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# *The Legend*

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

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

**October 2022 Edition**

## **Join us at the Open Mic on October 18, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom!**

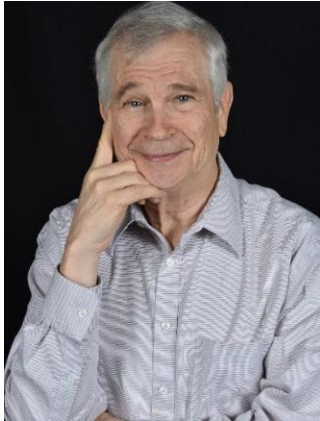
We look forward to seeing you this month at our virtual Open Mic meeting. Come early at 6:00 p.m. and join us for the networking / social portion of the meeting. Visit with old friends and meet new members.

Then, at 6:30 p.m., don't miss the Open Mic, where you'll hear featured readings from a few ECW fiction writers! Each writer will have 15 minute to read their work, which can be a short story, flash fiction, or an excerpt from a longer work, such as a novel, novella, etc. Fiction writers, to be a featured speaker at a future Open Mic, send an email to Tom Roberts at [tome129@hotmail.com](mailto:tome129@hotmail.com).

A Zoom link for the meeting will be sent this week, so keep an eye out, and mark your calendar for the evening of fun and fiction!



# Message from the President



It's October, and it's starting to feel like Fall. We dodged a hurricane, but many in our state were not so lucky. If you can help out our fellow Floridians, please do what you can through organizations like the American Red Cross and others.

While temperatures are moderating, things are heating up at Emerald Coast Writers. Several big events are happening in the next six weeks starting with October's **Monthly Meeting and Open Mic**. This month is devoted to fiction writers, and we have a number of our members who will be featured speakers, reading flash fiction, short stories, and novel excerpts. See the full details in this month's issue of *The Legend*.

Next month we have two BIG events happening. From November 4-6, ECW will host a booth at the **Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival/Heritage Arts** where our published authors will be selling their books. If you want to sell your book, please sign up for up to five 1-hour slots. Do so at the Signup Genius link [HERE](#) using Access Code 1987.

Additional signup slots will become available later this month. This booth is for ECW members only.

The other exciting event coming up for our members is our **2022 Virtual Writers Conference**. You've asked for additional writer education and workshops, and we are happy to provide them in this daylong, online event scheduled for Saturday, November 12. We have a dream team of speakers lined up to present 6 workshops, a panel discussion, and a master class at the event, with topics from various genres including poetry, fiction, non-fiction writing, and marketing.

Your ECW Board has worked hard over an intense month to get everything in place, including a new website created for the conference. It's still under final construction, but you can check out the conference details [HERE](#). Tickets to the event's workshops will be discounted to \$15 for ECW members and will be available soon on Eventbrite (check your email for upcoming links and details). We hope this is the start of an annual event.

A final bit of business: there is always need for volunteers to help with the work of keeping ECW the vibrant group it strives to be. Please step up if you can. There will also be open Board of Directors positions coming up in 2023. If you would like to help make an impact, please consider putting your hat in the ring. No experience necessary!

Keep writing!

—Tom Roberts

# Meet Our Members:

## Charlotte Crane



For nearly 70 years, writing has been a part of who Charlotte Crane is to the core. She shared in her own words her writing journey and history:

“I began as a Wisconsin high school girl reporting small town news for a weekly newspaper during summer break. Then I was a business editor for 26 years for the Pensacola News Journal. This was topped by a decade-long career frosting as Northwest Florida regional correspondent for Florida’s Florida Trend business magazine.

As business editor for PNJ, I was thrilled to introduce readers to new businesses which often evolved into major economic foundations for our area. My work involved outstanding entrepreneurs such as Quint Studer and super-growth employers such as Navy Federal. Hotels, restaurants, shopping centers, factories and beaches. Second to that my content was roadways

leavened by storms, bridge breakage and occasional economic pause. All were exciting. And so was the opportunity to cover regional developments for Florida Trend.

In later years, however, as I completed my full-time employment career, there immersed change. I write now for different formats – converting from factual economics to creative poetry, storytelling, history and memoirs. And for that, for me, Emerald Coast Writers has been a guiding light.

