



# *The Legend*

**Emerald Coast Writers, Inc.**

Member Newsletter

[emeraldcoastwritersinc.org](http://emeraldcoastwritersinc.org)

**August 2023 Edition**



## **Join Us at the Open Mic on August 15**

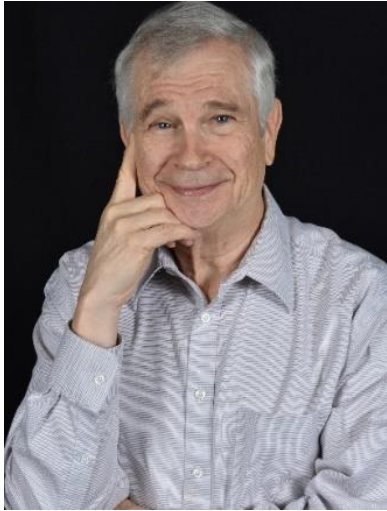
Our August Open Mic will take place at the Pensacola Cultural Center boardroom at 6:30 p.m. and will feature speaker Jerry Merritt, an Air Force officer, historian, and genealogist. He specializes in fiction and science fiction, and a few of his books are based in Pensacola.

His presentation will cover insightful tips like:

- Write 1,000 words every day.
- Surprise yourself – or else you can't surprise your readers.
- Look forward to criticism. It makes your writing better.
- Your readers are paying to read something they haven't read before.
- And more!

We hope to see you there! *Please note: A Zoom link will be sent out for members who wish to participate online.*

# Message from the President



Come join us, either in-person or on Zoom, for our August Monthly Meeting and Open Mic on August 15th. Our guest speaker this month is local author, Jerry Merritt.

Jerry writes in several 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.

If you haven't already, take a look at our new website [here](#) and let us know what you think.

I've been a subscriber to the magazine *Poet and Writers* for a number of years. I like the various resource listings they have such as the ones on writing conferences and retreats. Another very useful listing is that of writing contests, grants, and awards. For anyone interested in submitting their writing to a contest or seeking a grant, here is a link to that listing: <https://www.pw.org/grants>.

Reminder: if you are participating in the Every Story Tells a Story contest, your writing submission is due by August 11. Send your entry to Tonya Dalhaus at [connect@linkingperspectives.com](mailto:connect@linkingperspectives.com).

Plans continue to progress on Books by the Bay book festival happening in March 2024. We have secured Museum Plaza in downtown Pensacola as our venue and have made several grant applications for funding.

We've applied also to have a booth again this year at the Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival. We should hear soon if we will receive a booth.

Kudos to Diane Skelton and Charline Barger for compiling, formatting, and publishing on Amazon our 2023 book of Youth Writing contest winners' works. The book will be distributed soon at an event at Books-A-Million (date and time TBD).

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](mailto:info@emeraldcoastwritersinc.org).

–Tom Roberts

# Submission Opportunities

## “Every Picture Tells a Story” Contest Submissions are Due Friday, August 11

Members of Emerald Coast Writers can choose from 150 photos taken by members of the Wide Angle Photo Club to participate in the Every Picture Tells a Story contest. Writers are invited to select one photo from the album which inspires or prompts a short story, poem, haiku, narrative, flash fiction, or other short work, limited to 400 words.

Interested writers should visit the Wide Angle Photo Club Facebook group and join the group. To view the photos, select the Media tab, then Photos, then Albums, then Every Picture Tells a Story. Writers should mark in the comment section when they claim a photo. Writers must submit their written pieces to Tonya Dahlhaus ([connect@linkingperspectives.com](mailto:connect@linkingperspectives.com)) no later than Aug. 11 deadline.



At an event to showcase the creations, photographers whose photos were chosen will have a print made, no smaller than 8x10. The winning writers will make a print of a suitable size based on word count, no smaller than 8x10. The combined works will then be shared at the 6 p.m., Sept. 11 monthly meeting of the Wide Angle Photo Club at Asbury Place, behind Cokesbury Methodist Church, 750 College Blvd., off 9th Ave. in Pensacola.

Prior to the Sept. 11 event, a panel of four judges comprised of two WAPC members and two ECW members, will choose ten pieces for reading at the meeting. The accompanying photo will be digitally displayed on the screen while the author reads the words inspired by the photo. All submissions, however, will be on display at the meeting and will be eligible for entry in the People’s Choice awards selected by attendees. Winning entries and photographs will be featured in the *Emerald Coast Review XXII*, a regional anthology published by Emerald Coast Writers.

More for information contact Dahlhaus at 603-969-9775 or email her at [connect@linkingperspectives.com](mailto:connect@linkingperspectives.com).

