



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

DECEMBER 2020



Zoom into Open Mic on
December 15
Third Tuesday

We know. It's not quite the same. But Christmas is a time of hope and we all hope for better days soon.

In the meantime, join us at 6:30 to share your writing along with your hope. It's good to see faces of friends even if they're on screen and not in person.

Look at it this way. You don't have to bundle up, get out in the cold, and drive. You can stay cozy in your red sweater, your Christmas pajama bottoms, and your fuzzy slippers. It's the next best thing!



If you haven't used Zoom yet, below is a link for a short tutorial.

https://www.youtube.com/embed/hIkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1



**THE WEST FLORIDA LITERARY FEDERATION AND
THE NEW POET LAUREATE OF NORTHWEST
FLORIDA**

**SEEK SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2020 NOV PAD
CHAPBOOK CONTEST**

The WFLF 2020 NOV PAD POETRY CHAPBOOK CONTEST IS OPEN FOR ENTRIES!

THE WFLF NOV Poem-A-Day (#WFLFNNOVPAD) winning chapbook gets 2021 publication through Amazon KDP, with five free author copies and \$100 prize!

Chapbook Submission Dates: December 1 – 15, 2020

Fee: \$15.00 US

Winning chapbook announced January 19, 2021 at WFLF Third Tuesday Open Mic

Judge: Katherine Nelson-Born, Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida

Contest is limited to first 50 submissions.

SUBMIT: <https://westfloridaliteraryfederation.submittable.com/submit>

GUIDELINES: Visit the WFLF Facebook page for the Chapbook “Event”:

<https://www.facebook.com/West-Florida-Literary-Federation-WFLF-255101747857712>

Visit your WFLF Website for latest news: https://wflf.org/news-details/post_detail/poem-a-day-chapbook-contest

Questions? Email: westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com

Telephone: 850-221-6275

And for January 2021! #Haiku&You Challenge

What better way to start off the new year than with a new poetry challenge!

January 2021 kicks off the **#Haiku&You Challenge** for all willing participants.

Did you know that February is considered National Haiku Writing Month?

Why February? Well, according to NaHaiWriMo, February is the shortest month—perfect for the world’s shortest genre of poetry.

In celebration of National Haiku-Writing Month, the WFLF, your new Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida, and a newly formed Poets Roundtable have joined local poetry lovers and performance artists to host a “Haiku Slam” in Pensacola in February 2021. Stay tuned for more details coming soon.

Meanwhile, to help writers prepare for the February Haiku Slam, a daily prompt or theme will post on the WFLF Facebook & Twitter pages January 1-31, 2021.

Whether you follow the traditional 5/7/5 Japanese model or the American model championed by Jack Kerouac of a simple three-line poem, we challenge you to write a Haiku daily in January and join us for the forthcoming February Haiku Slam.

WFLF Writers Weekly Workshops

MONDAY POETRY ~ We are an informal group of poets with varying levels of experience who enjoy getting together to share our work with each other. Sometimes it's just to share, other times it's for critique and feedback. We are looking for others to join us virtually on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 6 pm - 8 pm. Interested in learning more or joining the group? Contact Debra Stogner at debrastogner@gmail.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

WELCOME NEW MEMBER
Denis Mortenson

Congratulations!

Three of Karen McAferty Morris' poems were accepted and are online now at *Ravens Perch*. Read "Vigil," "The Cheat River," and "End of Days" at <https://theravensperch.com/>. "Twelve Hours" and "Sweetness of the Lavender" will be published in December by *The Moving Force Journal*.

Claire Massey's flash fiction "Tantrum on the Beach" was accepted by *Saw Palm: Journal of Florida Art and Literature*. Claire says, "I have enjoyed this journal since I bought an issue in 2015. It's the journal of The University of South Florida and the home I most wanted for this story! Her poem, "Sleepless in Her Studio" will appear in the December issue of *Snapdragon: Journal of Art and Healing*. The theme for this issue is Sounds and Silence.

Update on Youth Writing Committee Unmuted Voices

The Youth Writing Committee has been busy preparing for the student poetry contest. Below is an excerpt the committee sent to teachers in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties:

"We at the **West Florida Literary Federation** care about the students of Northwest Florida, and we hope you will join us in encouraging them to participate in our 2021 youth poetry contest titled "Unmuted Voices."

"This year we are offering middle and high school students three writing choices that will empower their creativity, let them share their

voices, and contribute to their language development. Students can select one of these themes for their poems:

**Hope and Healing
Changes and Challenges
Mirrors/Windows/Views”**

Committee members have recorded a wonderful 10-minute video narrated by Karen Morris that promotes the poetry contest and offers teaching staff a poetry lesson appropriate for middle and high school students.

Ideally, the teachers can show the video, which introduces the contest, discusses poetic elements with a focus on theme, and examines four poems written by students, and then the teacher could use the rest of the period for the students to begin their own. The video script was a collaboration of Claire Massey, Mandy Fernandez, and Karen Morris.

Watch for postings on our website and help us spread the word!

CREATIVE WRITING

The Stranger

A cold aeolian wind buffeted the village of Trois Croix, tossing sheets on clotheslines between pastel hued masonry houses, up the slope from the harbor through gaps between ancient buildings, along cobbled lanes, to an old stone church with a tall, thorn-like spire. It whipped the drab clothes of the elderly parishioners as they ascended the stone entrance steps of the church, and they held tightly to their coats and hats. An old woman was the last to enter and removed her hand from her ornate purple velvet hat to grasp the door handle, and the ubiquitous wind blew it down the lane. A raven grabbed the hat and transformed into the tall figure of a bearded man, dressed in a hooded, velvety, dark purple cloak. A smile crossed his wizened face and his blue eyes glowed in the shadows of the hood.

