



The Legend

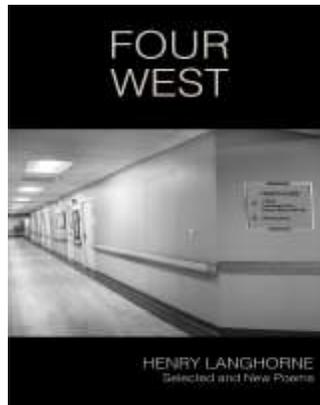
West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

May 2018

THIRD TUESDAY OPEN MIC MAY 15

Dr. Henry Langhorne presenting from his latest book of poetry *FOUR WEST*



“The sparseness and exactitude of language in these poems matches the endurance they capture in lives challenged well beyond . . . Henry Langhorne’s poems capture spirit, happy or despairing, in ways many have discovered or will discover. . . unflinching . . . instructive . . . giving.” *Wyatt Prunty, founder and director Sewanee Writers’ Conference*

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

Refreshments and camaraderie at 6:30

Program at 7 followed by open mic at 7:30 (remember our 5-minute time length)

Pensacola Cultural Center room 201
400 South Jefferson Street
Pensacola, FL 32501
FREE – Open to public

May 2018 Legend

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, the month of May is already upon us and I hope you are enjoying this beautiful weather. For our Open Mic on May 15, Dr. Henry Langhorne will present, read, and discuss from his latest poetry book, *Four West*. This will be followed by open mic. Please plan to attend. Food, drink and camaraderie at 6:30, program starts at 7. We are in the Cultural Center at 400 South Jefferson St. in downtown Pensacola.

Board member John Baradell has submitted his grant for our 3rd annual participation in the Foo Foo festival. The theme for this year will be "You the Writer" and we will have workshops in memoir/biography and fiction writing, song writing and writing for social media. This will be on November 8th. Stay tuned, more details forthcoming.

Other projects the board is working on include upgrading our website, attracting new members by increasing our outreach and restarting the children's poetry contest for 2019. In addition to our website, we are also on Facebook, so look us up to get the latest. Tell me what you think, estanford@cox.net or 850-449-6771.

Ed Stanford, President

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, tewsd@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

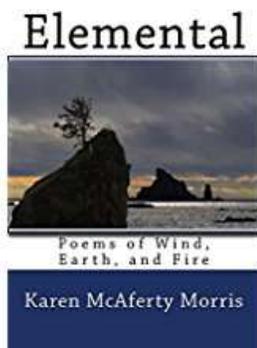
MEMBER NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS! Member **Claire Massey's** short story, "Errands of Salvage" garnered second place award in the National PEN Women's biennial fiction contest. "I will be receiving prize money in May. As always, I'm grateful for the stimulation and support I receive through membership in WFLF. We have a strong and active community of writers here in northwest FL!"

Claire Massey

Save the date – Reading and Book Signing *Four West* by Henry Langhorne, **Tuesday, May 8**, Light Hors D'oeuvres and Wine at **6:30**, **Reading at 7**, **RSVP: 850-206-4608**, *The Parish Hall Christ Episcopal Church, 18 W. Wright St., Downtown Pensacola*. Limited parking in front from Wright St. Additional parking in back from Belmont St.

Co-editors Ryn Holmes, Jeff Santosuosso, and Andrea Walker announce the online publication of Issue 9 of *Panoply*. This issue, themed "Adam and Eve, Observations About Men and/or Women," features 45 brilliant works of poetry and short prose. Included in Issue 9 is a piece by local poet and musician Ian Be. Check out www.panoplyzine.com. You can also Like *Panoply's* Facebook page.



Member and “Southern poet Karen McAferty Morris’ *Elemental* was awarded second place in the National League of American Pen Women’s 2017 Vinnie Ream Competition in Letters. Social issues, nature, and love compelled these poems of wind, earth, and fire. Morris’ poetry, written in both free verse and forms, has been recognized for its ‘appeal to the senses, the intellect, and the imagination.’”

Available on Amazon or through Karen

WORD OF SOUTH IN TALLHASSEE

Cascades Park is the perfect place to spend a sunny April afternoon and can only be made more perfect by listening to award-winning authors talk about books. First, I made it a point to meet M.R. Street with the Tallahassee Writer’s Association and Jan Godown who writes poetry and children’s books for a bit of networking. I’d love to get some of their writers over here for a literary exchange.

Too many authors and not enough time, we chose Florida Book Award winners for nonfiction first. Arlo Haskell has written *The Jews of Key West*, a heavily researched account of the illegal Jewish

migration into Key West during WWII. Haskell also directs the Writers Conference held in Key West each January.

