

*\*Temporary logo*

# *The Legend*

**Emerald Coast Writers, Inc.**  
Member Newsletter

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

**July 2022 Edition**

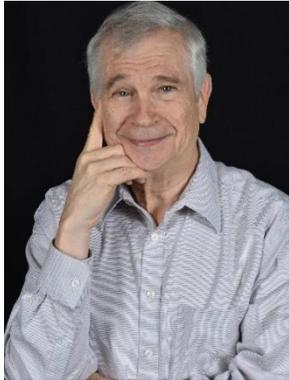
## **July Open Mic Meeting Is Canceled. Open Mic Meetings Future – We Want Your Feedback!**

The past several Emerald Coast Writers monthly Open Mic meetings have had low participation. The July 2022 Open Mic meeting is canceled. We realize it's summer, and members may be out enjoying the season. However, low turnout makes it difficult to plan future events. Time and work occur behind the scenes to offer programming for our members. Therefore, the board would like your feedback on the future of these meetings. Questions we have include the following:

- Should we move from monthly to quarterly meetings? Perhaps less is more, meaning more planning could go into less meetings?
- Should we plan these meetings more with a structure, such as a guest speaker or theme rather than keep them just open readings?
- What makes you want to attend (or not attend) a meeting, both in-person or on Zoom?
- What would you like to see more of from ECW as a current member?

We realize that we must evolve to stay relevant and engaging to you. We want ECW to be a place for our regional writers and creative artists (and beyond) to grow, learn, and succeed. Please send us your feedback about Open Mic meetings and any other programming. Email us at [westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com](mailto:westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com) by August 2, 2022. We will share your feedback and discuss at the next board meeting. Thank you!

# Message from the President



In this July issue of *The Legend* published by Emerald Coast Writers, we're asking you for feedback on our monthly Open Mic meetings. This is prompted by low turnout for the past two meetings. As a result, we are canceling Open Mic for July.

We are also asking for member help in designing our new ECW logo. If you want to submit a design or just have feedback on what you would like to see in our logo, please email us at [westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com](mailto:westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com).

Now that we have closed the recent survey sent to members in May and June, the ECW Board will be compiling the results and using them to guide us in our future planning. If you didn't get to your survey, you can also email us your comments and suggestions. This will help us respond to your writing needs and interests. As always, your volunteer help is always welcome. Please let us know by email.

If you have any writer friends who are not members of ECW, please encourage them to join. Send them to our website ([wflf.org](http://wflf.org))

to join or to our email to request information.

On the financial side of things, we are on a sound footing. This fall, we hope to bring one or more exciting events that will be beneficial to our members.

Finally, if you have creative writing, photos, or art, please share them by submitting them to *The Legend*.

—Tom Roberts

## Join Our Member Directory and Be Featured on Our Website

Are you featured in our Emerald Coast Writers member directory on our website?

Check it out at <https://wflf.org/MemberDirectory>. Support your fellow writers and their creative work. If you're not listed on here but you wish to be included, complete the form [here](#).

This member directory contains a listing of all our members. Each entry may include a member bio, a cover photo and description of one of the member's published books, a member's writing excerpt, and a link to the member's website.

DIRECTORY	
<b>Members</b>	
Tom Roberts	
Jeannie Zokan	
Dr. Sandra Lockney Davis	
Lori O'Gara	
Audry Dye	
Victoria Dyer	
Ethan McGuire	

**Featured Member**  
**Jeannie Zokan**  
Member  
<http://jeanniezokan.blogspot.com/>

**About**  
Jeannie Zokan, author of *The Existence of Joy* and award-winning *Courage Without Grace*, grew up in Columbia, South America as the daughter of missionaries. Her love of books led her to study Library Science at Baylor University. She moved to Washington, DC to attend The George Washington University, and much like Josie in *Courage Without Grace*, she became a palm reader there. DC's cold weather finally did her in, so when the chance came to head south, she took her motorcycle to Florida's Gulf Coast to write stories for the local newspaper. She now lives ten minutes from the beach with her husband, a dog, and a 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.

# Meet Our Members:

## Patty Damm



**Patty Damm** joined Emerald Coast Writers (ECW) in 2002. She moved from Detroit, Michigan to Perdido Key and started a search for a local writers group. After attending two sessions with ECW, Patty joined.

“When I first joined ECW, we had anywhere from five to 20 participants each week in the writers group,” said Patty. “Eventually it narrowed down to about 10 of us who were serious about our writing goals. The narrowing down process became interesting. I wrote a few short articles about members in our group—about the unusual personalities or the quirky writing. Of course, I first shared my writing with the group to demonstrate the process of immersing myself into writing.”

