

Vol 2 Issue 11

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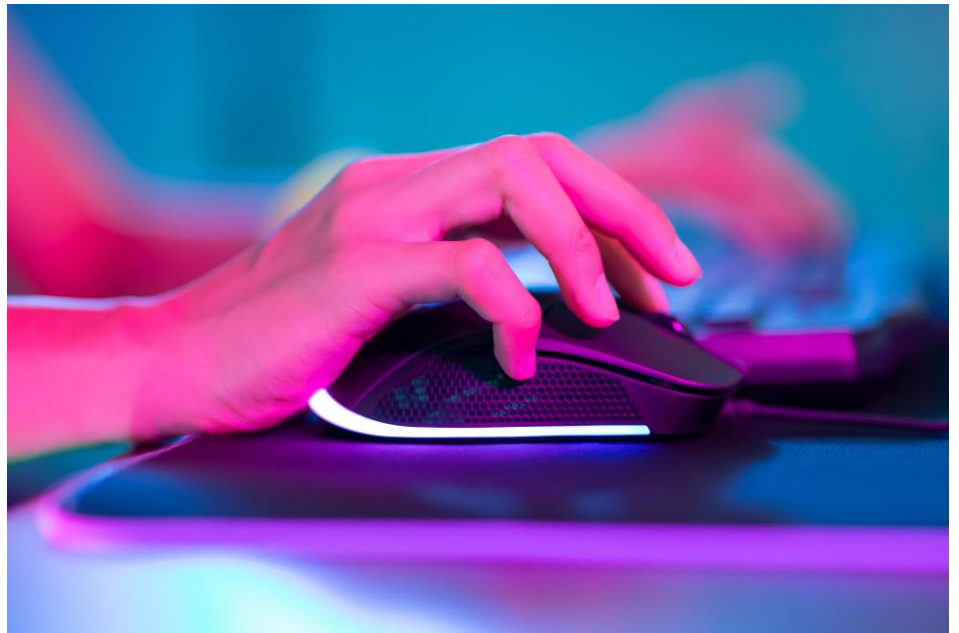
And More



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 publications. 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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Penny Clark - Editor

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What's Happening?

This month is the final event of 2022. On November 5th, the Guild is presenting a half-day seminar with three speakers. It looks to be an exciting day. Find more information on this event in the President's Corner, on the website, and on the Flyer Page (after the back page.)

“Lock up your libraries if you like; but there is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind.”

Virginia Woolf

The Guild meets on the first Friday of each month. We meet via Zoom and in person.

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 Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com and you'll receive place and time.

The next meetings are Nov. 4, 2022, and Dec. 2, 2022. Meetings begin at 12:30 and last approximately one and a half to two hours.

WRITING EVENTS

CWC Regular monthly meetings are the first Friday of the month and a speaker meeting is 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 from 1 to 3pm. 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)

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>

Capital Crimes

Meet on the second Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30pm. Currently they are on Zoom. For info: <https://capitolcrimes.org/events>

The Gold Rush Writers

The third in their series of speakers is Brian Wallace, Wednesday Nov. 16 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. He'll present "Finding Inspiration and Staying Inspired." at The Auburn Municipal Airport, 13666 New Airport Road in Auburn, in the Barnstormer's Room.

GCW continued

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>

Elk Grove Writers Guild

The EGWG is presenting a half-day seminar on November 5, 2022, beginning at 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 at egweg.org/holiday/

Have Questions? EGWG2020@egweg.org

Coming Soon

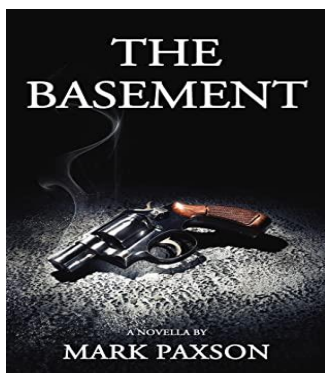
The 20Book50K conference in Las Vegas on November 14-18, is a great resource for the marketing and business side of writing. For information go to 20booksvegas.com it's also available on live stream or on YouTube.

AND

NaNoWriMo, (National write a Book in a Month) is all November long.

If you've never tried this, you should. You're not a loser if you can't write 50,000 words, because you've written more than you usually would.

