



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

JUNE 2021

Summer Kick-off WFLF Meeting and Mixer



Roses photo by Andrea Walker

June 15, we are mixing things up with a bit of sun, fun, and summer inspiration!

It's not your past open-mic session. Join us for social games and laughs at **6:30 p.m.**

Followed by guest speaker Diane Skelton who shares news of her literary-inspired travels and the book she's working on now.

Last but not least, we'll hear from our members who will share some of their writing with us.

Mark your calendar now for June 15 for this special event. Don't miss out on this perfect way to kick off summer and be inspired by fellow WFLF members. Invite a guest. All paid members and emeritus members will receive a Zoom invitation. Registration will be required.

You don't want to miss this virtual gathering!

Below is a link for a short Zoom 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.

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.

**Congratulations,
Karen, Mandy, Katherine, and
Diane!**

Karen McAferty Morris' chapbook "Significance" was awarded third place in the 2021 Vinnie Ream Letters competition, a biannual contest of the National League of American Pen Women. This year's competition was noted for its "singularly outstanding field of finalists," and Morris' poetry was described

as a "beautiful, evocative collection." At the age of 18, Vinnie Ream, the first female artist commissioned to create a work of art by the U.S. government, sculpted a bust of Abraham Lincoln as he worked in the Oval Office, the only person to have sculpted him from life. She is an iconic figure of the NLAPW.

Vice president, **Mandy Fernandez** was a featured storyteller and recipe-maker on the site, *Eat, Darling, Eat*. There she shared a bit about motherhood, dealing with pandemic struggles, and her favorite no-bake granola recipe that she makes often with her youngest daughter. You can read the story and see the recipe here:

<https://www.eatdarlingeat.net/post/from-growls-to-grins>

WFLF's Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida, **Katherine Nelson Born**, won a \$50 prize in May as a winner of a local Haiku contest sponsored by the Phil Hall law firm.

Diane Skelton won third place in the Florida Federation of Women's Club state poetry contest with her poem, "Salute to Woman Veteran." The poem is in response to a WFLF November PAD Contest prompt which read "Veterans Day: Write a poem to or about a veteran. To avoid cliché, have your veteran doing something completely normal—grocery shopping, pumping gas or pumping iron. Aim to show something about this veteran without mentioning war, guns, or a bombing."

In the early summer rain,
I will see the floating nests
Of the little grebes.

Matsuo Basho

Meet WFLF Member Diane Skelton



Diane Skelton has been a member of WFLF since 2010. Since then, Diane has served in a variety of ways, including past president, board member, webmaster and current critique group facilitator and Facebook page contributor. Diane has volunteered on several Poet Laureate selection committees, *Emerald Coast Review* committees (and is currently the chair and editor of the 2021 edition) and “Life in the Time of Corona” committee member.

Diane loves being a member of WFLF for the fellowship among writers and learning from them. She has enjoyed the workshops and seminars as well. This past year Diane is especially grateful for Zoom that has helped her continue to connect her while the three-mile bridge to Gulf Breeze was closed for nine months.

Diane grew up in Pascagoula, Mississippi, but has lived in Texas, Louisiana, Kansas and now resides in Gulf Breeze close to several of her grandchildren. Diane and her husband Danny have three adult sons.

Her family is filled with art-enthusiasts. Diane’s mother was an award-winning paper and fiber artist. Her father restored antique cars. Diane has a degree in journalism, English and secondary education. She has taught art to mass communications from kindergarten to college level. Her oldest son is a theatre professor. Her middle son is a video and film maker. Her youngest son is a musician and podcaster. All three of them also teach and write like mom.

Diane says she has written since 7th grade when she wrote a column for a local newspaper

and was paid by the inch. She is most proud of her humor columns published in Mississippi Magazine and a feature on her students’ writing in their own Cliff Notes for the *English Journal*. She never tires of seeing a piece that says “Written by Diane Skelton.”

