



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

JUNE 2020

Third Tuesday Open Mic June 16



It's fun to see people's faces on Zoom. In May, we had six participants with three readers. Since we still can't meet in person, we hope you will join us Tuesday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. Seeing each other and socializing on screen during this time is meaningful as well as fun. 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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings West Florida Literary Federation Members and Friends,

I am honored to announce that the 2020 WFLF Student Poetry Contest had 8 winners and their work is published in this issue of *The Legend*. WFLF has awarded each student with a \$25.00 gift card and certificate. The prompt was "United we stand: Divided we fall". Due to COVID – 19 safety protocols, we were not able to have an awards ceremony and invite the students to read their poems in person this year as I had planned.

Therefore, I encourage all readers of this publication to allow extra time for a deeper read of the students' work than usual. The students' poems are worthy of a purposeful study. They certainly had a profound impact on me.

They took me back to my days in middle school. Each morning began with saying the Pledge of Allegiance, standing behind our desks with our right hand on our heart. "...Indivisible with Liberty and Justice for All" were the last words spoken each morning before we began our lessons. Indivisible and united people can move mountains and writers' help to focus awareness and attention by sharing their individual and group feelings that provide greater understandings to their readers.

It saddens me that these words in the Pledge of the Allegiance are not the reality being lived out by many people living in the United States of America today. Inequality, injustice and discrimination have not become a thing of the past. However, I believe a needed collective healing is underway and it's being shaped by the brave souls of all ages that have the courage and who will take the time to write and share their experiences, stories, creative expressions and feelings.

It's with great appreciation that I honor these students' and their teachers for giving WFLF the privilege of being able to enjoy these original poems submitted to the 2020 West Florida

Literary Federation Student Poetry Contest. Enjoy the read and keep writing all, until next time peace out...

Lisa Rawson, President WFLF



Nyshenia Cromartie and Lisa Rawson

WFLF recognized the winners of the 2020 Escambia County Student Poetry contest with gift cards and award certificates in absentia. The student poets wrote on the topic "United We Stand, Divided We Fall." President Lisa Rawson (right) presented the awards to Ferry Pass Middle School eighth grade teacher Nyshenia Cromartie, who will make sure the students get their awards in spite of the COVID-19 school closure. Congratulations to both teachers and student poets.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Nyshenia Cromartie
Charlene Barger
Sarah McLean

MEMBER NEWS

Thanks to all of you who submitted to the Special Edition of *The Legend, Life in the Time of Corona*. Here's what a few readers have commented about it: "I'm stunned at the outstanding quality of the contributions. The visuals and layout are superb-wish we had a hard copy!" *Claire*; "Fantastic work. Really enjoyed it," *Michele*; "What a great job you guys did! There's delightful reading here to keep us contented (well, almost!) through the rest of this no-end pandemic. Wonderful authors here I hadn't read before. Thanks," *Charlotte*; "Looks great, excellent introduction! Brava!! What an ambitious project," *Karen*.

If you did not receive your copy via email from WFLF, please let me know so I can resend it. The publication is also posted on our web site, and we will soon be accepting submissions for phase II, so keep writing! **To clarify**, submit to andreaswriting0@gmail.com. (That's a zero after the word writing.) I've also included the updated guidelines for you.

West Florida Literary Federation Survey

<https://wflf.org/survey>

Please help us make the West Florida Literary Federation a successful and growing organization by providing us with your input. This week, we posted a survey as a forum for your thoughts and suggestions. The survey is on our website and should take you less than ten minutes to complete. Start by clicking here: <https://wflf.org/survey>

CREATIVE WRITING

Thanks to teachers Ms. Cromartie and Ms. Barger for their work with students.

An American Limerick

A free country shaded with red
From all the people who were dead
They fought a good fight
And started a light
But they are starting to lose their head.