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



[Amazon.com: The Basement eBook : Paxson, Mark:](#)
[Kindle Store](#)

Her marriage broken and infidelity losing its luster, Chloe Stenhouse is a high-powered capitol lobbyist drifting through life. That is, until she becomes fed up with it all by ending her affair and leaving her husband Mike, a reclusive workaholic who emerges from the seclusion of his basement office only when he must. Mike, hiding his own dark secrets, reacts unpredictably and violently, reminding Chloe of her wedding day promise that she would never leave him, a promise born of pity and destined to fail.

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

A Suspenseful Page-Turner

In *The Basement*, you are immediately sucked into Chloe's complicated world and ride with her as she struggles to navigate her way through a broken marriage, an affair lingering past its expiration date, the issues that arise when she ends both, and all the secrets that emerge during an emotional, intense argument with her husband in the basement.

I could only briefly stop reading when I neared the end because I had to set it aside due to anxiety over what Chloe was going to do next. Paxson's writing draws you in and keeps you moving until the end.

The October EGWG Meeting

Another terrific meeting with people relating progress and activities galore.

The meeting was face-to-face and Zoom. The Zoom wasn't successful as far as audio went, and the few that came via Zoom dropped out. We had a great discussion about being in the zone. How to get there and how to stay in it.

George announced that the new Guild writing resource—the lending library is alive on the website. There are books on writing, script writing, grammar, and transcripts/CDs from Great Courses – just to name a few. George also brought up Wondrium, again. It's an offshoot of Great Courses where for \$20 a month you can take any course you want. Check them out at wondrium.com.

Editor's note: I signed up for Wondrium, and I'm taking a course right now. Another wonderful thing about this program is you can print off the transcript. That's a value of over \$20 right there.



The EGWG Bulletin Board

ARE YOU A SPEAKER OR A TEACHER?

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

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

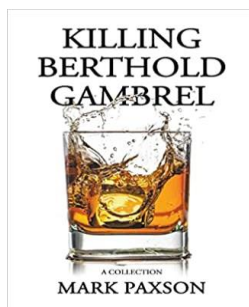


“Words are like X-rays if you use them properly—they'll go through anything. You read and you're pierced.”
Aldous Huxley

Something Good

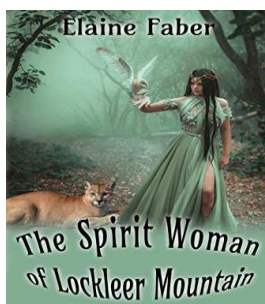
This column is about supporting other writers. We'll be sharing the books of our authors here. If you have a book you want to display, send me the info.

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

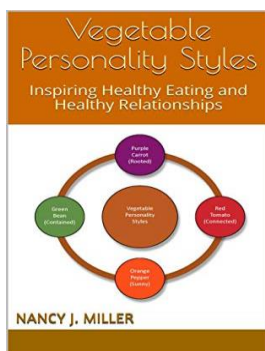


[Killing Berthold Gambrel: A Collection: Paxson, Mark: 979898669233: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B079898669)

Just out. The third collection of Mark Paxson's short stories. Available at Amazon, and on other platforms



[Amazon.com: The Spirit Woman of Locklear Mountain eBook : Faber, Elaine: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B079898669) A supernatural mystery by Elaine Faber. Get this from Amazon.



[Vegetable Personality Styles: Inspiring Healthy Eating and Healthy Relationships - Kindle edition by Miller, Nancy J.. Religion & Spirituality Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B079898669) From Nancy J. Miller. Available on Amazon.

T-Shirt Truths.

1. I'm a writer. I have imaginary conversations with imaginary people, about imaginary things. Deal with it.
2. Writer *noun*. Definition of writer 1. One who writes. (Also see author) 2. One who turns coffee into books. 3. He who tries to avoid writing. (Also see Master Procrastinator.)
3. You know you're a writer when you always make sure to use proper grammar, even in text messages.
4. It's a good day to write.



Poetry Corner

WINDSONG

Outside, the timbers creak their song
In tune with moaning leaves.
The garden gate drums a beat, while
Whirling winds sing harmonies.

And deep within its restlessness,
An urging voice calls out to me,
"We're both alone, come see the world.
We'll keep each other company."

By Barbara Barrett

PRIORITIES

The house is clean; the dishes done
Where does all that work come from?
Tonight, I wanted to have fun
But now I am just too numb.

Every day is as accursed
So, I've a better scheme.
Why don't I put my fun things first
And be too numb to clean.

