



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

March 2018

**THIRD TUESDAY OPEN MIC MARCH 20
COME CELEBRATE SPRING EQUINOX WITH US**



- **Bring your creative writing – both prose and poetry –**
 - **Bring a friend**
 - **Bring a snack to share**

Refreshments and camaraderie at 6:30

Announcements and readings at 7 (remember our 5-minute time length)

Pensacola Cultural Center room 201

400 South Jefferson Street

Pensacola, FL 32501

FREE – Open to public

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**HEARTFELT THANKS to JOE and MARILYN HOWARD**

**They deserve the best host and hostess ever award**

**For their continued hospitality, generosity, sense of humor and support!**

**We all enjoyed another fabulous evening at their home February 17.**

March 2018 Legend

## Annual Report to the Membership – 2017 West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

2017 was another momentous year for WFLF. Our popular third Tuesday Open Mic monthly program continued with excellent attendance, enthusiastic readers of poetry and prose, in addition to programs with speakers. Thank you, Andrea Walker, for getting these speakers.

In the Open Mic for January, Charlie Davis presented and read from his latest book, *Growing up in Pensacola II*. In March, Katherine Nelson-Born and Sarah Jernigan presented and read from Sarah's new chapbook, *Isabel in the Machinery of Night*. In April, Dr. Henry Langhorne presented and read from his latest book of poetry, *Light in Life*. In May, we were entertained by dramatic readings from *The Merchant of Venice* by the First City Shakespeare Company. In July, Jeanie Zokan presented and read from her novel about growing up in Columbia as the daughter of missionary parents, *The Existence of Pity*. In August, Andrea Walker presented and read from her novel, *Bending the Arrow*, which is about a mom's struggle as she deals with her son's incarceration. In September, Jack Beverly presented and read from his suspense novel of international intrigue, *Whistle and Run*. In October, Richard Hurt presented and read from his second book, *Forbidden Star*, which is a collection of engaging short stories. In December, we celebrated WFLF's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday with Patricia Edmiston's reminiscences about the early days of our organization augmented by a display of memorabilia.

The Escambia County Student Poetry contest is going strong and getting bigger. This year there were 711 entries compared to 415 last year. The theme was "And when the sun rises." The awards ceremony was held at Books-A-Million on April 29 with over 150 people in attendance. The students proudly read their poems in what was a truly moving ceremony, such amazing works from the kids. On September 16, participants received their poetry book published by WFLF, which contained the 62 winning poems. Some proud parents bought multiple copies. Thank you, Susan Lewis, for all your hard work and devotion in bringing this about year after year.

In October, WFLF published volume 19 of the Emerald Coast Review, our biannual literary anthology. The theme for this year was "Life in Your Time." We had over 300 submissions and around 60 were selected for publication. Our book launch party was held October 30 where several of the authors read some of their works. A special thank you goes to our editor, Dr. Regina Sakalarios-Rogers, and those who worked with her, for their tireless work in making this book a reality.

In October and November, Meg Gray taught a series of informative and exciting classes on playwriting and creative-life writing for members and friends of WFLF.

In November, for the second time, WFLF was a part of the Foo Foo Festival which is a 12-day eclectic mixture of art and cultural events ranging in tastes, with everything from Blue Angel air shows and songwriters' music festivals to ballet, opera, high art and even the Big Green Egg Cook-off.

*Writing on the Funny Side of Florida* was a big success, which raised our visibility in the community and got us good press and publicity. We brought in three comedians, Craig Pittman, who wrote *Oh Florida! How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country*, Leanna Conley, author of the blog *The Janet Chronicles* and the book, *The Daily Janet* and Erik Deckers, author of the column *Laughing Stalk* and co-author of *Branding Yourself: How to Use Social Media to Invent or Reinvent Yourself*. They taught a humor writing workshop and did a public presentation at Artel Art Gallery. The two events were well attended, and they kept us laughing.

Many thanks to John Baradell, who wrote the grant that funded this endeavor, and handled the advertising and publicity, Andrea Walker, Diane Skelton, Janet Thomas, Tom Turner, and others for their hard work in making this come true. Board members as well as several committees contributed a great deal to the underlying work and detail that went into bringing this project to fruition.

