



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.
Member Newsletter

www.wflf.org

January 2022 Edition

Please join us for Open Mic

on January 18

starting at 6:30 p.m.

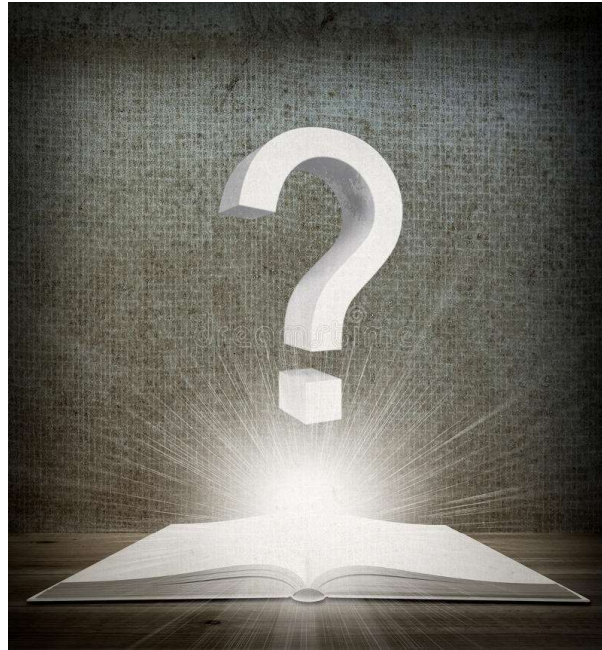
See page 2 for details!

We hold Open Mic every third Tuesday of the month. All paid members and emeritus members will receive an invitation. Registration is required. (*Annual dues can be paid online.*) Below is a link for a short Zoom tutorial in case we have the meeting on Zoom this month.

https://www.youtube.com/embed/hlkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1

Open Mic – January 2022

The Great Reveal



Mark your calendar for the first Open Mic of 2022 on January 18 when we will reveal the 2021 Poem A Day (PAD) Chapbook Challenge winner who will also be our featured speaker! Join* and celebrate the winner, hear new poems and share your readings during Open Mic.

*WFLF Board will determine if meeting will be in-person or virtual. Look for an email later this month with that decision and all details.

WRITING SUBMISSIONS

Reflections of WFLF and Writing from Longtime Member Patricia Edmisten

Patricia Edmisten reflects on her journey of being a WFLF member submitting this piece for The Legend:

I remember joining the Federation in the late 1980s, when it was a fledgling organization under the masterful leadership of Ron Cannon, now deceased. Some of the other stalwarts included former poets laureate Leonard Temme and Jamey Jones, and the indomitable Dr. Jack Brooking (*nom de plume*: Jack Beach) who, with others, banded together to form “The Backdoor Poets” that became the embryo of the Federation. Although I had published many articles and essays in academic journals, I was just venturing into poetry. I recall being thrilled when my poem, “Worth Avenue,” came out in Vol. II of the *Emerald Coast Review*, published in 1990. Andrea Jones Walker has the distinction of appearing in the *first* volume, published in 1989. In that issue, too, appeared the work of several of our past poets laureate, including Adelia Rosasco-Soule, Leonard Temme, Mary Hood, Henry Langhorne, and Jamey Jones.

WFLF has undergone many transitions since its infancy, eventually becoming a Federation of Panhandle writing and literary support groups like the Special Collections Department at the University of



West Florida and the *Pensacola News Journal*, by way of its editor, James Earle Bowden, a talented novelist, editorial writer, and cartoonist. The evolution continues as our organization returns to its roots: We are once again a gathering of individual writers, rather than a federation of *groups* of writers, united by our interest in the art and craft of writing.

Our early annual meetings took the form of banquets and were brilliant, well-attended affairs where we gathered at upscale venues in our best duds, ate delicious catered food, took advantage of a cash bar, and listened to an illustrious array of speakers and readers.

It was Jack Brooking, retired professor of theater, who began “Readers’ Showcase,” whereby members would present an act from a play, or a chapter of a book, a series of poems, etc. The readings usually took place in our WFLF room at the Pensacola Cultural Center. The

Federation invested in stools for the readers, and we rehearsed and dressed in accordance with the theme.

