



# ***The Legend***

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

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

**October 2021 Edition**

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Please join us for Virtual Open Mic

using Zoom on October 19

Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Get ready to celebrate published writers as we launch the 21<sup>st</sup> Emerald Coast Review! 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/hlkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc\\_load\\_policy=1](https://www.youtube.com/embed/hlkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1)

## Open Mic - ECR Virtual Book Launch, Special Readings

On Oct. 19, we will celebrate the virtual launch of our 21st Emerald Coast Review (ECR) anthology. Our diverse publication features regional writers of quality fiction, nonfiction, poetry, contemporary, emerging, and experimental works, along with the best of art, graphic design, and photography. Many of the published results are from WFLF members. During the virtual meeting, we will honor this incredible collection.

The program will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. Please be on time. We'll start with an introduction by ECR editor, Diane Skelton. She will say a few words about this edition. Planned readers and artists from the ECR will speak about and share their work, followed by any attendee wishing to share ECR work or a personal piece.

Mark your calendar now for Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m. and attend this special, virtual event. Invite a friend. All paid members and emeritus members, along with all ECR contributors, will receive a Zoom invitation. Pre-registration is required. You will receive a follow-up email (link with details) after you pre-register for this meeting.

Thank you, ECR review committee, for making this year's anthology a great success: Diane Skelton, Karen Morris, Claire Massey, Debra Stogner and Mandy Fernandez.

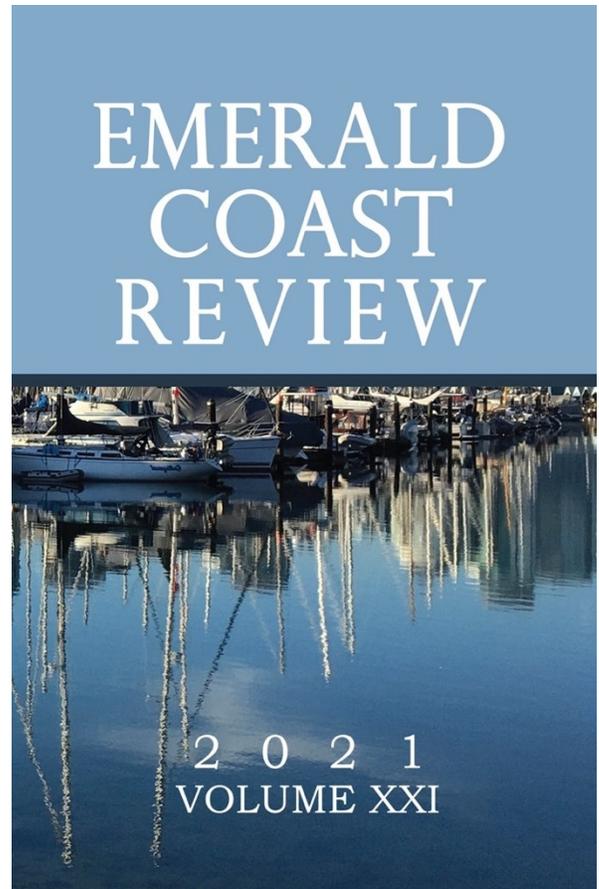


Photo Credit: Debra Stogner  
Cover designer: Diane Skelton  
*Attend Open Mic to hear more about the photograph and the special meaning behind it for Debra.*

**Get Your Copy of the 21<sup>st</sup> biennial ECR anthology!** The 21<sup>st</sup> Emerald Coast Review (ECR) is on schedule to publish in mid-October to coincide with the October WFLF virtual meeting, which will be a celebration of the publication. Once books have arrived, WFLF will send an email to all members and ECR contributors explaining how they can pick up their book. Stay tuned for further details once dates and times are decided.

