



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

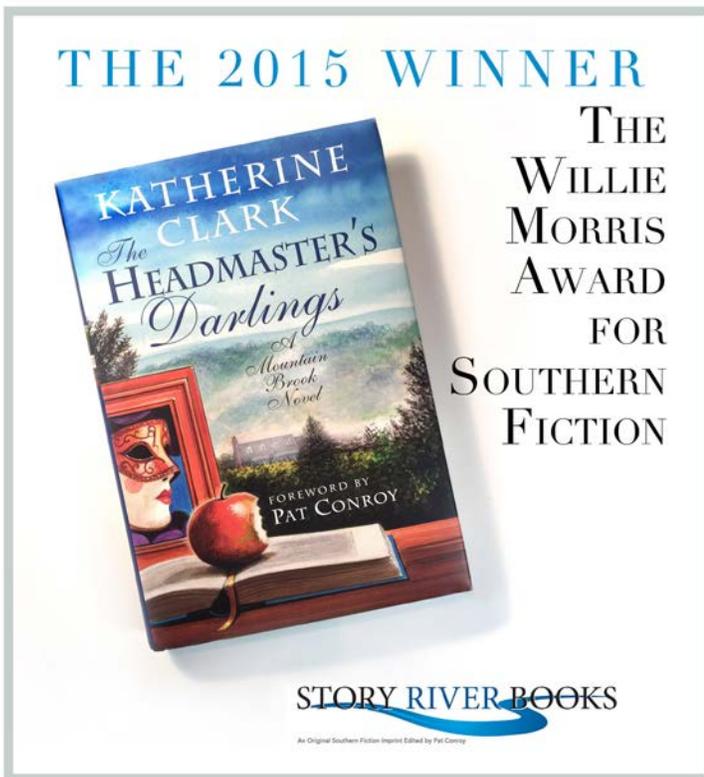
www.wflf.org

September 2016

SEPTEMBER 20 ~ THIRD TUESDAY

**LOCAL AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR
KATHERINE CLARK**

**2015 winner of a Florida Book Award for general fiction and
the Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction for *The Headmaster's Darlings*
www.katherineclarkbooks.com**



Camaraderie and refreshments at 6:30
Speaker at 7
Followed immediately by open mic
about 7:20

Come to listen and/or to read.
Bring a snack to share and bring a friend.

FREE ~ open to public
Pensacola Cultural Center ~ 400
South Jefferson Street ~ Room 201

**Review of *The Headmaster's Darlings*
by Katherine Clark**

ISBN 978-1-61117-538-7 240 pages

Katherine Clark's Mountain Brook novel *The Headmaster's Darlings* introduces readers to Norman Laney, an English teacher and college counselor we won't soon forget. Laney's mission is more far-reaching than teaching English, however. He has invaded the exclusive community outside Birmingham, Alabama, to save it from itself and its burdens of snobbishness, narrow-mindedness, and downright suspicion of the outside world.

Based loosely on a real life teacher and on Clark's own privileged upbringing, the novel boldly addresses social issues of racism and the responsibility that comes with acquiring a higher education. Laney's obvious objective is to prepare his students for college and guide them into the Ivy League Colleges, but his underlying goal is to help them discover their own purpose. When they realize the obstacles they can overcome, they are encouraged to bring it home and make change within the community, thus providing his legacy.

Laney differs from so many teachers we read about in novels in his large physical presence and the way he charms the Southern ladies of Mountain Brook in his effort to make the students think for themselves. Laney's awareness that to guide his students into their own decisions, he must overcome the often overbearing goals of their parents puts him in awkward positions. Nonetheless, he goes about his mission with fervor, convinced he is "civilizing the barbarians." And while readers meet a parade of students, all of whom Laney does his best in his unconventional way to guide, it's his relationships and interactions with the adults that make the story.

