

Vol 2 Issue 03

Mar. 1, 2022

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Welcome!



The Elk Grove Writers Guild main goal is to help writers be the best they can be.

To expand our efforts in reaching that goal, we created this once monthly newsletter. In it we pass along information of coming events, guild news, and other little bits of writing wisdom, poetry, memories, writing tips, news from the publishing world, and anything that tickles the editor's fancy.

We offer you, our readers, a chance to see your work in print. Pnce published, newsletters are available on the Guild website.

I encourage you to contribute short articles and stories, event announcements, writing tips, and recent successes or publication events. Events from other writing groups or any interesting writing thing you find.

Come. Join us on our adventure.

Contact Information

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Penny Clark - Editor

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What's Happening?

We're planning a busy year for 2022. And the guild's first event is this month. It sounds like it will be a good one. See the President's Column for information.

“A storyteller makes up things to help other people; a liar makes up things to help himself.”

Daniel Wallace, *The kings, and queens of Roam*

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 latest 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 listed on the left. 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 at loyholder77@gmail.com and you'll receive the link.

The next meetings are Mar. 4, 2022, and Apr. 1, 2022. Meetings begin at 12:30 and last approximately one and a half hours.

The EGWG Bulletin Board

ARE YOU A SPEAKER OR A TEACHER?

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

Are you interested in joining the guild's speaker roster? If you are, contact Loy Holder at

loyholder77@gmail.com

COMING EVENTS



CWC First Friday meeting, March 4th – First Friday, 10 a.m., **Writing for the Environment and the Environment of Writing** The meeting via zoom is open for chat at 9:30., begins at 10:00-11:00am.

Presenting John Hart will talk about both worlds writing and the environmental scene, adding snippets of his unusual route into the environmental field.

For a link to the meetings, go to the website <https://www.cwcsacramentowriters.org/2022/writers-network-march-4-writing-for-the-environment/>

“We cannot choose where to start and stop.
Our stories are the tellers of us.”

Chris Cleave, *Little Bee*

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

WHAT: FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

WHEN: April 30, 2022, from 10am -6pm

WHERE: Old Town Plaza, Elk Grove

WHY: Celebration of the Arts!

WHO: Hosted by the Elk Grove Fine Arts Center

How can you take part?

1. Individual authors can rent a booth (12x12) to display and sell their books (\$50 per booth)
2. Authors can share the rental of a booth
3. Author/poet reading

In addition to artist booths, we will be featuring live performances, food trucks, a student art show, wine by McConnell Winery, and a children's art activity center. It will be a fun day for the Arts!

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If you have any questions, or would like a vendor application

Festival of Arts Committee

Darrci Robertson, Chair

(916) 685-5992

egfinearts@frontiernet.net

elkgrovesfineartscenter.org

NCPA

Their monthly meetings are on the second Sunday of the month from 1:00-3:00pm

The meetings usually feature a speaker on various writing subjects.

They will continue their virtual meetings on zoom. Check with them at the address below for current information.

<https://www.norcalpa.org>

More Coming events

“Our Life Stories: A Cross-Generational Writers’ Conference”

Saturday, April 30, 2022, on Zoom

The conference is sponsored by the City of Sacramento’s Hart Senior Center and Cosumnes River College, with support from the ACC Senior Services.

The focus of the annual event is the collection and writing of family stories and memoirs.

The conference features a variety of workshops led by experienced and nationally recognized writers.

Maeley Tom, author of *I’m Not Who You Think I Am: An Asian American Woman’s Political Journey*, is this year’s keynote speaker.

Workshop presenters include Lisa Dominguez Abraham, Lora Connolly, Frederick K. Foote, Lesley Gale, Ginny McReynolds, Kathy Lynne Marshall, Kakwasi Somadhi, Bob Stanley, and Kate Washington.

The virtual conference runs from 9AM to 3:15PM. The \$20 fee includes morning and afternoon workshops and a writing activity for all attendees to end the day.

