swamp Water*).

One wall displaying Sexton's words rang true to this writer's heart -- "The problem is that the familiar is always taken for granted; we are seldom able to look at it objectively and with insight." His collection of photos, devoid of human beings, enables us to see our own remarkable back yard through his lens.

PMA is fortunate to have secured the exhibit, which is on loan from the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, one of the stellar art museums in the region. The show runs until October 17. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors. On the last Tuesday of each month, admission is free, but that's a long wait for something you might want to see over and over again. But, perhaps, after just one viewing you'll find exactly what you're looking without ever packing a suitcase.

Diane Skelton

Editor's note: The Power of Photography exhibit has ended.

Picasso's Blues

Awash in blue
as if trapped in a bottle
dredged up from the bottom
of the sea, he sits, gaunt,
eyes closed, legs in a
loose lotus position
shoulders and head bent
like an awning over
that shapely brown guitar
as if the container were too
small and he had to be
crushed down before
it could be sealed,
his long bony fingers forever
unable to float over that guitar
like small fish
in currents and eddies
and drown in music a world
unkind to him, blind to him.

Just looking at him makes me blue.
I wish I could uncork him
pull him out, put him on
a Beale Street stage
or just set him down
on a Malaga beach
so he could deliver that music
even though the songs
would soon end.

The fate of the blue man
in the bottle is also the painter's—
an inability to show
the before or the after,
leaving for us a sea that is full.

Karen McAferty Morris

Members **Joyce Smandra, Lynn Huber, Diane Skelton, Jeannie Zokan** and Andrea Walker recently met at Artel. The writing here refers to Sally Miller's work and the *It's Electric* exhibit. Check out artelgallery.org for info on dates and other exhibits.



Sweeping at the Dust

"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls." Pablo Picasso

Live your biggest life, she said.
 When faced with a choice - to do or not to do -
 choose the biggest life.
 That's what Sally did, gathering
 her boldest colors, buying the biggest
 canvases, claiming the best room.
 Then she sat, surrounded by her biggest life,
 and curled up on the wood floor to cry.
 Only then did she notice
 the walls around her were unfinished, the lighting
 all wrong, the dust layered thick on every ledge.
 But she tired of crying when
 the sun bounced off dust motes. Beckoning.
 She grabbed a broom, not to clean but to dance.
 She swept at the dust and it swirled,
 making a rainbow of color that
 brightened the room,
 freeing Sally to paint.

Jeannie Zokan

Electric

Pablo Picasso thought that art washed the dust from daily life. The art in the show at Artel entitled *Electric* allowed me to wash away the

humdrum and conceive of life in a mystic way, carrying me to a place of both fullness and emptiness. In one photo entry by Christine Salome "Attraction" we find a tiny bird and an even smaller dragonfly sitting in a vast emptiness. These tiny creatures perched in a sea of blue took me to the expanding universe where elements from imploding stars float in the vastness of space. The vastness of the blue that surrounds those tiny creatures also speaks of the mystery that is both one and many. Those imploding stars created the elements that are us, individuals yet part of that interdependent web that is stardust.

Lyle Nate's "Transparent Energy" also took me to the energy of imploding stars. I was drawn to the passion and fire, the triangles and circles, the many shapes that the creative energy of the expanding universe generates. Of these shapes, the circle dominates. Again we have the oneness of all, yet some circles have tiny squares, the individuals who comprise the unity. I found the red of passion that burns away the humdrum into the energy that encompasses the universe, the energy that holds us together and blows us apart, the unity and the diversity that makes our world such a delight.

In Lyle's acrylic "Electric Current" we delight again in expanding energy. Here we have the green of neon, not the green of nature, but the green of ever changing fields of energy, the electromagnetic energy that sires new forms. These shapes swirl among yellow strings that connect and reconnect them. We find spheres, triangles, squares and circles, but we also find a key or two and a couple of phones, new energy shapes among the old.

Like these energy shapes, we shift about between the dusty order of daily life and the chaos of new forms boiling into existence out of sheer emptiness. We gather energy from chaos and parent new ways of being. We are imploding stars forming new elements from fiery passion and the unbridled energy of fecund emptiness.

Joyce Smandra

Red Flaming Haze

I enter The Vault at Artel Gallery
and see the Sally Miller exhibit
with razor sharp eyes and a quickened
heartbeat.

Crimson, scarlet, alizarin, maroon . . .
the reds speak to me –
I want to be a part of a Sally Miller
painting. The feeling of cool dripping oil paint
on my naked body is exhilarating. . . I am on fire with
red colors – peryline scarlet.

I am rolling through the textures of the canvas,
in the middle of chasms, line, concentrating
color. Finally I find footing in the corner
bursting forth in a permanent swan dive
forever suspended in a
Red Flaming Haze.

Lynn Kiesel Huber

Aristotle, Abstracts and Artel

Pensacola artist Sally Miller probably doesn't
know she's at odds with Aristotle.

In explaining her Artel Gallery show "Fresh
Produce," she writes "Each painting is a journey that
constantly changes and keeps me guessing about the
final outcome, leaving the viewer to form their own
interpretations."

In contrast to Aristotle, who maintains the aim
of art is "to represent *not* the outward appearance of
things, but their inward significance," Miller admits she
doesn't know the inward significance of her pieces of
art. She leaves that up to the person viewing her
creation.

To me, writing an essay is the same journey.
What begins as a simple observation of an event or
object becomes a journey of ideas and memories
displayed as words, sentences, paragraphs, pages. I write
over and revise just like Miller says she creates texture
in her abstract paintings. I edit, she paints over.

I can't help but wonder on what occasion
Aristotle voiced his opinion – viewing an out-of-
proportion sculpture, an asymmetrical crock, a botched
mosaic? Greek art, as I recall from Art Appreciation, is
realistic and frequently functional. Perhaps, his

definition of art is all encompassing – poetry, music,
dance.

If Aristotle were to see Sally Miller's painting,
would he recant his words or boldly ask, "What is the
inner significance of eight layers of acrylic?"

But I understand Miller's meaning. It's as
simple as Hemingway's explanation of symbolism in
Old Man and the Sea – "it can mean many things to
many people."

That's what I want my readers to feel. I want
them to read my words and say out loud, "Hey, that
happened to me, too."

Sally Miller, I got it. And, on second thought,
Aristotle, I get you too.

Diane Skelton

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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

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