Several well-developed characters -- Warren Ritchie, an impossible father whose wife has committed suicide at the beginning of the story, and the school's Headmaster Tom Turbyfill who demands Laney's resignation -- provide conflict and obstacles throughout the year. Turbyfill alludes Laney is accused of something but refuses to give him any details. Herein lies much fodder for introspection.

Clark tells Laney's story with superb dialogue and wit covering one academic year in 1983. Girls who do not wish to be debutantes and ladies who do not read the books for their book clubs all love Norman Laney. Laney himself is a lover of art, travel, theatre and fine food and wine. In these settings, Laney pursues his

goals. Attention to detail places the reader in Mountain Brook. Clark's close look at one facet of Southern society, with its contrast of comedy and darkness, raises awareness and gives the reader pause for thought.

Andrea Walker

(See *Bella Magazine* page 48 for a profile of Katherine Clark.)

<http://www.pnj.com/story/life/2016/09/01/profile-katherine-clarks-social-satire-gains-prestige/89731902/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A few years before my father died, I decided to preserve some oral history. I have several hours of video of him talking about his life and what it was like to grow up on a farm in south Alabama in the 1930s during the height of the Great Depression. (He was born in 1924). I have videos of him talking about me and my siblings and what it was like to be our father, about his World War II adventures. I have video of him talking about his career and jobs he held. I have similar videos of my mom.

When I tell people this, the most common reaction I get is "I sure wish I had done that with my parents." For those of you for whom it is not too late, it's time for you to start preserving oral history. Here is how to do it using a digital camera (many cell phones will also work.)

1. Get a tripod for the camera so you will not have to worry about holding the camera.
2. Have several charged batteries ready to go as making videos eats up battery life. Have an additional memory card or two as making videos eats up memory.
3. Make a list of many questions to ask: this is important, if you just turn on the camera and say "start talking about your past" that will not work. In my case I asked him about every story I could recall him telling so I could get it on video. I also asked very specific questions like "what did you typically have for breakfast, lunch, dinner on the farm." How did you preserve foods with no electricity, tell me what it was like when the farm finally got electricity, what did you do for entertainment, how did you meet my mom and on and on. Another great question is "Do you have a

message or words of advice to future generations who will see this video?" Specific questions get specific responses. I typed out pages and pages of questions and gave him a copy several days before I started.

4. No matter how thorough you are, you will not ask every question you will later want. To this day, I often think "If I could get five more minutes with dad..."

I have used this treasure trove of material to work on memoirs I am writing about my dad, one story at a time. Eventually, I would like to self publish a book for family members.

If your parent has memory issues, the good news is that the older stuff is the last to go. Dad may not have remembered everything that was said five minutes ago, but he could sure tell you what happened fifty years ago! I urge you not to delay, for when it is too late, it is truly too late.

We will greatly miss board member Susan Feathers as she moves to Tucson, Arizona, to promote her new book *Threshold*, which will be released on November 1. Your vision, hard work and immense grant writing skills have contributed so much to the board and WFLF. You have been granted a leave of absence only, so we do expect you to return! We will keep your board seat warm. This coming Saturday, September 10 at 7 p.m. Susan will read from *Threshold* at Open Books, 1040 N Guillemard Street.

Ed Stanford

Henry Langhorne's latest poetry book, *In Search of Solitude* is now available at the WFLF office for \$15.00. All proceeds go to the WFLF. Copies of several of his previous books are also available for \$5.00 each with proceeds also going to WFLF.

Tributes to Victoria Frank who recently returned to Columbia ~

Farewell My Friend

A montage of black and white movies
reels before my eyes
as I remember Victoria.
Wandering the streets of Monroeville
on a search for Truman Capote
before resting in a Mockingbird courtroom.

Translating Spanish parables
into English and giggling over
language nuances for children.

Listening to her Spanish-flavored English
as she reads her passionate poetry
at a soundside mansion filled with strangers.

Hearing her protective voice
describe swimming with sharks
then showing her rescue scars.

Reading of her adventures in
Barcelona, Belgium, Costa Rica
devouring coffee and food wherever she traveled.

