



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

November 2017

NO OPEN MIC IN NOVEMBER

The Pumpkin
by John Greenleaf Whittier

Oh, greenly and fair in the lands of the sun,
The vines of the gourd and the rich melon run,
And the rock and the tree and the cottage enfold,
With broad leaves all greenness and blossoms all gold,
Like that which o'er Nineveh's prophet once grew,
While he waited to know that his warning was true,
And longed for the storm-cloud, and listened in vain
For the rush of the whirlwind and red fire-rain.

On the banks of the Xenil the dark Spanish maiden
Comes up with the fruit of the tangled vine laden;
And the Creole of Cuba laughs out to behold
Through orange-leaves shining the broad spheres of gold;
Yet with dearer delight from his home in the North,
On the fields of his harvest the Yankee looks forth,
Where crook-necks are coiling and yellow fruit shines,
And the sun of September melts down on his vines.

Ah! on Thanksgiving day, when from East and from West,
From North and from South comes the pilgrim and guest;
When the gray-haired New Englander sees round his
board

The old broken links of affection restored;
When the care-wearied man seeks his mother once more,
And the worn matron smiles where the girl smiled before;
What moistens the lip and what brightens the eye,
What calls back the past, like the rich Pumpkin pie?

Oh, fruit loved of boyhood! the old days recalling,
When wood-grapes were purpling and brown nuts were
falling!

When wild, ugly faces we carved in its skin,
Glaring out through the dark with a candle within!
When we laughed round the corn-heap, with hearts all in
tune,
Our chair a broad pumpkin, our lantern the moon,
Telling tales of the fairy who travelled like steam
In a pumpkin-shell coach, with two rats for her team!

Then thanks for thy present! none sweeter or better
E'er smoked from an oven or circled a platter!
Fairer hands never wrought at a pastry more fine,
Brighter eyes never watched o'er its baking, than thine!
And the prayer, which my mouth is too full to express,
Swells my heart that thy shadow may never be less,
That the days of thy lot may be lengthened below,
And the fame of thy worth like a pumpkin-vine grow,
And thy life be as sweet, and its last sunset sky
Golden-tinted and fair as thy own Pumpkin pie!

May your Thanksgiving be filled
with love, laughter, harmony,
gratitude, and peace.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Writing on the Funny Side of Florida was a big success, thanks to the hard work and participation of many people, including John Baradell, who coordinated it, Andrea Walker, Janet Thomas, Diane Skelton and attendees like you. The humor writing workshop was informative as Leanna Conley, Eric Deckers and Craig Pittman provided useful information on writing and understanding humor. I filmed the event, so we may put it online. If you are interested in seeing it, let me know. The public presentation at Artel's also went over well. The String Farm Band entertained us and we had great food. Leanna Conley kept us laughing as she spoke and read from her blog, *the Janet Chronicles* and her book, *The Daily Janet* where she describes what it was like growing up with a fashionista, larger than life mom, with never a dull moment.

We kept right on laughing as Erik Deckers spoke and read from his syndicated column, *The Laughing Stalk*. Amazing how he can find humor in everyday life, including the news. In addition, his wife, Toni, sang some lovely songs. What an incredible voice she has! And the laughing and entertainment did not stop when Craig Pittman spoke, read and showed slides from his book, *Oh Florida, How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country*. Yes, Florida is a weird state, and I mean that in a nice way. We know we are weird, and we embrace our weirdness, and Craig has done a great job documenting it. Humor is alive and well and I can truly say we had lots of good laughs Thursday.

This coming Thursday, November 16, Meg Gray will present her final classes, as she will be moving to Japan for a year. We will miss her but are happy for her new opportunity. At 3 p.m. she will teach playwriting, and at 6:30, she will teach creative life-writing. Cost is \$35 for each class or \$65 for both. Classes are in the WFLF office (rm 212) in the Cultural Center. I have enjoyed her classes and found them valuable and informative. If you plan to attend, please RSVP her at margaret.katherine.gray@gmail.com or call or text her at 850-512-8449. As always, tell me what you think: estanford@cox.net 850-449-6771

Ed Stanford

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, tuesday@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. 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. Plus, the participants are notorious for exchanging writing tips, novels, paintings, and garage sale items. For more information contact dianeskelton@att.net

Writing on the Funny Side of Florida FOO FOO FINALE! I've heard great things about the workshops presented by Conley, Deckers, and Pittman. The readings and presentations were fun, entertaining and chock full of humor. If you were inspired by something from the day's event, please write it up to share with others in the December Legend. Email it to andrea48@aol.com by Dec. 1. Thanks!

