



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

JULY 2020

Third Tuesday Open Mic July 21



Andrea's photo

If you would like to read at a Zoom Open Mic night in July, please email us and let us know. The WFLF board has decided that if we have more than 8 readers who want to share their work via Zoom, we will have the Zoom Open Mic on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. If we don't have enough readers notify us ahead of time, we will not have Open Mic via Zoom in July 2020.

If you haven't used Zoom yet, below is a link for a short tutorial. It's easy, so get your creative writing ready to read and join the fun with us.

A tutorial on how to join a Zoom meeting can be viewed here:

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

WELCOME NEW and RETURNING MEMBERS

Mark Livanos
Alice Oberhausen
Rachel Reese
Cecelia Stewart

As a continuation of In Our Write Minds, Claire is interested in organizing an on-line critique group that would exchange and comment on prose and poetry contributions once a month. The goal of the group is to keep learning, writing and revising and inspire others to do the same! If you are interested in participating, please write her at cmd3929@gmail.com or call 423-920-5435 for details.

MEMBER NEWS

Perhaps you've seen the beautiful feature on **Ora Wills** and her new book of poems, "Talking to the Night." Our own Andy Marlette of the *Pensacola News Journal* wrote the piece. Ora is a precise, often lyrical poet who does not shrink from the bleak side of growing up black in Pensacola as, for example, when an uncle was lynched. On a happier note, she tells us about the delightful moments spent along the banks of a sparkling clean Carpenter's Creek. Do read this lovely article about a lovely woman and then I am sure you will want to savor her book, published by **Susan Lewis** of Proper Publishing.

Patricia Edmisten

<https://www.pnj.com/story/opinion/2020/07/02/marlette-ora-wills-poems-published-talking-night/3283929001/>

Claire Massey has July publication dates for three poems. "Those Little Words That Place You" will appear in *Flashes of Brilliance* July 10. "Toxic Drift" will appear in the on-line nature themed journal, *Tiny Seed*, on July 19, while "Post to an Old Lover" will appear in the print journal, *The Avalon Literary Review*, at the end of the month.



Karen McAferty Morris has just published her new chapbook "Confluence." It was awarded 1st place in Poetry and 3rd Place overall in the National League of American Pen Women's 2019 Vinnie Ream Contest in Letters. Its expanded version is available on Amazon for \$9:

https://www.amazon.com/Confluence-Karen-McAferty-Morris/dp/B088JNP5BB/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=Karen+McAferty+Morris&qid=1591630892&s=books&sr=1-2

WFLF Writers Make Their Voices Heard

Writers write for a variety of reasons. Sometimes she embraces a cause and is willing to fight long and hard for it, to the extent of writing a book. Such is the case of member Dr. Jackie Lane, who was recognized in the *Pensacola News Journal* Sunday June 28. Here's the title if you missed it, and the link is included below.

Marlette: In 50-year fight, Dr. Jackie Lane steps up again



<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/marlette-in-50-year-fight-dr-jackie-lane-steps-up-again/ar-BB1603fL>

Another reason to write is to express one's opinion about current issues and to persuade and encourage others to be involved. Member Dr. Dolly Berthelot's essay was also included in the *Pensacola News Journal* Sunday June 28. Again, the title and link are below.

Let's celebrate our INTERdependence this Independence Day | Guestview Dolly Haik-Adams Berthelot

Guest columnist

<https://www.pnj.com/story/opinion/2020/06/28/lets-celebrate-our-interdependence-independence-day-guestview/3254607001/>

I feel honored to know all the women mentioned above, Ora, Susan, Claire, Karen, Jackie, and Dolly, who are all writing to make our world a better place. I hope when you read these pieces about our writers, you are encouraged to make your own voice heard. When you do so, you are doing your part to have a positive effect on the world.

Andrea Walker

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Submissions to *Panoply* will be open July 10 - 26 for poetry and prose (500 words or less). Locals Ryn Holmes, Jeff Santosuosso, and Andrea Walker have been publishing the e-zine for more than five years. Along with a host of local writers, Panoply has featured voices of all types from 48 states and over 20 foreign countries. Check <http://www.panoplyzine.com> for details.

WFLF Survey

<https://wflf.org/survey>

We are collecting data until July 31, 2020, to determine how we should focus our efforts to enhance WFLF as we set our 2020-2021 goals and plan for the future. We truly care what your interests are and we want to build membership so we can offer more programs in the future.

Please take a few minutes and let us know your thoughts by taking our survey. We will have a committee tabulate the results and create a report which we will publish in the September Legend. The survey is not long and will not take more than 15 minutes to complete.