Savoring *The Aroma of Coffee*,
meeting Amelia and her ancestors,
anticipating a Spanish epic-journey.

Knowing Victoria
enjoying her home, her paella,
tasting escargot at a culinary feast.

Admiring her diligence, determination,
tireless commitment to learning
for both her students and herself.

Watching her flush, redden
fan, catch her breath
Laugh, fill the room with joy.

Leaving me a striped chair, African violets,
a friendship beyond words, and a heartfelt longing
for watercolors and wine with Kyle and Victoria.

Diane Jones Skelton • August 2016

I'm going to miss Victoria because . . .

I'm going to miss Victoria because she is one of the most interesting people I know.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she is accomplished at everything she attempts.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she has such a charming accent.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she is strong and determined.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she occasionally uses English words incorrectly with amusing results.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she taught me to speak Spanish.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she paints so beautifully.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she is compassionate and caring.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she sets a lovely table laden with delicious food.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she laughs at my jokes without understanding why they are funny.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she is philosophical and spiritual.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she comforts me when I'm sad, calms me when I'm crazy and tells me to shut up when I'm babbling.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she generously shares all her treasures, except Kyle.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she is intelligent and thoughtful.
I'm going to miss Victoria because her priorities are in order.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she so delights in finding errors in my writing.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she adores her family.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she is fair and honest with everyone.
I'm going to miss Victoria because I'm nearly out of her homemade wine.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she loves without reservation.
I'm going to miss Victoria because she is my dear friend.
I'm going to miss Victoria because I don't know how to get along without her.

Judy Fawley

And from our poets who will visit us from New York City~

HERE WE ARE

Off to the stationery store on Avenue A to buy paper and metal bookends.
At least 58 people died in Europe this week in a brutal cold wave, plunging temperatures to 17 degrees below zero. When I step inside, I'm suddenly phlegmy and coughing. Blood starts pouring out of my left nostril. A funny old woman hidden inside a blue hooded coat darts out the door. Republicans point at the millions of immigrant workers pouring into the country. Then I look in the mirror and see a funny looking old woman with her head wrapped like a mummy and a tissue stuck in her nose. King Tut's mummy was recently removed from the sarcophagus, and placed in a climate-controlled box to be displayed at a museum in Luxor. My husband often had a bloody nose. Maybe we'll find each other in another life. When I think of losing my children, I feel my body crack into pieces. China's cracking down on subversive meditating disciples of the Dalai Lama. Be thankful for now, Barbara. Today. This minute. Here we are.

Barbara Henning

Disaster Relief

Disaster relief is always late
in coming, and when it arrives
no one knows what to do
first.

Building a tent in your backyard
while they rebuild the house
might be one way of claiming
your place when it no longer
exists,

saving face
when you've sold your heart
to the first person
who says "yes."

Lewis Warsh
from *Alien Abduction*

SAVE THE DATE

Rachel and Paul Reese invite you to
A FLIGHT OF POETRY

Featuring Poet and Author of
Not Feathers Yet: A Beginner's Guide to the Poetic Life

LOLA HASKINS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18: noon to 3:00

Joey's Italian Grill
1027 East John Sims Parkway Niceville, Florida

this event -- OPEN TO THE PUBLIC -- bring
friends

Sarah Justice Clauson, MC...Cynthia Luvbabyluv, Photography
Book signing to follow

You are invited to contact Rachel at
rachel@thinkreese.com to confirm. Please respond
with the following in the SUBJECT line:

YES! I'll be there for "A Flight of Poetry"

-OR-

Sorry, will miss the Flight



Foo Foo Festival info Writing off the Wall

Schedule of events:

Thursday, Nov. 10, Barbara Henning reading at
Artel 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 11, "Walking with Basho: from Haiku
to Prose Poem" Barbara Henning workshop
at Bowden Building, 10 a.m. - noon

Friday, Nov 11, Lewis Warsh reading at Artel, 7 p.m.

