



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

December 2018

THIRD TUESDAY OPEN MIC DECEMBER 18

The first part of our program will feature readings by Deborah Bassett, Gina Cooke, Mary Gutierrez, Debra Stogner, Joe Wesolowski, all members of the Monday evening poetry workshop group led by Julie DeMarko.

These works were shared in a Special Edition of the *Legend* back in October.

We invite you to enjoy the fruits of this workshop!



- Bring your creative holiday writing to share at open mic after the program--
both prose and poetry
 - Bring a friend
 - Bring a snack to share

Refreshments and camaraderie at 6:30

Program at 7 followed immediately by open mic at 7:30

(remember our 5-minute time length)

Pensacola Cultural Center room 201

400 South Jefferson Street

Pensacola, FL 32502

FREE – Open to public

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you are all getting into the spirit of the holiday season as we prepare to spend time with family and friends. The holidays can be rough on those without family or with few friends here, so reach out to those you think may be lonely at this time.

Our third annual Foo Foo Festival event was a big success! This one was our best yet, was well-attended, and we gained new members. Thanks to Katherine Clark for the workshop on memoir writing, Erik Deckers for the social media blogging workshop, and Sugarcane Jane (Anthony Crawford and Savana Lee) for the songwriting workshop. Thanks to our caterer, Henny Penny's Patisserie, for the delicious gumbo; yes, we had three types: seafood gumbo, chicken and sausage gumb, and vegetarian gumbo, plus wonderful pastries to go with it. Another big thanks to Jane Birdwell of the Birdwell Agency for her organizing and planning. Last but not least, thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who stepped up to the plate. We appreciate all of you who attended.

We are already thinking about our Foo Foo Festival for 2019, so let me know if you have any ideas about whom you would like to see and what you would like them to offer.

Our next upcoming event that I know you don't want to miss is Open Mic, which will be December 18. Poetry readings will be presented by members of Julie DeMarko's Monday poetry class. They include readings by Deborah Bassett, Gina Cooke, Julie DeMarko, Mary Gutierrez, Debra Stogner, and Joe Wesolowski. Socializing, food and wine at 6:30, program begins at 7. See you there!

Tell me what you think: estanford@cox.net or 850-449-6771

Ed Stanford, President

WFLF Writers Weekly Workshops

MONDAY POETRY led by Julie DeMarko meets from 6 ~ 8 p.m., Mondays at the Cultural Center. Like the "wild writing" workshop she led for two years, the goal is to practice writing and, in the end, find the path to authentic poetry. JulieDemarko@hotmail.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 dianaskelton@att.net

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

ANNA DOSEV
ELIZABETH EUBANKS
TIM EOVI
DAVID HARRIS
GARY SEDLACEK
KATHY SMITH

“I raise up my voice—not so I can shout but so those without a voice can be heard” Malala Yousafzai.

Writers! It’s what we do!



**WFLF and Pensacola Pen Women
Announce a Collaborative
Writing Contest for
Women's History Month in March**

This co-sponsored writing contest offers writers both a literary competition and a venue to read their work. Writers of both poetry and prose may enter. The theme is “Malala Yousafzai: Giving Girls a Voice,” and submissions should focus on the life and journey of this young Pakistani woman who has influenced recent history. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place (\$50, \$30, and \$20) along with three honorable mentions. The submission fee is \$5, with submission period beginning Nov. 15, and a postmarked deadline of Jan. 7, 2019. Judging will be blind. Writers of selected pieces will have the opportunity to read them at either WFLF’s Open Mic on Mar. 19 or at the Pen Women meeting on Mar. 26. Pieces must not exceed 5 minutes when read aloud. For complete guidelines, refer to WFLF’s prior email or contact Andrea Walker at Andrea48@aol.com.

FROM THE BOARD

WFLF “Got Talent”

Seeking local song writers, musicians, and singers to contribute original songs to be professionally recorded. The goal is to create a collection of local talent to be showcased and made into a finished marketable product we can all be proud of. The title of the album will be "Raising our Voices - local talent from the Gulf Coast". This idea came from this year's Foo Foo song writer workshop. The recording will be made at the studio of Sugarcane Jane and will be paid for from grants and donations. If you are interested in participating in this project call Lisa Rawson 850 982-8736. More info and meetings will follow this announcement.

