



The Legend

Emerald Coast Writers, Inc.

Member Newsletter

emeraldcoastwritersinc.org

March 2024 Edition

**Join Us on March 19 at 6:30 p.m.
for a Virtual Speaking Engagement with
Toby Dorr**

Toby Dorr dared the unthinkable. She broke a convicted murderer out of Lansing Correctional Facility. Since completing her time in Federal Prison, she has achieved two master's degrees and rebuilt a broken life. Featured in the Wall Street Journal, Anderson Cooper, Brooke Baldwin, Inside Edition, The Atlantic, and Dateline, she is a regular guest on podcasts, including the nationally-ranked podcast Criminal. A screenplay of her story is in the works, and the Lifetime movie based on her story, Jailbreak Lovers, was released in July of 2022.

Through her memoir, Living with Conviction, Dorr takes readers through all the heart-pounding, tear-jerking, heartbreaking, eye-opening experiences that touch the most primal human need: the need to be significant.

You will receive a Zoom link for the meeting from our info@emeraldcoastwritersinc.org address.

Message from the President



Dear Emerald Coast Writers,

As we eagerly approach the inauguration of our very first book festival, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the tireless efforts of everyone involved in bringing this vision to life. Over the past year, our dedicated team has poured their hearts and souls into planning an event that celebrates the beauty and power of literature. From coordinating author signings to securing sponsors, to creating inspired graphics to support an impactful marketing strategy, each member has played a crucial role in shaping what promises to be an unforgettable experience for all.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every person who has contributed to the planning and execution of our inaugural book festival. Your hard work, creativity, and unwavering commitment have been truly inspired, and I am deeply grateful for your dedication to our organization's mission.

As we prepare to welcome authors, readers, and literary enthusiasts from near and far, I urge you to take a moment, when you see them, to express your appreciation to our team members who have brought this festival to fruition. Their passion and dedication have been instrumental in making this event a reality, and their efforts deserve to be recognized and celebrated by all.

In addition to our exciting festival activities, I am delighted to announce an upcoming induction ceremony for our esteemed incoming Poet Laureate, Asia Sampson. This special event will take place on Friday, March 22nd, the evening before Books by the Bay kicks off. It is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community to honor the achievements of our past Poet Laureate, Katherine Nelson Born, welcome Asia Sampson into his new role, and to network with our visiting authors and guest speakers.

I encourage all of you to mark your calendars and join us for this memorable occasion. Your presence and support are invaluable as we continue to foster a vibrant literary culture within our organization and beyond.

I look forward to celebrating our shared love of literature with each and every one of you at our upcoming events.

Warmest regards,
Tonya

Books By the Bay

Books By the Bay is This Weekend, and We Want to See You There!

Books By the Bay, Pensacola's first outdoor book festival hosted by Emerald Coast Writers, will take place this **Saturday, March 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Visit booksbythebay.org for all the festival information!



The event will welcome more than 50 authors and featured speakers, booksellers, and library nonprofit groups. Along with readings, panels, and author talks, the day includes a haiku slam, interactive poetry writing inspired by photos, a children's scavenger hunt, bookmark making and poetry writing for kids. Exhibitors will offer used, new, rare, and vintage books and book-inspired art for purchase.

Attendees will enjoy bestselling and notable authors reading their own works in a variety of genres including cozy mystery, nonfiction, memoir, and poetry. More than 20 authors will be in the Author Signing Tent on a rotating basis. Speakers, panels, performances, authors, exhibitors, and children's activities are located in several locations in downtown Pensacola—Museum Plaza, Voices Multicultural Center, Bowden Building, and along Church Street. All events are free to attend and do not require registration.

Participating authors and groups include John Patrick Green, Paula Lenor Webb, Ginny Myers Sain, Asia Samson and The Asia Project, Dr. Ashley Wellman, Mamie Hixon, Diane Jones Skelton, Lana McAra, Michelle Nelson Schmidt, Dr. Jessica Temple, Dr. Katherine Nelson, Sarah Robinson, Mary Guterrez, Dr. Vernet Nettles, S. Usher Evans, Paula Delgado-King, Taylor Phillips, Barbara Jenkins, Kyle Ann Robertson, Nancy Nau Sullivan, Rick Outzen, Katherine Nelson Born, Brendan and Lori O'Gara, Andrya Allen, Anne MacDonald, Mark McCraw, M.R. Street, Virginia Kelly, Pensacola Branch League of American Pen Women, Claire Massey, Andrea Jones Walker.