I signed up for classes, exchanging formats with members and teachers, including Katherine Nelson-Born, Jack Beach, Andrea Walker and Diane Skelton – writing veterans who offered reasoning and rhyming to help make participants’ creations better like my own.

I became involved with the ECW structure as well, serving two terms on the board of directors, beginning in 2014, assisting with projects such as Student Poetry Awards and airing the good works through contributing articles for Independent News and Pensacola magazine.

And for my own delight, I wrote poetry and short stories, history and memoirs. My published works include a family memoir, two histories for Pensacola Habitat for Humanity, a co-written history of Escambia United Way and a fiction book called The Tales of Aunt Maddy. Emerald Coast Review also has published several of my pieces.

Of course, every human since the caveman species has felt the need to maintain self and a sideline – as I did. The reason for my family’s move to Pensacola was the foundation of the

University of West Florida, which provided a faculty position for my then husband, Frank Wittwer. Prior to the move, I had received a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin, and later, I earned a master's degree.

I was first introduced to the area payroll by United Way, writing publicity which helped to introduce me to the PNJ position. Close family members today are my son Scott, daughter Ellen and grandson Lucas. My son Brian and the children's father have since passed.

Currently I am working with publisher Linda Wasserman on a book of my poetry and prose. That's exciting too. My other passion besides writing is baking. Friends and strangers sometimes refer to me as the Cookie Lady. My treat prices are reasonable."

Thank you, Charlotte, for sharing your writing journey and history with us! We're glad to have you a part of ECW!

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## Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming Events

### ECW Booth at the Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival



Emerald Coast Writers will have a booth at the 2022 **Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival** (Heritage Arts section). The festival will run **November 4-6**, with hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. If you are an author with books to sell, come be a part of this wonderful event that celebrates the arts in Northwest Florida.

We hope you can find a time slot that works for you to participate in this popular event. See the full schedule at the link below and sign up for one slot or several. The ECW booth can accommodate up to three authors in each hour-long time period. Initially, **please limit your sign-ups to no more than five time slots**. As we get closer to the event, additional times will be available.

We will follow the same procedures as last year with all sales, including sales tax, made through ECW. Authors will receive funds from their sales by check from ECW. The booth, credit card payment process, and bags for purchases will be provided compliments of ECW with no charge to selling authors.

To sell your book(s) at the festival, please sign up via the Sign-Up Genius link below and enter **Access Code 1987**.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49A9A822A7FECE9-ecwarts>

We need volunteers to help set up and take down the booth and volunteers to be sales cashiers during open festival hours. Cashier volunteers can sign up using the same author link above. To volunteer for set up/take down, email us at [westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com](mailto:westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com) with the subject line “GGAF Booth Volunteer.”

We encourage all members to stop by our booth, meet your fellow members, and buy a book!

## ECW Writers’ Conference

Looking for your writing path? Find it at our day-long virtual writers’ conference on November 12.

Session topics will include:

- How to Make Your Plot, Characters, and Setting Come Alive by Trish Milburn
- The Healing of Poetry is for Everyone: Exploring the Power of Writing and Imagination by Katherine Nelson Born
- Market Your Book without Social Media – Yes, You Can! by Penny Sansevieri
- Poetry, Prose, and Prose Poetry – Spice Up Any Genre with Powerful Images and Poetic Lyricism by Ruben Quesada
- Telling the Truth in Fiction by Chris Crutcher
- Creating Compelling Characters with Goal, Motivation, Flaw, Stakes by Katie McCoach
- Truth or Truthy? Factual Reporting to Elevate Your Nonfiction Story by Robert Fieseler
- Panel Discussion – The Importance of Voice and Character in Fiction by Elle Cosimano, Vanessa Riley, and Sheritta Bitikofer

Learn more at <https://www.emeraldcoastwritersinc.org/>.

### Can’t make it on Nov. 12?

**Don’t worry!** If you register, you’ll have 30 days after the conference to view the recordings of each speaker. If you can only make some of the sessions or can’t be in both tracks, this is your chance to watch and learn at a later time that’s convenient for you.



