



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

August 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you are all doing well and surviving the dog days of summer. I would like to say a little about our open mics, which have been very well attended as of late. At our open mic in July, we had a large and diverse group with enjoyable and thought-provoking readings.

For what it is worth, here is my advice to open mic readers and I follow it myself. It is important for a presenter to be able to read and respect their audience and be mindful of their customs, sensibilities and traditions. Poetry or prose should not always have to make you comfortable or feel good, far from it. Good poetry or prose can stretch and challenge an audience's assumptions and mindsets and make them think, and yes, some of us could use a little stretching. There is a happy medium between influencing and impacting an audience, but not chasing them away and what works in one venue may not work so well in another.

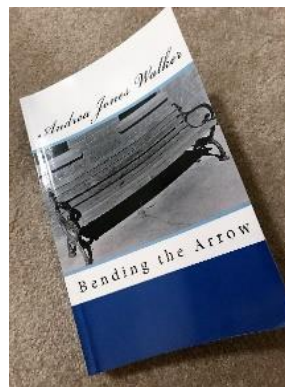
Equally important, audiences should appreciate and respect a presenter who may move them out of their comfort zone and try to appreciate the truth and reality they have experienced and are imparting to you, even though it might not be your own. That being said, I am very proud of all our presenters and grateful that they have chosen to share their work with us.

On August 15, Andrea Walker our Vice President and editor/publisher of our monthly newsletter *The Legend*, will discuss her new book, *Bending the Arrow*. A couple of years ago I was in a writer's group with Andrea and we read weekly installments of her then book-in-progress. I must say I looked forward every week to reading a new chapter. The book shows the trials and tribulation an inmate's mother goes through in navigating the harsh and uncaring bureaucracy of the prison system, a system in desperate need of reform. Her experiences and letters to her son are very moving and have given me a new understanding of what the family goes through and even some empathy for those who are incarcerated. I don't think I have ever read anything that so powerfully shows the need to fix this broken system. Yet the book accomplishes this without being preachy or judgmental, just a moving story of one mom's experience. Hope to see you then.

Ed Stanford

Third Tuesday August 15, 2017
Andrea Walker reading from
and discussing her novel
based on true events

Bending the Arrow



Refreshments at 6:30 ~ Program at 7
followed by open mic at 7:30.

Bring a friend – bring a snack to share –
bring a five-minute reading of your own
prose or poetry.

Free - come to listen and/or to read.
Pensacola Cultural Center 400 S.
Jefferson Street, room 201
Writers Weekly Workshops

MONDAY PURE POETRY LOUNGE meets from 6 ~ 8 p.m. the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month.
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, tewsdaysouth.net

WEDNESDAY PORTFOLIO & EXCHANGE SOCIETY

The Portfolio & Exchange Society Critique Group meets every Wednesday, 9:30-11:30, at the library of the First Presbyterian Church on Gregory Street in Pensacola. The group is limited to seven members, but currently has an opening since a member left for a writing retreat and book promotion. We're a lively group looking for writers who have a project for a year -- no matter the genre, memoir, poetry, fiction, nonfiction -- 12 months to complete a project. Since the conception of the group in January 2014, four members have published books and a fifth writer's manuscript is being finalized for press. The name has evolved from Portfolio Society (after Christina Rossetti's group) to Portfolio & Exchange Society since out-of-town members call in for critiques, plus the participants are notorious for exchanging writing tips, novels, paintings, and garage sale items. For more information contact dianeskelton@att.net

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome new member Tom Roberts!

CALL FOR MINI SUBMISSION

What do you know about the funny side of Pensacola? To go along with this year's Foo Foo theme, John Baradell and Diane Skelton are putting together a brochure and/or a leaflet of Weird Florida facts for display at UWF Historic Trust museums and Artel. Here's your chance to contribute: Please submit a brief sentence or two describing the weirdest thing you've heard or know about Pensacola. (See Foo Foo info below.)

Proper Publishing

Proper Publishing was formed by member and bestselling author Susan Lewis. Forged from the idea that it is possible for a book to be published for a reasonable one-time fee, without skimming royalties, without claiming any rights and without changing any of the author's ideas or words. Sharing her own insight from over 10 years in the business of writing, selling and publishing books, Susan brainstorms with clients to create a uniquely eye-catching product, every single time.

<https://www.facebook.com/wordiezombie/>

WRITING ON THE FUNNY SIDE OF FLORIDA



Date: Nov. 9 **Location:** Pensacola Cultural Center (Workshops); Artel Gallery (Break, Readings and Book Signings) **Tickets:** \$15 (workshops); FREE (all other events)

Pensacola gets a little bit funnier this year. The West Florida Literary Federation's *Writing on the Funny Side of Florida* event series is fostering a creative domain for literary expression.

