



# *The Legend*

**West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.**

[www.wflf.org](http://www.wflf.org)

**September 2019**

**THIRD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, OPEN MIC**  
**The Passionate Voice in Latin American Poetry**  
**Presented by Patricia and Joe Edmisten**



Simmering Stanzas: an exchange of love poetry between a man and woman. Join us as Joe and Patricia read the poetry of romantic love, love of country, and justice from Latin American poets including Gabriela Mistral. “What distinguishes many, if not most Latin American poets is their comfort with the expression of passion.”

**Refreshments at 6:30 ~ Program at 7:00 followed immediately 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

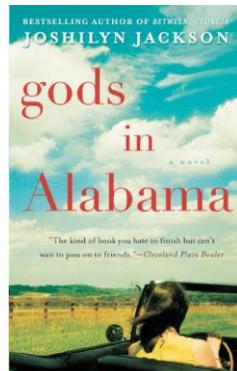
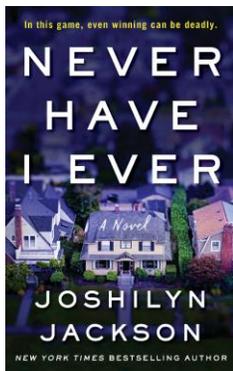
Free. Open to public

September 2019 *Legend* - 1

## Joshilyn Jackson



In conjunction with the Pensacola Writing & Book Festival, the West Florida Literary Federation will be offering a 3-hour workshop by **Joshilyn Jackson**, *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling novelist and author of nine books, including *gods in Alabama*, *The Almost Sisters*, and the recently released *Never Have I Ever*. The workshop is scheduled for **Friday, November 8, 2019, from 1:30-5:00 pm** at the community meeting room in the **Studer Community Institute located at 220 W. Garden, Pensacola, Florida 32502**. Joshilyn's workshop will discuss the fiction topics of plot, character, and theme. The workshop will be limited to 40 attendees and will cost \$25 for WFLF members and \$45 for non-members. Registration information will be forthcoming, so check back on our website [www.wflf.org](http://www.wflf.org).



Her work has been translated into more than a dozen languages, and Jackson is also an award-

winning audiobook narrator. She writes page-turners that revolve around women's issues and faith and justice issues. Jackson lives in Decatur, Georgia, with her family. To learn more, visit [joshilynjackson.com](http://joshilynjackson.com).

**West Florida Literary Federation  
and Gulf Coast Authors present:  
Pensacola Writing & Book Festival  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, November 9, 2019  
Studer SCI Building  
220 W. Garden St.  
Pensacola, FL. 32502**

Free, open to the public, presentations and panels for the entire family. Some of the award-winning speakers include:



Lenora Worth



Michael Byars Lewis



Paula Parker

1. Lenora Worth: New York Times and USA Today best-selling author and the Opening Keynote Speaker.
2. Michael Byars Lewis: #1 Amazon International best-selling author.
3. Paula K. Parker: Top Ten Amazon best-selling playwright/author/freelance writer of over 1,000 works.
4. Mike Carter: acquiring editor and publisher of Tennessee's Wordcrafts Press (who will also describe the fiction and non-fiction works he is currently interested in publishing).

The **Kids Korner** morning session for 4-9-year-olds will be a multi-event including costumed characters, storytelling, reading books by local children's authors, and puppet-making to act out the stories. The afternoon session for ages 10-17 will be led by *Dragon Masters* trilogy author Vicki Shankwitz and illustrator Robert Shankwitz III.

Much more is in the planning, so stay tuned!