All are welcome. Registration is required by Thursday, April 28. To register, visit [Registration Link](#) or www.ourlifestories.org.

For questions about the conference, call the Hart Center at (916) 808-5462, or email: hartcrcwritersconference@yahoo.com.

“If you want life-long friendship and selfless camaraderie, join the army and learn to kill. If you want a lifetime of temporary alliances with peers who will glory in your every failure, write novels.”

Robert Galbraith, *The Silkworm*

California Writers Club (CWC) (San Joaquin Valley Writers Branch)

Free Monthly Speaker Meetings, 2nd Saturday of each month ~ 12 noon – 2:30 pm
Zoom meetings until return to in-person meetings at UOP in Stockton.

<https://www.sjvalleywriters.org>

Open to all genres and levels ~ get published in Great Valley Stories Anthology, Vol. 1.

Subscribe for zoom links & newsletter:

<https://sjvalleywriters.us10.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=899132e01f7a84cc55e31563e&id=7acdb2b23f>



Elk Grove Writers & Artists Presents:

Annual Spring Zoom Writing

Series: *Writing Deep Scenes and Plot*

Twists begins Tuesday, April 5, Ends

Tuesday, May 24, 2022.

Whether you’re a commercial storyteller or literary novelist, whether your goal is to write a best-selling memoir or captivate readers with a satisfying, beautifully written story, the key to success involves writing deep scenes with plot twists. Gini

Grossenbacher’s popular course will help you write or revise a novel, short story, flash fiction, or memoir for today’s readers and market, filled with rich characters, compelling plots, unexpected twists, and resonant themes. We will feature a literary or publishing luminary as speaker-guest.

Our classes are from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday evenings, \$25 per class, pay-as-you-go. For more details, please contact Gini at ginis.writers1@gmail.com

Poetry Corner – Something Different

*Aye, the jungle knows to the
least leaf-blade
That the men of Mafu are back
from the raid.
Back with the heads of a
hundred braves.
Back with a hundred female
slaves.
.....
Chiefs and councilors haste to
glut
At the feast in Mafu's palace-
hut.
They stride through the door
and a bead of red
unbeeded falls on each feathered
head.
And scarce an eye turns toward
the ghastly thing
That once was the head of
Goru's king:
He that died at the height of
pride,
Hung high, feet to a crossbeam
tied
"Victory" by Robert E. Howard*

VICTORY REVISITED

by Barbara Barrett

The feast is done and the Mafu Chief
Gluts himself on the blood of foes.
The screams inside are very brief
As death comes to a virgin's throes.

I've watched as all went in the hut.
I've watched their bodies thrown aside.
I've watched the Mafu mock and strut.
I've heard them laugh as each foe died.

Our chief Wanu whose love matched mine
Hangs cold above the Mafu's door.
My love, we had so little time.
I ache to be with you once more.

The face that once saw me with love,

Now decorates the Mafu's hut.
His severed head hangs high above
With lips turned down and eyes sewn shut.

The mouth that laughed and kissed with joy
Beneath the giant baobab tree--
Such times as these Death can't destroy,
Nor days when once our hearts sang free.

At every tribal Goru game
I was the fastest of the fast.
Mighty runner of much acclaim,
The Mafu Chief saved me till last.

Though earthen floor was wet with gore,
Those deaths had not contented him.
His naked body wanted more.
His gleaming eyes were hot and grim.

They laid me on the blood-soaked throne
And bound my arms and wrists with ropes.
My legs untied, they left alone;
A pathway for his cruel gropes.

A knife, a slice, and clothes were gone.
My frozen face showed no despair
Warriors who'd return at dawn,
Had watched while fingers probed down there.

Then beastly acts were done for pain.
I didn't scream or cry aloud.
I looked on Wanu's face again.
This one last gift to make him proud.

The Mafu's sharpened teeth were bared.
A bestial beast lurked in his eyes.
With ice cold fire they gleamed and glared --
A demon in a man's disguise.

And when the Mafu's head went down,
I knew the things that he would do.
Another path to pain he'd found --
But darkness waited there I knew.

