



*Temporary logo

The Legend

Emerald Coast Writers, Inc.
Member Newsletter

www.wff.org

August 2022 Edition

Join the Open Mic on August 16, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom!

It might still feel like summer, but school has started, so help us kick off the fall with YOU and the Emerald Coast Writers community.

Let's celebrate each other by showing up to greet old friends and new members alike, and share your creative writing, whether memoir, essay, fiction, or poetry.

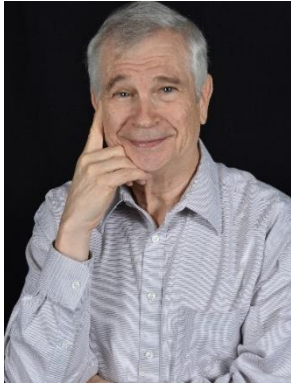
We will celebrate in particular the life of John (Jack) Fabian, a long-time member who passed away on July 17, 2022. <https://www.harpermorrismemorialchapel.com/obituary/jack-fabian>

Fellow member, Andrea Walker, remembers Jack in this issue of *The Legend* and shall speak about him at Open Mic. Come as you are and raise a toast to Jack and your fellow ECW members!

Feel free to read something you've written, are working on, or a piece from a favorite author. If you have a book, blog site, or website, we want you to drop it in the chat to share with your fellow members.

An invitation to join will be coming your way soon, so stay tuned!

Message from the President



Welcome to the August issue of *The Legend*. I have a couple of announcements (full details further down).

First, members who enjoy our Open Mic events will be happy to hear that after a hiatus in July, Open Mic returns August 16 at 6:30 pm. This will be a virtual meeting on Zoom.

If you have the time, you can join our “Network and Nosh,” a social/networking pre-meeting that begins at 6:00 pm using the same Zoom link. We will have several Zoom Rooms so smaller groups can meet up and chat without being in the main meeting room. To learn more about Zoom Rooms, follow this [link](#) or just Google “Zoom Breakout Rooms.”

There’s good news for published authors with books to sell. After the success at last year’s Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival / Heritage Arts, we are again going to have a booth. Details for sign up will be forthcoming. We also need volunteers to be cashiers. Training will be provided.

We are also starting a new feature for our Facebook page called “**My Writing Space**” where you can share a photo of your writing space. It’s simple:

- Photograph your writing space. Take a picture of where you write. Don’t clean it up – show us the natural environment where you make the magic. You can be in the shot or not.
- Send the picture to westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com with “My Creative Space” in the subject line.
- Keep watching the Emerald Coast Writers’ Facebook page and when you are featured, share it with the world!

Finally, I’ll end with a few writer “bar” jokes. Enjoy!

A dangling participle walks into a bar. Enjoying a cocktail and chatting with the bartender, the evening passes pleasantly.

A bar was walked into by the passive voice.

A mixed metaphor walks into a bar, seeing the handwriting on the wall but hoping to nip it in the bud.

An oxymoron walked into a bar, and the silence was deafening.

–Tom Roberts

Member Tribute:

Jack Fabian



Dr. Jack Fabian was well-known in Pensacola as a kind, sensitive, and beloved physician.

At ECW we also knew him as a longtime member, a member of the ECW Board of Directors, and a prolific and talented writer. He participated in the Tuesday evening critique group for several years.

Along with a variety of writing, we especially anticipated the antics of his characters, tiny toy poodles that he personified in the novel he was writing.

Genevieve and spoiled baby sister Minouche came alive and entertained us for many months.

He shared our work with his wife Mary each week, and she often offered comments and encouragement to group members as well. Along with Jack Beverly, he read weekly to the residents at Carpenters Creek Assisted Living.

Although he never published, he was constantly writing stories and had begun a memoir.

We offer our condolences to his wife Mary who was always supportive. Mary and his longtime friend and editor Linda Wasserman plan to complete his almost finished adventures of Minouche and publish it.

Jack will be missed by many in our community for his compassion, dedicated work, warm smile, and genuine friendship.

-Tribute written by Andrea Walker



Announcements:

September Flash Creative Writing Challenge Coming Your Way!

For the September 18th Open Mic, you are invited to participate in a NEW Flash Creative Writing Challenge. Choose one of the following prompts below, write 50-750 words in response, choosing fiction, non-fiction, or prose poetry, and share your work at Open Mic!

Check out your September “Legend” for more details.

- Someone does something extreme to return a borrowed item from years ago.
- Remember that imaginary friend of your sibling/friend or your own childhood? What happens to the imaginary friend when we grow up and away? Write from the perspective of the imaginary friend fading away.
- Most of us have experienced some tragic incident in our lives. Write a scene that happens right after a tragedy, but do NOT reveal what the tragedy was.