## 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](mailto: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.

[ronaldtew@yahoo.com](mailto:ronaldtew@yahoo.com)

### **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](mailto:dianeskelton@att.net)

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

**Laura Juliet Wood**

## MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to WFLF member **Tom Roberts**, a finalist in the 2019 Royal Palm Literary Award sponsored by the Florida Writer's Association. Tom's yet-to-be-published novel, *Lost Scrolls of Archimedes*, is a finalist in the historical fiction category. Winners will be announced at the October conference in Orlando. <https://floridawriters.net/conferences/conference-2019/>

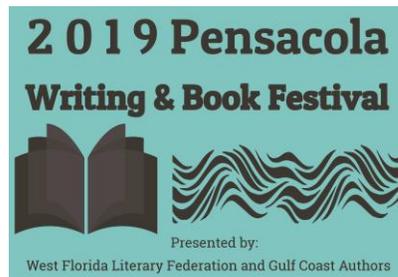
Farewell to longtime WFLF member, former board member and treasurer **Judy Fawley**, who is now living in Stow, Ohio. Her quick wit and humor are especially missed in the Wednesday Portfolio and Exchange Society critique group. Her new email is [judithfawley@gmail.com](mailto:judithfawley@gmail.com) and her new address is  
4291 Allen Road  
Apartment 2009  
Stow, Ohio 44224

Longtime member **Dr. Joe Howard** is recovering from illness and surgery, and, according to Marilyn, on the mend.

**Lorraine Byrd** is doing well and would love visitors at the Watermark in Gulf Breeze. Her granddaughter, Jessica, often brought her to open mic and frequently posts updates about "Nana" on Facebook. Jessica suggests, “What would be really cool is if we could have a little meeting or reading there sometime.”

Issue 13 of *Panoply* is up. Congratulations to WFLF members **Karen McAferty Morris** for the inclusion of “The Return” and **Gage Crowder** for his poem “Synesthesia.” Check them out at [panoplyzine.com](http://panoplyzine.com).





**CALLING ALL AUTHORS, BOOK INDUSTRY PROVIDERS & FOOD VENDORS!**

RENT A TABLE at the 2019 WFLF-GCA PENSACOLA WRITING & BOOK FESTIVAL

WHERE? Studer Center, 220 W. Garden St., Pensacola, FL 32502 - interior tables in the beautiful interior Atrium on the ground floor main entry.

WHEN? Saturday Nov. 9, 2019 \* 9 AM - 5 PM

WHAT? Reserve a 3 ft. table or a 6 ft. table to sell your books, services or goods.

WHY? Reach your target market of novice and established writers and book lovers, locals and out-of-towners, adults, children, military & veterans, families and festival attendees!

WHY NOW? Save with Earlybird Rates till Sept. 30. Limited tables available. Reserve now!

HOW TO RESERVE? Print out this flyer, circle the table you want from the price list below, send the flyer with the table checked or a note with the table you want, and mail a check payable to West Florida Literary Federation, Inc. for the price of your table to Jeanne Tew, 840 South H Street, Pensacola, FL 32502. *Be sure to postmark by the deadline date. Do it today!*

QUESTIONS? Email Jeanne Tew at [jeannetew@bellsouth.net](mailto:jeannetew@bellsouth.net)

*EARLYBIRD PRICES if postmarked by Sept. 30, 2019 (if-available, first-come, first-served basis):*

GCA or WFLF member (1 author) at a 3' table (1/2 of 6' table) (no publishers): \$35

GCA or WFLF member (1 author) at a 6' table (no publishers): \$40

Non-member single author, publisher, printer, book industry provider or other non-food vendor at one 6' table: \$50

Two or more authors (members/non-members/combo) at one 6' table: \$70

One food vendor (vendor's branded products) at one 6' table: \$50

*REGULAR PRICES if postmarked by Oct. 31, 2019 (if-available, first-come, first-served basis):*

GCA-WFLF single author at one 3' table (1/2 of 6' table) (no publishers) \$45

GCA-WFLF single author at one 6' table (no publishers) \$50

Non-member single author, publisher, printer, book industry provider or other non-food vendor at one 6' table: \$60

Two or more authors (members/non-members/combo), at one 6' table: \$80

One food vendor (one or more of vendor's branded products) at one 6' table: \$60

**LIMITED TABLES AVAILABLE. RESERVE YOUR TABLE NOW!**

## 20th EMERALD COAST REVIEW OFFERS VARIED, REGIONAL VOICES

The twentieth anniversary volume of The Emerald Coast Review, scheduled for a November launch, will feature poetry, fiction, nonfiction and visual art from more than 25 contributing regional writers and artists. The biennial anthology will also include a special section of poetry from all six Poets Laureate of Northwest Florida, along with work by student poets. The book has been published by West Florida Literary Federation since 1989, the year the first Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida was named.

