



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

April 2019



APRIL 16 THIRD TUESDAY OPEN MIC!

Emeritus member Ora Wills reading from

Fish Head Soup and Sassafras Tea

Refreshments at 6:30 ~ Program at 7 ~ Followed by Open Mic at 7:30



Come to listen and/or to read.

Bring your creative writing: prose or poetry (5-minute time limit please).

Bring a friend -- Bring a snack to share.

Pensacola Cultural Center - 400 South Jefferson Street room 201

Pensacola, FL. 32504 - Free. Open to public.

Exchange of Ideas

The writing life includes the exchange of ideas, and those opportunities abound. Recently, on March 13, I attended a student poetry reading at Pensacola State College hosted by Poet Laureate Jamey Jones. If you haven't listened to student poets lately, you should consider going next semester. Students write the truth as they see it, sincere and candid. Listening to the ideas they choose to express gives us a greater understanding across generations. Their presentations always amaze and give me pause for thought.

Our March open mic was especially gratifying as so many Malala contest participants shared their poetry and essays. We welcomed Pen Women Diana Obe and Christine Salome who read their essays, along with our own members Patricia Edmisten, Claire Massey, and Debra Stogner. Julie DeMarko read Joe Wesolowski's poem in his absence. Each participant brought his or her own interpretation to the life and circumstances of Malala Yousafzai.



Patricia Edmisten, Diana Obe, Claire Massey, Christine Salome

The following week, WFLF members Claire Massey, Diane Skelton and Joe Wesolowski read at the Pen Women meeting, accomplishing one of the objectives of the contest: the mingling of members of both groups so we can get to know each other. As writers, our two groups have much in common and much to share with each other, professionally and personally. I especially appreciate Karen Morris for spearheading this endeavor. *Note: I compiled the work of those who wished into a Special Edition of the Legend. If you would like a digital copy, please email me at andrea48@aol.com.*

After the Pen Women meeting, several of us walked across Ferdinand Plaza to the Pensacola Museum of Art for Allan Peterson's reading from his new book of poetry *This Luminous: New and Selected Poems*. Peterson, who divides his time between here and Oregon, chaired the art department at Pensacola State (then Junior) College for many years and has

published six volumes of poetry. I enjoyed his clear and straightforward style.

It is not lost on me that we are fortunate to have a wide range of talent right here: three events within seven days and a five-mile radius. From the fresh voices of youth and the mature voices of those in the middle to the stellar voice of a well-respected and successful published poet, we are surrounded by poetry and ideas.

Andrea Walker

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 a.m., 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

A Gift to Our Community

Many of you have known Ora Wills much longer than I have, which is at least twelve years. It has been my pleasure to work with her on the student poetry contest, to read at her program “When Black Folks Was Colored” twice, to attend Julie DeMarko’s Wild Writing workshop with her for several years, and to share lunch occasionally. What I know about Ora is she’s a beautiful writer, forthright, humble, and smart. I also know she works in our community at many objectives, and one important goal of hers is to bridge the gap between races. I took the liberty of sharing excerpts of articles written by two well-known local journalists who appreciate Ms. Wills.

“Consider this sentence. ‘I railed against such a fate, feeling abandonment and isolation as we toe danced a mad dance that must end with a gaping flower-decked hole.’ Consider the imagery: It’s a swift description of a young woman struggling with the burden of caring for her dying grandmother. With the flick of a pen, the author twists one of time’s cruelest mortal chores into a swirling waltz — that ends, unceremoniously, with a ‘gaping hole.’ Such is the skill of Pensacola author Ora Wills in her recently published memoir titled “Fish Head Soup and Sassafras Tea.” They are the stories of a black girl growing up in “the country” along Carpenter’s Creek in segregation-era Pensacola” (Andy Marlette. *Pensacola News Journal*. 2/22/2019)



“Ora Wills has spent much of her life educating the young and writing about the history

of the old. She's an educator, an editor, an activist and historian. She's still working to make our community a better place for all. . . . and though she's still an avid reader and a member of a couple of book clubs, she still isn't content to rest. Her next challenge is to work to close the gap in test scores between white and black students. ‘I'm trying to launch an assault on that,’ she said. ‘We really need to get parents engaged with their child's education and development early on.’ She's still in the planning stage on the initiative, but she is dedicated to improving the education of all children. She always has been. Which is why Ora Wills has made Pensacola a better place for all. We're lucky to have her as our own” (Troy Moon. *Pensacola News Journal*. 11/21/2015).

I join Moon and Marlette in my admiration of Ora Wills.

Andrea Walker

It's not too late to get tickets!

Two of WFLF member **Judy Fawley's** plays, *The Uninvited Caller* and *Too Much in Common*, will be performed **April 12-20** at the 2019 edition of Short Attention Span at Pensacola Little Theatre. The acts will be directed by Stephanie Lash and Jason Crum, respectively.

**COMING SOON
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS for
EMERALD COAST REVIEW
VOLUME XX**

Brush up your writing or write something new! Harking back to previous *ECRs*, there will be no theme for this volume. Submissions will be accepted from local/regional writers only. Stay tuned for more information.

CREATIVE WRITING

Haiku

Window opened to spring
Coffee, bagel, Sunday newspaper . . .
Obituary of an old lover

Azaleas leave pink lipstick prints
Kissing my father goodbye
His empty garden gloves

Karen McAferty Morris



May I suggest you write something for National Poetry Month? Then submit it for the *May Legend*.

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

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

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

More Literary Things To Do

Friday April 5 – 7:30 p.m. Alice Notley Reading at Anna Lamar Switzer Center, PSC
Third Tuesday Open Mic, April 16, Ora Wills reading from her new book *Fish Head Soup and Sassafras Tea*

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

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

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.

Every Tuesday from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Pensacola Poetry Constant Coffee & Tea, 615 Scenic Highway.

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Ed Stanford
Vice President: Laura Richards
Secretary: Elizabeth Holmes
Treasurer: *open*
Director: Bob Holmes
Director: Lisa Rawson
Director: Tom Roberts
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 ~ 2019

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 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