An old man played the church’s ancient organ as the old woman took a seat near the front of the church, still unnerved from having lost her hat. The wind whistled through the frames of the stained glass windows. The song concluded, and old Pastor Dupuis stood at the pulpit and began a Pentecost Sunday sermon, reading from the Book of Acts. Suddenly, a gust of wind blew open the front doors, and the stranger entered. The congregation turned at the sound, and the wind swirled and lifted three frail, widowed sisters, and a thin, white haired man, inches in the air, and gently set them down in their pews. The stranger shut the doors and threw back the hood of his long cloak. His gray hair was wild and curly, his beard long as a wizard’s. Everyone stared as he strode up the center aisle, a leather pouch slung over his shoulder. His red lipped mouth was a perpetual grin, as if he knew a secret, and he took a seat in the front pew.

Pastor Dupuis, muddled by the countenance of the stranger, cleared his throat, and called for church elders to come forward to serve communion. While the old choir sang a hymn, ten old men and women began passing silver trays containing pieces of bread and small, tapered cups of wine. When the wine arrived at the stranger’s pew, he stood and grabbed a handful of glittery red dust from his pouch, tossed it in the air, and proclaimed “Maranatha!”

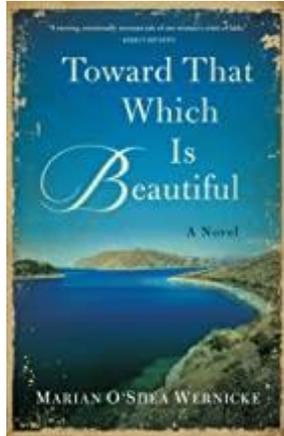
A new wind gusted and issued from the stranger. The magic dust swirled and settled on everyone. People coughed, sneezed, and wailed. Pastor Dupuis shouted for order, and there was a momentary silence. Then there was the sound of many foreign voices, and laughter.

Sunlight shone through the sanctuary’s stained glass windows, and the haze cleared, revealing young men and women milling back and forth, talking excitedly to one another.

The doors flung open and a raven flew outside. Then everyone, including the once infirm, ran from the church into the village, to see the world with young eyes, and speak languages they’d never learned, to anyone who would listen.

End

Denis Mortenson



Review of *Toward That Which Is Beautiful*
by Marian O'Shea Wernicke
She Writes Press
259 pages
ISBN 978-1-63152-759-3-51695

Marian O'Shea Wernicke has written a novel befitting its title *Toward That Which Is Beautiful*. This is the story of Kate, a young woman who has known since early adolescence she would become a nun. From a traditional Catholic family in St. Louis, with a parochial school education, Kate embodies all that is wholesome and practical. Her decision to become a nun is well-thought out.

Wernicke shares details of the novitiate and the human challenges of the young women who reside there as the postulants prepare themselves to take their vows. Watching them transform from giggly girls playing innocent tricks on each other to somber women who consider the seriousness and depth of the life they are choosing gives the reader insight.

Sister Mary Katherine (Kate) is sent to a mission in the small village of Juliaca in the Andes Mountains. Breathless at first from the altitude, she adjusts to her calling and life with the other nuns and priests as well as the South American people she is there to help. But not without retrospect. While immersed in the

daily work of teaching catechism through an interpreter, Kate spends much time reflecting on her faith as well as how she can be of best service to those who have so much less.

Her story evolves into a love story between Kate and Father Tom Flynn. Delicately, Wernicke reveals the stages such an unacceptable love may take. Kate and Tom love their work and have every intention of continuing. They share a deep commitment to their faith and to God. Perhaps they can share a meaningful friendship and maintain their lives as they are. When Kate realizes she wants more, she walks away one day at noon, penniless, looking for answers. Her escape takes her on adventures through Bolivia into Peru.

An underlying theme is revealed when she meets several people along the way. Peter Grinnell is on loan from Cambridge and studying Andean culture and history. He comments on the naivete of Americans who flock in to do good but don't understand the people or the culture. Kate admits she thinks she'd be more useful as a nurse than as a teacher. Peter reluctantly gives her a ride into town, and, realizing she will probably run away again, a warm coat with a little travel money hidden in the pocket.

When her bus is crossing the border, she meets Lieutenant Vargas. Kate's seatmate has exited the bus leaving a package of contraband beer which Vargas assumes is Kate's. When he insists on taking her in for questioning, the theme emerges again in their ensuing conversation. Change is needed in Peru but must be brought by the people themselves.

Her travel time to the Altiplano, past Lake Titicaca and back again to Lima and the shores of the Pacific Ocean give her time to face her questions about her church, her role, her mission, and her love. Readers will enjoy the picturesque scenery from alfalfa fields to sheer cliffs, precipices, and hairpin curves

with no guard rails to the moonlike landscape of desert sand dunes. Wernicke, a poet who weaves poetry into her prose, weaves her tale with nuance and insight. Her scenes of celebrations and rituals such as Christmas Mass and Holy Communion convey an honest sense of peace. This beautiful story of faith and love tells of human struggles and the human spirit which longs to do what is right.

Andrea Walker

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/WestFlorida-Literary-Federation/WFLF/255101747857712?ref=hl>

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

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