



# *The Legend*

## West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

[www.wflf.org](http://www.wflf.org)

**APRIL 2021**

Open Mic on Zoom, Third Tuesday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m.  
Lori Zavada will be our featured speaker, reading from her debut poetry chapbook, *First Flight*.



Join us in welcoming Loria Zavada, winner of the WFLF's Poem A Day Contest, and help us usher in April, National Poetry Month. Lori will be reading from her chapbook being published by WFLF. Lori's chapbook will be available on Amazon by or before the end of April. Way to go Lori! Lori's reading will be followed immediately by open mic, so bring your own creative writing to share as well. Hope to see you there.

All paid members and emeritus members will receive a Zoom invitation. Registration will be required. (Annual dues can be paid online.) Below is a link for a short Zoom tutorial.

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/hIkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc\\_load\\_policy=1](https://www.youtube.com/embed/hIkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1)

## WFLF Writers Weekly Workshops

**MONDAY POETRY** ~ We are an informal group of poets with varying levels of experience who enjoy getting together to share our work with each other. Sometimes it's just to share, other times it's for critique and feedback. We are looking for others to join us virtually on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 6 pm - 8 pm. Interested in learning more or joining the group?

Contact Debra Stogner  
at [debrastogner@gmail.com](mailto:debrastogner@gmail.com).

**WEDNESDAY PORTFOLIO & EXCHANGE SOCIETY** ~ Critique Group meets every Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., on ZOOM. 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. The participants are notorious for exchanging writing tips, websites, and general trivia. For more information, contact [dianeskelton@att.net](mailto:dianeskelton@att.net).

*Please contact the appropriate facilitator mentioned above regarding meetings during this time.*

### **Meet Your WFLF Board President – Lisa Rawson**

A WFLF member since 2017, Lisa Rawson served on the board in 2018-19, then was elected president in 2020. Lisa's goals include expanding membership, building relationships with other like-minded non-profits, and bringing new ideas and hosting events that will enhance WFLF's reach and

reputation in the community. In order to see WFLF members thrive, she would like to offer them more opportunities to improve their writing abilities.

Lisa, a retired Navy commander, now works as a realtor with Coldwell Banker and runs a vacation rental property. Her four grown children are spread throughout Georgia, Maryland, California and Texas. She lives in Gulf Breeze with her dad and mini-Golden Doodle named Coco Bella.



Lisa enjoys writing poems and desires to write a novel. In her spare time, she enjoys dog breeding, swimming, electric bike riding, horseback riding, and fixing up houses. She hopes to travel to South Africa for a safari when it's safe to resume travel.

In addition to building an author website, Lisa wants to learn more from others about publishing creative works so she can work on her own pieces.

Lisa previously served on the board for the Pensacola Veterans Memorial Park.

Thank you, Lisa, for your leadership with the WFLF board!

*Mandy Fernandez*



### WFLF Member Feature: Lori O'Gara

Navarre librarian and new WFLF member Lori O'Gara says that “writing is an isolated profession sometimes and authors have to make a point to connect with others.” She hopes that being a member of WFLF will allow her to make new friends, and she wants to learn new strategies for sharing her work.

Lori says that writing is like breathing for some, but for her, it was a struggle to accept the idea that she is a writer. She finally told herself, “You can and you will [be] because if you do not write, you will not be happy in your soul.”

Lori and her husband Brendan live in Milton, and their family consists of six children ages 34 to 11 and one dog named Harley Quinn. She and her husband decided to self-publish. They write in the fantasy, contemporary fiction, and nonfiction genres. They have published novels together and individually. Lori is the author of more than a dozen books. Although she wants to sell books, she is more concerned with putting books in the hands of readers. Her husband Brendan has written a cookbook and she keeps an online publication. [A Transpicious Life](#). She has been published in print magazines as well.

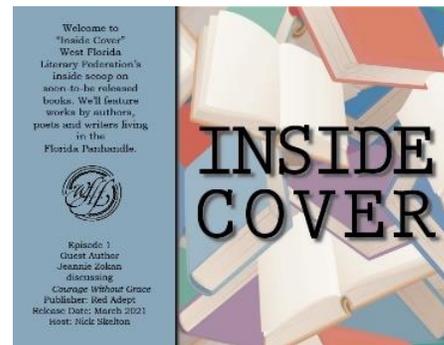
Lori’s goal within the next year or two is to finish and publish the second book with her husband for their fantasy series, *The Music of the Bones*, (*Necromancer’s Song Book 2*).

