



The Legend

Emerald Coast Writers, Inc.

Member Newsletter

emeraldcoastwritersinc.org

September 2023 Edition

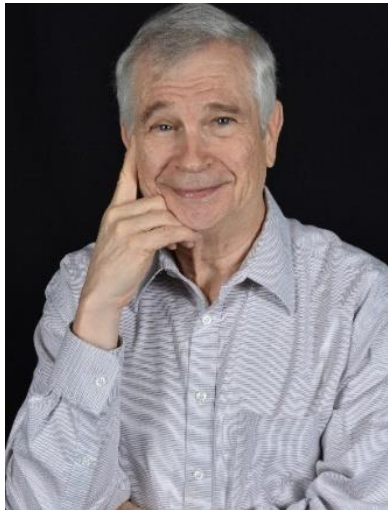


Join Us at the Open Mic on September 19

Don't miss this month's Open Mic on Sept. 19 at the Clark Family Cultural Center at 6:00 p.m.! We're delighted to welcome Lisa Bournelis as the guest speaker. Lisa Bournelis is an internationally accredited change management practitioner working for one of Canada's largest health authorities. Prior to becoming a transformation specialist, Lisa worked as a humanitarian aid worker for the United Nations and several NGOs – serving in the Balkans, in central and east Africa and in Afghanistan.

Passionate about leading compassionately through the complexities of change, Lisa began a blog and podcast on applying change management methodology in one's personal life. It was during this time, that she authored "Louie and the Dictator" – an uplifting middle grade novella inspired by her son's experiences with OCD during the pandemic. Here's the link to her [TED talk](#).

Message from the President



Welcome to the September 2023 issue of *The Legend*. I'd like to take a moment to thank our editor, Katie Rankin, for the tremendous job she has done in producing the ECW newsletter since joining the Board this year. She makes each issue an informative and fun production.

On September 19th, join your fellow members, either in-person or on Zoom, for our Monthly Meeting and Open Mic. Our speaker is Lisa Bournelis, from British Columbia, Canada. Her genre is middle grade nonfiction, and she has published a book about her son with OCD. Lisa is an internationally accredited change management practitioner working for one of Canada's largest health authorities. Prior to becoming a transformation specialist, Lisa worked as a humanitarian aid worker for the United Nations and several NGOs – serving in the Balkans, in central and east Africa and in Afghanistan. She's also a change analyst who combines her work and her book in a TED Talk.

Check our [website](#) for more information (note: our old website at wflf.org is no longer active).

Reminder: Come out this Monday, September 11, for the photo displays and readings at the event, "Every Story Tells a Story," being held at **6:30 p.m. at Asbury Place at Cokesbury Church, 750 College Blvd., Pensacola, Florida**. Come view the photographs and listen to the accompanying prose pieces at the event, hosted by Wide Angle Photo Club.

For those who were not at our August meeting, I'm pleased to announce that Emerald Coast Writers has received a \$5,000 grant from the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation! This grant is in support of our Books by the Bay Festival happening in March 2024 at the Museum Plaza in Pensacola. My sincere thanks to our event committee and especially Candace Segar, who spent many hours securing this grant. The committee continues to pursue other grants in our goal to make the festival a quality event for our members and the community. But to do that, we need volunteers! Whether you can spare 1 hour or 10, we can use your help. [Please contact us at here.](#)

Authors, if you want to sell your books at our Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival booth again this year, be on the lookout for an email with signup details. We also need volunteers to do setup/takedown and serve as cashiers.

The ECW Board is also reviving our annual holiday party, which we haven't held since the pandemic in 2020. If you would like to volunteer to help out on this event, please email us or leave a message at 850-750-8900.

Thanks to Charline Barger for distributing our Youth Writing Contest book this past weekend at Books-A-Million.

As an accolade for her work over the past three years as Poet Laureate of NW Florida, ECW has published Katherine Nelson-Born's book, *Bone Geometry*, which will be available soon on Amazon. Diane Skelton has done another excellent job in working with Katherine to bring the book to life.

Reminder: our online **Member Directory** is a membership benefit for all members whether you are a published author or not. Let us know who you are as a writer. Email us or check our website for more information.

The Board of ECW is always open for suggestions from our members about programs we can do to further your writing skills and knowledge. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please pass them on to us either at the monthly meeting or via email at info@emeraldcoastwritersinc.org.

