



\*Temporary logo

## *The Legend*

**Emerald Coast Writers, Inc.**

Member Newsletter

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

**May 2023 Edition**

### **Join Us at the May Open Mic!**

Emerald Coast Writers is delighted to invite you to our May Open Mic, featuring guest speaker James Glass. James Glass retired from the United States Navy after 22 years of service. After retiring, he exchanged his rifle for a pen. He's written five crime thrillers, one horror novel, and a novella. James is also the President of the Panhandle Writer's Group.

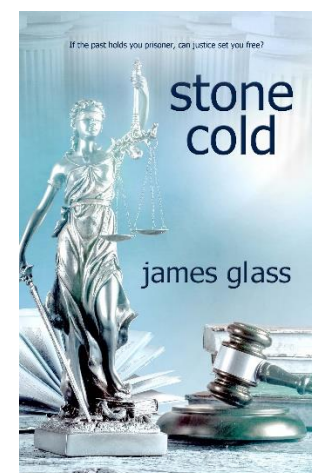
**Date: May 16, 2023**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.\***

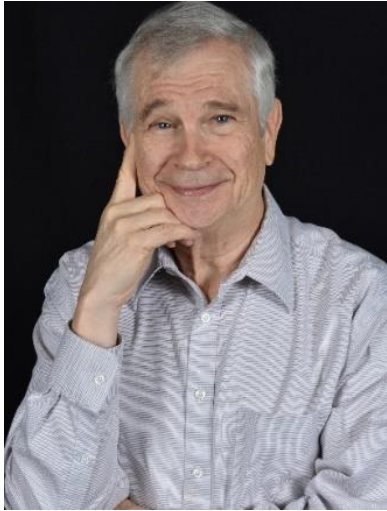
**Location: Pensacola Cultural Center, Boardroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
400 S. Jefferson St.**

\*James will be there at 6:00 p.m. to meet folks and sign copies of his book.

Please note: A Zoom link will be sent out for any members who wish to participate online.



# Message from the President



We celebrated National Poetry Month in April with a Haiku Slam at our April Meeting and Open Mic which was led by Katherine Nelson-Born, our Northwest Florida Poet Laureate. A good crowd showed up for the in-person hybrid event. Several additional members joined us on Zoom.

Our May Monthly Meeting and Open Mic will feature James Glass. James is a local writer and is retired from the United States Navy after 22 years of service. After retiring, he exchanged his rifle for a pen. He's written five crime thrillers, one horror novel, and a novella. James is also the President of the Panhandle Writer's Group.

The May gathering will also be hybrid. Members who want to attend in-person will meet in our regular location in the Boardroom on the second floor of The Center. A Zoom link will be sent out for any members who wish to join us online.

Last month, I attended a meeting of the Friends of the Santa Rosa Library where I gave their officers a brief introduction to our organization. I also expressed our desire to collaborate with them to hold more author events at their libraries. They were open to the idea, and in the near future, we hope to have author talks and book signings by ECW members.

Plans are advancing and details will be announced soon on our joint event with the Wide-Angle Photo Club. This should be a fun event and outing for our members regardless of your genre.

We are also working toward holding a one-day book festival in March 2024. Additional grant opportunities are being looked at by our events committee. Because of the tourist-centric nature of the Visit Pensacola grants, we will not be applying for their grant for this event.

Be on the lookout in your email this month for a survey to get member wishes on scheduling for our guest speaker program.

Enjoy your May 2023 edition of *The Legend*.

—Tom Roberts

# Open Mic Schedule 2023

Curious what we have coming up next on the Open Mic calendar after our May event?

Check out the bio of our June speaker, Gloria Coppola, or look ahead at the topics covered at future Open Mics.



## **JUNE 20: Gloria Coppola**

Gloria Coppola is an accomplished woman, bestselling author, and three-time book award winner. She has also been recognized as an award-winning educator and has won a humanitarian award. Gloria began her writing career as a featured journalist in several holistic magazines. Gloria loves to travel, which inspired her first fictional award-winning book *Too Many Goodbyes*. Gloria enjoys empowering others, especially new writers, and is a developmental story coach. Gloria's presentation will cover:

- What should writers know about self-publishing?
- What to avoid/who to work with, what to be aware of with different types of agencies who offer publishing services
- Why is a book/story coach helpful? What do they do?

- When does marketing begin for my book? How do I reach my audience?