Lori is a huge “Doctor Who” fan, and when she’s not at the beach, writing or reading, she can be found wandering the stacks in a library, perusing antique stores and thrift shops, or playing tabletop role-playing games.

Welcome, Lori, to WFLF! We’re glad to have you in our group!

Mandy Fernandez

### INSIDE COVER



Diane Skelton is piloting a virtual book launch program for WFLF. As part of the pilot, she and her son Nick, produced an author talk "Inside Cover" for WFLF's You Tube Channel. The pilot features Jeannie Zokan discussing her new book *Courage Without Grace*. As part of the pilot, Jeannie has also received several WFLF Facebook posts and tweets. [You can view the interview here.](#)



Recommended by the Legend editor!

**Longtime WFLF member, former Board member, author of more than six books, and owner of Proper Publishing, Susan Lewis is again offering her popular memoir writing class through continuing education with the University of West Florida.**

**Susan writes,** “I’m reaching out to my favorite students only because 2020 proved to be such an emotional drain on everyone, I can’t imagine a better way to begin teaching again than to see some of your lovely faces, and reconnect with such dear friends while we learn together. Keep an eye out for the Summer class schedule and register if you decide to spend an hour and a half with me talking about words.”

[Leisure Learning | University of West Florida](#)

### **Connect through Florida State Poets Association online get-togethers for poets**

In just one month, FSPA introduces two new online gatherings for poets throughout the state: The Zoomies meeting and our FSPA First Tuesday Open Mic Night. Zoomies offer a recognized poet a platform to expand on his or her craft: our next Zoomie meeting is on **Thursday, April 22 at 7:00 PM**, and features **Northwest Florida Poet Laureate Katherine Nelson-Born**.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87152524743#success>

FSPA’s **First Tuesday Open Mic Night** will take place on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM, beginning this Tuesday, April 6. Hosted by Orlando Area Poet Peter Gordon, everyone is welcome to read an original poem. The link and password are as follows:

<https://fullsail.zoom.us/j/95751311770?pwd=d1hQS2JxdTBCNmNqNHhNN0hVRDhOZz09>

Meeting ID: 957 5131 1770  
Passcode: 936233

Whether you want to work on publishing your work, performing your work or learning more about poetry, the right connections are in FSPA. For decades, we’ve met in small groups and at larger annual events, sharing poetry, craft, and education, and advice. Now we’re meeting online like everyone else. Learn more about the benefits of membership at [FloridaStatePoetsAssociation.org](http://FloridaStatePoetsAssociation.org).

Mary Marcelle-Black, President, Florida State Poets Association

### **WFLF Members Only Facebook Private Group**

The WFLF now has a members-only private Facebook page. You have to be invited to join or request to join. Or a current administrator can add you if you are already Facebook friends with them. Current admins are Diane Skelton, Katherine Nelson-Born, Charline Barger and Mandy Fernandez. The purpose of this private group is to allow WFLF members to interact more often - share writing tips, writing-related webinars, writers resources and even share positive news like when each other is published or doing a writer event. This will be a great way to network with each other and to uplift each other more often than just monthly meetings and open mic nights. If you’d like to join, please send an email to Mandy Fernandez, vice president. She’ll need your email address to send you an invitation to join. You can email her at [writtenbymandy@gmail.com](mailto:writtenbymandy@gmail.com).

The WFLF Members Only private group is set to strict privacy settings so you may not be able to find it just by searching. We want to keep the privacy and safety of our members at the forefront of what we do so please note that the site may ask you a few questions and have you agree to the rules (being courteous, respectful and kind).

### **WFLF Member of Community of Literary Magazines and Presses**

**PROUD MEMBER**



COMMUNITY OF LITERARY MAGAZINES & PRESSES  
W W W . C L M P . O R G

## CREATIVE WRITING



*The following three poems are from Lori Zavada's winning chapbook, First Flight.*

### That Night by the Fire

Cribbed by the purple wood  
A fiery glow swelled  
Whispering sizzled secrets from its heat

I saw the Rustler jeans tag  
Your black hoodie  
Tongs in one hand  
Cup of coffee in the other

A Towhee floated down and landed on a limb  
An orchestra of crickets and cicadas  
drove out the sparrow  
until the hush of nightfall blanketed their trill

Your mind quivered  
in the cool evening vapor  
You cinched the draw cord  
A flame licked at the stars  
Your dreams flew away on its tails.

