



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

Member Newsletter

www.wflf.org

March 2022 Edition

Please join us for Virtual Open Mic
using Zoom on March 15
Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Spring forward with us this year as we look forward to watching our members bloom, grow and blossom. We will kick off this new season of our organization with spring-related prose and poetry during open mic. The new board will share upcoming plans to help you plant your writing seeds and nurture them into beautiful, thriving results. We invite you to attend and share your hopes for the year and in your writing.

“Where flowers bloom, so does hope.”

- Lady Bird Johnson

“Nothing ever seems impossible in the spring, you know.”

- L.M. Montgomery

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

Message from New President

The West Florida Literary Federation (WFLF) began a new year with a successful Annual Business Meeting on February 15, 2022. We had over 50 members and guests join our virtual event. Winners of our **In Focus** flash memoir contest were recognized to open the meeting. In the business meeting, a new Board of Directors for 2022 was installed, and a significant vote on a new name for our organization was taken. More on that appears in this issue of *The Legend*.

As WFLF's new board president, I'd like to welcome everyone to what I hope will be a great year ahead, and I want to thank you for your continued support of writing in Northwest Florida. I also want to thank the outgoing board for successfully passing the baton and putting on an engaging annual meeting. Since some members were not able to attend the business meeting, I'm going to repeat here some of my remarks I gave then.

First, I'm honored and excited to be your new president. This is sort of a "pay it forward" moment for me, as I believe I never would have written and published two books without the help and encouragement of my fellow writers in this organization.



And so, this is the pledge that both the 2022 board and I make: We will make every effort and use

every resource we have to help each member move forward toward achieving their writing goals and literary dreams, whether that goal is publishing a best-selling novel, winning a poetry contest, writing a memoir, or completing an expert guide to collecting seashells.

Perhaps you don't want to write, only want to listen and enjoy our Open Mic, or perhaps you want to mentor other writers. That is fine also. If you have these plans, these dreams, then you're in the "write" place. If you don't know if you have the "write" stuff, then this is an organization that can help you.

The talent to write is not something we are born with. It is a skill, a craft, that we must learn. And over the next year or two, we hope to help you improve your craft, a craft which you can nurture and improve.

Of course, the board and I can only do so much. We will need volunteers. There are many small tasks that each member volunteer can do. And along the way, you will likely learn a little bit

of craft or the business of writing. The 2022 board has already been meeting to discuss ways we can help our members, and we will soon be asking for your help on specific projects. Education—through workshops and critique groups—will be emphasized this year. Our popular Open Mic continues because it is enjoyable to hear the work of poets and it can be educational for the listener.

Literature and writing are very diverse fields in both form—verse and prose—and in subject material. We should recognize that we each have different tastes as writers and readers. I appreciate the art in every genre and style of writing, even if it's one I'm less interested in or have never tried writing in because I'm not as intrigued in the subject or genre.

Thus, to be most effective in helping our members achieve their writing goals, we hope to tailor our programs to be more targeted this year so that we raise all boats in the literary sea.

With that in mind, we will be sending out a number of short surveys to all members so that we can develop our programs and the structure needed to carry them out.

We will continue many of the events and programs we have always done—Open Mic, writing contests, *Emerald*

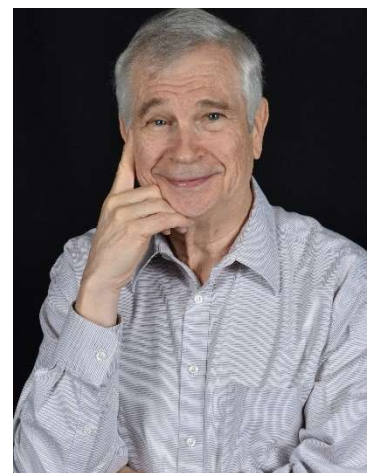
Coast Review, *The Legend*, and our great website.

To each member, please reach out to me or another board member and let us know how we can help you advance your writing goals. My virtual door and my email are always open. The March *Legend* will have contact information on reaching out to us.

