



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

March 2014



LIMERICKS & LEPRECHAUNS: IRISH POETRY

Tuesday, March 18 Open Mic

Pot Luck (o' the Irish)

6:30 Social and Refreshments

7 p.m. Readings

PENSACOLA CULTURAL CENTER

400 South Jefferson Street Room 200



Special thanks to Joe and Marilyn Howard for welcoming WFLF into their home for the annual meeting, as well as providing the entree and wine for the evening.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Camille Barr ~ Anne James
Lynn Smith ~ David Sutton
Janet Thomas ~ William Alden Weeks**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There's No Free Money

I should have put my money where my mouth was. A writer's cliché, for sure, but I can think of no better way to say "I should have donated money to West Florida Literary Federation in 2013." Of course I donated my time, but as I gather our financial records for the income-tax lady, I realize I could have done more.

We donated to universities, churches, foundations, veterans groups, fraternal organizations and various charities – they telephoned, they emailed, they wrote, they begged. We gave-in and gave. But the one group that plays an important part in our volunteer lives –West Florida Literary Federation – never asked.

West Florida Literary Federation is designated as a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization by the federal government. In addition, each year the State of Florida approves WFLF to solicit donations. Since we award no membership prizes like t-shirts, coffee mugs or books, our dues are totally tax deductible. But more than that, *all* our financial contributions to WFLF are tax deductible.

In a tight economy, more and more groups are competing for money. Financial awards and grants are usually tied to programs and projects – there's no free public money. The Florida legislative session opened March 4, and the Florida Cultural Alliance is presenting a funding request including a WFLF request -- \$14,021 to publish a statewide children's poetry book featuring a collaborative poem of 500 student voices. As exciting as our project is, Florida has reduced its arts and culture grants to FCA by over 73% since 2006-2007 -- from \$34.4 million to \$9.3 million. But even if we receive the 500 Voices grant, it's project-based like last year's Art in Motion. It doesn't pay for our publications, workshops, internet, open mics or copy machine.

The energetic and enthusiastic new WFLF Board has already begun to generate ideas for devising a sound solicitation plan to improve our organization's finances. Being a 501(c)3 gives us a big advantage, but it's private money — yours and mine – that makes a difference. This year I'm giving my time and our money to WFLF and I'll smile all the way to the tax lady's office.

Diane Skelton

Writers Weekly Workshops Room 210 at the Cultural Center

MONDAY PURE POETRY LOUNGE 6 – 8 p.m. with Katherine Nelson-Borne

Suite 212 Pensacola Cultural Center. A poetry class focusing on both critique and assignments designed to break class participants out of "comfort zones" led by Susan Lewis and Katherine Nelson-Borne. New experiences, old lessons with a different twist and in the end, hopefully the ability to see poetry from a new perspective. All you have to do is show up with a great attitude and a willingness to work together.

TUESDAY WRITING FOR PUBLICATION 10 ~ 12. For seasoned writers and members of WFLF who are working on book-length manuscripts seeking publication. Manuscripts and written critiques are emailed within members of the group and then members discuss their comments each Thursday from 10 ~ 12 in the WFLF office. The group is limited to seven writers ~ Ron Tew tuesday@bellsouth.net (temporarily rescheduled from Thursdays 3 – 5)

TUESDAY WRITERS' GUILD 4 - 6. Each writer brings work, primarily prose, to read aloud and takes others' work home to critique. ~ Andrea Walker ~ andrea48@aol.com ~ Richard Hurt ~ rchurt2@att.net

WEDNESDAY PORTFOLIO SOCIETY ~ This goal-oriented workshop, facilitated by Jeannie Zokan and assisted by Diane Skelton, runs from 9:30 -11:30 on Wednesday mornings. Each participant is working on one or more yearlong projects. Sessions involve timed discussions for each participant. WFLF membership is required; the group is limited to seven members. Work may include any genre. If you are interested in the Portfolio Society, contact Jeannie Zokan by email 4zokans@att.net.

THURSDAY WILD WRITING POETRY WORKSHOP 9:30 ~ 11:30 a.m. Come write, play, and explore the world of poetry in this writing workshop ~ Julie DeMarko

NEWS:

The **search for the next Poet Laureate** has started and the committee is looking far afield as well as within the ranks of WFLF. If you know of a qualified candidate, (email klholmes41@yahoo.com for criteria), **discretely** amass a summary of their qualifications and contact information then email them to the committee chair, **Katheryn Holmes** by Wednesday, March 19th.
(klholmes41@yahoo.com) Attn. PL Candidate.

In February, **Vice President Richard Hurt** read his poetry for the Leisure Timers luncheon at the First Baptist Church and for more than a hundred music lovers at an event in Milton. In March he will read to the Archeology Club of Pensacola.

Jack Beach graciously entertained an audience at Open Books, March 11, with readings from his *Mardi Gras: Beads, Belles, and Balls*.

