



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

APRIL 2020

*No Third Tuesday Open Mic in April
Let us think positive that we can socialize again soon.*



The West Florida Literary Federation's Annual Meeting, held on Friday, February 28, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m., at the Studer Community Institute on Garden Street, was attended by about 50 members and guests, with a social hour, a business hour, and Open Mic. Ed Stanford was recognized for his service as President for two terms. Lisa Rawson was recognized for her work with the Student Poetry Contest. Mimi LeBlanc was recognized for her service with the Writing Conference, a joint project between the West Florida Literary Federation and the Gulf Coast Authors. Tom Roberts was recognized for his service in bringing Joshilyn Jackson in for a writing workshop on November 8th, as part of the weekend's overall Writing Conference. WFLF thanks Ed Stanford and Laura Hood Richards for their service, as they roll off the Board of Directors, (President and Vice President, respectively) and welcomes Lisa Rawson, President; Bob Holmes, Vice President; Elizabeth Holmes, Secretary; Tom Roberts, Treasurer; Clair Massey, Director; and Ed Stanford, Director. Members enjoyed a buffet of Fried Chicken, Barbecue, Macaroni and Cheese, Pasta Salads, Appetizers, and Desserts.

West Florida Literary Federation Member/ Guest Survey

Please share your suggestions as to how WFLF can best promote the literary arts in West Florida and support our creative writers. Complete this survey and turn it in to any member of the Board of Directors. **We value your input and thank you for participating!**

1. What forms or genres interest you? Check all that may apply.

Fiction/Novels Short Fiction Non-fiction Poetry Essays
 Memoirs Book Reviews Plays/Drama/Script
 Magazine articles/news writing Children/Teen
 Emerging or hybrid forms, such as prose poetry, flash fiction
 Other: _____

2. What activities do you feel are most important for your development as a writer? Please rank in importance with 1=very important, 2=important, 3=less important.

shared readings at open mic
 local writing groups that may offer critiques
 guest speakers at our monthly meetings who are authors, editors, agents, university level instructors in creative writing, etc.
 opportunity to contribute your news, writings and stay informed via our monthly newsletter, *The Legend*.
 writing workshops on the craft of writing
 workshops on related topics such as publishing, self-publishing, copyright, web design, securing grants, etc.
 opportunity to contribute to and/or help publish our biennial literary journal, *The Emerald Coast Review*.
 book launchings, signings and social events that encourage networking
 collaboration with other arts organizations to sponsor events of interest
 maintain a literary resource center that may offer a check-out service to members
 additional comments:

3. What activities do you feel are most important for promoting the literary arts to the general public in West Florida? Please rank in importance with 1= very important, 2=important, 3=less important.

sponsor book fairs, festivals, tables at local events, etc., that showcase local authors and market their books.
 more outreach to local libraries, bookstores, newspapers, entertainment weeklies, public television and radio, arts organizations, and universities to publicize our activities and recruit new members.

___ sponsor writing contests for students, members and the public at large that recognize and reward quality writing

___ conduct workshops in the schools in collaboration with teachers of language arts and other instructors, perhaps in conjunction with a student contest

___ define the role of the Poet Laureate as to how they will further the mission of WFLF

___ provide a scholarship for a select student to study creative writing

___ provide “mini grants” that members could apply for, to help them attend out-of-town workshops and conferences. Perhaps they would agree to report on the conference at a WFLF meeting.

additional comments:

4. What factors made you decide or would encourage you to join WFLF?

5. What do you want from WFLF? How can we help you achieve your goals?

Additional insights, suggestions?

Member Name: _____

Guest/Potential Member Name: _____

Date: _____

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 10:30 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

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

Please contact the appropriate facilitator mentioned above regarding meetings during this time.

MEMBER NEWS

Condolences to Julie DeMarko whose husband Mike passed away in March. Many of us remember seeing Mike at Julie's side often.

Lately, **WFLF member Marc Livanos** has been on the radio garnering support for Santa Rosa County Library Administration to hold video game competitions by purchasing PS4 systems. The Poetry Workshop held at the Milton Community Center includes many

underprivileged teens who do not take advantage of the exceptional programs at the Milton Library. The Center is next to the High School and to get them in the door, he would urge these teens to partake in these video game competitions. It is another place for them to hang-out and our surrounding counties have similar systems.

Beyond that, he's working on a program for authority figures not to raise their voices or escalate situations, when it crosses the line. Instead, just look the person in the eye; say you're there because you care for him/her but that behavior is not proper. Then, walk away. In a few minutes, check back, and if necessary, say “I'm disappointed in you.”

Lastly, Marc has used the City website to post:

As we cope with school, library and community closures, it is important to reflect, write and share past quality times spent with grandparents, siblings, and those that love and encourage you.

Thanks for all you do for our youth, Marc!

CONGRATULATIONS

Tom Roberts published his historical novel, *Lost Scrolls of Archimedes*, on Amazon in paperback and eBook. This past October, the book won the Florida Writers Association Best Unpublished Historical Fiction award. Look for it on Amazon.com.



CREATIVE WRITING

PANDEMIC

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives are in one another's
hands.
(Surely, that has become clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words, reach out all the
tendrils of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—for better or
for worse, in sickness and in health, so long
as we all shall live.