I volunteered to direct "Farewell to a Traveler," an evening of Latin American poetry presented in both Spanish and English. We were a troop of three men and three women, all wearing black, who presented our show at the old Unitarian Universalist Church on Scott Street. The show began with a musician, sitting on the side of a small stage, playing classical Spanish guitar. A few props represented a humble abode in a small Latin American village. We women wore red flowers in our hair. Featured were the works of such greats as Chilean poets Pablo Neruda and Gabriela Mistral, to name a few. We served *sangria* before and after the show. With the help of a notice in the newspaper, it was standing room only.

One aspect of WFLA that has not changed over the years has been the mutual support that our members offer one another through their applause and thoughtful questions. Another is the ongoing publication of the *Emerald Coast Review*, the most recent issue (21st volume) an example of the extraordinary talent of local and regional writers. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who volunteered to read submissions and those responsible for editing and layout.

In terms of my own work, I've managed to write nine books and one screenplay, many of which have a social justice theme,

borne of the two years I spent in Peru with the Peace Corps. Those two years had, and still have, a major influence on my life. They gave me a wider lens through which to view cultural differences, politics, poverty, inequity, and related issues. Two of my books were published by academic presses, and the rest were self-published: *Nicaragua Divided: La Prensa and the Chamorro Legacy*, is about the assassination of a man who stood up to the brutal Somoza regime in Nicaragua. The assassination of Pedro Chamorro triggered the 1978 Nicaraguan revolution in which some 30,000 Nicaraguans died. Chamorro published and edited *La Prensa* (The Press) and used his editorials to challenge the brutal Somoza dictatorship. His widow, Violeta, was elected president of Nicaragua in 1990 at about the same time my book was released. The timing was fortuitous because few people in the United States knew anything about the Chamorro newspaper family. Bob Edwards called and interviewed me for the National Public Radio show, "All Things Considered." The book became a best seller for the University of Florida Press.

After I served as a consultant to women's groups in Peru and Brazil with the United Nations, the same press published *In Search of a Hope: The Autobiography of Maria Elena Moyano*, a work I translated from Spanish to English. The University of Florida Press would not take it, however, until I wrote a major introduction to the book that ended up being as long as the manuscript itself. It is about the life and

assassination of a woman who challenged both the Peruvian military and the Shining Path terrorists in her quest for social justice. My novel, *The Mourning of Angels* was inspired by the two years I spent in Peru with the Peace Corps. *Wild Women with Tender Hearts* is a book of poetry dedicated to my women friends. It won the Peace Corps Writers Award for Poetry. *The Treasures of Pensacola Beach*, which includes poetry and photos, was my first tribute to the natural history and beauty of our beautiful beaches. In regard to the failure of my church to ordain women and in the wake of the pedophilia scandal in the Catholic Church, I wrote, *A Longing for Wisdom: One Woman's Conscience and her Church*. Then I wrote a memoir (and moral legacy) with my grandchildren in mind: *Water Skiing on the Amazon*. *A Quiet Beauty: Images of the Blue Ridge in Words and Photos* reflects my deep love

and appreciation for the land and mountain farmhouse we have in Montezuma, North Carolina, not far from the farm on which my husband Joe was raised. *The Treasures of Pensacola Beach Vol. II* is a reprise of the first *Treasures*, but includes new poetry, stories, photos and art. *Kennedy's Children*, my screenplay, is an adaptation of my novel, *The Mourning of Angels* and was a finalist in the Alaska International Film Festival.

As it is written in Ecclesiastes 3, "there is a time for everything, a season for every activity under the heavens." While I still have poems to write and stories to tell, I feel no urge to publish now. I write what I want when I want. Thank you for this opportunity to share pieces of my life with you.



WFLF REFLECTIONS

Send in your WFLF Reflections and favorite memories from years past. *Patricia Edmisten has inspired us to ask for more reflections of your experiences with WFLF. Tell us if you were a backdoor poet and reflect on that time for us. Share your*

favorite memory. What has WFLF meant to you all these years you've been a member? Tell us how WFLF has helped you and how it's changed since you first discovered it.