### Venus and Mars

You hang in the velvet skies  
Only appearing to me in darkness  
But you're there all the time  
Dependable and marvelous

Venus - the nightlight of my universe  
There every morning  
Before dawn gets situated  
You float in your Virgo constellation

Then that golden red planet appears  
You remind me of me  
Your burning fierce twinkle  
Floating in your Pisces constellation

Dominating the sky  
Sky ... seems a simple word  
To describe the vast space  
You occupy

Millions of miles and many years away  
I gasp at my smallness  
Gratitude wells up inside me  
I secretly chart my course

Toward your pulsating splendor.

### First Flight

The hatchlings  
Have weeks to go yet

Their scattered cheeps  
Bounce off the porch ceiling

Blind and hungry  
They gulp at bites from whence unknown

They trust the source  
Will return again and again

How brave you are  
to step off that lofty rim

Until they push off  
From their silver basket

Cheeps turn to chirps  
A clue, a sign?

Oh the delight  
You bring my heart

Fragile sound  
Drifting down

Thank you for choosing my porch  
Use as your delivery room

I yank the cord again  
There you are

Each morning I yank the louvered blind  
My mental state on fire

Atop the tree, the wire, the fence line  
Owning nothing thus able to fly.

Eager to catch you  
Floating down from your cup

*Lori Zavada*

## **WFLF Awards Students in Youth Poetry Contest During National Poetry Month**

**Pensacola, Fla.** – April 26, 2021 – The West Florida Literary Federation (WFLF) will recognize the student poetry winners from its 2021 Youth Poetry Contest, “Unmuted Voices” on April 25 at 4 p.m. The ceremony will occur virtually via Zoom. Students are invited to read their winning poems. Teachers and parents along with WFLF members are also invited for encouragement and discussion.

Each year the WFLF offers a student writing contest and partners with Escambia and Santa Rosa County teachers and uses National Literacy Week to promote creativity and student writing. WFLF looks forward to continued partnership with local students, teachers, faculty and staff to foster writing. This year’s guest speaker at the virtual awards ceremony is Dr. Susan James, associate professor at the University of West Florida and director of the Emerald Coast National Writing Project at UWF. She is known as “The Book Dealer” for her work with literacy and young adult literature.

Student winners for 2021 are:

Middle School:

1st Place - Lin Xi Niedbala, 7th grade, Bailey, “Outside My Window”- Teacher: Rachel Bryans  
2nd Place - Emma Nigram, 8th grade, Ransom, “Two Sides, One Coin” - Teacher: Catherine Mabry  
3rd place - Shyan Fredrickson, 8th grade, Ransom, “Unity” - Teacher: Catherine Mabry  
3rd place - Maddie Stoker, 7th grade, Bailey, “Square Peg” - Teacher: Rachel Bryans

1st Honorable Mention - Samantha Stice, 6th grade, homeschool, “Iris, the Symbol of Hope” Teacher: Aaron Stice

1st Honorable Mention - Tan Tran, 6th grade, Workman, “There Will Be a Day” - Teacher: Jeffrey Martin

2nd Honorable Mention - Madilynn Green, 8th grade Bailey, “Creative Notes” - Teacher: Grace Bonsall  
2nd Honorable Mention - Declan Harris, 8th grade Bailey, “Seasons” - Teacher: Grace Bonsall  
2nd Honorable Mention - Bradley Konrad, 8th grade Bailey, “Because I Love You” Teacher: Grace Bonsall

High School:

1st Place - Jacob Chatwood, 12th Grade Tate, “Clear Panes, Dark Curtains” - Teacher: Jonathan Peacock  
2nd Place - Olivia Folle, 9th grade, Gulf Breeze, “Views of the People” - Teacher: Megan Fitzgerald  
3rd Place - Katie Stanford, 12th grade, Jay High, dual enrolled – “Contentment”

WFLF president Lisa Rawson will preside over the student awards ceremony. More than 20 students and seven schools participated in this contest. For more information about WFLF and the student awards ceremony, visit [wflf.org](http://wflf.org).

