

Vol 3 Issue 11

Nov. 1, 2023

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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 their best.

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

Contribute, and see your work in print in the next issue. 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 launch announcements, writing tips, recent successes or publications, and news from other writing groups.

**See the back page for submission information.**

## EGWG 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 and those that put it on are resting their weary minds and bodies. See what might be coming from the Guild by reading the President's Column each month. See the flyer pages for new events.

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**“I don't need an alarm clock. My ideas wake me.”**

Ray Bradbury

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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 as 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 Nov. 3, 2023, and Dec. 1, 2023. Meetings are from 12:30 to 2:30.

**Contact** [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com) for answers to any meeting or guild questions.

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## **GROUPS & EVENTS**

**CWC's** Regular monthly meeting is on the first Friday of the month. A speaker meeting is held 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 3 p.m. 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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“The writer is an explorer. Every step is an advance into a new land.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

## **Capitol Crimes**

Meetings are on the third Saturday of the month from 1 – 3 p.m. 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 Writer's 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 any Guild event, contact Loy @ [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)

## October's EGWG Meeting

Loy gave an update on the conference. Everyone who attended had great things to say along with suggestions on how to make the 2025 conference better.

PJ's book is available on Amazon. I beta-read it for her and enjoyed it. If you like paranormal romance/adventure, grab her book. *SoulMates and SoulMutts*.

Several members at the meeting had book launches coming later in October, but they didn't send me their information early enough to be in the newsletter. Excitement for them bubbled over, and it was great to see fellow writers reach their goals.

Alex Trinkaus, an 11-year-old, is writing his second book. Okay, fellow slackers – We need to keep up.

**Hint for the month:** If you suffer from wrist stress, use an upright mouse for relief or use Dragon for dictation.

Books about writing are available on the Guild's website, [egweg.org/library](http://egweg.org/library). Check with [georgehahnjr@comcast.net](mailto:georgehahnjr@comcast.net) to arrange delivery of any book(s).

The Guild's classes on writing are available at [egweg.org/classes](http://egweg.org/classes).

They cover from the beginning through writing the blurb and may be printed for later study.

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“Writing is the painting of the voice.”

Voltaire

## From Plot to Print

“How to take your book idea and make it a reality.”

“I had the privilege of taking this informative class in 2021, and I'm excited to return for another round in 2024.

What sets this class apart is the invaluable workbook it offers. This workbook has become my trusty companion whenever I begin a new story. It has a remarkable way of solidifying the narrative in my mind and guiding me through the creative process.

The class schedule can be found in the flyer section following the calendar. You might initially assume you're familiar with most of the material listed, but don't be deceived. ML Hamilton's expert guidance will reveal hidden gems of knowledge and/or revive forgotten basics.

This class is a hidden gem waiting to be discovered. I'm eagerly looking forward to connecting with fellow aspiring authors. Express your interest by reaching out to ML Hamilton at [authormlhamilton@gmail.com](mailto:authormlhamilton@gmail.com)

Don't miss this opportunity to hone your craft and bring your literary dreams to life.”

Penny Clark



Elk Grove Writers Guild  
Writers Helping Writers

## EGWG President's Column

Hello dear writers.

By the end of October, the Guild will have held their 3rd Quarterly board meeting, with a serious discussion on the budget and how the Guild will move forward through June of 2024.

Join the Guild at their First Friday Meeting on 11/3 to hear what's next for the Guild, its members, and the Elk Grove community of writers.

I hope to see you all soon.  
Loy Holder, EGWG President

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### Coming Soon

Come celebrate Betsy Schwarzentraub's new book, the *Tossed in Time Expanded Edition*, on Sunday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 p.m. in Auburn. We'll have a quick romp through the Christian worship seasons, glimpse parts of the interactive workshop, touch on the Daily Hours, and admire original drawings for the book by a local artist. Taste a recipe from the book, too. The party will take place in the Rose Room in the Auburn City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, just off Hwy. 99.



### From the Bookshelf

**Bitter Ambrose Bierce**  
By Cheryl Stapp

He is still famous for two reasons: his cynicism and distinctive writing style: dark imagery, with so-called “trick endings” in his short stories, leading his contemporaries—and modern scholars alike—to compare his writings with those of Edgar Allen Poe; and for his mysterious disappearance in 1913.