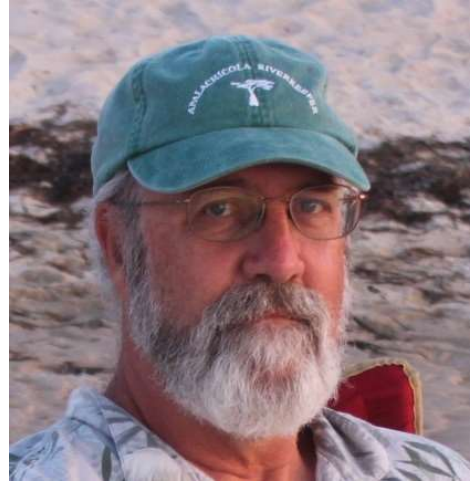
Let's record WFLF history, memories and personal reflections from members. We invite you to share your thoughts and submit them for the Legend in 2022. Send to editor@WFLF.org.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Bruce Ballister has been a member of WFLF for two years, but he's been in the Florida writing scene for quite some time. He lives in Tallahassee and has served as president for the Tallahassee Writers Association and produced their annual literature review for five years. He currently chairs the Florida Authors and Publishers annual President's Book Awards and is a volunteer with the Florida Writers Association.

Bruce has been happily married to Christine Chiricos for over 30 years. Together they have three grown daughters: a talented and artistic bunch of grandchildren along with a 70-pound fur baby. Bruce grew up an "Army brat" in the South and lived all over the South before settling in Tallahassee. He began writing in his 50s and hopes to continue as long as he can. He joined WFLF out of curiosity and extending writer resources across the Apalachicola River.

His writing began through his career as a writer of technical reports and grants in his 30s. He didn't pursue creative writing until two decades later. Bruce began with short stories, but those later grew to novels as stories began to "spill out" of him. His novel, *Dreamland Diaries*, was born in 2011 and 2012. This was before his involvement with writing groups and critiques.



As Bruce said, "I made mistakes" but learned from them and quickly became involved in the Tallahassee Writers Association. This served him well as his writing increased, writing several novels and a nonfiction account of recovering from heart surgery. He served in leadership roles and has not looked back.

You can find Bruce's books at ballisterbooks.com and his author page on Amazon. His books range from science fiction to crime novels and nonfiction. His stories reflect his own life's pursuits and varying interests from commercial art to engineering design and then civil engineering. His reading also reflects a variety of cross-genres from historical fiction to sci-fi and others in between. Two of his books are currently in production as Audiobooks.

Bruce keeps himself busy when not writing by finding do-it-yourself projects, including

most of his own book cover designs and interiors. When the weather is nice, Bruce enjoys hiking and kayaking. When indoors, Bruce writes and enjoys online gaming with friends around the globe.

Bruce is self-published and enjoys producing his own books. He likes sharing the knowledge gained from his DIY experiences, from writing to design, book production and book sales. He admits he may need more patience, but overall does not want to wait for an agent to take a chance on a septuagenarian. Instead, he puts in the time, effort, and passion required to put his writing out there for others. Thank you, Bruce, for telling us more about you. We're so glad to have you among our group.



Call for Published Poets & Authors to Teach a Workshop

WFLF member Michele Le Blanc is seeking one to two published poets and two published authors to volunteer to give a short presentation in a writing workshop in March 2022 for THE SECRET PLACE, an non-profit advocacy center in Pensacola to teach female teen/young adult survivors of trafficking how to write.

The format is a 2-hour afternoon workshop — one for poetry/haikus and one for prose. Each workshop writer would teach the girls how to write one thing — poetry, short stories, haikus, young adult, fantasy, memoir, essay, etc. The first hour will be used to explain the basics of writing form and the second hour will be used to supervise as the girls write. BizEntine Press will publish the collection of the girls' works.

As we all know, writing is an exceptional form of creativity as well as therapy. This is an excellent way to give back some of the talent we have through our our published writers and poets at WFLF. Please contact Michele at bizentinepress@gmail.com of your interest and availability on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon in March 2022.

SUBMISSION OPPORTUNITIES



Tell us **your** story, as only **you** can.

