

Vol 3 Issue 05

May. 1, 2023

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

*Writers Helping Writers*

## Welcome!



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

We created this monthly newsletter to expand the Guild's efforts to reach that goal. The newsletter includes information on coming events, classes, and Guild news. We offer bits of writing wisdom, poetry, memories, writing tips, and whatever news in the writing world that comes our way.

In each issue you, our readers, have 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, recent successes or publications, and events from other writing groups.

**See back page for submission info.**

Come along and be a part of our adventure.

## Contact Information

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## Newsletter & Submissions

Penny Clark - Editor

[turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com)

## What's Happening?

The Elk Grove Writers Guild's 2023 Writers Conference will be September 23. The topics and speakers have been selected and the excitement is growing. Plans for other events during the year are in the works, as well. Track the Guild's plans for the future by checking the President's Column each month. See the schedule for the conference and the first flyer on the Flyer Pages.

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**“Losers live in the past. Winners learn from the past and enjoy working in the present toward the future.”**

**Denis Waitley**

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Guild meetings are on the first Friday of each month. We gather as a Writer's Circle to talk in the language of writers, sharing what and how we're doing. Topics vary as questions and problems are discussed or the latest information in the writing and publishing world is brought up.

Guild members can post their WIP on Google Docs and share it with other members for critiques. 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](http://www.egweg.org) Fill out the membership application and send in your dues.

If you'd prefer to visit first, and want to come to the next meeting it's at Elk Grove Library 8900 Elk Grove Blvd.

The next meetings are May 5, 2023, and June 2, 2023. Meetings are from 12:30 to 2:30.

**Contact** [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com) with any questions.

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## **GROUPS & EVENTS**

**CWC** Regular monthly meeting is the first Friday of the month. A speaker meeting is later in the month. For information on current meetings go to, [california writers club sacramento branch](https://california-writers-club-sacramento-branch.org)

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**NCPA** monthly meetings are on 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>

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### **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>

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“Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forward.” Soren Kierkegaard

## **Capitol Crimes**

Meet on the third Saturday of the month from 1 – 3pm. For info go to <https://capitolcrimes.org/events>

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## **The Gold Country Writers**

GCW has an active calendar. For information about their Writers events or directions contact Margie Yee Webb at [mywebb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mywebb@sbcglobal.net) or <https://goldcounyrtwriters.com>

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## **Black Women Write**

Black Women Write meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from 10 until noon. For information contact. [BlackWomenWrite2020@gmail.com](mailto:BlackWomenWrite2020@gmail.com)

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## **The EGWG Bulletin Board**

### **SPEAKERS and TEACHERS**

The Guild is planning events for 2023, and beyond. We're searching for fresh content from speakers and instructors in all areas of writing.

If you are interested in being featured in a Guild event, contact Loy @ [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)

## **The April. EGWG Meeting**

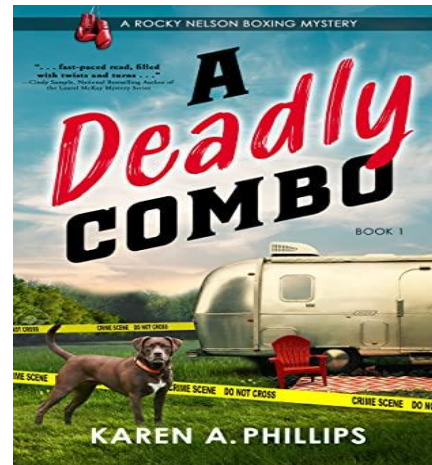
Cole began the meeting with a question about AI Chatgpt and what we thought about AI written books, and the discussion began. It's early times for this type of thing and no one's decision , for or against, were set in concrete. As noted in last month's issue, this type of discussion is a great example of the Guild meetings in action. Loy brought the members up to date on what was going on with EGWG, the guild is now a member of the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce. She reminded us that registering for the September conference begins on May first.

The meeting place for the May meeting will be (crossed fingers) the Elk Grove Library. Among the Guild's authors who are working on getting their books written and published, Lucy Buckley has published "Waiting for a Star." You can find it on Amazon.