Help Us Make the Day a Success as a Volunteer

Let us know if you can assist with hospitality, set-up, breakdown, assisting authors, administering surveys, and providing directions for attendees.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

The Weekend Will Begin with the Poet Laureate Induction Ceremony and Books By the Bay Author Meetup



All ECW members are invited to attend an exciting cultural event introducing the Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida for 2024-27, Asia Samson, and celebrating the accomplishments of Poet Laureate Emeritus, Katherine Nelson-Born.

Join us on Friday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m. for an evening of poetry readings and refreshments at the Pensacola Museum of Art (407 Jefferson Street).

This event is also the kickoff of Emerald Coast Writers' Books By the Bay Festival on March 23 and serves as an opportunity to bring ECW members together with Books By the Bay guest authors and special guests.

[RSVP here.](#)

ECW's Annual Youth Writing Contest Seeking Submissions



Spread the word! Do you know a talented young writer or artist? Do they have a love of books, an idea for a story/poem involving books, or do they have something to say about book banning? We would love to hear their original perspectives!

Emerald Coast Writers' annual youth writing contest is now seeking submissions from K-12 public/private school and homeschooled students in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Students may choose from four categories: poetry, fiction, nonfiction and the visual arts. This year's theme is "**An Open Book.**"

Go to our website at www.emeraldcoastwritersinc.org to learn more and to submit entries! The deadline is March 31st. Winners will be invited to an awards ceremony at Books-A-Million and will receive cash prizes, as well as a free copy of their work published in an anthology.

**Please note that students should NOT list their school email on the submission form, as we will not be able to contact them at that email address.*

ECW's Speaker Series This Spring

MARCH 19, 6:30 PM – ZOOM

Toby Dorr will join us in March. Toby dared the unthinkable by breaking a convicted murderer out of prison. Since completing her time in Federal Prison, she has achieved two master's degrees and rebuilt a broken life. Featured in the Wall Street Journal, Anderson Cooper, Inside Edition, and Dateline. A screenplay of her story is in the works, and the Lifetime movie based on her story, Jailbreak Lovers, was released in July of 2022.



APRIL 16, 6:30 PM – IN PERSON

Outgoing Poet Laureate **Katherine Nelson-Born** and incoming Poet Laureate **Asia Samson** will celebrate April's Poetry Month. Katherine's award-winning creative writing has appeared in numerous journals as well as in her own poetry collections. Katherine will discuss how her theme of HOPE (the Healing Of Poetry is for Everyone) was addressed during her tenure and is still worthy in practice for all poets or creatives. Asia is an award-winning spoken word artist who has worked with organizations like Disney and the US military. Asia has broken college booking records for the most booked poetry act, garnering him a number of awards.

MAY 21, 6:30 PM – ZOOM

The month of May features **Hannah Kozak**, an award-winning photographer and a former Hollywood stuntwoman who tells stories through her pictures. She creates psychological and autobiographical photographs. Her work has been exhibited widely from Berlin, to Málaga and Barcelona, Spain. Her book, He Threw The Last Punch Too Hard, tells the story of her mother, whose physical abuse by her boyfriend left her with permanent brain damage. Hannah has followed her mother's harrowing journey. A story that inspires women to leave an abusive relationship before it's too late.

Renew Your ECW Membership Today!

1. Mail a check for your renewal (\$35.00 for a 1-year renewal or \$60.00 for a 2-year renewal) to our office (400 S. Jefferson St. Suite 212, Pensacola, FL 32502). Be sure to update your information (email, address, phone) OR
2. Pay online on our website [HERE](#).

Note that membership dues for new members are \$20.00 (first-time members). Couple's membership dues are \$60.00 (1-year) or \$115.00 (2-years).

