



# ***The Legend***

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

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

September 2021 Edition

**SPECIAL EDITION**

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We dedicate this edition of *The Legend* to Dr. William Henry Langhorne, WFLF Poet Laureate 1999 to 2009.  
Son, husband, father, grandfather, pioneering cardiologist and poet.

1932 – 2021

## Dr. William Henry Langhorne Memorial

We at WFLF knew Dr. William Henry Langhorne through his love of poetry. We listened to him as one listens to a soft-spoken reader whose words tell truths we yearn for. We got to know him as a caring physician through his written word. We value his work so much we made him Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida for 10 years. His accomplishments as a cardiologist earned him the highest esteem and are well-known in Pensacola and beyond. He wrote and published 12 books and had been working on another. He and Patsy raised a fine family.

Yet his demeanor was humble and gentle. At one of his book signings several years ago, he said, "I think we are too hard on ourselves."

His poems were like friends, and it was okay for them to grow and change. He sometimes revised earlier published poems and included them in later collections. His humanity was and will remain a light in the life and world of those he leaves behind.

### Funeral Friends

When I die I will step through the door  
in awe of what it will be like inside  
that cottage of darkness.

There, I will seek the light  
until there is light in every room  
and, with it, the life of all who enter.

At my memorial service, I will sit  
in the back pew and smile  
at the eulogies, the favorite hymns

they sing as they grieve in stanzas.



It will be fun to see old friends  
shuffle into pews and endure

reading the burial service  
they almost know by memory.  
I would like to tell them I tried

to hold my world in my arms,  
but now that it's over, it doesn't matter  
if my struggle failed or not.

It was a trip to remember.

*Revised from original "When I Die" in The Lay of the Land*

Please join us for

## **A Special Open Mic**

Virtual using Zoom on September 21

Current WFLF Poet Laureate Katherine Nelson-Born will say a few words and share poetry authored by Dr. Langhorne.

Due to the recent rise in COVID-19 variant cases, we will revert back to online meetings.

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 Special Guest

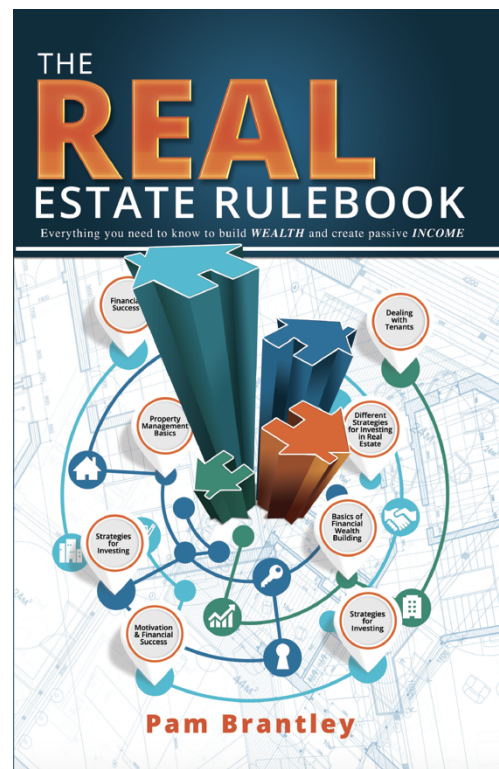
Guest author Pamela Keen Brantly will join our September Open Mic event.

Pamela is a retired Captain from the United States Navy. She also is a licensed real estate broker and investor with more than 40 years of experience and has been investing in Florida real estate since 1978. Currently, Pamela is the owner of Realty Masters of Florida in Pensacola, a full-service real estate brokerage founded in 1998 with emphasis on property management and working with investors. Pamela is a member of the National Association of Realtors®, the local Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau, and the Pensacola Association of Realtors and Property Managers Association, and still buys, sells, and rents properties daily.

Her three grown children Christine, Nicole, and David, work alongside her in the business. Pamela has owned more than 100 properties in Florida and is considered to be an expert in all aspects of the real estate business.

Pamela's book, "The Real Estate Rulebook," is her personal story of how she built wealth by investing in residential real estate. The book offers useful advice on how others can do the same. Pamela says her book is not a "get rich quick scheme," but rather a sound, long-term approach to achieving financial success.

