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The Legend

Emerald Coast Writers, Inc.

Member Newsletter

www.wff.org

November 2022 Edition

No Open Mic in November. Instead, Join Us and Help Us Spread the Word about the Virtual Writers Conference on November 12!

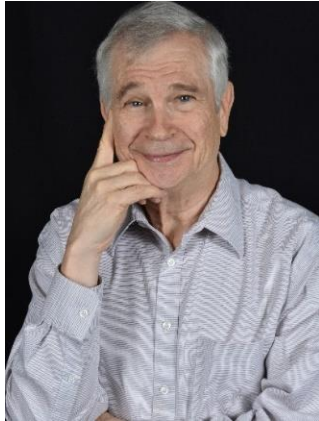
The November Monthly Open Mic and meeting for Emerald Coast Writers is cancelled. Your board is focusing all efforts on the planning and success of our Virtual Writers Conference happening on November 12! We hope to see you there where you can participate in an Open Mic at the close of the conference.

If you haven't registered yet, there is still time! If you can't make it on that day or can't stay for the whole conference, don't worry. It will be recorded, and you can watch all sessions at a later time. Please help us spread the word about this event! This issue of *The Legend* is filled with information about the wonderful speakers and topics featured during the conference.

Based on your feedback from the past two years, our members have said they want to learn from published authors and dynamic speakers.

So, support our conference by registering, attending, and helping us promote it to those you know! We greatly appreciate it, and this event will help determine future programming in ECW as well.

Message from the President



Besides ushering in the fall back to Standard Time, this November marks one of the busiest months for ECW in my 5 years as a member.

This past weekend we had another successful 3-day Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival where at the ECW booth a dozen authors sold their books, handed out copies of the 2022 Youth Writing Contest book to contest winners, and advised a number of aspiring authors on what ECW could do for their writing goals.

The next big event is this weekend when the ECW's virtual 2022 Writers Conference kicks off with seven workshops, a panel discussion, and a master class.

We have sessions on how to do historical research to book marketing without social media to creating compelling characters to the importance of voice in fiction. Our master class is on the importance of truth in non-fiction writing.

All our speakers are top-notch, best-selling authors and/or industry experts. Full details are online at [Emerald Coast Writers](https://www.emeraldcoastwriters.com). It's not too late to buy your ticket on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) (tickets are \$25 but use promo code **1987** for a \$10 ticket discount). Remember: recordings will be available for viewing for 30 days after the conference. Join friends this Saturday and Listen, Learn, Write.

–Tom Roberts



ECW Virtual Writers Conference

Are you a new or established writer looking for your writing path or wanting help with the next steps?

Find it at our day-long virtual writers' conference on November 12.

What will this conference include?

- 10 Award-Winning Authors
- Master Class Workshop
- Speakers on Poetry and Essays
- Truth in Nonfiction
- Characters, Plot, Setting
- Historical Romance
- Young Adult and Romance
- Thrillers and Mysteries
- Panel, Questions and Answers Session

Visit <https://www.emeraldcoastwritersinc.org/> for more information.



Or you can scan the QR code to visit our website about the conference. Learn more about speakers. See the conference schedule. Register.



Tickets are \$25, and a post-recording will be available to all registrants.

Meet Your ECW Virtual Writers Conference Speakers



Trish Milburn

Romance and YA Author

Trish Milburn is the USA Today bestselling author of more than 50 romance and young adult novels and novellas published with Harlequin, Penguin/Razorbill, Bell Bridge Books, Tule Publishing and via indie publishing. When she's not writing, she enjoys watching Asian dramas and listening to K-pop music, two passions that turned into inspiration for her *Idol in Love* and *Could Have Been a K-Drama* series.

In addition to her author website at www.trishmilburn.com she runs the Word of the K website at <http://wordofthek.com/> where she regularly posts about Korean entertainment and culture. Once a full-time magazine and newspaper journalist, she still does freelance writing and editing. All her social media links are listed on her website, but she's most active @TrishMilburn on Twitter.



