



# *The Legend*

**West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.**  
Member Newsletter

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

**November 2021 Edition**

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Please join us for Virtual Open Mic

using Zoom on November 16

Starting at 6:30 p.m.

During our November Open Mic we will spotlight one of our accomplished members who has a lot to offer on the topic of genre. Please join us for the special presentation "Bending Genres." See page 2 for details.

We hold Open Mic every third Tuesday of the month. All paid members and emeritus members will receive a Zoom invitation. Registration is 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\\_polic  
y=1](https://www.youtube.com/embed/hIkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1)

## Open Mic

Genre hopping from theater director and playwright to fiction writer, to children's book author, Pat Gould has learned a lot. The world of theater helped her create solid characters, vivid scenes, and strong dialogue. During November Open Mic, Pat will share techniques with the group and lead exercises to help strengthen character development and bring your stories to life! Please join us for the presentation "Bending Genres."

**Pat Black-Gould** has been a member of WFLF for three and a half years. She has a diverse background that includes a career as an author, director, playwright, producer, and clinical/neuropsychologist. Her short stories have been published in literary journals and anthologies including The Emerald Coast Review, Jewish Fiction.net, Panopolyzine, and Red Penguin Press.

Pat is currently publishing her first children's book, "The Crystal Beads, Lalka's Journey" with Purple Butterfly Press. The story follows a little girl in 1939 Poland, who is forced to give up her Star of David in exchange for a rosary. The Crystal Beads was first published as a short story. It won first place in the National League of American Pen's Women's Flannery O'Connor Short Story Competition, and first place in a PEN Women Florida statewide competition.



Currently, along with co-author Steve Hardiman, the team is writing their first novel. "Limbo of the Moon," is a coming-of-age story that takes place during the Vietnam War era. A chapter from the novel was recently published by Red Penguin Press in the authors' first historical fiction anthology.

As a psychologist/neuropsychologist, Pat specialized in working with Veterans, the Culturally Deaf population and the LGBTQ+ community. Under her maiden

name, Patricia Black, she and co-writer, Dr. Neil Glickman have published in the field of Mental Health and Deafness. In the theater world, Pat ran a theater company in New York and an inner-city children's theater program for children. She also directed and produced summer stock theater in Maine and wrote several murder mysteries that were performed throughout New England. In addition, Pat was also a professional mime, something that embarrasses her son, Zach, whenever she mentions it.

Pat chose to join WFLF because she wanted to connect with a local writing community and was impressed with our group. Pat is part of an international family. Her husband, Patrick, is from Ireland and her son, Zach, lives in Melbourne,

Australia. She can't wait to get back to traveling, especially to Australia to see her son. Pat has a cat named Fionn that she calls "Finn." Her favorite genres are playwriting, adult fiction and children's books.

We look forward to sharing Pat's knowledge and experience with our community of writers.

Follow and learn more about Pat at:  
Website:

<https://patblackgould.com/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/PatBlackGould>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/patblackgould/?hl=en>.

## Calling All Authors

WFLF wants to give all members an opportunity to sell their books at the Gulf Coast Arts Festival.

Make this opportunity a success for you!

If you are an author with books to sell, come be a part of this wonderful event that celebrates the arts in Northwest Florida.

We need volunteers, including volunteers to be sales cashiers during open festival hours. The booth, payment process and bags for purchases will be provided compliments of WFLF, with a little WFLF swag thrown in.

We hope we have a time slot that works for you to participate in this fantastic event. See the full schedule and sign up for one slot or several. The WFLF booth can accommodate up to three authors in each hour-long time period. Initially, please limit your sign-ups to no more than five time slots. As we get closer to the event, additional times will be available.

To sell your book(s) at the festival, please sign up via the Sign-Up Genius link below:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=s.SignupLogin&urlid=10C0F49A9A822A7FECE9-ggcaf>

Access code: **1987**

Once you're in Sign-Up Genius your spot will be reserved and other members will know you plan to be there. If none of the open time slots work for you, email us to possibly make other arrangements.

Email:  
WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com

While visiting our booth, pick up extra copies of the NEW Emerald Coast Review XXI. We encourage everyone—author or not—to stop by the booth and meet our selling authors.

We hope to see you there!

