



# *The Legend*

## West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

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

**JANUARY 2021**



Zoom into Open Mic on  
Third Tuesday January 19  
Happy 2021! It's already got 2020 beat.

Resolve to write more!  
Resolve to write better!  
Resolve to share more.

Join us at 6:30 to share your writing along with your resolutions. It's good to see faces of friends even if they're on screen and not in person.

We still don't have to bundle up, get out in the cold, and drive. We can still stay cozy and be with friends at the same time. It's a win/win!



If you haven't used Zoom yet, below is a link for a short tutorial.

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/hIkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc\\_load\\_policy=1](https://www.youtube.com/embed/hIkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1)

## From the President

The West Florida Literary Federation Board is looking for motivated members willing to stand up and run for an open board member position! The 2021 board is very active and working hard to bring more events and useful training and contest opportunities to its members in 2021. If you want to be more involved and have a large say in the future event planning for WFLF, we want you to run for a board position at the annual meeting in Feb 2021. Now is a great time to be on the board and help WFLF grow and thrive. The art of writing is a popular and healthy pastime as many Floridians are facing historic changes and hardships. Writing can also be a rewarding career with many new opportunities and many stories all waiting to be shared as 2021 unfolds.

Send us a short one or two paragraph biography and let us know you want to be considered for an open board seat. More information about our organization can be found on our website [WFLF.org](http://WFLF.org).

Lisa Rawson  
President

## WFLF Writers Weekly Workshops

**MONDAY POETRY** ~ We are an informal group of poets with varying levels of experience who enjoy getting together to share our work with each other. Sometimes it's just to share, other times it's for critique and feedback. We are looking for others to join us virtually on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 6 pm - 8 pm. Interested in learning more or joining the group? Contact Debra Stogner at [debrastogner@gmail.com](mailto:debrastogner@gmail.com).

## TUESDAY WRITING FOR

**PUBLICATION** 10:30 a.m. ~ noon. For seasoned writers and members of WFLF who are working on book-length manuscripts and seeking publication. Manuscripts and written critiques are emailed within members of the group and members discuss their comments. The group is limited to seven writers ~ Ron Tew. [ronaldtew@yahoo.com](mailto:ronaldtew@yahoo.com)

## WEDNESDAY PORTFOLIO & EXCHANGE SOCIETY

~ Critique Group meets every Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., on ZOOM. We're a lively group looking for writers who have a project for a year – no matter the genre, memoir, poetry, fiction, nonfiction – 12 months to complete a project. Since the conception of the group in January 2014, four members have published books and a fifth writer's manuscript is being finalized for press. The participants are notorious for exchanging writing tips, websites, and general trivia.

For more information, contact [dianeskelton@att.net](mailto:dianeskelton@att.net).

*Please contact the appropriate facilitator mentioned above regarding meetings during this time.*

Dearest,

I hope this note will find you and your loved ones safe and well. Whew! It's been a long and difficult year. The landscape surrounding us has forever been changed and our perspectives as well. We have all had to endure hardships and sadness in our personal lives and in the world around us. Perhaps you have continued to write through all these events or maybe gotten stuck and put aside words for the moment.

My note is an attempt to blow on the embers of the creativity that burns within

each of us. Our writing serves to kindle the fire and passion that gives us joy of purpose. Sharing our words is the gift we give back to a world in need of understanding and healing.

We can be anything...we can do anything. We are creative minds...there is no box that can hold us captive if we have the desire to breakout beyond the barriers surrounding us. The goal is to keep writing, encourage and mentor one another. Monday Night Poets is an informal group of writers meeting on 1st Mondays at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom and we encourage you to stop in and be inspired. Please contact [debrastogner@gmail.com](mailto:debrastogner@gmail.com) and include 'invite' in the subject line for more information.

*Debra Stogner*

## LAST CALL

Thanks to all of you who submitted your work for Life in the Time of Corona. When we began this project, we agreed, **The ongoing project ends with the advent of a vaccine or declaration by the World Health Organization.** We are thankful that it's time to end this successful project that served its purpose of documenting thoughts and events shared by regional writers during this challenging time. If you would like to submit something before we officially close for submissions, please review the guidelines. Scroll to Page 6 of the May *Legend* for the guidelines using this link [https://z0sqrs-a.akamaihd.net/4052\\_WFLF/TheLegend/2020-May-Legend.pdf](https://z0sqrs-a.akamaihd.net/4052_WFLF/TheLegend/2020-May-Legend.pdf) and send your work to [andreaswriting0@gmail.com](mailto:andreaswriting0@gmail.com) (That's a zero.) or [andrea48@aol.com](mailto:andrea48@aol.com) by January 31, 2021.

## JANUARY HAIKU CHALLENGE LEADS TO FEBRUARY SLAM

While many people start the new year planning to head to the gym, Northwest Florida's new poet laureate is encouraging area residents to work out their brains by writing short poems in a January Haiku Challenge.

