



The Legend

West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.

www.wflf.org

MARCH 2021

Open Mic on Zoom, Third Tuesday March 16



See the smiling faces of your friends and share a limerick or two or any of your creative writing! Join us at 6:30 p.m. All paid members and emeritus members will receive a Zoom invitation. Registration will be required. (Annual dues can be paid online.) Below is a link for a short Zoom tutorial.

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

Emerald Coast Review Seeks Regional Writer, Artist Submissions for 21st Anthology

Pensacola, Fla. – March 1, 2021 – The West Florida Literary Federation (WFLF)’s Emerald Coast Review (ECR) has published the voices of regional writers in an anthology since 1989. This year marks the 21st volume. The publication will feature quality fiction, nonfiction, poetry, contemporary, emerging, and experimental works along with the best of art, graphic design and photography from area writers and artists living along coastal Florida and Alabama. Residents from the following counties are encouraged to submit: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa and Bay (Florida); Mobile, Escambia and Baldwin (Alabama).

To view guidelines and submit your work, visit wflf.org/ecr. Submissions close April 30, 2021. Accepted submissions will be announced and writers will be notified that their piece(s) will be published in the ECR in Fall 2021.

Current WFLF member and former ECR poet contributor, Debra Stogner, said, “My poem ‘mindLess’ about battle fatigue was published in the 2019 Emerald Coast Review. It was inspired by my father who was fighting his final battle with cancer.”

Stogner was former active-duty Army Sergeant (E-5) for six years. She is a civil service retiree and now works part-time with Veterans Services. Stogner also spent years traveling with her father’s military career. Now semi-retired she regularly participates in WFLF workshops and writers’ groups with the goal of publishing a poetry chapbook. Stogner said, “Everyone has a story to tell and words to share. Whether for pleasure, publication or record of family history, I strongly encourage people to submit to the ECR and bring unique perspective to our history, environmental landscape and shared experiences for all to enjoy.”

ECR invites a diverse, cross-section of regional writers to share their creative voices and submit their work today. No writing experience or poetic background is required. Share your voice, enthusiasm and talents.

To view guidelines and submit your work, visit wflf.org/ecr.

All currently PAID members of West Florida Literary Federation are invited to submit to the *Emerald Coast Review*. Though the *ECR* is a regional publication, we recognize that our members, no matter where they live, have a direct link to this region. We encourage all members to submit their best work.





SINCE 1989 ~ WEST FLORIDA LITERARY FEDERATION'S

EMERALD COAST REVIEW

2021, Vol. XXI - Submission Guidelines

This literary anthology has been published biennially by West Florida Literary Federation (WFLF), Pensacola, FL since 1989. Submissions open **March 1, 2021**. Deadline for submissions is midnight, **April 30, 2021**. Submissions not strictly adhering to the following guidelines will be rejected. The 21st volume will feature the best of submitted works by regional writers and artists.

1. *Emerald Coast Review* is a regional publication which accepts submissions only from authors/writers/poets and visual artists residing in the following counties in Florida and Alabama: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay (Florida) and Escambia, Mobile, Baldwin (Alabama).
2. The *Emerald Coast Review* invites submissions of nonfiction (including hybrids of memoir and essay, flash nonfiction, creative nonfiction, and journalistic feature writing). In the area of fiction, we are eager to receive short stories, short plays, flash fiction and micro fiction. We welcome all forms of poetry (including experimental poems). Artistically, we welcome digital photographs and digital photographs of original works as oil, acrylic, watercolor, collage, mixed media, etchings, silk screen, lithographs, etc.
3. All submissions must be in electronic format and uploaded to the appropriate category at <https://westfloridaliteraryfederation.submittable.com/submit>
4. Alternative submission permission may be considered by emailing the editorial board at emeraldcoastreview@gmail.com
5. A brief biography (75 words maximum) is required. College students should indicate school attending. If your work is selected, the bio will appear in the publication.
6. Submissions are read "blind." Do not place your name on the manuscript. Labeling instructions are specified in each genre.
7. Fee: \$10 per submission, per category except for visual arts which is \$3 per image/file. College students receive a 50% discount but must email emeraldcoastreview@gmail.com for a direct link to receive the discount.
8. Submissions must be uploaded by midnight, April 30, 2021.
9. WFLF accepts only original, unpublished work that has not previously appeared in any publicly accessible form, including online. We request First North American serial rights to work accepted for publication in the *Emerald Coast Review*. After publication, rights revert to the author, artist or photographer. Simultaneous submissions are accepted but must be withdrawn by the author if accepted elsewhere.
10. All submissions are final. We will not consider rewritten submissions though the editors reserve the right to request minor revisions. Editors will proofread and make corrections in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Proof copies of any changes will be supplied to authors by email.
11. All selected contributors will receive one free contributor's copy of the *Emerald Coast Review*.
12. Multiple submissions are accepted from writers and artists with a submission fee for each group.