This year the program features humorous prose writing by iconic Florida journalists and novelists, including the "Oh Florida!" event featuring Craig Pittman, Florida native/commentator.

In addition to Pittman, "Writing on the Funny Side of Florida" will also feature Eric Deckers and Leanna Conley.

www.foofoofest.com

CREATIVE WRITING

FLASH FICTION

White Wisteria

The wisteria was white.

“Come smell it,” he coaxed. “Spicy.”

“Wisteria should be purple and smell sweet,” she said, avoiding his eyes.

Miniature patio, microscopic kitchen. Where would she put all her things? She wouldn't, she suddenly remembered. The estate sale was tomorrow.

“I know you're disappointed,” he said, his kind face stricken.

Tight smile, “Not your fault, the layoff.”

“If we're careful with money, we should be OK.”

The wisteria trellis closed in. His fault, her narrowing world. She should forgive him. But it wasn't her way. He knew long ago when he married her what she was like.

Karen McAferty Morris

POETRY

What We Know

We will all die someday
said the hospital chaplain
to a pancreatic cancer patient,
a sergeant to his men on Omaha beach,
a Twin Tower window mate on 9/11,
the next in line at Dachau,
Hitler to Eva Braun in the bunker,
and, yes, the captain of the Titanic.

It is relentless and yet so subtle
to the innocent who do not know
its disregard for youth, fame, or failure.
Merciless on the pediatric ward,
unpredictable, indiscriminate,
It sits in the corner of every room
wearing the same clothes,
indifferent to every one.

Henry Langhorne

The White Rocker

I sit in the white rocker
on the side porch
wrapped in a colorful Afghan
made by a lady older than I.

A female hummingbird
sips from the feeder, while her wings
flap seventy times a second.
I marvel at her staunch heart.

The gold lilies reach for the day
as St. Francis, cement dove in hand,
and a real one on his head,
tells them they are finely arrayed.

Two young rabbits cavort in the grass.
Chipmunks stuff their jowls with bird seed.
In October they will carry chestnuts
to their winter pantries.

The breeze through the sugar maples
assures me that I am both a guest
in this peaceful world and part of it.
Sit a while and do not trouble yourself.

*Patricia S.T. Edmisten
Montezuma, NC
June 29, 2017*

To Be a Bird

Avians claim the sky as their domain.
Some walk on land and others swim.
The blue dome is their playground.
Soaring above, the acrobats dip and dive.
I want to fly as the birds do.
Free, untethered to this Earth.
I watch the hawk glide toward the sun.
I envy Icarus.

Autry Dye

GLOBAL WARMING?

If we say it's global warming
that's causing all our grief
then we have to stop polluting
before we see relief,
but some will say it's nature's way
like cycles in the past
and the melting of the glaciers
just simply will not last.

If the problems from polluting
are causing extra heat
and the rising of the oceans
is now beyond defeat,
then people living near the seas
will have to move or die
and it's possibly too late to find
a way to rectify.

But of the problems in the world
the heat is only one
that results from our polluting
and the battle's just begun
for the chemicals and plastics
are fouling all the seas
and the carbon filled emissions
corrupting every breeze

Our throw away society
is filling all our dumps
which is tainting all the water
that comes up from our pumps
We now have bio-altered crops
and animals we clone
so the foods that we are eating
pose problems still unknown.

We blame the manufacturers
and politicians, too
but solutions to our problems
must start with me and you.
If we keep on doing what we do
we cannot change the earth.
We'll keep on getting what we get
and what will that be worth?

Pollution has a deeper cause,
a problem we all know,
the population of the world's
continuing to grow
and all want manufactured things
and more to eat and drink
with all the children being born
our resources will shrink.

We know not what the answer is
but one that we must seek
and solving all the problems soon
is really rather bleak
though changing ways are difficult
we all can do our part
for if we do not try today
it'll be too late to start.

Jack G. Beverly

SAVE THE DATES

August 15 – **Andrea Walker** reading from
Bending the Arrow followed by open mic

September 16 – Student poetry book launch, room
201, Cultural Center, 4 p.m. - 5

September 19 – **Jack Beverly** reading from
Whistle and Run followed by open mic

October 17 - **Richard Hurt** reading from
Forbidden Star followed by open mic

November 9 WFLF "Writing on the Funny Side of
Florida" event for Foo Foo Festival – stay tuned for
more info

November 21 - **Patricia Edmisten** reading from *A
Longing for Wisdom* followed by open mic

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

West Florida Literary Federation ~ Join or Renew ~ 2017

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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