



The Legend

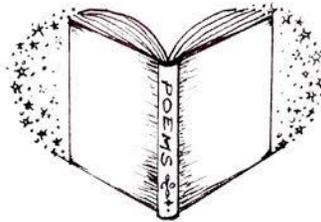
West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

SEPTEMBER 2020

Zoom into Open Mic on September 15, Third Tuesday

Join us for an important announcement and honor!



If you would like to read at Zoom Open Mic night in September, please email us and let us know. In August, we were delighted to have **former Poet Laureate Leonard Temme** join us for reading and lively discussion.

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

STILL ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS for Life in the Time of Corona!

Several of the most recent contributors have been Patricia Edmisten, Mandy Fernandez, Lisa Rawson, Joe Howard, and Dan Wallace, among others.

It is the West Florida Literary Federation's great pleasure to announce Katherine Nelson-Born has been appointed the new Poet Laureate for Northwest Florida.



photo by Belinda Todd of
Belinda Todd Photography, Pensacola

After marrying a Pensacola native, Katherine moved to Pensacola over two decades ago from New Orleans, where she grew up. Interested in poetry from a young age, Katherine got her first book of poems from a social worker steering Katherine away from juvenile hijinks, and Katherine has been hooked on the power of poetry since. Katherine took her first creative writing workshop while an undergraduate at the University of New Orleans, where she became the poetry editor at UNO's student-run literary magazine. She later earned her MFA in poetry at Virginia Commonwealth University and her doctorate in English at Georgia State University, where she edited the GSU Review and wrote her dissertation on 1967 Pulitzer Prize winner Anne Sexton.

This spunky, enthusiastic, and energetic writer also carried over her love for poetry while working with the Early Learning Coalitions in Escambia and Santa Rosa County, where she co-wrote grants and conducted poetry workshops for Santa Rosa at-risk students, never forgetting how she got

her first poetry book. Later, Katherine went on to teach for many years at Columbia Southern University before resigning in 2018 to commit herself to writing and editing. Katherine is an editor at K & K Writing Services with her partner and fellow writer, Ryn Holmes.

A former president, active with WFLF for over fifteen years, Katherine initiated the organization's participation in the NEA's 2008-2009 Big Read, writing the grant and choosing the novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Coordinating with at-risk schools, NAS, the West Florida Public Library, and the Pensacola Little Theater, readings happened across Pensacola, and a live production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* was taken on the road and performed at the PLT.

Katherine also served as an editor for several volumes of *The Emerald Coast Review*, a biennial literary anthology published by the WFLF, including the recent *Volume XX*. This issue, for first time, brings together poems from all of the Poets Laureate from 1986 to the present, as well as the winners of the 2019 K-12 WFLF Student Poetry Contest. Short stories as well as poems by local authors feature in this twentieth publication, marking a period of over thirty years of consistent engagement with the literary community of the Gulf Coast.

Katherine has been published in a range of journals, including the *Birmingham Poetry Review*, the *Emerald Coast Review*, the *Longleaf Pine*, *Maple Leaf Rag*, and *Penumbra*. Katherine's poetry earned "Honorable Mention" at the 2015 Alabama Writers Conclave. Her poetry also previously won the University of New Orleans/Tennessee Williams *Ellipsis* award for poetry and placed twice among finalists in the Agnes Scott College Writer's Festival.

In 2016, Finishing Line Press published Katherine's first poetry chapbook, *When Mockingbirds Sing*. Her full length book of poems, *Bone Geometry*, is forthcoming. In addition, Katherine is developing a trilogy of young adult fiction set in New Orleans, and her debut novel's introductory chapter won an award and was published by the Tallahassee Writers Association in the 2020 *Seven Hills Review*.

Katherine is a member of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs, the Authors Guild, the Women's National Book Association, and WFLF.

Katherine will share poems from *When Mockingbirds Sing* and read an excerpt from her debut novel during Local Writers' Night at the Fairhope Library, in Fairhope, AL, from 6 to 7 p.m. on October 15, 2020.

Stay posted for forthcoming announcements concerning a reception to welcome Katherine Nelson-Born as the new Northwest Florida Poet Laureate.

Elizabeth Holmes

The selection process is a thoughtful affair which begins with a committee of local writers and members with community interest. Committee members research the writing and community-mindedness of the nominees then vote. The next step is to contact the nominees to see if they are willing to serve as Poet Laureate. If so, they are asked to submit a packet of information with evidence of publication, writing samples, community project ideas, and vision of the role of Poet Laureate. After careful reading of the packets, the committee meets again for discussion and vote. Four candidates are selected as finalists and recommended to the Board of Directors. The Board interviews the finalists and makes the selection. The process takes about two months.

Andrea Walker

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER
MANDY FERNANDEZ**

Congratulations

The print edition of *Flights* magazine was recently launched by Sinclair College in Ohio. Two poems by Claire Massey, "Earth Day 2020" and "Those Little Words that Place You" are featured. A .pdf version is available for download. Copies of *Flights 2020* can be ordered at flightsscc.wordpress.com.

PANOPLY, A LITERARY ZINE
Join us here for a wide-ranging and
impressive array of writing.
Issue 16 is up.
And a Fresh publishing perspective
and talent needed!

Are you interested in online publishing? Can you help us freshen up our look, connect on social media, and improve our content? We seek critical thinking, plus layout/design and social media savvy. This volunteer position is based in Pensacola. We nominate for the Pushcart Prize and reach a global audience. Please visit www.panoplyzine.com. Contact Jeff Santosuosso for details: tja.santosuosso@sbcglobal.net

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.