Lynn Ungar

The dark of night

Darkness need not be dark.
For there to be night, there must be
darkness.
It is freedom, it is rest, it is dreams.
Turn off the light and quiet the sound.
But it should not be dark.

If there is no darkness, there is only the
clock. The night burns.
Its light will not be turned off.
Unless you turn it off – for restful hours
timeless.

Without darkness, nothing is possible. Not
tomorrow. Not tonight.
There is no silence. No rest.

If you cannot sleep in the night, there is
really no night.
If you cannot sleep, if you cannot dream, the
world has your back.
You must simply persist -- to see, to hear, to
count, to wonder,
and ask: why is your darkness denied you?

Darkness should come in the night, but pray
not bring the dark.
Nurture the silence. It is the voice of
darkness.
The dark is otherwise, with its whispers of
unrest,
Its mind with no true voice, no solace, no
comfort.
And there is no rest.

In twilight a blank wall shields darkness, the
peace, to come.
Be still. Be patient. Write your message on
the wall:
Come darkness, come to me,
And bring the wonder of daylight tomorrow.

Charlotte Crane

Travel in the "Post-Golden Age"

If you want to read some pretty bizarre
stories, the Roman poet Ovid's
Metamorphoses may be the book for you,
filled as it is with stories of remarkable
changes, like Daphne into a laurel tree; in
fact, lots of people are turned into flowers and
birds, and Zeus pretty regularly turns himself
into various animals to get up close and
personal with this or that nymph.

But Book I of this influential book,
published in 8 C.E., contains the story of the
creation of the world and a description of the

ages of man. First was the Golden Age, and Ovid describes it mainly as what it did not contain. There was an absence of laws (people were naturally good); no swords or martial instruments like bugles were necessary (no wars); no plows were needed since the Earth provided all foods naturally.

Another thing that was absent, and very interesting in light of the recent spread of the coronavirus from its origin in China—there was no travel in this Golden Age. People were content to live on their own shores, and the pine trees had not been felled to make ships.

As much joy as I have experienced in travel, both foreign and domestic, I must admit that the ability to travel has allowed some devastating diseases to ravish humankind. In the mid-500s one of the first documented plagues was brought to Europe probably from Africa through infected rats on cargo ships, and it is said that 10,000 people died each day when it reached Constantinople, eventually killing about 30% of the population. It later showed up in Europe, Africa, and Asia, with the death count estimated at somewhere near 25 million.

In 1347 the Black Death, likely brought to Europe by sailors returning to Italy from Crimea, stalked Europe, finally subsiding in 1353 after killing about 50 million people, about half of Europe's population. Gene sequencing has determined that this disease began in China 2000 years ago and had spread through trade routes.

In the early 1700s in Marseilles in southern France, merchant ships arrived from the Middle East, discharging infected passengers, while the cargo was also allowed to be offloaded; plague-carrying fleas from rats ran throughout the city. After two years, this plague had killed about 100,000.

The province Yunnan in China was the center of a pandemic in 1855, and for several decades fleas from infected rats carried the

disease all over the globe via steamships. Most of the casualties were in China and India, but there were cases in South Africa and San Francisco. Twelve to fifteen million people died.

After the bacterium-caused plagues, viruses were to blame for deadly diseases spread largely by travel. When the Spanish and Portuguese arrived in the Americas for conquest, they brought smallpox and other diseases from Europe. Some estimates say that these diseases killed 90% of the indigenous people. Mumps, measles, tuberculosis, and syphilis were some of the diseases brought to Hawaii through ships' crews and missionaries, devastating the indigenous populations, who had lived in a safe "bubble" until then.

HIV, which has killed more than 35 million people worldwide, started in the Congo and spread to Haiti and the Caribbean as people returned home from there; then it traveled to NYC around 1970, then to San Francisco. After that, through international travel it spread throughout the world.

We obviously no longer live in a "Golden Age." However, it's interesting to note how this one aspect of life, travel, which is such an educational and enjoyable experience, has allowed terrible diseases to spread. How the current coronavirus pandemic will impact travel in the future will also be interesting to observe. But the larger lesson remains: throughout it all, humans carried on, and the world recovered.

Karen McAferty Morris

(Source: history.com)

On the Lighter Side

Limerick Ode To The Corkscrew

Make a toast to a corking invention—
An aid in removing our tension.

Does your life feel screwed up?
Need some sips with your sup?
Then give praise for the corkscrew's ascension.

Madeleine Begun Kane

Ode to Wine

While reading I had a short nap
The book fell onto my lap.
Five o'clock's almost here,
Time for wine or a beer
So glad that I have a screw cap!

Kathy Breazeale

When the four o'clock hour comes around
The choices delightfully abound...
Should it be cabernet
Or a crisp chardonnay?
Oh, I love the uncorking's sweet sound!

Karen McAferty Morris

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

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

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

Tuesday, March 31, 6 p.m.-9— "Blues Women" lecture by Dr. Joan Cartwright followed by silent auction at Artel Art Gallery

Every Tuesday from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Pensacola Poetry Constant Coffee & Tea, 615 Scenic Highway.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Check out our website at www.wflf.org and "Like" us on Facebook, (under) West Florida Literary Federation.

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West Florida Literary Federation ~ Join or Renew ~ 2020

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 _____

<p>I would like to sponsor</p> <p>(NAME)</p> <hr/>

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

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