



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

January 2018

Join us for THIRD TUESDAY OPEN MIC January 16
Patricia Edmisten reading from and discussing her book
A Longing for Wisdom



Patricia Taylor Edmisten was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Peru where she worked with malnourished children and undernourished mothers. She has written extensively about the relationship between social conditions and democracy and has been a consultant for the United Nations in Brazil and Peru. She is retired from the University of West Florida, where she served as director of international education and programs. Patricia and her ecologist husband live in Pensacola, Florida but spend their summers at their farm house in the mountains of North Carolina. They have a blended family of six children and fifteen grandchildren.

Bring a snack, a friend, and something to read.

Join us at 6:30 for refreshments, program at 7, followed immediately by open mic at 7:30.
FREE OPEN TO PUBLIC

Pensacola Cultural Center, 400 South Jefferson, room 201, Pensacola, 32502

January 2018 Legend

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy New Year! 2018 has certainly started out in a cold manner, makes me want to move to Florida — wait I live in Florida! I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season. As much as I enjoy the season, I am also glad when things return to normal.

I would like to thank Patricia Edmisten for her presentation at last month's Open Mic, which served as our 30th birthday party. She was involved in WFLF at its infancy and shared some interesting history of our wonderful organization. We were formed to help preserve the literary heritage of West Florida and to cultivate writing. Thanks also to other members who shared memories.

She read some pieces from the first edition of the *Emerald Coast Review*, which was published in 1989. She will be presenting the program on January 16 at this month's Open Mic and discussing her new book *A Longing for Wisdom*.

We are currently compiling a slate of candidates for board and officer positions, which will be presented to the membership for approval at our annual meeting in February at the Howard's home in Gulf Breeze. If you are interested in serving, please let me know.

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

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER
LAURA RICHARDS
JULIE STILL-ROLIN**

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to our members! Results from the State Pen Women state conference held at Daytona Beach Dec. 1-3 as follows: **Karen Morris** won first place in the traditional poetry category for her villanelle "The Call," and **Autry Dye** won first place for "Old Sam Brickletail" in young adult short story category.

Leisure Learning at UWF Memoir Writing for Legacy or Publishing

Instructor: Susan A. Lewis, Publisher and Educator
Date/Time: 8 Weeks beginning Jan. 18th, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
Description: Twelve years in the writing/selling/publishing industry gives Susan insight into all aspects of the process. Her experience watching would-be writers struggle and sometimes fail led her to help others. Memoir writing is unique - the writer already knows the story, who the characters are, etc. But the would-be writer can feel overwhelmed, confused and unsure of one's abilities. The purpose of the class is to help you: Gain self-confidence in your abilities; Determine your ultimate goal; Embrace imperfection; Understand alternate memoir structures; and Recognize and avoid the pitfalls.

Register online at UWF Leisure Learning

WFLF 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

8905; Autry Dye 932-5806; or email
cmd3929@gmail.com.

Several positions will be open on the 2018 Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving as an officer or as a director, WFLF can use your talents and skills in enhancing our writing community. Whether it's looking for young talented writers, helping with open mic, contributing your administrative efforts, or planning projects, the activities are fun and rewarding. Several current board members are ending their terms, so new directors and officers are welcome and needed. Please consider and let us know what position is calling your name. Thank you.

"The Typewriter Project: Poetry as Public Art"
Featuring Stephanie Berger and Nicholas Adamski
with the Poetry Society of New York City **Wednesday,**
January 17, 5:30 p.m. at [Pensacola Museum of](#)
[Commerce](#)

SAVE THE DATE

As part of the Lyceum Series, poet and novelist **Eileen Myles** will read at the Ashmore Auditorium on Thursday evening, February 8, at 7:30. She will also give a free workshop the following day from 11-1:00 in the library. Both events are open to the public. This is a very big deal!!! Recommended by Poet Laureate Jamey Jones, Eileen has been one of Jamey's favorite writers for more than 20 years. She has a new memoir out called *Afterglow*.

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17
Annual meeting party
At Joe and Marilyn Howard's
6:30 P.M.
Bring a side dish please AND
RSVP text or VM 723-2112

In Our Write Minds, a writers' critique and encouragement group, meets on the first and third Saturday of each month, 11 to 12:30 p.m. in the conference room in the fellowship hall of St. Augustine Episcopal Church, 7810 Navarre Pkwy., Navarre FL. This is a group for those seeking to share their writing efforts in a positive, supportive atmosphere. We enjoy exploring many genres: literary fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, etc. Contact Jan Burns (850) 218-

CREATIVE WRITING

Review of *A Longing for Wisdom* by Patricia Edmisten

The title *A Longing for Wisdom* pulled this reader in. Scripture from the Twenty-fourth Chapter of the Book of Sirach opens this little book by praising wisdom. To seek wisdom is a prudent move, something that happens as we begin to age and have lived the diverse experiences of our lives. Questioning begins in youth, but black and white answers never arrive. They hang in the air like the questions – seemingly solid – yet maddeningly elusive.