**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 SUBMISSIONS

## In Earth Tones I Thee Sing

By Patrick E. Cochran

Like clouds  
And birds that fly  
In the same sky-  
Blue vastness moving  
Fast or slow  
Some high  
Some low  
Others just moving

There are these leaves that pirouette  
In breeze competing  
With gold sun soaking soft and warm  
Into skin chilled and goose-bumped  
By winter's cold touch up  
From ground holding  
Molding  
Purging life's dormant seed  
Spring's fragrance held at bay  
Encapsulated  
Suspended  
By cycled season's change

All the trees green  
And grey-barked stand  
Or lean  
With stooped or twisted years-  
Long growing  
Broken-crusts trunks bearing  
Wounds imperfectly healed  
From disease and damage  
With limbs lopped off by love misguided  
Frustrated  
Embarrassed by stares rude



Photo Credit: Susan Feathers

In lack of knowing  
Others broad-spread  
Or spear-like elongated  
Truncated  
With roots embedded  
Enveloped  
Clogged by dirt held fast  
In earth and worms and others  
Crawling in the greens and greys and browns  
Mirrored in the ivy vibrating veined  
Colors green  
Light-green-young  
And dusty darker dull with age straining  
Up-reaching red-necked  
Above the tangled greys  
And decomposing browns  
Of dead bedding  
Skin shedding  
Vegetation clinging  
Tight to roots  
That outward spread  
An endless web

All this in shadow-shifting silence  
My eyes seduced by fleeting vignettes fading  
Like memories melting  
One into another  
And not far off in the distance  
Great grey-silver nimbus hang  
Like old pewter teapots down  
From skies a strong wind's walk away  
Threatening to change this mood I'm in  
With saltless tears for crying  
With thundering for weeping  
That I only now imagine  
As I watch the sparrows play

## That Blue Day

By Patrick E. Cochran

Just standing there  
Feeling the cold blue steel  
Of winter sinking deeper  
And deeper still . . .  
My hands, stiff-boned and blue-knuckled  
Stuffed down and begging for warmth  
I could hear the waves breaking  
Blowing their misty cyanine breath  
About the roots of that sheer slate

Just standing there  
Staring out long across the ocean's wet reach  
Watching winter weave her amethystine spell  
My eyes held captive by clouds standing  
Like ancient mountains cold and grey-blue  
In the frozen distance  
A wall of mysteries  
Time held motionless  
Lost in memories

And yet I stood there  
Soon to be startled by a feathered cry  
High above me . . .  
And high above the crystal-tipped spruce  
Surrounding me in emerald splendor  
I could see the birds, see them winging,  
The great sea birds, dancing to a silent strain  
As they circled, swooped and soared  
In the flawless sapphire sky  
Sliding out on icicle air . . . out away from my cold cliff  
They were calling impatiently  
To the wind-chopped sea that hid their prey  
All washed in the indigo ink  
Of Earth's deep well.

I still remember  
That blue



Photo Credit: Susan Feathers

**LEGEND SUBMISSIONS** Please share with us! Submit your creative writing, literary news, advice and writing achievements to:  
[WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com)  
by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the following month's publication.

## MEET OUR MEMBERS

**Mandy Fernandez** joined WFLF in July of 2020. She has lived in Pensacola for 12 years and is originally from southeast Louisiana. After 25 years of Cajun life, she moved to Dayton, Ohio and then south again to Montgomery, Alabama before finding a home in Northwest Florida.

Mandy has been married for 19 years. With her husband Kirk, she has two daughters, ages 9 and 14. They have two crazy, big dogs. She works full-time as a writer and marketing specialist for a health care organization. In that role, she manages internal communication and serves as a speech and scriptwriter for the senior leadership team. She has a bachelor's degree in English.

She began to find her voice at age 10 through poetry, stories and her journal. She wrote a poem in fifth grade, which won first place in her school. After that, Mandy became hooked on the expression of writing as a way to make sense of the world and herself a bit more. She loves and appreciates all arts – music, paintings, museums, movies, etc.

Mandy published a children's book named "Kazoo Makes the Team." You can find it in the Blue Wahoos gift shop and online. She has numerous published magazine articles, blogs, newspaper articles, essays, short stories (non-fiction and fiction) on journalist sites, websites, blogs and literary magazines. Most recently, her essay in the Nickie's Prize for Humor contest sponsored by Erma Bombeck's Writers Workshop was named a winner and will be published in the book *Sisters!* by the University of Dayton. She also won the Kaledoscope



WoJo summer 2020 essay contest on the theme "Lessons from the Pandemic."

