



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

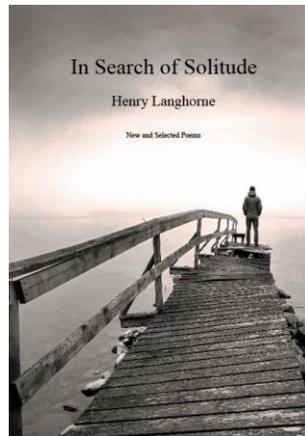
www.wflf.org

April 2016

April is NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Join us APRIL 19 ~ THIRD TUESDAY

Dr. Henry Langhorne will present and read from his latest book of poetry
In Search of Solitude



Camaraderie and refreshments at 6:30
Reading by Dr. Langhorne at 7
Followed immediately by open mic

Bring a snack to share and bring a friend
FREE ~ open to public

Pensacola Cultural Center ~ 400 South Jefferson Street ~ Room 201

Let's celebrate National Poetry Month with some of Pensacola's finest poets!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good things are happening in our wonderful organization! Many thanks to Susan Feathers, John Baradell, Jamey Jones, and Andrea Walker for their hard work in writing a grant for our participation in the Foo Foo Festival. This indeed marks a new era for WFLF as we expand our footprint in the community.

Thanks to Susan Lewis for successfully conducting the children's poetry contest. Judging is complete and the winners will be notified shortly. This outreach to young people is an important part of WFLF's work and can help to ensure continuity of our organization.

Another shout out goes to past president Mac McGovern for agreeing to be the board treasurer. This is a job that has not been filled for a long time and is sorely needed.

I also wish to thank Janet Thomas for her hard work in creating a killer brochure that describes our organization. It will be hard for anyone who is unfamiliar with us to read this brochure and not join us.

On April 21, at 10am I will be presenting at the monthly meeting of the Escambia Retired Educator's Association on behalf of WFLF. I will describe our organization and will encourage the retired teachers to write. Don't take your oral history to the grave; write it down! Write your life book one story, one memoir at a time. We have writing groups that meet at different times nearly every day that are eager to help. Your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and all your descendants will thank you. The meeting will take place at the EEA building at 6551 N. Palafox St. Lots of food and refreshments at 9:30, meeting at 10. You are all welcome to attend.

Some of you have still not paid your dues for this year, I know you mean to as you would not even dream of not being a part of this wonderful organization, so please pay up!

Your ideas and feedback are always welcome! You can reach me at estanford@cox.net or 850-449-6771.

Ed Stanford
WFLF President

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome New Members!

Franziska Dixon
Elizabeth Holmes
Magic Wilder

~

Student Poetry Awards Ceremony

2 p.m. April 23, 2016

Books-A-Million

Join us for a great event!

~

BOOK TALK

By Poet Laureate Jamey Jones
PSC Library on College Blvd.
Wed. April 20 at 2:00 P.M.

~

Our members publish! With National Poetry month in mind, I've changed the format of this month's Legend to honor some of our poets and their books.

CREATIVE WRITING

In Search of Solitude and Sand

This morning as I walk on the beach
The sky clings to a waning moon.
A flight of brown pelicans skims the waves
Before they break and spread forth
The scent of salt over wet sand.

This sand absorbs sorrow the way
A candle devours the darkness of our lives.
Indifferent and mindless of our beliefs
It stretches westward, out of sight—
As eternal as the tide pool by which I stand.

Dr. Henry Langhorne

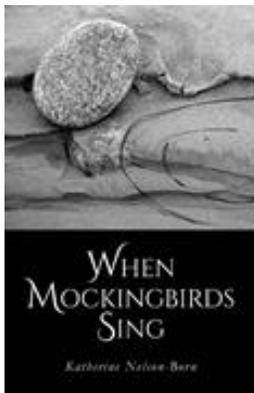
Review of *When Mockingbirds Sing* by Katherine Nelson-Born
Finishing Line Press

The long-awaited chapbook of poetry *When Mockingbirds Sing* by Katherine Nelson-Born will be published in June. Humble beginnings in the New Orleans area provide the foundation for a lifetime of insight that Nelson-Born has transformed into art. Twenty-three powerful poems grace the pages to take the reader into a world of rich imagery, a roller coaster childhood, and a woman who survived and emerged with a wealth of experience to express.