Happy reading!

–Tom Roberts

Upcoming Events

Join Us at the Every Picture Tells a Story Event on September 11

The Every Picture Tells a Story event was a collaboration between the Emerald Coast Writers (ECW) and the Wide Angle Photography Club (WAPC). The mission was to give two wonderfully creative groups of people the opportunity to share in their artistic pursuits and build appreciation for each other's craft.

Prior to the Sept. 11 event, a panel of four judges, comprised of two WAPC members and two ECW members, blindly chose ten pieces to be read at the event and published in the Emerald Coast Review. However, ALL submissions will be on display at the meeting and will be eligible for entry in the people's choice awards by attendees.



What story would you write about these red tugboats?

Place:

- [Asbury Place at Cokesbury Church](#), 750 College Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32504

Time:

- 6:30-7:00 – Read and Mingle
- 6:30-7:15 – Voting open for People’s Choice Award
- 7:00-7:15 – Photo club announcements and housekeeping
- 7:15-8:15 – Writers read their works. Selected photo will be on overhead screen during each reading. (If you don’t wish to read your work, please let Tonya know at connect@linkingperspectives.com and she can assign someone to read it for you).
- 8:15-9:00 – WAPC meeting and monthly photo competition voting.

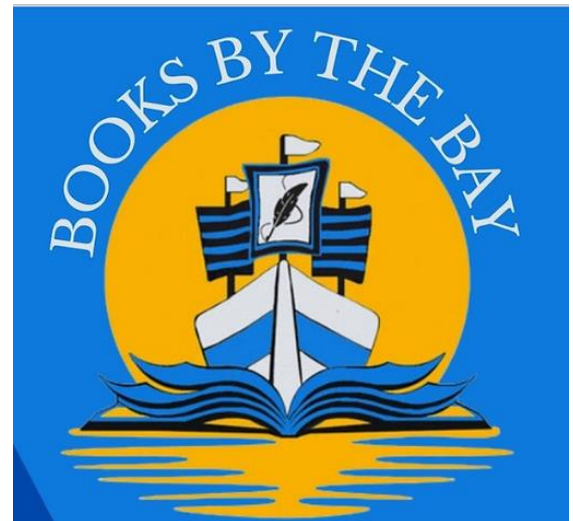
Writers are welcome to leave at 8:15 or may stay until the end of the meeting. Please feel free to bring guests. If anyone would like to contribute snacks or treats all will be appreciated.

Books By the Bay Festival

We hope you’re brimming with excitement for the upcoming Books By The Bay on March 23, 2024. Our festival promises to be an epic celebration of literature, diverse local authors, and youth writers.

We will soon be accepting applications for speakers and exhibitors for the Books By the Bay Festival. Please go to the page on our ECW website or email info@emeraldcoastwritersinc.org.

Also, please follow our new Books By the Bay Festival page on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/BooksByTheBayFestival/>.



Calling All Book Enthusiasts: We Need Volunteers!

Just like a ship relies on the combined efforts of its crew to navigate the vast ocean, our Books By The Bay festival depends on the collective dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteers to chart a course to success. Together, we can ensure smooth sailing for this literary voyage and create waves of excitement throughout our community.

As a volunteer, you can contribute your time and talents in various areas critical to the festival's success. **PRE-FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS WILL GET A 20% DISCOUNT OFF THEIR FESTIVAL SPACE RENTAL.**

- **Festival Supply Vendor Coordination:** Assist in reaching out to festival supply vendors to ensure we have everything needed to create a fantastic festival atmosphere.
- **Grant Writing:** Help our team in preparing grant applications for the upcoming October 6th deadline, as well as for Publix. Even if you don't consider yourself an expert in grant writing, we could still use your help organizing and tracking information.
- **Sponsorship Procurement:** Play a crucial role in securing sponsorships for the festival. Engage with potential sponsors and build lasting partnerships.
- **Social Media Content Creation:** Use your creativity to curate engaging social media content that promotes the festival and keeps our audience informed and excited.
- **Voices Rental Coordination:** Work closely with a UWF employee and/or the English Department to coordinate the rental of the Voices facility for festival multicultural speakers and themes.
- **Speaker Outreach:** Connect with potential speakers who can contribute their insights and passion to our festival. Cultivate relationships with authors, industry experts, and other notable figures.

