



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

FEBRUARY 2021



Zoom into our Annual Meeting and Open Mic on Third Tuesday February 16

Join us at 6:30 with program starting at 7:00 p.m. All paid members and emeritus members will receive a Zoom invitation. Registration will be required. (Annual dues can be paid online.)

Vote on the incoming board members, learn all the news from last year, see the smiling faces of your friends, and read your creative writing!

If you haven't used Zoom yet, below is a link for a short tutorial.

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.

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 ~ 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.

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

MEMBER NEWS

**Welcome back returning member
Susan Feathers!**

WFLF November 2020 Poem-a-Day Chapbook Challenge Winner

If you missed the announcement during the WFLF January Open Mic celebrating the first 100 days of Katherine Nelson-Born's appointment as the new Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida, you missed hearing the winner of WFLF's November Poem-a-Day Chapbook Challenge.

Congratulations to Lori Zavada for her poetry chapbook, 21 Poems: A Chapbook, being selected as the winner of the chapbook competition.

The winning chapbook was selected by Katherine Nelson-Born as Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida and will be published this spring on KDP by the WFLF. Lori also will be the featured speaker at this month's WFLF Open Mic so be sure to join us.

Northwest Florida Poet Laureate featured during February meeting of Pensacola Branch of NLAPW

Katherine Nelson-Born, newest Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida, is the guest speaker February 23, 2021 for the Pensacola Branch of NLAPW, the National League of American Pen Women.

Katherine is interviewed "Barbara Walters" style (without the tears) by Karen Morris, fellow WFLF member and a past Pen Women Poet Laureate who also was a finalist for the current Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida.

JANUARY HAIKU CHALLENGE LEADS TO FEBRUARY SLAM

Save the Date! February 27, 2021, 6-9 PM at Emerald Republic Brew Pub, 1414 W Government St.

Check out the fabulous February Pensacola Magazine article on this month's Haiku Slam! https://issuu.com/ballingerpublishing/docs/pensacola_magazine_feb_2021_web/20

Sponsored by the WFLF, January's Haiku Challenge was a prelude to Pensacola's February Haiku Slam, a/k/a Haiku Death Match with Asia and Friends February 27, 2021, 6-8 PM at the Emerald Republic Brew Pub, an excellent

outdoor venue for practicing your Haikus live and engaging in social distancing while enjoying a locally brewed beverage. Check out the Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/events/267567308130099?context=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D%7D

Free and open to the public (except for the beverages), the slam is the brainchild of the Poets Roundtable, a collaborative group of local poets organized by Northwest Florida Poet Laureate Katherine Nelson-Born and local poets Charles McCaskill and Asia Samson.

Bring your Haikus or bring your applause because the Haiku Death Match winner earns a prize compliments of the Emerald Republic Brew Pub!

The Haiku Slam celebrates National Haiku Month, designated for the shortest month, February, since haiku is the shortest form of poetry. For more information, visit wflf.org, WFLF on Facebook or Emerald Republic or Voices of the Republic Facebook pages, or contact Katherine Nelson-Born at bcs.editor@gmail.com.

Congratulations!

Claire Massey's flash fiction "Clean Sweep" was accepted in *Halfway Down the Stairs* for their spring issue and will appear in March.

Lori Zavada is published in an online anthology named *Nobody's Home*. The anthology is a collection of creative nonfiction works about the prevailing myths, beliefs, narratives, ideas, experiences, and assumptions that have driven Southern culture over the past 50 years.

The editor is Foster Dickson, an award-winning teacher in Montgomery.

<https://medium.com/nobodys-home/dinnertime-56f4360e7934>

Self-publishing Webinar Part 2

The next installment of **Tom Roberts'** self-publishing webinar (Part 2) will be on March 2nd. Details will be forthcoming.

WFLF Accepted in Community of Literary Magazines and Presses

West Florida Literary Federation is proud to announce it has been accepted for membership in the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses (CLMP). The membership, which is by application, grants WFLF access to valuable resources including audio and videos recordings webinars, tip sheets, listservs, groups, databases, directories, guidebooks and manuals, plus marketing and social media opportunities. Membership benefits also include discounts, directory listings and calls for submission listings, plus preferred pricing on platforms as Submittable and occasional grant opportunities. As members, we are encouraged to display the CLMP logo, which lets others know we are part of an ethically-committed and mutually-supported publishing community. Our history of continually publishing the *Emerald Coast Review* and collections by poets laureate since 1989, along with our online endeavors like *The Spill* and *Life in the Time of Corona*, enabled us to apply for membership. You'll be seeing this seal in our upcoming publications as we are honored to be part of the literary community.



**Tribute to Elizabeth Hammond Holmes
1954-2021**

Several years ago I met a sweet, friendly couple at tai chi--Elizabeth and Bob Holmes. After several conversations, I discovered they both had an interest in writing, so I invited them to open mic. They accepted and soon became regulars. Bob sometimes read lovely reflective poetry, but Elizabeth entertained us with funny, sometimes crazy stories from her youth in North Carolina. We laughed along with her as she described their favorite coffee shop where religious and philosophical discussions took place. She had a great sense of humor, and her laughter was contagious. Sometimes her readings became quite animated and occasionally emotional, and more recently, experimental dramatical dialogues.