**2021 Great Gulf Coast Arts Festival  
Seville Square, Pensacola, Florida  
November 5 - 7, 2021**

**The West Florida Literary Federation  
and  
the Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida  
invite you to write a poem-a-day in November 2021**



Join your Northwest Florida Poet Laureate's annual celebration of poetry!

**Host:** Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida, Katherine Nelson-Born

**Event:** Poem-a-Day (PAD) Chapbook Contest

**Date:** November 1 - 30, 2021

**Where:** WFLF Facebook Page – <https://www.facebook.com/West-Florida-Literary-Federation-WFLF-255101747857712>

**Motto:** Healing of poetry is for everyone (HOPE)

The winning chapbook will be rewarded with a 2022 chapbook publication. Submission details will be available in November.

Starting November 1 and running through November 30, WFLF will post each morning on its Facebook page and Twitter a daily poetry prompt for your writing pleasure. #WFLFNOVPAD

Anyone from any location can participate in the PAD, but please only share original work! The chapbook final judge will be the Northwest Poet Laureate Katherine Nelson-Born.

Stay tuned for submission guidelines (late November) that will explain how to submit your manuscript of 20 to 30 pages.

A winner will be announced January 2022 at WFLF's 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Open Mic with publication in time to celebrate your new chapbook during National Poetry Month in April 2022!

The contest is limited to the first 50 submissions.



# WRITING NEWS

## A Review

Patricia Edmisten's review of Roland Merullo's new book, "Driving Jesus to Little Rock" is published in Peace Corps Worldwide. Since its founding in 1961, more than 235,000 Americans have served overseas with the Peace Corps. The book is available on Amazon. You can find Patricia's review at: <https://peacecorpsworldwide.org/review-of-driving-jesus-to-little-rock-by-roland-merullo-micronesia/>

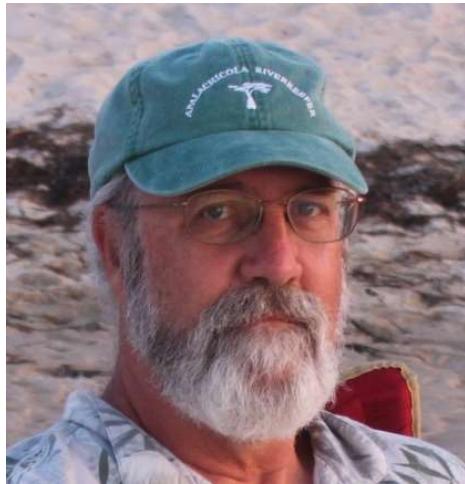
## Flash Memoir Submissions

As this issue of The Legend goes to press, Claire Massey, Diane Skelton and Karen Morris are collaborating to help you celebrate the New Year by entering—and winning—a prose contest. ***In Focus: A Contest for Flash Memoir*** will be open for submissions via our Submittable platform, January 1 - 31, 2022. There is no entry fee for WFLF members. Guidelines and details will appear soon on the WFLF website, Facebook page and in the December ***Legend***. Cash prizes will be offered as well as publication in a special edition of ***The Legend***. Winning works will be recognized during the WFLF annual meeting in February. Luke Wallin, professor of creative writing, former editor of ***The Louisville Review***, and award-winning

author of national eminence, will serve as our guest judge.

Think back on your pivotal moments, your triggering scenes, the revealing snapshots in time, the short take on a brief but oh-so-meaningful encounter. In 800 words or less, share the heart of your story, the keepsake take-away, the kernel, the essence. Prepare to enlighten us!

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**Bruce Ballister**, is one of our own—an award-winning author and WFLF member—and Bruce has been published again! Here's a glimpse into his latest novel, N.O.K.:

*N.O.K.*, police lingo for next of kin, is a high-stakes tale of a one-time successful journalist, Jason Saylor, who returns home to the Florida panhandle to write a novel. He'd been an investigative reporter in Texas and will soon be called upon to put those skills to work on his own behalf as he is swept into a missing person case involving a lovely young woman. Little does Jason know how entwined he will

soon become in the missing woman's case as his connection to her deepens—and in surprising ways—as the story moves along.

Read more at Southern Literary Review:  
<https://southernlitreview.com>

Other works by Ballister include:

- *Dreamland Diaries*
- *Orion's Light*
- *Room for Tomorrow*
- *Welcome to the Zipper Club*

Look for his books at Amazon Books or Ballister Books at: [BallisterBooks.com](http://BallisterBooks.com).

