



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

January 2019

Join us for Patricia Edmisten's presentation on
THIRD TUESDAY JANUARY 15
OPEN MIC, reading and discussion of
Water Skiing on the Amazon by Patricia Edmisten
See book review page 5.



- Bring your creative writing to share at open mic after the program--
both prose and poetry
 - Bring a friend
 - Bring a snack to share

Refreshments and camaraderie at 6:30

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

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

FREE – Open to public

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE WFLF
BOARD AND LEGEND EDITOR!**

Ed, Laura, Elizabeth, Lisa, Julie, Jef, Andrea

Open mic was held December 18, attendees were treated to readings from participants in the Monday evening poetry workshop led by Julie DeMarko. Their work shows what can happen when our creative seeds are planted and nurtured.

We wish you a year of creativity!

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, 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

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

The deadline approaches.
Make your voice heard!



“We realize the importance of our voices only when we are silenced.” — Malala Yousafzai.

Just a reminder that the deadline for the Malala writing contest is **January 15**.

When your submission is ready, send **two copies**, one with your name and contact information (phone number, mailing address, and email address), the other with title and text only.

Refer to complete contest rules for additional information. Email me at andrea48@aol.com if you have any questions.

We look forward to reading your work!

Co-editors Jeff Santosuosso, Ryn Holmes, and Andrea Walker released issue 11 of *Panoply*. This issue, themed "Untamed," also features their first-ever contest, with the top three pieces earning cash prizes. *Panoply* has now been read in 140 countries, with contributors from 22 foreign countries and 48 US states. Please visit <http://www.panoplyzine.com> to view Issue

11 and read “Artisan” by WFLF member Karen McAferty Morris

Member Claire Massey's essay about the importance of arts and creativity in education and society appears in the Winter 2019 issue of *Pen Woman Magazine*. Titled "An Open Letter to Nancy Dafoe, National Letters Chair," the article addresses "every human's right to art," calling it "a divine gift that magnifies what is indispensable in life, what makes it worth living."

Claire read the essay several months ago at open mic and was encouraged by attendees to submit. We're glad she did.

Below is an excerpt from her letter.

I have been listening to the concerns of writers, visual artists, and musicians regarding the current state of the arts in our country. Opportunities for all people to learn about and participate in the arts are on the decline. As an educator with 37 years of experience, I am alarmed that school curricula that promote creativity are particularly threatened. Classes that once taught critical thinking skills (and enhanced the ability to thoughtfully evaluate the ideas of others) are disappearing in favor of "education" for robotic, and often dead-end, jobs.

When the creative processes of mind, heart, and soul are disdained, we are all in peril. When the programs that nourish ingenuity and teach would-be artists of every age and socioeconomic background are defunded, we are all in danger. We are at risk of forgetting, as you asserted, that art rescues us from unreason. We are in jeopardy of losing our best potentials; our strongest urgings toward understanding, transcendence of fear, respect for all creation, and needed change.

I recently read a quote to the effect that tyranny loves the uneducated. I would add that tyranny thrives when minds close, eyes are shuttered, and creativity is devalued.

“There are years that ask questions and years that answer” *Zora Neale Hurston*.

“Trust that now is the time. Take a leap of faith and begin this wondrous new year by believing in yourself” *Sarah Ban Breathnach – Simple Abundance*

REMEMBER WHEN BARBARA WAS HERE IN 2016?

Belladonna* Collaborative Presents



Poets on the Road: Maureen Owen & Barbara Henning

On January 18th, the poet Maureen Owen and I are starting on a journey, a book tour with readings in Brooklyn; Washington DC; Pensacola, FL; Mobile, AL; New Orleans; Austin, TX; Albuquerque, NM; Tucson, AZ; San Marcos, CA; La Jolla, CA; Venice, CA; San Francisco, CA; Berkeley, CA; Sebastopol, CA; Boulder, CO; and Denver, CO. We are very excited about this trip; we will be gone for about two months. If you are in any of these cities and you would like to hear us read, our agenda is available on our blog page. We are planning to keep a running blog about our adventures, readings, the poets and people we meet on the road. You can follow our journey

at <http://barbarahenning.com/category/maureenowen/>
Also, here's a link to a memoir of 1973. *Make Your Mama Proud* www.makeyourmamaproud.org In 1972, I met Allen Saperstein in Cobb's Corner Bar in Detroit. He was bartending. I had just moved downtown to take classes at Wayne State University. That was the beginning of many adventures we had together, including raising two children. In 1973, Allen and I bought a wooden box camera from Art Frasier, an old man who had built the camera and used to peddle photos near the Art Institute. We took it out on the Detroit Cass Corridor streets, then to ethnic festivals, carnivals and fairs in Michigan, and finally traveling down south to Birmingham, Alabama. The story of that journey,

with the photographs, is at the heart of this short memoir. I hope to see many of you on the road.

Namaste,
Barbara Henning

POETRY

Writers

Writers are like waves
Large, small, ripples
Adjusting to the ebb and flow
With peaks and troughs
Rising to separate heights
Traveling with varying speed and force
Here for only a little while
Then they are gone
Few will be remembered
Others forming just behind
Writers and waves continue
On and on.

Richard Hurt

Flight Delayed

There is something wrong with the plane
but nobody will announce what it is.
Kids kick the seat-backs, a baby cries,
some read or stare at their cell phones.