Alexander Knight

Hyacinth

One flower
 Two flower
 Three flower
 Four
I walk toward the door
 Someone's knocking on the door
I open slightly
 They're smiling brightly
 I let them in
One flower
 Two flower
 Three
He took a flower
 I sit staring at my flowers
 I hear the doorbell
 I see a friend
I let them in
They look at my flowers
 They take my flowers
I'm left to sit on my own
One flower
 Two
Another knock I stumble toward the door
 I see family
 I'm hesitant to let them in
I let them come in
 They walk to my flowers
I try to stop them
 They take my flowers
One
 I have one flower left
 I sit in my sorrow
Maybe I'll feel better tomorrow
 I hear pounding
I look through my peephole
 There are people
 They look so happy
 I want that too
I let them come in
 They look at my
flower
 They take my flower
 They leave

Melina Lange

POEM ABOUT AMERICA

They're blinded by the color of our skin
They don't dare look within
They say it's a sin
And in this world we just can't win
We can't break even
We can't get out of this game
It's all the same, but

In the future things will change
We can break out of these chains
We can knock down the walls of pain
And soon freedom will ring
Let freedom ring

Through the bloodshed of the wars
Through the rhythm of the drums
We have been through it all
And look how far we've come
Let's have some dedication
For this unified nation
And have some appreciation
United We Stand, United Stand Tall
Divided We Stand, Divided We Fall

What's happened to our humanity
What's with all this brutality
The police aren't my cup of tea, but
I'd like to move on and let the past be, 'cause
I'd hate to see
Another one of my brothers bleed
On the news a black teen dead on the street
Another case of police brutality
When will they stop this killing spree,
We are the United States of America
What do we stand for?
Liberty and Justice for all
Not just for some, just wait

In the future things will change
We can break out of these chains

We can knock down the walls of pain
And soon freedom will ring
Let freedom ring

Through the bloodshed of the wars
Through the rhythm of the drums
We have been through it all
And look how far we've come
Let's have some dedication
To a unified nation
And have some appreciation
United We Stand, United Stand Tall
Divided We Stand, Divided We Fall

Today's a new day
In a new brighter age
With peace and prosperity amongst each
other
We don't have to worry 'bout separate colors
There's no more black and white
It just, just you and I
We can get on with our lives
With freedom by our side, after we got

Through the bloodshed of the wars
Through the rhythm of the drums
We have been through it all
And look how far we've come
Let's have some dedication
To a unified nation
And have some appreciation
United We Stand, United Stand Tall
Divided We, Divided We Fall

United We Stand
Divided We Fall
United We Stand, United Stand Tall
Divided We Stand, Divided We Fall

Aiden Niau.

The Race

No one dares to look within.
Instead of getting to know us
They stare
They cringe.
Is it because of the color of our skin?
The world counts us out
Even before we begin.

They tear us down
They pull us apart.
They say we're ugly
They say we're too dark.
Like blackface on stage . . .
Colorless Art.

When we're near, they
Cower and fear.
They grab their children and whisper
"Come now. . . Come here!"

And why?
Because of our race.
They run to escape
They quicken their pace.
They tell us we have no purpose
To know our place.

The race has begun
And we're already behind.
The world puts us last
No recollection of time.

Despite our losses
Our paces quicken.
Running harder,
Faster strides,
Stronger than before, yet
United by our lynchings

Our scars now healed
All the hurt from the past

Our discriminators
Our oppressors
Won't have the last laugh.

They'll never forget our faces
They try to relate
They will never understand how it feels to lose
this race.

We'll continue to be greater
The best we can be.
Asking others,
"What's so different between you and me?"

There's no need to be separated
No need to be divided
When we stand together as one
The light within us now ignited
As we all stand united.

Cai 'Rayn Jones-Stanley

Fly we choose, Down that we do

Together we fly
Up up to the bright blue sky
Separate we drop
Down down to the black night sky

Fly we choose, Down that we do

Ru Bing Wu

United We Stand: Divided We Fall

I love them all
They love us all
There is no reason to fear and fall
Each step that I falter, there is someone to
hold my hand.
Such is my united family
Unity binds family and family brings unity
Blessed are people who feel this amity
They share their joys and sorrows alike
There is no moment of quietness
There is abundance of joy and love like the
flying bird
Such is my family in unity
Who live and love and harmony

Charity Wilson

Save Us From Our Sorrows

The darker the skin
The harder the struggle
The lighter the skin
The less you get in trouble
Physical keeps us apart
No matter how dumb or smart
You're still different

There's a war
Between the rich and poor
Unity we need
Some beg and plead

In good, they stay
When bad, they don't have the time of day
Together alone
All you have is yourself

Our government's going down
Soon we'll all drown
In the sorrow of others' deeds

Believe it or not
Faith's all you got
Everyone needs someone
But everyone is no one

Not understanding someone's love
Doesn't mean you fight
Doesn't matter what you think is "right"
Your beliefs are not the same
You make others feel pain
What do you gain
Besides more vain . . .

