

Vol 1 Issue 1

March 1, 2021

Inside This Issue

Memories

Poetry Corner

Coming in 2021

Five Star review

Writer's Corner

From the Bookshelf

Conference Update

Backpage



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Welcome to the first issue of EGWG's newsletter.



Elk Grove Writers Guild's main goal is to help writers become the best they can be through critiquing members works in progress. To further our goal, we are creating this newsletter to pass on information of events, membership news, and offer little bits of writing wisdom, poetry, memories, writing tips, and whatever news in the publishing world that comes along.

We will offer our readers, a chance to write and be published in this newsletter and on our website.

Join us in this adventure.

Contact Us

Company Name

Elk Grove Writers Guild

Street Address

7413 Netherbury Ct.

City, ST Zip Code

Elk Grove, CA 95757

Phone

916-747-6898

Email

egwg2020@egweg.org

Website

www.egweg.org

Newsletter

turlockpenny@yahoo.com



What's Happening?

As we enter 2021, we are happy to see 2020 in our rear-view mirrors. Will this year be better? With vaccines being produced, how can it be worse. The world is not back to normal, so it may not be time for cheering just yet, but hopeful optimism is always a good option.

The Guild is actively planning for not only the Fall's writers conference in October, but also a writing contest, online classes in the Craft of Writing series, and a Zoom Open Mic event.

Check our website egwg2020@egweg.org for more news and, as our fearless leader says, "Stay tuned."

"Close the door. Write with no one looking over your shoulder. Don't try to figure out what other people want to hear from you; figure out what you have to say. It's the one and only thing you have to offer." -- Barbara Kingsolver

The Guild meets on the first Friday of each month. Currently we meet in a virtual setting. We gather to talk in the language of writing, to share what and how we're doing, tell what's new in the publishing world, and ask questions about problems we might be having in our works in progress.

If you're interested in joining a meeting, contact Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com and you'll be invited.

The next meetings are scheduled for March 5 and April 2, 2021.

A Page out of a Memoir

The Changes Covid-19 has Made in my Life.

As an only child and an extrovert, I surrounded myself with friends and "adopted" them as family, each unique and lovable in his or her own way. I still do that today, although not so much since I have children and grandchildren to love.

But COVID-19 came along, and my soul began to slowly starve for the laughter and smiles shared with a friend over a lunch, interacting with a group of like-minded writers or good friends, elbow to elbow working on a project, exchanging ideas, and making things happen with the only kind of communication a bare face can broadcast, and nightmares of faceless monsters chasing me in a cemetery.

I struggle every day to get out of bed to do the things I must, and resolve to embrace the smile-less world, telling myself it won't be forever. But for so long, my aching heart has felt compressed, shriveled, old. Now, fear enters the picture. I've been still, captive, restrained for almost a year. I wonder if that electric current I get from a bare-faced smile will still penetrate. Or, like a muscle deprived of use, my buried smile will be too weak to reciprocate.

Then there's the frustration because the mask fogs up my glasses, and the constant uneasiness after I go to the store, the doctor or dentist office, every tickle of the throat; not to mention the temperature taking; the washing of hands now raw with destroyed cuticles, the extra pounds gained, and a general dissatisfaction with myself.

Staying at home - I think about sad things. The vaccine gives me hope. I'm predicting we will get it in February some time. *Loy Holder*

(Editor's note: The vaccine did come in December, but not for everybody.)

Poetry Corner



WRITER'S

Their admirable faces
have so much soul
God sent me to them
this I know.

Their creative words
penetrate my mind
so much to write
and not enough time.

Brains filled with wisdom
from what they've seen
a book by itself
a real writer's dream.

By: Linda Kathleen Bradley

Regrets

If I had a chance to do it again,
I'd take her to Weinstocks to browse within.
I'd take her to the Rosemont and wait patiently,
While she finished her meal and complained
constantly.

I'd go to her house and sit for hours,
no matter her eyes should close.
I'd read her a book, or hold her hand,
just to make sure she knows ...

That I loved her no matter how long she took
to shop in the grocery store.
Or how many extra stops she'd ask me to make before.

I'd tell her she's pretty and get her to laugh.
I'd settle for a grin.
If I could have another chance to do it over again.

By Loy Holder

Coming in 2021

George Hahn writes Sci-Fi and will be publishing *Methuselah's Revenge*, the next book in his series within the next month or two. The books in this and his other series are available on Amazon.

Check out his *Tau Ceti* trilogy where it all began, and his website tauceti2.com to keep track of what he plans for future books.



Five Star Reviews



“A meticulously researched subject is brought to page-turning life by the author. Cheryl Stapp knows her California history and generously shares the fascinating story of Ida Vanard's life with the reader. A totally enjoyable and educational read.”