Ron Tew's "Writing for Publication" workshop has moved to Tuesdays from 10-12 until May.

John Baradell is writing a WFLF grant application to Florida Humanities Council for a Florida Writers' Workshop in Pensacola in the fall.

Radio Reading Recording Event

On Tuesday, February 18, eight readers recorded fifty-seven minutes and four seconds of poetry and prose for Lloyd Albritton's radio reading show aired on WBZR 105.9 FM in Atmore, Alabama. Readers included newcomer **MacMcGovern** and members **Bevin Murphy, Richard Hurt, Andrea Walker, L. Michael McNab, Katheryn Holmes, John Baradell and Scott Mayo**. Due to family

illness, Albritton was unable to attend the event, but at press time he was busily editing the audio files. Video files were uploaded to YouTube. A repeat recording session will be scheduled in the next few months.

Jack Fabian is organizing a community service project for WFLF members to read to nursing home residents. **Richard Hurt and Heidi Belanger** will also be working with him on the project.

Heidi Belanger, who has just returned from New York for a meeting of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, is the organization's new Florida Panhandle Liaison.

The WFLF Board meets monthly at 6:15 on the first Tuesday of the month in the WFLF office.

Both **Jeannie Zokan and Diane Skelton** were guest bloggers for Freestyle Fridays on Kerry Whiteley's award-winning Winding Road blog. To see Jeannie's entry, visit <http://kerryswindingroad.com/2014/02/28/freestyle-fridays-a-story-of-love-and-adventure-by-jeannie-zokan>. Diane's is available at <http://kerryswindingroad.com/> or through archives. Both Diane and Jeannie have word press blogs. Jeannie Zokan <http://jeanniezokan.blogspot.com/> Diane Skelton <http://thegumbodiaries.wordpress.com/> Board member, artist and poet **Dale Fairbanks'** blog is available at <http://www.dalefairbanks.com/my-blog/>. **Get in the spirit. Jeff Santosuosso** is looking for writers to blog for WFLF's new writers' blog. To volunteer to write, contact him at tja.santosuosso@sbcglobal.net

CREATIVE WRITING

HAIKU

Shedding salty tears
The salty sea foams 'round me
Keeping company.

Rose wash of sunset
Slender sliver of the moon
Tender gift of God.

Hawks swoop, wings outstretched
Making lazy, crazy eights
Playing in the air.

Lynn McLargin

Roller Skating after the First Thaw

On a sunny Sunday in January,
after a spate of icy weather,
I bike to Holy Cross cemetery.
Like bees hungry for nectar,
my neighbors wake to the sun.

A mother pushes her child on the swing
a boy and girl race their scooters
a man spray-cleans his sidewalk
another works on his car in the driveway
a small white dog chases my bike.

Except for Rye grass, lawns are brown,
but green persists in the Live oaks,
Camellias, Sabal palms, Holly,
and even some citrus that have
weathered the freeze.

The graves in the cemetery still host
plastic Poinsettias that will soon
give way to equally synthetic
spring bouquets.
(It's the thought that counts.)

Standing above a young woman's grave,
bare except for the plastic Poinsettia I
left in December, I pray that she is free,
like a child on roller skates
after the first thaw.

With the only beating heart in the cemetery,
I, too, feel like a child on roller skates.

Patricia Edmisten

IRISH BLESSING

May good luck be with you wherever you go,
and your blessings outnumber the shamrocks
that grow.

Morning Fog

The tractor rests beside the clothes line,
reminders of human activity to come.
The only visible animate creatures are
chickadees, towhees, crows, and doves
this foggy morning on the mountain.

The present, so dimly portrayed by
talking TV heads, full of climate change,
extinctions, and violence of all sorts, is out
there,
well beyond the spruce, fir, apple, and chestnut
trees,
but for now, it's concealed by fog.

My future, the years left, my health,
the circumstances of my death,
are also concealed.

I live with the questions on this foggy morning
and am at peace.

Patricia Edmisten

Annual Report to the Membership – 2013 West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

In 2013, a \$15,000 matching grant from the Florida Humanities Council enabled WFLF to sponsor ten months of special programs and to bring noted poet-performer Kwame Dawes to Pensacola for “Art in Motion: From the Gallery to the Theatre.” The focus of the grant was two-fold: Viva Florida 500 Literary Reflections and other programs which highlighted African-Americans contributions to the cultural and historic development of Northwest Florida. In four Art in Motion events, dancers brought to life the art of Sonja Griffin Evans at performances at Gumbo Gallery in May, Artel Gallery for October's Gallery Night, and or “Black Life in Pensacola 1935-1965 “at the Downtown library in November. Kwame Dawes

and WFLF poets, dancers, readers and musicians performed before an audience of more than 300 at Washington High School in the major production of Art in Motion. WFLF also sponsored a college talk by Dawes at the Pensacola State Library and a gala Meet and Greet for Dawes at the Historic Barkley House. WFLF matched the \$15,000 grant with in-kind donations including more than \$2750 in volunteer hours.