Finally, I want to announce a new benefit available to all members. We are starting a Member Directory on our website. Each member has the option to have their own web page on our site, where you can post biographical information, writing interests, published works, links to an author website, writing excerpts, and a headshot photo. An example of a member page is on our website at wflf.org/MemberDirectory

Thanks for the honor of serving our great organization!

Tom
Roberts



New Name, Same Wonderful People!

The votes are in! We counted them twice. The clear winner is [Emerald Coast Writers](#). The West Florida Literary Federation will be transitioning to [Emerald Coast Writers](#) in the coming weeks. We will file a name change with the state and secure a new domain name for our current website. Any previous references of WFLF will be redirected to the new name.

We have other things related to our new name change that will take time, such as developing a new logo and look. We will update our materials, website, forms and more after that new look is determined. To help with this, the board would like to first offer within our membership a chance to design a new logo and look for us. We know how many talented artists and graphic designers are among our current organization. Details about this logo contest will be out by the next newsletter so stay tuned for that.

Other ideas the board is exploring is to designate open mic monthly meetings for creative expression and sharing and implement separate workshops and training for those interested in practicing their crafts.

More to come!



Congratulations to the New Board from outgoing President Lisa Rawson

I wanted to say what a great honor it was for me to have served as West Florida Literary Federation's president for the past two years. I am so proud of all that was accomplished. Congratulations to Tom Roberts for stepping up to be your new President. With Tom and Mandy Fernandez as vice president, WFLF is in great hands! I have complete confidence that with this 2022 board the next two years will be full of more amazing, inspiring and exciting writing opportunities.

The COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from meeting in person. Many of us were not very tech savvy pre-COVID, but that did not stop us. The WFLF leaders became tech savvy themselves, trained others, reached out and grew our membership and brought new programs/contests into fruition! We learned how to host and participate in Zoom open mics/board meetings. We held the first of many future online writing workshops and published the stunning 2021 Emerald Coast Review.

We created Life in the Times of Covid collection that is a great read and shared on the WFLF website. We selected a new Poet Laureate, Katherine Nelson-Born, who held two fabulous poetry chat book contests. We held a children's poetry contest and an adult memoir contest. These contests generated amazing jaw dropping readings that I will never forget.



I think it is safe to say that 2022 is going to be a monumental year. With our anticipated new name and new board members the foundation has been developed to win several grants this year. I am so excited to watch and assist as needed in the great unfolding of this year and what is to come.

- **Lisa Rawson**

Meet Our Members



Ethan McGuire visited Pensacola Art Gallery in the summer of 2019 with his wife and mother-in-law when a painter told him about a group of arts who gather regularly to learn about

painting. As a writer, Ethan thought that surely a writers group existed for writers like this same artists group. He searched out and lucky for us, he found WFLF and then joined immediately.

Ethan works in information technology for health care, but his greatest passion is artistic expression through writing in any form—poetry, fiction, essays, reviews, etc. He loves to experience life through the written word and has yet to find anything else close to that high, well except for the joy of his family... Ethan and his wife, Autumn, recently welcomed their daughter, Vesper Blue McGuire, on the evening of Feb. 1, 2022. Vesper is a happy, healthy baby who weighed in at 8 pounds, 15 ounces and measured 20 inches in length. They also have a chocolate lab dog that rounds out their precious family.

Since he was an early teenager, Ethan has had a compulsion to write. Currently he has 46 published writing credits, including movie, music, and TV reviews; various kinds of essays; poetry; lyrics for a song; and his first poetry collection named *Apocalypse Dance*, will be coming soon. You can see or find links to all his works

on his website, TheFlummoxed.com.

Ethan's current favorite genre of writing is poetry because he believes poetry can showcase his best thoughts and depictions. For him poetry must rely on strong, concrete images to convey ideas rather than abstractions. He says, "A picture may be worth one thousand words, but I would modify that adage to say a good image—whether communicated through a picture, a painting, film, or writing—is worth one thousand words. This resonates with me because it invokes the entire breadth of meaning."

