

# MFA AT EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## Creative Writing Program

Newsletter... February... 2019.....



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## Visiting Writers Series Welcomes Three More Authors!



### Connie Voisine

Connie Voisine is the author of *Calle Florista*. Her previous book, *Rare High Meadow of Which I Might Dream* was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Award. Her first book, *Cathedral of the North*, won the Associated Writing Program's Award in Poetry. She has poems published in *The Georgia Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry Magazine*, *Black Warrior Review*, *The Threepenny Review*, and elsewhere. Her work was featured at The Lab at Belmar, a museum show pairing prehistoric stone tools with poems. Educated at Yale University, University of California at Irvine, and University of Utah, Voisine teaches in the creative writing program at New Mexico State University and also coordinates *La Sociedad para las Artes*, its outreach organization.

Spark Central February 8th 7:30-8:30 pm



### Ira Sukrungruang

Ira Sukrungruang is the author of three non-fiction books *Buddha's Dog* & other Meditations, *Southside Buddhist* and *Talk Thai: The Adventures of Buddhist Boy*, the short story collection *The Melting Season*, and the poetry collection *In Thailand It Is Night*. He is the recipient of the 2015 American Book Award, New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Nonfiction Literature, an Arts and Letters Fellowship, and the Emerging Writer Fellowship. His work has appeared in many literary journals, including *Post Road*, *The Sun*, and *Creative Nonfiction*. He is one of the founding editors of *Sweet: A Literary Confection* ([sweetlit.com](http://sweetlit.com)), and teaches in the MFA program at University of South Florida.

Spark Central February 22nd 7:30-8:30 pm



# Visiting Writers Series

And...

## Suzanne Matson



Suzanne Matson's new novel, *Ultraviolet*, received a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*, and was included in *Real Simple*'s roundup of "The Best Books of 2018." Her first novel, *The Hunger Moon*, was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers pick. Her third, *The Tree-Sitter*, was short-listed for the PEN New England/ L. L. Winship Award. She has published two poetry collections with Alice James Books, and teaches at Boston College. Originally from Portland, Oregon, she studied at Portland State University and the University of Washington.

Spark Central March 1st 7:30-8:30 pm

### **EWU MFA Newsletter Editor Wanted**

**Exciting opportunity to write and edit the monthly MFA Newsletter !  
Open to any first year MFA student with a burning desire to have a  
cross-program involvement with all aspects of our MFA world.**

**Perks: Communicate, write original copy, inform fellow students,  
create new features, and get to know everyone in the program.  
Plus it looks good on a resume to say: Editor, MFA Newsletter, EWU!**

**Skills needed: Writing, editing, organization, time management,  
communication, Internet savvy, desktop publishing**

**Newsletter is built using InDesign but previous knowledge is not  
mandatory. Any familiarity with Publisher, or other  
desktop publishing programs is helpful.**

**Apply in February, Train in March, Take over in April, 2019.  
Need more information or have questions, contact the current editor:  
Kerry Rutherford: [kerryrutherford6@gmail.com](mailto:kerryrutherford6@gmail.com)**



# Cheers Kudos & Events

## Yvonne Leach

Congratulations Yvonne, Class of 1986! Yvonne's poem *Middle Seat*, was published in *Street Light Press*. Also, *HitchLit Review* just accepted two poems: *Modern Day Blackfoot* and *Impartial Memories*.

## Karen Babine

Congratulations Karen, Class of 2003! Karen's book, *All the Wild Hungers: A Season of Cooking and Cancer*, has just been published by *Milkweed Editions*. Karen has previously published: *Water and What We Know: Following the Roots of a Northern Life* (University of Minnesota, 2015), winner of the 2016 Minnesota Book Award for memoir/creative nonfiction, finalist for the Midwest Book Award and the Northeastern Minnesota Book Award. Karen also edits *Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies*. Her work has appeared in such journals as *Brevity*, *River Teeth*, *North American Review*, *Slag Glass City*, *Sweet*. Her work has twice been listed as a Notable in the 2014 *Best American Essays*.

## Brent Ortler

Congratulations Brent, Class of 2007! Brent's book of poetry, *Lessons of the Dead*, has been published by *Fomite Press* and is available now on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

## Wendy J. Fox

Congratulations Wendy, Class of 2001! Wendy's forthcoming novel *If the Ice Had Held*, was selected as the Santa Fe Writers Project grand prize winner by Benjamin Percy.