Crammed like seeds into your cabin
you may find out exactly who you are,
as much as you will ever know
as you are kept stranded among strangers
on the hot tarmac, waiting for words
that will explain your absence from flight,
from the air above the swollen clouds.

At some point there will come a departure.
You will be lifted above the clouds,
invisible to those you love and who love you.
Take solace in the presence of the flawed,
forgettable things of this world;
bless the engine's troubled heart, its brief
and mysterious fear to rev up and fly again.

Henry Langhorne



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Popping noises with loud cracks,
flowers of lights in the sky-
a new year
is announced.
With spirits high
we blow the horn.

Lives vanish.
New friends appear.
Wars continue
with the brave there
and the others protesting.

Graves without stones
sprout bouquets above
the slumbering dead
who had a last year
and probably
never knew it.

Everyone says
“Happy New Year”
and “Feliz Navidad”.
Happiness abounds
Strangers are hugged
just because.

Life goes on as before
with little change.
Creatures of habit
with tunnel vision
continue the march.

Marilyn Howard

REVIEWS

Body of Water

A book of poetry by Jeff Santosuosso

Jeff Santosuosso has written a book of poetry with a breadth and depth of sensitivity that enfolds the reader as gently as a warm bath.

Indeed, his mastery of the written word underscores his maturity, its intimate response to the muses of nature and the human experience both delicate and intricate. Once engaged in the process, the reader goes from one to another poem wanting more. Beginning with the introductory “Warmth,” to the concluding “At the Shoreline,” his insight is profound.

I suggest one hastens to experience the reward of reading this fine book of poetry.

Ryn Holmes
K&K Writing Services



Water Skiing on the Amazon
by Patricia Edmisten

Patricia Edmisten calls *Water Skiing on the Amazon* a memoir for her grandchildren. This narrative of an adventurous life provides a straightforward reflection readers of all ages can relate to. Edmisten begins with her background of German grandparents and early childhood living above their bakery in Milwaukee. The neighborhood of the early 1940s feels idyllic with descriptions of playing games like “Kick the Can” outside until the street lights came on. In the winter, ice skating at Washington Park and playing “Crack the Whip” were favorite activities. She is honest in the chapter “Things I Wish I Had Not Done,” admitting to the sort of shenanigans most adolescents try at least once. But her Catholic upbringing and good conscience most often steered her right. Her Peace Corps years make for fascinating

reading on all levels. The Peace Corps was just getting started in the early sixties, and serving in this (loosely-organized at the time) organization required a great deal of fortitude. Although rewarding work, some of the incidents she describes are heart-wrenching. These two years enhanced her beliefs and laid the foundation for the life of service the author has continued. Enhanced with travel photos and family pictures, this memoir is a thought-provoking account of a remarkable life. She continues with details of marriage, children, the tragedies that touch us all. What struck me the most was the strength with which she was able to deal with change, travel, and adversity. There is not a weak bone in this woman’s body. Not only will her grandchildren appreciate and cherish this book for years to come, readers will get to know someone who knows herself well and has no qualms about standing up for her beliefs. The book is an easy read, written in short, concise segments that are packed with information. *Water Skiing on the Amazon* delivers everything that catchy title promises.

Andrea Walker



Turning Leaves:
Essays About Books and Reading
by Andrea Walker
An Insightful Guide for Book Lovers

If you ever asked yourself, “What should I read next?” then you’re going to enjoy Andrea Jones Walker’s new book *Turning Leaves: Essays about Books and Reading*. A lover of both, Walker shares her thoughts on some 46 novels by such authors as Maeve Binchy,

Katherine Clark, Ken Follett, Somerset Maugham, Ann Patchett, Susan Vreeland, Jeannette Walls, and Eudora Welty, as well as nonfiction works by noted personalities like Jimmy Carter, Deepak Chopra, and Elizabeth Gilbert. Walker also includes book reviews of poetry and prose by members of West Florida Literary Federation Jack Beverly, Charlotte Crane, Juliet DeMarko, Patricia Edmisten, Ryn Holmes, Henry Langhorne, Susan Lewis, Diane Skelton, and Jeannie Zokan, to name a few.

Reviewing literature well requires not only an ability to understand and appreciate writing, but also the talent of expression, and Walker possesses both. She evaluates with both intellect and heart. For instance, about *Water for Elephants*, she writes “Homelessness, with us then as it is now, thrived during the Depression, making us wonder what it is that sustains a human being when he has been stripped of everything in the material world,” and her thoughts about David Baldacci’s *Wish You Well* include musings about why writers write and how writers often struggle with the role of memory in their works: “To grasp those memories and forge the link [that binds us as people] is a desire we feel compelled to fulfill, and the characters in *Wish You Well* show us how.” Her reviews are generally brief and always insightful. Another reviewer has called Walker’s reviews “respectful and accessible.” This latest book by WFLF member and *The Legend* editor will certainly delight and guide all of us who love books.

Karen McAferty Morris

More Literary Things To Do

January 15, 2019 – Patricia Edmisten reading from and discussing *Water Skiing on the Amazon* followed immediately by open mic.

February 19 Third Tuesday open mic

March 19 Third Tuesday reading featuring winners of the “Malala Yousafzai: Giving Girls a Voice” contest (Better get your entry in!)

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.

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

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.

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Ed Stanford

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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



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