# Announcements

## 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.*

## Winners of the 2022 Youth Writing Contest: The Book Anthology of Winning Pieces is Coming!

Books will be handed out at our Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival booth Nov. 4-6.



# Creative Submissions from Our Members

## To Parents of Miscarriage and Stillbirth

By Betty Hassler

Little tiny feet and hands that will not run and play,  
Trees unclimbed, blocks unstacked, a cheek unkissed today.  
But in my dreams I see you still and frame your tender face.  
And at my table, settings laid, I save you, dear, a place.

I know you're just a blink away, a prayer, a loving thought.  
I'll join you in His heavenly realm, my home already bought.  
I'll praise and sing and joyfully tell to all both near and far,  
Not who you were or could have been but who you really are.

## The Missing Broach

By Betty Hassler

Pamela sat surrounded by several boxes in her attic. Surely, Aunt Josephine's broach was in her mother's jewelry box. She'd placed the jewelry box in a bigger box, along with a few of her mother's somewhat tasteless artifacts. Why hadn't she identified the box in black magic marker?

All the jewelry was costume, and when her mother died, she'd not known what to do with the utterly worthless bangles, beads, and imitation jeweled rings. The jewelry box itself was handmade and had passed to three generations—including Pamela. Aside from sentimental value, it wasn't particularly pretty. In fact, it *looked* homemade—and homely.

That was seven years ago. Now a number of additional boxes had made it to the attic with no particular organization. When Aunt Josephine died recently, her daughter Felicia had asked for the broach back. Felicia, who claimed to have an almost photographic memory, insisted the borrowed broach, an object of great emotional attachment, must be returned.

Knowing Aunt Josephine had married well, Pamela suspected the broach had some monetary value. Felicia described its white swan on an onyx background with a gold frame. Pamela searched her memory to recall borrowing such an ostentatious ornament.

Ah! The sorority party. A roaring twenties theme. Trying to dance the Charleston. The broach holding together an all-too-plunging neckline of her flapper outfit. Why hadn't she given it back to Aunt Josephine after the dance?

Probably because Aunt Josephine had so many jewels she never asked for it back. And also because Pamela had absent-mindedly returned it to her mother's jewelry box instead. After all, the two sisters—though utterly different—were closest of friends. She'd assumed her mother would find the brooch and return it to her sister.

The attic dust was kicking up her asthma. She needed to find the jewelry box soon, or she'd have to go downstairs to get her inhaler. What to do? She was running out of breath and options.

Pamela collapsed into a covered high-backed chair. She'd forgotten she still had the chair, much less her mother's things. Her eyes darted to each corner of the attic.

Meow. Heavens! Old crabby Tabby had followed her up the stairs. She knew her cat's meows, and this one wasn't pleasant. Where was she? The meows grew louder and angrier. She glanced at her watch. Dinnertime. The cat ate an early dinner so she could catch an early nap before her early bedtime.

Pamela rose from the chair and followed the cat's sounds until she found the animal stuck between the wooden beams of one wall and a box. She pushed the box aside and rescued the cat, whose girth probably accounted for her being trapped. In a huff, Tabby pawed slowly toward the stairs, expecting Pamela to follow suit.

Pamela knelt instead by the box she'd pushed aside. Intuition told her to open the lid. Inside, she dug beneath a pile of photos and knickknacks, and there she found it. The jewelry box. Crisis averted. She opened it and carefully picked up the brooch.

Then, she followed Tabby down the stairs, thinking for the first time in ages, how fortunate she was to have such an intuitive cat.





