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## *The Legend*

**Emerald Coast Writers, Inc.**

**Member Newsletter**

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

**June 2023 Edition**

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

Our June Open Mic speaker is Gloria Coppola, a bestselling author and three-time book award winner.

Gloria's presentation will cover:

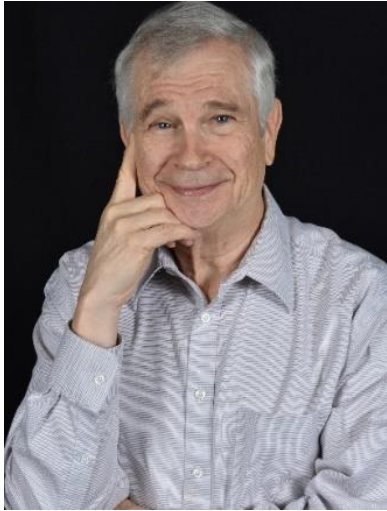
- What writers should know about self-publishing
- What to be aware of with different types of agencies who offer publishing services
- Why a book-story coach can be helpful
- When marketing for a book begins
- How to reach a certain audience

**June 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Pensacola Cultural Center, Boardroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,**  
**400 S. Jefferson St.**

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



# Message from the President



Welcome to Summer, that love/hate season of the year. It's a good time for reading a good book and writing one as well.

Another successful hybrid meeting and Open Mic happened last month as about 20 members joined in-person and on Zoom for a talk by James Glass, Panhandle Writer's Group president. After an introduction by Pat Black-Gould, James spoke on topics relevant to writing and publishing.

On May 20, we held the Youth Writing Contest awards ceremony, graciously hosted at Books-A-Million. Over a hundred students and parents were in attendance. Kudos to Charline Barger, vice president, for a well-executed contest!

Join us this month, June 20, for our next meeting and Open Mic at the Clark Family Cultural Center and on Zoom. Our featured speaker is Gloria Coppola.

Gloria 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 will discuss self-publishing, working with agents, and the role of a book/story coach.

As happens every two years, ECW is seeking writers, artists, and photographers for its 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Emerald Coast Review. Submissions are now open but will close after July 15<sup>th</sup> so get your work in. Full submission details [here](#).

Another contest that will be starting up soon is the "Every Picture Tells a Story," a joint collaboration with the Wide Angle Photography Club. So, if a picture inspires you to write, check out the contest [here](#).

The last link took you to a page on our new website. It's still under construction (by yours truly), but significant progress has been made in the last week. I'm hoping to have it working by the end of June. If you haven't already, consider submitting your writing credentials for our Member Directory. Featured member this month is [James Lynn Smith](#).

Read the latest ECW news in the June edition of *The Legend*.

—Tom Roberts

# Writing Tips from Author James Glass

Special thanks to author James Glass, who served as the speaker at our May Open Mic! If you missed his presentation last month, James has written five crime thrillers, one horror novel, and a novella, and he is the president of the Panhandle Writer's Group.

James shared the following tips:

1. **Marketing is a long game.** You have to invest time and some money. Most of all, be patient. I know that's hard to do for us writers, but don't give up.
2. **[Written Word Media](#) is worth checking into.** I have made the top 100 list in my genre every time I've used one of these ads, James said. I usually make my money back and a little more, but I also get new readers and reviews on my book(s) and sales on my other titles. Written Word Media has some great tips on marketing ([see link here](#)).
3. **Amazon Ads can be very lucrative, but you have to take the time and energy to stay focused,** James said. You can't set up ads and then leave them alone. [This YouTube link is helpful.](#)
4. **[BookBub](#) is a free service for readers and authors.** As an author, you can set up ads, and as a reader you can find great deals. Some books are even free for a limited time.



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## Submission Opportunities

### ***Emerald Coast Review* Now Accepting Submissions for 22<sup>nd</sup> Anthology**

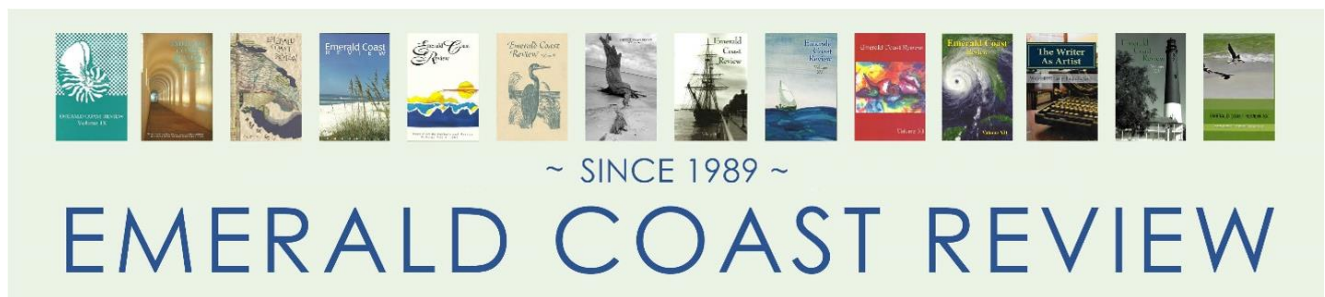
Our own *Emerald Coast Review* (ECR) has published the voices of regional writers in an anthology since 1989. This year marks the 22<sup>nd</sup> volume, and we are now open for submissions!