Her book opens with the title poem and takes the obvious literary allusion to a new level. She pens words like the last line of her first poem “newer than the morning of a day not yet born.” Mostly Nelson-Born writes poetry of relationships: from sister and brother, mother and father to husband and daughter. Many poems are maternal expressions of the wonder of her daughter like “After Breakfast” and the amazement of “silver soap bubbles.” Others reflect on her own childhood that doesn’t come across as idyllic as she makes her daughter’s. If good writing is born of pain, Nelson-Born’s poetry bears witness to that adage.

Because of her journey, the reader will celebrate with her in every victory and every sensuous delight. This poetry is as imaginative as “the Blue Fairy chasing Monarch butterflies,” as sensual as “I drip like berry juice from your fingertips,” and as alive as “a thunderbolt split the sky.”

Andrea Walker



When Geese Fly South

Your tee shirt and uniform blues over the back of a chair
rustle in the cool breeze drifting your musk scent across
this wide bed.

Engulfed in flame
an airplane dives, dives
into the deep blue
of the small dot marking
the expiration of our ancient TV.

Silver handcuffs over chair back glimmer in the quarter
moon’s
slow light crossing the expanse of the white wall
embracing your father’s rifle.

I rise above myself, float out the window
over the net of silver
barbed wire surrounding our farmyard.

A flock of geese make an arc above me, magnet to the
hunter’s aim.
We grace the sight of the blind, fly into the wind.

Discharged, a puff of smoke dissolves into the night.
I am back beside myself, you
a lean shadow beyond the light of my cigarette.

Your grandfather’s gold pocket watch lies
on the nightstand, ticks off
each second of our breathing,
our lives spent under this roof
a clockwork of sirens and prayers.

The feathers in our bed, so soft and deep,
lull me to sleep in our cotton sheets,
so clean, so twisted.

Katherine Nelson-Born

NOTE: This poem earned recognition at the **Agnes Scott College Writers’ Festival (1994): “When Geese Fly South”** was a Finalist in the 1994 Writers’ Festival Competition.

Falling Up

A gust of wind flips up leaf skirts,
flaming heavenward. Breezy ballerinas
twirl across a blue stage sprinkled with Midas-kissed dust.
Sunlight twinkles, dispelling ragweed into jeweled skies
alive with crackling blades chasing grackles, damsels in
distress.

It’s a dance gone wild with spiraling gyres. Gyrating ospreys
eyeball the merriment from above.

Across the universe
otherwise known as my backyard
march yellow marigolds bursting from their borders,
gunning for the sun. Another blast of cold air
rips off the heads of bright red
bat-faced flowers. Grinning, they spin off
over roof tops, break free of gravity,
falling up.

Perhaps eternity looks this way – a funhouse mirror
dwarfing infinity into a bowl curved into itself,
a clown grin stretched across a multitude of infinities,
able to gobble up several Milky Ways in a single gulp.

And me? Well, you see –
I'm the Blue Fairy chasing Monarch butterflies
late for flight to Mexico. You'll find me,
hips gyrating into chorus-girl kicks
at heaps of leaves begging to be disturbed, re-distributed,
sent sailing back up into the sky from whence they fell.
In this alien world, I am Glinda and Elphaba,
and I clash with everything. Like the leaves
set free from earth's orbit, meteors ablaze,
I am just another case of cosmic debris
firing across the universe.

Katherine Nelson-Born

KEY

a key to the sky
is a key to the city
is a key to identity

is a dust mote smiling
is a bridge to an island
is light laughter just before
sleeping and upon waking

a port of entry
a fleet of ships
being alone but not lonely

a light in a window
in the middle of nowhere

*Jamey Jones
Blue Morning Rain
Poet Laureate NW Florida*

NOTE: This poem was published in the *Excelsior ReView*
(2013), Excelsior College, NY, <http://review.excelsior.edu/>

Review of *Kamara: the soul of woman* Mara Viksnins, art/Karen McAferty-Morris, poetry

Some books are meant to be placed in a visible spot where they can be picked up and leafed through on a whim for a few moments of joy. *Kamara: the soul of woman* is such a book. This little book of poetry by Karen McAferty-Morris and art by Mara Viksnins is a gem, delightful to look at as well as to read.

Karen's lyrical poetry, which is often featured in *The Legend*, is polished and often traditional. She successfully experiments with challenging forms like "Sonnet for the Women" and "Pantoum: For the Survivors." Each poem has a solitary and reflective mood, always appreciative. Every poem overflows with such imagery as an audience of willows, plums glossy and ripe glowing like garnets, a yearling deer shimmered, so the reader needs no imagination to see the breathtaking pictures her words paint. The beauty of the poetry is more than skin deep. As the reader travels to places Karen describes, whether it's the backyard deck or Colorado's northwest, she is drawn into the mood. Poet and reader will experience the epiphany together.