Poetry guidelines:

- Up to 3 poems **OR** 5 haiku, with a maximum of 300 lines total submitted as a single document.
- A single poetry submission = up to 3 poems **OR** up to 5 haiku.
- Format each poem as you would like it to appear in final publication, single-spaced, double-spaced between stanzas, using 12 pt. Times New Roman font and 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Do not number pages or include poet's name. Begin each poem on a separate page with the title in the upper right corner.
- Electronic submissions must be sent as .doc, docx. or .rtf format. PDF files are not accepted.

Fiction guidelines:

- A single fiction submission = no more than one short story **OR** one play, up to 2,000 words maximum. On the first page place the title and total word count in the upper right corner.
- **OR** no more than two flash fictions up to 1,000 words each; total word count of both pieces not to exceed 2,000 words and submitted as one document. Begin each piece on a new page with the title and word count in the upper right corner.
- **OR** no more than three micro fictions of up to 250 words each; total word count of all three not to exceed 750 words submitted as one document. Begin each piece on a new page with the title and word count in the upper right corner.
- Type, double-spaced using 12 pt. Times New Roman font and 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Do not number pages or include author's name.
- Electronic submissions must be sent as .doc, docx. or .rtf format. PDF files are not accepted.

Nonfiction guidelines:

- A single nonfiction submission = no more than one article, memoir **OR** essay up to 2,000 words maximum. On the first page place the title and word count in the upper right corner.
- **OR** no more than two flash nonfictions up to 1000 words each; total word count of both pieces not to exceed 2,000 words, submitted as one document. Begin each piece on a new page with the title and word count in the upper right corner.
- Type, double-spaced using 12 pt. Times New Roman font and 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Do not number pages or include author's name.
- Electronic submissions must be sent as .doc, docx. or .rtf format. PDF files are not accepted.

Visual Art guidelines:

- 6 individual images maximum per submission, priced per file.
- Color and black and white images are accepted; however most images will be formatted in grayscale. If your submission is in color, you may be asked to convert it to black and white to ensure quality of reproduction.
- Present graphic elements exactly as they should appear on printed page.
- Each image must have a high resolution of at least 300 dpi.
- Electronic submissions must be sent as .jpeg, .png or .tif format. PDF files are not accepted.
- Include a title of each image in the filename, not on the image.

For further information or questions, email
emeraldcoastreview@gmail.com

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.

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 dianesselton@att.net.

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

MEMBER NEWS

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Charline Barger, WFLF's new secretary, has been teaching language arts at the middle school level for ten years. She is a National Writing Project consultant and has been writing poetry, short stories and picture books for as long as she can remember. Charline has had various pieces published and ran her own parenting website. She lives in Pace with her three children "Hey" Jude, Ruby "Tuesday" and "Sweet" Caroline. When she is not teaching, Charline spends her time watching movies with her kids, reading the latest young adult novels to recommend to her students and chipping away at piles of

manuscript drafts. Charline joined the WFLF student writing committee this year and has thoroughly enjoyed being part of the organization. She is looking forward to serving on the board in order to share ideas about how to get students more involved in writing and so that she can grow as a writer herself.

Mandy Fernandez, WFLF's new vice president, is an award-winning essayist and short story writer. She is the author of *Kazoo Makes the Team*, a regional children's picture book about the Pensacola Blue Wahoos baseball team mascot, Kazoo. She has a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in technical writing. She is a full-time writer and editor for Baptist Health Care, a local not-for-profit health care company. There she oversees internal communications across the health system of 7,300 employees, including a weekly and monthly publication, working with human resources for their internal campaigns and developing creative content for various types of media, including script writing for videos and commercials. She is a natural when it comes to marketing and public relations. She writes all day for work and then writes creatively in her spare time.

She is married with two children and two dogs, all of whom give her plenty to write about. Learn more at writtenbymandy.com.

Katherine Nelson-Born, current Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida is a longtime member of the WFLF and past president, returns to the board. An English teacher for many years, Katherine reinvented her life as a freelance writer and editor to pursue writing full-time. Katherine loves a good story and champions the art of writing, hosts writing workshops, and occasionally participates in spoken word competitions. Growing up on in New Orleans, a stone's throw from Pensacola, Katherine's poetry and soon-to-be-published YA trilogy reflect her Crescent City roots. She loves a parade and a good marching band, and never passes up a chance to second-line.

Katherine's 2016 Finishing Line Press poetry chapbook, *When Mockingbirds Sing*, is available on Amazon.com or at [Finishing Line Press](http://FinishingLinePress.com).