See Wendy's Guest Column on page 5!

## Aunties Events

**Saturday Feb. 9 - 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Katrina Carrasco: *The Best Bad Things*

**Wednesday Feb. 13 - 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

Delia Owens: *Where the Crawdads Sing*  
New York Times Best-selling Author  
[Ticketed Event at Downtown Library]

**Saturday Feb. 23 - 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

Signing: *A Roll of the Dice II*  
Anthology by six local authors put out by  
The Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror  
writers of Spokane.

**Wednesday Feb. 27 - 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

Kate Quinn: *The Huntress*  
New York Times Best-selling Author  
[Ticketed Event at Downtown Library]



Voice Over 7pm-9pm  
Saturday, February 9th  
Lindaman's Gourmet-To-Go  
1235 S Grand Blvd



# Letter from the Editor

Dear MFA People!

February is a jam-packed month with three visiting writers (well one is March 1st but it still counts!), Voice Over, and spring registration. Second years have to pay attention to all the forms that need to be filed in order to graduate in June, so if you are not sure what you need, check with Pam.

The second Voice Over of 2019 is coming up Saturday, February 9th! See the lineup on page 3. It's always fun and always inspiring. Join everyone at Lindaman's where the food is fantastic too.

I am urging first year MFA students to check out the advertisement on page 2, for the position of MFA Newsletter Editor. Anyone who has even a tiny bit of interest or curiosity, please ask me about it. I am recruiting this month, training in March and handing over the reins in April. It's a totally fun gig and looks great on a resume.

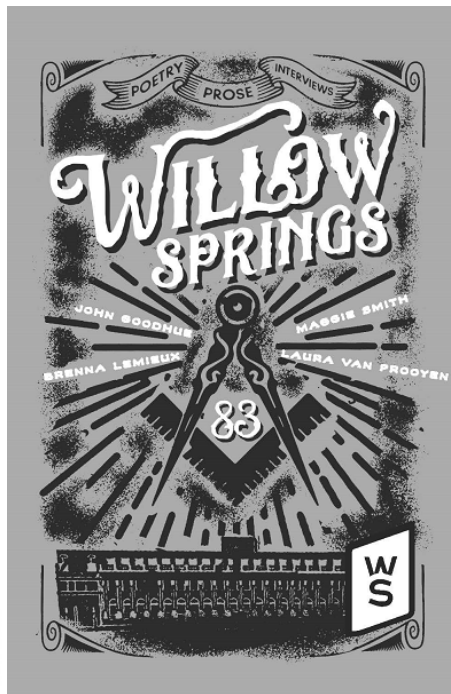
See you on the second floor!

Kerry

Kerry Rutherford

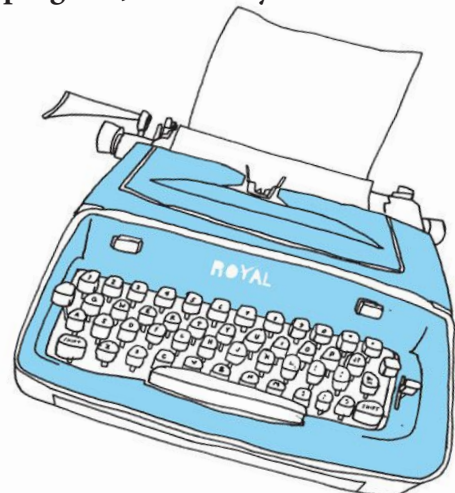
**Remember to send an email with any information about awards, publications or events for the March newsletter to:** [kerryrutherford6@gmail.com](mailto:kerryrutherford6@gmail.com)

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## New Willow Springs!!

Issue 83 has arrived! Willow Springs invites you to read the latest issue, which features stunning poetry, prose, and an interview with Maggie Smith you won't want to miss. Feed your eyes the writing you deserve with Issue 83. We would like to thank everyone on the management team and all of our dedicated readers who help find the work that becomes each new issue. This magazine would not exist without our staff or Eastern's MFA program, so thank you all.



# Voices from Beyond the MFA

A Guest Column from EWU MFA Program Graduate Wendy J. Fox

Like many grads, I did the adjunct circuit after finishing at Eastern, taught for a bit abroad, and then--because I did not have a book and essentially no desire to get a PhD, which left me without a real track other than hustling for classes every quarter--I left education and started trying for jobs in software. In the mid-2000s, this seemed very glossy and fun and also very practical in relationship to paying my rent.