Besides writing, Diane enjoys photography. She also fishes, walks, shops at estate sales and collects old cookbooks. Diane loves following the literary history of writers and photographing her discoveries about writers as she travels. She is currently writing a literary travel guidebook and traveling from Apalachicola to Bay St. Louis for her research.

You can see Diane and hear her speak about her latest literary travels at the June 15 meeting which includes our usual open mic and will have an added before social mixer before Diane gives her talk. Thank you, Diane, for all you do for WFLF, inspiring us all and leading the way through your enthusiasm and volunteer efforts!

Meet WFLF Member Heather Mitchell



Heather Mitchell and her husband have been residents of Pensacola for 14 years. Prior to that she lived in northern California and grew up in Hawaii. She had her first child at age 39 and became a professional artist in her 50s.

Heather’s art has won numerous awards. You can see samples of her beautiful work on her website, www.HeatherMitchellDraws.com.

Besides art, Heather loves reading, camping, eating international foods, practicing

tai chi and watching British mysteries. She also loves spending time with her two dogs.

Heather joined WFLF because she enjoys hearing others read their writing. She looks forward to sharing in the writing process and developing her own writing further. Heather enjoys reading short stories and fiction that involves internal character studies. She is drawn to visual descriptions that are “poetic but not too flowery.” She loves writers Anne Tyler, Louise Erdrich and Elizabeth Strout. Heather has aspirations to develop a good short story and work on flash fiction and novellas.

Her published works include Boy’s Quest magazine for poetry and Colored Pencil magazine with two how-to articles. She recently submitted art and prose to the WFLF *Emerald Coast Review*.

Welcome, Heather! We look forward to seeing you, your art and your writing shared among our group.

CREATIVE WRITING

September

You want to take along
your day at the beach
but its reverberation
weakens
like the sound of beakers
receding
as you trek to the parking lot.

Claire Massey

Rededication: Toward a More Perfect Union, January 20, 2021

Wounded, my vision, that imagined goodness and abundance for my people.
Wounded, my mouth, that spoke the truth and treated all people with respect.
Wounded, my arms, that embraced the poor, the infirm, the sidelined.
Wounded, my hands, that offered comfort, solace, blessings.
Wounded, my spine, that stood tall, strong and proud among nations.
Wounded, my groin, its fruitfulness, potency, vitality.
Wounded, my legs, the firmament upon which I have stood in the face of betrayal evil and defilement.
Wounded, my feet, that have carried me victorious through wars and pandemics.
Wounded, my soul, the spirit of America, its promise and hope for the future.
But my eyes will open again; my vision will return.
My mouth will speak the truth on behalf of justice.
My arms and hands will enfold our poor and the “huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” *
My spine will be erect, a match for any marauder.
My groin will reproduce material well-being for a healthy society.
My legs will win this race and
My soul will swell again with pride and the moral authority we nearly lost.
*Emma Lazarus, “The New Colossus.”

