

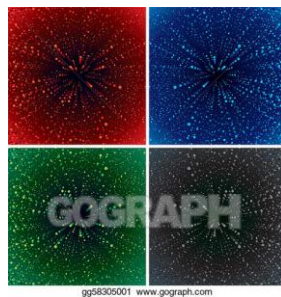


The Legend
West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

MAY 2020

Third Tuesday Open Mic May 19



Life is changing, and so are we. WFLF's first Zoom open mic was held in April with eight in attendance. Since we still can't meet in person, we hope you will join us Tuesday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. 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/hlkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1

BOARD, WRITERS USING ZOOM FOR WFLF EVENTS

Spurred on by COVID-19 stay-at-home directives, West Florida Literary Federation's Board of Directors is utilizing real-time technology to continue to fulfill its purpose "to bring people together who are interested in the literary heritage of West Florida and to promote literary efforts."

WFLF is now using the video-conferencing platform Zoom for events and meetings. The transition was spearheaded by treasurer Tom Roberts, who enjoyed a career in technology and computers as the field evolved from room-sized mainframes to pocket-sized devices. According to Roberts, who has experience with other meeting apps as Skype, Facebook Live, and GoTo Meeting, Zoom is user-friendly and the best fit for WFLF's needs and budget. Even participants without video capability or a computer can call in to a session using a landline or a smart phone. The company, Zoom Video Communications, Inc., is also quick to address security issues.

WFLF subscribes to the Pro version which offers a "waiting room" that "gives the meeting organizer a chance to vet anyone who wants to join. He/she can boot any meeting crashers," says Roberts. The Federation pays \$14.99 a month for the service, which features security measures like a meeting password and ID sent to legitimate attendees by email invitation. There is no charge for members to "Zoom" in.

To date, WFLF has hosted the April open mic, two Board meetings and four Wednesday critique group sessions. The Poet Laureate Selection Committee will be using Zoom, and the Tuesday critique group is considering the option. For Lucie Wade, a member of the Wednesday group, "being able to see and hear everyone for our meeting has been a godsend during this time of quarantine." Roberts, who is also a member of the Wednesday critique group, likes "being able to see everyone on the screen at once. When you are around a table, it's not often possible to see everyone as they talk. You can also talk to anyone, without worry that you have to shout across a table in a live setting."

Using online-chat technology provides hiccups and hurdles for some, depending on the electronic devices, equipment connections, and the user's skills. Roberts has coached several members in troubleshooting their issues. He recommends, "If you haven't used Zoom before, create a free account and try to work out the connection issues in a test meeting." His best advice and secret to learning new technology – "Google is your friend."

In the future, Zoom may become an important asset for WFLF and its members. Roberts knows firsthand that writers now give live pitches to agents using Zoom and can receive critiques the same way. Gotham Writers' Workshop and Westport Writers Workshop, Inc. offer courses via Zoom, while some Facebook writing groups use the platform. In response to COVID-19, Stanford's Continuing Education moved all its writing classes to Zoom. Previously they used Zoom for selected courses and virtual office hours. Patrick Cochran, another member of the Wednesday group, recommends keeping Zoom "even after this isolation is over. . . we should find a way to use it for individuals who may not be able to attend our face-to-face meetings going forward."

Diane Skelton

CREATIVE WRITING

Who I'm not

I am not the man who climbs down from the sewage truck
And scoops up my garbage,
Nor the woman at the wholesale club who asks
Have I found everything I was seeking?
Or the policeman who sirens the speeding sedan
And tickets the scowling business executive.
No, I am but me.

I eat, drink, walk, talk, complain, cry and seldom sleep,
I don't strain muscles, pretend I like you or dance until dawn.
So ask me who I am and I will stare and meander too.
Not a stranger, not a hero, not a dummy nor a leader
Just me.

I am not the farmer tending a herd of Holsteins,
To fill a can of milk at dawn each day,
Nor the postal clerk who tightly twists tape
Around the package I'm mailing my dad
Or the lady lawyer who defends a killer one day
And a prostitutorial beauty the next.
Not me.

Options still available? Of course.