I want to remind all Guild members that we have a lending library. The list of books about writing is available on the Guild's web site, [egweg.org/library](http://egweg.org/library). Check in with [georgehahnjr@comcast.net](mailto:georgehahnjr@comcast.net) to arrange for delivery of book(s).

If you're struggling with some aspect of writing, whether it's characters, point of view, plot, blurbs, or others, check out the Guild's writing classes on [egweg.org/classes](http://egweg.org/classes). The classes can be printed for later study.

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



<http://ow.ly/GEQu50N7v1F>

In A DEADLY COMBO, debut author, Karen A. Phillips introduces Rocky Nelson, a feisty and intriguing protagonist. **This fast-paced read, filled with twists and turns, will keep readers glued to the pages until they reach the very satisfying ending.**—Cindy Sample, National Bestselling Author of the Laurel McKay Mystery Series

#### \*\*\*\*\*The Review\*\*\*\*\*

I love good mysteries and this book is a fun, zippy, and exciting ride. The main character, Rocky, is a retired boxer, and is easy to like as she has her own inner battles she's facing while she's out trying to solve a murder. You can easily read this book in one sitting. It's that good. The banter between characters is enjoyable too. If you like suspense, old flames returning, the thrill of the hunting down clues, and a classic who-done-it, then I highly recommend this book!

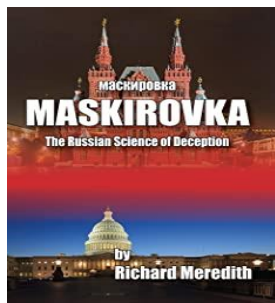
## Something Good

This column shares the books of our authors. If you have a book you want to share, send title to [turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com)



[www.amazon.com/Waiting-Star-Scandalous-Love-Triangle-ebook/dp/B0BY3R889G/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=2QGAP9TC8SLCV&keywords=Waiting+for+a+star&qid=1681672988&s=digital-text&prefix=waiting+for+a+star%2Cdigital-text%2C275&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Waiting-Star-Scandalous-Love-Triangle-ebook/dp/B0BY3R889G/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2QGAP9TC8SLCV&keywords=Waiting+for+a+star&qid=1681672988&s=digital-text&prefix=waiting+for+a+star%2Cdigital-text%2C275&sr=1-1)

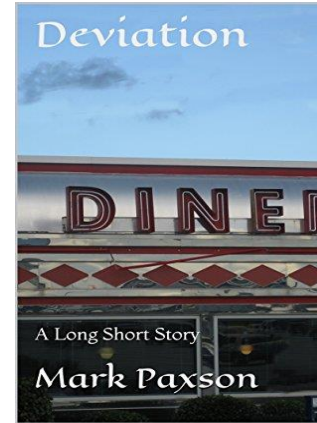
Lucy Buckley's tale of a scandalous love triangle. Available on Amazon.



[MASKIROVKA: The Russian Science of Deception - Kindle edition by Meredith, Richard. Mystery, Thriller & Suspense Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](http://www.amazon.com/Maskirovka-The-Russian-Science-of-Deception-ebook/dp/B0BY3R889G/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2QGAP9TC8SLCV&keywords=Waiting+for+a+star&qid=1681672988&s=digital-text&prefix=waiting+for+a+star%2Cdigital-text%2C275&sr=1-1)

It may have changed its name, but the KGB is up to its old tricks.

A Richard Meredith thriller on Amazon.



[Deviation: A Long Short Story - Kindle edition by Paxson, Mark. Literature & Fiction Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](http://www.amazon.com/Deviation-A-Long-Short-Story-ebook/dp/B0BY3R889G/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2QGAP9TC8SLCV&keywords=Waiting+for+a+star&qid=1681672988&s=digital-text&prefix=waiting+for+a+star%2Cdigital-text%2C275&sr=1-1)

A long short story by Mark Paxson available on Amazon.

Editor's Note: This began with two brothers meeting for lunch and quickly goes off the rails. It was an intriguing and interesting read.