Ethan says he has too many favorite writers to name them all, but they range from Louis L'Amour to Shakespeare to C. S. Lewis. His favorite present living poets include Rhina Espaillat, Dana Gioia, and Amit Majmudar; his favorite past poets include Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes and John Milton; his favorite musical poets are Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, and Joni Mitchell.

When he's not writing, reading or enjoying the arts, Ethan may be found going to the beach, hiking, going on road trips with his family, tinkering around with computer technology and having long conversations over coffee. Ethan is glad that he rejoined WFLF after a brief detour and life's hectic hiatus. He looks forward to learning more about formal poetry and expanding his writing talents in multiple genres.

Thank you, Ethan, for sharing part of your WFLF journey with us, and we look forward to your continued writing and success!

Publishing News

Patricia Black-Gould's children's book, *The Crystal Beads, Lalka's Journey*, is now on pre-sale at Amazon. The book comes out on June 14. Read reviews and link to Amazon at:

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/60280682-the-crystal-beads-lalka-s-journey?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=CyoPcMPU65&rank=1

Three poems by **Karen McAferty Morris** have been published in the Winter issue of *Black Fox Literary Journal*. You can read them here, on p.165:

<https://www.blackfoxlitmag.com/current-issue/>.

Legend Submissions

We'd like to celebrate your success and your work. Email us at:

WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com

Our goal is to publish on the first of each month. Send news any time, but the cut-off date is mid-month (15th of preceding month), to give time for layout and design. Send a headshot and/or graphic in jpeg format for creative writing, literary news, advice or writing achievements to:

WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com.

Ongoing Workshops

MONDAY POETRY, PROSE, MICRO-

WRITING FORMS – The goal of this workshop is to assist you to further develop writing skills, learn to critique and grow in confidence as you polish your authentic voice and achieve the next level of your personal writing goals. 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.

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.

Please contact Diane regarding meetings during this time.

Poetry Grant from the NEA

The National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowships program offers \$25,000 grants in prose (fiction and creative nonfiction) and poetry to published creative writers that enable the recipients to set aside time for writing, research, travel, and general career advancement. This program operates on a two-year cycle with fellowships in prose and poetry available in alternating years. In 2022 we are accepting applications in poetry. More information is available at: [arts.gov/grants/creative-writing-fellowships](https://www.arts.gov/grants/creative-writing-fellowships)

WFLF Board of Directors

President: Tom Roberts

Vice President: Mandy Fernandez

Secretary: Charline Barger

Treasurer: Scott Finelli

Director: Debra Stogner

Director: Lori O’Gara

Director/Poet Laureate: Katherine Nelson-Born

Legend Editor: Vacant – Let us know if you’re interested!

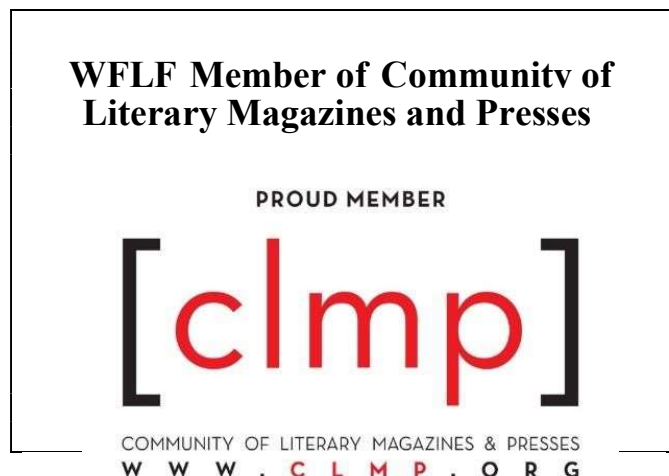
Directors can be contacted at: WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com

Check out our website at: www.wflf.org

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

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/WestFlorida-Literary-FederationWFLF/255101747857712?ref=h>

“Follow” us on Twitter @ WSTFLLITFED



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.

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.

How to join or renew your membership:

Pay your membership dues online with a credit card at <https://wflf.org> and then 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**