Readings are free and open to the public.

Saturday, Nov 12, "Writing in the Moment" Lewis
Warsh workshop, at Bowden Building, 10
a.m. to 12 noon.

Workshop fees are \$25 for each workshop.

Sunday, Nov. 13, 10 a.m. to noon: Poet Laureate
Jamey Jones will interview Henning and Warsh
during a breakfast/brunch event. Cost is \$25.

Voices of Pensacola 117 E. Government Str.

**Registration for any 2 events includes a one-year
membership in WFLF.**

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS "Writing Off the
Wall" wants your best poem for the Foo Foo
Festival. Two winners will open for our visiting
poets Barbara Henning and Lewis Warsh
November 10 and 11. Winners will also receive
one-year membership in the West Florida Literary
Federation and opportunity for publication in our
biannual anthology, *The Emerald Coast Review***

Volume XIX. Send one poem only, previously unpublished please, maximum length two pages, Times New Roman, 12 point font to westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.org. Deadline midnight, September 30, 2016.

Opportunity for Fun! Are you interested in participating in our pop-up poetry for Foo Foo November 10 and 11? Spontaneous surprise performances. Contact Andrea 723-2112, andrea48@aol.com or Jamey, jjones@pensacolastate.edu for more info.

MEMBER NEWS

One of **Regina Sakalarios-Rogers'** stories will be published in *Toasted Cheese* next month. "Goofy name," Regina says, "but they publish some good short fiction."

Dr. Katherine Nelson-Born, has received from Finishing Line Press (FLP) the second FINAL galley for her premiere poetry chapbook, *When Mockingbirds Sing*. Her book's publication originally scheduled for release in June was delayed, so if you pre-ordered Katherine's poetry chapbook, it will likely be September before you receive it in the mail from Finishing Line Press, www.finishinglinepress.com Thank you to those of you who already supported her poetry and bought her new book, and visit the Finishing Line Press website and see the wonderful reviews her book has earned thus far. If you have not yet ordered Katherine's poetry chapbook, you still can do so. Orders can be placed online at www.finishinglinepress.com; click on "Authors" and locate Katherine by her last name and follow the instructions. Members of WFLF support each other, so thank you for your support of Katherine, and stay tuned for her forthcoming poetry chapbook!

Members **Ryn Holmes** and Andrea Walker, along with co-editor Jeff Santosuosso, published **Issue 4 of *Panoply***, an e-zine dedicated to poetry and short

prose. Among the 61 works is member **Karen McAferty Morris'** "New Blue Jeans." Since its inception, *Panoply* has published writers from 39 U.S. states and 8 foreign countries and has been read in over 85 nations around the world. The editors are proud to feature a wide array of writing ranging from first-time writers to Pushcart and Pulitzer Prize nominees. Please visit www.panoplyzine.com and/or its Facebook page.

You can register now for **Literary Discussion Continuing Ed** class at Pensacola State College which will run 2 p.m. to 4 on Tuesday afternoons, from Sept. 20 to Oct. 25. (Yes, some of those days collide with open mic.) Consider the course a more intense book club. I haven't decided on this semester's book yet, but it will be something meaty with lots of issues to explore. Unfortunately, PSC charges \$60 for the course, but the fun will be worth the price. Register through Spyglass (upper right hand corner of page) at www.pensacolastate.edu. Course R05481, section 8283. Ask *Andrea* for more info.

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
Check out our workshops.
Nonmembers are invited to attend 2 or 3 meetings. If our workshop is a good fit for you, please join our organization.

MONDAY WILD WRITING POETRY WORKSHOP
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.
temporarily suspended until further notice.
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 writers ~ Ron Tew, tewsd@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 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.

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>

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Directors can be contacted at

WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com

For submissions contact Editor: Andrea Walker

andrea48@aol.com

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 _____

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



West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

**Pensacola Cultural Center
400 South Jefferson Street Suite 212
Pensacola, FL32502**