[Amazon.com: Wild Wicked Woman: The Life of a Gold Rush Courtesan eBook: Stapp, Cheryl Anne: Kindle Store](#)

Writer's Corner

Ten Lazy Word Choices to Avoid

1. **Better:** Better than what? This shirt fits better, or this shirt fits as if it were made for me.
2. **Maybe/Perhaps:** Not sure? Be positive. Maybe a vaccine is coming soon, or Scientists say the vaccine will be out in December.
3. **Big/Little:** How big or little? Be specific and descriptive. John was a big guy, or John had an enormous frame, and he towered over her.
4. **Very:** This is a weak word, use a stronger alternative. Susan's house was very big, or Susan's house made mine look like a shoebox.
5. **Amazing:** This word is overused. Fantastic, incredible, marvelous ... be bold and choose a better adjective.
6. **Majority:** A long word easily replaced by most. The majority of the team is from Seattle, or most of the team is from Seattle.
7. **Just:** Just is a filler word, and most of the time it adds no value to a sentence. I just haven't any money, or I haven't any money.
8. **Stuff/Things:** What are stuff and things, do they have a name? Go ahead and describe them. I put my stuff on my desk, or I put my purse and to-go cup on my desk.
9. **Go/Went:** How did they go, willingly or kicking and screaming? Be creative and use descriptive words. John went into the house, or John trudged into the house.
10. **Different:** Variety is great. Be creative. We have different soups today, or we have many types of soup listed on the board.

(Editor's Note: Oops. I use just and maybe too much. I'll add them to my *watch for when editing* list.)



From the Bookshelf

A City of Promise - Dedicated to all the cities swept by violent storms during the winter of 2020-2021.

The city lay dark and silent as the 100-year storm moved toward the east—at last.

For the first time in a week, the moon broke through the clouds. Silver light reflected off rivulets of water, still snaking across the sidewalks and down the street, flowing toward swollen gutters, creating even more flooding.

Debris from the storm lay everywhere, heaped high in tangled obstacles that someone would have to deal with.

In the silence the turmoil of wind and rain had left behind, the city exhaled a held breath. Doors opened, and people wandered out to gather in small groups, peering at the aftermath of the storm's destruction.

The people assessed the damage, and, one by one, began making plans.

It was time to pick up the pieces and go on.

PL Clark

2021 Conference Update

An Exciting Preview of a Coming Attraction

The Elk Grove Arts Commission is partnering with the Elk Grove Writers Guild to bring you a combined, blockbuster Book Fair and Elk Grove Writers Conference on October 9, 2021 at the City of Elk Grove's District 56 Facility, 8230 Civic Center Dr., Elk Grove, CA 95757.

The Book Fair will take place in the District 56 Foyer and along the Avenue of the Arts. There will be volunteers available to assist authors with unloading and setting up their tables. The Arts Commission is also planning a children's hour with a professional storyteller. They are hosting a writer's contest as well. First prize will be \$200.00, and second prize will be \$100.00.

The Writers Conference will take place in three large classrooms, and the Writers Conference presenters will be able to sell their books in the Veteran's Hall. No charge for their tables. In addition, the EGWG is hoping to find an agent, editor and/or publisher to hold scheduled interviews with aspiring authors in a meeting room during the conference.



More specific details will be published within the next months, regarding the combined Book Fair and Writers Conference event.

STAY TUNED

March 20th is the **Spring Equinox**, the first day of Spring. Say goodbye to winter!

"Don't let what you
can't do stop you
from doing what you
can do"
- John Wooden

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!

An Irish Proverb: Every man is sociable until a cow invades his garden.

Another poem for your pleasure

VINES

When I love, it is so deep
It hurts my soul
I lose time and balance
As many know.

Love to me solves all of
Life's pain
Love knows it's time
To come in from the rain.

Love touches my heart
And also my mind
It keeps me going
In troublesome times.

It creates the passion
Deep inside of me
Twisting like a vine
Of intricate empathy . . .

Loving you
Loving me

By: *Linda Kathleen Bradley*

This and That

If you're interested in writing a memoir, Kakwasi Somadhik recommends *Shimmering Images* by Lisa Dale Norton.

Thought for the Month

"You have to write the book that wants to be written. And if the book will be too difficult for grown-ups, then you write it for children."

--*Madeleine L'Engle*

Attention: Do you have a poem, a special memory, or a favorite author's quote, or perhaps an April Fool's Day joke?

Send it to turlockpenny@yahoo.com If it's chosen it will be printed in the next issue and on the EGWG website.

Please use Garamond – 12 for submissions. Submissions should be in Word not in PDF.

See you next month!