Katherine Nelson-Born

Poet Laureate of NW Florida

Katherine Nelson-Born is the Northwest Florida Poet Laureate (2021-2023) and a board member of the Emerald Coast Writers, which will publish her forthcoming poetry book in 2023 as part of the Poet Laureate Series.

Katherine's forthcoming debut novel's introductory chapter won an award and chapter publication in the 2020 Seven Hills Review, available on Amazon, and her 2016 poetry book, *When Mockingbirds Sing*, is available at Finishing Line Press and Amazon.

Katherine's poems have appeared in numerous journals, including Alyss, Birmingham Poetry Review, Emerald Coast Review, GSU Review, Longleaf Pine, Maple Leaf Rag, Penumbra, and Of Poets and Poetry.

Her poetry previously won the University of New Orleans/ Tennessee Williams Ellipsis award, placed among finalists in the Agnes Scott College Writer's Festival, and earned "Honorable Mention" at the Alabama Writers Conclave.

Website: <https://katherinenelsonborn.ink>

Penny Sansevieri

Marketing Expert

Penny Sansevieri, CEO and founder of [Author Marketing Experts, Inc.](#) (AME) and Adjunct Professor at NYU, is a best-selling author and internationally recognized book marketing and media relations expert.

Her company is one of the leaders in the publishing industry and has developed some of the most cutting-edge book marketing campaigns.



Ruben Quesada

Poet and Essayist

Ruben Quesada is the editor of a hybrid collection of essays, *Latinx Poetics: Essays on the Art of Poetry* (November 15, 2022), collecting more than two dozen Hispanic and Portuguese poets. These essays explore the personal and academic practice of writing.

He is the author of *Revelations* and *Next Extinct Mammal: Poems*. He has served as poetry editor for *AGNI*, *PANK*, and *Pleiades* and as a poetry blogger for *The Kenyon Review* and *Ploughshares*. His writing appears in *The New York Times*, *Best American Poetry*, *American Poetry Review*, and *Harvard Review*. He is a Contributing Editor at *Tab Journal* at Chapman University.

Ruben has been honored by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events in the City of Chicago with an artist grant and fellowships from Canto Mundo, Lambda Literary Writers' Retreat, Community of Writers, Napa Valley Writers Conference, and Vermont Studio Center.

He has served as a coordinator for PEN America's literary awards committee and the Publishing Triangle Awards. He has taught at Vermont College of Fine Arts, Northwestern University, and The School of the Art Institute. Currently, he teaches in the UCLA Writers' Program and in the MFA Program in Creative Writing at Antioch University-Los Angeles. He is the 2022 Chair Nonfiction Committee and serves on the National Book Critics Circle (NBCC) board.

Latinx Poetics: Essays on the Art of Poetry will be available November 15, 2022.

Website: <https://www.rubenquesada.com/>



Vanessa Riley

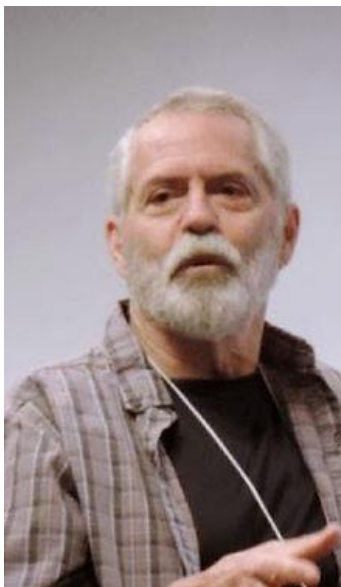
Author

Vanessa Riley is an award-winning author of historical romance, mystery, and fiction novels featuring realistic multicultural communities and powerful persons of color.

To fuel her interest in the Regency and early-Victorian eras, she made time for attending renaissance fairs and consuming period novels and films while obtaining her Ph.D. in mechanical engineering and a master's in industrial engineering and engineering management from Stanford University, as well as a BS and MS in mechanical engineering from Penn State

University.