## T-Shirt Truths

1. I write because punching people is frowned upon.
2. I love creative writing and tacos.
3. Member of the anti-social writing club.
4. Storyteller.
5. I'm a writer. I dream while awake.
6. I may be wrong, but I'm a writer, so I doubt it.
7. I'm a writer, therefore I'm not sane.
8. I'm not quiet—I'm plotting.
9. Writer here. If you met my family, you'd understand.



Elk Grove Writers Guild  
*Writers Helping Writers*

## EGWG President's Column

Hello dear writers.

Important **MAY** dates to remember:

**May 1** is the first day to register for the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Writers Conference. To register go to [egweg.org/2023conf/](http://egweg.org/2023conf/) - Admission is \$75.00 and includes a Continental Breakfast and lunch. The schedule is in the Flyer section at the end of this issue.

**May 1** is also the beginning day to pay for this year's EGWG membership. The dues should be paid by June 1<sup>st</sup>. June 15<sup>th</sup> is the last day to keep your membership.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>** is the community-wide Non-Profit **Big day of Giving**.

To donate go to

<https://www.bigdayofgiving.org/organization/Elk-Grove-Writers-Guild>

Click the Donate button and give what you can. You can go to our website at [egweg.org](http://egweg.org) and donate through our page as well. And Golden One Credit Union has pledged to match the gifts of those who use their Golden One bank card to donate. – Loy Holder Pres.

Send questions or comments to [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com). Stay tuned.



### From the Bookshelf

CAT & MOUSE

Loy Holder

Chapter 1

Cat woke face down on a dirt floor. The stench of human waste stole her oxygen, and something crawled across her cheek. She jerked to swat it. Ouch! Hot pain shot from the rope strangling her right wrist. *I'm tied spread-eagle.* Light filtered from somewhere above, onto the dirt beside her. Excruciating neck pain stopped her from looking up. *Breathe ... just breathe.*

Outside, footsteps, muffled voices, and laughter turned her blood cold. Car doors slammed. An engine started. Then tires moved through gravel and slowly faded. She eyed the stake on her right. *Can I pull it out of the dirt?*

Fresh adrenalin surged through Cat's body. She pulled the rope toward her, and the soil loosened.

## EGWG Newsletter – page 7

Encouraged, she pulled again, and her hand was free, the stake dangling from her wrist.

Now the other hand. Two hard pulls but the stake wouldn't budge. Her life at risk, she kept pulling. With her last burst of strength, the stake came out. Exhausted, her face hit the dirt, sweat and tears soaking the soil.

Within minutes, that familiar engine pulled back onto the gravel. A loud Mexican song quit playing. Car doors slammed. Footsteps crunched in the gravel, then silence. *Were they back to stay? Please God, no!*

Her heart pounded. Now what? If they checked, they'd see her hands were free. Cat jammed the stakes back into the dirt and laid completely still, eyes shut, fighting the urge to vomit.

Footsteps again, then a click, and a soft breeze tickled the soles of her feet. A voice close behind her yelled, "Hey, Ruiz, she's still out. You want me to wake her up?"

"Hell no, Santos. It's too soon. Get your ass in the car. Your forgetfulness made us late."

Santos didn't move. Could he hear her heart pounding?

He chuckled and cracked his knuckles.

"It's my turn when you wake up, Bitch."

Cat froze in place until the door clicked shut, and she could no longer hear the

sound of their vehicle. Then, hands free, she pushed up to her knees, and realized she was naked.

Cat worked her legs free, removed the stakes from the ropes, and tossed them onto the dirt. Then she tried to unknot the ropes that were strangling her wrists and ankles, but the struggle was wasting precious minutes. She turned her attention to stretching her limbs.

Feeling a little looser, Cat studied the window. Was it plastic? The sill was elbow high. She slammed a fist into the center of the pane, and it popped out.

Shocked and infused with another shot of adrenalin, Cat hoisted up her 5-foot 10 inch frame with athletic arms, and squirmed out, headfirst, wincing when her bare hands hit the sharp gravel below.

To her left was a house. Was that where her tormentors had interrogated and assaulted her? She shivered.