Mara's art and Karen's poetry work perfectly together, enhancing each other in a full expression of women. Mara's feminine images are soft and pastel-colorful. The faces show the same reflective mood as the poetry although these works were created years and distances apart. *Family Dynamics* is quite interesting with its fragmented portions and collection of eyes suggesting varied perspectives. On one small face the words "wife, daughter, sister, friend" are written alluding to the roles women play. My favorites are *Regal Angel* and *Fly Away*. The angel looks out slightly over the viewer, her face stoic and knowing. The woman in *Fly Away* surrounded by butterflies radiates serenity.

These opinions are of the critic; I only speculate what these talented women intend to portray, but their work is touching and intelligent. The reader must come to her own conclusions about this lovely collaboration.

Andrea Walker

Kamara can be ordered at kmacnolia@yahoo.com
at a price of \$15.

These April Days

In the lengthening afternoons of these April days
I step out into the back porch shadows to rest
On the glider, settling on cushions frosted
By the hairs of the gray tabby that sleeps there
Through the moist nights, then blends away into the dawn.
Like a miner's torch exposing the interior of a cave,
The dropping sun digs me out of the shade.

Today, wincing at its spotlight glare, which arrives a
Little later each day, I hold two yellow roses I have removed
From the vase holding the mixed bouquet in the hall.
The only ones to change—from ballerina-hand buds
To full swirling eddies—they alone have wilted,
The white chrysanthemums and rusty daisies
Softened only slightly by time, only a few petals fallen.

Every footstep into our long shadows on the beach
Yesterday took us closer to the closing,
The candle on the birthday cupcake
Marking a huge swath of time, and every
April day turns deeper into May.

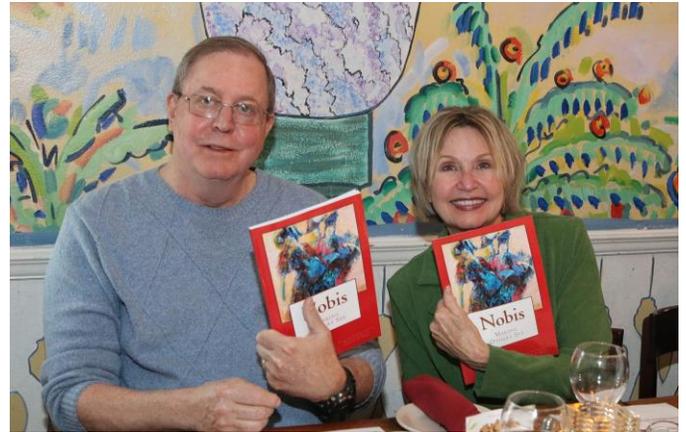
Karen McAferty Morris

“I am always thinking about the passage of time.”

Nobis: Making Others See is a multi-genre book that highlights diverse talent with a collection of high caliber art by local women. Opening with a brief history of this 73-year-old chapter of National Pen Women, the work is represented by 26 artists and writers.

“This book was put together with great care to show how women artists, poets, writers, photographers, and crafters with divergent backgrounds, unique skills, and personal ideals could come together in harmony” Mara Viksnins, President, Pensacola Branch, NLAPW.

Nobis: Making Others See is available on Amazon in either paperback for \$26.50 or Kindle at \$13.95, although some will be available at \$20 **at The Nobis Exhibit at the Wright Place Gallery reception on Friday, April 22, 5 - 8.** Info about Pen Women can be found through their Facebook page.



Mac McGovern, cover design ~
Karen McAferty Morris, editor
Nobis: Making Others See
Pensacola, Florida Chapter
National League of American Pen Women

WFLF needs a committee to assist Susan Lewis in the role of Children's Poetry Director with the objective of stepping into that role next year in 2017.

A Bit of Student Poetry History

Poetry contests for local students have had a long and convoluted history. Many moons ago, the school district English department sponsored a contest. It was around 1986 and 1987, but possibly a year or two later that the West Florida Literary Federation came into being with Ron Cannon at the helm. Also, at this time I started an organization at Tate High School called Student Writers Network which we promptly after the first year gave to the Literary Federation.