My victory hid in downcast eyes.
The Mafu Chief would die tonight.
Squashed like melons between my thighs
That Wanu ate with great delight.

His terror rose as pressure grew.
My mocking smile was something new.
My shrieking covered screams from him.
But still his power did not dim.

And councilors smoked
And fires were stoked
And the tom-toms beat
To the shuffling feet.

Poetry Corner

(Continued)

His hands and teeth tore at me
And yet with strength my legs held fast.
Even though my blood flowed free,
I crushed til life at last had passed.

The filthy Mafu chief is dead.
No hero's death, it's much more grim.
Though blood flows freely from his head,
I, a woman, have conquered him.

My bloodied arms and wrists are free
And now your pain I want to ease.
But once strong legs are failing me
And I fall weakly to my knees.

Those last few feet were as a mile.
I crawled to where your ropes are tied
To bring you down from that great height
And lay you gently at my side.
The dawning day will soon bring light,
And now I welcome Death's embrace.
Your frown is gone and, in its place,
There on your lips I see your smile.



“The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization from destroying itself.”

Albert Camus

Editor's note: I think we're on the verge of failing if we haven't failed already.

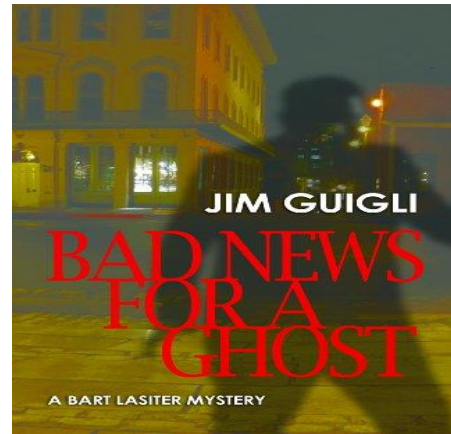


I asked my 91-year-old father, “Dad. What were your good old days?”

His thoughtful reply: “When I wasn't good, and I wasn't old.”

Submitted by Barbara Barrett.

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



https://smile.amazon.com/Bad-News-Ghost-Jim-Guigli-ebook/dp/B00B1T6FX0/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1TXW409SAIKUE&keywords=Bad+News+for+a+Ghost&qid=1645474438&s=books&prefix=bad+news+for+a+ghost%2Cstripbooks%2C134&sr=1-1

A Sacramento private detective goes underground to help a seductive TV reporter catch a ghost.

The *** Review: “Meet Bart Lasiter, PI”**

This novelette is a lot of fun and a good story besides. It's told from the point of view of Bart Lasiter, a former Berkeley cop turned P.I, Now Living in Sacramento, California.

As any good P.I story does, this one starts with a sexy dame coming into his office needing help. And off we go.

There is a lot of great Sacramento history here. Things that might be common knowledge to Sacramentan's but were news to me. Since the story hinges on one such fact, I'll not be giving it away here.

There is much humor as Bart is not exactly the most successful P.I., but he loves his cat, Aggie, and that cat seems to eat all the time while Bart must subsist on table scraps.

There is also a very short bonus story at the end that was fun and entertaining.

These two stories are definitely worth the price.

A full-length novel featuring Bart is in the works and I look forward to reading it, too.

I loved the cover, too.

February's EGWG Meeting

Facebook groups for publishing children's fiction:

Children's Book Authors and Illustrators:
Publishing, Marketing and Selling
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/187350425346975>

Children's Writer's & Illustrator's Market
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2244924974>

Children's Book Writers and Illustrators
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/319221818420636>

How to add categories on KDP: <https://youtu.be/5fXU8R0cHOM>

Kakwasi mentioned that **Flash Fiction Magazine is taking submissions** right now. You can submit here: <https://flashfictionmagazine.com/submissions/>

Kathy & Kakwasi – I reached out to that virtual assistant. I'll let you know if I hear back.

Christina (ChristinaFrancine@gmail.com) is looking for beta readers for a fantasy.