After serving with distinction in several Civil War battles—and being wounded in the head by a Confederate sniper—Ambrose Bierce arrived in San Francisco in 1866, aged 24, as an engineering attaché with General Hazen's postwar expedition to inspect western military posts. Resigning from the army, he determined to become a journalist despite his sketchy formal education.

Taking a job as a night watchman at the United States Branch Mint, he embarked on an intense program of self-education, reading the classics in literature and practicing his writing skills. Before long, he began selling

## EGWG Newsletter – page 6

poems, short essays, and articles to San Francisco literary journals, bringing him to the attention of Frederick Marriott, whose fledgling weekly, the *News Letter*, featured a column called “Town Crier,” which reported satirically on the foibles of the city and its residents. Within a short time, Bierce’s sardonic cleverness in print made him “the wickedest man in Francisco” and “the man everybody loved to hate.”

Bierce’s barbs had no limit against prominent men or venerable institutions, but he could never successfully belittle the gentler sex in print. Tall and handsome, with wavy blond hair and a full mustache, he was a favorite of the ladies, soon gaining a reputation as a womanizer. In 1871 he married Mary Ellen Day, whose prosperous mining engineer father gave the couple a trip to England as a wedding present.

They stayed in England for more than three years, during which time Bierce replicated his success as an American journalist, producing three books and many articles and acquiring an international reputation as a wordsmith. But on returning to San Francisco, Bierce found the city in the midst of an economic depression. Not only did his old newspaper not rehire him, but the other papers in town showed little interest in his talents. He took a job at the Assay Office of the Mint to support his family, but more and more began habituating the city’s saloons. His health (and marriage) deteriorated, yet he

continued to write, with even greater bitterness and black humor, over time, compiling what would become *The Devil’s Dictionary*.

At last, in 1877, a wealthy townsman founded a newspaper called *The Argonaut*, hiring Bierce as the writer of a column to be called “Prattle.” In this, Ambrose was at his wicked best, earning the sobriquet “Bitter Bierce” for his scathing criticisms and entering his period of peak productivity. He began writing brilliant short stories, the first few published in book form in 1891, which brought him recognition as a writer of great talent. Another book followed in 1893, a collection of 25 short stories, including several that are considered masterpieces of the macabre, and several years later, a collection of 245 fairy tales with satiric twists.

When Bierce was 44, he entered the employ of young William Randolph Hearst, who had taken over the failing *San Francisco Examiner*. This working partnership lasted more than two decades until their love-hate relationship ended their association in 1908 when another publisher asked him to assemble and edit a 12-volume set of his writings titled *Collected Works*.

By now, however, his estranged wife, two of his three children, and longtime writer friends Mark Twain and Joaquin Miller had all died, and age was creeping up on him. Perhaps seeking to recapture the excitement of bygone days, he decided to go to war-torn Mexico to join Pancho Villa’s revolutionary forces. In late 1913, at age

## EGWG Newsletter – page 7

71, Ambrose Bierce, on horseback, crossed the Mexican border near Juarez and disappeared without a trace.

Although there are many theories, to this day, no one knows what happened to him.

Cheryl Stapp

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## T-Shirt Truths

1. I'm the psychotic writer they warned you about.
2. I just want to write and avoid all my adult problems.
3. Keep calm and let the writer do it.
4. Being a good writer is 3% talent and 97% not being distracted by the internet.
5. I'm a writer, I do not tolerate reality.
6. Warning: May start talking about poetry.
7. Book, the original handheld device.
8. Sometimes I think I read too much, then I laugh and turn the page.

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## ATTENTION!

If you use Ingram Sparks, be sure to mark your books as **non-returnable**. Why? If Ingram Sparks buys your books to sell, and they don't sell, Ingram will return them, and you will owe them a refund – It could be a significant amount of money.

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“Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream by night.”

Edgar Allen Poe

## PUBLISHED!!

**PJ Blohm-Craig** –

"*Soulmates and Soulmutts*," a novel. Guarded against pain, Izzy makes a life-changing discovery. Can she conjure up hope to heal her heart? The fiercely loyal Iraq Veteran meets a beautiful scientist and can't deny the sparks. But as she discovers magic, secrets, and her exceptional gift, Izzy's fear of heartbreak could close her off forever to her fate.