When she's not writing or reading, Mandy is a taxi mom to her kids. She enjoys baking and doing craft projects.

Mandy recently took up gardening since her youngest child has an interest. She enjoys the outdoors when she can, walking or hiking with local ladies hiking groups.

Mandy joined the WFLF board as vice president in February. She has volunteered as an Emerald Coast Review (ECR) committee member and served on the youth poetry committee. In both groups, she took the lead on marketing and publicity efforts which helped to double submissions for the 21<sup>st</sup> ECR.

Mandy is a contributing writer to the Pensacola Mom Collective, where she writes a monthly feature for parents. She's also a member of the Florida Writers Association and the National League of American Pen Women.

Please join me in welcoming Mandy to WFLF and thanking her for stepping up to serve as a board member!

**Karen Morris** has a long history with WFLF. In the late 1990s she produced “An Evening of World Poetry,” open to the public, featuring Latin, French, Spanish, Italian, and German poetry. After about a decade-long hiatus, she became active again in 2008.



At last July’s virtual open mic, a couple of the new members admitted being nervous about reading. Karen also remembers being very nervous the first several times she read at open mic, but says, “You do get comfortable after a while when you keep seeing those (soon-to-be) familiar faces listening attentively, smiling, and looking supportive.” Several of her National League of American Pen Women (NLAPW) friends are also in WFLF, and she is delighted to see them at meetings, and likes this crossover of creative groups.

Projects she’s been part of this past year are serving on the Student Poetry Contest Committee and working with the fabulous Emerald Coast Review XXI editorial team. Her career was spent teaching English and Latin at Booker T. Washington High School, and she also provided services like editing, storyboarding, and creating video game concepts for a local company which contracts with the U.S. Navy. She loves traveling and has seen almost all of the beautiful USA and most of Europe, as well as Croatia.

Karen has published two chapbooks, *Elemental* in 2017 and *Confluence* in 2019, both of which placed second and third respectively in the National League of American Pen Women’s prestigious biannual Vinnie Ream competition, and she will soon publish a third, *Significance*, which was

awarded third place in this contest in 2021. She writes free verse, traditional forms, and prose poetry. This summer she recorded a workshop on prose poetry for the October 2021 Virtual Conference of the Florida State Association (FSA) of the NLAPW. She’s also the current FSA president. She’s an avid reader, and the poets she’s currently reading are Gary Young, Billy Collins and Mary Oliver.

Her two sons and their families live in Pensacola, and Karen, husband Randy and cat, Peanut Butter, live on a little bayou that feeds into Perdido Bay. As far as WFLF projects go, she’d like to see us sponsor a flash fiction or flash memoir contest, possibly in conjunction with Pen Women, like WFLF did with the Malala writing contest a couple of years ago. She enjoys being a member of WFLF simply because she likes being around people who are writers and who support other writers.

## Can We Feature You?

We'd love to get to know you and share your feature too! Hopefully, you've enjoyed reading about our members each month, and we'd like to learn about you too. Write and submit a feature article about yourself or answer the questions below questions as a guide, for consideration, and our vice president, Mandy Fernandez, will write it for you:

1. How long have you been a member of WFLF?
2. Why did you choose to join WFLF?
3. As a member of WFLF, what are some of your writing goals?
4. Share anything you wish about your personal life – family, education, pets, etc.
5. Tell us about your passion for writing and the arts.
6. Share your published writing and art if you like or have any. Or share your goals for publication.
7. Share your hobbies and personal interests (besides writing and the arts).
8. What is your favorite writing/art genre? Name some of your favorite writers and artists.
9. What would you like to learn more about as it pertains to writing or in general life?
10. Can we feature you on our website and Facebook page as well as the Legend?