If you're looking for an editor or illustrator, try Reedsy.com. They rigorously vet all members.

--Karen Trinkaus

Jim Guigli had a short mystery published recently. *Looking for Mishka* is set in Old Town Sacramento in Kindle and Rock and a Hard Place – Magazine Issue 7.

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/product/B09QGB3Y94/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_image_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1



The Presidents Column

WORDS & MUSIC

A BOOK FAIRE & CONCERT

Sunday, May 15, 2022 – 10:30 am to 5 pm

At the Chicks in Crisis Ranch, 9455 E. Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove

- ✚ **Author registration starts March 15, 2022, at <https://egweg.org/WM>. \$20 for table space. Bring your own table and chair(s) or Share with a friend. The first few Authors signed up for a table can read during open mic sessions.**
- ✚ **Listen to an author's words or find that perfect book.**
- ✚ **Music Lovers – Tickets are \$10.00. Available March 15, 2022. Pay online at <https://egweg.org/WM>**

[Food and Drink available for sale by Chicks in Crisis.](#)

Meet the entertainers:

Gary Mendoza



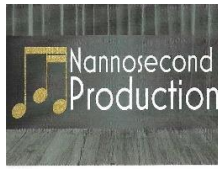
Carly Rhoades

Dinorah



Todd Morgan

Words and Music is Sponsored by:



Go to <https://egweg.org/WM> for more information. **If you have questions, email** Loyholder77@gmail.com or nannosecond@comcast.net



JOAN GELFAND SAYS

“You Can Be a Winning Writer with the 4 C’s”

Craft, Commitment, Community and Confidence

Brought to you by the Elk Grove Writers Guild

Date and time – Saturday, March 12, 2022, from 1:30 – 3:30 PM. On Zoom.

Register now. <https://egweg.org/gelfand>

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

Who is this class for?

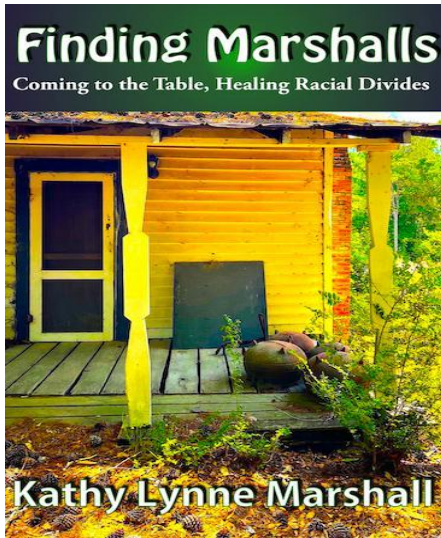
- It’s for those aspiring writers, who’ve never been inside a university.
- The MFA graduate who’s written a great piece, and can’t find the path to publishing ... Or
- The person that’s waited until retirement to write their haunting story but doesn’t know where to begin.

This class helps:

- Tease apart the obstacles holding you back.
- Cut the drama, emotional slowdowns, and self-doubt that may be hindering you, no matter your level in the writing field.
- Apply Joan’s 4 C’s: The Craft of writing, while strengthening your Commitment to learn and do what’s needed, and expand your Community outreach, presence, and self-Confidence.

Who Says Nothing's Happening?

By Kathy Lynne Marshall



On Ground Hog Day, I spoke to a vivacious group of ladies from the Philanthropic Education Organization. I minimized droning on about my genealogy research process. Instead, I read some funny family stories from my books.

In mid-February, the California Writers Club heard my “Tried-and-True Techniques for Writing Your First Book: Simple Steps for Organizing your Manuscript.”

The March 12 African American Family History Seminar (AAFHS) will be pre-taped. Registration information is available here: <https://aafhs.com>. Join us!

I'll give three virtual presentations while on Grandma Duty in Hawaii. An updated version of the "Quick-Start Writing Your First Book" PowerPoint leads the pack, then a short video about the “Joy of Leaving a Written Legacy.”