IN PARTICULAR, IF YOU HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING, PLEASE LET US KNOW: Anna Stringfield, Carl Hiaasen, Pat and Bob Gussin, Paula Lenor Webb, Lauren Groff, Nancy Cohen, or Colson Whitehead.

If any of these roles align with your skills and interests, we invite you to join our team of dedicated volunteers. Your support will not only help us create a memorable festival but also foster a love for literature within our community.

To express your interest or learn more about these volunteer opportunities, please contact the event chair: Tonya Dalhaus at connect@linkingperspectives.com.

Thank you for considering becoming a part of the Books By The Bay family. Together, we can make a festival that leaves lasting memories in its wake.

Other ECW Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are also needed to assist with:

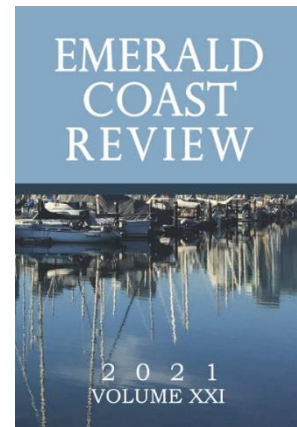
- Setup/takedown and cashier at the Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival
- Planning for the ECW's annual holiday party

If you would like to volunteer to help out for either of these events, please email us at info@emeraldcoastwritersinc.org or leave a message at 850-750-8900.

Announcements

Sixty-five Area Writers and Artists Will Be Featured in the Upcoming Publication of the Emerald Coast Review, Vol. XXII

The anthology, published biennially since 1989, features quality fiction, nonfiction, poetry, 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.



Managing editor of the *Emerald Coast Review* Jessica Temple says, “We had an impressive selection in terms of volume, variety, and caliber. It was a pleasure to read and review all of the submissions, and we editors had some tough decisions to make.”

According to Tom Roberts, president of Emerald Coast Writers, the more than 175 submissions were judged on merit by a team of experienced readers and artists. Along with works from seasoned writers and artists, this year’s book will include work by two middle school students as well as work from students from University of West Florida and professors from Northwest Florida State and Pensacola State. He points out that two parent and child groups are also included in the book, “personifying the organization’s mission of encouraging young writers.”

The book, due out in October, includes works by the following artists and writers:

Chloe Allen, Beulah; Josh Argentine, Gulf Breeze; Charline Barger, Pace; Terri Barlotta, Fort Walton Beach; Steve Biersdorf, Gulf Breeze; Allyson Bitely, Pace; Pat Black-Gould, Pensacola; Sage Burns, Pensacola; Alanna Grayce Campbell, Niceville; Tonya Dalhaus, Beulah; Patty Damm, Winston-Salem, N.C.; Juliet DeMarko, Pensacola; Kathleen Duthu, Mobile, Ala.; Autry Dye, Cantonment; Stefanie Marks Evert, Mobile, Ala.; Patricia Edmisten, Pensacola; Lana Fernandez, Pensacola; Mandy Fernandez, Pensacola; Keira Finelli; Gulf Breeze; Scott Finelli, Gulf Breeze; Lee Gosselin, Fairhope, Ala.; Mary Gutierrez, Pensacola; Amy Hadley, Bay Minette, Ala.; Steve Hardiman, Lilian, Ala.; Betty Hassler, Pace; Terry Henry, Pensacola; Mike Herndon, Mobile, Ala.; Mariela Hidalgo, Pensacola; Richard Craig Hurt, Pensacola; Tony Judnich, Crestview; Kimi Kuniyoshi, Pensacola; Christina Larson, Shalimar; Samuel Lee, Beulah; James Long, Gulf Breeze; Gregory Mabry, Cantonment; Robyn Martins, Santa Rosa Beach; Claire Massey, Navarre; Pamela Mathison-Levitt, Rockville, Md.; Randall Evan McClellan, Pace; Ethan McGuire, Pensacola; Heather Mitchell, Pensacola; Karen McAferty Morris, Pensacola; Katherine Nelson-Born, Pensacola; Lisa Joy Newcomb, Pensacola; Lori O’Gara, Milton; William Polley, Santa Rosa Beach; Jennifer Aicher Powell, Pensacola; Katie Rankin, Pensacola; Mike Roberts, Pensacola; Mladen Rudman, Fort Walton Beach; Diane Skelton, Gulf Breeze; Sara Smith, Pensacola; Jack Stevenson, Pensacola; Debra Stogner, Pensacola; Courtney Swanson; Jessica Temple, Fort Walton Beach; Brenda Thornton, Lilian, Ala.; Carolyn Tokson, Pensacola; Bobby Touchton, Milton; Mike Turner, Fairhope, Ala.; Claudia Van Gee, Cantonment; Peter Veltigian, Milton; Lucie Watson Wade, Pensacola; Andrea Jones Walker, Pensacola; and Lori Zavada, Pensacola.

