



The Legend

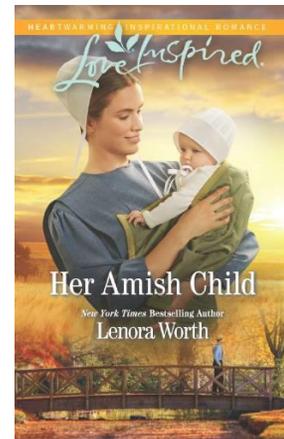
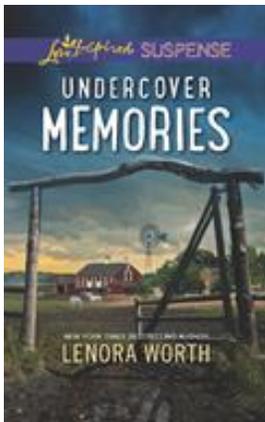
West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

July 2019

JULY 16 THIRD TUESDAY OPEN MIC!

Lenora Worth



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. 32502 - Free. Open to public.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope you all had a wonderful July 4th holiday celebrating our country's birthday and are enjoying the lazy, but sometimes hot days of summer.

Hard work is in progress in planning a Writing & Book Festival on November 8th and 9th, so save the date. This will be a joint effort by our organization and the Gulf Coast Authors. More info to come, so stay tuned.

Our open mics have been going well; last month we honored our student poetry contest winners. The three winning students were Serena Townsend, Patrick Beeman, and Laylonna Battle, all from Ferry Pass Middle School. Special thanks go to Catherine Mabry, their teacher. On July 16, best-selling romance author Lenora Worth will present the program, after which we will go into the open mic phase with each person having five minutes to read poetry, prose or tell a story or whatever.

We have received some great submissions for our upcoming *Emerald Coast Review* and this issue, volume 20, will follow in the fine tradition set by the previous 19 editions in showcasing some of the best of our local/regional authors. Publication is set for November. We do keep some copies of our previous editions and editions of our other publications, and occasionally I get calls from people whose works were published many years ago, sometimes as a child in the children's poetry books. They have lost the book, and often I am able to provide a copy for them.

Visit our website at www.WFLF.org and visit our Facebook page by typing in West Florida Literary Federation in the FB search bar. Tell me what you think: estanford@cox.net or 850-449-6771.

Ed Stanford, President

Thank you . . .

. . . if you submitted to the *Emerald Coast Review Volume XX*. Work is in progress and writers and artists who have been accepted will be announced August 1.

Feel free to share your travels, news, and musings. I hope to hear from you soon with your writing for the *Legend*.

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.

tewsd@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

Lenora Worth

Lenora Worth is a member of Romance Writers of America and American Christian Fiction Writers Honor Rolls. Lenora Worth writes romance and romantic suspense for Love Inspired and also writes for Tule Publishing. Three of her books were finalists in the ACFW Carol Awards and several have been RT Reviewer's Choice finalists. She also received

the Romantic Times Romance Pioneer Award for Inspirational Fiction. "Logan's Child" won the 1998 Best Love Inspired for RT. She is a NY Times, USA Today and Publishers Weekly bestselling writer. With eighty-plus books and novellas published and over three million books in print, she enjoys adventures with her retired husband, Don. Lenora loves reading, baking and shopping ... especially shoe shopping and is a 2019 RITA® finalist.

2019 Releases:

Keeping Guard (LIS) January
Her Amish Child (LI) Feb
Closing the Deal (Tule) June
Police Protector (LIS) June
His New Amish Family/Their Amish Reunion (LI) June
(with Patricia Davids)
Deep Undercover (LIS) July
Survival Mission (LI Classics) July
Christmas Rescue (LI Classics) Nov
Amish Christmas Hideaway (LIS) Dec
Holiday Protectors (LI Classics) Dec



2019 West Florida Literary Federation
**Middle School Student Poetry
Contest Winners Recognized**

The West Florida Literary Federation was proud to recognize the winners of their 2019 Student Poetry Contest. The students were recognized at the Open Mic night held on June 18, 2019 at 400 South Jefferson Street Pensacola Fl. The three winning students were; Serena Townsend, Patrick Beeman and Laylonna Battle from Ferry Pass Middle School.

The students' families and teacher, Mrs. Catherine Mabry, attended the event with the regular open mic attendees, and it was a full house. The 2019 prompt for the poetry contest was "Tell me." The poems could be any length. The three winners were invited to read their poems to the open mic audience. Ed

Stanford, WFLF President, and Lisa Rawson, Board Member, presented each student with \$25 gift cards and a beautiful plaque from the West Florida Literary Federation.

The heartfelt response to the students' poems by all attendees was contagious and very supportive. Attendees Brenda A. Coleman, a teacher at Warrington Middle School, and Peter Shelton, a military officer, spoke with me after the event. They found the students' poems "captivating, deeply rooted, thought-inspiring," and said "society needs to listen more to young people because their words revealed how consciously aware middle school students are today." Ms. Coleman said she will definitely be back to participate in more Open Mic nights and was inspired to consider offering a poetry club at her school next year. Many listeners expressed their appreciation and stated they were moved and touched by the event and will be looking forward to next year's student poetry contest winners' poems.

The 2020 West Florida Literary Federation Student Poetry Contest prompt will be announced in the fall of 2019 and open to all middle school age students in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. More information about the West Florida Literary Federation can be found on the website www.wflf.org. The WFLF Open Mic night is held every third Tuesday at 400 S. Jefferson St. Pensacola, FL and is open to the public.

