

**Temporary logo*

The Legend

Emerald Coast Writers, Inc.

Member Newsletter

www.wflf.org

March 2023 Edition

Join Us for the March Monthly Meeting And Open Mic!

Please join us on Zoom for our monthly meeting and open mic on March 21. We'll start at 6:00 p.m. for networking, followed by a special program at 6:30 on co-authoring presented by Brendan and Lori O'Gara.

Co-authoring can be challenging and rewarding. Brendan and Lori O'Gara write in fantasy, contemporary fiction, and nonfiction genres. They have published four books together and are currently working on the next. Join them to discuss how to co-write with a partner successfully, from organizing your work, sharing research tasks, and more. Learn how to use your differing strengths and writing styles to produce a cohesive story.

Open mic will conclude our program. The Zoom registration link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqcOGraj0sGNKEKCKCLPz5-TDrqXqjhWGu>

Message from the President

Welcome to the March 2023 edition of *The Legend*, published monthly by Emerald Coast Writers. I have lots of news to report this month. Without further ado, I'll begin.

In February, we held our annual membership meeting. Again, we decided to hold this on Zoom for, hopefully, the last time (ever). Next month, we are going to try a hybrid meeting in-person and on Zoom. At the annual meeting, we elected a new slate of directors as well as a new officer, secretary Katie Rankin. Charline Barger, the previous secretary, is now our Board Vice President. New directors are Pat Black-Gould, Jennifer Powell, and Carolyn Tokson. The voting membership also passed two changes to ECW's Bylaws: (1) All references to West Florida Literary Federation/WFLF were changed to Emerald Coast Writers/ECW. We also dropped references to the founding groups. (2) The annual meeting will be held in January instead of February.

On March 17th, we are going to be part of Pensacola's Gallery Night! We will have a booth where members can meet the public, sell their books, and promote Emerald Coast Writers. We'll also have a table at The Nest on Palafox. Details coming in an email. This is the first time I can remember being part of Gallery Night. Also of note, member and former Poet Laureate Jamey Jones will be a featured artist at Gallery Night. He'll do readings of his poetry in the Artel facility.

Our Events Committee has been hard at work planning events and lining up

speakers for us. Pat Black-Gould has contacted a number of authors and industry professionals to speak with us. She's also been lining up our monthly meeting and open mic schedule so you will have a look ahead to what we plan for this year. Our schedule should be finalized soon. Tonya Dalhaus has been planning a book fair event for March 2024. The O'Gara's, Lori and Brendan, are also looking into being ECW being a part of the 2024 Pensacon. This gives us plenty of time to execute both rewarding events. More details on these and other initiatives will be announced as plans take shape. We are aiming to make 2023-2024 a memorable year for Emerald Coast Writers.

I'd like to drop a reminder that Poet Laureate Katherine Nelson-Born is holding a Haiku Challenge with the Theme "What Inspires You." For details, check the Emerald Coast Writers Facebook private and public Facebook pages.

We have extended the deadline for our 2023 Youth Writing and Art Contest. The new deadline is March 31. So, spread the word to any educators or students you know in the Escambia or Santa Rosa systems (public, private, and home-schooled), Contact Vice President Charline Barger for more info and to learn how you can help her judge the contest or putting on the awards ceremony. Visit our website for more details at https://wflf.org/news-details/post_detail/2023-youth-writing-contest.

Enjoy the rest of *The Legend* and be sure to join us at our next monthly meeting, March 21st, 6:00 pm.

–Tom Roberts

News and Announcements

Mark Your Calendar for March and April ECW Events!

Gallery Night

Emerald Coast Writers will take part in the March 17 Gallery Night in Downtown Pensacola. We will have a booth near Artel and a table at The Nest café on Palafox. Any member who would like to pass out brochures, greet attendees, and/or sell books at the booth should send their contact info to us by email no later than March 15. Please indicate whether you want to do a reading at The Nest or work at our booth. Member and former Poet Laureate Jamey Jones will be a featured artist at Gallery Night. He'll do readings of his poetry in the Artel facility.



April Meeting and Open Mic

Celebrate National Poetry Month with our Poet Laureate Katherine Nelson-Born. Katherine is already planning to make April 18 a special evening for our members and any guests. Mark your calendar now and be ready to be inspired and uplifted through connection of words. More details will be coming.

Here's a Glimpse of Our Open Mic Calendar for 2023

Month	Day	Format	Program
March	21	Virtual	Co-Authoring
April	18	Hybrid	Poetry Month
May	16	Hybrid	James Glass
June	20	Hybrid	TBD
July	No Meeting	--	--
August	15	Hybrid	TBD
September	19	Hybrid	TBD
October	17	Hybrid	TBD
November	14	Hybrid	Jerry Merritt
December	19	In-person	Holiday Party

Meet the ECW Members New to the Board

Pat Black-Gould

Pat is a clinical psychologist, theater director, and an award-winning author and playwright. Her short story, "The Crystal Beads," won first place in both a statewide and national writing competition. Pat then turned her story into a children's book titled *The Crystal Beads, Lalka's Journey*. Since its publication, her book received first place awards from Moonbeam Children's Book Awards and Northern Lights Book Awards. Pat conducts author talks both locally and nationally, spreading the book's themes of empathy, compassion, and inclusion. Pat and co-author Steve Hardiman are currently completing a novel titled *All The Broken Angels*, a coming-of-age story during the Vietnam War era.



