



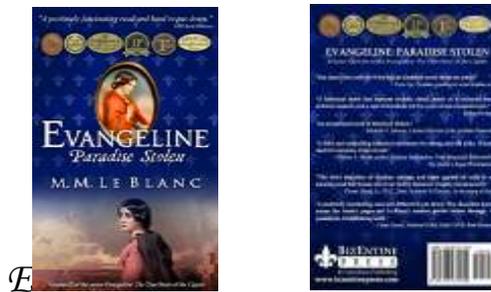
The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

JANUARY 2020

Third Tuesday January 21
Evangeline: Paradise Stolen
Reading and presentation by Michele Le Blanc



"The Acadians, Ancestors of the Cajuns: Why Their Story Became the Most Famous Poem in the World, Evangeline, a Tale of Acadie by Longfellow"

Michele Le Blanc is a Director on the WFLF Board and the award-winning author of 15 books. *Evangeline: Paradise Stolen* has won 6 book awards and was the Official VIP Selection at the Sundance Film Festival.

Refreshments at 6:30 ~ Program at 7:00 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

January 2020 *Legend* - 1

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Dolly Berthelot
Gary Sedlacek**

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

MEMBER NEWS

December's Lively Literary Scene

For years I have admired Henry Langhorne's poems with his perspective of a caring physician. His recent release *From Green's View* is filled with more of his haunting lyricism, but this book offers readers a surprise: a section of short stories that reveal more insights into human behavior, some with surprising resolutions. Thursday, December 5, I attended Dr. Langhorne's reading at Christ Episcopal Church, where I had the honor of introducing him and reading one of those short stories, “A Clean Slate.” It was a lovely event, as always, and nice to see a few WFLF members I hadn't seen in awhile.

The following Thursday, board member Michele Le Blanc launched her new book *Evangeline: Paradise Stolen, Vol. III* at Bodacious Bookstore and Café. Michele captivated her audience with some morsels of fascinating history, but if you missed it, you can get a small taste at this month's open mic.

And in January--

Issue 14 of *Panoply.zine* is up. Check it out. Congratulations to member Claire Massey, whose poem “Violation” is included in this issue. Our stats geek/editor-in-chief Jeff Santosuosso provided the following sneak peek: this issue's contributors include 48 men, 27 women, 17 returning contributors. At least one debut/first credit! 24 US states, most from CA-7, FL and NY-6, MA and WA-4, 11 foreign countries, bringing our grand total to 32 foreign countries, including our first from Bermuda, Switzerland, Denmark, Peru, and Greece. Check out Issue 14 at www.panoplyzine.com. Also, look for editors' picks beginning January 17th. Thanks to all of our wonderful, talented contributors.

Back in November

Pen Women honored women poets with readings from the works of Naomi Nye, Hannah Senesh, and Mary Oliver. Writer Dorothy Parker was also represented

along with artists Georgia O'Keefe and Anni Albers. "Taking part in local arts events is an effective way to communicate the mission of the NLAPW (National League of American Pen Women). These events create opportunities to embrace art and literature, while showcasing the creativity of our local members," said Karen Morris, who chaired the event.



Pen Women Karen Morris, Andrea Walker, Pat Black-Gould, Claire Massey, Staci Miron, Gaylene Brotherton, and Ruth Goldberg at "Artists, Poets, Live!" a Foo Foo event at Artel.

WFLF member Marc Livanos gave an update on his programs at Milton High School and Milton Community Center on Hill in the Morning WREN980AM on January 6th. The point being made is that poets are particularly capable of helping teenagers.

His launch of Issue IV of the *Blackwater Literary Journal* at Milton High School & Milton Community Center was covered in the *Santa Rosa Press Gazette*. There is also an article on the Journal in MiltonFl.org/Blog.

"MILTON — Marc Livanos, Poet Laureate for the city, has announced The Blackwater Literary Journal Issue IV is available for the public through Amazon, libraries and the Santa Rosa Writers' Guild.

A dozen Santa Rosa County Writers' Guild members along with many local teenage poets appear in Issue IV of the Blackwater Literary Journal." Read the rest of the article at the link below.

<https://www.srpressgazette.com/news/20191231/blackwater-literary-journal-issue-iv-is-available>



<https://www.miltonfl.org/Blog.aspx?CID=1>

Congratulations!

WFLF member **Katherine Nelson-Born** earned 3rd place and a monetary award from the Tallahassee Writers Association's 2019-2020 Seven Hills Literary Competition for her young adult novel excerpt from her debut novel, *Before the Thunder*.

From her soon-to-be-published novel, Katherine's excerpt representing her novel's first chapter will be published in the Seven Hills Literary Review in the spring of 2020.

For more information, visit www.twaonline.org and look for more news in a future "Legend" about how you can purchase your copy of the Seven Hills Literary Review on Amazon.com! Way to go, Katherine!

~

Cherry Grove Collections just published former member **Jennifer Soule's** chapbook *Postcard Days*, mostly haiku, with a bit of narrative. Some of you may remember Jennifer, who participated in the Wednesday Writers Anonymous workshop back in 2006. Stay tuned for a review in next month's *Legend*. For now, I'll just say I love it.

www.cherry-grove.com.

YOU ARE INVITED

to 2 free, fun events:

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



Sunday Feb. 2, 2020 1pm - 3pm

ART & LITERATURE
ARTWORKS Studio & Gallery
13700 Perdido Key Drive
Villagio Town Centre
Perdido Key
www.artworksonperdidokey.com
Tel: 850.261.9617

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
for either event.*

SAVE THE DATE

Feb. 28, 2020, 5:30-9 p.m.
Annual Meeting/Celebration
Studer Community Center

We are seeking 2019 published authors to be featured speakers at the annual meeting/open mic night. There will be catered food and 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

HAIKU

Night-visiting fog
shelters the shore till daybreak
sharing its secrets

Low humped islands arch
in the cold blue northern sea
like gray whales swimming

Sunset's hushed farewell
fades softly into the sea—
soon, a new day's bells.