**And**

**Rosemary Covington** –

"*Swimming Through Mud*." This book introduces and follows three young African Americans navigating the turmoil dividing the country between 1845 and 1876. A time crucial in seeking the opportunity to determine the direction of their lives and hoping to establish their rights as citizens.

George, Pauline, and Gee, ages 17, 15, and 8, are full of hopes and dreams. We get to know and understand them through their fascinating journey through adulthood. We join them as they experience the joys, loves, and tragedies of pursuing dreams through acts of prejudice and hate.

These books are available on Amazon. Check them out. Support other writers.

## Poetry Corner

**Note:** This poem appeared in October's issue, but most of it wasn't published. Here is the full version. – editor.

### Where are all the Voices?

Barbara A. Barrett

**Where are all the voices,**

That sang: "How many years can some people exist

Before they're allowed to be free?" and

Asked how many times can a man turn his head

"And pretend that he just doesn't see?" <sup>1</sup>

Where are "The Chimes of Freedom" <sup>2</sup>

Whose "flashing bells of lightning bolts"

Toll for the rebel, the luckless, the abandoned and forsaken,

And for "the outcast, burnin' constantly at stake"?

Let those bells of lightning and thunder also

Strike for the gentle, for the kind, for the

"Guardians and protectors of the mind, and for

The poet and the painter far behind his rightful time." (ibid)

**Where are all the voices**

That called out for ethics, honor and honesty?

Is there no one to sing

For the poor, the disenfranchised and

For the uncommon "common" good people?

Where are the Woody Guthrie's to remind us

"From California to the New York Island

From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters

This land was made for you and me." <sup>3</sup>

Where are all the voices singing loud and clear,

"America, America, God shed his grace on thee.

And crown thy good with brotherhood

From sea to shining sea." <sup>4</sup>

And, where are all the voices to remind us

To protect and preserve our living world

Before "Where have all the flowers gone" <sup>5</sup>

Becomes a reality.

Thanks to the songs,

The writers and the poets,

We have the words.

But where are all the voices?

Barbara Barrett

<sup>1</sup> Bob Dylan, "Blowing in the Wind". Bob Dylan's Greatest Hits v1

<sup>2</sup> Bob Dylan, "Chimes of Freedom". Another Side of Bob Dylan

<sup>3</sup> Woody Guthrie, "This Land is Your Land". This Land is Your Land

<sup>4</sup> Katharine Lee Bates, "America the Beautiful" poem

<sup>5</sup> Pete Seeger, "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?". If I Had a Hammer

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## Rare or Seldom Used Words

**Eidetic:** Involving vivid recall of visual images.

**Minatory:** Menacing or mean.

**Sennet:** A set of notes played on a trumpet to mark the entrance or exit of actors.

**Delphic:** Vague or ambiguous.

**Xeric:** Of or adapted to a dry climate.

**Revenant:** A person returning after death or a long absence.

**Ormolu:** Brass that resembles gold in furniture, architecture, and jewelry.



**Something to consider.**

“You can always edit a bad page. You can’t edit a blank page.”

Jodi Picoult



**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

**POETRY**

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMING EVENTS

SHORT STORIES

FLYERS (Not in PDF)

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES.

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

**November 2023**

- Nov. 5- End Daylight Saving Time
- Nov. 7- Election Day
- Nov. 11- Veteran’s Day
- Nov. 23- Thanksgiving
- Nov. 26- National Cake Day

**More Writing Prompts**

- a. When did you decide you wanted to become a writer?
- b. Write a review of the most exciting place you’ve ever visited.
- c. If you were an animal or bird, what would it be and why?
- d. Write about your favorite Christmas.

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Happy Thanksgiving



**See you next month!**

What’s Happening in Our Area?