By Barbara Barrett



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President’s Column

The Elk Grove Writers Guild held their election on 9/29/22. Below are the results:

- Loy Holder** – Re-elected to President
- George Hahn** – Re-elected to Vice President
- Shelby Johnston** – Elected as Treasurer
- Betsy Swarzentraub** – Elected as Secretary
- Linda Bradley** – Elected as Director
- John Maliga** – Elected as Director to help George Hahn on the Website

Penelope Clark retired as Board Treasurer effective 9/29/22 but will remain with us to do our newsletter.

Linda Bradley retired as Board Secretary effective 9/29/22

Holiday Seminar On 11/5/22 from 12 Noon to 5 P.M. Join us for an afternoon of learning and networking while Elaine Faber tells us how to create feeling in our writing; Judith Starkston shows us some simple editing tools for improving dialogue; and Gini Grossenbacher will teach us how to create dynamic scenes.

Hurry!

Register now at egweg.org while there’s still plenty of room. Email egwg2020@egweg.org with questions.

WANTED!!

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

Contact Loy Holder at

loyholder77@gmail.com



From the Book Shelf

Why I Practice Disaster Preparedness.

By Penny Clark

I attended a ‘Disaster Preparedness’ meeting a few years ago and it brought back the things I’d learned while living in foreign, third-world countries.

When I lived in Libya, water was stored in big water tanks, similar to those seen in some American towns. The tank that supplied water to our area used an electric pump to pull the water out of the ground and send it out to the users. If the electricity went out, so did the water. One of the first things I learned was to keep two five-gallon water cans or the equivalent in smaller containers always filled. Libya didn’t treat the water, so we had to replenish the jugs often. I usually dumped mine in the washing machine each week.

When the wind blew hard enough to fill the air with dust, it was time to check the water jugs and begin filling the bathtub. Yes, toilets needed water to flush, too. After the wind began it wasn’t long before the electricity went off, and right after that, the water dried up. Depending on the ferocity and length of the storm, we

could be without power and water for several days.

We had water covered. We also kept a full complement of propane and kerosene lanterns for nighttime activities. It was like camping out, but indoors. There was no danger from carbon monoxide with the lanterns or in the winter from the kerosene heaters because the windows and doors were the opposite of airtight. Gaps of sometimes an inch wide between the frames and the walls guaranteed an air exchange of heroic proportions.

Another disaster subject was the suggestion of keeping enough non-perishable food on hand to last a family for an adequate length of time.

Occidental Petroleum, in Libya, recommended we keep at least two weeks of food on hand—minimum.

The Libyan government vacillated between which country it hated at any one time. Sometimes it was the French, the German, or the British. And of course, many times it was the Americans.

“Spontaneous demonstrations” would occur demanding whatever from whichever country they were castigating at the time. (The demonstrators had identical signs professionally printed, and the government conveniently bussed the participants to the starting point after conscripting them out of various area businesses and offices.) Yep, spontaneous.

When it was America’s turn in the barrel, the Sullivan family, who had the only phone in our neighborhood, would get a call. They would spread the word to lower what we called, the Ghiblis, metal shutters that rolled down and locked to cover the windows and the French

doors, and we were to stay home until further notice.

Everyone had water, food, and lanterns. We were good to go.

When the “all clear” came, someone in the neighborhood would throw a humdinger of a party. It was fun, sort of.

Penny Clark



Congratulations!

Christina Francine’s short story is part of an anthology called “A Scream in the Night II. Her story title is, *“Friday Nights Are Not A Good Time to Get Groceries.”*

Mark Paxson has published the novella, *The Basement*, a domestic thriller. He has also published a collection of short stories titled, *Killing Berthold Gambrel* look for them on Amazon and other platforms.

Kathy Marshall has received an award from the AAHGS – Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society – for two of her books, The award is for accurately portraying African ancestry family history and genealogy.



Coming Member Events for November

Betsy Schwarzentraub's "Tossed In Time:"

Wed. Nov. 2 – Auburn Book Launch for *Tossed In Time*, in the Barnstormer Room at the Auburn Municipal Airport, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., 13666 New Airport Rd., Auburn.

Sun. Nov. 13 -- Book presentation at St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church, 1800 Wildcat Blvd., Rocklin

Sat. Nov. 19 -- **Elk Grove Book Launch** for *Tossed In Time*, in Bartholomew Hall at the Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 2 to 4 p.m., 8986 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove.