A frequent speaker at literary, women's, and STEM events, she lives in Atlanta, Georgia with her military husband and teenage kid. Visit her online at VanessaRiley.com.



Chris Crutcher

Author, Therapist

Chris Crutcher was raised in Cascade, Idaho, a lumber and cattle ranch town located in the central Idaho Rockies.

Crutcher's years as teacher, then director, of a K-12 alternative school in Oakland, California through the nineteen-seventies, and his subsequent twenty-odd years as a therapist specializing in child abuse and neglect, inform his thirteen novels and two collections of short stories. He has also written what he calls an ill-advised autobiography titled *King of the Mild Frontier*, which was designated by "Publisher's Weekly" as "the YA book most adults would have read if they knew it existed."

Chris has received a number of coveted awards, from his high school designation as "Most Likely to Plagiarize" to the American Library Association's Margaret A. Edwards Lifetime Achievement Award. His favorites are his two Intellectual Freedom awards, one from the National Council for Teachers of English and the other from the National Coalition Against Censorship.

Five of Crutcher's books appeared on an American Library Association list of the 100 Best Books for Teens of the Twentieth Century (1999 to 2000).



Katie McCoach

Book Coach and Developmental Editor

Katie McCoach is a Los Angeles based developmental editor and book coach who's been helping writers get published since 2012. She works with writers to diagnose their manuscript roadblocks and give them the confidence and knowledge to grow their best stories.

Many of her authors have gone on to land agent representation and publishing deals, self-publish, and several have won awards. She is one of the founding editors and past board member of Revise & Resub (RevPit), a contest for emerging writers. She also previously served on the board of Contemporary Romance Writers.

In 2022, Katie founded Author Growth Corner, a supportive community where she bridges knowledge + application through monthly group coaching and critique sessions.

Website: <https://www.katiemccoach.com>



Master Class: Robert Fieseler

Author

Robert W. Fieseler is a National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association "Journalist of the Year" and the acclaimed debut author of *Tinderbox* – winner of the Edgar Award and the Louisiana Literary Award, shortlisted for the Saroyan International Prize for Writing.

Queer literary icon Andrew Holleran reviewed *Tinderbox* as "far more than just a history of gay rights," and Michael Cunningham praised it as "essential reading at any time." Fieseler is presently working on his second queer history book, which was a finalist for the J. Anthony Lukas Work-in-Progress Award. He graduated co-valedictorian from the Columbia Journalism School and lives with his husband and two kittens in New Orleans.

Website: <https://www.rwfieseler.com/>

Meet Your ECW Virtual Writers Conference Panelists

Panel Discussion: The Importance of Character and Voice in Fiction Writing



Elle Cosimano

Author of Thriller, Mystery and YA Fiction

Elle Cosimano is a USA Today bestselling author, an International Thriller Award winner, and an Edgar® Award nominee. Her acclaimed young adult novels include *Nearly Gone*, *Holding Smoke*, *The Suffering Tree*, and *Seasons of the Storm*. Elle's debut novel for adults, *Finlay Donovan Is Killing It*, kicked off a witty, fast-paced contemporary mystery series, which was a PEOPLE Magazine Pick and was named one of New York Public Library's Best Books of 2021.

In addition to writing novels for teens and adults, her essays have appeared in *The Huffington Post* and *Time*. Cosimano lives with her husband and two sons in Virginia.

Website: <https://www.ellecosimano.com/>



Sheritta Bitikofer

Author of Paranormal Romance and Historical Fiction

Sheritta Bitikofer is a paranormal romance and historical fiction author of eclectic tastes with a passion for storytelling and world-building. Her goal with each book is to rebel against shallow intimacy and inspire courage through the power of love and soulful passion while adding a twist of the supernatural to keep things interesting.

A devoted wife and fur-mama to two shelter rescue dogs, Sheritta's life is never dull. When she's not writing or researching, she's traveling to historic locations and haunting local coffee houses with

her husband.



