



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

FEBRUARY 2020

Third Tuesday Open Mic February 18

You be the program!



Think love!

Refreshments at 6:30 ~ Open Mic at 7:00

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



*You're Invited to WFLF's Annual Meeting and Party
Friday, February 28
5:30 p.m. to 9:00
at the Studer Community Institute
220 West Garden Street #100
Pensacola, FL 32502*

The meeting is open to all members and their guests. Main entrees, sides, salad, and beverages will be provided by WFLF. Members are asked to bring appetizers or desserts by signing up at the February 18 Open Mic or by emailing Bob Holmes at bobholmes1@gmail.com. During the meeting you may sign up for membership and pay your annual dues by check, cash, or credit card. Meet the new officers and invite your friends to learn more about WFLF. No cover charge, but members must pay their dues in order to vote. Guests welcome with members. RSVPs encouraged. Contact Lisa Rawson.

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

Dues are due for 2020. Please renew your membership and let Elizabeth Holmes, Tom Roberts, **OR** Andrea Walker know. Thanks!

MEMBER NEWS

WFLF members will represent Pensacola at the National League of American Pen Women award ceremony.

Patricia Black-Gould's short story "The Crystal Beads" won first place in the NLAPW Biennial Letters competition in the Flannery O'Connor short story competition. The short story will appear in Jewishfiction.net in April.



Patricia is pictured here at the Pensacola NLAPW meeting with Barbara Dunham's stunning collage depicting the story

Karen McAferty Morris's poem "Sestina--Late Autumn" won second place in the Elizabeth M. Campbell category of the NLAPW 2020 Biennial competition. In addition, her poem "Not as Seasons in Turn" won second place in the Helen Sutton Booth poetry category of the Biennial competition.

Andrea Walker's essay "*Defining Home: Is there still no place like home?*" won third place in the NLAPW 2020 Biennial Letters competition in the Journalism category.

According to the judges, the competition was especially difficult this year due to the large number of entries and high quality of the field. All three plan to attend the award ceremony at the Letters Luncheon on April 26th at The Darcy hotel in Washington, D.C. In addition, all Biennial Letters winners are invited to participate in a special, winners circle reading on the evening of April 25th at The Darcy hotel.

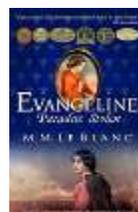
And we just keep publishing

Claire Massey's poem "Violation" appears in the Winter 2020 issue of *panoplyzine* (panoplyzine.com). Another of Claire's poems "Post to an Old Lover" will appear in the Summer 2020 issue of *The Avalon Literary Review*.

Karen McAferty Morris's poem "Rosa Rugosa" will appear in the Spring 2020 issue of *The Avalon Literary Review*. This quarterly review is available for purchase on Amazon in digital and print versions.

YOU ARE INVITED

Book Reading, Signing and Q&A by Michele Le Blanc of her final novel in the 5-time award-winning trilogy, *Evangeline: Paradise Stolen*



Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020 4pm - 6pm
FRENCH AFTERNOON TEA
Adonna's Bakery and Cafe
811 W. Garden Street (new address)
Pensacola, FL



(Dutch treat à la carte menu or French tea)
www.adonnasbakery.net
Tel: 850.696.2227

Reserve a free seat at Eventbrite.

We are seeking 2019 published authors to be featured speakers at the annual meeting/open mic night. There will be lots of time to meet and greet new members. The event is open to all members and their families and all friends of WFLF.

WFLF is looking for 1-2 new board members. If anyone is interested in being on the board, contact Ed Stanford.

CREATIVE WRITING

“Dreamdust”

Take my fields of dreams,
and scatter them to the winds.
Let the sod become dust.
Let the dust become one with the air,
and permit the dust to carry
its knowledge to the wandering
clouds.

Pour my goals into
the lakes and the oceans, where
they will be lost within
one billion other variously
abandoned thoughts, and, even so,
my love for you will remain intact.

Yet you want my dreams whole,
for you are not the winds.
I look into your eyes, and I see love.

— *Ethan McGuire*

Scent

An unseen mist of substance
A mystery, a nameless spirit
With irresistible power.