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Emerald Coast Writers Launch New Website

The Emerald Coast Writers new website is hosted on the popular Wix web platform and has the new URL of <https://www.emeraldcoastwritersinc.org>.

The existing website at wlf.org has been hosted by DigiPro Media for the past five years. Effective August 31, 2023, the wlf.org website will no longer be active, and browsers will be redirected to the new website.



The new site was developed by Tom Roberts with input from the ECW Board and others, including Tonya Dalhaus and Diane Skelton. The Board believes the Wix platform provides more flexibility, better support services, and additional advanced features not available at DigiPro. Take a look at our new site and let us know what you think.

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](#). Use password SKing1987 to access the member form.

Creative Submissions from Members

Nostalgia and History

By Andrea Walker

With the book launch of the *Emerald Coast Review*, Volume XXII just around the corner, let's step back in time a few moments.

Emerald Coast Review, Volume III had launched, and in February 1991, *Pensacola Magazine* included a review on their Book Reviews page by Tom Dietz alongside books by Pensacola Legends Jesse Earle Bowden and Don Parker.

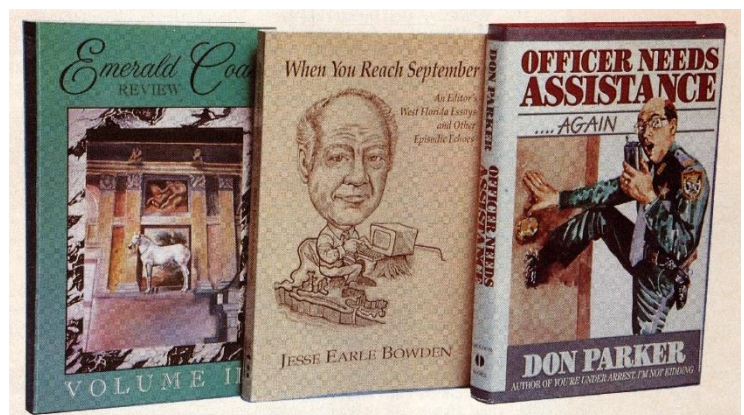


Image from Pensacola Magazine, February 1991, page 33

The Third Annual Collection by the (then) West Florida Literary Federation was edited by Charmaine Wellington. According to Dietz, the collection is more than comprehensive, complete, or rich. Writers and artists address the human condition and represent their feelings about being alive on the Emerald Coast. Like recent and current issues, the collection includes poetry and prose, art, and photography. Dietz attributes the WFLF with providing a meaningful stage for artists in our area to showcase their work. “Beneath our skies and on our beaches, in our woods and on our fields human beings live, thrive or not, and record their lives in the many ways of art.” The observations Deitz made in 1991 hold true today.

The purpose of the *Emerald Coast Review* has not changed. From the first volume published in 1989 to the present of 2023, styles, tastes, topics, and fads have evolved, but the truth of storytelling through prose and poetry and expression through art and photography continues to be a necessity. The creative works of contributors assure that our history is documented for our progeny. Speaking of progeny, our organization consistently encourages student writing with contests, awards, and publications.

I’d like to thank Patricia Edmisten for this copy of *Pensacola Magazine* and trusting me to curate, archive, and share the information with you. As Edmisten says, “. . . it’s history—and a glorious one at that. A reminder that our roots are regional, and we would do well to keep them here.”

And that’s not all. The magazine also contains poetry of some of our dear members from that era. I hope to share that with you in February 2024, so stay tuned.

Publishing and Member News

Christina Larson’s book, *Rosemary*, will be in the works for publication in 2024.

Check out her cutting-edge platform links:
www.facebook.com/christina.larson.author
and https://twitter.com/C_Larson_Author.

And give them a thumbs up, subscribe, share, and all the other magical things at your fingertips to help launch *Rosemary, Now and Then*.



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: 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

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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 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