Karen McAferty Morris

CONTINUE
Maya Angelou

My wish for you
Is that you continue
Continue
To be who and how you are
To astonish a mean world
With your acts of kindness
Continue
To allow humor to lighten the burden
Of your tender heart
Continue
In a society dark with cruelty
To let the people hear the grandeur
Of God in the peals of your laughter
Continue
To let your eloquence
Elevate the people to heights
They had only imagined
Continue
To remind the people that
Each is as good as the other
And that no one is beneath
Nor above you
Continue
To remember your own young years
And look with favor upon the lost
And the least and the lonely
Continue
To put the mantel of your protection
Around the bodies of
The young and defenseless
Continue
To take the hand of the despised
And diseased and walk proudly with them
In the high street
Some might see you and
Be encouraged to do likewise
Continue
To plant a public kiss of concern
On the cheek of the sick
And the aged and infirm
And count that as a
Natural action to be expected
Continue
To let gratitude be the pillow
Upon which you kneel to
Say your nightly prayer
And let faith be the bridge

You build to overcome evil
And welcome good
Continue
To ignore no vision
Which comes to enlarge your range
And increase your spirit
Continue
To dare to love deeply
And risk everything
For the good thing
Continue
To float
Happily in the sea of infinite substance
Which set aside riches for you
Before you had a name
Continue
And by doing so
You and your work
Will be able to continue
Eternally

Maya Angelou

Review of *Mourning an Interior Country*
by Aaron Dargis
Finishing Line Press

Aaron Dargis' opening poem "The Garden, Ars Poetica" in his chapbook *Mourning an Interior Country* draws the reader in with its beauty and stark contrast between parched dry crops and living green weeds. In his collection of thirty-two poems, he describes interior countries of geographical as well as psychological landscape. Just as the "ear is to the soil listening," readers will attentively listen to the voice of this poet with acute awareness, a recurrent theme throughout his poetry.

The terrain of northern Michigan, Lake Superior, Keweenaw Peninsula, Au Train River serves as backdrop. The reader feels the cold in "wind cuts wool and cotton to bone." In this fierce climate, the poet questions the purpose of memory, the past, and fear, yet dives into those areas as surely and fearlessly as he "dives into the lake." Repeated imagery of tangled reeds, lily pads and brambles suggest a tone of fear and being trapped, then again diving into the thing one fears.

Written in first person, the poems reveal a speaker who is on a painful journey to the interior country of self where the often stark terrain serves as metaphor. The speaker searches the past, revisiting places of childhood, towns, neighborhoods, homes, admitting he's searching in "Map as Self-Portrait."

I'm learning to remember lost time—
Those lakes of the mind have dried, filled
my reservoir of loss.
Rivers cut deep. I'm trying to find places
I haven't been. Where deeper into
interior country is now foreign—
what leads the heart to such depths?

Though the mood is often solitary, and the journey is within, the reader is grateful the speaker is not always alone. One first meets the other in a pair of companion poems "Kitchen Sink" and "Mourning an Interior Country." A woman waits patiently for him to come home, "fiddle the doorknob— liquored, speaking gently for my body," and he does, knowing someone awaits, "I fiddle the doorknob, shoulder into the kitchen." She appears throughout the collection smoking, unpacking, comforting in various ways.

All the poems are meditative, but it's apt to have a group of small poems entitled "Meditations," ten concise powerful moments reminiscent of the brevity of haiku minus the form. Repeatedly, we read a comparison of wind and the past, for example, in "Painting Au Train," "Winter Meditations in a Cabin V," "An Oak, Ars Poetica."

The poet uses contrast effectively by moving among seasons and place randomly, including the occasional hot day or poem about a southern state, and although the pace is mostly slow, even a surprising allusion to violence, "I fired into a frozen pond." The reference to the gun, although infrequent, suggests the conquering aspect of nature. The brutal image of a dead swan accompanied by paw prints of a coyote reminds the reader of nature's violence. In contrast to contemplation, the matter-of-fact admission of drinking a fifth of whiskey one day, drunk howling at the hot day, or hungover give the reader a glimpse of a man wit (forgivable) flaws.

The interior of Northern Michigan is populated with birds of every feather; the speaker observes, and describes the red-winged blackbird, grey partridge, grouse, robin, finch, among others, noting their behavior, sometimes envying them. The lush landscape is home to calves, a doe, and salmon, carpeted with grass, moss, ferns, and stone, canopied with leafy trees and clouds. It is blanketed with snow, and its thirst is fed with lakes and rivers.

The stark interior of the mind is painted with questions: somber, dark, lonely and mournful. The speaker expresses himself quite well even as he questions his ability to express his feelings. With one vivid phrase and image after another, Aaron Dargis pays a haunting tribute to memory and time in the gorgeous fertile setting of Northern Michigan.

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, January 21—Open Mic "The Acadians, Ancestors of the Cajuns: Why Their Story Became the Most Famous Poem in the World, *Evangeline, a Tale of Acadie* by Longfellow" Reading and presentation by Michele Le Blanc

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

Sunday Feb. 2, 2020 1pm - 3pm, ART & LITERATURE. ARTWORKS Studio & Gallery
13700 Perdido Key Drive, Villagio Town Centre,
Perdido Key

**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

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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>

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 _____

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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