Behind the house was a backyard surrounded by a thick, tall hedge, growing into a high, barbwire fence. A few steps away, clothes hung on a clothesline. Cat grabbed a woman's bathrobe, slightly warm from the morning sun, and slipped into it to cover her nude body. Now to get out of the yard, but not by the gravel entrance.

They could pull into that driveway anytime.

Across the yard there was a narrow break in the hedge. With marathon-strong legs, Cat ran through the thick, prickly backyard weeds, through the break in the hedge and loose barbwire, and onto a walkway of crumbling adobe. Her bare feet were cut and stinging from the thorny field.

Cat stood in the center of a cul-de-sac amongst shacks built with metal, canvas, and plywood scraps. Across the street, was a charred, plywood lean-to. A child's tricycle lay crushed at the door. Despair flowed through her for those who'd once lived here, and for herself. Hungry, exhausted, and in shock from a gang-rape.

*"Shake it off. You're alive and free. The hard truth? Nothing matters, except staying safe to find Carly."* Loy Holder

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### **This and That**

In real life, if we're looking at and talking to a person, we don't usually say his or her name.

"Hey, Sally, How are you?"

"I'm fine, John, and you?"

"Well, Sally, not so good."

Tedious, right? When writing dialogue write so the reader knows who you're talking to. Use actions of either one of the characters' names. Think about it.

### **The Poetry Corner**

#### TO THE SWEET TRUTH

If it is true "parting is such sweet  
sorrow",  
Then this distance between us will bring  
me  
Not a single moment of misery.  
If "sweet" is the standard, then I won't  
know  
Sad, lonely nights, or miss the gentle  
glow  
Of you by my side. Yet, how can this be?  
Is this parting something to be sweetly  
Savored until again we say hello?  
Since this measure is not one of  
pleasure,  
Shakespeare's adage haunts each lonely  
night  
And taunts me through the long, grey  
hours, secure  
In its own Truth. While I cry out and  
cite  
The sadness and pain, one thought does  
endure,  
The real sweetness would be you, here,  
tonight.

Barbara Barrett





## **ATTENTION!**

### **Hello Dear Friends**

The Sacramento Region Community Foundation's **Big Day of Giving is Coming. Early Giving Begins April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and Big Day of Giving is on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

This year, the Elk Grove Writers Guild is privileged to participate. The mission of the Elk Grove Writers Guild is to help writers be the best they can be through educational events and resources, biennial conferences, networking and critique services.

Please support this work by sending your donations to:

<https://www.bigdayofgiving.org/organization/Elk-Grove-Writers-Guild>,

and hit the donation button anytime between 4/20/23 and 5/4/2023.

**Bonus: This year Golden One Credit Union is matching member gifts. Use your Golden 1 Card to give.**

Your donation will help the guild carry out their mission and meet operation expenses such as yearly insurance, website maintenance, accounting fees, and brand marketing. Please know that any amount you give will be appreciated.

For questions or comments, email [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com).

## **Something Extra**

### **WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

*That which we call a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet."*

(William Shakespeare).

What's in a name? Our names are an incredibly important part of our identity. They carry deep personal, cultural, familial, and historical connections. They also give us a sense of who we are, the communities in which we belong, and our place in the world.<sup>[1]</sup>

Some people name their dogs and cats after friends, family, and famous folk, not unlike how slavers named their enslaved property at birth. Some adults change their given name to make a statement, like boxer Cassius Clay who renamed himself Muhammed Ali after converting to Islam. Some authors have a *nom de plume* (a pen name) or *nom d'art*, like Kanika, which is the name I use for my artwork. People in a witness protection program change their names to avoid harm. Adoptees often adopt their adopter's last name. Most women assume the surname of their husbands when they marry, however, that isn't always the case...

\*\*\*

"But that's not my legal name," I protested at the real estate office. My

new husband and I had gotten married on June 6, 1979. We chose an affordable house in the Golf Course Terrace area of South Sacramento and were in the process of purchasing it. A stack of papers sat menacingly before our eyes, goading us to read every line before we signed our John Hancocks a million times.