ECW at the Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival

Emerald Coast Writers will again have a presence at the Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival on November 4-6. Hours for the event are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday; and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday.

Stay tuned for an email with instructions on how authors can sign up for the booth.



Join Our Member Directory and Be Featured on Our Website

Are you featured in our Emerald Coast Writers member directory on our website?

Check it out at <https://wflf.org/MemberDirectory>.

Support your fellow writers and their creative work. If you're not listed on here but you wish to be included, complete the form [here](#).

With Our New Name, We Need a New Logo!

At the February annual meeting, we heard your feedback and changed our name from West Florida Literary Federation to Emerald Coast Writers to reflect where we are now and where we see ourselves in the future.

We envision this to be a place for our regional writers and creative artists (and beyond) to grow, learn, and network. We now want to finish this rebranding journey with a new look and logo.

A logo is a "symbol or other design adopted by an organization to identify it." A logo can be a symbol or image and words. It is not just a photograph or painting/artwork. We offered a logo contest, but the contest turnout was low or participants did not meet criteria. So now we're asking you, our members, to consider creating what you envision us to be. We invite you to submit a logo, image, and look to the board for consideration of our rebrand.

Please submit your idea and image to westfloraliteraryfederation@gmail.com by August 31, 2022. We look forward to seeing what you have in mind. Thank you for helping us continue to help our members grow and succeed!



Send In Your Creative Writing, Photos, or Art!

Have you:

- Written a whimsical poem or Haiku recently?
- Taken a beautiful photo of a sunset on the beach?
- Want to include an excerpt from your book as a teaser to our members?
- Created a beautiful art piece that you'd like to share and showcase?

Share your creative writing, photos, and art in the monthly *Legend* newsletter. All forms are welcome and will be considered for publication.*

If you submit a photo or image, please include a short writeup about it (two or three sentences explaining the work and what it means/is). Let's get the inspiration going and uplift each other through words, images, and creativity. Submit your work via email to the *Legend* editor at editor@wflf.org anytime. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing your amazing work!

**In addition to publication in the Legend, some pieces may be shared on our social media and our website, too, with permission by the author or artist.*



Creative Submissions from Our Members: Poetry

July 4, 2022, USA

Today a young man and his assault weapon killed six Americans in Highland Park, Illinois. They were at a parade to celebrate freedom, freedom to breathe, speak, learn, work, worship, vote, love, marry and build a family.

Who among the dead imagined that they would die before mid-day, that they were with their loved ones for the last time, that their tasks for the day would remain undone?

Who among them imagined that their apology would never be uttered, their vacation forever on hold, that they would not see their child graduate or hold a grandchild on their lap?

Who among them thought that they would join victims from Columbine, Sandy Hook, Aurora, Buffalo, Uvalde and countless others who have met death at the hands of desperate men whose only friends were weapons of war?

Men without hopes or dreams, whose only aspiration was to die and be remembered for killing the innocent. Did they sleep with their only friend? Stroke it? Caress it? Feel the hard metal press against their bodies?

By Patricia Taylor Edmisten

*According to the British newspaper, *The Guardian*, based on their compilations since 2014, there is a mass shooting every day of the year in the United States. A mass shooting is defined as one in which four or more people have been gunned down.



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Daylilies

Orange Daylilies
Swaying as gentle winds blow
Sunburst on a stem

By Terri Barlotta

Sunset Saturday

My family wanted to watch the sunset from the beach on Saturday evening. We arrived around 6:45 p.m. with cameras and hearts ready. The wind and cumulus clouds had other plans for the sunlight, giving us scant glimpses of orange and yellow. As we waited for weather changes, we splashed in the water, unsuccessfully netted bait fish, and chased a crab into a hole. I helped my tween build a small sandcastle. Less than 20 humans were on Barrancas beach, and each of us pretended we were alone. An hour went by, and the clouds shapeshifted into animals frolicking. We saw no giant rays and gleams, yet we felt nature's beauty and power. We smiled as we left, knowing there would be other Saturdays and sunsets to view.

By Mandy Fernandez



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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.

Emerald Coast Writers Board of Directors

President: Tom Roberts
Vice President: Mandy Fernandez
Secretary: Charline Barger
Treasurer: Scott Finelli
Director: Debra Stogner
Director: Lori O’Gara
Director/Poet Laureate: Katherine Nelson-Born
Legend Editor: Katie Rankin

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

- Directors can be contacted at: westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com
- Check out our website at: 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

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 www.wflf.org and then 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