Charlotte Crane

~~~~~

### Tiny Traveler

Remote in the distance, she  
carries a message,  
Ever soaring to heights I  
cannot see,  
Beating wings carry the tiny  
body ever higher,  
Effortlessly lifting, higher and  
higher,  
Calling as she rises,  
Calling one note,

Always, hope.  
High aloft, she disappears from  
view,  
urgent now, The note sounds.  
Gently a downy feather descends,  
Essentially a reminder from  
a tiny traveler,  
See? I have not forgotten,  
The tiny feather remaining,  
Carefully preserved in my heart.

*Elizabeth Holmes*

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

**Julia Cadenhead**

**Panoplyzine.com**

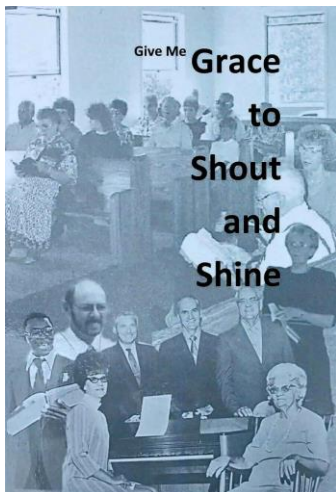
**Issue 15, Spring 2020, "Paper" Theme**  
Welcome spring! And welcome to Issue 15. Our theme for this issue is "Paper." We encountered some lovely, expansive interpretations which we hope you'll enjoy.

*Jeff, Ryn, Andrea*

**MEMBER NEWS**

**Claire Massey's poem, "[Coronasphere](#)"** was published in the literary journal, *Persimmon Tree*, in April. She has a new poem, "Those Little Words That Place You," forthcoming later this summer in *Flashes of Brilliance*.

**Congratulations to Julia Cadenhead** on the publication of her book *Give Me Grace to Shout and Sing*. The book, written for and published by the Baker Block Museum in Baker, FL., focuses on the history of gospel convention singing in the Florida Panhandle and includes sections on shaped note and quartet singing and sacred harp music along with historic photographs. The books are sold at the museum and on eBay.



**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.

Why did the WFLF Board decide to do this? One reason was a dwindling membership roster. After the February annual meeting of the membership, we tallied just over 30 paid members. That was a wakeup call to determine what we were doing wrong and what we were doing right. The two WFLF events held in November 2019, which were very successfully received, also exposed how thin our ranks of active volunteers were becoming. The unsuccessful attempt to obtain a Foo Foo Festival grant in early 2019 revealed that some of our members were looking for certain kinds of activities and events while others wanted a different path. Though the leadership is not looking to go in any one particular direction, we needed to gauge where the interests of our members and other interested parties lay so we could plan for our future.

The survey is on our website and should take you less than ten minutes to complete. Start by clicking here:

<https://wflf.org/survey>

*Tom Roberts*

### **WFLF Calls for Area Poet Laureate Nominees**

The second term of Jamey Jones, the seventh Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida, is drawing to a close. During his six years, Jamey has lifted poetry to a higher level in our area. He hosted at least two community poetry events at Artel Gallery, including an evening of original poetry readings inspired by Thoreau's work. In September 2014, a month prior to his formal induction, he judged a PAD (Poem-a-Day) national online contest sponsored by WFLF which helped our organization recognize aspiring poets. He was also instrumental in bringing Long Island University "New York School" poets Barbara Henning and Louis Warsh for WFLF sponsored workshops at Foo Foo Fest in October 2016. In his role at Pensacola State, he helped organize poetry performances by New York poet Anne Waldman and California poet Kim Addonizio. He advises *The Hurricane Review* literary magazine at Pensacola State College and encourages young poets to submit their works to *The Emerald Coast Review*. He's also presented special readings at WFLF Open Mic and hosted a book talk at PSC. We thank him for graciously serving the maximum of two, three-year terms.

To chair the new Poet Laureate Selection Committee, the WFLF Board has appointed Diane Skelton and Andrea Walker.

The Board is in the process of finalizing appointments to the committee. According to WFLF policy, the selection committee is comprised of a mix of members, educators, and residents with literary interests. But by June 1, the committee needs your nominees and input. Nominees for Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida must reside in Escambia or Santa Rosa county, be professionally published or recognized for poetic contribution, and demonstrate a significant publication record or be recognized in journals, anthologies, recorded spoken presentations or online poetry sites. If you have a poet you would like to recommend as our eighth poet laureate, please email Diane Skelton ([dianeskelton@att.net](mailto:dianeskelton@att.net)) or Andrea Walker ([andrea48@aol.com](mailto:andrea48@aol.com)).

*Diane Skelton*

### **LIFE IN THE TIME OF CORONA**

Thanks to all of you who submitted to the Special Edition of *The Legend*. We have read some great entries and look forward to sending the issue out by the end of May. But that's not all. Keep writing! If you miss the May 15 deadline, you can still submit because the ezine will be published soon on the website at [www.wflf.org](http://www.wflf.org). To clarify, submit to [andreaswriting0@gmail.com](mailto:andreaswriting0@gmail.com). (That's a zero after the word writing.)

I've included the updated guidelines for you below:



## LIFE IN THE TIME OF CORONA - 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. Submissions open April 15, 2020. First phase deadline for submissions is midnight May 15, 2020. Submissions not strictly adhering to the following guidelines will be rejected. First phase, the special edition of the Legend, will feature the best of submitted works by regional writers and artists of Northwest Florida. This project will introduce and lead to an online ezine, **second phase, which will encompass initial and additional submissions through the duration of the pandemic.** Life in the Time of Corona will be published on our website at [WFLF.org](http://WFLF.org).*

**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 [andreaswriting@gmail.com](mailto:andreaswriting@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. 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:** First phase submissions must be received by midnight, May 15, 2020.
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.
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. WFLF retains the copyright for the work as a whole, while copyright for individual pieces remains with the authors.
8. All selected contributors will receive an emailed copy of the Legend. **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, or .rtf 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com)

*Legend* editor: Andrea Walker

Check out our website at [www.wflf.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 next published directory.

Use PayPal at <http://wflf.org> and email this form to [westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com](mailto:westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com) or mail your check 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**