Currently we have three active critique groups: Monday evening poetry group headed by Julie DeMarko, the Tuesday morning Writing for Publication group led by Ron Tew, and the Wednesday morning Portfolio Society with Diane Skelton. It would be nice to see some of the inactive groups start again.

I would like to express my appreciation to our board of directors, Andrea Walker, V.P.; Janet Thomas, Secretary; John Baradell, Charlotte Crane, Susan Lewis, and Tom Turner. Andrea Walker has taken on many duties as Vice President and has in many ways functioned as a co-president, for which I am grateful, and thanks for being the editor of our monthly newsletter, *The Legend*. Thanks to Diane Skelton for maintaining the WFLF website and always being ready to answer the many questions we frequently have. Our WFLF Facebook page remains very popular.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the loyal support of our members and for that, I sincerely thank you all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ed Stanford, President  
February 17, 2018

## 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](mailto: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,

[tewsdays@bellsouth.net](mailto: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. 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](mailto:dianaskelton@att.net)

## WFLF IN THE COMMUNITY



Michael Bennett



St. Paul's Church



Laura Richards, Michael Bennett, Ed Stanford



On the evening of February 8, St. Paul's Catholic Church hosted Michael Bennet, Organist and Composer. Michael, 19, has studied the piano then organ since age 4. Our own President, Ed Stanford and Vice President, Laura Richards attended the evening's performance. Already, Michael's career has surpassed musicians three times his age. His repertoire for the concert included sacred, classical and improvisational masterpieces. In his own words Michael regards his favorite style as, "hyper-spectral, using the incredible musical language of 'spectralism' and pushing it further with new sounds and more powerful expression."

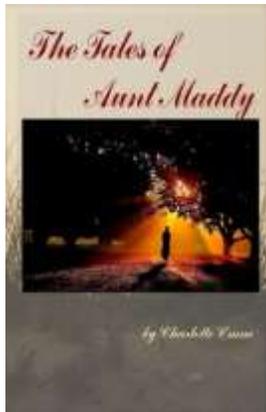
Having finished four years in the Julliard Pre-College Division, Michael will continue his studies at one of two musical conservatories in France. He has won countless rewards and been commissioned to write many works of orchestra, chamber, solo, organ and choral music for a myriad of prestigious musical organizations.

Having already received numerous awards for his many achievements at such a young age, it is fair to call Michael a "Virtuoso." He recently received the Davidson Fellow Scholarship for his achievements as an Organist and Composer.

Ed and Laura had the opportunity to speak with the young genius himself, after the concert. He was engaging, funny and fiercely passionate about his art, his music and his

unusual instrument of choice. It will be a joy to see what happens next in this extraordinary young man's life and career.

Laura Richards, VP  
Congratulations!



Charlotte Crane's new book *The Tales of Aunt Maddy* is available on Amazon. After years of school-teaching, this wasn't what retiree Maddy had in mind – talking birds and a snake in the parlor, strangers on Facebook and irksome dealings with community political zealots and puzzling preachers. Nor was she expecting such oddball adventures: being lured to a modeling gig for senior fashions, pinch-hitting for the nighttime Humane Society caretaker, and getting stuck – while running out of gas – on a rural dead-end roadway. Predictably groggy with today's technology, Maddy replays her past and ponders the future, meanwhile facing the everyday challenge of pleasing Cuckoo, her curious cat. [https://www.amazon.com/Tales-Aunt-Maddy-Charlotte-Crane/dp/1985377616/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1520438223&sr=8-1&keywords=the+tales+of+aunt+maddy](https://www.amazon.com/Tales-Aunt-Maddy-Charlotte-Crane/dp/1985377616/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1520438223&sr=8-1&keywords=the+tales+of+aunt+maddy)

Word of South Cascades Park Tallahassee

April 13-15, 2018  
[rain or shine]

Word of [South], a festival of literature and music which held its inaugural event April 11-12, 2015, is a unique blend of writers and musicians and an

exploration of the relationship between the two disciplines. The festival features authors who write about music, musicians who also are authors, authors and musicians appearing together, and everything in between.