Readers will find guidance on short- and long-term investing, how to wholesale properties for quick cash, and how to build a portfolio of properties to hold and rent for cash flow and appreciation. The book also provides advice about property management and how to choose a good manager if you prefer not to deal with your own tenants. Read tips for maintaining property over time, what to do and what not to do. The comprehensive book covers everything you need to know from A to Z, but it also contains a story about how Pamela achieved real estate success starting in 1978 and how she continues to do so today. Pamela's book can be found at [IndigoRiverPublishing.com](http://IndigoRiverPublishing.com).



## WRITING SUBMISSIONS

### The Wineglass

By Richard Craig Hurt

The night is purple ink, as if a bottle smashed against the sky, perhaps crafted by some insurgent celestial being. Heaven is now pitted with tiny, twinkling particles of glass. God's office may be closed for the evening and left no one to sweep.

As an intense discussion begins, the two principals, a second and his duelist view intervening water with streaks of fluid light, reflecting a glowing castle upside down in a pool of gold, silver, and phosphorus green. The castle garden is where the duel is scheduled for the following morning.

"Have you ever killed a man, Edwin?" the second asks the duelist.

"I will tomorrow."

"You won't kill him just once, but thousands of times. It will haunt you for the rest of your life, even follow in your dreams. You will not escape. You may not only destroy him, but also yourself," Robert says.

"I am not going to apologize. I have my pride. He took her away, and I am going to kill him."

"Both of them made that decision. You cannot deny."

"I let him know in public he does not deserve Loraine. No regrets"

"Yes, did she leave his side and come to you?"

"I called George a spineless jellyfish, and he did what I expected, slapped my face with his glove. I could have decked him in

front of others, but that would not have been proper."

"What you did was not proper. You made a fool of yourself, Edwin. George is a strong, decent man, and a champion archer. Nerves of iron. Have you thought of that?"

"So what? What we have now is a classic duel, that is what," Edwin says.

"There is much to consider, Edwin. First, whatever feelings Loraine had for you would probably turn to hate, and others would shun you. Now, what if you are not killed, but seriously wounded. Are you prepared to curse yourself the rest of your life in maybe every step you take? Your ego is the only reason, but in time your ego would self-destruct. Listen to me," Robert says.

"It would be worth it to see him dead."

"Let's get down to it. How good a shot are you, or do you think you are?"

"I can snap the stem off a wineglass at 20 paces," Edwin says.

"That is well and good, but can you still snap the stem off a wineglass if the moving wineglass is pointing a loaded pistol at your heart while others are intently watching?"

After a few moments of silence, Edwin shakes his head and says, "Let's leave now. It is not too late. I will talk with him. We should be there within an hour."

Heaven transforms for high above the two principals and color are the stars, but now cool and remote. They appear as minute white flowers in a vast, black meadow of tranquility.

## Meet Our Members



### D. Scott

**Finelli** learned about WFLF when he received a notice to submit to the Emerald Coast Review (ECR). He submitted work and will be published in

the fall edition. Scott also joined WFLF after attending a monthly open mic meeting.

Scott is a retired gastroenterologist in practice for 35 years affiliated with Sacred Heart Hospital. He is married with six children, all grown except for an adopted daughter, Keira, who is 14 years old. Scott is passionate about physical fitness. He loves to go offshore fishing in his 33-foot Worldcat and frequently takes his sons sword fishing. He once caught a swordfish that was 256 pounds. He's a lifetime member of the International Game Fish Association and the Royal Slam Club, having caught all nine species of billfish — the largest being a 713-pound blue marlin.

Scott is also a longtime autograph collector. He sold most of his collection after Hurricane Ivan, but has some favorites. They include signed documents or photos of every president, such as a ship document signed by both Presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and a handwritten note by

President Abraham Lincoln. Other notables have included John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, Francis Scott Key, Alexander Hamilton, Benedict Arnold, Lee Harvey Oswald, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Babe Ruth. Notable writers Scott once owned include a signed photo of Ernest Hemingway with a black marlin which he sent to a friend in 1953 along with a letter he typed and signed while living in Cuba. Scott has several Zane Grey handwritten letters, and a hand drawing of Mickey Mouse rendered by Walt Disney in 1939.