Jennifer Powell

Jennifer began writing for her daughter when she was born and she had time to stay home with her. She self-published through Amazon until she joined social media and began following other authors and decided she was going about it all wrong. Her background is in marine chemistry and limnology.



Katie Rankin

Katie Rankin has been a member of Emerald Coast Writers since 2021. Her personal writing endeavors have focused on her experiences as a mother. Her nonfiction piece, "The Christmas Miracle," was published in the 2021 edition of *Emerald Coast Review*. Katie also writes in her professional career. She works for an education-based nonprofit as their communications specialist.



Carolyn Joyce Tokson

Carolyn writes and edits the monthly newsletter for Jazz Pensacola. Having written poetry since childhood whenever the muse spoke to her, she has been published in various reviews and magazines and is in the process of finalizing her first volume of poetry.



Contest and Submission Opportunities For ECW Members

2023 ECW Haiku Challenge Continues!

It's March Madness, and it's not all about basketball. The 2023 ECW Haiku Challenge continues!

In February, participants were challenged to look for inspiration wherever they found it and write a daily haiku, a short three-line poem, every day for 28 days.

March 5-30, 2023, use Submittable to submit your best haikus, 3 haikus per page per submission, up to 12 total/4 pages per writer, for FREE:

<https://westfloridaliteraryfederation.submittable.com/submit/255411/2023-ecw-haiku-challenge>.

The Northwest Florida Poet Laureate will select which lucky haikus appear in the April 2023 "Legend" published by Emerald Coast Writers (ECW).

And that's not all, folks! Haikus selected by your Poet Laureate for the April 2023 "Legend" automatically qualify for entry into the LIVE April 18th Haiku Slam 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Pensacola Cultural Center (2nd Floor Boardroom) sponsored by the ECW.

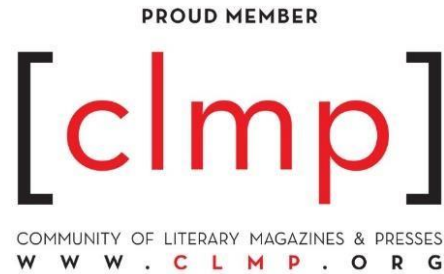
A gift card prize goes to a winner selected by judges from the audience. Poets must be present to win. Admission is free and open to the public until capacity is reached. LIVE Open Mic follows, open to the public. Questions? Email Katherine Nelson-Born:

bcs.editor@gmail.com



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:



- <https://halfandone.com/>
Half and One is a space for cartoons and comics, journalism and narrative non-fiction, poetry and fiction. It is a platform for art and creativity. They currently have two special submission opportunities: a video poetry contest and Khasi Hills Creative Prize of \$500. **Rolling deadlines beginning March 30.**
- <https://www.harbor-review.com/the-jewish-womens-prize>
Jewish Women's Poetry Prize and publication at *Harbor Review*. Any woman who self-identifies as female and Jewish is eligible to submit. They are looking for micro-chapbooks with no more than 10 poems. **Deadline: April 30.**
- <https://letterreview.com/>
Three Contests: *Letter Review* is offering cash prizes and publication for poems of not more than 70 lines, short stories between 1000 – 3000 words, and flash fiction up to 1000 words in length. **Deadline: April 30.**
- <https://thekeepthings.com/share-your-story/>
This literary magazine lives on Instagram and publishes micro-memoirs of the dead occasioned by the objects they left behind. In straightforward, plainspoken prose, in 600 words or less, they want you to tell the story of an object and the dead person it's connected to. Edited by the last editor of *O! Oprah's* magazine.
- <https://utampapress.org/pomme>
University of Tampa Press seeks submissions of previously unpublished novellas for standalone publication. They are interested in submissions of all kinds, including the fantastic, the speculative, as well as so-called literary fiction. Between 15,000 and 40,000 words. **Deadline: August 31.**
- <https://literarymama.com/submissions>
Literary Mama believes all mothers have a story worth sharing and honors the many faces of motherhood by publishing work that celebrates the journey as well as the job. 500-2500 words. Publishes six times a year. Each issue features creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry, essays, book reviews, and profiles. **Next deadline: July 31.**

Youth Writers and Art Contest: Deadline Extended!

We are holding the annual Youth Writing Contest and have added art to the mix! This year's theme is "When Darkness Falls."