College National Poetry Slam Champion  
NEIL HILBORN

featured in *Huffington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Wall Street Journal* and *NPR*



Thursday, April 5  
7:30 p.m.

PSC Ashmore Auditorium

Reserved Admission \$11  
Seniors 60+, non-PSC students, children \$9  
PSC faculty/staff, Seniors Club, Alumni Association \$7  
FREE to PSC students with student ID

*TICKETS ON SALE MARCH 15th!*

Call 850-484-1847 for more information

## CREATIVE WRITING

Review *I Am From: an American Narrative*  
by Judith Fawley  
ISBN 978 1539346852 ~ 255 pages

Judith Fawley's memoir *I Am From* is a fun read, reminiscent of innocent times in the mid-twentieth century. Set in rural Ohio, the book is jam-packed with anecdotes, observations, and wisdom along with a child's perspective of family, farm and country living during that time. Fawley writes with a dry sense of humor, and she sees humor in everything. As I turned the pages, I often felt a smile

spread across my face at the situations and the author's humorous comments on them.

Readers will laugh out loud imagining the child who "Sometimes . . . pretended to be a horse and grazed Cheerios from the seats of kitchen chairs where I had sprinkled them" (35). A happy childhood remains evident as she reads to her mother while her mother sews dresses and they laugh together at passages (46).

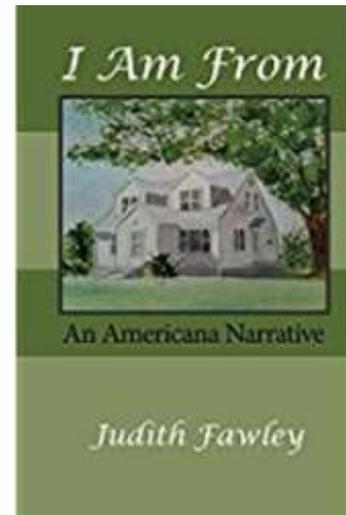
Fawley weaves her homespun vignettes around the mundaneness of daily life. Childhood memories and stories of the largest beech tree in the area sacrificed for progress, the origin of "thrown rolls," a gratifying trade with Grandpa for his pearl-handled switchblade, and Grandma's blackbird pie unfold.

Time stands still in old photographs of people in fashions of earlier times. Pictures of homes and churches, animals, favorite glassware, and handsewn garments trimmed with lace and needlework grace the pages. No photo is needed, however, for her descriptions, for example, of the barn with a "sudden flurry of rapidly flapping wings . . . feathers waft soundlessly through spec-filled air . . . Whisper thin shafts of sunlight . . . pungent smell of animal . . . dusty dim inside . . . made the hayloft our destination for adventure" (26). The reader is engaged, and every sense is alive.

In one poignant passage, the author relates the true story of the band teacher who commits armed robberies to make ends meet, pay off debts and support his passel of children. The gun had never been loaded, and after the teacher is released, a city leader opens a job for him (69).

More than an entertaining memoir, the book is satisfying and perceptive. Fawley's writing is soothing, and this wholesome Americana will put the reader in the best of moods.

*Andrea Walker*



**from Eileen Myles' workshop**

### **Juncture of Life and Death**

Daytime work  
Nighttime wandering  
Incandescent Light  
Hiding in the closet  
Suit of armor  
Shiny green raincoat  
Ancient city walls  
Uninvited guest  
Sea water  
Blood red sun

Sigh

Harmonizing Contradictions

*Liz Moseley*

### **Face up asleep**

Turn on  
Run into a dream  
Strangely, innately  
Progress inside  
A stranger in my mouth.

Windows shut,  
Difficult focusing,  
Tired of each other,  
Without sun,  
Suppressing decadence  
In our mind tunnels  
A Darkness of history exists.  
Anxious to leave  
Hear out  
Sway back and forth  
Harmonize contradiction  
Hear out  
did he come?  
Sway back and forth  
Anxious to leave  
Hear out  
Honor your promise.  
As the poem goes,  
Someone dies  
One way out always.