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We'd like to celebrate your writing success! Send us news of your published work. Email us at:  
[WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com).

## IN OUR WRITE MINDS

Column 5 by Claire Massey



Ever heard of the writer, Evelyn Ryan? She supported her large family by winning the jingle writing contests of the 1950s. ***The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio*** is a 2005 movie starring Julianne Moore and Woody Harrelson that tells

the story of her talent, courage and perseverance against the odds. It may inspire you to take a deep breath and click ***Send***, entering your screenplay, song, book, poem, essay, article, story or chapbook in that contest you've been researching. What, as they say, have you got to lose? In most cases, only a modest fee, and some contests are free to enter. Competitions for every genre abound, sponsored by literary journals, mainstream magazines, newspapers, university English departments, MFA programs, author conferences, agencies for the arts and non-profit organizations for writers.

Past publishing history and bios heavy with credentials are not considered when judges read "blind." Work submitted must stand on its own merit, giving novice writers a fighting chance. In addition to a monetary award, contests offer the opportunity to increase media exposure, win public recognition for your work, form relationships with colleagues and editors and add to your publishing credits.

Author Holly Lyn Walrath suggests that the odds of winning may relate to the genre you write. Does the widely known international contest you're considering allow each entrant to submit five poems? Is there only one prize, of a thousand dollars but your entry fee is \$30? Hmm... Remember, whether you are entering a contest or submitting for publication, guidelines are **sacred**. Read them carefully and repeatedly, and try to get an idea of the general aesthetic for which the judges and sponsors are looking. Consider also, what happens to your fee—will it fund writing projects and grants, humanitarian or environmental causes that are important to you, support journals and non-profits that benefit you and fellow writers?

When contemplating contests, it pays, literally and figuratively, to do your homework before you hit ***Send***.

Good luck, break a leg, buena suerte, go get 'em!

For helpful further reading:

<https://www.writersdigest.com/writing-articles/the-truth-about-writing-contests>

<https://srcxp.com/are-writing-contests-worth-entering/>

<https://medium.com/write-wild/are-writing-contests>

***Poets and Writers***, May/June, 2021, "Your Stress-free Guide to 75 Contests with no Entry Fees."



## ECR Launches

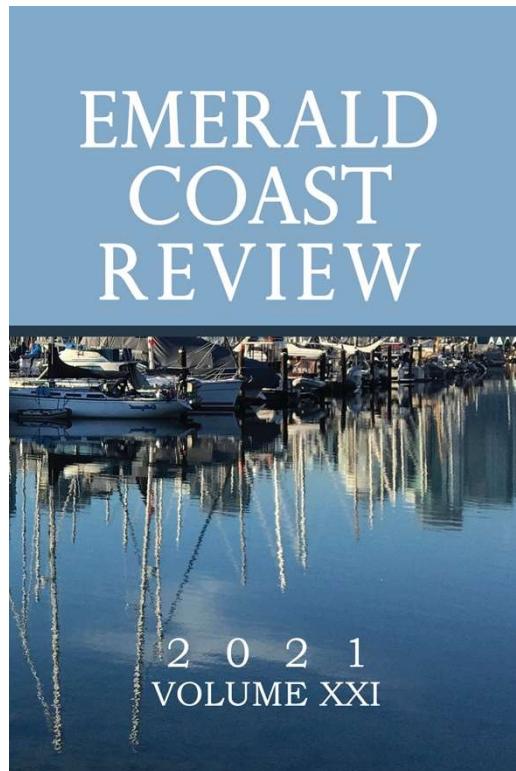
### 21<sup>st</sup> edition Includes Record Number of Regional Writers and Artists

The West Florida Literary Federation (WFLF) released its 21<sup>st</sup> Emerald Coast Review (ECR) featuring a record number of writers and artists from Baldwin, Alabama to Escambia, Santa Rosa and as far as Gulf County, Florida. This anthology has been published biannually since 1989. The publication features 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.

Managing editor of the ECR, Diane Skelton, said in the anthology's foreword: "The effects of COVID-19 and quarantine on the creative spirit will be researched by psychologists,

sociologists, and historians for decades to come. However, if they were to open this 21<sup>st</sup> volume of the Emerald Coast Review, and read these 83 pieces of prose, poetry and art, they would agree the creative spirit is thriving in our coastal region and beyond. Writers and artists answered the call for submissions for this ECR in remarkable numbers, offering exceptional work. Perhaps it was a result of the emotional roller coaster caused by a pandemic, the opportunity to create offered by a lockdown, or the urge to release pent-up frustrations, but this volume is like no other in scope."