November 2023						Calendarpedia Your source for calendars
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 GCW 10-12: Business mtg. Auburn City Hall Rose Room	2	3 12:30 PM First Friday EGWG Meeting SactoCWC 9- 11Writers Network @ Café grill, 6215 Sunrise Blvd., Sac'to	4 SJVV 8 am-5 pm, "Great Valley Stories" Anthology Launch party @ Woodbridge Grange 482, 1074 Academy St., Woodbridge
5	6	7	8 GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique	9	10 Veterans Day (observed)	11 Veterans Day
12 NCPA 1-3: Monthly mtg. 4-5:30 @ Flaming Grill Café, 2380 Watt, #150	13 SSWC (SacSuburban): 6:15 PM Advanced Writing Techniques; 7-9 PM mtg Lee Herrick, CA Poet Laureate, 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks	14	15 GCW 10-12: James L'Etoile, "Establishing and Building Author- Bookstore Relationships"	16	17	18 Black Women Write 10-12: 3rd Sat. mtg. SactoCWC 1-3 3rd Sat. mtg. @ library, 891 Watt Ave. Cap.Crimes 3rd Sat 1- 3
19	20	21	22 GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26	27	28	29 GCW 10-12: Special 5th Wed. event	30 1:30 PM Last Thurs. EGWG Board Meeting	1	2

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

Make sure it’s NOT in PDF. I can’t work with PDF.

Below: A review of the conference by Elaine Faber.

Two invitations to November events

The class schedule from “From Plot to Print” by ML Hamilton.

## A Review By Elaine Faber

If you weren't at the EGWG Writers Conference in Elk Grove on 09-23-23, you missed a great day of interesting speakers and information. This was, in my opinion, the best conference I've ever attended. Following coffee, scones, muffins, and croissants, we heard from the following speakers. Lunch was provided and was excellent. The coffee and muffins were available all day.

Bernard Wozny, stepped in for Gregory Randall, who, at the eleventh hour, was unable to attend. Bernard shared more than I ever wanted to know about how AI could be beneficial to writers through tools, apps, and online technical processes, though where it will lead, good or bad, is still unknown.

Kakwasi Somadhi shared the process of using backstory, flashbacks, and half-scenes to move our story forward in various beneficial ways.

Chris Hennesy spoke about using video and other internet 'whiz-bang' devices to build our media platform, so necessary to success, selling our published books, whether traditional or Indy published.

Kristen Tate gave us the 'ins and outs' of the various types of editing services recommended before publication. Knowing just what we need, and the costs involved helps make informed decisions.

Joey Garcia shared vital and precise advice on how to prepare the back cover page, what not to put into our biography, and the importance of taglines, fonts, etc. Excellent information!

Judith Starkson used her magic griffons from her novels to illustrate how using emotion can impact our stories.

Karen Phillips shared all the secrets to designing an appealing book cover: what's in, what's out.

I especially appreciated the variety of topics chosen by the speakers. Each provided us with something new and informative. The focus was on subjects of interest to the intermediate and advanced writer, not just to the beginning writer, which seems (to me) the focus of so many other conference speakers. Thank you all for sharing your secrets and advice to make us all better writers.

📖 ✨ Invitation to a Literary Extravaganza! ✨ 📖

Dear Book Enthusiast,

I am delighted to extend a heartfelt invitation to you to celebrate the grand launch of my new literary gem, ***The Mummy's Gift!*** Join us for some literary enchantment as we delve into Angelica and Heather's captivating time travel world.

Please save the dates:

- Sunday, November 5, 1-2:30 p.m., Zoom book launch and book raffle.
- Sunday, November 12, 1-3 p.m. intimate in-person book launch and raffle, 2813 Fox Den Circle, Lincoln, California, gate code #8808.
- Contact me at the following: [carolyn@carolynradmanovich.com](mailto:carolyn@carolynradmanovich.com) to let me know which one you can attend.

**Agenda:**

**1. Welcome Reception:** Sip on aromatic teas and indulge in delectable treats as we gather to celebrate the love for literature.

**2. Author's Insight:** Engage in a conversation with the creative author behind "The Mummy's Gift." Discover the inspirations, challenges, and untold tales woven into the fabric of this extraordinary narrative.

**3. Book Club Discussion:** Unpack the layers of the story, share your thoughts, and engage in a vibrant discussion with fellow book enthusiasts. Prepare to be immersed in the world of the California Gold Rush, time travel, and mystical encounters.

**4. Exclusive Book Launch:** Witness the unveiling of "The Mummy's Gift" as we raise a toast to the culmination of creativity and passion. Be among the first to secure your signed copy and embark on an unforgettable literary journey.

**5. Networking and Mingling:** Connect with like-minded individuals, make new friends, and revel in the joy of shared literary interests. Exchange recommendations, ideas, and immerse yourself in the camaraderie of our vibrant book-loving community.