CREATIVE WRITING

UNTITLED

my words will fade away
but that’s ok because
fading days keep me awake
until I find myself again

when my father’s grasp engendered blushing red
that is when I collapse
abyss of myself glistens in darkness
for I remain though never feel I do

limbs
dancing along the gravel alone
growing off a tree as a snake
finds an apple
and it is the same color as my cheeks.

through collapse I found the sea
swam beyond the dreams he had of me
now that he’s gone
I don’t know if he
killed me with love or
loved me with kill
perhaps he was trying to save me
from life through a glimpse of death
knowing once I saw
the light in the
darkness, I’d try to chase it
capture it
wouldn’t have to live or die for any longer

Cece Stewart

Car Lot

A new car with warranty
makes life easy for the first two years
or thirty thousand miles.
Then time runs out,

aging organ systems like heart, lung,
brain sputter and misfire,
old body machines
after so many years of effortless living.

They come in rows,
filling the service lines,
seeking new parts.
Some drive away, patched for a while,

others rust on the lot.
There are no bargains with the dealer.
He can call them anytime—
they were only gifts.

Henry Langhorne

**Review of *Made in Florida*
by Art Levy
University Press of Florida (2019)
ISBN 97888-0-8130-5626-5
306 pages**

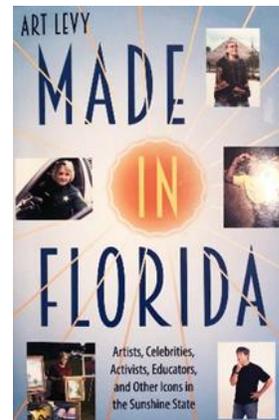
Art Levy's *Made in Florida* proves a challenging but worthwhile read. The book profiles ninety contemporary Floridians grouped into sixteen categories ranging from artists to industrialists, activists to journalists, and naturalists to philanthropists. Originally published in *Florida Trend* magazine from 2007 to 2018, the interviews are part of the publication's Florida Icon series.

The book provides insight into the lives of remarkable Floridians, natives, and transplants alike, who have chosen Florida as their place to make a difference. Some are household names like Chris Evert, Dave Barry, John Walsh, Burt Reynolds, Mel Tillis, and Shaquille O'Neal. Others like Patrick Smith, author of *A Land Remembered*, Carlton Ward, an eighth-generation Floridian photographing The Florida Wildlife Corridor, and Kiran Patel, a cardiologist and insurance entrepreneur, lack that same high-profile name recognition.

At first, it was difficult to adjust to the book's jumpy format of answers without questions. However, Art Levy's skill at organizing the answers allows each piece to read like a story, minus narration. For example, restaurateur Richard Conzmart, explains how "106 years of success [in restaurants] can be ruined with one visit." In the next paragraph, Conzmart describes how he turned his dyslexia and ADHD into a strength. Then, he describes his favorite dish and why he refuses to take it off the menu. Conzmart, like each subject interviewed, offers wisdom woven within his answers.

The Pensacola area is represented by Dr. Judith Bense, anthropologist, archaeologist

and former university president, and Derrick Brooks, former NFL linebacker. Brooks' interview remains one of my favorites. He is categorized as a philanthropist, not an athlete, for establishing the Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School, an academic charter school in Tampa. Brooks relates how his childhood dream was to be an insurance man because Mr. Irving in Pensacola wore a suit, drove a nice car, and collected money. When Brooks asked Mr. Irving how to have a job like his, Irving told him to "go to school, make good grades, and go to college." Brooks calls education "the great equalizer."



A cross section of Florida is also presented via the interviews. I especially enjoyed learning about the Florida Highwaymen artists in the interview with Mary Campbell, the only female painter in the group. I was surprised at the size of Florida's cattle industry when I read the responses of Alto "Bud" Adams, Jr., and I related to the efforts of former Miss America Nicole Johnson, who used her own diabetes to become an inspiration to young women nationwide. Alligator wrestler Ron Bergeron's tenacity impressed me, and I was intrigued to learn Alex Sink, former gubernatorial candidate, is the great-granddaughter of one of the famous Siamese Twins.

Made in Florida reads better over time, an interview or two a day, to allow the reader to

adjust to the style and savor the gems of wisdom. I recommend *Made in Florida* for readers, like me, who want to learn more about Florida and the people making the state what it is today.

Diane Skelton

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

Literary Things To Do
at Page & Palette Bookstore
Fairhope, Alabama

[https://www.facebook.com/PageAndPalette/
events/?notif_id=1599113886514861¬if
_t=event_calendar_create&ref=notif](https://www.facebook.com/PageAndPalette/events/?notif_id=1599113886514861¬if_t=event_calendar_create&ref=notif)

Thursday, September 10, 2:30 p.m., Europa
Book Club

Tuesday, September 15, 6 p.m., Andy
Andrews "Just Jones"

Thursday, September 24, 6 p.m., Signe Pike
The Forgotten Kingdom

Wednesday, September 30, 6 p.m., F.B.
Live: Terry Virts: Astronaut Interviews

Thursday, October 1, 5 p.m., Mike Acker—
First Friday Author Signing

Saturday, November 7, 2 p.m., Mike Bunn
Fourteenth Colony

*Please check the above link for more
information on events at Page & Palette.
Guest numbers are limited.*

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:

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Directors can be contacted at

WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com

Legend editor: Andrea Walker

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"Like" us on Facebook, (under) West Florida
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[http://www.facebook.com/pages/WestFlorid
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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 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
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