Although the questions in this book deal with the role of women in the Catholic Church, the concerns are universal for women of many faiths. The issues the author deals with are complex: ordination of women; celibacy of priests; pedophilia and its concealment within the priesthood; oppression of women; use of birth control; and finally, abortion. While the author presents strong clear arguments for change and reform on some issues, her feelings about others are complicated. Compounding the arguments are the author's personal and spiritual conflicts.

The book is a lovely little bag of mixed genres: essays, poetry, creative nonfiction, fiction and photography. These are the result of many years of contemplating the issues, filing the writing away unpublished, then finally realizing a theme has emerged. The short pieces make for easy reading, but their brevity belies the strength within the works. The reviewer has favorites; for example, in the early chapter "Madonnas," a poem "The House of God" ends with these lines:

Mary pushed Him into the carpenter's hands
And then, with swollen breasts,
she suckled God and man with woman's milk (p 11).

Poetry is not only what the poet intends but what the reader gleans from it as well. "Impure Places" (53) suggests that hidden agendas exist in the most unsuspected of places. Perhaps I'm reading something into it; perhaps not, the reader will have to decide.

The essay in the Chapter "Lamentations" is a sensitive and poignant response to the author's personal tragedy. She paints a lively picture of her mother as she grapples with the pain of her death. "Vigil for Sister Mary Angelus" chronicles the death of an aunt in her last days, again with sensitivity, but also with a keen sense of

realism, practical yet perceptive. The poem is didactic: a lesson in how it is possible to be at the side of a loved one to the end and remain stable oneself.

The best argument in the book is in the essay “Why We Weep: On the Desperate Need for Church Reform.” The theme and argument of the entire book is represented in the following passage found on page 80:

. . . those who want the ordination of women are out of step with Rome. This latter group, especially, must be censored, punished, and even threatened with excommunication. Wouldn't it make more sense to excommunicate the violent drug lords in Mexico who torture, mutilate, and randomly kill their own citizens?

The essay continues to demonstrate examples of hypocrisy, then abruptly offers compassion. The argument is strong yet lovely in its exhibition of the feminine side. More fine argument presents itself in “The Tragedy of Abortion.” For example, the words we use like pro-choice don't always say everything; scientific terms “cloak reality” (86). The real issue is that of life versus the taking of life, yet Edmisten argues another term “natural law” needs to be applied more broadly.

Can dream be considered genre? The book includes several good ones. The image of an old gray Catholic church obscured by trees and isolated is incredibly metaphorical. That the author loves her church is clear. She, like many of us in today's strange world, is torn by the cruelty of circumstances. When we begin to long for wisdom, it presents itself to us in varied and magical ways. Often the book we need to read at that time shows up on our coffee table. I recommend this one.

Andrea Walker

WINTER SOLSTICE

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

As the moon rises above the hill,
a sly wind gathers forces,
and trees, in their black silhouettes,
link their winter arms.

*December 21, 2015
Henry Langhorne
from Light Is Life*

WINTER GOLD

The rain tree, mere twig dug up in New Orleans,
planted in my Florida yard forty years ago
and now thirty feet high, crowned with lanterns of
hanging blossoms,
shimmers December gold against blue sky.

Stepping down from porch to yard,
to catch this beauty in a different slant of light,
I gaze up with new eyes and discover
that my Seville Orange tree planted fifteen years ago
and growing tall into the shadow of the rain tree,
barren all these years except for thorns,
has gifted me with twelve holy ornaments hanging from
its branches,
twelve globes glowing in the sun far above my reach.

My heart leaps as I carefully count my treasures.
I count them every day with new relief,
await the night sure to come –
the night of the cold-hearted thief.

*Juliet Demarko
from Fashioned by Memory*

The Finch

All grown up, but helpless to stop the tears.
“It's sad,” he acknowledged, touching her
shoulder.

“Just last week he was hopping around--
joyfully--in his cage, filling the house with those
lusty little cock-a-doodle-dos,” she said.

“Handsome guy. Looked very GQ—with
those gray feathers and orange cheeks and beak,
every inch lord of his cage.”

She smiled.

They buried him under the willow tree, its
drapery just greening.

“It will be so quiet now,” she said.

He pressed his hand to her rounded belly.

She understood what he meant. “Yes, it's
only temporary,” she said, referring to everything.

Karen McAferty Morris

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

January 1, 2018 Membership Dues are due for 2018

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

January 18 – Susan Lewis’ memoir writing classes begin at UWF

February 17 - 6:30 p.m. Annual meeting/party at Joe and Marilyn Howard’s, 1224 Ceylon Drive, Gulf Breeze, (850) 572-8495

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com

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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 _____

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

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