## **AUGUST 15: Jerry Merritt – local**

Genres: Fiction, Science Fiction, Military, several books, some on audio, one book optioned for a movie. Jerry was an Air Force officer, historian, and genealogist. A few of his books are based in the Pensacola area.

## **SEPTEMBER 19: Lisa Bournelis, British Columbia**

Genre: Middle grade nonfiction book about her son with OCD. She's also a change analyst who combines her work and her book in a TED TALK.

## **OCTOBER 17: Antoinette Truglio Martin, New York**

Genres: Middle Grade Historical Fiction Award-winning Author. Writes about NYC in the early 1900s (Henry Street Settlement House, Shirtwaist Factory Fire, etc.)

## **NOVEMBER 14: Eva Hnizdo, Prague/England**

Genre: Multigenerational Trauma of Jewish family during the Holocaust "Why Didn't They Leave?" In 1968, Eva escaped communism and obtained political asylum in the UK. Interviewed on BBC Radio.

## **DECEMBER: Holiday party**

# Announcements and Submission Opportunities

## April Haiku Slam Winners Declared!



Congrats to member Lori Zavada for winning first place in the 2023 Emerald Coast Writers Haiku Slam! Second place went to member Andrea Walker!

The ECW Haiku Slam took place April 18<sup>th</sup> in honor of National Poetry Month LIVE at the Cultural Center and via Zoom, with participants near and far. Special thanks to Tonya Dalhaus and Lauren Gregory for volunteering as judges for this fun event.

Hosted by Katherine Nelson-Born, Northwest Florida Poet Laureate, this event was sponsored by the Emerald Coast Writers, member of the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses (CLMP), and the Pensacola Cultural Center.

### Correction to April Legend's Haiku Announcement:

Apologies are due to member Terri Barlotta whose Haiku should have appeared in the April 2023 *Legend* with

the other featured haikus. Please see Terri's haiku below:

Bare gray limbs lift pink  
Japanese magnolia  
blooms up to blue skies

Many thanks to Terri for being a good sport about the oversight and participating in the Haiku Slam!

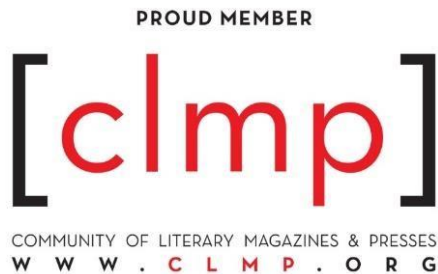
## Emerald Coast Writers Youth Writing and Art Contest Awards Ceremony is Here!



We had over 100 fantastic entries from talented local young writers and artists to our 2023 youth contest!

The winners in K-12th grades from Escambia and Santa Rosa counties will be celebrated and given awards on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM at Books-A-Million on Davis Highway. Local writers and artists will attend to speak to the winners. Congratulations to our winners!

## Submission Opportunities Through CLMP



### Ploughshares 2023 Emerging Writer's Contest – Deadline May 15

Open to writers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry who have yet to publish or self-publish a book. They award publication, \$2,000, review from Aevitas Creative Management, and a one-year subscription for one winner in each of the three genres. Guides found at [Submit to the Emerging Writer's Contest](#).

### Etched Onyx Magazine and the Story Podcast Discovery – Deadline May 28

All stories accepted include an author interview podcast. *Etched Onyx* is published quarterly. Writers of accepted submissions receive a payment of \$25 for works up to 2500 words and \$50 for works up to 5000 words. There is a submission fee of \$5. They accept fiction, short stories, and up to five (5) poems in one document/submission; all works must be under 5,000 words. Guidelines at [Submit to Etched Onyx](#).

### The Glacial Hills Review – Deadline May 28

No submission fee for this literary magazine published by a literary press located in northeastern Kansas at the foot of the Glacial Hills. Accepts poetry, short fiction, creative and scholarly nonfiction essays, one-act plays, short screenplays,

and images of artworks all year round. They do not typically seek works that fit specific themes. Guidelines and Submissions at [Choeofpleirn Press](#).

### Anthology of Military Life – Deadline May 31

No submission fee. Milltown Press seeks submissions of prose, poetry, and art from current and former active-duty U.S. military members and their families for *G.I. Days: An Anthology of Military Life (title subject to change)*, a perfect-bound print book to be published in late 2023. Seeks artistic work (personal essay, memoir, fiction, poetry, graphic narrative, and art) that reflects some aspect of military life. Millwork Press, supported, in part, by a grant from the Washington State Arts Commission. [Submission guidelines at Milltown](#).