Submissions for WFLF's creative nonfiction competition are **OPEN JANUARY 1!**

We want to share your humorous, light hearted adventures or misadventures, your moments of triumph or failure, your keepsake reflections and realizations.

Writing is freeing, cathartic, healing. Author Lee Martin says, "We need to find the moments from our lives that affected us in some way, and dramatize them on the page."

Take advantage of the opportunity to do just that,
by entering ***In Focus: A Contest for Flash Memoir.***

Guidelines and links to submit are available at wflf.org and on Submittable at:
<https://westfloridaliteraryfederation.submittable.com/submit/210523/in-focus-a-contest-for-flash-memoir>.

If you are not familiar with Submittable, it is easy, quick and free to set up your account. Go to <https://manager.submittable.com>.

The new year is upon us, it's time to bring to mind your days of auld lang syne.
Deadline for entries is midnight, January 31, 2022.

Read Guidelines for Submitting an Entry on the following page.

IN FOCUS: A CONTEST FOR FLASH MEMOIR

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING AN ENTRY

The West Florida Literary Federation, (WFLF), a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit writers' organization, is sponsoring a contest for short, creative nonfiction, titled *In Focus: A Contest for Flash Memoir*.

Think back on your flashpoint moments, your pivotal scenes, the revealing snapshots in time, the short take on a brief but oh-so-meaningful encounter. In no more than 800 words, share the heart of your story, the keepsake take-away, the kernel, the essence. Distill your experience, impact us with its meaning. If you'd like to read more about brief forms of memoir, explore:

<https://brevitymag.com/craft-essays>.

There is no entry fee for WFLF members. Non-members pay \$10, which goes to support programs and projects which promote the literary arts.

First, second and third place will be awarded cash prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25.

Honorable mentions will receive certificates of merit. Winning memoirs will be published in West Florida Literary Federation's electronic newsletter, *The Legend*, which will be emailed to winners

and WFLF members. Winners will be announced at the Federation's annual meeting in Pensacola, Florida, which is scheduled for February, 2022.

Luke Wallin, professor of creative writing, former Editor of *The Louisville Review*, and award-winning author of national acclaim, will serve as a guest judge.

Submission Guidelines:

This contest is open to any member of the West Florida Literary Federation (WFLF) or the Florida Writers Association (FWA). Any non-member of these organizations who is a resident of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton or Bay counties in Florida or Baldwin, Mobile and Escambia counties in Alabama, **is eligible to submit an entry.**

Submissions will be accepted ONLY by the Submittable online submission manager at:

<https://westfloraliteraryfederation.submittable.com/submit/210523/in-focus-a-contest-for-flash-memoir>.

Submissions open January 1, 2022 and close midnight January 31, 2022.

1. Enter only one short memoir/personal essay with a word count of **800 words or less**.
2. Entries will be read "blind". No **name or identifying information should appear on your submission or in the title.** Documents identified with the

- writer's name will not be considered.
3. No .pdf files will be accepted. Submissions must be in .doc or .rtf format.
 4. Double space, using 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1" margins on all sides.
 5. ***Include the title and the word count in the upper right corner of the first page.*** No author name on the manuscript.
 6. Send original, unpublished work that has not previously appeared in print or electronic publications including personal blogs or web pages. We request First North American serial rights for winning submissions to appear in our electronic newsletter, ***The Legend***. After publication of the issue, rights revert to the author. Winners will receive an emailed copy of the issue in which their work appears and the issue will be posted at www.wflf.org.
 7. You must be 18 or older to enter this contest.
 8. Include a brief biography (75-word limit) on the Submittable entry form, written in the third person, which states your special interests, any previously published work and your city/county and state of residence. Indicate if you belong to WFLF and/or FWA. Your name and biographical information will NOT be available to judges until judging is complete.

If you have questions pertaining to guidelines, please direct inquiries to Diane Skelton or Claire Massey at: WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com

Visit our website at www.wflf.org.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Enter ***In Focus: A Contest for Flash Memoir*** and share your moments of truth, the crossroads and rest stops on your journey, the images that define who you were and who you are.

We look forward to reading your entry!