Patricia Taylor Edmisten

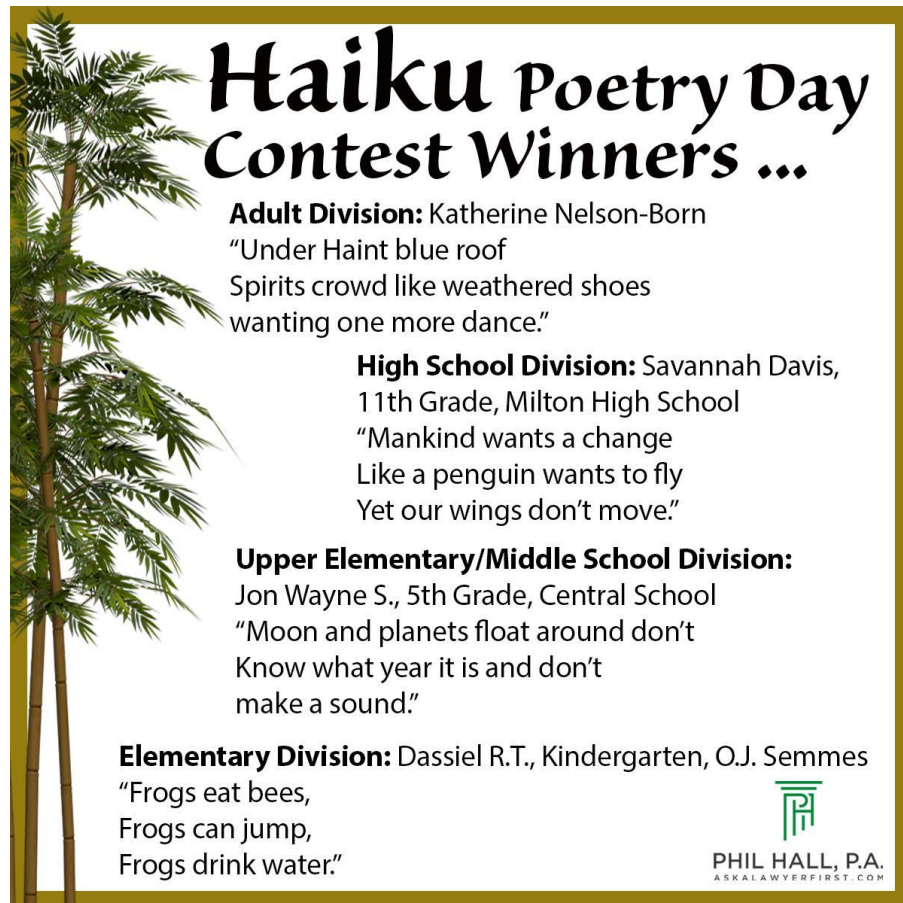
Salute to Woman Veteran

Grasping the microphone gently,
she calls the meeting to order with a smile,
clearly at ease before a crowd.
She checks off the detailed agenda,
commending others, thanking them for their service.

Yet she is the one who served,
first at sea with the Navy, then on shore with the sheriff.
Unknowing the dangers she faced or buddies she lost,
we see her smile crack, her cheeks stream with tears,
at the wreath-laying ceremony at the national cemetery.

Memories packed silent in her navy footlocker,
she now commands a mighty force of women,
corporate employees and community volunteers,
who tend the weak, the disabled, the ill, the hungry, the lonely,
and rally to the cause, proudly serving under her leadership.

Diane Skelton



Haiku Poetry Day Contest Winners ...

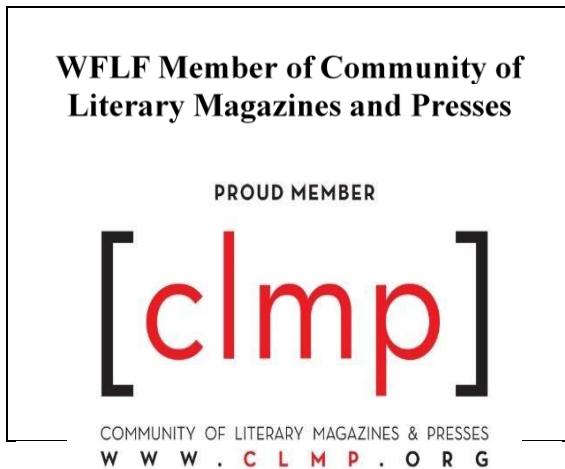
Adult Division: Katherine Nelson-Born
"Under Haint blue roof
Spirits crowd like weathered shoes
wanting one more dance."

High School Division: Savannah Davis,
11th Grade, Milton High School
"Mankind wants a change
Like a penguin wants to fly
Yet our wings don't move."

Upper Elementary/Middle School Division:
Jon Wayne S., 5th Grade, Central School
"Moon and planets float around don't
Know what year it is and don't
make a sound."

Elementary Division: Dassiell R.T., Kindergarten, O.J. Semmes
"Frogs eat bees,
Frogs can jump,
Frogs drink water!"

PHIL HALL, P.A.
ASKALAWYERFIRST.COM



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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 _____

<p>I would like to sponsor (NAME)</p>

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 westfloraliteraryfederation@gmail.com or mail your check and this form to

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