Her enthusiasm and commitment led to her accepting the office of secretary on the WFLF Board of Directors. Elizabeth always took on whatever jobs our organization needed help with, from distributing posters for the Foo Foo Festival to serving wine with Bob at various events. In 2019, she worked diligently to ensure a successful and lovely launch of the *Emerald Coast Review Volume XX* at Bodacious Book Store.

I know so many members who will agree with me that we always loved to hear Elizabeth share her stories about family—homey, funny, sweet and delivered with big smiles and laughter.

Thank you, Elizabeth, for not only your dedication to WFLF as a member of the board, but as a treasured and much admired member of the group.

Andrea Walker

Elizabeth's memory and legacy will be honored at the annual meeting.

CREATIVE WRITING

*The following poem by Elizabeth Holmes
was published in the May 2020 Legend.*

Tiny Traveler
in memoriam

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

A Sunday Run on Johnson Beach

Sprouting from the beach's sandy scalp
Silky hairs blow this way and that
The wheat-tinged strands cling to the wind

Strong and cold
The same gusts cause a stir in the Gulf
Pushing lacy folds my way

All I need is 4 miles

From whence did you travel?
Are you from the North Sea?
I press on hoping we are friends

All I need is 4 miles

I shed anxiety and discover hope again
Perhaps if she knows my troubles
She will carry me on my return

Looking beyond this windy woman
The metal sky is a lure
The sand, the seagrass, the gulls
I'm stilled by the space

Unlike the dark closets where many words are
born
An opening through which we've all passed
This place is a creamy magnolia fragrance
A lavender salt bath
A soft gauze that dresses wounds

All I need is 4 miles.

Lori Zavada

Rejections in Numbers

Four within 14 days
Three within the same week
Two standard, polite replies
One short, but not real sweet

One the quickest I ever received
A dozen pending disapproval
Countless others in progress
Zero writing successes lately

Four pinches on my elbow
Three jabs across the chin
Two kicks behind the knee
One hard push against my chest

One bruised, weakened ego
One slightly broken heart
Four decades of failures past
Zero chances I'll stop writing.

Mandy Fernandez

BOOK REVIEW

By Diane Skelton

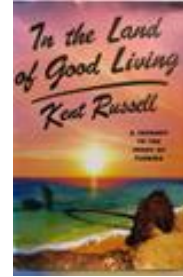
*In the Land of Good Living: A Journey to the
Heart of Florida*

By Kent Russell

Alfred A. Knopf (2020)

320 pages

ISBN: 9780525521389



I had great expectations for this walking narrative with its adventurous scenario. Three men, two native Floridians and a Canadian, walk 1000 miles across Florida – from Flora-Bama Lounge to Miami Beach -- filming a documentary in search of the *real* Florida. Their inspiration comes from former governor Lawton Chiles, who walked 1003 miles across Florida in 1970 to win his U.S. Senate seat. The book itself is a metaphor for its message – hustlers created Florida. Author Kent Russell lured me in, like a *real* Florida con man, and took my \$26.95 for a travel book without a map.

Russell, who grew up in Coconut Grove, a Miami suburb, is a free-lance magazine writer living in New York. The essays in the book are interspersed with short film scripts. Together, they describe the towns the men visit and the characters they encounter. Russell also provides historical background and personal dogmas, politics included.

Russell's style comes off as elitist. He selects a perfect word, often archaic or literary, forcing the reader to grab a dictionary. Why *juridical* instead of legal? Why *screying* when gazing through a crystal ball is more effective? Russell subtly

mentions that, “in theory,” he is an Ivy League professor.

In his Author’s Note, Russell labels himself an unreliable narrator. His occasional use of alcohol, cocaine and hallucinatory mushrooms along the journey validates the statement. His attitude is condescending to Florida, its settlers, developers, baby boomers, and Floridians. He calls Floridians patsies and Disney a con man yet admits to feeling at ease in his home state.

To capture the truth, the Canadian, Glenn, films the walk, while Russell keeps a journal. Former Marine Kyle assumes the role of protector from homeowners and townsfolk who fear or resent the walking trio. The reader suffers along with the walkers suffering from plantar fasciitis, warts, blisters, ripped-off toenails, and aching shoulders. The description of numerous wheeled cargo carriers provides touches of humor. A grocery cart, an antique baby buggy, a jogging stroller, and finally a mobility scooter help the threesome lug their backpacks, tents and film equipment across sand, marsh, and asphalt. Their biggest fears:

stand-your-ground shooters and bad highway drivers.

Russell’s explanation of Florida Man, the pop culture phenomenon developed from Florida Men newspaper headlines, is enlightening and funny. The trio interviews their own version of Florida Man, a character who self-identifies as Jesus from the Holy Land theme park in Orlando.

I enjoyed reading about night shrimping in Apalachicola, a gator hunter in Carrabelle, and spiritualists in Cassadaga. I appreciated the author’s honesty when describing his pompous talk to University of Florida journalism students, who probably did plenty of eye rolling. The final chapters on the future of Miami are eye opening.

The book may appeal to readers who enjoy walking narratives or to aspiring film students. Despite its Library of Congress classification, it is not a travel book. If their documentary is ever produced, I’ll watch it for the scenery. As for finding the *real* Florida, Russell claims it’s whatever we invent.

President: Lisa Rawson

Vice President: Bob 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/WestFlorida-Literary-FederationWFLF/255101747857712?ref=hl>

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 \$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
400 South Jefferson Street Suite 212
Pensacola, FL 32502**