Editorial team member Andrea Walker describes the variety of work in the upcoming volume as “an accurate regional representation of our varied voices. The sound of voices in this edition rings with themes of nature, contemplation, conflict, nostalgia, light, sorrow and loss.”

The volume will publish work by both new and established writers and artists including Laylonna Battle, Patrick Beeman, Patricia Black-Gould, Glenda H. Caudle, Patrick Eugene Cochran, Charlotte Crane, Austry Dye, Patricia Taylor Edmisten, John W. Gibson, Margaret (Meg) Gray, Margret Hildreth, Elizabeth Hammond Holmes, Terry Henry, Richard Craig Hurt, Jonathan C. Johansen, Marc Livanos, Claire Massey, Jerri Ketcham McDermott, Jessica Millis, Karen McAferty Morris, Alice H. Murray, Sharon Noland Norred, Judy Ransom, Diane Skelton, James Lynn Smith, Debra Stogner, Carolyn Joyce Tokson, Serena Townsend, Christine Valentine, Lucie Watson Wade, Andrea Jones Walker, Jill White and Allison Whitman.

The special poets laureate section includes reprints from the poetry collection of the late Adelia Rosasco Soule and Laurie O'Brien, plus new work from Mary Hood, PhD; Leonard Temme, PhD; and Dr. Henry Langhorne. Past Poet Laureate Julie DeMarko and current Poet Laureate Jamey Jones have also submitted new works for this anniversary volume. The section also includes brief biographies and photographs of the each poet laureate, the first compilation of its type.

The selected works represent submissions from the Florida counties of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa,

Walton, Bay, and the Alabama counties Escambia, Mobile, and Baldwin, plus work from a few members of West Florida Literary Federation no longer living in the area.

### CREATIVE WRITING

#### Yield

Yellow light  
Slow down  
Give way  
You might  
Be blessed  
Be opened  
Be forgiven  
Be driven  
To accept  
To float  
To release  
To have peace

*Cat Mabry*

#### Newlywed Song

Soft light, gentle moonlight  
White-shining slowly down  
Illumines the sparse spread clouds.

The wind sashaying through the palms  
Glides and paces past reflective fields;  
Salt waters rise and fold back in the sea.

I stretch speechless under obsidian sky,  
Wishing this night to never bid adieu.  
My love, beautiful, graces the beach,  
She is my life, my precious light,  
My faithful lover, in sweet embrace.  
A woman of inner and outer beauty both.

She lies now tranquilly beside me  
As waves crash on ivory sands,  
Our new life a journey we've begun.  
Our vows we will never fail to heed.  
She and I lie entwined here,  
Thankful, prayerful, joyful.

*Ethan McGuire*

Remember when I asked for travel writing?  
Thank you to Autry Dye who shared this piece.  
Sounds like a lovely place to visit.

### **My Favorite Place**

It takes a long time to get there from here, and I am always so pleased when we arrive. It feels like I can breathe again, but I know that is only in my heart. Going from two feet above sea level to 6,000 feet does not make that a reality. We have been returning to this location in West Texas for many years, and at one time we thought of moving here. The remoteness that we loved is also the reason we did not make the change. It doesn't seem to matter the time of year that we visit. It holds a special beauty and fascination for me because I did not grow up with such things as rocks in my landscape, just flat farmed fields.

Where we stay is nestled in a valley. At a distance I can see The Indian Lodge, a motel created by the Corps of Engineers. A lovely place with white adobe walls, highly polished floors and western decorations.

We arrived the first week of July. The mountains that surround me are covered with a soft light green that reminds me of velvet, and short dark evergreen trees that stand like sentinels along the top of the ridges and clustered in the valleys. Looking up I see rugged outcroppings of vertical formations. They look like giant stacks of Tootsie Rolls ready to tumble down, and some did in 1995 during the largest earthquake in Texas history.