### **Emerald Coast Review Seeks Regional Writer, Artist Submissions for 21<sup>st</sup> Anthology**

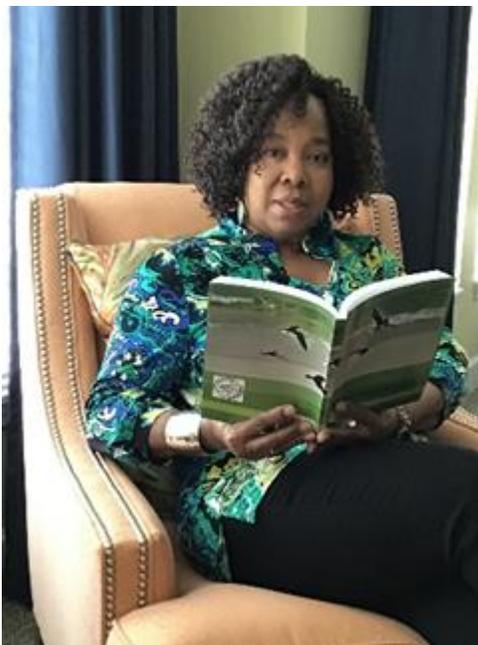
**Pensacola, Fla.** – March 1, 2021 – The West Florida Literary Federation (WFLF)’s Emerald Coast Review (ECR) has published the voices of regional writers in an anthology since 1989. This year marks the 21<sup>st</sup> volume. The publication will feature quality fiction, nonfiction, poetry, contemporary, emerging, and experimental works along with the best of art, graphic design and photography from area writers and artists living along coastal Florida and Alabama. Residents from the following counties are encouraged to submit: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa and Bay (Florida); Mobile, Escambia and Baldwin (Alabama).

To view guidelines and submit your work, visit [wflf.org/ecr](http://wflf.org/ecr). Submissions close April 30, 2021. Accepted submissions will be announced and writers will be notified that their piece(s) will be published in the ECR in Fall 2021.

Current WFLF member and former ECR poet contributor, Debra Stogner, said, “My poem ‘mindLess’ about battle fatigue was published in the 2019 Emerald Coast Review. It was inspired by my father who was fighting his final battle with cancer.”

Stogner was former active-duty Army Sergeant (E-5) for six years. She is a civil service retiree and now works part-time with Veterans Services. Stogner also spent years traveling with her father’s military career. Now semi-retired she regularly participates in WFLF workshops and writers’ groups with the goal of publishing a poetry chapbook. Stogner said, “Everyone has a story to tell and words to share. Whether for pleasure, publication or record of family history, I strongly encourage people to submit to the ECR and bring unique perspective to our history, environmental landscape and shared experiences for all to enjoy.”

ECR invites a diverse, cross-section of regional writers to share their creative voices and submit their work today. No writing experience or poetic background is required. Share your voice, enthusiasm and talents.



To view guidelines and submit your work, visit [wflf.org/ecr](http://wflf.org/ecr).

**All currently PAID members of West Florida Literary Federation are invited to submit to the *Emerald Coast Review*. Though the *ECR* is a regional publication, we recognize that our members, no matter where they live, have a direct link to this region. We encourage all members to submit their best work.**



SINCE 1989 ~ WEST FLORIDA LITERARY FEDERATION'S  
**EMERALD COAST REVIEW**

**2021, Vol. XXI - Submission Guidelines**

This literary anthology has been published biennially by West Florida Literary Federation (WFLF), Pensacola, FL since 1989. Submissions open **March 1, 2021**. Deadline for submissions is midnight, **April 30, 2021**. Submissions not strictly adhering to the following guidelines will be rejected. The 21<sup>st</sup> volume will feature the best of submitted works by regional writers and artists.

