

Vol 3 Issue 09

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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.

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 is new in the writing world.

In each issue you, our readers, have a chance to see your work in print. Past issues of the newsletter are also available on the Guild's website.

We encourage you to send in news of your group's events, book announcements, writing tips, recent successes or publications, and news from other writing groups.

**See back page for submission information.**

## Contact Information

### Guild Name

Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc

### Street Address

7413 Netherbury Ct.

Elk Grove, CA 95757

### Phone

916-747-6898

### Email

[egwg2020@egweg.org](mailto:egwg2020@egweg.org)

### Website

[www.egweg.org](http://www.egweg.org)

## 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. Registration is waiting for you. See more on this and other Guild events by checking the President's Column each month. Check out the flyer pages for anything new.

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**“Any writer worth his salt writes to please himself... it's a self-exploratory operation that is endless.”**

Harper Lee

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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 Round Table Pizza 10054 Bruceville Road, in Elk Grove.

The next meetings are Sept 1, 2023, and Oct. 6, 2023.

Meetings are from 12:30 to 2:30.

**Contact** [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com) for answers to 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 Cub, Sacramento branch.

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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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“There are significant moments in everyone’s day that can make literature. That’s what you ought to write about.”  
Raymond Carver

### **Capitol Crimes**

Meets 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 2024, and beyond. We’re searching for **fresh** content from speakers and instructors in all areas of writing.

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

## July's EGWG Meeting

Loy gave an update on the conference. It's coming soon. If you're going and haven't bought your ticket yet, Buy now!

Karen's volunteered class on AI was scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup>. It ought to be interesting. Something new and unfamiliar always begins with questions that become pros and cons. AI is no different and the class should be interesting. (It was.)

Betsy was about to launch her expanded book and posed a question, and off we went.

The meeting was filled with questions and a tremendous number of suggestions on finishing a book, and marketing problems to mention two.

Books about writing are 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).

Remember to check out the Guild's writing classes on [egweg.org/classes](http://egweg.org/classes). When first given were 2 hours long. They can be printed for later study. Class titles are:

[Class 1 - Beginning](#)

[Class 2 - Characters](#)

[Class 3 - POV](#)

[Class 4 - Final Conflict](#)

[Class 5 - Plot](#)

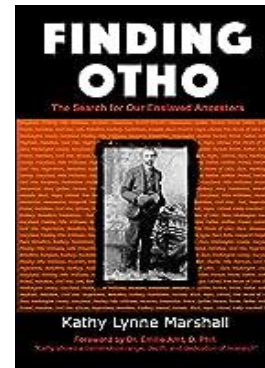
[Class 6 - Synopsis](#)

[Class 7 - Description](#)

[Class 8 - Revision](#)

[Class 9 - Blurbs](#)

[Class 10 - Memoirs](#)



[Amazon.com: Finding Otho: The Search for Our Enslaved Ancestors eBook : Marshall, Kathy Lynne: Books](#)

## Finding Otho: The Search for Our Enslaved Ancestors

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

I liked so much about this book. One of the things I most appreciated was how the author, Kathy Marshall, shared her methodology. She provided a blueprint for me to use in researching my ancestors who also came from Maryland. I learned that finding our African American ancestors in history may be possible, but that it will likely take a great deal of research. That insight is both inspiring and sobering. I like style in which she wrote about her family members, especially retelling conversations she'd had with her ancestors who had been deceased long ago. I immediately had a similar experience; I believe reading her accounts freed my mind to allow communication from my great grandfather and to accept it. I have yet to finish reading the whole book because every time I sit down to read it, inevitably I become so excited by what she's shared that I feel compelled to get back to 'finding' my own ancestors! The best thing this book did for me was to re-invigorate my desire to get back to researching and writing my family's history. I am very grateful to Ms. Marshall for taking the time to share her work with the world.



Elk Grove Writers Guild  
*Writers Helping Writers*

## EGWG President's Column

Hello dear writers.

Gini Grossenbacher's **Creative Writing Fall Course** begins September 20 to November 15, 2023, on Wednesday Evenings on Zoom from 6-8 pm. The price is \$25 per week. Learn how to elevate conflict in your work with an award-winning teacher-novelist Gini Grossenbacher and guest speaker Judith Starkston. Register now at [ginis.writers1@gmail.com](mailto:ginis.writers1@gmail.com).

The Elk Grove Writers Guild is happy to announce a new volunteer who will be helping us. Her name is Samone Johnson, her email is: [authorsdjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:authorsdjohnson@gmail.com). You may be getting emails from her on occasion. If you do, give her a shout-out of "Welcome."

**SIGN UP NOW FOR THE ELK GROVE WRITERS CONFERENCE**  
AT [EGWEG.ORG/23CONF](http://EGWEG.ORG/23CONF).  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE  
[loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com).

Stay Tuned!  
Loy Holder, EGWG President



## From the Bookshelf

### Tunnel Vision

Penny Clark

When I woke, the ceiling above me was the wrong color. This wasn't my bedroom. The window was open, and I was cold. I could hear traffic from the street below. I wasn't in my neighborhood either.