What's Needed for a Plot

1. **Situation**, inciting incident forces the protagonist into action.
2. **Protagonist**, Affected by incident creating a goal that drives the story.
3. **Objective** is the goal or what the character wants.
4. **Opponent**, the antagonist who tries to stop the protagonist from reaching their goal.
5. **Climax**, it should be intense, dangerous, and a serious showdown.
6. **Resolution**, where sub-plots and everything else is neatly tied up.



5 Mistakes that will give you negative reviews

1. Topographical and grammatical errors

Spelling and punctuation errors are the biggest red flags there are. You should plan on letting a professional editor and/or proofreader correct it before publishing.

Don't publish a novel too soon —it's not finished until you are sure the majority of errors have been found and removed.

2. Chest beating

Don't brag on your writing. Don't say it — write it and prove it true. A little humility goes a long way.

3. Not understanding genre expectations

Before you try to write a historical mystery, ecological thriller, or steampunk romance, you need to understand the genre. Have you read

more than a few books in your chosen genre? Are you aware of what storylines are trending? Do you know what the reader expects in that genre?

The more you explore the works in the genre you intend to write in, the stronger your work will be.

4. Amateurish cover art

People **do** judge a book by its cover. The cover is the first thing a buyer sees. It's a big deal and is worth the money to get a professional cover made. Amateurish or ill-conceived cover art won't do your book or sales any good.

5. No social networking presence

If you're a self-published author, it is imperative that you have a social media presence. If you don't have a website or you're not active on Facebook, Twitter, Goodreads, etc., you're fighting an uphill battle. (And your right there with me.) Editor.




“Read a thousand books, and your words will flow like a river.”

Lisa See [*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*](#)

“If you read good books, when you write, good books will come out of you.”

Natalie Goldberg [*Writing Down to the Bones*](#)



ZOMBIES!? If you're worried that a sentence is passive, tack “by the zombies” to the end. If it makes sense, it's passive. Remember, subject, verb, then object.

Something to consider

“That’s all we have, finally, the words, and they had better be the right ones.”

Raymond Carver



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 others

Do you know anyone who would enjoy the newsletter. Submit their emails to:

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

November 2022

- Nov. 6- Daylight Savings -turn clocks back.
- Nov. 8- Election day – VOTE!
- Nov. 11- Veteran’s Day
- Nov. 24- Thanksgiving
- Nov. 25- Black Friday
- Nov. 27- Advent Begins

More Writing Prompts

- a. Write a eulogy for a beloved pet.
- b. Write your favorite things about fall.
- c. This month, dig deep into your heart and write what you’re thankful for beyond the usual family, God, friends, etc.
- d. Describe your best friend in high school. Why were they your bestie?
- e. What’s the most dangerous thing you’ve ever done?

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



Happy Thanksgiving.



See ya next month!

[Check out the Flyer pages below](#)

Holiday Seminar



Join the Elk Grove Writers Guild

November 5th, 2022

12:00 Noon – 4:45 PM

\$45.00 for three outstanding classes

At

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

DON'T MISS IT!!

It's a Book Launch Party!

For *Tossed In Time:
Steering by the Christian
Seasons*



November 19, 2022
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**At the Elk Grove United
Methodist Church**
downstairs hall,
38986 Elk Grove Blvd.,
Elk Grove
**CORNER OF ELK GROVE BLVD.
AND GAGE**

After years of pandemic and uncertain re-openings, millions of people have felt “tossed in time.” With their social markers disrupted, what do they want to let go of or hold onto at this stage? Where can they find an anchor to regain their sense of place?

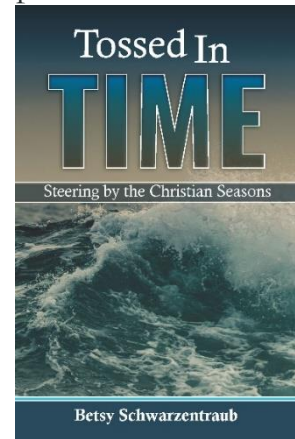
*Tossed in Time:
Steering by the
Christian
Seasons*

introduces people
to the ancient

Christian
worship
seasons –
Advent,

Christmas, Epiphany, Lent,
Easter, and Pentecost. It helps
readers reshape their sense of time
and find their place in a larger
story. The book looks through the
eyes of the apostle Peter, who
dared to climb out of the boat
during a storm and walk on the

wild waves. In our own turbulent times,
this book helps people explore a
framework that infuses each day with
meaning.



**Join Betsy Schwarzentraub
and friends to share in the
celebration, food, and book
signing!**

Questions? Contact Betsy at (530) 334-
0305 or betsy@generousstewards.com