November 2017 Legend

MEMBER POETRY

Thanksgiving on Omaha Beach from *Light Is Life*

The day, a long walk together
on the wet beaches—
here and there a memory
of broken bodies rearranged
in the symmetry of white crosses—
ground lapis for the sky
where only swallows dogfight—

behind thick hedgerows
a church spire aimed at the dome
of a chilling Norman day.
They had waited beyond the red tide,
like brides to surrender
limbs or lives—those heroes
generals love to worship.
Late in the wind-worn afternoon,
before the unplowable prairie of night,
it came—just at sunset—
the sudden pathos of soft rain.

Normandy
November 1999
Henry Langhorne

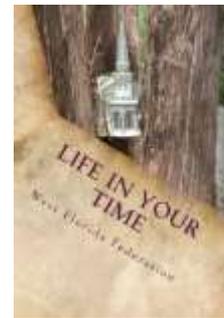
MEMBER NEWS



After you've satisfied your palate with dishes sweet and savory and your olfactory has given you thanks for all those combined aromas, enjoy a few minutes looking through some of your old Christmas scribblings, prose or poetry, to share at **open mic December 19**. As we bring the year of WFLF's thirtieth anniversary to a close, let's reminisce with writings from Emerald Coast Reviews over the life span of our organization. Keep it merry!

As you know, WFLF writers publish. This year's volumes include *Growing Up in Pensacola II* by Charlie Davis; *Whistle and Run* by Jack Beverly; *Light Is Life* by Henry Langhorne; *Bending the Arrow* by Andrea Walker; and *Forbidden Star* by Richard Hurt. Published authors in recent years include Katherine Nelson Born, Charlotte Crane, Julie DeMarko, Patricia Edmisten, Ryn Holmes, Jamey Jones, Pam Pfizinger, Diane Skelton, and Jeannie Zokan. With such a variety of genres and subjects, you can probably find something for someone on your Christmas list.

EMERALD COAST REVIEW VOLUME 19: LIFE IN YOUR TIME



“Over the thirty years of its incorporation, the West Florida Literary Federation has published nineteen volumes of the *Emerald Coast Review*. With each new issue, we showcase prose, poetry, and art. This year, our thirtieth year, prompted us to wonder about life across those years. Life in our time, in your time, is the subject of all works of art, written and visual, and there is nothing like an anniversary to get those creative insights into what changes and what remains the same moving in the artist's brain.”

The work is done; the book is out, and it's lovely. A million thanks to Editor Regina Sakalarios-Rogers and her editorial board Kathryn Holmes, Susan Lewis, Hope Hall, and Tracy Squire. We celebrated with a book launch and readings October 20. If you contributed and haven't received your copy, let us know. And remember, books make great Christmas gifts, a bargain at \$15.

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

November 15, 2 p.m. - 3 ~ Andrea Walker
discussing *Bending the Arrow* at Edward
Chadbourne Library at PSC, 1000 College Blvd.,
between the clock tower and WSRE

December 19 – Christmas Open mic celebrating 30
years of WFLF

January 16 - Patricia Edmisten reading from *A
Longing for Wisdom* followed by open mic

THANK YOU, FOO FOO FEST SPONSORS!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

WFLF's Board of Directors has been quite busy this year with the Student Poetry Project; the *Emerald Coast Review*, the Clean Energy Fest, Writing on the Funny Side of Florida, additional workshops, and (by the end of the year) ten open mics. I am grateful to each for his or her diligent dedication. With holidays coming up, we'll all be very busy, and time will sneak up on us. It will soon be time to nominate new board members. Please start thinking about good nominees or consider joining the board yourself. The work is rewarding, and the organization needs you.

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Vice President/Legend Editor: Andrea Walker

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Director: John Baradell

Director: Charlotte Crane

Director: Susan Lewis

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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.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Florida-Literary-Federation-WFLF/255101747857712?ref=hl>

West Florida Literary Federation ~ Join or Renew ~ 2018

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 _____

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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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West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.
Pensacola Cultural Center
400 South Jefferson Street Suite 212
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