It's important to understand that the 1970s was a time of great upheaval in America. Women were tired of being treated as second-class citizens, forced to stay home with the kids no matter our educational level or personal goals. We were responsible enough to take care of house and home, but not allowed to seek our destinies in the boardroom or our own businesses.

At the beginning of the decade, I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, navigating a unique set of social mores that I hadn't experienced at our insular elementary school. There were only two black families in the all-white Larchmont Riviera neighborhood in East Sacramento. The most common surname in California (and most of America) was Smith in the 1960s, now, in 2023, it's Garcia here in Mexico's sister state.<sup>[2]</sup> In the 1970s, our junior high school in Rosemount was just across the railroad tracks along Folsom Blvd. Surnames like Oki and Sato were for descendants of Japanese farmers

whisked away to "internment camps" during World War II. They mingled with a few black Johnsons and Jones, a sprinkling of Hispanic Hernandez and Galvez, but mostly with white kids named Smith and Miller.

As we entered high school, feminism made serious waves in the news. Women were famously burning their bras, demanding equal pay, forcing companies to institute sexual harassment retraining, opening businesses, and challenging traditional naming conventions.

I graciously invited my husband to hyphenate both of our surnames, but he declined. So, I elected to keep my maiden name, Kathy Lynne Marshall, instead of becoming an invisible Mrs. Kenneth Wayne Anderson. A feminist from my early teenage years, I didn't see the sense of losing my personhood and cool initials, KLM. I assured my father-in-law we would surname any children Anderson. I wasn't planning on having children, so that wasn't difficult to promise. It was settled. I didn't have to change any legal forms when we married. Easy peasy. However, tradition intervened anyway.

Sitting in the Sacramento real estate office in 1979 to buy our first home together, the loan company would not let me sign my legal name on the documents. I protested but lost the argument.

“You want a loan? Sign right here; otherwise, goodbye.”

I was forced to sign a name that didn't exist anywhere. When we reached the title office to complete the transaction... guess what? They found no legal name for a Mrs. Kenneth Anderson, or for Kathy Lynne Anderson. Therefore, they could not complete the title transfer. Duh! I felt vindicated, but the mountain-high stack of documents had to be redrawn and resigned. What's in a name? Everything!

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### What's the Difference?

The words blurb and synopsis, although used interchangeably, are not the same. A synopsis or summary is not a blurb, and a blurb is not a cut-down version of a synopsis with the ending chopped off to create mystery.

A synopsis is a PROFESSIONAL TOOL used to attract an agent, editor, or publisher to the plot and story. A synopsis consists of the beginning, the middle, and the end of a story.

A descriptive blurb is a SALES PITCH or advertising copy, designed to attract a reader and convince them to buy your book. The blurb isn't there to

tell the reader everything that happens in the story. All it must do is convince the reader to consider buying the book. While it's essential to create a solid novel with well-rounded characters, strong goals, and a great plot, a polished blurb is what will sell your book.

This is a tiny section from the EGWG Class “Blurbs.” You can find the class at [egweg.org](http://egweg.org) under Resources and EGWG Classes.

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### Overused Words

Every writer has at least one word they rely on more than others. Perhaps it's simple like smiled, sigh, breath, or it could be as different as surmised, really, settled, or overwhelmed.

Do you know yours? Settled is one I have to watch for, and I've used overwhelmed more than a few times in my current project.

ProWritingAid has a tool that can find overused words. Below is another one. I haven't checked it out, but it's free.

[Word Frequency Counter \(free\) download Windows version \(freedownloadmanager.org\)](#)



## Something to consider

“Cheat your landlord if you can and must, but do not try to shortchange the Muse. It cannot be done. You can’t fake quality any more than you can fake a good meal.” – William S. Burroughs



## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

### POETRY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMING EVENTS

CONTESTS

SHORT STORIES

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES.

Send submission by the **15<sup>th</sup> of the month** for the next issue.

**Take advantage of the free advertising!**

Send **Submissions** to:

[turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com)

**Use Garamond-14** for submissions.

Send in **word doc not PDF**. Thanks.

