

Vol 2 Issue 10

Oct. 1, 2022

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Welcome!



The Elk Grove Writers Guild's 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 on information of coming events, classes, and guild news. We offer little bits of writing wisdom, poetry, memories, writing tips, and whatever other writing news that comes our way.

We offer you, our readers, a chance to see your work in print. Past issues of the newsletter are also available on our website.

You're encouraged to contribute short articles and poems, event announcements, writing tips, and recent successes or publication events. Events from other writing groups or any interesting writing things you learn. **See back page for submission info.**

Come. Be a part of our adventure.

Contact Information

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What's Happening?

The Guild is gearing up for the final event of 2022. In November, the Guild is presenting a half-day seminar with three speakers. It looks to be an exciting day. More information on this event can be found in the President's Corner and on the Flyer Page (after the back page.)

“I try to write a certain amount each day, five days a week. A rule sometimes broken is better than no rule at all.”

Herman Wouk

The Guild meets on the first Friday of each month. We continue to meet via Zoom due to Covid and its variants.

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 within our works in progress or discuss the latest information in the writing and publishing world.

Guild members can post their WIP on Google Docs and share it with other members for critiques. The posted work *will* get a response. It's a wonderful way to receive input and other writer's valuable insight on the work presented.

If you're interested in joining the guild, go to the **Join** page on the website www.egweg.org Fill out the membership application and send in your dues.


If you'd prefer to see what we're about first, and want to join our next meeting, contact Loy at loyholder77@gmail.com and you'll receive the link.

The next meetings are Oct. 7, 2022, and Nov. 4, 2022. Meetings begin at 12:30 and last approximately one and a half hours.

WRITING EVENTS

CWC

CWC has a regular monthly meeting on the first Friday of the month and a speaker meeting later in the month. The venue has changed. For information on current meetings [California Writers Club-Sacramento Branch](#)



NCPA monthly meetings are the second Sunday of the month

The meetings usually feature a speaker on various writing subjects.


Check the link for current information on the venue. <https://www.norcalpa.org>



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

Free Monthly Speaker Meetings, 2nd Saturday of each month ~ 12 noon – 2:30 p.m.

Check the link below for venue information. <https://www.sjvalleywriters.org>



Stories on Stage

At the auditorium at CLARA
1425 24th Street, Sacramento

Opens at 6:30 p.m. The performance begins at 7:00

Contribute \$10.00 at the door

For 2022 Monthly Schedule

[Stories on Stage Sacramento](#)

The Gold Rush Writers Conference

Their 16th year of the event will be held on October 7, 8, and 9, 2022 at Hotel Leger on Main Street in Mokelumne Hill, CA.

For schedule and more information on this giant event use the link,

<https://manzapress.com>

More Gold Country Writers

The second in their series of speakers is Joey Garcia, Wednesday October 19 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. She'll present "The Five Bios Every Author Needs."


It will be held at The Auburn Municipal Airport, the Barnstormer's Room. 13666 New Airport Road in Auburn.

For information or directions, contact Margie Yee Webb at mywebb@sbcglobal.net



Next Generation Indie Book Awards is accepting entries for their 2023 awards program. The last day to enter is Feb. 10, 2023.

For award and entry information go to <https://www.indiebookawards.com>



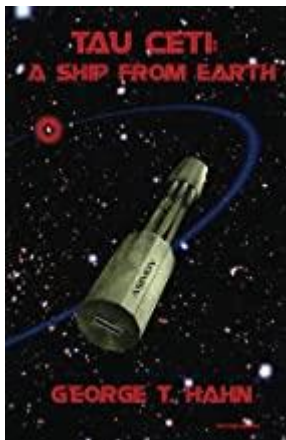
Member's Activities

Oct. 8, Betsy Schwarzentraub will be at the **Great Valley Bookfest in Manteca** along with members of EGWG, The Gold Country Writers, and the CWC San Joaquin Valley writers. Go stock up on your winter reading and help a fellow writer.

Oct. 15, Betsy will lead a 10:30 to 2:30 workshop at Newcastle United Methodist Church about the Christian Seasons using *Tossed in Time*. It's free and open to the public.

Oct. 22, at 2 p.m. Betsy will do an author presentation about *Tossed in Time* at Avid Reader Bookstore, 1949 Broadway, Sacramento.