## Submission Opportunities Through CLMP

### TRAVEL WRITING – Now open through December 31

*Intrepid Times* publishes narrative travel writing with heart. Since 2014, they’ve been sharing authentic stories that capture the essence of an experience, a place, or a journey.

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PROUD MEMBER



COMMUNITY OF LITERARY MAGAZINES & PRESSES  
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Free submissions but pays all writers on the day of publication; accept submissions free of charge, from around the world. Currently seeking "Travelogs" (1000-2000 words) and "Features" (2000-4000 words). For both categories, please submit original, factual, non-fiction stories that have not been published elsewhere online. Publishes one new story per week. <https://intrepidtimes.com/submit-your-writing/>

### **PLAYS & POETRY – Deadline August 28**

The print journal *Rushing thru the Dark*, published each autumn, seeks one-act plays, short screenplays, poetry and art. Prefer one-act plays be less than 20 pages and screenplays less than 90 pages. This journal focuses on drama for its fall quarterly. No fee to submit. Submission guidelines. <https://www.choeofpleirnpres.com/home>

### **NOVELLAS – Deadline August 31**

Last call for *Pomme* University of Tampa novella publication contest. They are seeking 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. Manuscripts must be between 15,000 and 40,000 words. Guidelines at <https://utampapress.org/pomme>

### **POETRY CHAPBOOK – Deadline August 31**

Nine Syllables Press in conjunction with Boutelle-Day Poetry Center at Smith College has opened 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. Any poet who identifies as female can submit to the contest. Submission fee \$10. Guidelines at <https://www.ninesyllablespress.com/contest>

### **FICTION: SHORT STORY COLLECTION OR NOVEL – Deadline September 30**

Established in 1998, The George Garrett Fiction Prize highlights one book a year for excellence in a short story collection or novel. The Prize comes with a \$1,000 advance, a standard royalty contract, and 10 copies of the published book. Submission fee \$28. Texas Review Press. <http://texasreviewpress.org/submissions/george-garrett-fiction-prize>

### **OCEAN FICTION & BEACH READS – Deadline October 31**

Sea Crow Press is currently open to submissions of fiction from both established and emerging writers. They are interested in general fiction, and eco-fiction, and as the home of Cape Cod's summer beach read, we are looking for great stories involving the ocean. Please see our website and explore our books to get a feel for what we publish. Free submissions. Guidelines at <https://seacrowpress.com/submissions-2/>.

### **POETRY – Rolling submission period**

*Anacapa Review* is a new online poetry review established in 2023. They consider poems in any style. You may submit up to 3 poems per submission. Submissions are accepted each month for consideration in the issue that will be published two months later. For example, poems submitted in January may be selected during February for publication in the March issue. Quick response; extension of Gun Powder Press. Guidelines at <https://anacapareview.com/>

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# Announcements

## 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 [wflf.org](http://wflf.org) has been hosted by DigiPro Media for the past five years. Effective August 31, 2023, the wflf.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.

## Excited for the August Open Mic? Mark Your Calendar for September!

On September 19, Lisa Bournelis will serve as the guest speaker at the ECW Open Mic. 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](#).

## 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](#).

# Longtime and Well-Loved Member Dr. Joe Howard Is Remembered by Grateful Emerald Coast Writers

Like the late Patrick Cassidy and Henry Langhorne, poet-physician-members, Joe Howard had a way with words, both in verse and prose. His writing made his point clearly, whether it was a poem about a Yale football game or a treatise on the state of medicine in America today. His writing also reflected the pride he felt in his Polish heritage.

Together, he and his wife Marilyn faithfully attended Writers Anonymous, the Wednesday workshop critique group. He was quite personable, loved to discuss everyone's writing, and to put forth his ideas. Writers could expect an honest and frank response from Joe Howard.

When it came to writing, he expected clarity and a strong message. He often suggested we add "furniture" to our writing. An asset to any writing group, he made us better writers.

Joe also loved a microphone! Audiences enjoyed hearing his passionate talks. When he spoke on the sensitive subject of change in American health care, he packed the Board room at the Cultural Center. His listeners almost came out of their seats with questions.

He made sure to set up a mic for the many Februarys the Howards hosted our annual meetings at their Soundside home. He warmly welcomed the sometimes standing-room-only crowd with a few stories to make us know we were partying with writers. His heartfelt hospitality made these occasions among the most memorable times for members of our organization.

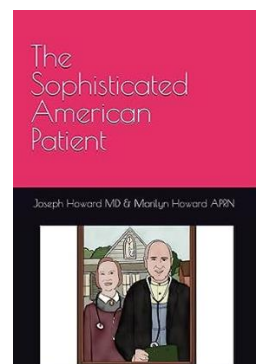
After their retirement from medicine a few years ago, Joe and Marilyn began to work on a book, which became available the same day the community celebrated Joe's life and many accomplishments. The book, *Sapphire: Becoming a Sophisticated American Patient*, is now available on Amazon ([link here](#)).