Its presence is immediate

Positive, emotive, repulsive
Its effect is there before we can
confront it

The world is filled, flooded, over-run
With its tones and tints, its silence
And its exaltation

I collect my memories in smells
As sharply now as first encountered
More than sixty years ago

I can still smell the heat rising
From the dark asphalt and the
Yellow thistles along the road

The heavy smoking scent of incense
Filling Harry’s apartment, stronger
than
The jangling beads or ancient history
lesson

You can smell a food before you taste
it
A bakery beckons long before its’
seen
How dark the chocolate I breath

And still though aged now my passion
soars
With youthful fervor a bouquet
blooms
As light reveals truth among the
shadows

Fragrance of potions, blends and
sachets
The temptresses to our fallen angel
Pheromones triggering desire

How much more could be required
With mints and lavenders at our door
All is scent and nothing more

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LOVE

If I had but seven days to live
And it were not a myth but true
The first six would be spent in prayer
But my seventh day would be with
you

Richard Hurt

"As we enter into the quiet stillness of
this present moment,
we awaken to everything around us,
without and within,
as if for the first time,
seeing with new eyes,
with an open heart,
resting in peace,
flowing with joy,
in the loving radiance of our
Beloved...
seeing as if from our heart,
with eternal eyes."

~ *Bob Holmes #Awakening*

Review of *Postcard Days*

Poems by Jennifer Soule

Published by Cherry Grove Collections

www.cherry-grove.com.

According to Walter Spara, former creative writing teacher at Pensacola State College, haiku is a snapshot of nature. Poet Jennifer Soule captures that equation and parallel clearly in her chapbook *Postcard Days*. Her 32-page collection is jam-packed with prose vignettes and snapshot poetry that abound with themes of nature within place, taking readers into layers of emotional depths.

"It's snowing lightly on the Black Hills," she says in "Winter Woman." Soule, a retired social worker who hails from South Dakota, describes her own "early woman lessons" when "at only five pounds, she was swaddled and held close by

her mom" then moves on to remind readers of the Children's Blizzard of 1888 when "112 little ones on their way home from school did not arrive." Harsh history that grounds us in reality.

Soule's travels to Washington, D.C.; Baltimore, Maryland; Shepherdstown, West Virginia; Florida; and Alabama are enshrined in images of cherry blossom time and tidal basins, "a single rose on Edgar Allen Poe's grave," and hummingbirds and herons everywhere. Reflections on her work as professor/social worker appear in "Washington DC.: Light and Dark" when she takes her students to a homeless shelter to serve lunch. "They were frightened while walking the several blocks" . . . and "After lunch we went to Senator Byrd's office to talk policy and he played the fiddle."

This poet prays in haiku as illustrated in "Happy Haiku Day," "Prayer for June," and "Haiku Prayer," then aptly ends her collection with "Quality of Life," a series of snapshots, postcards, and telling reflections on important things—things like hummingbirds, herons, blueberries, and artichokes.

And for my Pensacola and WFLF readers—

I have fond memories of Jennifer who was a member back in 2006. As a participant in the Writers Anonymous Wednesday Workshop, I was privy to reading poetry she brought in for critique. Although I could offer few suggestions for improvement on her work, I was inspired by her to write a sonnet about the cherry tree that grew near my daughter-in-law's veranda. I also remember reading one observation she included in her "Quality of Life." "The five-year-old girl devours the ice cream cone with her whole body."

Jennifer laughed at me when I wrote about cold winters in Atlanta. But when she and her physician husband moved to Auburn and I stopped to visit her there on my way to see my sons, she admitted that it got really cold up there.

Her concern for the children who died in the blizzard reminds me of her poems in her first chapbook *Hiawatha Asylum for Insane Indians* which I reviewed several years ago. That

beautifully-written heartfelt collection dealt with one of the many dark eras of American history in our treatment of Native Americans and was published by Finishing Line Press.

As a die-hard Pensacolian who loves her town, my heart is warmed by Jennifer's allusions to "Pelicans fish[ing] off the Bay Bridge" and "Blues on Pensacola Beach." I'm glad I knew Jennifer and glad Patricia is still in touch with her and shared *Postcard Days* with me.

In that Wednesday group, we often debated haiku, traditional versus modern, Jennifer leaning toward modern, me leaning toward pure. Regardless of the form a writer or reader prefers, though, the genius of haiku is in its ability to make a point within its brevity. Her haiku delivers that brevity and point. I'll conclude on that note with Jennifer's Valentine haiku.

Valentine's Day---
we buy a red
microwave.

Stay tuned next month for my review of Patricia Edmisten's *A Quiet Beauty*. These poets are friends and their books, while each is able to stand alone, would make perfect companion books.

Andrea Walker

**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 on Facebook.

Tuesday, February 18—Open Mic "

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

Thursday Feb. 20, 4p.m.-6, FRENCH

AFTERNOON TEA, Adonna's Bakery and Café, 811 W. Garden Street.

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

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Ed Stanford

Vice President: Laura Richards

Secretary: Elizabeth Holmes

Treasurer: Tom Roberts

Director: Bob Holmes

Director: Lisa Rawson

Directors can be contacted at

WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com

Legend editor: Andrea Walker

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](http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Florida-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

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

West Florida Literary Federation, 400 South Jefferson Street, Suite 212, Pensacola, FL 32502



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