The publication will feature quality fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, including contemporary, emerging, and experimental works, along with the best of art, graphic design, and photography from area writers and artists living along coastal Florida and Alabama.

ECW members and residents from the following counties are encouraged to submit: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa, and Bay (Florida); Mobile, Escambia, and Baldwin (Alabama).

To view guidelines and submit your work, visit [wflf.org](http://wflf.org). Submissions close July 15, 2023. Accepted submissions will be announced and writers will be notified in August, with publication slated to follow in October.

ECR invites a diverse, cross-section of regional writers to share their creative voices and submit their work. No writing experience or publication background is required. Share your voice, enthusiasm, and talents. Email [EmeraldCoastReview@gmail.com](mailto:EmeraldCoastReview@gmail.com) with questions. We look forward to seeing your work!



## Every Picture Tells a Story... A Creative Collaboration between the Wide Angle Photo Club and Emerald Coast Writers

### Timeline: July 1 – August 11

Write a piece inspired by a Wide Angle Photo Club photo, email it to Tonya, and get a chance to show the paired pieces at the September Wide Angle Photo Club meeting. PLUS ten selected images with the inspired words will be published in the upcoming *Emerald Coast Review*.

### How To:

Visit the Facebook Group page of the Wide Angle Photo Club. Locate the media album for the event. Select the photo you want to write about. Indicate your choice in the comments with your name. Write no more than 400 words (any genre) and email it to Tonya.



### The Fine Print:

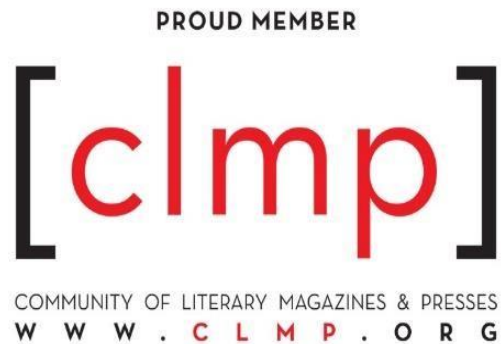
10 images paired with writing (any genre) will be selected for the event and the ECR. Writers will display a formatted print of their work, no larger than 8x10, and read the selection as the image is projected on a screen at the September 11 meeting.

To email entries or for more information, contact Tonya Dalhaus at 603-969-9975 or [connect@linkingperspectives.com](mailto:connect@linkingperspectives.com).

## Submission Opportunities Through CLMP

### **SHORT STORY: Deadline June 30.**

Letter Review is offering a \$1000 total prize pool in a competition for short stories between 1000-3000 words. No genre or theme restrictions: all stories welcome. Open to writers who live anywhere in the world. First Place receives \$600 and publication, Second Place receives \$250 and publication, and Third Place receives \$150 and publication. Twenty writers will be longlisted. All entries are considered for publication, submission to the Pushcart Prize, and for further anthologies.



### **FLASH FICTION: Deadline June 30.**

Letter Review. Winning entries are published at Letter Review. \$400 for First Place, \$250 for Second, and \$150 for Third. 20 entries are Longlisted. All entries considered for publication, and for submission to anthologies such as the Pushcart Prize.

### **POETRY: Deadline June 30.**

Letter Review. Winning entries published at Letter Review. \$400 for First Place, \$250 for Second, and \$150 for Third. 20 entries are Longlisted. All entries considered for publication, and for submission to anthologies such as the Pushcart Prize.

### **POETRY CHAPBOOK CONTEST: Deadline August 31.**

Women only. Nine Syllables Press announces its first annual chapbook contest. Leila Chatti will be the final judge for 2023. The winner will be awarded \$500 and author's copies. The chapbook will be published within a year. Winners will be announced by February 2024. Poets can have previously published collections of poetry, but the manuscript you submit cannot have been previously published. Individual poems from the collection may have been published elsewhere. Send original, unpublished poetry collection of 20-40 pages.

### **SCHOONER'S CREATIVE NONFICTION ESSAY SUMMER CONTEST: Deadline August 1.**

The contest is open to all types of creative nonfiction essays up to 5,000 words. The winner will receive \$1,000 and publication in our Spring 2024 issue. They are interested in reading imaginative essays of general interest. (Scholarly articles requiring footnote references should be submitted to journals of literary scholarship.)

### **AURORA POLARIS AWARD FOR CREATIVE NONFICTION: Deadline August 30.**

New contest launched in 2023 for authors without agents. Award winners receive \$1,000 and twenty copies of their book. Poetry manuscripts must be between 48-70 pages of poetry, written in English. Creative nonfiction manuscripts must not exceed 80,000 words. The manuscript as a whole must not be previously published. Authors may not be represented by an agent; all manuscripts must be submitted by the author.