### New Poetry Prize with \$1000 Award – Deadline July 31

The Hole in the Head Review, an online poetry and visual art journal, has established the Charles Simic Poetry Prize to honor their late friend and mentor. First prize will receive \$1,000 and publication in the November 1 issue, Submit up to three poems per submission. [Guidelines and submissions at The Hole in the Head Review](#).

### University of Tampa Press call for Novellas – Deadline August 31

The University of Tampa Press feels the novella continues to be passed over as a form on its own, and are launching Pomme, a series of novellas. They are seeking 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, full manuscript with

word counts from 15,000 to 40,000.  
[Submission guidelines at Tampa Review.](#)

### **Coollest American Short Stories – Deadline September 30**

Now reading short story submissions for its 2024 volume (annual anthology). Words from 3,500 min. to 10,000 max, with exceptions made for stories with extraordinary promise to appeal to readers from all walks of life. Payment: \$100. Both unpublished and previously published short stories are considered. Unpublished novel excerpts okay. They encourage people of all ages (yes, we think teenagers and octogenarians can write cool stories) and social classes (yes, we think privilege

and education can cause storytelling to become stilted) to write the kinds of stories they want to read. Submission guidelines at [Coollest American Short Stories.](#)

### **Novel Reading Period Yes Yes Books – Deadline June 30**

Open Reading Period for full-length fiction manuscripts is open. They will consider manuscripts in a broad range of genres and narrative style, but in general, desire fiction of strong voice and ebullient imagination. They hope to publish from one to three fiction manuscripts from this reading period. [Details and submission guidelines at Yes Yes Books.](#)

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## **Creative Submissions from Our Members**

### **Listening to Naomi**

By Andrea Walker

Recently, fellow ECW member Karen Morris and I attended the reading of poet Naomi Shihab Nye. I've admired her work for many years, and I have to admit I was thrilled when we went into the ladies' room at Northwest Florida State College and saw her brushing her long beautiful hair. I bubbled over with enthusiasm like a giddy groupie, and she replied with warmth and gratitude.

Good poets express acute sensitivity, facets of the world we are all privy to but often rush by in our blind hurry. She read from her latest collection *Voices in the Air: Poems for Listeners*, talking about each poem before and after. One can take away a wealth of insight from her introduction, for example: "Someone . . . once remarked that all the voices ever cast out into the air are still floating around in the far ethers and if we only knew how to listen well enough,



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we could hear them. . .” She writes of learning a new word, Japanese, *Yutori*—“life space. . . More spaciousness in being, more room for listening.” She suggests we allow ourselves more time for listening, go outside and listen, give our own minds the gift of listening. She believes “All the voices we ever loved or respected . . . would come. And they would help us.” She pays tribute to many poets and songwriters in this collection: Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Galway Kinnell, Van Morrison, Townes Van Zandt are a few.

Voices in the Air  
People do not pass away.  
They die  
and then they stay (p. 35).

Finally, consider the first poem “To Manage” which concludes with “You aren’t living a whole thing/ at once/That’s what the minute said to an hour/without me you are nothing.”

## **For Linda**

By Andrea Walker

*After Naomi Shihab Nye*

Last night, the poet spoke of  
voices in the air,  
the title of her latest book.  
Today, I listen to a voicemail  
from my friend’s husband.  
She died.  
I return his call  
am answered by their voicemail  
her voice.  
Leave my feeble message  
my voice, for him to hear.  
What to do next as I look outside  
blue sky, bright sun  
blurred by reluctant tears.  
Walk.  
Notice the mockingbird on the mailbox  
children toddling in their awkward cuteness  
at the playground,  
in the stroller,  
pushed by a loving grandmother.  
Reminders.  
This cycle we call life  
always beginning  
then in an unexpected whisper  
always ending.

## My Glacial Erratics

By Carolyn Joyce Tokson

The three glacial erratics in my backyard in Armonk, NY are probably roches moutonnee because they showed the direction of the ice flow during what is known as the Wisconsin glaciations. I let the moss grow around them and planted hostas. Further back were two more circular boulders about four feet tall. When I opened the garage door to enter the basement, I had to steer clear of the jutting rock shelf on which my house was built. Everywhere there was the evidence of glaciers having passed through the area. Outside the front sliding glass doors, across the road from my series of small to larger decks climbing the rock drop off, were enormous monoliths up to twelve feet tall scattered over the nature preserve. They often leaned on each other forming small caves. Outside the bedroom windows were boulders easily six feet tall in the woods below the fence.