1. *Emerald Coast Review* is a regional publication 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. The *Emerald Coast Review* invites submissions of nonfiction (including hybrids of memoir and essay, flash nonfiction, creative nonfiction, and journalistic feature writing). In the area of fiction, we are eager to receive short stories, short plays, flash fiction and micro fiction. We welcome all forms of poetry (including experimental poems). Artistically, we welcome digital photographs and digital photographs of original works as oil, acrylic, watercolor, collage, mixed media, etchings, silk screen, lithographs, etc.
3. All submissions must be in electronic format and uploaded to the appropriate category at <https://westfloridaliteraryfederation.submittable.com/submit>
4. Alternative submission permission may be considered by emailing the editorial board at [emeraldcoastreview@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldcoastreview@gmail.com)
5. A brief biography (75 words maximum) is required. College students should indicate school attending. If your work is selected, the bio will appear in the publication.
6. Submissions are read "blind." Do not place your name on the manuscript. Labeling instructions are specified in each genre.
7. Fee: \$10 per submission, per category except for visual arts which is \$3 per image/file. College students receive a 50% discount but must email [emeraldcoastreview@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldcoastreview@gmail.com) for a direct link to receive the discount.
8. Submissions must be uploaded by midnight, April 30, 2021.
9. WFLF accepts only original, unpublished work that has not previously appeared in any publicly accessible form, including online. We request First North American serial rights to work accepted for publication in the *Emerald Coast Review*. After publication, rights revert to the author, artist or photographer. Simultaneous submissions are accepted but must be withdrawn by the author if accepted elsewhere.
10. 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.
11. All selected contributors will receive one free contributor's copy of the *Emerald Coast Review*.
12. Multiple submissions are accepted from writers and artists with a submission fee for each group.

**Poetry guidelines:**

- Up to 3 poems **OR** 5 haiku, with a maximum of 300 lines total submitted as a single document.

- A single poetry submission = up to 3 poems **OR** up to 5 haiku.
- Format each poem as you would like it to appear in final publication, single-spaced, double-spaced between stanzas, using 12 pt. Times New Roman font and 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Do not number pages or include poet's name. Begin each poem on a separate page with the title in the upper right corner.
- Electronic submissions must be sent as .doc, docx. or .rtf format. PDF files are not accepted.

**Fiction guidelines:**

- A single fiction submission = no more than one short story **OR** one play, up to 2,000 words maximum. On the first page place the title and total word count in the upper right corner.
- **OR** no more than two flash fictions up to 1,000 words each; total word count of both pieces not to exceed 2,000 words and submitted as one document. Begin each piece on a new page with the title and word count in the upper right corner.
- **OR** no more than three micro fictions of up to 250 words each; total word count of all three not to exceed 750 words submitted as one document. Begin each piece on a new page with the title and word count in the upper right corner.
- Type, double-spaced using 12 pt. Times New Roman font and 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Do not number pages or include author's name.
- Electronic submissions must be sent as .doc, docx. or .rtf format. PDF files are not accepted.

**Nonfiction guidelines:**

- A single nonfiction submission = no more than one article, memoir **OR** essay up to 2,000 words maximum. On the first page place the title and word count in the upper right corner.
- **OR** no more than two flash nonfictions up to 1000 words each; total word count of both pieces not to exceed 2,000 words, submitted as one document. Begin each piece on a new page with the title and word count in the upper right corner.
- Type, double-spaced using 12 pt. Times New Roman font and 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Do not number pages or include author's name.
- Electronic submissions must be sent as .doc, docx. or .rtf format. PDF files are not accepted.

**Visual Art guidelines:**

- 6 individual images maximum per submission, priced per file.
- Color and black and white images are accepted; however, most images will be formatted in grayscale. If your submission is in color, you may be asked to convert it to black and white to ensure quality of reproduction.
- Present graphic elements exactly as they should appear on printed page.
- Each image must have a high resolution of at least 300 dpi.
- Electronic submissions must be sent as .jpeg, .png or .tif format. PDF files are not accepted.
- Include a title of each image in the filename, not on the image.

**For further information or questions, email**  
[emeraldcoastreview@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldcoastreview@gmail.com)

## **WFLF 2021 Board of Directors**

President: Lisa Rawson

Vice President: Mandy Fernandez

Secretary: Charline Barger

Treasurer: Tom Roberts

Director: Claire Massey

Director: Jeannie Zokan

Director/Poet Laureate: Katherine Nelson-Born

Directors can be contacted at [WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com)

*Legend* editor: Andrea Walker [andrea48@aol.com](mailto:andrea48@aol.com)

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/WestFlorida-Literary-FederationWFLF/255101747857712?ref=h>

“Follow” us on Twitter @ [WSTFLLITFED](https://twitter.com/WSTFLLITFED)

**West Florida Literary Federation ~ Join or Renew ~ 2021**

**Memberships are good for one calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31.**

**Individual membership is \$35/year, two-year \$60. Couple one-year \$60, two-year \$115. New members joining after July 15, pay \$20 or may pay \$45 which also pays for the following year. Subsequent years are due annually by January 1. Student \$15.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to sponsor <b>(NAME)</b> _____
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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**