For a number of years we held Saturday meetings where youngsters wrote poems and prose pieces and listened to guest speakers who were knowledgeable about the art of writing. We or the Federation may have conducted poetry contests. The Friends of the Library started an essay writing contest that later became a poetry contest. The school district had ceased to sponsor writing contests, but the Pensacola News Journal had

created an essay writing contest that printed winning essays in descriptive, narrative, and persuasive writing which went on for a time. Later the contest sponsored by the Friends became a poetry writing contest. I was appointed to run it for a number of years and we gave prizes for each grade-level group from kindergarten to twelfth grade. Members of the Friends judged along with some folks from the Literary Federation. Neil Davis was president of the Friends and we held the Awards event at Books a Million. When I had to revolve off the board, I gave the poetry contest to the Literary Federation and Susan Lewis and Katherine Nelson-Born. The Friends had begun to express the notion that the contest would fit the Federation better than the Library Friends.

Ora Wills

Editor's note: Several members have worked on this project in the past and find it quite rewarding to encourage students. I sincerely hope more will step forward to carry on this worthy endeavor that has such a history.

As participants of the Foo Foo Festival, Nov 4-14, WFLF presents *Writing Off the Wall ~ November 3 - 7* Featuring guest poets from NYC, local Pop up Poets - at various locations, readings, workshops and more. *STAY TUNED – We'll need a committee to help with this fun fun event!*

panoplyzine.com is accepting submissions from March 18 through April 17 for the spring issue. Check the website for excellent reading and guidelines for submissions.

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

**Writers Weekly Workshops
Room 210 at the Cultural Center**

MONDAY WILD WRITING POETRY

WORKSHOP 2 ~ 4 p.m. Explore the world of writing 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 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. 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 members discuss their comments. The group is limited to seven required. ~ Ed Stanford, estanford@cox.net

WEDNESDAY PORTFOLIO SOCIETY 9:30 –

11:30 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 with one current opening. For more information contact, dianeskelton@att.net. This group remains deadline and project oriented. **The Portfolio Society will return to Thursday mornings from 9:30 – 11:30 beginning in May.**

Word of South Festival of Literature and Music - April 8-10 in Cascades Park, is a unique experience for all music and literature lovers alike. Exploring the relationship between music and literature, Word of South presents a unique blend of authors who write about music, musicians who are also authors, authors and musicians appearing together, and every

other combination you can think of. Come enjoy performances from Grammy-nominated Jason Isbell, Dawes, The Suffers, Rick Moody, Beverly Crawford, Lonnie Holley and many more. Plus, Word of South provides something for the entire family, with an array of kid's performances that will keep all ages entertained. Learn more at www.WordofSouthFestival.com.

Pensacola Cultural Center Bathroom Renovations/ Building Closure

The first annual **New Orleans Poetry Festival** will take place April 15 - 17, at the **Arts Estuary**, 1024 Elysian Fields Avenue, and other locations nearby, including **Mags** (940 Elysian Fields) and **Siberia** (2227 St. Claude).
<http://www.lavenderink.org/poetryfest/>

Through fundraising efforts of the Pensacola Little Theatre Board of Trustees, the first floor restrooms between the North Lobby and Atrium will undergo renovations beginning Monday, April 4, 2016.

The renovations are expected to take eight weeks, with an anticipated completion date of Friday, May 27, 2016.

During this time, the North Lobby may be used as a staging area for construction materials and a thoroughfare for project workers. Furthermore, first floor restrooms will be out of commission and all patrons should plan to use 2nd floor restrooms, via the Grand Staircase by the Mainstage Theatre or elevator in the Box Office Lobby. For safety reasons, patrons and volunteers should enter and exit through the Jefferson Street awning/Atrium.

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

WEST FLORIDA LITERARY FEDERATION

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Vice President/Legend Editor: Andrea Walker

Secretary: Janet Thomas

Treasurer: tbd

Director John Baradell

Director: Charlotte Crane

Director: Susan Feathers

Director: Susan Lewis

Director: Tom Turner

Directors can be contacted at

WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com

For submissions contact Editor: Andrea Walker

andrea48@aol.com

Check out our website at 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>



ALABAMA WRITERS' CONCLAVE

A non-profit supporting writers in all stages of the creative process.

AWC

Conference
July 15 – 17
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www.alabamawritersconclave.org

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Springville, AL 35146

West Florida Literary Federation ~ Join or Renew ~ 2016

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 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