There was a starkness about the area even though it was softened with the verdure of deciduous trees. The rocks gave a feeling of solitude and peace. Every morning the white-tailed deer came up the steep path where they had trod long years before I moved there. Wild turkeys came to the feeders along with the birds. Walking the paths, I could feel the presence of the natives who had lived here before the white man came. The pond where I kayaked a short distance away was a glacial pond. The water rushing through the aqueduct flowed to a lake, the mouth of a river. There was a majesty there, a timelessness made by the stones swept from their moorings as far away as Canada eons ago.

The boulders told me how small and insignificant I was in Mother Nature's plan. The schist under my house or the shovel in the garden sang to me of untold stories from colonial times. It taught me to love the moss-covered acidic soil and the old opossum who came to my compost pile. The stones comforted me in times of sorrow as I walked the trails, caressed their rough edges and used their strength to balance myself. They thrilled me with their snow-clad shapes rising in the landscape in winter. They grounded me in the juxtaposition of the transience of my life and the eternity of theirs.

I am a person who accepts the total indifference of the stars, yet I believe stones speak a silent tongue that while perhaps our ears cannot comprehend, our hearts understand. Is it that in their long periods of inertia and their proximity to mother Earth, they have learned to sing songs lost long ago? Those songs enter our bones while we sleep and burrow into the pores of our skin. The erratics that covered the landscapes near my former home still call to me from afar. The migrating birds bring me their melodies.



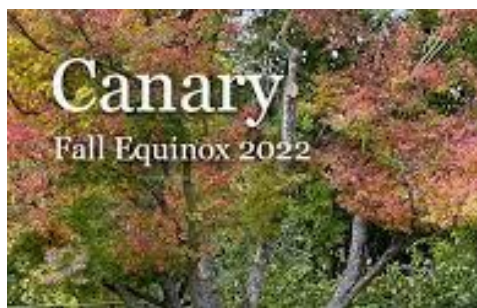
# Publishing and Member News

**Jennifer L. Brinkley** has published her poetry chapbook, "Birds in the City," with Finishing Line Press. The collection explores the intersections of grief and love. Orders can be purchased at <https://www.finishinglinepress.com/product/birds-in-the-city-by-jennifer-brinkley/>. Books will be shipped in August 2023.

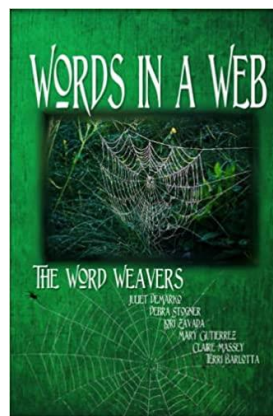
Two poems by **Claire Massey**, "Ring of Luck" and "No Extended Stays," will be published in the summer issue of the *Willows Wept Review*, available after June 17. Three additional poems by Claire were featured by the *Ravensperch* literary journal on March 30, 2023. These poems are "How to Say Thank You," "Sixth Night," and "A Loon in Fog."



**Karen McAferly Morris'** poem "Sharing Grapes" has been accepted for Canary Literary Journal's Autumn Equinox issue. Canary's themes are the "losses of species and habitat" and the "joys of that natural world that we stand to lose."



The Word Weavers anthology, recently published by Proper Publishing, presents the work of several ECW members, and is now available from Amazon. Titled *Words in a Web*, this book invites readers to enjoy the contributions of **Juliet DeMarko, Debra Stogner, Lori Zavada, Mary Gutierrez, Claire Massey, and Terri Barlotta.**



*Mosaic of Nature*, an 145-page anthology featuring writing and art about the environment, includes works by ECW members **Terri Barlotta, Scott Finelli, Andrea Walker and Diane Skelton.** The book is the brainchild of the members of the Memories to Memoir class at the Gulf Breeze Senior Center, a class Skelton facilitates. These ECW writers, along with some of the fourteen other contributors, read their works at a May 31 Gulf Breeze Senior Center celebration. The 2 p.m. event will also include live music, refreshments, free "pollinator" plants for those in attendance, and distribution of *Mosaic of Nature*. The event is part of a year's programming on the environment, made possible with a United Thank Offering grant for "Seniors Saving the World." The event is open to the public.

# 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: 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](http://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  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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 <https://wflf.org/product-details/product/single-Membership> or email this form to [westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com](mailto:westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com)

or

Mail your check and this form to:  
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