Patty’s current goal is to finish assembling the many stories, histories, and photos of her German husband’s (Bernd) family. Patty met him in 1963 while she was a student at the Phillips University of Marburg, a university in Bernd’s hometown

of Marburg/Lahn, Germany. Patty was a notetaker even then. She kept journals of the family get-togethers and trips made overseas during the 55 years of her marriage.

Patty now lives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina with her daughter, Renate Reiner. Renate and her husband were missionaries in Brazil for over 30 years. Sadly, Renate’s husband passed away in 2017, but Patty’s daughter is continuing that missionary work, both remotely during the height of COVID-19 and through making several trips to Brazil for conferences and workshops. Patty has traveled with her as well and has lived with Renate since 2019, after her husband passed away. Both Renate and Patty write and critique each other’s work. They visit often with Renate’s two grown children and one grandson.

Patty’s other son, Klaus Damm, lives in Henderson, Nevada. Klaus and his wife have four grown children and one grandson on the way. Patty is proud of her growing family.

In school Patty studied political science and languages at Florida Southern College. While at Phillips University of Marburg/Lahn, she studied German and continued political science. As a hobby, Patty enjoys studying Hebrew, Spanish, and French. Knowing and practicing all the different languages helped Patty and her husband when they did so much traveling.

For Patty, writing has been an important means of communicating. She has travel diaries from every trip she has taken. She wrote articles for magazines and used these to help prepare travel groups for their trips.

Patty has translated a true story about a Jewish German girl who went through a horrible, terrifying childhood fleeing from the Nazis through Poland to Ukraine and back through Poland to Königsberg on the Baltic Sea. "I received permission from her, Ruth Rosenstock-Michel, and her publisher, to get this important story to the people here in America," said Patty. "The book in English is titled *Fleeing Toward Freedom* and is available on Amazon. I look forward to sharing my husband's family's story."

Nonfiction is Patty's favorite genre because, as she points out "it sometimes seems crazier than fiction." When she's

not writing or journaling, Patty enjoys jigsaw puzzles and reading. She encourages everyone to try writing and says, "You don't have to be literary genius to put words down on paper or on a screen." She encourages all individuals to write "to see yourself and to be yourself, even if it's only for yourself."

Such great advice, Patty! Thank you for sharing part of your writing journey with us. We can't wait to read and hear about your husband's family and your family's adventures in the near future. We're so glad you joined ECW and continue to be a part of our group

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## Announcements:

### With Our New Name, We Need a New Logo!

At the February annual meeting, we heard your feedback and changed our name from West Florida Literary Federation to Emerald Coast Writers to reflect where we are now and where we see ourselves in the future.

We envision this to be a place for our regional writers and creative artists (and beyond) to grow, learn, and network. We now want to finish this rebranding journey with a new look and logo.

A logo is a "symbol or other design adopted by an organization to identify it." A logo can be a symbol or image and words. It is not just a photograph or painting/artwork. We offered a logo contest, but the contest turnout was low or

participants did not meet criteria. So now we're asking you, our members, to consider creating what you envision us to be. We invite you to submit a logo, image, and look to the board for consideration of our rebrand.

Please submit your idea and image to [westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com](mailto:westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com) by August 31, 2022. We look forward to seeing what you have in mind. Thank you for helping us continue to help our members grow and succeed!



YOUR  
LOGO  
HERE

## Send In Your Creative Writing, Photos, or Art!

Have you:

- Written a whimsical poem or Haiku recently?
- Taken a beautiful photo of a sunset on the beach?
- Want to include an excerpt from your book as a teaser to our members?
- Created a beautiful art piece that you'd like to share and showcase?

Share your creative writing, photos, and art in the monthly *Legend* newsletter. All forms are welcome and will be considered for publication.\* If you submit a photo or image, please include a short writeup about it (two or three sentences explaining the work and what it means/is). Let's get the inspiration going and uplift each other through words, images, and creativity. Submit your work via email to the *Legend* editor at [editor@wflf.org](mailto:editor@wflf.org) anytime. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing your amazing work!

*\*In addition to publication in the Legend, some pieces may be shared on our social media and our website, too, with permission by the author or artist.*

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## Creative Submissions from Our Members: Poetry

### A Series of Haikus

#### The Chosen

Nice to be chosen  
Except by a mosquito  
Hungry for my blood

#### White Shirt

Strawberry pie slice  
Slid down my ruffled white shirt  
Thunder threatens next

#### The Sign

Ice cold beer tastes good  
But out of order bathroom  
Sign laughed loud at me

*By Mandy Fernandez*

#### Starry Night

a night like Van Gogh's  
bright and blue and filled with stars  
we dance delighted

#### Rise

wet winter days turn  
into a springtime warm with  
singing birds and hope

*By Mary Gutierrez*

## Refugee Song

I see the wind roll waves across the plain.  
I see the jungle when it's slick with rain.  
I see the wildfires scorch the hills again.  
I don't remember them at all.