## May 2023

- May. 1- May Day
- May 5- Cinco de Mayo
- May 14- Mother’s Day
- May 20- Armed Forces Day
- May 29- Memorial Day

## More Writing Prompts

- a. Using sensory details, write a scene between two characters lost in a strange city.
- b. Create a character and describe in detail their greatest fear.
- c. Describe what you felt when the rain came a couple of weeks ago.
- d. Describe your favorite animal and tell why they’re your favorite?
- e. If you could do one thing to improve or change humanity, what would it be?

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Sunny Days!



**See you next month!**

## What’s Happening in Our Area?

May 2023

Calendarpedia  
Your source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
			GCW 10-12: Business Mtg. Auburn City Hall Rose Room from now on		12:30 PM First Friday EGWG Mtg, Round Table 10054 Bruceville, EG SactoCWC 9-11Writers Network @ café grill, 6215	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
NCPA 1-3: Monthly mtg.	SSWC (SacSuburban): 6:15 PM Advanced Writing Techniques; 7-9 PM monthly mtg, 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks		GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique			SJWW 12-2 2nd Sat. on Zoom John Byrne Barry, "Weaving Multiple Storylines" us02web.zoom.us/j/83590890331
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			GCW 10-12: Speaker: Lois Ann Abraham "Feelings"			BWW 10-12: 3rd Sat. SactoCWC 1-3 3rd Sat. Monthly Mtg. @ library, 891 Watt Cap.Crimes 3rd Sat 1-3
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique	1:30 PM Last Thurs. EGWG Board Meeting		
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	Memorial Day		GCW 10-12: Flash fiction contest celebration			

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For other month’s calendars go to [egweg.org](http://egweg.org) click on Resources and then Calendars.

If you or your group have flyers for your events that you’d like to see on the flyer page, send them **directly** to Penny Clark [turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com) Make sure it’s not in PDF.

See the next page for the 2023 Conference Schedule and the flyer after that.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Laguna Room</b>	<b>Franklin/Sheldon Room</b>
6:30	In the Building	
7:00:00 AM - Check-In - Hallway	Continental Breakfast & Book Store f/Speakers	
8:00 AM		Gregory Randall - What's New in the Writing and Publishing World in 2023.
8:45 AM		Close Partition bet. Franklin and Laguna
9:00 AM		Kakwasi Somadhi - Let Your Scenes Move the Story.
10:00 AM		Break
10:15 AM		Chris Hennesy - How to Build Your Media Platform.
11:15 AM		Break
11:30 AM		Kristen Tate - What You Need to Know About Getting Your Book Edited.
12:30 PM		Lunch
1:30 PM		Joey Garcia - How to Write a Blurb. It's Easier Than You Think.
2:30 PM		Break
2:45 PM		Judith Starkston - How to Show Emotion in the Details.
3:45 PM		Break
4:00 PM		Karen Phillips - What About the Cover Design of Your Book.
5:00 PM		Close and Clean Up
6:00 PM		Leave the Building



Elk Grove Writers Guild  
Writers Helping Writers

**PRESENTS**

**OUR SPEAKERS:**



**JUDITH STARKSTON**  
SPEAKER  
Show Emotion in the Details



**KAKWASI SOMADHI**  
SPEAKER  
Let the Scenes Move the Story



**CHRIS HENNESY**  
SPEAKER  
How to Build a Media Platform



**KRISTEN TATE**  
SPEAKER  
Get Your Book Edited



**JOEY GARCIA**  
SPEAKER  
How to Write a Blurb



**KAREN PHILLIPS**  
SPEAKER  
What About the Cover Design  
of Your Book?



**GREGORY RANDALL**  
KEYNOTE  
On What's New in Writing



September 23, 2023  
**ELK GROVE  
WRITERS  
CONFERENCE**

REGISTRATION OPENS:  
May 1, 2023  
at [egweg.org/23conf](http://egweg.org/23conf)



On September 23, 2023, join us at  
the Elk Grove District 56 Campus  
8230 Civic Center Drive  
Elk Grove, CA 95757

Check in at 7:00AM  
Admission is \$75 and includes  
Continental Breakfast and Lunch