



**Temporary logo*

The Legend

Emerald Coast Writers, Inc.

Member Newsletter

www.wff.org

January 2023 Edition

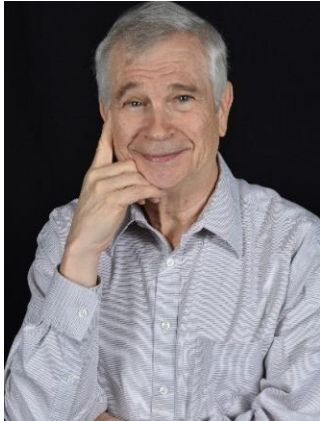
January Open Mic: Special Date and Time

Writers, we are entering a new year. And we are kicking off our first Open Mic at a new date and time for this meeting only. **Join us for this one-time, special event on January 24th at 6:30 p.m.** The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m., and the first 30 minutes will be greetings, updates, and post-holiday talk.

Since it's a new year, it's time to think outside your comfort zone and how you can write in new ways and possibly in new genres, formats, and styles. Two ECW members will serve as our guest speakers. Andrea Walker and Pat Black-Gould will share how they've pushed themselves outside their comfort zone and found a successful new path. Their stories will inspire you and hopefully cause you to think differently about your own writing goals and success. The open mic will follow.

If you know you want to read, sign up ahead of time. Please read something new or at least new to ECW that hasn't been shared at an open mic before. If you know you'd like to read, let host Mandy Fernandez (writtenbymandy@gmail.com) know so she can plan for you. If you decide to read at the event, a time limit may be used, depending on the number of interested readers and formats. We hope to see you there. Pre-register your attendance here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ude-gpj4qHNJHLMwU6FwiOYrN-qzxCTGI>

Message from the President



Happy New Year from your ECW Board. Plans are already in the forming stage for our activities for 2023. Throughout the year, there will be opportunities for members to volunteer and get involved in all of our events and endeavors. It's not too late to be a part of the idea generation and planning phases of 2023. The Events Committee met this week and generated a number of worthy ideas. We will meet again on January 26, so if you want to participate, drop us an email.

This month, we are having our monthly meeting and open mic one week later than normal on January 24. Mandy Fernandez has an exciting program set up. You can read the details in this issue of *The Legend*.

An important reminder: we will hold our annual membership meeting on February 21. At the meeting, new Board members will be elected, and the "state of ECW" will be presented.

After the business meeting, we will hold an open mic, so bring your writing. The event will be held online using Zoom. If you have not used Zoom, please take a look at the link provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also, membership dues should be paid by January 1, so if you haven't paid yours yet, you may do so online or by mailing a completed membership application (see below) and check to our Jefferson Steet address.

We are still accepting nominations for members to join the ECW Board. We have two open Director positions and an open Secretary position. If you are interested, please contact Mandy Fernandez (writtenbymandy@gmail.com) or Diane Skelton (dianeskelton@att.net).

I am heading off January 7th on a long dreamed of trip down south, way south, to Antarctica. Charlotte and I are going on a National Geographic expedition trip. I spent a year at the "top of the world" in Greenland (thanks, Uncle Sam), so I thought I'd see what the other end looks like. I will try sending photos as we go, and Mandy and Diane will be posting them on our public and private Facebook accounts.

With a new year comes new resolutions to start/continue writing. That's what I'm trying to do in 2023. I hope you will as well.

If you have any comments about any ECW topics, send them to me at tome129@hotmail.com or to our Gmail account westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com.

–Tom Roberts

News and Announcements

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
- Up to Four (4) Board Members

These three 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.

How to Nominate:

Nominations are now being accepted. Current members of ECW may nominate a member for an open position by submitting the name of the member by email to 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 Directors – Four.
- Copies of the bylaws can be requested by sending an email to westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com.



Renew Your ECW Membership at
<https://wflf.org/Membership!>

Why Renew Your Emerald Coast Writers Membership?

We are better writers, artists, and community members when we work together, share our love of art, and let our creative voices be heard! Renew your membership with ECW to gain or continue the following:

- **Resources and Network** – Be part of our network where we share resources that will help you with your writing goals.
- **Events** – ECW hosts annual youth writing contests. We also participate in the Foo Foo Festival, and at times, the Pensacola Palafox Market. You can learn more about these events from our website and monthly newsletter.
- **Newsletter** – We have a monthly newsletter, *The Legend*, that shares ECW news or recaps past news about our members, along with
 - **Monthly Meetings*** – Every month we have a meeting that we refer to as “open mic night.” It occurs the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. We kick off the meeting with a few announcements and news. Then we invite ECW members to share their writing in a public forum. Sometimes we have special events and readings, such as our recent Haiku Slam. We will send you an invitation to join but go ahead and mark your calendar now for the third Tuesday of each month. You can listen in and participate when you’re ready!
*Right now, the meetings are happening virtually using Zoom. In-person meetings may resume later this year if enough participation and interest is warranted.
- **Weekly Writing and Critique Groups*** – ECW has two ongoing weekly writing and critique groups. See page later in the newsletter for this information. *Groups are subject to change. Right now, the groups are meeting virtually.
- **Social Media** – Follow us on social media. We have an outward facing Facebook page and Twitter page.
 - Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/West-Florida-Literary-Federation-WFLF-255101747857712>

continuing education opportunities, featured members’ writing and more. You can submit your work to be featured or share your writing news with the Legend editor.

- Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/wstfllitfed>

We also have a private Facebook group page for our current members. There is where we can get more personal in a private, secure setting. In this group we share writing ideas, ask questions, share writing contests and more. If you would like to be added to that page, send a request directly to Mandy Fernandez at writtenbymandy@gmail.com and give her the email address that is associated with your Facebook account so we can send you an email invitation.

- **Writing Opportunities** – Every other year since 1989, the ECW has published the Emerald Coast Review (ECR), an anthology that showcases gulf coast Florida and Alabama regional writers and artists. Read more about the ECR on our website, <https://wflf.org/ecr>. ECW offers engaging writing challenges and opportunities to share writing throughout the year in different ways. Past examples include a poem-a-day challenge and a Haiku challenge. You can learn more about these events and how we sponsor or host them from our website and monthly newsletter.
- **Open to Ideas: Always Looking for Volunteers!** – At ECW, we are always open to new ideas. If you have a suggestion to make us a better organization, please let us know. If you would like to volunteer for a project or service, please reach out to a board member. We will put you in touch with the right

people or encourage you to lead efforts. There is always something to do and a way to give back and help fellow writers and our community. Send your requests and ideas to westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com.

- **Membership Renewal** – Membership dues are renewable each year in January (or by February of the annual meeting) of the next year after you join. Dues and donations are tax deductible as we function as a 501(c3) nonprofit organization.

Again, we welcome you to ECW! Let us know how we can help you share your talents and support you!



2023 Event Committee Members Needed

Just a reminder that we still need help on our Events Planning Committee. This committee will help plan our 2023 group events. The committee will not run the events, but will be a resource for members who want to hold events such as contests, workshops, etc. We need your ideas and energy in the coming year. Reach out to westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.



Gulf Breeze Senior Center to Publish Environmental Anthology

ECW Member Diane Skelton, who teaches the Memories to Memoir class at the Gulf Breeze Senior Center, is encouraging area writers to submit to an environment-themed anthology. The senior center, which has received a grant from the United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church, is spending a year focusing on Seniors and the Environment by sponsoring special programs about the environment, nature, wildlife, and gardening along with clean-up activities.

Submissions to the anthology are free. The only criteria is living in zip codes 32561, 32562, or 32563, and being over the age of 55. Those living outside those zip codes may become a member of the

Gulf Breeze Senior Center, which is \$40 yearly and cheaper than some submission or entry fees.

Poetry, prose, nonfiction, and short fiction, as well as art and photography are welcome. Memoir topics encouraged include visits to national parks, personal environmental and gardening projects, camping and fishing, adventures in nature, nature walks, wildflowers, wildlife encounters, and local nostalgic pieces about the beach, the sound, or the bay. The anthology will be published in Spring 2023. Those with work accepted will receive a free copy and be invited to read. **Deadline is February 28, 2023.**

The Memories to Memoir class recently published *A Collection of Lives: Lessons, Passions and Celebrations*. Authors presented a reading at the Gulf Breeze Senior Center at St. Francis of Assisi Church on December 14. The class meetings Mondays at 10:30 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi.

PROUD MEMBER



COMMUNITY OF LITERARY MAGAZINES & PRESSES
W W W . C L M P . O R G

Submission Opportunities Through CLMP

Emerald Coast Writers is a proud member of the Community of Literary Magazines & Presses (CLMP), and as such, our members have access to their submission opportunities, including:

- [Creative Nonfiction Foundation: New Narratives about Caring for the Heart](#) (deadline: January 23)
- [Capsule Stories: Poems, Short Stories, and Essays](#) (deadline: February 28)
- [Red Hen Press: Unpublished Manuscript – Women Writers](#) (deadline: February 28)
- [Read Furiously: Novellas, Black and White Comic One-Shots, Long Form Essays](#) (deadline: March 1)
- [Raleigh Review: Poetry and Short Fiction](#) (deadline: March 31)
- [Humana Obscura: New and Emerging Writers](#)

Creative Submissions from Our Members: *Poetry*

After the Solstice

By Andrea Walker

At only four o'clock,
the sun drops low,
winter sunset streaks the sky with blazing color.
Another short busy day comes to a close.
Its wrinkles smooth in the quiet at home,
the warmth of a fire.

