



The Legend

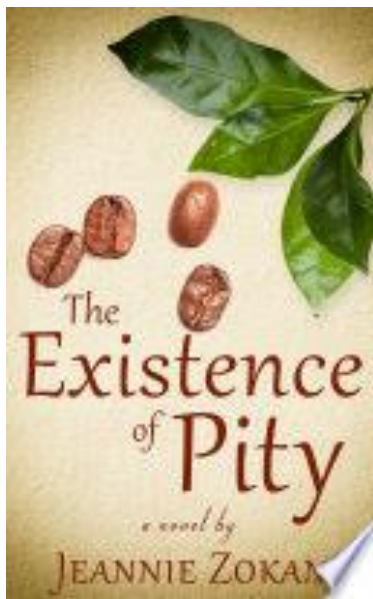
West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

July 2017

Third Tuesday July 18, 2017

Jeannie Zokan reading from her debut novel *The Existence of Pity*



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 prose or poetry.

VIP Pensacola magazine plans to attend. Be there for your photo op.

Free - come to listen and/or to read.

Pensacola Cultural Center 400 S. Jefferson Street, room 201

Parking around the Cultural Center is quite a challenge. The lot many of us used is no longer available.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all enjoyed your July 4th holiday. We had to cancel our open mic for June because of heavy rains and flooding from tropical storm Cindy.

Please join us July 18 for open mic as our own Jeannie Zokan will discuss her new book, *The Existence of Pity*. A couple of years ago I was in a writer's group with Jeannie, and I, along with the group, read weekly installments of her then book in progress. I can say that I looked forward every week to reading a new chapter. The book is about the trials and travails of a missionary family in Columbia, South America, enhanced by the fact that Jeannie lived the life as she spent much of her childhood there, the daughter of missionary parents. The book contains its share of adventure and intrigue and while not strictly autobiographical, the author knows of what she speaks. Also, *VIP Pensacola* will be there with their writers and camera, so don't miss your chance for a photo op.

After her presentation, the open mic will begin. You have five minutes to read poetry or prose, or sing and dance or do stand-up comedy. We have not had a lot of the latter, but you are certainly welcome to do it. Open mic starts at 6:30 p.m. with wine, food and camaraderie; program begins at 7 p.m.

As mentioned in more detail last month, WFLF will once again be participating in the Foo Foo Festival which will be held this coming November. We will be bringing in noted author, humorist and newspaper columnist, Craig Pittman. A former resident of Pensacola, he now resides in Tampa, where he works for the Tampa Bay Times. His best-selling book is *Oh Florida! How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of The Country*. Erik Decker and other humorists will also be joining us. Their appearances are tentatively scheduled for Nov 9, so mark your calendars. If you would like to volunteer in some capacity, please let me know. Tell me what you think: estanford@cox.net or 850-449-6771.

Ed Stanford

Writers Weekly Workshops

MONDAY PURE POETRY LOUNGE has resumed meeting 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,

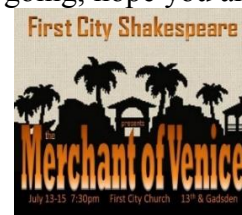
tewsdays@bellsouth.net

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

~

Remember these guys from our May open mic?
I'm going; hope you are too.



July 13, 14, 15 at 7:30
First City Church 13th and Gadsden

CREATIVE WRITING

Review of Existence of Pity Secrets, Surprises in Exotic Setting

Colombia calls to the heart of the reader in this fascinating story of a young woman, Josie Wales, finding her way in Cali, Colombia. Everyone in her American missionary family has a secret – Mom, Dad, brother Aaron, even Josie herself. And each secret could destroy the family – most of all Josie, who tries to fix everything with the help of the Colombian maid, Blanca. Amidst a plot with surprises in every chapter, the reader is drawn into Josie's search for identity. Set within the majesty of Colombia and a pastoral seminary, elements of first love, lost love, illicit love, and the dangers of Colombia in the late 1970s make the story a page turner. I enjoyed the glimpses of everyday life of missionaries abroad, but religion isn't the focus of the story. It's all about Josie and her search for identity. The book is well written -- beautiful touches of literary fiction with enough laughs and tears to make it a satisfying read.