Lisa Rawson, WFLF Board Member

**SAVE THE DATE
November 9**

The West Florida Literary Federation and Gulf Coast Authors have partnered for the **Pensacola Writing & Book Festival**, to be held **9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 9, 2019** during Foo Foo Festival in downtown Pensacola.

This free event is open to the public and features presentations and panels for the entire family -- adults, military veterans, seniors, children, teens, and tweens, including how to start writing, how to get your book published, and how to write thrillers, memoirs, biographies, romance, inspirational, commercial fiction and more. Some of the award-winning speakers include New York Times and USA Today best-selling author and the Opening Keynote Speaker, Lenora Worth; # 1 Amazon International best-selling author Michael Byars Lewis; Top Ten

Amazon best-selling playwright/author/freelance writer of over 1,000 works Paula K. Parker; acquiring editor and publisher of Tennessee's Wordcrafts Press Mike Carter (who will also describe the fiction and non-fiction works he is currently interested in publishing), and many more.

The **Kids Korner** features a puppet story hour for kids aged 4-9. Teens/tweens can join in a special Dragon Fantasy writing session led by *The Dragon Master Series* author Vicki Shankwitz, with an authentic Chinese Dragon for inspiration!

Stay tuned for more info!

WELCOME NEW MEMBER
Gage Crowder

**Defying Disconnection: My First Visit to the
West Florida Literary Federation**

In an age of Twitter wars, fake news, and all-around divisiveness, authentic human conversation is hard to come by. We in late modernity are (sometimes rightly) assailed by cultural critics as being inflicted with self-induced absence of *human connectedness* more irreversible than time itself. Though the miracle of modern technology has given us access to more of the world in an instant than the ancients could have hoped to experience in a hundred lifetimes, we are condemned as disenchanting, distracted, disinterested, and--most damningly--disconnected.

However, a few weeks ago, I was given significant reason to doubt the claims of disconnection.

Perusing websites for a local arts scene that I could get involved with, I stumbled across the website for the West Florida Literary Federation. Within five minutes of being on the website, my payment for membership and information form were already done. I was eager to get involved.

A few days later, my wife and I attended the monthly open mic night; immediately, I knew that I made a good decision. On this particular evening, the WFLF hosted a local student poetry competition. A group of parents and their children as well as members of the school leadership were present. Unfortunately, the students were already finished with their readings; however, I watched with happiness as one of the school's leadership stepped

up to the podium and discussed the importance of poetry for the children of our community.

After the awards were distributed, the open mic night officially started. Members of the federation stood for five minutes at a time, sharing their art. Between readings, the atmosphere was light and--almost--familial. A new member read for the first time, and seasoned members read as they had done for years. Multiple times, their heartfelt readings filled me with joy and wonder, heightened by the rare mixture of generations, genders, classes, and races who had all come together with their art to try and help one another conceive of a deeper experience of that slippery worm we call Reality.

After the open mic officially ended, multiple people introduced themselves to me and made me feel very welcome to the group, encouraging me to get involved in as many ways as I would enjoy. I left that night after open mic feeling more attuned to my community; it was almost a religious experience, beautifully ordinary and sublime.

Walking back to my car in the night, I was already eager for next month's meeting. After reflecting a bit, what I took away from the first meeting was this: Disconnection is a myth. If we look for them, opportunities for genuine human coalition are all around, and I found mine on the second floor of the Pensacola Cultural Center.

I would like to thank all of the good people at the West Florida Literary Federation for making me feel so welcomed, and I look forward to many more incredible nights in the future.

Gage Crowder

Call for submissions July 5 – 28
PANOPLY



See guidelines for poetry and flash fiction at www.panoplyzine.com. Edited by Andrea, Ryn, and Jeff

POETRY

Wind

I listen to the voice of the wind
born when the sun

warms the land and sea
unevenly. The taste of ocean salt

and desert sand lingers tonight.
Wind covers my face, bends trees.

I thought it invisible
until I saw it hovering on the horizon,

leaning into the sunlight
until night covered it with darkness.

It stood still,
like a tree under curious stars.

Henry Langhorne

Driving to the Hospital One Morning

While I barely listened to the car radio
and a muffled pop song, a voice sang clearly:
Life is more than who we are.

I could not forget the words as I weaved
through morning traffic and waited patiently
for the first time at crowded intersections.

That morning as I made my rounds
through corridors of wheelchairs bodies
stacked like cracked vases,
some thin as a stalk of wheat,
past numbered rooms with ice blue walls,
rooms drenched with the smell of urine

and faded flowers, and empty beds
stripped of their sheets and cold bodies—
where art is short and suffering long—

I wished I could empty their rooms of fear
and find the song on the radio I heard
that would make them smile and sing along.

Henry Langhorne

WFLF is requesting a volunteer/volunteers with accounting skills to serve as treasurer or co-treasurers for the upcoming writers conference which will be part of the Foo Foo Festival this year. This can be a temporary position or can work into a term position. If you are interested, please contact Ed Stanford or Elizabeth Holmes for more information.

estanford@cox.net

elizabethholmes@gmail.com

Thanks to Charlotte Crane who helps 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

Third Tuesday Open Mic, July 16, 7 p.m. Reading and presentation by author Lenora Worth followed immediately by open mic.

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.

Saturday, November 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Pensacola Writing and Book Festival.

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Ed Stanford

Vice President: Laura Richards

Secretary: Elizabeth Holmes

Treasurer: *open*

Director: Bob Holmes

Director: Mimi LeBlanc

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 _____

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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