A sun worshipper, I don't like short cold days.
Winter brings a nagging thread of dread.
With a sigh, I remind myself it won't last.
Busy weeks will bring the solstice
then daylight will linger a minute longer each day.

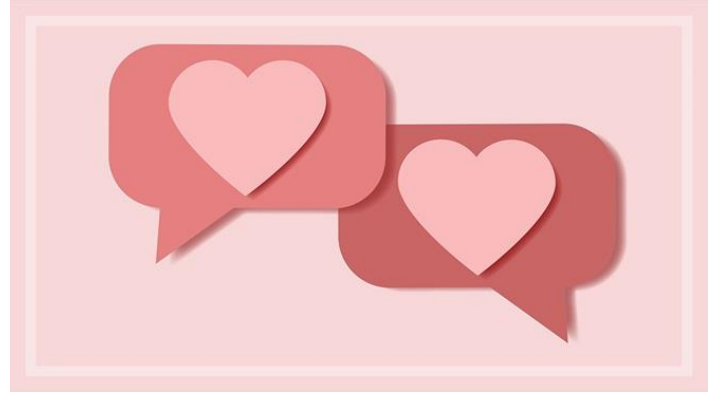
When I catch my breath on New Year's Day,
surprise, anticipation seizes me.
January shyly ushers in a reign of hope.
Long cold nights awaken to
promise of fresh starts
dreams of verdant spring.



Meeting, Dating, Debating

By Dr. Jennifer Miller

Where to meet a guy?
You could try a bar!
Well just any guy?
A 'bar find' is more like a 'bar fly'
OK, not a guy...
A lounge!
So a 'lounge lizard' and brain?
Nahhh, never mind that too...
I don't want a guy or lounge find
Nor do I want a dude
Could I find a gentleman?
Long-term, husband material!
Not a love bombing one night stand...
Or boy trying to imitate a man
Not a bust or butt gazer
Not a clock or calendar counting chaser
What happened to respectful pursuit?
A dance of. "I want to get to know you"
Perhaps, eventually...
I like you, love me, and love both
One day...maybe



Creative Submissions from Our Members: *My Writing Space Photos*

By Patrick Cochran



January 2023

Legend – 8

Publishing and Member News

Poetry Reading at Artel Feb. 9 to Complement Its Show “Word”

By Karen Morris

In conjunction with Artel Gallery’s show “Word” (Jan. 17 - Feb. 24), Pensacola Pen Women will present “The Art of Words” on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. The public is invited to this hour-long program featuring the poetry of seven of the finest contemporary U.S. poets. Hearing the words of these renowned poets in such a beautiful setting promises to be an evening you won’t want to miss.

The seven poets are Ada Limón (current U.S. Poet Laureate), Ted Kooser, Billy Collins, Natasha Trethewey, Rita Dove (all former U.S. Poets Laureate), Louise Glück (former U.S. Poet Laureate and 2022 Nobel Prize winner), and Mary Oliver (called “far and away, this country’s best-selling poet” by the NY Times). The poems on the program have been selected because of their particularly vivid descriptive nature.

Of the seven Pen Women readers, five are also members of ECW: Andrea Walker, Claire Massey, Debra Stogner, Jessica Temple, Karen Morris, and Lori Zavada. At the end of the formal reading, each reader will read one of her own poems, and there will be plenty of door prizes, including copies of the readers’ published books.

the art of
WORDS

an evening of
contemporary poetry

in complement
to Artel Gallery's WORD Show,
the Pen Women of Pensacola present
readings from some of the most
influential poets of our time.

Thursday - Feb 9th - 7 p.m.
Hosted & Read by the National League of American Pen Women

Artel Gallery
225 Palafox Pl, Pensacola, FL 32502

Karen McAferty Morris’ poem “Eggs for Sale” appears in the Winter 2023 issue of *Persimmon Tree*, an online quarterly journal that “showcases the creativity and talent of women over sixty.” The Guest Judge for this issue remarked that though she first thought to make selections based on some pre-existing theme, “As I read the hundreds of submissions and made my final choices, what struck me was their diversity. Short poems, longer poems; narrative poems, lyrics, experimental poems—together they create a rich array of voices and formal possibilities.” You can view the poems and find out more about this journal at persimmontree.org.

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>.
- “Follow” us on Twitter @WSTFLLITFED

ECW is a proud member of the
Community of Literary
Magazines & Presses.

PROUD MEMBER



COMMUNITY OF LITERARY MAGAZINES & PRESSES
W W W . C L M P . O R G

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 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