Third, is a brand-new talk entitled, “A Genealogy Trip with a Twist: How to Add a Coming to the Table Experience to Your Adventure.”

Can you imagine what descendants of the enslaved and enslavers talked about while cruising through Georgia during a worldwide pandemic? This presentation chronicles our incredible journey across cultures. We visited scary and fascinating places and met new cousins. Peek at the taboo conversations in the “Car

Talk” chapter. Collecting priceless memories, we began racial reconciliation, and soon learned it's about healing and feeling.

Dozens of “Lessons Learned” ensure your genealogy trip will be a success. Sixteen hints guide you to create a “Coming to the Table” experience. The “Solving Your Mystery” appendix helps you organize, research, write, and publish your book.

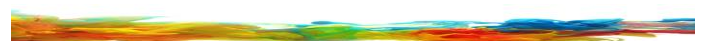
Check out the juicy details in my newest creative nonfiction baby available on Amazon. It's called Finding Marshalls: Coming to the Table, Healing Racial Divides.

Oh, I almost forgot! Good Day Sacramento will interview me on March 4 between 8-8:30 AM. I'll be co-representing the AAFHS genealogy conference. Hmm, I hope my grandkids will be quiet during the taping. Check it out and see. (LOL!)



T-Shirt Truths.

1. The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do.
2. Every day is a good day to write.
3. I became a writer to give the voices in my head something productive to do.
4. I'm a writer with TEXT appeal.
5. I am a writer. Don't worry about me killing you off in one of my books – I can do so much better than that.
6. I am a romance author. I don't have a dirty mind – I have a sexy imagination.



“A professional is an amateur who didn't quit.”

Richard Bach

What Are Filter Words?

Penny Clark

Filter words, also known as weasel or crutch words, are extra words, generally placed at the beginning of a sentence, most often with a pronoun.

Filter words tell the reader to look **at** the character, not **through** them. Filter words tend to make writing weaker.

Every filter word in your story reminds the reader they're **not** experiencing the story as the character does. That the story is just words on a page. It pushes the reader away from the character.

Following is a list of the usual villains. When you revise and edit, search for these words, and cut them if possible.

Filter Words in Your First Draft

While writing the first draft, go ahead and write filter words. At the beginning, when you try to edit them out while writing, you'll limit creativity. Just write. Deal with filter words after the first draft is finished.

And, as with most skills, practice improves **not** writing them. Working with filter words, rewriting sentences, and editing them out, the less filter words you'll have the next time you write. Your eyes will catch them as they'd catch a misspelling or other error.

Dropping filter words is a major part of writing in **deep point of view**. Deep point of view is the writer putting the reader in the characters shoes, letting them experience the drama, excitement, action, and everything as it occurs to the character.

A List of Common Filter Words

- Saw
- Seemed
- Thought
- Wondered
- Heard
- Decided
- Knew
- Felt
- Watched
- Looked
- Noticed
- Realized
- Gave
- Could
- Noted
- Chose
- Experience
- Remembered
- Sounded
- To be able to

Remember, these words usually follow a pronoun, she realized, he watched, he remembered, she saw, etc.

Try this and see if your writing isn't tighter and stronger.

Food for Thought

“I write to discover what I know.”

Flannery O'Connor



Fly a kite with a child and experience the wonder.

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, by the 24th of the month for the next issue.

Take advantage of the free advertising!

Email 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

March 2022

- Mar 6-Ash Wednesday
- Mar 14-Natl. Pi Day—Yes, Please
- Mar 15-Ides of March Day—Et Tu Brutus
- Mar 17-Saint Patrick's Day—Wear Green
- Mar 20-Spring Equinox—Spring's Here
- Mar 25-Natl. Waffle Day—Yum

A Few More Writing Prompts

- a. The city burned, fire lighting up the night sky.
- b. She studied the strange face in the mirror
- c. How did you meet your significant other?
- d. The detective grabbed the waitress's arm and said...
- e. A magic talisman falls into your hands. You can read minds, and it's...



Keep writing and editing. Enjoy the spring warmth. See ya next month.