Each day, before I left my bed, I stretched to catalog my aches and pains as a sign of how my day would go. Today, I felt no pain. Something was not right.

When I sat up, I noticed my legs looked odd and shimmery, and I muttered, "Great, now I'll have to get glasses, too." It didn't take long to realize that something was wrong. My legs were opaque, and I wasn't sitting on a bed but floating above the surface of a white metal table.

It took another long moment to acknowledge that I was a mere shadow of my former self, a spirit, a flipping ghost.

Disappointment ripped through me. There had been no tunnel with light at the end, and no relative had come to take me home. I tried to remember everything I'd ever read about ghosts. Did I leave something undone? I



## EGWG Newsletter – page 6

couldn't think of a thing. I'd known I was seriously ill, had settled my affairs, and said my goodbyes weeks ago. I'd forgiven those who needed it and had gotten right with God. What more did I need to do?

The whole situation was aggravating. I'd been looking forward to seeing my life flashing before me. What had happened to the tunnel? What dead relative would have come, and where were they? This wasn't the way it was supposed to be.

I was cold and tried to shut the window, but my hands passed right through the glass. I tried concentrating on the window closing, but that didn't work either. Evidentially I was not going to be a poltergeist. After failing with the window, I thought about being warmer and concentrated, picturing a sunny beach with heat radiating off the sand, and after a few moments, I began to feel comfortable.

This ghost business had some excellent points to it. As I hovered in one spot I wondered if I could leave the room or the building. Most ghosts I'd read about seemed to be stuck in one place. A chuckle escaped me when I floated to the door and passed through it. Now that was a strange feeling. It was like moving through Jell-O that tickled.

I wandered through hallways and peeked into rooms. I was in a funeral home. That made sense. I saw a few other ghosts floating around, but they were a sour bunch, and I ignored them.

Someone pounded on the front door, but I couldn't open it for them, so I waited for somebody to come. Finally, a man came from

the back and walked right through me, it tickled, and he shivered.

The wind was blowing outside, and I bobbed around beside the door like a rubber duck in a whirlpool. No wonder ghosts stayed put. Outside was dangerous.

I went back to my room and floated close to the ceiling. The day was almost gone, and I was sad. Was this all there was for me, just hanging around a funeral parlor, making people shiver?

The door of my room flew open with a bang, and my late Aunt Sophie came strutting in. She'd created a breeze that tossed me around like a helium filled balloon. "Come on, Sonny, Calm down and move it!" she sounded like a drill sergeant.

With a wave of her hand, a tunnel appeared, complete with light in the distance. I smiled as we began our walk because my favorite playlist echoed against the tunnel walls. This was more like it.

I should have expected it to be Aunt Sophie who came for me. She had never been on time for anything.

Penny Clark

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## T-Shirt Truths

1. The book was hers for the reading.
2. Book nerds unite!
3. Bookmarks are for quitters.
4. Hyperbole, the greatest thing ever!
5. It's not hoarding if it's books.
6. Eat, ~~sleep~~, write, repeat.

## Poetry Corner

### **UPSIDE DOWN AND BACKWARDS**

Barbara A. Barrett

I don't know who I am these days.  
The old world's nevermore.  
What's Good is now a misty haze  
And Bare Bones knock upon my door.

The ground beneath is now unsure  
The path's no longer straight.  
My spirit feels not so pure  
When passion lies in wait.

The answers are no longer clear  
The language is all wrong.  
Familiar words sound insincere  
And music's left the song.

The milestone signs are rotted posts  
Black figures stare and gape.  
Do shrouds ahead hide hungry hosts  
Or camouflage escape?



### **The Winds of Fate**

Ella Wheeler Wilcox, from *World  
Voices* (1916)

One ship sails East,  
And another West,  
By the self-same winds that blow,  
'Tis the set of the sails  
And not the gales,  
That tells them the way to go.

Like the winds of the sea are the winds of fate  
As we voyage along through life;  
'Tis the set of the soul  
That decides its goal  
And not the calm or the strife.

## 20 Phrases We Use Too Often

Tighten your writing by getting rid of the following words or phrases.

1. All of
2. As a matter of fact
3. As being
4. As yet
5. At all times
6. Basically
7. Literally
8. Essentially
9. Being that
10. During the course of
11. Each and every
12. For all intents and purposes
13. For the most part
14. In order to
15. In the process of
16. Just
17. Point in time
18. Pretty
19. Simply
20. Up/down



## Websites for Indie Authors (part 1)

**Reedsy:** Find an editor, illustrator, web designer, publicist. Might be more expensive, but they vet every person listed.

**Draft2Digital:** Publishing aggregator. Allows distribution to all online platforms. Recommended – upload direct to indie publisher first. This minimizes getting your book into smaller stores.

**Damonza:** Quality book covers.

**Books2Read:** Free universal book links  
Thanks Val.

**Something to consider.**

“If the book is true, it will find an audience that is meant to read it.”