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Submission Opportunities

SHORT NONFICTION – NO FEE – Deadline March 31

In Short is a new online, independent online literary magazine for flash nonfiction, and they're looking for flash nonfiction of 1,000 words or fewer, micros of 400 words or fewer, and short-shorts of 100 words or fewer. They love memoir, hermit crabs, lyric essays, experimental pieces, straightforward narratives, and everything in between. If it's short and beautiful and true, they want it. Guidelines <https://inshortjournal.com/submissions/>

Community of Literary Magazines and Presses



SHORT FICTION, POETRY – \$3 TO \$5 FEE – Deadline March 31

Raleigh Review is a nonprofit magazine of poetry, short fiction, and art, is seeking poetry and short fiction for its fall publication. They believe great literature inspires empathy by allowing us to see the world through the eyes of our neighbors, whether across the street or across the globe. Their mission is to foster the creation and availability of accessible yet provocative contemporary literature through a biannual magazine, as well as through workshops, readings, and other community events. Submission guidelines <https://raleighreview.org/submit>

POETRY, SHORT PROSE, ART – NO FEE – Deadline March 31

Thimble Literary Magazine is a quarterly, online and print magazine, primarily a poetry journal, but they publish plenty of short prose and art. They are not looking for anything in particular in terms of form or style, but something that speaks to the reader or writer in some way. Submissions guidelines <https://www.thimblelitmag.com/submissions/>

NEWBIES!! SHORT FICTION, POETRY, CREATIVE NONFICTION, & VISUAL ARTS – Deadline May 31

Oyster River Pages, a literary arts online magazine, is seeking short fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and visual arts for writers and artists who haven't had more than two things published! Submission guidelines: <https://www.oysterriverpages.com/submit>

“AFTER DINNER CONVERSATIONS” SHORT STORIES – no fee or 44 for fast pass – Deadline July 1

The online magazine and its annual print anthology (best of the online magazine) are looking for short fiction preferably 2500 to 4000 words. The story must spur discussions. It must require the reader to expand their mind and involve ethical questions. The editor has a uploaded a video to help writers. Submissions guidelines <https://www.afterdinnerconversation.com/submissions>

PERSONAL ESSAYS – Deadline September 1

Off Assignment is a literary magazine with a penchant for journeys and a fascination with strangers. They're looking for writers who travel, poets who wander, essayists with a sense of place, reporters with swollen notebooks, and gourmands with street cart taste. The readers have a taste for offbeat places. The editors care about voice and story and want the writer on the page—sweating, tripping, and telling a tale. And they pay. Unique categories like Letter to a Stranger, Under the Influence, and What I Didn't Say. Guidelines <https://www.clmp.org/members/open-submission/off-assignment-personal-essay-submissions/>

Contest Opportunity

The Clean Water Festival, being held on Saturday, August 17, from 10 am to 2 pm at The Landing in Fort Walton Beach, wants to know what you love about living in Florida. We are looking for pieces with an emphasis on Florida's special waterways. Submittals should be a poem or a short story (no more than 200 words).

One submittal per person. We will select 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners who will read their pieces at the event. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mary Gutierrez at itomae63@gmail.com.

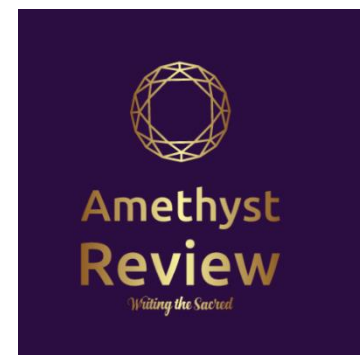


Publishing and Member News

Claire Massey has been promoting membership in ECW to the twenty registrants in the creative writing class she is teaching through the Center for Lifelong Learning. Several students have expressed interest in our sponsored activities, critique groups, open mic opportunities, and in purchasing issues of *The Emerald Coast Review*.

Claire's poem, "The Meaning of Life is to See," has been paired with original artwork by Luke Wallin; both will be published on May 8 in *Amethyst Review*. Her poem, "A Sailor's Wake," was an editor's choice for publication in *Of Poets & Poetry Magazine* (March-April issue).

Her short fiction, "MEMO", will appear online in *Gypsophila Magazine* as of February 29. The theme of this issue is ROOTED. Claire's story is a strong eco-piece, based on a real, local event.



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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: _____

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 [HERE](#).

or

Mail your check and this form to:
Emerald Coast Writers
400 South Jefferson Street, Suite 212
Pensacola, FL 32502

Emerald Coast Writers | Pensacola Cultural Center | 400 South Jefferson Street Suite 212 | Pensacola, FL 32502

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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.