PUBLISHING NEWS

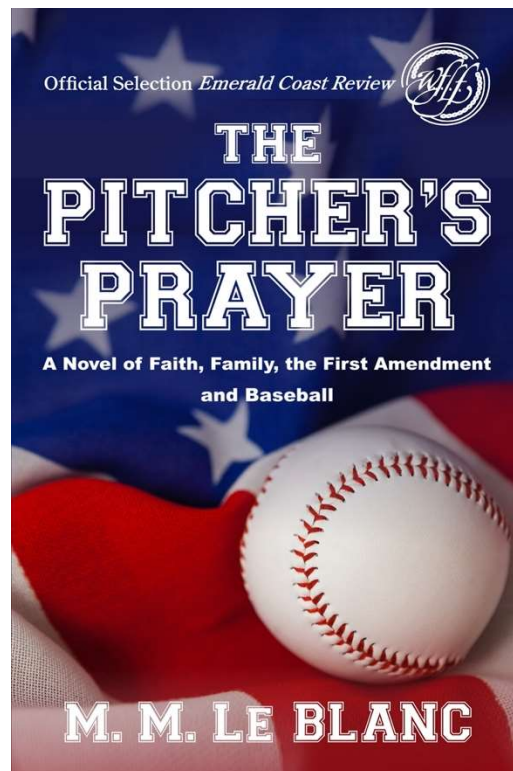
The Pitcher's Prayer is Published and Available

Congratulations to WFLF author and past board member, Michele Le Blanc, who launched her 22nd book, *THE PITCHER'S PRAYER: A Novel of Faith, Family, the First Amendment and Baseball!* It is published by BizEntine Press.

The Prologue was an official selection in the *XXI Emerald Coast Review*.

WFLF members who order in January at bizentinepress@gmail.com (not Amazon or Barnes & Noble) will receive a 20% discount and free shipping to anywhere in the 48 continental United States.

List price is \$24.95, but WFLF members can purchase for \$19.95 + tax (total \$21.45) if paid via Zelle. A \$1 processing fee applies to credit or debit card purchases. This is the perfect gift for young or old, baseball fan or not, who want an uplifting, positive story for our time.



WORKSHOPS and PUBLISHING

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.

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 dianeskelton@att.net. Please contact Diane regarding meetings during this time.

LEGEND SUBMISSIONS NEW EMAIL

Please share your creative work or writing news with us at a new email address!

editor@WFLF.org

Send us your headshot and a graphic of the publication in jpeg format so that people recognize you as author you're your book cover. Submit creative writing, literary news, advice or writing achievements.

Submission deadline: 15th of each month
Publication date: on or near the 1st of the following month.

Thanks for supporting our newsletter.

Nominations for the 2022 WFLF Board

It's that time of year. Nominations are now being accepted for the following open positions on the 2022 West Florida Literary Federation board.

Positions become open when the term of an incumbent board member expires or the member resigns. Current members of WFLF may nominate a member for an open position by submitting the name of the member by email to our nominating chair, Debra Stogner at: debrastogner@gmail.com. Include "WFLF Board Nominations" in the subject line of your email, which should be sent by February 1, 2022.

Please check with an individual before nominating him or her for one of the open positions.

To quote from our bylaws:

"All officers shall be nominated by membership and elected by ballot at the annual meeting by a majority of members of the Federation present and voting. Only those officers who have signified their consent to serve if elected shall be nominated."

"The officers of the Federation shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Terms of office for officers shall be two (2) years. No officer may serve more than two consecutive terms in office."

"Directors shall be nominated and elected by the general membership of the Federation."

"A term of office for a director is two (2) years. Directors may be reelected to subsequent terms, but may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms."

The four open positions are:

- President
- Treasurer
- Director 1
- Director 2

Copies of the WFLF bylaws can be requested by sending an email to: westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com



WFLF 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

Legend Editor: Lori Zavada

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

WFLF Member of Community of Literary Magazines and Presses

PROUD MEMBER



COMMUNITY OF LITERARY MAGAZINES & PRESSES
WWW.CLMP.ORG

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.

Send your payment via PayPal at
<http://wflf.org> and 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**