The secret of all dreaming things.

*Sharon Linezo Hong*

### **Losing Myself**

A stranger's name  
voice low  
and hoarse  
disturbing effect.  
Nature growing  
excited  
inarticulate fear,  
suspicion.  
Fingers trembled.  
Venture on  
into the darkness  
of history,  
without sun or sky  
someone dies.

*Georgana Hess*

### **when God(dess) blotted out the moon**

shattered incandescent bulb  
dark willows

blood-red sun

rainstorm puddle  
defunct tunnels  
nighttime wanderings  
wolf fangs  
uninvited guests  
blurred contours  
inarticulate fear

limpid lamplight  
bright flowers  
egg-yolk sun

*Sarah Richards*

### **Sometimes**

Sometimes I just know things  
Sometimes I think I know things but I don't  
Sometimes I act like I know things I shouldn't  
Sometimes I pretend not to know things I do  
Sometimes I wish I knew things I don't  
Sometimes I wish I did not know things I do  
Sometimes I think I understand another person  
Sometimes I think I could never understand that  
other person  
Sometimes I know I'm right  
Sometimes I know I'm wrong  
Sometimes I don't know anything  
Sometimes I know everything  
Life is a great mystery  
Sometimes I make my head hurt just thinking about  
things like this.

*Lisa Rawson 4/18/2017*

### **Breathing Room**

When the airway closes off  
When the chest is tight and not soft  
And it becomes impossible to breathe  
And the chest muscles constrict and squeeze  
Who is there to offer help  
Who is willing to respond to the yelps  
Who will come to the rescue in these times  
Who will offer up their dimes  
Who will put aside their personal greed

To really help the one in desperate need  
Who knows it is not possible to survive alone  
Without help we are nothing but skin and bone  
Life's challenges require teamwork  
Not doing one's fair share is being a jerk  
We must all learn humility and grace  
These essential qualities are needed for life's  
race  
The families whose young learn this  
Will experience much more of life as bliss  
They will not understand why  
So many others only sit and cry  
It's time to take down walls  
To make breathing room for all  
It's hard to watch so many young people die  
Who have given up and after only a few tries  
When the foundation of trust in families and our  
leadership is broken  
People begin to feel like mere tokens  
When being used by others life's journey loses its  
luster  
The failures and disappointments add up and it's  
hard to muster  
Concern or compassion for others in need  
So instead many will focus on personal greed  
And many are fooled into thinking that's the way to  
succeed  
But a nation or person with this belief is unfit to lead  
Some others take another path  
But they are also met with wrath  
If they give up early and stop trying  
They will find themselves unable to stop crying  
When nobody cares to hear anymore  
Hopelessness will in time close life's door  
How many peoples' minds are stuck thinking that  
crap  
Most never get out of that trap  
It would be so much better if we all learned to care  
And stopped doing the many things meant to scare  
Focused instead on learning humility and grace  
And all worked together to make the world a better  
place.

*Lisa Rawson*

**for its continued financial support!**

### **Literary Things to Do**

**March 20 Open Mic**

**April 5 Poet Neil Hilborn**

**April 13-15 Word of [South], a festival of  
literature and music. Cascades Park Tallahassee**

### **2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

President: Ed Stanford

Vice President Laura Richards

Secretary: Elizabeth Holmes

Treasurer: *open*

Director: John Baradell

Director: Lisa Rawson

Director: Julie Still-Rolin

*Legend* Editor: Andrea Walker

Directors can be contacted at

[WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com)

For submissions contact Editor: Andrea Walker  
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Literary Federation.

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**WFLF thanks Bingo Paradise  
4469 Mobile Hwy, Pensacola, FL 32506  
(850) 457-0067**

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com) or mail your check and this form to

West Florida Literary Federation, 400 South Jefferson Street, Suite 212, Pensacola, FL 32502

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.



**West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.**  
**Pensacola Cultural Center**  
**400 South Jefferson Street Suite 212**  
**Pensacola, FL 32502**

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