To think you should
Even if you could
Control somebody
As if you could embody
The torment
Of non-consent.

Gianna Allison

An American Limerick

A free country shaded with red
From all the people who were dead
They fought a good fight
And started a light
But they are starting to lose their head.

Alexander Knight

United We Stand; Divided We Fall

We must stand together.
For when we are *united*, we stand stronger
than the rest
Those who are *divided*,
Stand by themselves, lonely and depressed

Aaron Boonmast

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

The following collection was submitted by eighth grade teacher Catherine Mabry, Ransom Middle School, for Life in the Time of Corona. Thanks, Ms. Mabry.

BEST OF TP CHRONICLES

So I said to Arnie, "Where did you get those toilet rolls?" He said, "Aisle B, back" (Get it?)

-Will

Toilet paper
The stuff we need the most
If you have no toilet paper
your not a very good host
Toilet paper the stuff we need the most

-Trenton

Toilet Paper Poem

You're soft
You're white
You're always really bright

You always run out
We'll always need a spare
If only you weren't sold out everywhere
Madison L

The Toilet Paper Thief

The Toilet Paper Thief is at it again!

This is so frustrating I don't know where to
begin...

You would think that for grown people
being so grown...

That they would not steal toilet paper for
reasons unknown...

It is always the brand new roll and never the
old...

Also, the can of Lysol disappeared, or so I
was told...

My plea is simple, please do not disregard...

Stop stealing toilet paper, you're making it
hard!

Aiden B.

Hey, my name is Charmin, and I have
always been liked by people. However
lately, people have become obsessed with
me. I mean, I am always in stores, sitting
there with my cousins on the shelves. But
since this new virus, people cannot keep
their hands off of us. We are in houses we
have never been in before. For example, I
have NEVER seen the inside of The Smith's

house, they only took home my cousin
Cottonelle. But they now say they will take
home any of us. I have even heard nasty
rumors that people are hoarding us. I am
not sure what kind of virus this is, but I am
afraid to ask.

- Savannah

The stores are crowded
People left and right
Not a roll of toilet paper in sight

Go down the aisle to the right side
That's where the toilet paper will hide

People taking packs of toilet paper
While all I need is a roll

For if we wait any longer
All the toilet paper will go

-Bri

1998

Guy 1: Dude, I had the craziest dream last
night!!

Guy 2: Really? What was it about?

Guy 1: Toilet paper.

Guy 2: Seriously? Stop wasting my time.

Guy 1: No really! It was the year of 2020
and like we all were gathering up toilet
paper and we all ended up running out of
toilet paper in the stores! Crazy, I know.

Guy 2: Yeah, pretty crazy, but also very
unlikely *chuckles* Who would want to
stock up on toilet paper?

Guy 1: lol! You're right!

-Kimora

Who ever thought
They would have an issue
Of going to the store
And not finding “me”, toilet tissue.

It happened to them in 2020
When they thought they had plenty
But found the shelves bare
There was no Charmin there.

Now who would have ever thought
“me”, toilet tissue would be the issue
-Hannah

Toilet paper is like food, one day it’s here
and next, it is not, but it is also a necessity
much like food. In almost the same manner,
we need it to survive and I refuse to use
sandpaper and leaves. “Because I have a
dream” that one day we will live in a
paradise that we will enjoy, and all the
aspects of daily life will be infinite and
resupplied, but of course that is one day in
Heaven.

*Landon F, with a tad bit of Martin Luther
King JR. Please do not copyright the MLK
reference, I cannot go to jail, thank you.*

Haiku

*Charmin Ultra Soft
Caprice Green Toilet Paper
Charmin Ultra Strong*

Laynee

Dear toilet paper,

The past couple of weeks you have been a
celebrity. No one can stop talking or posting
on social media about you. The memes are
off the wall, but the best part is no one can
get enough of you. I hope you're enjoying
this fame while it lasts. Soon enough people
are going to run out of money and life will
go back to normal but don't be sad your

time to shine will come back. Also how did
you get so many people to buy? Yeah toilet
paper is a necessary buy but how did you get
people to stock up on you so fast. Maybe
you can show us others how you did so but
don't tell the toothbrush she will never stop
talking about. I hope you can get back to me
soon.