Start by clicking here:

<https://wflf.org/survey>

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.

WFLF Seeks Reflections from Area Writers

Phase II of *Life in the Time of Corona*, an ezine publication of West Florida Literary Federation, is already publishing quality poetry, fiction, nonfiction, photography and art from regional writers about the pandemic. The online version is updated immediately upon acceptance of work from area writers. Phase II has posted work and photography from Ryn Holmes, John Gibson, Marilyn Howard, Patricia Edmisten, Patrick Cochran, Lori Zavada, Alice Oberhausen, Jeff Santosuosso and Julie DeMarko.

The online version is a continuation of selected works published in a special edition of *The Legend*. Artists and writers included in the issue are Susan Marie Molloy, Ryn Holmes, Karen McAferty Morris, visual artists; Ethan Mcguire, Diane Skelton, Patricia Edmisten, Rachel Reese, Carolyn Tokson, Bob Ave, Tom Roberts, Mary Gutierrez, Susan Marie Molloy and Lucie Wade, prose; and poets Charlotte Crane, Ethan McGuire, Christina Larson, Marc Livanos, John Gibson, Claire Massey, Ryn Holmes, Karen McAferty Morris, Katherine Nelson-Born, Jane Lies, Lori Zavada and Beale Carter.

For the online publication, all submissions must be in electronic format and emailed to the organization's editor and a co-organizer of the project, Andrea Walker, at andreaswriting0@gmail.com. There is no fee for submissions, but writers and artists must reside in the following counties: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay (Florida) and Escambia, Mobile, Baldwin (Alabama).

Up to three poems with a maximum of 300 lines, and prose pieces up to 750 words are accepted, along with one-act plays and six images. A fifty-word writer/artist biography should accompany submissions. The best of the submissions will be posted online at WFLF.ORG.

In 2010, the organization organized a similar “catharsis” project for area residents. WFLF published an online collection, *The Spill*, preserving literary efforts during the Deep Water Horizon BP Oil Spill. Part of the nonprofit’s mission since 1989 has been to bring people together who are interested in the literary heritage of West Florida. “Even during times of pandemic and quarantine, thanks to a strong online presence, WFLF can still bring people together,” says Diane Skelton, a co-organizer of the *Life in the Time of Corona* project.

Preserving writing about an event like the current pandemic follows the group’s mission of preserving literary heritage. The first phase of *Life in the Time of Corona* is now posted on the non-profit organization’s website WFLF.ORG. Subsequent submissions will be uploaded to the site within 72 hours of acceptance. Work will be accepted until the WHO declares an end to the pandemic or a vaccine is found.

The organization welcomes submissions from writers of all ages and encourages student submissions. All submissions are previewed by a panel of readers before acceptance. For more information, visit the website WFLF.ORG, follow West Florida Literary Federation on Facebook, or contact Andrea Walker at andreaswriting0@gmail.com.

Diane Skelton

CREATIVE WRITING

Playing by Ear

An Acrostic Poem

Piano, slightly out of tune, white keys time-stained
Like faded gardenia petals, walnut wood lustrous still,
A family heirloom. I played from sheet music when I was
Young. Now I sound out songs
I like by ear, using chord variations instead of
Notes. When I make mistakes I remain calm and correct the
Grating, discordant sounds. I used to
Be impatient, annoyed at my imperfect self, but the
Years find me enduring,
Enjoying the search until my fingers find the right combinations,
Allowing tempo, riff, improvisation, while I hum the melody
Right up to the song’s end.

Karen McAferty Morris

Old Poets at a Workshop

*What doesn't the wind lay claim to?
---Rainer Maria Rilke*

We know the wind will blow
away our footprints.
Night may come not as black
but white and wrap itself around us.

So let us sit down
on this sunny step and reflect—
there is nothing to harm us here,
our lives an emptiness at rest

waiting for wind to claim us
and this flawed world,
a language we never understood.
It is worth the journey

just to sit here with poems
and turn the years over in our hands
like old books, picking the best
to place on empty shelves.

Henry Langhorn

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

More Literary Things To Do

*Please check with the venues below for
updates on their activities.*

First Wednesday of each month – Say the Word open mic in Niceville. Check 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

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

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Lisa Rawson

Vice President: Bob Holmes

Secretary: Elizabeth Holmes

Treasurer: Tom Roberts

Director: Claire Massey

Director: Ed Stanford

Interim Director: Jeannie Zokan

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) _____

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 directory.

Use PayPal at <http://wflf.org> and email this form to westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com or and this form to

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



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