At times, modest about being a writer, in his submitted bio for "Life in the Time of Corona," Joe described himself: "Joe Howard, a physician for 60 years, is a wanna be poet." Congratulations to Joe and Marilyn for getting his beloved book published to continue his legacy as a writer and as a physician.

His words speak for themselves in a poem published by ECW (formerly WFLF) in "Life in the Time of Corona."



*Joseph Daniel Howard,  
MD*



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## Broken Destiny

By Joe Howard

Creativity, what are your coordinates?  
Brain centered, most likely.  
Hyperbolic experiences  
contrasted with apogees of daily routine.  
Born of attitudes and longitudes.  
Evolved by bodily touches with the world.

There, see the long scar on my forearm.  
A tendon severed; blood vessels broken,  
and a nerve interrupted.  
The arm raised in protection  
against a knife wielding drug idiot.  
A keloid has formed like a monument  
that covers the horrors of the attack.  
I stroke the scar in times of worry.

Ever been in a riot?  
A world-class soccer match meant for  
promotion of friendship through sport.  
The game's outcome adverse to the sore  
losers.  
My ears are pierced by screams of human  
rage and defense.  
Several lay dead on the dusty bloodied  
ground  
trampled by the running of the homo  
sapiens bulls.

I saw human torture in a book's word  
picture.  
Gulag is its name and sounds its own  
anatomy.  
Ghoul, ugly, gallop, laggard, and lug.  
It is the scene of soulless men with hot  
iron pincers  
picking live flesh from a political victim -  
a hopeless reactionary.

My eyes have seen too much.  
My haunted night unwelcome.

All in a coroner's day –  
the smell of decay from  
forensics of a missing child.  
DNA of tissue remains.  
The snapshot of a unique life.

Now walking the halls of the nursing home.  
Air filled with particles of foul urine.  
I visit my mother.  
I touch her brow.  
The feel of sandpaper  
on worry furrow lines.  
Where am I in those creases?

I walk by a room on my visit.  
Hospice huddled with family  
around a bed  
obscuring the silhouette of the patient.  
Human smells  
mixed with medication odors  
failed masking of deodorants.  
The patient now ready  
for opioid transport  
to the ultimate garden gates.  
No ticket scalpers there.

And then there's COVID-19.  
It should be 666.  
Invisible, deadly.  
Suffocates from within  
Makes clots without cuts  
And suffocates from within.

And so it goes.  
Good people  
Bad things.  
Fairness never found.

# Creative Submissions from Members

## One Thang We Gone Do is Heal

By Teris Broughton-Robinson

One thang we gone do is heal.

Black folks heal by singing.

Black folks heal by dancing.

Black folks heal by oratory declaration.

Black folks heal by eating.

Black folks heal by laughing.

Black folks heal by ranting.

Black folks heal by physical competition.  
We dribble and create interference, block,  
tackle and hurdle jump heal.

Black folks heal by giving.

Black folks heal by cooking.

Black folks heal by decorating.

Black folks heal by painting.

Black folks heal by texting, sexting, and sex.

In a world where we are constantly being attacked we've found ways of wellness in protest to our oppression, we do them all constantly and colorfully and freely and also very well.

One Thang We Gone Do Is Heal.

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## Publishing and Member News

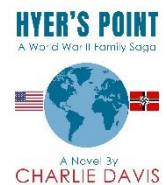
**Pat Black-Gould** recently became a semi-finalist for the Royal Palm Literary Awards given by the Florida Writers Association. Royal Palm Literary Awards (RPLA) is a prestigious writing competition that recognizes extraordinary writing in 20+ genre categories for adults and 5 for youth and provides objective and constructive written assessments to all entrants.

**Charlie Davis'** long awaited World War II novel is now live on Amazon.

[Link here.](#)

**Mary Gutierrez'** poem, "The Gulf," was accepted for inclusion in Notable Works' new book *Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet Vol. III*.

People may purchase the book through visiting Notable Works' website: [www.notableworks.org](http://www.notableworks.org). In addition, Mary's piece, "A Family of Service," was selected by Millview Press to be included in their military life anthology, which will be published later this fall.



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Two of **Karen Morris'** poems will be published in the *Amethyst Review's* December issue, an online journal from the UK for "readers and writers who are interested in creative exploration of spirituality and the sacred. Readers and writers of all religions and none are most welcome." The two poems are "On the Firth of Clyde" and "Spent Blossoms."

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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](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

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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](mailto:westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com)

or

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