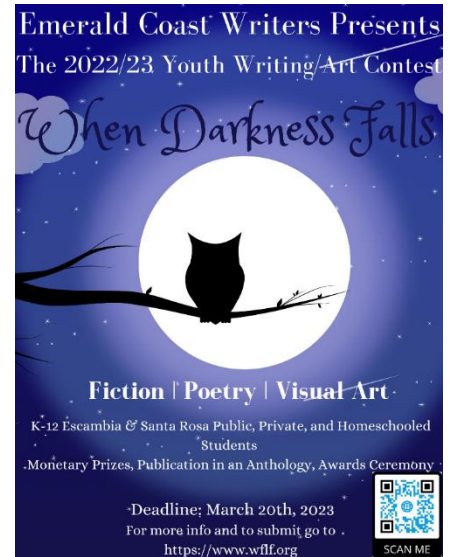
What do you do when you experience dark times in your life? Is there a dark time you have been through that you want to share? Do you have an idea about a fictional piece that takes place somewhere with no light, a story about someone with a fear of the dark, or do you want to write a poem about nighttime creatures or something that goes bump in the night? Are you inspired to draw or paint a scene that portrays the darkness in the world or a way out of it? The (dark) sky is the limit!

We can't wait to read your poetry and short stories and see your drawings, paintings, and photography!

The contest is open to all public, private, and home-schooled Escambia and Santa Rosa County students in grades K-12. An awards ceremony for winning students and their families will be held in the spring.

Monetary prizes will be given out and winners will receive a copy of an anthology with their work later in the year. **The deadline for entries has been extended to March 31st.**

See https://wflf.org/news-details/post_detail/2023-youth-writing-contest for guidelines and how to submit your work. Email charline.burga@gmail.com with any questions.



Creative Works and Reviews Submitted By Our ECW Members

Poetry

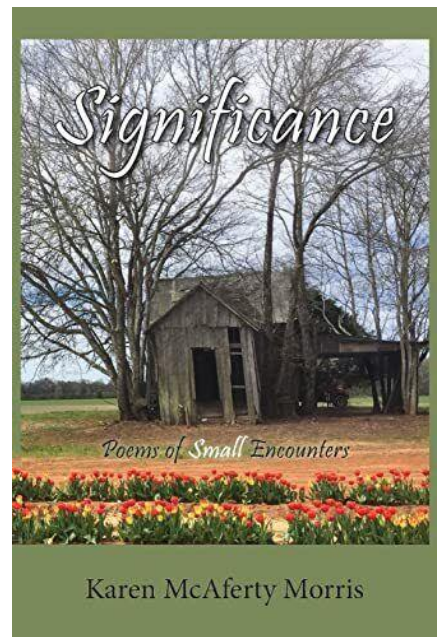
Weak or Wise?
Used my feet to step aside
From the dumpster fire I was beside
Hope deferred made my heart sick
You had the antidote
Time ticked and ticked
Days to weeks to months to years
The end grew near
Then it was here
You claimed shock and surprise
I wiped few tears from my drained eyes
I'd tried, and tried
Your true colors shown bright
Then you wanted to apologize
But couldn't with all that ego and pride
That's if I'd even give the time

By Dr. Jennifer Miller

Review of *Significance* by Karen McAferty Morris

The title *Significance: Poems of Small Encounters* reminds us of how we feel and react to the events we experience each day from the simplicity of a walk along the ocean shore to the finality of death.

Morris contemplates the beauty of nature and art then applies its lessons to the complexities of human beings. What could be simpler than an old picnic table covered with fallen leaves? Yet the memories rush in of family picnics and gardening with her father. A carefree afternoon with friends on the front porch is juxtaposed by the grief of a neighbor. Nature becomes almost human for Morris, those Southern rivers that hold secrets and lilies that bloom within the water. A field of moss is alive with enchanted violets, a beetle, a feather.



She feels and makes us feel compassion for people she encounters in her own life like the Navy veteran whose house burned down and the wrinkled, gray-haired lady in the thrift store. Even those she meets only on canvas like the personification of “Spring” by Romaine Brooks and Winslow Homer’s “Veteran” facing a sea of grain after the war evoke emotion.

The poetry is populated with people and creatures—ladies who weave straw baskets, bees that cling to sweet lavender that sways in the wind, birds, trees, and blossoms. Each small encounter opens another world, magically detailed despite its universality, seen only by the poet, who generously shares it with readers. Then when we read it, we say, oh yes.

Reviewed by Andrea Walker

Publishing and Member News

"Tantrum on the Beach," a short fiction by **Claire Massey**, won Honorable Mention in the 2022 National Soul-Making Keats Literary Competition in the Flash Fiction category.

Claire's poem, "Outliers" has been selected for a national print anthology, *Tales from the Deep*, to be published this winter by the Writer's Workshop.



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.

March 2023

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Emerald Coast Writers Board of Directors

President: Tom Roberts
Vice President: Charline Barger
Secretary: Katie Rankin
Treasurer: Scott Finelli
Director: Pat Black Gould
Director: Lori O’Gara
Director: Jennifer Powell
Director: Carolyn Tokson
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
WWW.CLMP.ORG

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 <https://wflf.org/product-details/product/single-Membership> or 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