Scott has written articles for the Gulf Breeze News and Pensacola News Journal (PNJ). He won a PNJ short story contest that was published in the paper. His fishing articles have appeared in the Gulf Breeze News. He has co-written a textbook chapter on gastrointestinal mobility disorders, and he has written several scientific articles that have been published in medical journals. His favorite reading genre is nonfiction. The last book Scott really enjoyed was "Last Train to Paradise" by Les Standiford, who is the director of creative writing at Florida International University (FIU). The book is a well-researched, well-written history of Henry Flagler and construction of the overseas railway to Key West in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Scott is still determining his writing aspirations, but he particularly likes short stories and rhyming, metered poetry. He is impressed with the level of talent and experience among WFLF members and looks forward to getting to know others.

**Claire Massey**, WFLF board member, has been a member for six years. She envisions multiple goals for the future of the organization, including expanding our appeal to a diverse community of writers, providing publishing opportunities for emerging and established writers, encouraging youth to serve as advocates for the literary arts and recognizing authors who portray the evolving culture of our unique coastal region. She recommends focusing on the projects most commensurate with the interests of our membership and wants to offer all new and renewing members the opportunity to express their priorities and vision for WFLF.

Several years after earning a Master of Arts in Communication, Claire studied creative writing at the University of Tennessee and linguistics at the University of Washington. She was fortunate to be enrolled in a program sponsored by the University of Iowa, which provided tutorials in creative writing through guided correspondence. As a speech-language pathologist and director of a nonprofit regional speech and hearing center, Claire gained experience in grant writing and collaboration with other agencies. Her retirement has allowed a return to her first true love—creative writing.

Claire has published prose and poetry in numerous literary journals. She was invited to participate in an online poetry reading sponsored by Flights, 2020 magazine and to read a short story she

authored on Tennessee Public Radio. The Florida State Association of Pen Women and the National Soul Making Keats Literary Competition have recognized her poetry and memoir. She enjoys her current roles as Poet Laureate for Pensacola Pen Women and Prose Editor for The Emerald Coast Review.

Travel, especially to wild places, working for environmental reform and justice, writing ecopieces that might inspire others to environmental activism, reading in many genres and participating in her WFLF critique group are pursuits that revitalize Claire. She states that she is happiest when she is learning. A new goal on her horizon is to gather her previously published work into a chapbook and begin learning about publishing.

Claire also pens a column each month that is published in The Legend. Read “In Our Write Minds” on page 10. This month’s topic is Beta Readers.