Vanessa Riley

Author of historical romance, mystery, and fiction

Vanessa Riley is an award-winning author. Her historical novels showcase the hidden histories of Black women and women of color, emphasizing strong sisterhoods and dazzling multicultural communities. Her works encompass historical fiction, historical romance, and historical mystery.

She holds a doctorate in mechanical engineering and an MS in industrial engineering and engineering management from Stanford University. Riley also earned a BS and MS in mechanical engineering from Penn State University. Her research skills have helped NASA, GM, Hewlett Packard, and several startups. Yet, her love of history (Caribbean, Georgian, and Regency) and lattes overwhelmed her passion for math and has led to the publication of over twenty titles.

Virtual Writers Conference Schedule

All sessions on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022 (Central Time)

8:30 a.m.

Welcome: Your Conference Roadmap

9:00 a.m.

How to Make Your Plot, Characters, and Setting Come Alive, presented by Trish Milburn

9:30 a.m.

The Healing of Poetry is for Everyone (HOPE): Exploring the Power of Writing and Imagination, presented by Katherine Nelson-Born

10:30 a.m.

Market Your Book without Social Media – yes, you can! presented by Penny Sansevieri

11:00 a.m.

Poetry, Prose, and Prose Poetry—Spice Up Any Genre with Powerful Images and Poetic Lyricism, presented by Ruben Quesada

1:00 p.m.

Stepping into Research for Writing Historical Novels, presented by Vanessa Riley

1:30 p.m.

Telling the Truth in Fiction, presented by Chris Crutcher

2:30 p.m.

Creating Compelling Characters with Goal, Motivation, Flaw, Stakes, presented by Katie McCoach

3:00 p.m.

Truth or Truthy? Factual Reporting to Elevate Your Nonfiction Story, master class presented by Robert Fieseler

4:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion: The Importance of Voice in Fiction, featuring Elle Cosimano, Vanessa Riley, and Sheritta Bitikofer

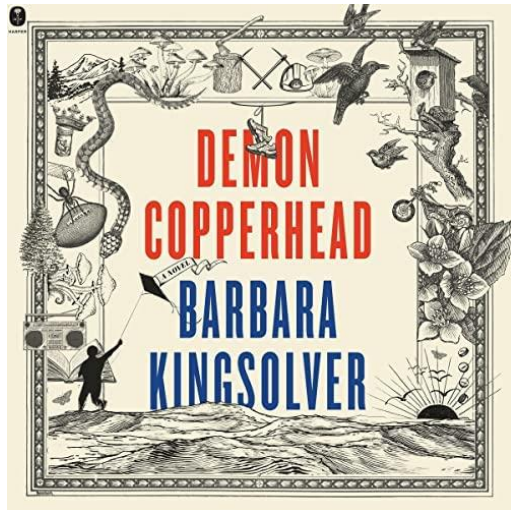
5:30 p.m.

Open Mic for all Conference Attendees

Note: All workshops are recorded and available to attendees for 30 days.

Book Review!

Karen McAferty Morris Reviews Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*



Inspired by Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*, this brand-new novel follows an engaging and endearing 10-year-old boy living in Appalachia who, with eyes wide open and a heartbreaking self- and world-knowledge, struggles to overcome situations that would bring most of us to our knees.

With themes of poverty, drug addiction, the horrors of foster care, and devastating personal loss, this book is not always easy to read (or hear--I listened to it in a brilliantly narrated audiobook). Yet it is so enriching to accompany this child as grows to young adulthood, and to admire the indomitable spirit that human beings often must tap into.

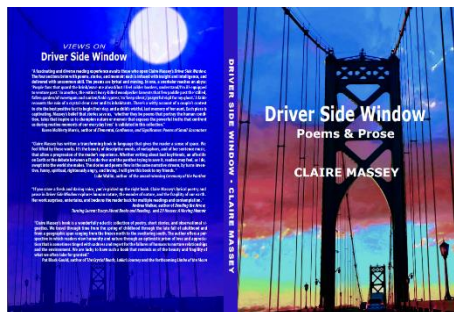
This narrator's voice is pitch-perfect, and often his wit and turn of phrase made me laugh out loud. The novel is peopled with characters of all kinds, all perfectly rendered. Damon, nicknamed "Demon," draws from his athletic and artistic talent, as well as his love of friends and family and desire to be part of one, in order to carry on.