D. Bruce Means is the author of *Diamonds in the Rough*, a glossy book with photography of the diamondback rattlesnake. Even though snakes may make your skin crawl, his perspective on the subject will imbue you with a newfound respect.

Jan Godown gave an enthusiastic presentation in the children’s “Story Fort” with poetry, song, and audience participation. I couldn’t resist her book *She Sang Promise* for my youngest grandson.

We caught the end of Martha Barnett who does *A Way with Words* on National Public Radio, and of course, her talk was about language, including local vernacular.

Attorney Benjamin Crump gave a heartfelt presentation from his book *Open Season: Genocide of People of Color*. Sadly, his facts about targeting minorities and the prison industrial complex are far too accurate.

Elizabeth Semmes and Laura Lee Smith took two of the Florida Book Awards for fiction. Their discussion was lively and fun with advice and encouragement for aspiring writers. Laura shared that she often arises at 4 a.m. to write before starting her regular job. Both authors had fun with the question, “Are you a planner or a “pantser” (one who flies by the seat of her pants as the story unfolds)? Each confessed to some of both.

Andrea Walker



Jan Godown and Andrea Walker

CREATIVE WRITING

Unborn Words

What happened to them,
the words never spoken
or written, pleaded, or chanted?
Are they flying somewhere
on the wings of swallows,
or are they planted
like seeds in fertile fields,
hoping to be picked
like new flowers
to grow and live again
in searching minds?
Perhaps they have joined
all beings gone extinct
and are lost forever
in unspoken nothingness.

Dr. Henry Langhorne
from *Four West*

Prose Poem for Earth Day

It is dusk. Time to end this hike, return to the car. But I round one more bend in the trail, and there it is still, remnants of a fishing cabin tumbling into the slew, its pier at half-mast, swamp water reclaiming its own cypress and cedar.

The Night Heron is hunched on a half-submerged plank from the pier. He watches the surface, intent, implacable, broaching no distraction. He does not stir, does not acknowledge my intrusion.

I watch him from shadows. My kind are beneath his notice. My kind want to pave and drain and destroy his world.

Even in this dim light, on this narrow boundary between day and night, who could fail to perceive that the heron is ordained, assigned, divine in his realm, so right in his place.

It is my kind that don't know their place.

Claire Massey

Admission for One

Each cadence step
Knowledges a world far away,
That encompasses and consumes,
Figures don't matter here,
Only getting the job done,
Pride,

Men move
In unison,
Walking with rhythmic splendor,
Proud, honorable,
Their uniforms clean and fresh,
Accomplished,

Unseen thoughts
Hidden in dark eyes,
Some sad,
Some happy,
But secrets forever locked inside
Where no one sees,

Admission for one,
Only by sound,
Remissions,
Time refused
To be lost forever,
Never to be touched again,

The snap of a gun,
The smell of decay,
The taste of finality,
A gloved salute,
A scabbard lowered,
Welcome home.

Eyes Front,
Brushed polished shoes,
The precision of life,
Youth at its best,
Replaced in time,
Lost forever in death,

The pride of a job well done
And the challenge met,
We will never know,
The true heart,
That beats within,
A vet.

Jane G. Lies

haiku

Shape-shifting clouds loom –
Their hot breaths stir bayou dreams
Of stormy union.

Karen McAferty Morris

Review of *Elemental Poems of Wind, Earth, and Fire* by Karen McAferty Morris
ISBN 978198527724
Heron Bayou Publishing, 42 pages

Do not be deceived by the small size of Karen McAferty Morris' chapbook of poetry *Elemental*. This slim volume with vast content won second place in the National Pen Women's 2017 Vinnie Ream Competition in Letters. For readers who appreciate good poetry in form or free verse, this book will provide much food for thought.

Morris introduces the collection with "Pontifex," and the poet (herself?) who builds a bridge of light by capturing words like fireflies and placing them in a jar to be shaped into ideas. The poem is the hallmark of the chapbook that sheds light on social issues as the poet builds a bridge for the reader to cross into her world.

The three sections of the book are represented by an element and a theme or topic. The first section, "Wind," represents social change. Fitting to follow the introductory bridge with "Aubade," a morning greeting of a woman who has spent the night in a shelter for abused women. With a strong command of language, the poet alludes to the change the woman in the poem must make. Morris writes of other ugly issues that most of us prefer to ignore: injustices throughout the world in every culture from Native American, to Middle Eastern, Chinese, and African. In her "Sonnet for the Women," she acknowledges the chance by which our lives are decided according to where we're born. Themes of compassion, empathy, and gratitude emerge.