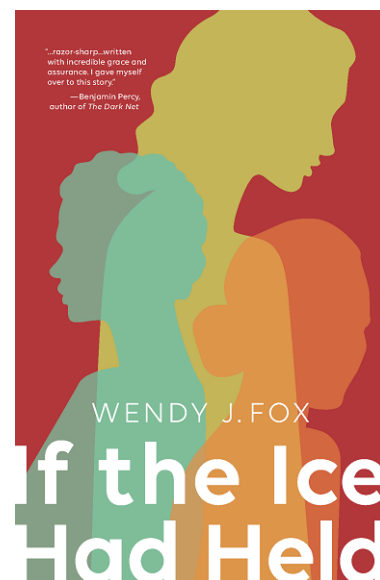
It's not for everyone, but I transitioned pretty fully into corporate life. Having an identity as a writer put me in a place where I was pretty comfortable with the rejection of my many job applications, and these days I run a marketing team at a tech company. Completing an MFA actually translated very well into a business environment where there is a lot of writing, a lot of feedback (giving and getting), working on deadlines, and trying to really, sometimes, create some kind of story--though we'd call it a "message"--out of thin air.

It was thirteen years between my MFA and my debut book of short-stories, and frankly, I had a lot of doubt about myself as a writer during those years, but I kept after it, very much informed by what I had experienced at EWU of writing as a practice, as a part of life. Now as I gear up for the release of my third book in five years, that gap between graduating and first full-length doesn't feel like it matters so much--it was just part of the path, and I'm grateful to be on it.    Tweeting from @wendyjeanfox.

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Wendy J. Fox is the author of *The Seven Stages of Anger and Other Stories* (winner, Press 53 short fiction contest & finalist for the Colorado Book Award), *The Pull of It* (named a top 2016 book by Displaced Nation) and the forthcoming novel *If the Ice Had Held*, selected as the Santa Fe Writers Project grand prize winner by Benjamin Percy. Available at: <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1939650917>

**If you are interested in hearing more about non academic jobs and MFAs, come to Wendy's panel at AWP: <https://www.facebook.com/events/639435589910091/>**



# Opportunities for Submission

## ZYZZYVA

Deadline: May 31

We accept submissions only from January 7 through May 31 and September 1 through November 19. Please note: We do not accept any online submissions. Please send previously unpublished fiction, poetry, essays, and artwork:

ZYZZYVA

57 Post Street, Suite 604  
San Francisco, CA 94104

**Complete guidelines at:** <https://www.zyzyzyva.org/about/submissions/>

## Lunch Ticket

*Lunch Ticket* is the online literary and art journal published by the MFA community of Antioch University. Main Issues are published in June and December, with reading periods from February 1 to April 30 and August 1 to October 31. We are proud to host two prizes in each of our main issues: the Diana Woods Memorial Award in Creative Nonfiction and The Gabo Prize for Literature in Translation & Multilingual Texts. Both prizes are open for submissions in February and August.

**Guidelines available at:** <https://lunchticket.org/about/submission-guidelines/>

## Cambridge Writers' Workshop

Deadline: February 14, 2019    Fee: \$5

*The Cambridge Writers' Workshop* welcomes submissions of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, mixed-genre work, plays, and screenplays on the topic of "Disobedient Futures" for our new speculative literature anthology. Writers are encouraged to imagine what the future cultures of America and the world might look like, and submit their work. Topics are listed at the following link:

**Complete Guidelines at:** <https://cambridgewritersworkshop.org/disobedient-futures-call-for-submissions/>

## ArLiJo

Deadline: March 15, 2019    Fee: none

*Arlington Literary Journal* an ejournal also known as ArLiJo, is located in Arlington, Virginia and is sponsored by Gival Press. The work chosen promotes understanding and sensitivity across borders, even if initially the work may cause one to take a double-take.

**Guidelines at:** <http://arlijo.com/>

## Belmont Story Review

Deadline: March 15    Fee: none

*Belmont Story Review* is a national magazine of literary arts, faith and culture. *Belmont Story Review* seeks to publish new and established writers passionate about their craft, fearlessly encountering difficult ideas, seeking to explore human experience in all its broken blessedness. We feature works of fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. Read the submission guidelines: <https://belmontstoryreview.wixsite.com/website/submissions>