Her debut novel's introductory chapter was recognized by the Tallahassee Writers Association (TWA) in its 2019-2020 Seven Hills Literary Competition, winning an award and chapter publication in the 2020 *Seven Hills Review*.

Visit her [website](#), like her on [Facebook](#) or follow her on [Twitter](#).

Welcome New Members

Catherine McGovern
Brenda Thornton
Sue Walker

Farewell to

Members Ann Gross who relocated to Tennessee and Past Vice President Quincy Hull who moved to Colorado

Call for Submissions

Panoply will open its call for poetry and flash fiction Friday, March 12. Visit the website at www.panoplyzine.com to read the latest, see the guidelines, and enjoy a “wide-ranging and impressive array of writing.”

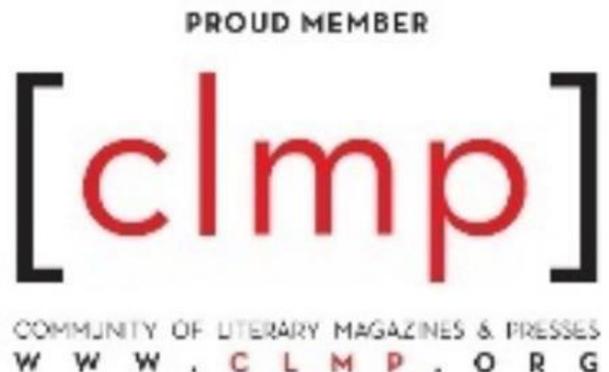
Effect on Community

“Often we don't realize how the things our organizations promote affect our community,” says member Diane Skelton. She recently shared a story about how the Haiku Challenge that Poet Laureate Katherine Nelson-Born facilitated in February spread to a church in Gulf Breeze. Thanks to her coordination of the Poet's Roundtable and subsequent interview in *Pensacola Magazine*, Saint Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Gulf Breeze picked up the ball and got it rolling in their newsletter. One of the church members is challenging the congregation to write a weekly haiku based on sermons or Bible readings during Lent. Voila! Community involvement and another poetic perspective. I love it. Thanks, Diane and Katherine.

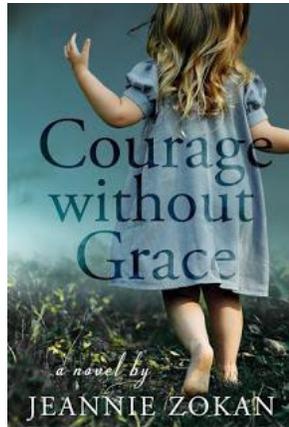
Self-publishing Webinar Part 2

The next installment of **Tom Roberts'** self-publishing webinar (Part 2) will be on March 25th. Details will be forthcoming. Contact Tom Roberts or register at www.wflf.org.

WFLF Accepted in Community of Literary Magazines and Presses



Longtime member Jeannie Zokan's second book, *Courage Without Grace*, will be released on March 30, 2021.



In *Courage Without Grace*, Josie Wales doesn't need her palm reading skills to know her lover is seeing someone else. It's time to end it, but she's been with Tom for seven years. And there's something—someone—she needs to tell him about. That secret keeps pulling her back, but this time she's determined to break it off.

To find the courage to end the relationship, Josie seeks advice from new acquaintances, but she somehow manages to make an even bigger mess of her life. When Jack, Tom's twin and her childhood friend, comes to DC to reconnect, he helps Josie get her feet back on the ground.

Just as Josie is beginning to resolve the chaos in her life, a tragic secret from her past comes back to haunt her. Before she can move forward and have a second chance at love, she must face her grief and loss.

With characters that leap off the page, *Courage Without Grace* is a poignant novel that will stay with you long after you finish reading.

Jeannie Zokan, author of [The Existence of Pity](#) grew up in Colombia, South America. After studying Library Science at Baylor University, she moved to Washington, DC to attend The George Washington University. Much like Josie in *Courage Without Grace*, Jeannie became a palm reader there. When DC's cold weather

finally did her in, she took her motorcycle to Florida's Gulf Coast where she now lives ten minutes from the beach with her husband and their cat. When she's not writing or editing, she's reading, playing tennis, visiting their two grown daughters, or practicing yoga in their garage gym.

Florida State Poets Association News

Hello Northwest Florida Poets. If you enjoy entering contests, The National Federation of State Poetry Societies' annual contest will close for submissions on March 15, so you still have a little time to enter. [Here is the link](#) And, The Florida State Poets Association's annual contests have been announced. [Here is that link](#)).