I see dust devils dance the desert sand.  
I see tornadoes twist a scattered land.  
I see a hurricane with fear expand.  
I let them go when evenings fall.

I see the highways fill with screaming cars.  
I see the cities stretch their wondrous scars.  
I see the bright, rich goods of strange bazaars.  
Each is some sight I can't recall.

I see my children as they race our trail.  
I see my mother search for food and fail.  
I see my wife her deep desires curtail.  
I make my memories banal.

I see my home before it fell to flame.  
I see my people whisper our cursed name.  
I see community I can't reclaim.  
We wander; I remember all.

*By Ethan McGuire*



## Golden Shovel Poem

**Emily Dickinson's line, "To live is so startling, it leaves little time for anything else."**

Sometimes I want to  
rewind, redact the years, live  
backwards like Merlin. Is  
it ungrateful to wish it so?  
I want to start again with that startling  
first moment when it  
carried us away like leaves  
in a gale, with little  
knowledge of each other, but time  
for discovery, for possibility, for  
traveling anywhere, exploring anything,  
for becoming someone else.

*By Karen McAferty Morris*



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# Creative Submissions from Our Members: Photography

## Green Anole Lizard, Courtyard



*By Patricia Edmisten*

“A green anole may be an unlikely photography subject, but I was attracted to its vibrant color and the way it complemented the green lichen on the crepe myrtle trunk and the nearby hibiscus leaves.”

## What is Sophistication – Affording Brennan’s or Playing Bach in the Street?



*By Dottie King*

“This young lady in New Orleans was playing beautifully. I took a copy of this photo I took to give to her the next few times I went there but never saw her again. I take that as good news.”

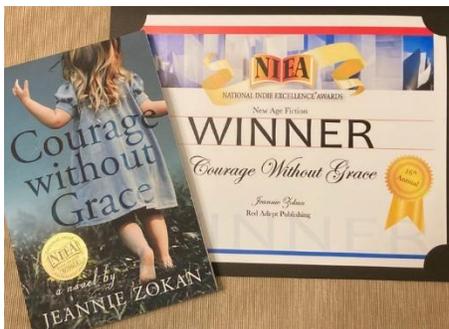
# Publishing and Member News

**Pat Black-Gould's** new Holocaust children's book, *The Crystal Beads, Lalka's Journey*, came to life in music and dance by a group of PEN Women whose collaboration led to this performance.

Genevieve Fortner danced to a section where a Jewish mother turns her child over to nuns in a convent to keep her safe. The music was by composer Sheila Firestone. The book's illustrator, Katya Royz, is the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor.



**Jeannie Zokan's** book, *Courage Without Grace*, won First Place in the New Age category for the National Indie Excellence Awards, and the stickers are in! Contact her at [Jeannieozokan@gmail.com](mailto:Jeannieozokan@gmail.com) to get yours!



**Karen McAferty Morris'** poem "In August, a Gleaning" appears in Sisyphus Literary Magazine's Summer 2022 issue, Poem #18. This issue's theme is hope, and the introduction states, "The authors in this issue share stories that inspire connectivity, support, leadership, community, and belief in deals over cynicism." <https://sisyphuslitmag.org/>



**Rosalie Morales Kearns** reached out to Emerald Coast Writers sharing her appreciation for Diane Skelton's review of *Opatoula* last month and wanted to let members know that her company, Shade Mountain Press, published a compilation of the author's new and collected works, entitled *All the Spectral Fractures*, which includes *Opatoula*. The author has a number of copies of the initial print run ([mhood@uwf.edu](mailto:mhood@uwf.edu)), and copies from the next print run are available at Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/All-Spectral-Fractures-Selected-Poems/dp/099846340X/>.

# Ongoing Workshops

## MONDAY'S WORD WEAVERS (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](mailto: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](mailto:dianeskelton@att.net).

*Please contact Diane regarding meetings during this time.*

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## Emerald Coast Writers 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  
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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)
- “Like” us on Facebook, (under) West Florida Literary Federation, at: <https://www.facebook.com/West-Florida-Literary-Federation-WFLF-255101747857712>
- “Follow” us on Twitter @WSTFLLITFED

# Join ECW or Renew Your Membership

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 Emerald Coast Writers 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 [www.wflf.org](http://www.wflf.org) and then email this form to [westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com](mailto:westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com)

or

Mail your check and this form to:  
Emerald Coast Writers  
400 South Jefferson Street, Suite 212  
Pensacola, FL 32502