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Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Elk Grove Writers Guild first met in 2018 as a critique group. Our main goal was and is to help writers be the best they can be.

To expand our efforts in reaching our goal, we created this once monthly newsletter. In it we'll pass on information of coming events, guild news, and offer little bits of writing wisdom, poetry, memories, writing tips, and whatever news in the publishing world that comes our way.

We offer you, our readers, a chance to see your work in print. Newsletters are also available on our website.

I encourage you to contribute short articles and stories, event announcements, writing tips, and recent successes or publication events.

Come. Join us on our adventure.

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What's Happening?

2021 is behind us! 2022 isn't looking like it will be much better, but one can hope. Keep writing and stay safe.

We're planning a busy year for 2022 be sure and check the President's Column to see what's coming.

“Get it down. Take chances. It may be bad, but it's the only way you can do anything really good.”
William Faulkner

The Guild meets on the first Friday of each month. We will continue meeting in a virtual setting in 2022 until it's safe to meet face to face. We gather as a Writer's Circle to talk in the language of writers, sharing what and how we're doing. Topics vary as we ask questions about problems we might have with our works in progress or discuss new information in the publishing world.

Guild members post their WIP on Google Docs and share it with other members for critiques. The posted work will get a response. It is a wonderful way to receive input from other writers who give valuable insight on the work presented.

If you're interested in joining the guild, go to the **Join** page on the website. Fill out the membership application and send us your dues. If you'd like to see what we're about first, and want to join our next virtual meeting, contact Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com and you'll receive the link.

The next meetings are Jan. 7, 2022, and Feb. 4, 2022. Meetings begin at 12:30 and last one and a half hours. The time for the meetings has changed to allow the teachers and parents in the guild to fulfill their duties.



From The Bookshelf

The Jaguar Roared

By Penny Clark

The Jaguar roared in the night, and the tribe trembled. The god was angry. Who would die this time? The headman had already chosen the lame and disfigured, and the ones not smart enough to live on their own.

Pieka stood among the tribal members at the hastily called meeting, his mind fixed on the idea of a more significant sacrifice. He stepped forward—he had to speak. “Wouldn’t the Jaguar god be better satisfied with someone who was precious to us?” Angry murmurs from the elders interrupted him. “The god can’t be happy that we are sending him misfits and rejects.” Pieka stepped back and waited to see what would happen.

Omani, the headman’s son, glared at Pieka, as if he had said Omani should give up his most beloved son or daughter. “That is easy for you to say. You have no one to lose,” he said and sneered at Pieka.

Pieka’s head dropped to his chest. It was true, he had no one. He was alone. After a few seconds, he raised his head and looked around the circle. His stomach sank to his feet as he saw everyone staring at him. Omani was grinning, stroking his chin, and nodding his head. The grin was evil.

The animosity between the two men was widely known. That had never been a major problem, but Omani was

the headman’s only son and his father catered to him. The priest was his uncle who thought Omani could do no wrong. Pieka was nobody, an orphan of a traveler who had died in the village many years before.

The Olmecs were tough people; Pieka wasn’t one of them, he was an outsider. He should have kept silent. The priest and the headman had their heads close together, whispering. They nodded and Pieka watched in horror as the priest and his assistant came toward him. Now everyone knew who the next sacrifice would be. They grasped Pieka’s arms and took him out of the meeting circle. The men carried him to the temple and made him climb up the steps to the platform at the top.

They forced the bitter liquid down his throat, and Pieka felt a warmth creep through his body from the draught. The heat turned into pleasure as he felt the men’s rough hands on him, tearing his clothes, baring his throat and chest.

The sun was just below the hills. Soon it would shine upon the top of the temple, illuminating the raised platform where Pieka lay. The priest began to pray to the Jaguar, offering the heart and blood of the sacrifice to please the god. Pieka smiled, he was beyond caring, and every breath he took was blissful pleasure.

He watched with amusement as the jade dagger caught the sun’s first glow. Up it went, into the air and Pieka thought it was a wondrous sight. The blade began its journey down.

At the last moment, Pieka was afraid.

“My first feeling was that there was no way to continue. Writing isn’t like math; in math two plus two always equals four no matter what your mood is. With writing, the way you feel changes everything.”

Stephanie Meyer

*******Five-Star Review*******

From the Editor:

I'm stumped. Have you ever entered your name on Google and seen all the people with the same name as you? That's what I'm dealing with while trying to find authors with five-star reviews.

If you have a published book with a five-star review, send me your name and the title of your book. I can work with Amazon titles.

You can be a member of the guild or not. If you receive this newsletter, contribute please, and make my life easier.

P. Clark



CWC First Friday meeting, Jan 7, 2021, 10 am via zoom with Sarah Armstrong-Garner, “Writing Adaptations Plus Pitching for Film.”

The Sacramento Monthly Meeting, January 15, 2022, 1pm, via zoom open for chat at 12:30, “Guerilla Marketing for writers.” With Agent Mike Larson.

For a link to the meetings, contact Marcia Ehinger of CWC at mehinger@comcast.net
Or contact CWC at www.cwcsacramentowriters.org and click on announcement

Check out the NCPA link below for more fun events.

 [2021 10 NCPA Newsletter](#)

Use norcalpa.org to access the websites Business Directory.

Coming Events

Sign up Now!