Open mics, held the third Tuesday of each month, featured short Viva Florida 500 programs before the open mic session. Programs included Literary Heritage of Northwest Florida; Poet Laureates of Northwest Florida; John Appleyard: Storyteller; Cookbooks Preserving History; Memoirs as History; La Florida! Chronicles of Eden; Images in Black; Panhandle Novels: Fact or Fiction; Rosasco-Soule's Panhandle Christmas. Evaluations indicated that members would like short programs to continue before open mic in 2014. Attendance ranged from 29 to 40.

More than 300 poems were entered in the Escambia County Student Poetry Contest. Winners read their winning poems at Books-A-Million and later received their free copy of the published poetry book at Maritime Park on November 2.

More than 100 submissions were received for the *Emerald Coast Review XVII* biannual anthology. Those writers included read from the Emerald Coast Review at its launch at Maritime Park on November 23.

Board moved to increased electronic communication as the website redesigned in January and Facebook became an important part of member communication. The Legend became an electronic newsletter delivered by email. Members requesting print copies provided postage. Paper copies were available at open mic. An increase in publicity, especially

concerning the grant, included coverage on television, radio and in print.

Due to budget constraints, the Board discontinued funding to Newspapers in Education and to the Open Books Prison Project. Since Pensacola State College did not award the B.J. Miller Scholarship in 2013 and is holding more than \$1800 in the B.J. Miller Scholarship account, no funds were allocated in 2013. In conjunction with grant funding, WFLF became a sponsor for WUWF 99.1 National Public Radio and solely funded the cash prizes for the Escambia County Student Poetry Contest.

To save \$50 a month, the Board eliminated the services of a person paid to validate Paradise Bingo receipts. For more savings, the Board implemented "potluck" refreshments for open mic evenings. Special workshops included a fee to cover the facility cost, with a 50% discount for members. Both the student poetry book and *Emerald Coast Review* were printed on CreateSpace providing a savings of more than fifty per cent in printing. The Board also sought grant funding from several sources to publish 500 Voices, a children's book compiling Florida student poetry in celebration of Viva Florida 500. The application to the Florida Cultural Alliance was forwarded to the State legislature for possible funding in 2014.

Ongoing critique/workshop groups in 2013 included Monday night Poetry Lounge with alternating facilitators; Tuesday afternoon Writer's Guild; Thursday morning Wild Writing poetry, and the addition of a Thursday group, Writing or Publication. The Board approved the Portfolio Society group to begin in 2014.

Two fall Saturday morning workshops were offered to the public. "So You Want to be a Writer? Perils on the Way to Pearls" was presented by Linda Wasserman, publisher and

editor, and Leanna Conley, author, on August 24. On September 21, authors Charlie and Sandra Davis presented "Writing and Publishing a Memoir."

Community partnerships for 2013 programs, special events and activities included African American Heritage Society; Viva Florida 500-Viva Pensacola Committee; Friends of the Library; City of Pensacola Neighborhood Services and Maritime Park; WUWF and WSRE-TV.

Membership topped at 65. The year ended with WFLF's status in compliance with all state and federal regulations to continue operating as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Skelton, president, on behalf of the Board of West Florida Literary Federation
February 15, 2014

CONTESTS

The ultimate Florida writers' challenge -- win a \$1000 for writing a Micro-Fiction of 250 words using the opening line "They named the gator --". The deadline is 5 p.m. March 30 EST and the winner is published in Forum, state publication of the Florida Humanities Council, in June. This Micro-Fiction contest is sponsored by Florida Humanities Council and there's no submission

fee. However, you must submit your piece online at

http://www.flahum.org/Media/Micro_Fiction



Here's a really nice site for a contest for this month. <http://tskw.org/news-room/announcing-201-robot-frost-international-poetry-haiku-contests/>

2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
WEST FLORIDA LITERARY FEDERATION

President: Diane Skelton

Vice President: Richard Hurt

Secretary: Heidi Belanger

Treasurer: Judy Fawley

Director/Poet Laureate: Julie DeMarko

Director: Ann Benton

Director: Jack Fabian

Director: Dale Fairbanks

Director: Jeff Santosuosso

Editor: Andrea Walker

Directors can be contacted at

WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com

Check out our website at www.wflf.org or like

us on Facebook West Florida Literary

Federation

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Florida-Literary-Federation-WFLF/255101747857712?ref=hl>

2013 Renew/Join with the West Florida Literary Federation

Dues:

For your first year, prorated for the month you join plus for the number of months remaining in the year:

Individual \$2.50/month ~ Couple \$4.25/month ~ Student \$1.25/month

Subsequent years, due annually January 1st :

Individual \$30 ~ Couple \$50 ~ Student \$15 ~ Two years ~ individual \$50 ~ couple \$85

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ e-mail _____

New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

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

Mail with your check to: West Florida Literary Federation (Tax Deductible!)
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