Diane Skelton

The Writer's Den

The words flow
effortlessly
from her soul...
perching on her lips...
waiting....
until each word
is scribed upon the
pages of her life,
until her breath
releases them
to the world.

She is shared.

Mary Gutierrez

Caterpillar

Swimming inside the womb when the angels came
and whispered in my ear,
Hear this, feel this, all that we say...don't let the
burdens of the flesh get in your way.
And know this to be true, your split apart will be
born after you.
And though struggles and heartaches you will
know, don't ever let the embrace of hope ever let
you go.

Mary Gutierrez

Charity

Pull back thy chair and sit at this table,
lest someone come and take away thy spot;
help set a place for those left unable,
pour from thy cup and fill those who have not.
Flush out the wounds of life's bitter spoils,
wrap with clean lines, thy servant prepare;
leave open the door, unlocked from thy toils,
keep to thy promise, break free of despair.
Unchain thy heart and give them full measure,
bring forth thy bounty of riches fulfilled;
give each a portion of oil from thy treasure,
guide by the light of thy flame left instilled.
Peace be upon thee, serve no greater task.
Save for those only, who but simply ... Ask.

Joseph Messer

THE GREAT POETS

Where are the great poets with wise minds to avail?
In adventurous lands or on ships that set sail?
Are they out making money in loads by the bale?
Maybe they're rulers and kings whose plans cannot fail.

No—I've found the great poets, now lets give them due
hail.
Do these great poets get justice, were they given the rail?
Alas, the great poets are in prison and locked up in jail!
Help save the great poets, send us tribute by mail.

Steven Umholtz

HAIKU

I just love to bake
When cute kids come to my door
To eat the cookies.

~

Cardinal on fence
Turns to kiss pretty partner
Knowing what love is.

Charlotte Crane

P.G.T. Beauregard, and U.S. Lieutenant Colonel and Confederate General Robert E. Lee—all three men greatly, and validly, admired by the United States and Confederate States, alike.

This is the ultimate cost of the posthumous extermination of the Confederate States of America. This is the ultimate cost of censorship—especially government-imposed censorship, executed by self-serving politicians, with no regard for the constitutional or civil rights of their constituents.

Scott Mayo

THE ULTIMATE COST OF CENSORSHIP

I last visited New Orleans in the summer of 1991, when I was 25. It was a wonderful experience—so much to ponder. One night there, I stayed at the Cornstalk Inn Hotel, in the French Quarter.

Among the many sites I'd seen that day was a slave market—just down the street from this bed-and-breakfast hotel. According to the legend of the Cornstalk Inn, Harriet Beecher Stowe was among the many notable guests who had slept there—and she was inspired to write *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, after visiting that slave market. Of course, that slave market was still in business when Harriet Beecher Stowe was there. And of course, I pondered what that must have been like—seeing people being sold like cattle.

That slave market was still there, in 1991—as it still is today. It was far older than that historic hotel—in fact, it had probably been built by the French. And if it hadn't have been there, I couldn't have pondered anything.

Before New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu's term is up, he'll almost certainly destroy that slave market too. And at this point, he might as well.

After all, I can never again ponder the historical significance of the Battle of Liberty Place, in New Orleans. Nor can I ever again ponder the historical and cultural significance of U.S. Secretary of War and Confederate President Jefferson Davis, U.S. Civil Engineer and Confederate General

SAVE THE DATES

July 13, 14, 15 – First City Shakespeare *The Merchant of Venice* 7:30 p.m. First City Church 13th and Gadsden Streets

July 18 - Jeannie Zokan reading from *The Existence of Pity* followed by open mic. *VIP Pensacola* magazine will cover

August 15 – Andrea Walker reading from *Bending the Arrow* 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 _____

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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