Mining for Gold: Description, Detail, and Delivery. This course improves our descriptive skills to illuminate our non-fiction work as well as poetry, stories, novels. Open to both literary and prose stylists, this course guides us through an inspiring examination of description in its many forms. With thoughtful instruction and engaging exercises, we'll develop greater skill in using the senses and powers of observation so important in creating memorable work. We'll uncover the rich, evocative words that accurately portray our mind's images. We'll examine dozens of descriptive passages written by master poets and authors to inform our process. We'll also learn how to weave our writing together using description as a unifying thread. An inspirational class that will jumpstart your writing year. Tuesday evenings, Zoom, **January 11-March 15, 2022**, \$25/class, pay-as-you-go. Please enroll with Gini Grossenbacher, M. Ed., certificated editor, Elk Grove Writers & Artists.

Email: gini.writers1@gmail.com

“There is no greater threat to the critics and cynics and fearmongers than those of us who are willing to fall because we have learned how to rise.”

Brene' Brown

Poetry Corner

I received no poetry for this edition.

Come on Poets, I know you're out there. Send me your work. Anyone who receives this newsletter can contribute. Send your submissions to turlockpenny@yahoo.com

The EGWG Bulletin Board

The Guild is planning now for events in 2022 and for the **2023 Conference**. We're searching for speakers for classes and other speaking events.

Are you interested in joining the guild's speaker roster? If you are, contact Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com

“If there's a book you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it.”

Toni Morrison

T-Shirt Truths.

1. Writer's block is when your imaginary friends won't talk to you.
2. I put the PRO in procrastinate.
3. Blessed are the weird people. The writers, the artists, the dreamers, and the outsiders, for they force us to see the world differently.
4. I came, I saw, I forgot what I came for.
5. The past, the present, and the future walked into a bar. It was tense.

December EGWG Meeting

December's meeting included members announcing their books were close to publication.

An Update as of 12/16/21

P. L. Clark's *Harlan's Journey* Published **12/16/21**

[Harlan's Journey - Kindle edition by Clark, P. L. . . Literature & Fiction Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B098888888)

Lisa Randolph's *The Wildlife Diva's Adventure Team* published **12/14/21**

https://www.amazon.com/gp/aw/d/163730711X/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?ie=UTF8&qid=1639659741&sr=1-1

George Hahn's latest book in The Ambassador series, *The Path to Contact* is almost ready to go. **George says late Dec or early January.**

Looks like some good reading here. Check them out.

SAVE THE DATE

Quit just marking time after the lockdown! Regain a meaningful sense of time from the Christian worship seasons, led by author and pastor Betsy Schwarzentraub.

You're invited to a **Tossed In Time: Worship Seasons workshop** on **Saturday, Feb. 12, 9:30 to 3:00** in person at Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove.

The interactive workshop is free. Text, *Tossed In Time*, will be available for purchase. Masks and distancing will be in effect. Register by Feb. 1 by calling (916) 686-8303. Everyone's welcome!



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

The Presidents Column

Save the Date

March 12, 2022

For *Joan Gelfand*



On March 12, 2022, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM, Joan Gelfand will speak via Zoom on how “You Can Be a Winning Writer: *“The Four Cs of Successful Writers.”* The Elk Grove Writers Guild (EGWG) is sponsoring this inspirational class. Tickets are \$20.00 and go on sale **January 15, 2022**, through **March 8, 2022**. Go to the EGWG website on [1/15/22](https://egweg.org/gelfand) at <https://egweg.org/gelfand> to buy your tickets. The Zoom link for the event will be sent on March 11, 2022.

Joan Gelfand has a BA in Creative Writing, an MFA from Mill’s College, and her real-world experience includes being an educator, community organizer, writing coach and author of three poetry collections, a chapbook of short fiction, the Amazon #1 best seller, “You can be a Winning Writer,” Mango Press and her debut novel, “*Extreme*,” published by Blue Light Press in July 2020. “*Extreme*,” was featured on NPR/Tech Nation and was named a finalist in Fiction for the International Book Awards.

Send questions to egwg2020@egweg.org or email loyholder77@gmail.com.

In May 2022, The Elk Grove Writers Guild and Nan Mahon, will present “**Words and Music**,” an event where music lovers, readers, and writers will come together in an afternoon to listen to music, buy books, and read a poem, or a few pages from a latest work.

Stay tuned to this Page for Updates as planning continues.

Loy Holder, President

“Never use a metaphor, simile, or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print.”

George Orwell

“I’m sure I could write endlessly about nothing. If only I had nothing to say.”

Patti Smith, *M Train*

Food for Thought

“No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader. No surprise in the writer, no surprise in the reader.”

Robert Frost



Don't wait until Jan 31. It's time for Hot Cocoa now.

SUBMISSIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

I'm looking for **poetry**, **special memories**, **favorite author's quotes**, **flash fiction**, **a response to a writing prompt**, **or a book coming out in 2022?** Send it to me.

If chosen, I will print it in one of the next issues and it will be available on the EGWG website's Newsletter's page.

Do you or your group have an event

coming up? Send me info, at least a month in advance, and I'll publish it.

Take advantage of the free advertising!

Address for submissions

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

Please, use **Garamond – 12** for submissions. Send in **word doc** **not** PDF. Thanks.

Do you know anyone who would enjoy this newsletter? Send their email address to,

loyholder77@gmail.com

January 2022

- Jan. 1-New Year's Day
- Jan. 17-Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 23-National Pie Day
- Jan. 25-Robert Burns Night
- Jan.31-Hot Chocolate Day

A Few More Writing Prompts

- a. What is the greatest lesson you've learned in your life?
- b. Silvery flakes drifted down, covering the ground. It wasn't snow.
- c. Write what you know about your parents or grandparents.
- d. Describe Valentine's Day using all five senses.
- e. Use a variety of senses to describe your favorite place.

Stay Warm and dry people, and make sure your pets are warm and dry, too.



See y'all next month.