***** 5 Star Review *****



<https://www.amazon.com/Tau-Ceti-Ship-Earth-1/dp/1496114205>

The first in **The Library Ships Saga** by George Hahn. This book and the ones that follow are available on Amazon.

In the twenty-third century, Earth has colonized planets of three stars. Pitcairn, the second planet of Tau Ceti, twelve light years from Earth, is the most successful. A peaceful world, isolated from Earth by its distance, Pitcairn is visited every twenty years or so by a supply ship crewed by new colonists who have endured the sixteen-year trip.

When the Asimov arrives, it brings change to a world kept static by Terran policy for two hundred years. To deal with the changes, the colonists will have to confront Earth, but first, conflicts rising within the colony will have to be resolved.

This novel is the first in a series chronicling the growth of Pitcairn from a quiet backwater to an independent world defending itself against the manipulations of interstellar politics.

***** **THE REVIEW** *****

I absolutely loved this novel! As an avid science fiction reader, this novel was perfect with the deep space travel and theoretical physics concepts it brought in. However, the best part of this novel is the worldbuilding. It feels almost like you are playing Civilization the way Hahn describes the colony growing. Overall, an outstanding novel, 5/5 stars!

The September EGWG Meeting

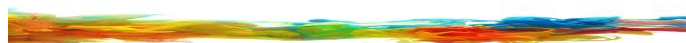
This was a terrific meeting with people relating so much progress and activities galore.

Lolly told of her experience at the 4-day San Francisco Writer's Conference in July. It sounded fun-packed with both presenters and activities.

Karen brought up the 20Book50K conference in Las Vegas. November 14-18. It's a great resource for the marketing and business side of writing. For information go to 20booksvegas.com it's available on live stream or on YouTube.

NaNoWriMo, (National write a Book in a Month) is coming in November. If you haven't tried this, you should. It's a great exercise in writing, and it's okay if you don't make 50 thousand words, you'll have gotten a great start on your book.

George brought up new Guild writing resources that are coming—a lending library with books on writing and transcripts from Great Courses. George also brought up Wondrium, an offshoot of Great Courses where for \$20 a month you can take any course you want. Check them out at wondrium.com.



The EGWG Bulletin Board

ARE YOU A SPEAKER OR A TEACHER?

The Guild is planning now for events in 2023, and for the **2023 Conference**. We're searching for speakers and teachers in all areas of writing.

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

Something Good

This column is about supporting other writers. We'll be sharing the books of our authors here. If you have a book you want to display, send me the info.

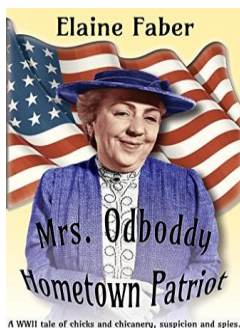
turlockpenny@yahoo.com



[Amazon.com: Bishop's Ploy eBook : Clark, P. L.:](#)
[Kindle Store](#) Just out! The fourth in a series of wolf shifters novels by P. L. Clark. Available on Amazon



[Amazon.com : dark apprentice val neil.](#) Book one in a dark fantasy series by Val Neil. Get this from Amazon.



[Mrs. Odboddy, Hometown Patriot: A WWII tale of chicks and chicanery, suspicion and spies. \(Mrs. Odboddy Mysteries Book 1\) - Kindle edition by Faber, Elaine. Religion & Spirituality Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#) A World War II mystery from Elaine Faber. Available on Amazon.

T-Shirt Truths.

1. I'm a fiction writer. Yes, I'm poor. No, I don't wish I'd written "Harry Potter." Yes, I'm aware that no one reads anymore. No, I'm not a drunk.

2. You know you're a writer if you forget that not everyone spends their free time writing.

3. You know you're a writer when you rewrite one sentence over and over again.

4. I'm a writer. I'm full of dreams, sunshine, happiness, and rainbows...with a little bit of gloom, doom, angst, and murder thrown in.



"Poetry Corner

SEE THIS EMPTY SPACE?

Poets. I know you're out there, send me your poems...Please...Yes, I'm begging you.



"Anything can be sinister if you have a vivid enough imagination." Amanda Jayatissa



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

SIGN UP NOW!

The Holiday Seminar

Coming on November 5, 2022

Time: 12:00 to 4:15 p.m.