Planning for 2019 Foo Foo

The WFLF board members are soliciting ideas of guest speakers for next year's Foo Foo festival. If you have any suggestions for local authors, writers of any kind please let us know at the next open mic night. We want to get an early start on next year’s planning.

. . . a quotation that is like carrying coals to Newcastle, but "Do give books - religious or otherwise - for Christmas. They're never fattening, seldom sinful, and permanently personal." - *Lenore Hershey*
(I stole this quote from Charlotte Sweeney’s email.)

‘TIS THE SEASON

From Shakespeare's famous play *Love's Labour's Lost*," these lines are spoken by Lord Berowne, the noble who attends to the king. Many use these lines to embellish their Christmas greetings, cards, messages, and social media status updates.

“At Christmas I no more desire a rose,
Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled shows;
But like of each thing that in season grows.”



CREATIVE WRITING

The Gift

*To be alive is so startling it hardly leaves room
for anything else. Emily Dickinson*

Unspeakable beauty
lies everywhere along the path
as I weave my way
through the maze of my life.
The colors I add to my palette as I go
will paint the portrait of who I am
when at last I emerge from the path.

The way begs my notice
I must pause and recognize what is at my feet:
A yellow stone that lies deep in the creek,
the flower whose blossom is hidden beneath the
leaf,
faint rustling of dry leaves in the forest,
the silver underbelly of the fish,
each season's distinctive scent.

Only then will I understand
the magnitude of what I have been given,
not as reward for anything I have done,
or even for whom I may have become,
but as an astonishing and unconditional gift
that I must not take lightly.

*Julie DeMarko
from *fashioned by memory**

Haiku

Come Winter Solstice
An old world on the threshold
Of new beginnings

Nirvani

A Solstitial Winter Day

Outside this window, clear and cold,
a pale and shallow graying sun
awaits the planet's tilt to winter
and the shortest light of day.

As the moon rises above the hill
A wily wind gathers forces,
And trees, in their black silhouettes,
Link their winter arms.

*Winter Solstice - December 21, 2017
Dr. Henry Langhorne*

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Popping noises with loud cracks,
flowers of lights in the sky-
a new year
is announced.
With spirits high
we blow the horn.

Lives vanish.
New friends appear.
Wars continue
with the brave there
and the others protesting.

Graves without stones
sprout bouquets above
the slumbering dead
who had a last year
and probably
never knew it.

Everyone says
“Happy New Year”
and “Feliz Navidad”.
Happiness abounds
Strangers are hugged
just because.

Life goes on as before

with little change.
Creatures of habit
with tunnel vision
continue the march.

Marilyn Howard

More Literary Things To Do

Second Tuesdays – open mic poetry and music jam, 6 p.m. – 7:30, Crestview Public Library, 1445 Commerce Dr, Crestview, 32539. Contact Esther @ 682-4432.

December Third Tuesday open mic Poetry Presentation by the Monday evening workshop poets followed immediately by open mic.

January 2019 – Patricia Edmisten reading from and discussing *Water Skiing on the Amazon* followed immediately by open mic.

February 19 Third Tuesday open mic

March 19 Third Tuesday reading featuring winners of the “Malala Yousafzai: Giving Girls a Voice” contest (Better get your entry in!)

First and third Saturdays – In Our Write Minds is a writers group that meets 1st & 3rd Saturdays of every month in Navarre. We are published and unpublished authors who explore topics of interest to writers. Critiques of works submitted are shared in an atmosphere that encourages and supports. We believe that writers of all levels and publishing experience can increase their skills, "with a little help from their friends." For more information, contact Claire Massey at cmd3929@gmail.com.

First Wednesday of each month – Say the Word open mic in Niceville. Check it out on FB.

Thanks to Charlotte Crane and Janet Thomas who help me edit and make the newsletter better.

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Ed Stanford

Vice President: Laura Richards

Secretary: Elizabeth Holmes

Treasurer: *open*

Director: Jef Bond

Director: Lisa Rawson

Director: Julie Still-Rolin

Directors can be contacted at

WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.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

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

The WFLF newsletter *The Legend* welcomes submissions from members. Please limit word count to 500. Contact *Legend* Editor: Andrea Walker andrea48@aol.com

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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Pensacola Cultural Center
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