Submit your responses to these 10 questions to: [writtenbymandy@gmail.com](mailto:writtenbymandy@gmail.com).

Be sure to include a photo as well.

**Note:** WFLF will not be able to interview you directly for the feature. Written responses must be submitted as volunteer time is donated to make this feature possible.

## IN OUR WRITE MINDS

Column 4, by Claire Massey

What's your style? Though you may be more comfortable with ballcaps and beachwear, your writing project might call for black tie.

Remember Strunk and White's Elements of Style, grammar, composition and punctuation handbooks like the Holt and the Harbrace? Style guides defining editorial practice are essential references for serious writers. Like MRE rations, they are hated when issued, loved when needed. Writer Arthur Worsley admits that reading Elements of Style "is like eating your grandmother's Brussels sprouts. Though you know it will make you big and strong when you grow up, you still feel like stabbing whoever suggested it with a fork."

Sorry about the arduous reading but to be a good writer, you must eat your vegetables. There's no need however, to dust off outdated college texts. Style guides are regularly updated to reflect the rapid shifts of usage in our living language. Standards **do** change, mirroring changes in the mores of dynamic cultures. In the good old days (or the bad old days) depending on your point of view, there was no wiggle room, no gray areas, no creative punctuation allowed—unless you were a poet. The laws that governed quotation marks, slashes, dashes and hyphens were unambiguous and inviolable. For today's creative writers trying their hand at the emerging hybrid forms, there now seems



to be breathing room, leeway, some options to explore for emphasizing content over form.

A brief listing, by no means comprehensive, of popular style manuals/books follows below. Googling the subject will point you to detailed reviews and a likely candidate to adopt for your particular writing project.

### The Chicago Manual of Style (CMS)

Widely used in academics and the humanities, such as history and the arts. Offers guidance on formatting footnotes, endnotes, indexes, etc. Used by publishers of fiction and nonfiction.

### Modern Language Association (MLA)

Touted as a simpler way to document electronic and print source material.

The AMA Manual of Style and the American Psychological Association (APA) Guide

Provides guidance for scientific and medical papers.

Associated Press (AP) Stylebook

Generally “rules” journalism, business and news writing. By the way, placing quotes around a word for emphasis is a debatable practice. One source advised against it, while another suggested “no problem,” also directing that colloquial expressions should be placed in quotes. Conflicts and clashes in style? Yes indeed, you will find they abound on the internet!

Simon & Schuster Handbook for Writers  
by Lynn Quitman Troyka with Douglas Hesse

Well organized, with an index that allows quick reference.

The Language of Fiction: A Writer's Stylebook by Brian Shawver

Creative Writer's Style Guide: Rules and Advice for Writing Fiction and Creative Nonfiction by Christopher T. Leeward.

Here's a seven-minute read to help you polish your style and swallow that cauliflower:

“The Elements of Style Summary—William Strunk Jr.” by Arthur Worsley at <https://theartofliving.com/the-elements-of-style>.

## PUBLISHING NEWS

**Claire Massey's short fiction,** "Anniversary Presents" will appear in the fall, 2021 issue of *The Pen Woman* magazine.

Let's celebrate our successes! Let us know of your published work. Email us at: [WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com).

## LEGEND SUBMISSIONS

**Please share your creative work 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.

## ONGOING WORKSHOPS

**MONDAY POETRY** – Join an informal group of poets with varying levels of experience who enjoy getting together to share work, discuss writing or just listen. We welcome respectful critiques and feedback. Join us 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. Contact us to be put on a waitlist if interested in joining. Membership can change and 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 [dianeskelton@att.net](mailto:dianeskelton@att.net).

*Please contact Diane regarding meetings during this time.*

## **WFLF 2021 Board of Directors**

President: Lisa Rawson

Vice President: Mandy Fernandez

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Director: Claire Massey

Director: Jeannie Zokan

Director/Poet Laureate: Katherine Nelson-Born

Legend Editor: Lori Zavada

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

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### **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

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 membership is \$15.

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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.

**400 South Jefferson Street Suite 212  
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Pensacola Cultural Center**