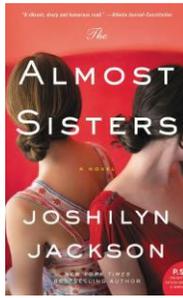
The mountains are green because of the afternoon showers. It seems to take all day for a cloud to build up enough strength to let go of some moisture. Here in the mountains, the clouds do not move like they do on the coast where things happen fast. They seem to sit above and around me trying to decide what they want to do.

I hear a distant rumble of thunder to the east. Deep purple clouds filled with visible turbulence are being pushed down. The breeze has been brisk and cooling. A much-welcomed event after high temperatures traveling across the country. In the distance I see the rain falling in gray/purple sheets.

Before my eyes and at my feet are patches of bright yellow flowers. I think they are called "Bitter weed." Among them is Purple Thistle and nettles. They are visited by large black butterflies that move too quickly for me to photograph. I must be careful where I step because much of the vegetation and creatures here, either sting, stick or bite. A lot like the coast. Many birds visit this area early in the spring. This morning I was wearing a bright red shirt and was visited by a Hummingbird who was trying to decide if I was a giant flower. He joined me briefly while I enjoyed my coffee and watched the sun rise. It was going to be a beautiful day in west Texas.



*Autry Dye*



Review of *The Almost Sisters*  
Joshilyn Jackson

William Morrow an imprint of Harper Collins  
ISBN 978-0-06-210571-4  
342 pages

Set in a small fictitious Alabama town, Joshilyn Jackson's *The Almost Sisters* is a great study in comparisons. First, are the stepsisters, raised together from early childhood, with a pair of almost-sisters names, Leia and Rachel. That first (Bible-based) parallel becomes one of several that readers may discover throughout the novel.

Jackson opens the book with Leia's humorous realization she is pregnant. Complications abound. Not obstetrical complications, social ones. A successful, single, thirty-something comic book artist, she narrates her dire situation with a laugh-out-loud humor that real life probably would warrant. Soon we meet the perfect almost sister Rachel, quite the foil to Leia. Rachel has her own crisis unfolding, aka the cheating husband. Then there's thirteen-year-old niece Lavender.

Leia also discovers Birchie, the grandmother she loves dearly, is seriously ill with an unusual form of dementia. Leia must go to her – drive the seven hundred miles from her home in Virginia to Birchfield, Alabama. Pouty niece Lavender goes with her. And so the background is laid for serious, funny, and seriously funny progression of plot. We meet another pair of women in Birchfield who are close enough to be sisters, although unlikely since Birchie is white and Wattie is black.

Jackson fully develops her cast of characters, so we love them or hate them within minutes of meeting them. Relationships of loyalty and prejudice emerge. Old family secrets and betrayal sneak in. The story is filled with action, and yes, a skull is discovered in the attic. Amidst all the craziness, Leia decides she will raise the child alone, an easy decision since she has no way to contact the father whose name she does not even know. All the while, she tries to formulate the

back story to her wildly popular comic hit *Violence in Violet*.

The embedded theme that gains strength as the plot thickens is the overarching theme of Southern racism. Always lurking in the undercurrent, racism becomes more and more apparent as Birchie's dementia gets her into trouble with the law and her best friend Wattie tries to help her conceal her secret.

But as the action unloads, Leia comes to terms with what she calls the Second South. Leia begins to understand this issue, so relevant to today's climate, more clearly. She sees the impasse that society has reached and realizes she can impact this social problem significantly. She has a voice through her writing that will reach a huge population.

Within Jackson's well-written entertaining novel lie twists and turns and clever examples of parallelism that will make it hard to close the pages. The author presents a social problem of hefty merit in an accessible way. I highly recommend it because she acknowledges the issue and instead of letting it go, takes positive action to confront it.

*Andrea Walker*  
July 19, 2018

*I emailed my book club the following: "to tell you how much "I love it. . . I believe it has such merit. . . look forward to discussing this surprising book" Now I'm looking forward to meeting this talented author who is from Pensacola.*

~

My continued 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, September 17—**  
Patricia and Joe Edmisten present "The Passionate Voice in Latin American Poetry" at 7 followed 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](mailto: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, 220 W. Garden St.

## **2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

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<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](mailto: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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Pensacola Cultural Center  
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