Common themes in this anthology include life and love, death and disaster, nature and beauty, injustice and inequality. From tales of the homeless and the haunted, to poignant pieces reflecting life in the time of COVID, the reader travels with the writer to imaginary and real places. Whether it's taking a literary walk,



digging through the aftermath of a hurricane, marveling at ripples of sand, or tending a dying patient, the words and images captivate and immerse the reader. In the final section of the book, local student poetry winners from Escambia and Santa Rosa counties are featured from the WFLF youth writing committee contest that was held in April in conjunction with National Literacy Week to

promote creativity and student writing.

Members of WFLF and contributors to the ECR attended a virtual launch of the 21<sup>st</sup> anthology on Oct. 19 on Zoom. In all, 13 readers and artists showcased their pieces from the book. More than 30 attendees participated in the event.

Here's how you can purchase a copy:

Amazon: [amazon.com/Emerald-Review-Florida-Literary-Federation/dp/B09GJJ12N8/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=emerald+coast+review&qid=1634549293&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Emerald-Review-Florida-Literary-Federation/dp/B09GJJ12N8/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=emerald+coast+review&qid=1634549293&sr=8-1)

Great Gulf Coast Arts Festival: see page 4 for details

Learn more on our website WFLF.org  
Or email: [Emeraldcoastreview@gmail.com](mailto:Emeraldcoastreview@gmail.com)

# ONGOING WORKSHOPS

## MONDAY POETRY

An informal group of poets with varying levels of experience get together and share work, discuss writing or just listen. We welcome respectful critiques and feedback. The group meets virtually on the first Monday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, please contact Debra Stogner at:

[debrastogner@gmail.com](mailto:debrastogner@gmail.com).

This group is at capacity right now, but contact us to be put on a waitlist if you're interested in joining. Participants roll off and on causing membership to fluctuate. We'll contact you if an opening occurs.

## WEDNESDAY PORTFOLIO and EXCHANGE SOCIETY

A lively critique group meets every Wednesday, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., on Zoom. The group is looking for writers of any genre — memoir, poetry, fiction, nonfiction — who want to work on completing a project in 12 months. Since the group formed, several members have published books. Participants exchange writing tips, websites, and general trivia. For more information, please reach out to Diane Skelton at [dianeskkelton@att.net](mailto:dianeskkelton@att.net). Please contact Diane regarding meetings during this time.

## LEGEND SUBMISSIONS

Please share your creative work or writing news with us! Our goal is to publish on the first of each month. Send news any time, but please understand the cut-off date is mid-month (15<sup>th</sup> of preceding month), to give time for layout and design. Please share your headshot and a graphic of the publication in jpeg format when you submit creative writing, literary news, advice and writing achievements to:

[WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com).

Thanks for supporting our newsletter.

## **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

The Legend Editor: Lori Zavada

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

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

“Like” us on Facebook, (under) West Florida Literary Federation at:

[http://www.facebook.com/pages/WestFlorida-Literary-](http://www.facebook.com/pages/WestFlorida-Literary-FederationWFLF/255101747857712?ref=h)

[FederationWFLF/255101747857712?ref=h](http://www.facebook.com/pages/WestFlorida-Literary-FederationWFLF/255101747857712?ref=h)

“Follow” us on Twitter @ WSTFLLITFED

## **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

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

Renewal memberships are due by January 1. One-year, two-year, student and couple memberships are available.

### **Single:**

One-year: \$35

Two-year: \$60



### **Couple:**

One-year: \$35

Two-year: \$60

### **New Member: \$20**

\*New members with no previous WFLF membership joining the organization pay a reduced membership fee of \$20 for first-year membership ONLY, good for the first calendar year no matter the date of placing membership, with standard membership dues applicable upon renewal thereafter. Current members are welcome to sponsor a first-year member for \$20, and sponsored new members are encouraged to pay-it-forward by sponsoring another new member.

I would like to sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one please:      New \_\_\_\_\_      Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the items you **do not** want published in the WFLF members only directory:

Address

Phone

Email

If no item is circled, we will include all your information in the next published directory.

Send your payment via 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