Place: 8320 Civic Center – Suite 140, Elk Grove

Presenters: Elaine Farber, Judith Starkson, and Gini Grossenbacher. See the flyer on (extra) last page for the content of their classes.

Get three great classes for only \$45.00

Register Now at egweg.org/holiday/

Register early as space will be limited due to room size. Questions? EGWG2020@egweg.org

WANTED!!

Still desperate for volunteers to help with event programming, graphics, promotion, and email communication.

Contact Loy Holder at

loyholder77@gmail.com

Can't wait to hear from you

Loy Holder, President

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The November Newsletter will publish the Board Member election results. The major change will be a new treasurer and installing several new board members. The Guild is growing.

2023 plans are being made behind the scenes, so stay tuned for more changes.

Penny Clark, Editor of EGWG Newsletter



From the Book Shelf

TRIPPING INTO HOME

Kathy Marshall

Are you mixed?" People would often ask me at school, on the job, or in social settings. My tanned coloring and frizzy dark brown hair suggested I could be from anywhere—Spain, Italy, South America, Africa, or the Middle East.

My life's work during retirement has been researching and publishing books about my family's tangled historical past, visiting the places my ancestors lived. This year's book project would take me to Madagascar, a little-studied island off the east coast of southern Africa in the Indian Ocean. Why there? Matrilineal DNA testing shows my mother's line of mothers came from that island, likely in the 1700s.

Some researchers report that only 7,000 of the estimated 400,000 Africans brought to North America through the Atlantic slave trade's "Middle Passage" were from Madagascar. I was determined to learn who my enslaved maternal Malagasy Mama was.

My best friend, Google, peppered my freckled arms with goosebumps indicating Madagascar is the fifth largest island in the world, with 25.6 million inhabitants. The island has been isolated for 80 million years. Many of its plants and animals are unique to that place. Adrenaline flowed like a fast river through my veins, as I poured over maps showing where slave ships moored on the Malagasy coast hundreds of years ago. I digested three scholarly books about that

obscure location then solidified plans for my genealogy trip.

An online brochure for a “Lovely Traditional Malagasy Inn” looked so quaint. The Inn is located at the edge of Lake Alaotra, the largest internal body of water in Madagascar. Skinny baobab, eucalyptus, and acacia trees framed the background. I contacted the proprietor and reserved a room, secured plane reservations, got the required vaccinations (ouch!), and packed my bags for an exotic adventure.

The 42-hour journey from Sacramento to Chicago’s O’Hare airport, to Paris, to bustling Port Toamisia in Madagascar left me exhausted. That ordeal was followed by a nine-hour bus trip inland to the lake.

I was horrified to find a rundown wooden building with a “Vacancy” sign I was sure was never turned off, but it was too late in the evening to go back to the port city. “I’m only staying one night,” I told the unkempt clerk at the desk.

As I turned, keys in hand, he muttered in broken English, “Ya need to know there are paths in these here woods. Whatever ya do, do NOT stare at the fish.”

“Huh? What did you say?”

The clerk had already left the room. Drained from the long voyage, I dodged dozens of creepy, jewel-tone insects crawling on the pathway, to gain access to my cabin. I dropped my suitcase and fell onto the tiny bed. An intoxicating aroma from white jasmine and yellow ylang ylang flowers on the nightstand filled my nostrils. Birds twittered a lilting song from the thick brush outside, lulling me into a deep sleep. I dreamed of unknown brown faces with Asiatic eyes, lemurs, and wet rice fields as far as the eye could see.

“Caw, caw!” Screeches woke me with a start. Eager to explore the forests where my maternal family may have lived so long ago, I bathed, then pulled on beige cargo pants. A long-sleeved cotton shirt and sturdy hiking boots completed my anti-bug outfit. I stowed a package of trail mix in one pocket and a bottle of water in another. With my smart-phone in hand, I was ready to capture the sights and sounds of this Shangri-La.


What did that clerk say about the paths?

All caution disappeared when I opened the cabin door to the bright morning light. Colors attacked my

retinas like the Land of Oz, with hues of green foliage moving to a light breeze. Perfumed smells and bird calls lead me from my door into the mysterious jungle. I couldn’t resist following the rocky path, step after step, into the thicket. The trail split, leading me to the left, deeper into a mass of large-leaf vegetation.

