



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

February 2019

NO THIRD TUESDAY in February
Join us at the Howards'
1224 Ceylon Drive, Gulf Breeze 32563
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 16 at 6 p.m.
Annual Meeting and Party



Once again, our longtime friends Joe and Marilyn Howard are inviting us to their home for our annual meeting and party.

As always, we appreciate their generous hospitality.

Please bring a side dish to share, a short piece plus copies of your own creative writing if you wish to read, and a small folding chair if you can.

Please RSVP to Andrea by voicemail or text 723-2112 or email andrea48@aol.com so we can give the Howards an accurate count of whom and what to expect.

We appreciate this courtesy and look forward to seeing you.

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. 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 dianeskelton@att.net

Membership dues are due. WFLF needs your support. Please renew as soon as you can. Thank you.

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

SAVE THE DATE FEBRUARY 15 6 P.M. OPEN BOOKS BOOKSTORE

From poetry with watery themes to reflections on books and reading, Open Books invites you to join poet Jeff Santosuosso and author Andrea Walker. With light refreshments, reading and discussion of *Body of Water* and *Turning Leaves* begins at **6 p.m. Friday, February 15. Open Books Bookstore. 1040 N. Guillemard St. Free. Open to public. 723-2112.**



It's the night before our party at the Howards' but try to come anyway! And feel free to bring a book donation to Open Books Bookstore.

Thanks to all of you who made your voices heard by participating in our Malala contest. The entries are in the hands of our judges who are not members of either organization and are judging blind. We look forward to bringing you the results for Women's History Month in March.



HOBNOBBING WITH POETS



Maureen Owen



Back in November 2016, WFLF participated in the Foo Foo Festival for the first time. I remember a great deal of enthusiasm as we prepared for our guest poets Barbara Henning and Lewis Warsh. Some of you may remember all the festivities: readings at Artel, workshops at the Bowden Building, and brunch and interview with the poets and Jamey Jones, our Poet Laureate. It was an exciting time.

So I was thrilled when I found out Barbara would be back as part of her “Poets on the Road” trip with another fine poet Maureen Owen. Saturday, January 26, they read at Pensacola Museum of Art. Art Museums are perfect venues for poetry readings. The evening was quite cold as was the museum, but the voices made up for the chill.

Maureen’s words, “in the photo the earth appears so far away/ yet we are on it” from *Edges of Water* spoken in her strong but hushed voice seemed to sum up everything. My favorites were poems about her aging mother. She charmed us with her long titles – some longer than the poem itself. She read with her whole body, with rhythmic motion, shrugging her shoulders as if she could break into dance. Indeed, she often broke into a little girl smile which lit up her whole face.

Barbara read from her novel *Just Like That*. Here’s a quote from her novel and an excerpt from my review.

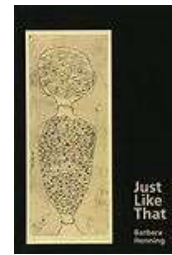
Barbara Henning’s latest novel *Just Like That*, tells a love story, but even more, it explores relationships, cultural differences and expectations. As protagonist Sara gets to know her new acupuncturist Jabari, she thinks, “I was white and he was black and behind those words were centuries of problems” (12). The handsome doctor has an allure

about him, both attractive and puzzling, which develops throughout the pages as Sara’s emotions are laid bare. Henning’s succinct style tells her story matter-of-factly like a journal and includes the most private of thoughts and details. Inexplicable at times, Jabari’s silences and moodiness keep the reader wondering.

She continued her reading with poetry from *A Day Like Today*. I loved seeing, talking with, and listening to Barbara again and meeting her friend and fellow poet Maureen.



Barbara Henning



Andrea Walker

Bargain Sale on 3 West

On a bulletin board in the hospital lobby a scribbled note: Custom handmade dulcimer for sale-- \$295. Need money to pay hospital bills. Call room 313 between one and nine PM.

A floor plan beside the bulletin board can guide a bargain hunter in less than five minutes to the oncology ward where patients share pain like get-well cards and chocolate cake from home. The years ahead will come to those doors and knock, then walk away down the empty halls of 3 West.

Tonight she plays the dulcimer and sits by the phone until nine when night stands up against her window and spreads a chill about her shoulders like a shawl. She knows this chill; it never seems to leave her room.

Down the halls others will finally sleep and dream. There is no place to go, no reason to remain.

Henry Langhorne

I Happened to Be Standing

I don't know where prayers go,
or what they do.
Do cats pray, while they sleep
half-asleep in the sun?
Does the opossum pray as it
crosses the street?
The sunflowers? The old black oak
growing older every year?
I know I can walk through the world,
along the shore or under the trees,
with my mind filled with things
of little importance, in full
self-attendance. A condition I can't really
call being alive
Is a prayer a gift, or a petition,
or does it matter?
The sunflowers blaze, maybe that's their way.
Maybe the cats are sound asleep. Maybe not.

While I was thinking this I happened to be
standing
just outside my door, with my notebook open,
which is the way I begin every morning.
Then a wren in the privet began to sing.
He was positively drenched in enthusiasm,
I don't know why. And yet, why not.
I wouldn't persuade you from whatever you
believe
or whatever you don't. That's your business.
But I thought, of the wren's singing, what could
this be
if it isn't a prayer?
So I just listened, my pen in the air.

Mary Oliver

Poet Mary Oliver passed away January 17,
2019.

You can listen to the story behind this poem —
and some others — on [this SoundCloud
playlist](#).

The Four Way Books Levis Prize in Poetry

Submissions are open to all poets, regardless of
publication history, for a book-length collection of
poetry. January 1 - April 7, 2019

Gregory Pardlo, judge

<https://fourwaybooks.com/site/guidelines/> Visit our
electronic literary journal at
fourwayreview.com

MORE LITERARY THINGS TO DO

Friday February 15 Open Books reading and
discussion with Jeff Santosuosso and Andrea
Walker

Saturday February 16 Annual meeting and
party at the Howards

March 19 Third Tuesday reading featuring
winners of the “Malala Yousafzai: Giving Girls
a Voice” contest

Tuesday March 26, Pen Women 4 p.m.

Women’s History Month program with readings
by Malala contestants at Artel Art Gallery, 223
Palafox Place

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

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 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 Pensacola
Poetry** Constant Coffee & Tea, 615 Scenic Hwy

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

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

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Director: Lisa Rawson

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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 _____

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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