Wally Lamb



**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. Contact editor for anything later.

**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.

**September 2023**

- Sept. 4- Labor Day
- Sept. 16- Rosh Hashana
- Sept. 23- Fall Equinox
- Sept. 23- EGWG Conference
- Sept. 25- Yom Kippur

**More Writing Prompts**

- a. If you had a one-month vacation, where would you go, and why?
- b. If you could live in any book you've ever read, which book would it be and who would you be?
- c. Quick! – write down the first five words that come to mind. Now, write a story using them.
- d. What was the happiest moment of your life? What made it the happiest?

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Stay Cool.



**See you next month!**



What’s Happening in Our Area?

September 2023							Calendarpedia Your source for calendars
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
	<b>NOTE: 9/23 Writers Conference with Elk Grove Writers Guild has 4 co-sponsors: GCW, NCPA, SactoCWC, &amp; SJVW CWC. Join us!</b>				<b>12:30 PM First Friday EGWG Meeting, Round Table Pizza SactoCWC 9-11Writers Network @ café grill, 6215 Sunrise Blvd., Sac'to</b>		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	Labor Day		GCW 10-12: Bus. Mtg. Auburn City Hall Rose Room		GCW to Auburn Gold Country Fair, 8-10	SJVW 12-2 2nd Sat. John Britto, "Haming Characters" @ UOP DeRosa Ctr, 901 Presidents Dr., Stockton	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
NCPA 1-3: Monthly mtg. 4-5:30 @ Flaming Grill Café, 2380 Watt #150	SSWC (SacSuburban): 6:15 PM Advanced Writing; 7-9 PM mtg. "Creating Book Covers," 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks		GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique			Black Women Write mtg. 10-12 Cap Crimes, 1-3 SactoCWC 1-3 3rd Sat. Mtg. "Building Story Structure," "Pitch Print & Online mag's,	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
			GCW 10-12: Speaker, "Overlapping Strategies in Writing Fiction and Memoir"			<b>EGWG Biennial Writers Conference, Elk Grove, 7 to 5 @ District 56, 8230 Civic Ctr Dr., Elk Grove Brkfst &amp; lunch. <a href="http://egweg.org/23conf">egweg.org/23conf</a></b>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
			GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique	<b>1:30 PM Last Thurs. EGWG Board Meeting</b>			

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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

# The Elk Grove Writers Conference



The Elk Grove Writers Conference is **September 23, 2023**, at District 56, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Participants will enjoy a complimentary breakfast, lunch, and a comprehensive program on the Craft of Writing. Register now at [egweg.org/23conf](http://egweg.org/23conf).



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER GREGORY RANDALL**, a multi-published author of thrillers like, "This Face of Evil," and "Pawns in an Ancient Game," will provide a riveting presentation on "What's New In the Writing and Publishing World in 2023."

**KAKWASI SOMADHI** is the author of "Coming Forth by Day," and several children's books such as "The Peacemaker and the African Beede." As an experienced teacher of Creative Writing at Cosumnes River College, she can show participants how to write a complex scene that moves their story.



**CHRIS HENNESSY**, filmmaker and TV producer, is writing, "Touched by Hannah," a book on a man with cancer, his one-pound newborn, Hannah, and their fight for life. It was featured on NBC News and is slated for release in 2024. He will then convert the book to a Netflix film. His experience and expertise will be reflected in his presentation on "How to Build a Media Platform."

**KAREN PHILLIPS**, of Phillips Covers, is a graphic artist and professional book cover designer with a degree in Applied Art & Design from Cal Poly. She has worked with many indie authors, and small publishers including Poisoned Pen Press and Blue River Press. She enjoys creating covers for all genres, and her presentation on book cover design is sure to help her class participants sell more books.



If you're a writer, the word "editing" causes goosebumps. **KRISTEN TATE** has the cure. With a PhD in English from Columbia University, success as an author of "All the Words: A Year of Reading About Writing," and a successful editorial service called the Blue Garnet, she will help class participants transform their work from rough draft to finished book.

**JOEY GARCIA** says, "Writers struggle with writing copy for the back cover of a book." Joey is an editor and professional Author Platform Coach who help writers get known, so when their books get written, an audience is waiting to read it. Bad copy could kill the sale of a book. In Joey's interactive session, attendees will learn o draft enticing back cover copy, and receive useful feedback.



**JUDITH STARKSTON** taught college writing and publishes fantasy and magic in a Bronze Age world. Her novel, "Hand of Fire" was a semi-finalist with the Benner's Award for Historical Fiction. Her novella, "The Scent of Slaughter and Love," shows she's mastered the art of inserting emotion into a story. The net effect? Her readers feel her characters' fear, love, hate, sexual attraction and more. Learn how to do this, and your words are sure to sell.



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Writers Helping Writers



## REGISTRATION:

[egweg.org/23conf](http://egweg.org/23conf)

For more information on the Conference, go to [egweg.org](http://egweg.org) or email [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)