Sponsored by West Florida Literary Federation, the Haiku Challenge is a prelude to Pensacola's February Haiku Slam, a new event featuring local poetry lovers and performance artists. The slam is the brainchild of the Poet's Roundtable, a collaborative group of local poets organized by Poet Laureate Katherine Nelson-Born and local poets Charles McCaskill and Asia Samson.

In the January writing event, participants are challenged to write a haiku, a short three-line poem, each day from the prompt or theme posted at WFLF's Facebook page or WFLF Twitter: [wstflitfed](#) (two lower case Ls). The poem can be the traditional Japanese style with a syllable count of five-seven-five or the American model championed by Jack Kerouac. The month-long event is free; participants can present their work in the February Haiku Slam if they choose.

The Haiku Slam will celebrate National Haiku Month, designated for the shortest month, February, since haiku is the shortest form of poetry. For more information, visit [wflf.org](http://wflf.org), WFLF on Facebook or contact Katherine Nelson-Born at [bcs.editor@gmail.com](mailto:bcs.editor@gmail.com).

*Katherine*

## MEMBER NEWS

### Congratulations!

In the Fall/Winter edition of *The Moving Force Journal*, you can read **Karen Morris'** poems "Twelve Hours" and "Sweetness of the Lavender,"

at <http://themovingforcejournal.com/issue-3/>.

This issue focused on universal and timeless themes. "Life is still being lived beyond the headlines: we still struggle with family dynamics, we still question our place in the world, we still deal with grief and death that are unrelated to the headlines and try to find some solace in the beauty of the natural world," states the journal's introduction. Also, "Sijo" will appear on *Writing in a Woman's Voice* on Jan. 30, and "The Planting" on Jan. 31. <http://writinginawomansvoice.blogspot.com/>.

*Writing in a Woman's Voice* will publish two of **Claire Massey's** poems. "Old School Dream" will appear on Jan. 10 and "Subtext of a Prayer" will be featured on April 2. Simply google the journal!

### Self-Publishing Webinar Series

West Florida Literary Federation will offer a series of webinars on self-publishing beginning January 26, 2021. The eight-part series will be presented by Tom Roberts and is intended primarily for book length fiction including novels, memoir, short story collections, and poetry chapbooks. The series will be hosted on Zoom and is tentatively scheduled to run monthly. The topics to be covered include an overview of self-publishing; the book planning process; editing and proofing your book; beta readers; the business side of publishing; publishing platforms; parts of a book; getting a cover

produced; submitting your book to publish-on-demand printers and distribution channels; promotion/marketing/advertising tips. Part 1 of the series is free to members and non-members; Parts 2-8 are \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. All proceeds go to WFLF.

### Update on Youth Writing Committee Unmuted Voices

#### Spread the Word about The WFLF Youth Poetry Contest for Upcoming Literacy Week 2021!

To help celebrate Literacy Week January 25 - 29, 2021 . . . This year the WFLF is offering public, private, and home-schooled students three writing choices that will empower their creativity and let them share their voices:

- Hope and Healing
- Changes and Challenges
- Mirrors/Windows/Views.

WFLF has prepared a 10-minute video lesson at <https://youtu.be/HrCjKXDURnQ> to introduce the contest and help teachers with lessons and students begin their poems. This lesson will complement the literary arts curriculum and help students achieve the Florida standards for writing skills. Cash prizes will be awarded at both the high school and middle school levels for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, with up to 5 Honorable Mention certificates. An awards ceremony is planned for April. Submissions deadline is March 1, 2021. Google docs accepted. Please visit [wflf.org](http://wflf.org) for more details, the entry form, and the video link. The contest has been approved by the school district. Questions? Contact Lisa Rawson, 850-982-

8736, [mandydakota2015@gmail.com](mailto:mandydakota2015@gmail.com). We want all WFLF to help us spread the word by sharing this information! Thank you!

*Mandy Fernandez*

## PANOPLY



Andrea Walker and fellow Editors Ryn Holmes and Jeff Santosuosso announce the publication of Issue 17 of Panoply at <http://www.panoplyzine.com>. Along with a fine piece by former Poet Laureate **Leonard Temme**, Issue 17 features poetry and short prose from three other Floridians as well as from over 30 US states and seven foreign countries.

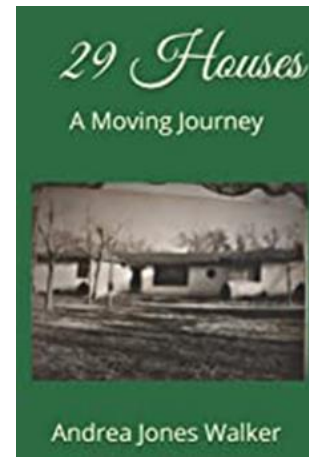
## CREATIVE WRITING

### I See His work

I sit on the porch and glance  
at the stately Norfolk pine  
from Christmases past,  
and see the sparkle of the raindrops  
poised on the branches.  
As I move my head, two of the droplets  
catch the sun and radiate a changing array  
of gem-like colors – yellow, green, red or  
blue  
-- the rays reaching out from the center.  
And I realize  
How God does decorate our world with  
beauty,  
waiting to be seen. Love.