Best wishes.
-toothpaste
Mia

Dear toilet paper,

I never
Realized what
I had
Until you
Were gone
I'm sorry
We took
You for
granted :(

-Samari

Toilet Paper
Toilet Paper
Where did you go
Toilet Paper
Toilet Paper
No more on my roll

-Aaliyah

No one replaces you once you are empty
You went away for awhile
Where did you go?
Oh, I know
Goodbye I said to the last roll,
To the store we go,
To get another roll.

-Micah

(If we can...)



LIFE IN THE TIME OF CORONA – Phase II Ezine

Submission Guidelines

Part of the West Florida Literary Federation's (WFLF) mission is recording history in our area through the creative writing of regional writers since 1989.

*Within weeks after March 11, 2020 World Health Organization's declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic, West Florida Literary Federation offered its writers a catharsis. By April, regional writers were submitting words and images to preserve this time in history. The ongoing project began with Phase I, a special edition of *The Legend* published in May. It featured more than thirty juried submissions by regional writers and artists of Northwest Florida and will be posted on our website at www.WFLF.org. Here are the voices of health care workers, poets, essayists, historians, and the images of artists and photographers, documenting this time in Northwest Florida's history. *Life in the Time of Corona* continues with Phase II, updated as submissions are accepted.*

Submissions open June 10, 2020. Submissions not strictly adhering to the following guidelines will be rejected. The ongoing project ends with the advent of a vaccine or declaration by the World Health Organization.

WE ENCOURAGE WRITERS TO CONSIDER HOW OUR WORLD IS CHANGING. ALL ENTRIES SHOULD REFLECT OUR REGION AND RELATE TO THE THEME OF LIFE IN THE TIME OF CORONA.

1. WFLF is a regional organization which accepts submissions only from authors/writers/poets and visual artists residing in the following counties in Florida and Alabama: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay (Florida) and Escambia, Mobile, Baldwin (Alabama).
2. All submissions must be in electronic format and emailed to the Legend editor Andrea Walker at andreaswriting0@gmail.com.
3. A brief biography (50 words maximum) listing full name, profession, and representative published work must be included. If your work is selected, the bio will appear with it in the publication.
4. **All submissions are read and selected by a jury of five readers along with the editor. Submissions** are read "blind." Do not place your name on the manuscript. Include a title on each work submitted. Each submission is to be in a separate document.
5. **No Fee: Second phase opens June 10. Submissions will be accepted until a vaccine is found or the World Health Organization declares the pandemic over.**
6. WFLF accepts original, unpublished works only. We request First North American serial rights to work accepted for publication in our ezine *Life in the Time of Corona*. After publication of the issue, rights revert to the author, artist or photographer. Simultaneous submissions are accepted but must be withdrawn by the author if accepted elsewhere. WFLF retains the copyright for the work as a whole, while copyright for individual pieces remains with the authors.

7. All submissions are final. We will not consider rewritten submissions though the editors reserve the right to request minor revisions. Editors will proofread and make corrections in grammar, spelling and punctuation. Proof copies of any changes will be supplied to authors by email.

Poetry guidelines:

Up to 3 poems, with a maximum of 300 lines total.

- A single poetry submission = up to 3 poems.
- Format each poem as you would like it to appear in final publication, using 12 pt. Times New Roman font and 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Do not number pages or include poet's name.
- Electronic submissions must be sent as .doc format. PDF files are not accepted.

Fiction and Nonfiction guidelines:

- A single fiction or nonfiction submission = 1 story, article or essay.
- Multiple submissions are accepted.
- Typed, double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Include title only (no author name) on upper right corner of each page.
- Do not number pages.
- 750 words maximum.
- Electronic submissions must be sent as .doc format. PDF files are not accepted.
- One-act plays are accepted.

Visual Art guidelines:

- 6 individual images maximum.
- A single artwork/photograph submission = 6 images.
- Both color and grayscale high resolution, clear images are accepted.
- Electronic submissions must be sent as .jpeg.
- Include a title of each image in the file name, not on the image.

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 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.

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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) <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 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



**West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.
Pensacola Cultural Center
400 South Jefferson Street Suite 212
Pensacola, FL 32502**