Encountered near the end of the book is another theme, the common attitude of the world to look down upon the people of Appalachia, the people “of the land.” From personal experience of spending my first ten years in southern West Virginia, I know how beautiful it is, and how kind and hardworking its people can be in an environment of many challenges. Others in the ECW share the same love of these mountains. Have you read Julie DeMarko’s *Blue Ridge Childhood* or Patricia Edmisten’s “*A Quiet Beauty: Images of the Blue Ridge in Words and Photos*”? Do check them out.

Kingsolver (the author of one my very favorite books, *The Poisonwood Bible*) has written two other excellent ones, *Flight Behavior* and *Prodigal Summer*, also set in the Appalachians. (Kingsolver herself was raised in eastern Kentucky.) With *Demon Copperhead*, she has once again superbly created a fictional world to learn from, to admire, and to inspire.

I recommended *Demon Copperhead* to my brother Rick in San Diego, who told me that the library there had a 200-people hold on this book. Since no one should have to wait to read it, I ordered him a copy and can’t wait to hear what he thinks.

Publishing and Member News



Driver Side Window, Poems & Prose, Claire Massey’s collection of flash fiction, memoir vignettes, poems, and interpretive photographs, is now available from Amazon!

Claire enjoyed collaborating with ECW member and author, Diane Skelton, to complete this project. Diane acted as book designer and publishing consultant. Author and visual artist, Luke Wallin, created the book’s striking cover.

ECW author members Karen Morris, Andrea Walker, and Pat Black-Gould served as alpha readers and contributed the reviews featured on ***Driver Side Window's*** back cover.

Claire plans to donate any author royalties earned to the non-profit Florida Wildlife Federation.

For comments and questions, please contact Claire at cmd3929@gmail.com. Here is the link to view the book description: [Driver Side Window: Poems & Prose](#)

Claire is grateful to all her friends in ECW, who have provided encouragement and support throughout her years of membership in the organization.



Join Our Emerald Coast Writers Board in 2023!

A new year means a new opportunity to enhance Emerald Coast Writers! Board elections are coming up soon. ECW will have four open positions on our board in 2023 since terms are ending:

- Vice President,
- Secretary and
- Two (2) Board Members

These four positions will be available.

Here's 10 reasons why you should think of volunteering and applying:

1. Give back to this great organization that you enjoy and that has helped you!
2. Learn new skills and gain experience. Current board members will help you, teach you and support you.
3. Put your ideas into action.
4. Use your voice to help other writers in the community.
5. Volunteerism is always a good, rewarding idea.
6. Add this role to your resume and professional development.
7. Make new friends.
8. Share your knowledge and experience with others.
9. Uplift our organization and the local writers' community.
10. Be the person and the change you want to see.

Nominations are now being accepted. Current ECW members may nominate a member for an open position by submitting the name of the member by email to our nominating chair, Mandy Fernandez, at: writtenbymandy@gmail.com.

Include "ECW 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 Vice President, Secretary, and 2 Board Members.
- Copies of the ECW bylaws can be requested by sending an email to: westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com.

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.

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.

Emerald Coast Writers Board of Directors

President: Tom Roberts
Vice President: Mandy Fernandez
Secretary: Charline Barger
Treasurer: Scott Finelli
Director: Lori O’Gara
Director/Poet Laureate: Katherine Nelson-Born
Legend Editor: Katie Rankin

- Check out our website at: www.wflf.org
- “Like” us on Facebook, (under) West Florida Literary Federation, at: <https://www.facebook.com/West-Florida-Literary-Federation-WFLF-255101747857712>
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ECW is a proud member of the
Community of Literary
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PROUD MEMBER



COMMUNITY OF LITERARY MAGAZINES & PRESSES
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Join ECW or Renew Your Membership

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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 and then email this form to westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com

or

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