## **BEZINE FALL ISSUE: Accepting July 15 - August 15.**

This all-volunteer press, free, no-ads, online publication, does not pay contributors. They publish quarterly. For September they are looking for works that address the topic of **Social Injustice**. They accept fiction, nonfiction, creative nonfiction, essays, poetry, art and photography, cartoons, music videos, reviews and interviews, and documentary videos. Feature articles should include sources and poems based on news should include sources if possible.

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# Announcements

## **Youth Writing and Art Contest a Success**

On Saturday, May 20, Emerald Coast Writers hosted their annual Youth Writing and Art Contest awards ceremony at Books-A-Million. Students from grades K-12 in both Escambia and Santa Rosa counties were celebrated for their submissions of short stories, poetry, and the visual arts. There were over a hundred entries centered around this year's theme, "When Darkness Falls," with 48 winners.

More than 170 students, families, and teachers attended the awards ceremony. Student winners received certificates and gift cards and will be given a copy of a book anthology featuring their work at a later date. Students' art was on display at the event, and writers were given the opportunity to read their winning entries. Additional books will be available for purchase.



## **Member Benefit: The Member Directory**

Let members know of your writing interests and accomplishments by adding yourself to our Member Directory. Each member has the option to have their own webpage on our website, where you can post biographical information, writing interests, published works, links to an author website, writing excerpts, and a headshot photo. Use this link today to fill out the [member directory form](#).

## 2023 Open Mic Schedule

### **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**

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## Creative Submissions from Members

### Haikus

By Doug Halvorsen

Season's end  
Empty hours  
Winter weekend

Butterflies greedily gather  
Larval life elapsed  
Impending journey unimagined

Bamboo fractures stone  
Demanding to emerge  
Shrouded memory festers

Dying fire  
Bedroom beckons  
Endless winter

Shotgun flames  
Feathers shower  
Sunrise over pond ice

Weapon words  
Battered bonds  
Killing frost

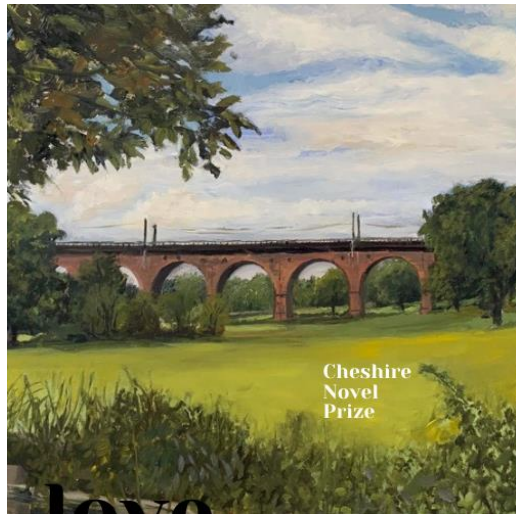
Memory slips beyond recall  
Facts forgotten feelings flee  
Silent stranger sits alone

Bay joins ocean  
Angry swells recoil  
Family reunions recalled

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# Publishing and Member News

**Claire Massey's** short fiction appears currently in *Halfway Down the Stairs Literary Journal*. Go to <https://halfwaydownthestairs.net> to enjoy Claire's story, "Mourning Roadkill." For those interested in the genres of flash and microfiction, Claire recommends *The Best Small Fictions* series, annual anthologies published from 2015 on, available from Amazon and other booksellers. In addition, *Willows Wept Poetry Review* will feature two of Claire's poems, "Ring of Luck" and "No Extended Stays" in their issue premiering June 19.



**Diane Skelton** was one of several dozen international readers for The Cheshire Novel Prize, an international contest for un-agented writers, organized in Cheshire, England. The 2023 contest received 1640 entries across 17 genres and 31 countries. Submissions are around 5000-5500 words and are composed of the first few chapters and a synopsis of the novel. As a reader, Skelton read submissions during April and early May in the first and second rounds of the competition, offering feedback to the editors. Each writer who enters receives detailed feedback on their submission compiled from the panel of readers, editors, and judges. The longlist of 68 novels has been released; the short list will be announced June 30.

As a "contest reader" Skelton is not allowed to talk about specific novels that she read. Skelton says the six-hour time difference didn't affect the Zoom procedural meetings, though most of the other readers were having nightcaps while she was drinking coffee after lunch. If Skelton lived a little closer, she'd go to the luncheon honoring the winner in the fall. It's in England.

**Andrea Walker** is excited to announce that two of her poems have been accepted for publication. "Blue Hour" will appear July 15 in [writinginawomansvoice.blogspot.com](http://writinginawomansvoice.blogspot.com). September 23rd, "Bluebonnet Memory" will be published in [tinysseedjournal.com](http://tinysseedjournal.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](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

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Vice President: Charline Barger  
Secretary: Katie Rankin  
Treasurer: Scott Finelli  
Director: Pat Black Gould  
Director: Lori O’Gara  
Director: Jennifer Powell  
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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>.
- “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 <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:  
Emerald Coast Writers  
400 South Jefferson Street, Suite 212  
Pensacola, FL 32502