We also have a listing of Zoomies (presentations by Poets on [Zoom.com](#)) you can attend. [Check them out!](#)

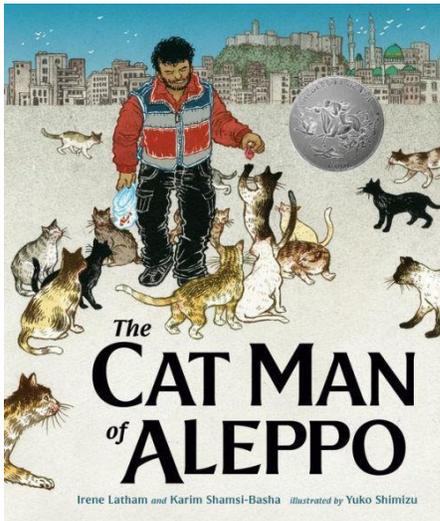
Two featured Zoomies include Indian River Poet Laureate Sean Sexton on March 21, and in April, your very own Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida Katherine Nelson-Born (I'm a big fan) will be presenting *Killing Your Darlings*. These informative presentations are **free**, so join in the Zoomies, you know you want to.

Lastly, we encourage you to read *Of Poets & Poetry*, our official magazine about poetry in Florida. It comes out bi-monthly. [This is as link to the most recent issue](#)

If you are a poet in Florida, you should consider becoming a member of Florida State Poets Association. It's a great value, and it will open up for you the vibrant world of poetry in Florida. [Yep, here's that link \(shameless plug\):](#)

Katherine Nelson-Born

CREATIVE WRITING



Review of *The Cat Man of Aleppo*:
A True Tale of Human Goodness
Based on a true story, the 2021
Caldecott Honor Book

The Cat Man of Aleppo is an uplifting reminder of human goodness. Ambulance driver Mohammad Alaa Aljaleel stayed in his beloved city to continue helping people after the Syrian civil war reached Aleppo in 2012. The story of the “cat man,” as he came to be called, began when he noticed the vast numbers of cats abandoned when their owners had to leave them behind. He began to feed them and eventually made a shelter for them; soon people all over the world started to help. Alaa went on to include helping other animals, and then built a playground for orphaned and refugee children.

This beautifully designed and illustrated picture book tells Alaa and the cats’ story simply. There is a scene from pre-war Aleppo with Alaa buying pistachios, jasmine soap, dried figs and boiled corn at a bazaar. There are a few pages of the bombed-out city, Alaa

helping injured people, and then the plight of the abandoned cats. Then the story turns joyful as his aid for the cats takes on momentum. There are cats everywhere! Children play with the cats and enjoy the new playground. Smiles abound.

The authors of the book, Irene Latham and Karim Shami-Basha, live in Birmingham, Alabama. The illustrator, Yuko Shimizu, spent nine months researching to ensure that hairstyles, clothes, accessories, and settings were authentic. Alaa has never seen a copy of the book, as mail isn’t allowed into Syria, but Latham hopes one day to give every child in the orphanage a copy. This picture book is recommended for ages four to eight, but it is a gem for all ages. There are short paragraphs on each page, with illustrations filling the rest; the story is about 28 pages long, the book 9 X 11 inches. I look at my copy often just to be reminded of the sweet creatures and children, and this great-hearted man.

Karen McAferty Morris

WFLF Members Only **Facebook Private Group**

The WFLF now has a members-only private Facebook page. You have to be invited to join or request to join. Or a current administration can add you if you are already Facebook friends with them. Current admins are Diane Skelton, Katherine Nelson-Born, Charline Barger and Mandy Fernandez. The purpose of this private group is to allow WFLF members to interact more often - share writing tips, writing-related webinars, writers resources and even share positive news like when each other is published or doing a writer event. This will be a great way to

network with each other and to uplift each other more often than just monthly meetings and open mic nights. If you'd like to join, please send an email to Mandy Fernandez, vice president. She'll need your email address to send you an invitation to join. You can email her at writtenbymandy@gmail.com. The WFLF Members Only private group is set to strict privacy settings so you may not be able to find it just by searching. We want to keep the privacy and safety of our members at the forefront of what we do so please note that the site may ask you a few questions and have you agree to the rules (being courteous, respectful and kind).

WFLF 2021 Board of Directors

President: Lisa Rawson

Vice President: Mandy Ferguson

Secretary: Charline Barger

Treasurer: Tom Roberts

Director: Claire Massey

Director: Jeannie Zokan

Director/Poet Laureate: Katherine Nelson-Born

Directors can be contacted at

WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com

Legend editor: Andrea Walker

andrea48@aol.com

Check out our website at www.wflf.org and

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

<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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

<p>I would like to sponsor (NAME)</p> <hr/>
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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 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
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