# “My Writing Space” Submissions from Our Members

**Diane Skelton**



**Claire Massey**



**Betty Hassler**



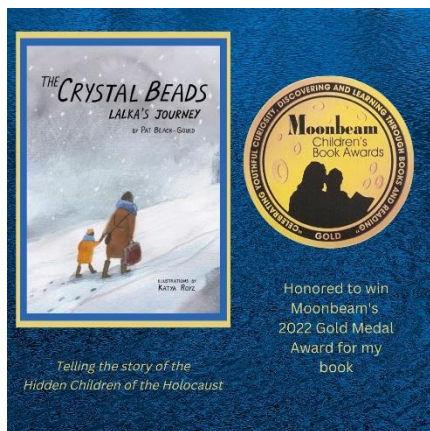
*"I'm old-school enough that putting pen to paper is always my first step. The ink meets the page in the morning, on my screened porch, as I savor coffee. First drafts of the first draft are always handwritten. There is something about sitting down at my 'office' computer that feels so structured, definitive, and final. I tend to delay my screen sessions, preferring that creative first stage, when the story flows from my fingers the old-fashioned way, in cursive writing."*

– Claire Massey

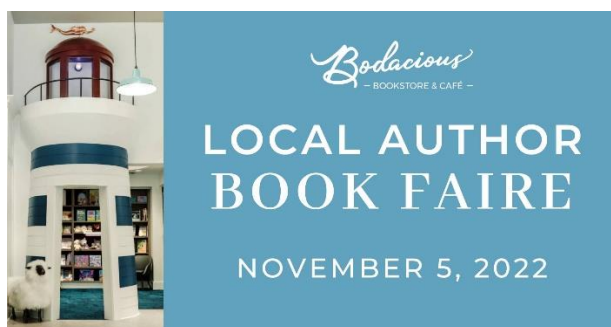
# Publishing and Member News

**Deborah Bassett** is launching a radio station in November and has confirmed a live weekly show out of the UK with poet and musician Marc Woodward. Mark your calendars for the launch on November 24 and follow [Sandcastle Radio](#) for more information.

**Pat Black-Gould's** book, "The Crystal Beads: Lalka's Journey," received the Moonbeam Children's Book Award – First Place. Congrats, Pat!



**Diane Skelton** was selected as one of the authors for Bodacious Bookshop's first Author Faire on Saturday, November 5, during the Foo Foo Festival. Booksellers will be outside the store in Balloon Alley.



**Lori Zavada's** poem "Golden Hope" is featured on the National League of American Pen Women's website. Check it out [here](#).

**Andrea Walker's** poem "Communion" will appear on the *Silver Birch Press* blog series *One Good Memory*.

## 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.*

# Emerald Coast Writers Board of Directors

ECW is a proud member of the  
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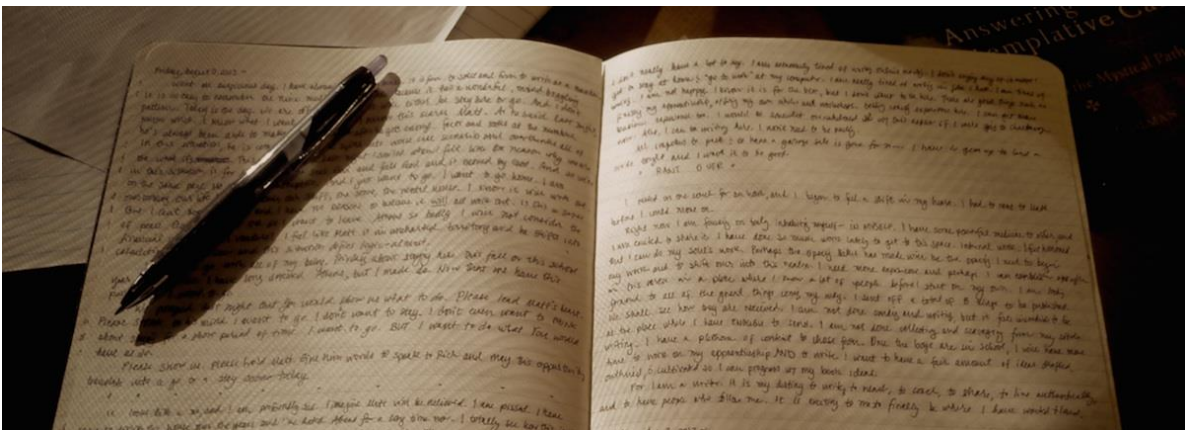
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# Join ECW or Renew Your Membership

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Check one please:      New \_\_\_\_\_      Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

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Circle the items you **do not** want published in the Emerald Coast Writers members only directory:

Address

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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

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