## BOOK REVIEW

### ***29 Houses A Moving Journey***

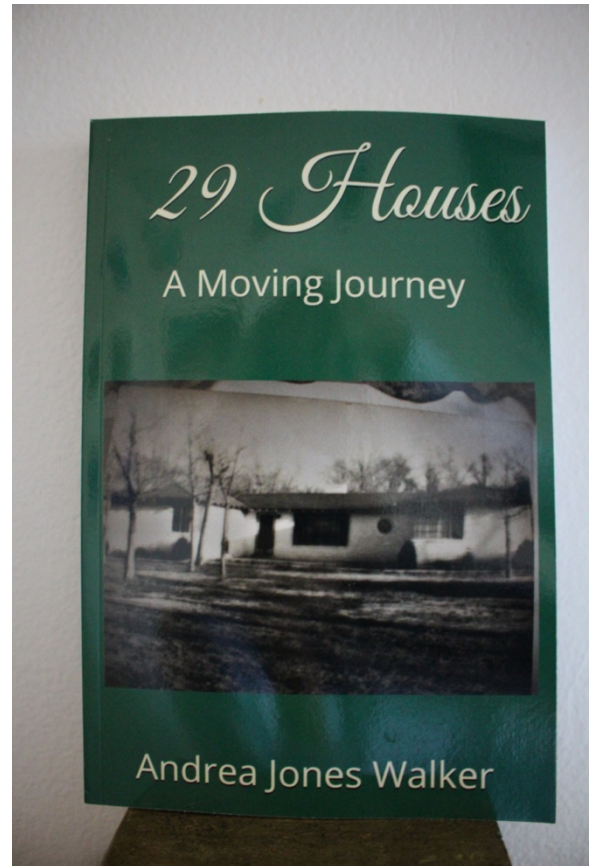
by Andrea Jones Walker

Review by Patricia Taylor Edmisten

*29 Houses* is the first book I've read that uses the author's multitudinous addresses to delineate one chapter from another. The technique works surprisingly well. Each house moves the story along, marking a stage in the writer's life, some of them quiet and stable, others, turbulent. Despite the upheavals and setbacks, however, the writer knows love even though the father's love soon lives only in memory, and the mother's love is accompanied by challenging living conditions, leading to the author's stubborn perseverance to survive and live a meaningful life.

Her youthful and deep faith become ballast in her life, a calming refuge for a girl who is uprooted time and time again. Most children and young adults in similar circumstances would have caved. Our author goes through a short-lived, bad girl stage as she absorbs life's knocks, but she gradually weaves them into a single fabric characterized by family love, abiding friendships, a craving for knowledge and creative endeavors.

*29 Houses* is a stunning testament to a life well-lived as well as a moral legacy, not just for the young ones in the author's family, but also for contemporary readers who are living through difficult times that might be shaped by a pandemic,



unemployment, economic stress, student malaise and general insecurity. At the end of her prologue, Andrea Jones Walker writes:

*My history can best be pictured by sharing the many houses in which I've lived. The houses we live in shape our lives. I've lived in 29 of them. By the time I turned 18, I'd already lived in 18 houses. This is my story.*

You will be glad you entered the doors to those 29 Houses.



## PUBLISHING NEWS

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.

**Haikus  
by Mandy Fernandez**

### Competition 1

Sunflower seeds grow  
Three varieties compete  
To be the first pick

### Competition 2

Who will win the race –  
The spider or the stink bug  
Tomato plant laughs



## 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.*

## IN OUR WRITE MINDS

A column by Claire Massey

Ahh ... time for relaxing deep breaths and maybe a self-congratulatory dinner or trek to the beach. You completed the final draft of your manuscript! It has been critiqued by your writers' group, revised, edited and proofed. What next? **Beta Readers**.

These readers are usually colleagues from the writing community or non-writing readers who are devotees of your genre. Beta readers agree to read your finished manuscript prior to publication and to provide specific feedback as to strengths and weaknesses before you share it with the world. The term evolved from software industry lingo. Beta testers were appointed to evaluate an end user's experience with the software product before commercial distribution.

Think twice before asking a best friend, family member or someone who is overly familiar with your writing to function as your beta reader. You need a fresh pair of eyes, an objective evaluation and honest feedback from a reader who will not fear "hurting your feelings."

Submitting a list of specific questions to your beta readers can help you avoid comments that are too vague or general. For example, if you are concerned about character development, the authenticity of certain scenes, the clarity of a sequence of events, or the accuracy of technical information in your work (such as police procedures), **formulate questions which will guide your beta readers to focus on these areas.**

The resources listed below will expand your knowledge of this topic, enable you to make the best choice of beta readers, debate the compensation question, and help you negotiate on-going positive relationships for the future.

Beta Readers: "Who, When, Why, and So What?" by Barbara Linn Probst at:

<https://www.janefriedman.com/beta-readers/>

"Beta Readers" by L.A. Kelley, February, 2021, a blog topic at:

<https://lakelleythenaughtylist.blogspot.com/2021/02/beta-readers.html>

"The Ultimate Guide to Working with Beta Readers" by Amanda Shofner and Alicia Rades at:

<https://thewritelife.com/ultimate-guide-to-beta-readers/>



## **WFLF 2021 Board of Directors**

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

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

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### **WFLF Member of Community of Literary Magazines and Presses**

PROUD MEMBER



COMMUNITY OF LITERARY MAGAZINES & PRESSES  
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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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Circle the items you **do not** want published in the WFLF members only directory:

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