**RSVP by November 1 to Secure Your Spot!**

Come be a part of this literary afternoon where words come to life and stories unfold. Let's make this an afternoon to remember, filled with laughter, insight, and the magic that only a good book can bring.

I look forward to celebrating the joy of reading with you!

Warm Regards,

*Carolyn Radmanovich*

Email: [carolyn@carolynradmanovich.com](mailto:carolyn@carolynradmanovich.com)

  **#MummysGiftLaunch #BookClubExtravaganza**  
**#LiteraryAdventure**  

# Tossed in Time Expanded Edition

Steering by the Christian Seasons

by Betsy Schwarzentraub



**Book Release Date: Oct. 24**

Books available for purchase on Amazon  
and wherever books are sold

**Author Presentation: Nov. 11**

“The Worship Seasons and Daily Hours”

2 to 4 p.m. in the Rose Room, Auburn

City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603

**For More Information:**

Contact Betsy at:

[betsy@generousstewards.com](mailto:betsy@generousstewards.com)



# CLASS DYNAMICS & CALENDAR

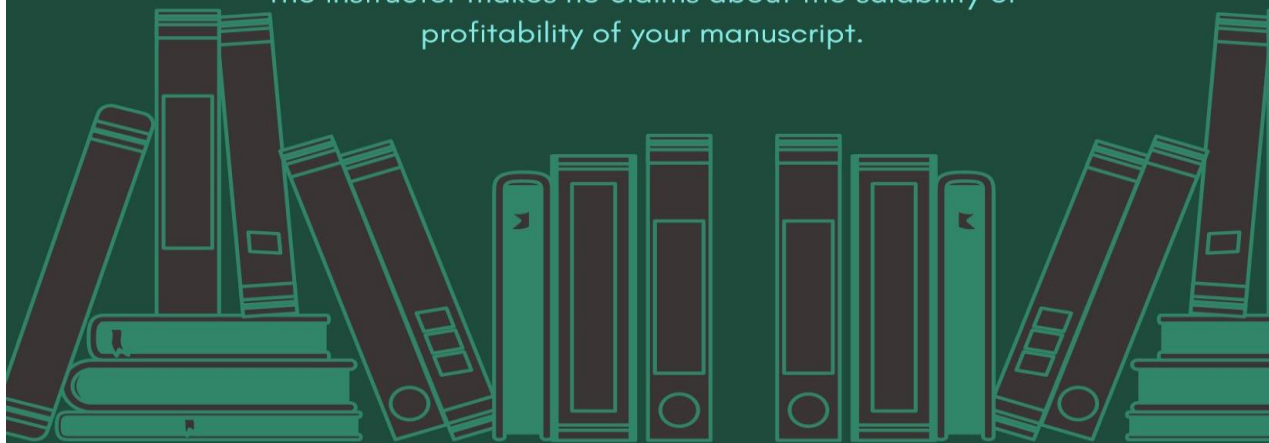
CLASS MEETINGS: WEDNESDAYS

- LESSON ONE Elevator Pitch - January 10th (one week)
- LESSON TWO Sharing Elevator Pitch & Story Basics - January 17th (one week)
- LESSON THREE Outlining: 5 W's or Formal Outline - January 24th (one week)
- LESSON FOUR Character Sketch or T.O.C. - January 31st (one week)
- LESSON FIVE 1st Chapter Read Around - February 7th (one week)
- LESSON SIX Workshopping Chapters - February 14th - March 6th (four weeks)
- LESSON SEVEN Finish First Draft - March 13th - April 3rd (four weeks)
- LESSON EIGHT Editing and Proof Reading - April 10th (one week)
- LESSON NINE Cover Design - April 17th - April 24th (two weeks)
- LESSON TEN Formatting for Publication - May 1st (one week)
- LESSON ELEVEN Publishing Walkthrough - May 8th (one week)

CLASS MEETINGS TIMES: 5:00PM ON ZOOM  
WE MAY EVENTUALLY HAVE AN IN-PERSON MEETING OPTION.

If you must miss a class, please let the instructor know as soon as you can. Unforeseen circumstances may require the canceling of a class, but a make-up option will be offered.

The instructor makes no claims about the salability or  
profitability of your manuscript.



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