*Charlotte Crane*

## Review of *29 Houses* by Andrea Jones Walker



A haunting memoir, *29 Houses: A Moving Journey* by Andrea Jones Walker reveals the author's resilience in her search for stability from an unsettled youth. At times painfully honest, Andrea Jones Walker shares her life as experienced in twenty-nine houses. Following the death of her father, she begins a transient childhood spent in and out of different houses, schools, neighborhoods, towns, and states. The beautifully crafted book reads more like a novel than a memoir. Chapter after chapter, tragic events and surprising secrets unfold in vivid description. Quickly turning the pages, I wondered what could possibly happen next to this shy, vulnerable young girl. I found myself championing her on every page as she searches for her place in life. *29 Houses* is a story of strength and resilience – an emotional journey in a book – and a joy to read.

*Diane Skelton*

## Two Graves

A mother lies in one grave,  
the plot meant for her spouse,  
absent.  
He lies in another, a short walk  
away,  
in the same cemetery where the  
ducks swim  
under the weeping willows.

The brother and sister find the  
mother's grave with ease.  
The brother kneels and digs a  
hole in the hard, dry soil  
for the mums the sister has  
purchased, a scant tribute  
to the mother they miss, the  
mom who took her life when  
her marriage fell apart after  
thirty-six years.

They water the plant, hoping,  
perhaps, a drop  
will reach her, that she'll feel  
their love, sadness,  
their longing for more years with  
her,  
their yearning for her smile, her  
arms, for peace  
for her and for them.

The brother and sister walk to  
the father's grave.  
Unlike the large, family stone  
that marks their mother's,  
only a flat marble square marks  
his,  
except on Veterans' and  
Memorial Days  
when a small flag decorates it.  
(Okinawa.)

His second wife's name is  
engraved on one side,  
noting only the day she was  
born.  
So, for thirty-five years the  
remains

of our mother and father have  
dwelled apart,  
nearly as long as their marriage.

*Patricia Edmisten*  
*Sept. 30, 2012*

## Sleepless in Her Studio

*First appeared in Snapdragon: A Journal of Art and  
Healing*

A trio of muses wake her.  
Lucidity breaks the seal of covers.  
Restoration shakes her futon bier.  
Liberation smacks lips  
swollen with voices against exposed ears,  
demands she hear,  
translate dreamscape to real,

reshape stiffened brushes till supple,  
refill inkwells,  
scrape clotted paint from horizons,  
recall lines erased in poems redacted,  
design roofless space that compels restless  
graces  
to settle, dwell.

Now is the time to take back dawn,  
stretch vanishing points to infinity.  
Candles are lit, the wine holds its breath.  
The past has dried on the walls.

*Claire Massey*

My Current Christmas Caper

Always before  
NEW YEARS.  
always after Halloween  
and forever  
sandwiched in-between  
a blessed  
**CHRISTMAS**  
to chase next year's  
blues away  
(like this one).

Now, peering down  
through this  
perfumed bliss and blur  
of Frankincense  
and Myrrh I spot  
a trio of starstruck  
Maji (Kings?)  
from somewhere off afar  
with handfuls of  
Gold and  
Jewels and Rings  
and Things and . . .

Another bevy down there, too.  
empty-handed shepherds  
following the same insistent star  
with only silent gifts of  
Sheepishness and Grace  
to place before the manger.  
For years, now  
I, too, have worshipped  
this holy Child  
and the Man  
he would become.  
I'm amazed at how over the years  
They've never aged at all  
while I, you see,  
have reached the wrinkled  
ripe old age

of a shaky 93.  
Then, suddenly,  
I notice down through this  
golden glow  
everyone is strangely  
wearing face masks.  
And, as rumor has it,  
Santa and his Reindeers  
are not flying  
back and forth  
this year, but are  
in Lockdown  
in their igloos  
(mini-masked Elves, too) far, far, up up north there  
Where you see the be-masked Moon.

Despite my dark and dismal verse  
(or even worse my dears).  
I send to you,  
Old friends, out there both  
far and near  
warm wishes  
for a cheery **CHRISTMAS**  
and a zippy **NEW YEAR**.

And along with  
the sentiments above,  
I send my deep and  
all-abiding LOVE.

*Jack Beach*



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

**West Florida Literary Federation ~ Join or Renew ~ 2021**

**Memberships are good for one calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31.**  
**Individual membership is \$30/year. New members joining after July 15, pay \$15 or may pay \$45 which also pays for the following year. Subsequent years are due annually by January 1.**  
**One Year ~ Individual \$30 ~ Couple \$50 ~ Student \$15 ~ Two years ~ Individual \$50 ~ Couple \$85**

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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.

Use PayPal at <http://wflf.org> and email this form to [westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com](mailto: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**  
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