A small hut-like structure shimmered in the distance. As I got closer, the door creaked open and out flopped a huge, silvery tilapia, followed by dozens more sparkling fish. I stared in amazement. *Don’t stare!* Too late! They slithered toward me on an invisible stream of water. I turned and ran like a maniac back toward the cabin. They pursued. I tripped and fell and must have hit my head because the marauding fish seemed to murmur, “Welcome home, Daughter.”

Kathy Marshall




Save the Date 11th Annual Art Tour

Kanika/Kathy Marshall’s last art show of the year will be on October 8 at 9137 Santorini Drive, Elk Grove, 95758.

Joining her in her garden studio will be jewelry and textile artist Yvonne Warren, oil painter Mary Teabo, and painter Jessica Meredith. You’re all invited to relax in the lush garden surrounded by a variety of one-of-a-kind art pieces and uplifting creatives.

For information: elkgrovetfineartscenter.org



“Tellers of stories with ink on paper, not that they matter anymore, have been either swoopers or bashers. Swoopers write a story quickly, higgledly-piggledly, crinkum-crankum, any which way. They go over it again painstakingly, fixing everything that is just plain awful or doesn’t work. Bashers go one sentence at a time, getting it exactly right just before they go on to the next one. When they’re done, they’re done.

Kurt Vonnegut, *Timequake*

Something to consider

“Half my life is an act of revision.”

John Irving



“Trick or Treat”

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Submit

POETRY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMING EVENTS

CONTESTS

SHORT STORIES

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES.

Send in, by the **15th of the month** for the next issue. The 20th is the last possible date for submissions

Take advantage of the free advertising!

Send **submissions** to:

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

Use **Garamond – 12** for submissions. Send in word doc **not** PDF. Thanks.

Invite other writers

Do you know anyone who would enjoy the newsletter. Submit their emails to: turlockpenny@yahoo.com

October 2022

- Oct. 1- World Vegetarian Day
- Oct. 4- Yom Kippur
- Oct. 10- Indigenous People’s day
- Oct. 20- National Day on Writing
- Oct. 31- Samhain
- Oct. 31- Halloween

More Writing Prompts

- a. A twinkling eye can mean many things. Start with a twinkle in someone’s eye and see where it takes you.
- b. Rumor had it that the house was haunted. Was it? Susan was going to find out.
- c. John woke seated on a sofa next to a dumpster. How did he get there?
- d. Describe the taste of your favorite fruit.
- e. Open your window or door and describe the smells of fall.

Hint: You can use a writing prompt to get your creative juices flowing, especially when blocked.



Fall is in the air. The chances of comfortable days are better than average. Enjoy them.



See ya next month!

Holiday Seminar



Join the Elk Grove Writers Guild on November 5th,
2022, 12:00 Noon – 4:45 PM

\$45.00 for three outstanding classes

City of Elk Grove, District 56, 8230 Civic Center Dr.,
Suite 140, Elk Grove, CA 95757

Register Now At: egweg.org/holiday/

What Will You Learn?



Elaine Faber on the Do's and

Don'ts of writing, says:

“Ever read a story where you felt as though you were actually standing in the main character’s shoes, or peeking over their shoulder as the action occurs? Ever wish you knew the secret of how to create such a feeling in your own writing? Our time together will be an ‘interactive’ exercise where in three steps, you’ll learn how to create this kind of memorable scene. Come with laptop or paper and pencil and let’s write.”



Judith Starkston on “Writing

Better Dialog,” says: “Great dialogue speeds a novel along. It builds subtle character development, furthers the action, adds tension to conflicts, layers in subtext, and draws the reader in close. How do you make all that happen and avoid the many pitfalls? And how do you fix your dialogue when it isn’t all you need it to be? In this workshop, you’ll learn to hear your characters as distinct individuals. Surround the “talking heads” with physical and emotional grounding, place dialogue into deep point of view, and develop some handy but simple editing tools for improving dialogue once it’s on the page.



Gini Grossenbacher on

“Descriptive, Dynamic Settings,” says:

The Workshop Focus is: “How to Use Micro-Description to Make Your Settings Come Alive. Participants will consider five key ways to create dynamic scenes for their readers:

- Elements of visualization and sensory detail
- Descriptive action and when to use it
- Powerful sentence structure to support setting
- Ways character and voice can deepen setting
- Style choices that move scenes ahead



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