The second section "Earth" focuses on nature. She is adept at creating structured verse as well as free and uses a variety of structure in this section including haiku, sonnet, and villanelle. Her appreciation of nature shines in the change of seasons, summer storms, exploring the bay under moonlight. One picks up on a sense of adventure in

narrative poems of hiking in Colorado and living in Venice. "The Blessing" epitomizes the poet's gratitude in a moment that might be frozen in time for anyone: "the moment a yearling deer shimmered out of twilight shadows of juniper and sagebrush and licked my outstretched palm." Contemplative of/in nature, these poems soothe the soul and beckon the reader back to the page to relish the scenes painted there.

In "Fire," Morris writes of love and people she has loved. Her topics are lovers and family, and each poem is to be savored. Every morsel begs to be explored and noted, tasted like each separate ingredient in a delicious recipe that gives the dish its unique flavor.

These are not poems to be read in one sitting. This poetry entices the reader to return to look for more, to reread and ponder. These are personal poems revealing love, loss, and grief, told with vivid imagery.

All are poems of compassion, gratitude, and empathy, expressed with in depth understanding of the human condition. The book never really ends. It will lie there waiting for the reader to pick it up again soon.

Andrea Walker

Devotional: Awareness Ribbons

It would be romantic to think awareness ribbons date back to medieval days when knights jostled for long streamers of ribbons. Or that an American Civil War song about yellow ribbons is the source of awareness ribbons. The song, however, is 400 years old and not American.

Gerald E. Parsons of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center says the tradition of the yellow ribbon which led to awareness ribbons isn't that old. It began with a 1940s folk legend and a 1973 song. This folktale inspired a 1971 Pete Hamill ribbon story, which ran in the *New York Post* and *Readers Digest*. Tony Orlando and Dawn eventually sang "Tie A Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Ole Oak Tree" and James Earl Jones starred in an ABC version.

In the 1970s, yellow ribbons on front porches and trees supported Gulf War troops. In the 1980s yellow ribbons supported the Iran Hostages. In 1991, celebrities wore red ribbons for AIDS Awareness at

the Tonys – the first noticeable use of another color. Then came the famous pink ribbon for breast cancer awareness. *New York Times* called 1992 the Year of the Ribbon. 2001 saw the first use of the Red, White, and Blue ribbon for a school shooting; red, white, and blue were the school's colors. September 11, 2001 pushed the red, white, and blue ribbon into the forefront. Today, awareness ribbons have morphed into an international industry, from lapel pins to car magnets to flags in colors galore.

The first written version of the "ribbon" legend appeared in a 1959 book on prison reform. Before the book, it was heard in prisons in oral tradition. During the 1960s, it was in religious publications and youth groups spread the story. And the ribbon wasn't yellow.

Here is the original story – with its original awareness color – as it appeared in the prison reform book *Star Wormwood* by Judge Curtis Bok of Pennsylvania.

Two men were traveling in a railroad train. One was so reserved that his companion had difficulty persuading him to talk about himself. He was, he said at length, a convict returning from five years' imprisonment in a distant prison, but his people were too poor to visit him and were too uneducated to be very articulate on paper. Hence he had written to them to make a sign for him when he was released and came home. If they wanted him, they should put a white ribbon in the big apple tree which stood close to the railroad track at the bottom of the garden, and he would get off the train, but if they did not want him, they were to do nothing and he would stay on the train and seek a new life elsewhere. He said that they were nearing his home town and that he couldn't bear to look. His new friend said that he would look and took his place by the window to watch for the apple tree which the other had described to him.

In a minute he put a hand on his companion's arm. "There it is," he cried. "It's all right! The whole tree is white with ribbons."

And there it is -- history in your own time -- awareness of public issues, all from an American folk legend.

Diane Skelton

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

LITERARY THINGS TO DO

May 8 – Debut of Dr. Henry Langhorne's new book *Four West*. Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall at 6:30

May 15 – Third Tuesday Open Mic – Dr. Langhorne reading from *Four West* followed by open mic. Refreshments at 6:30. Program at 7. Open mic at 7:30.

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.

First and third Saturdays – In our write minds - at eleven in the conference room of the fellowship hall, St. Augustine Episcopal church on Highway 98, Navarre. If you have friends or colleagues who are interested in creative (or non-fiction) writing, bring them. Contact Claire Massey.

June 6 and the first Wednesday of each month – Say the Word open mic in Niceville. Check it out on FB.

June 19 – Third Tuesday Open Mic

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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

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