

Vol 3 Issue 12

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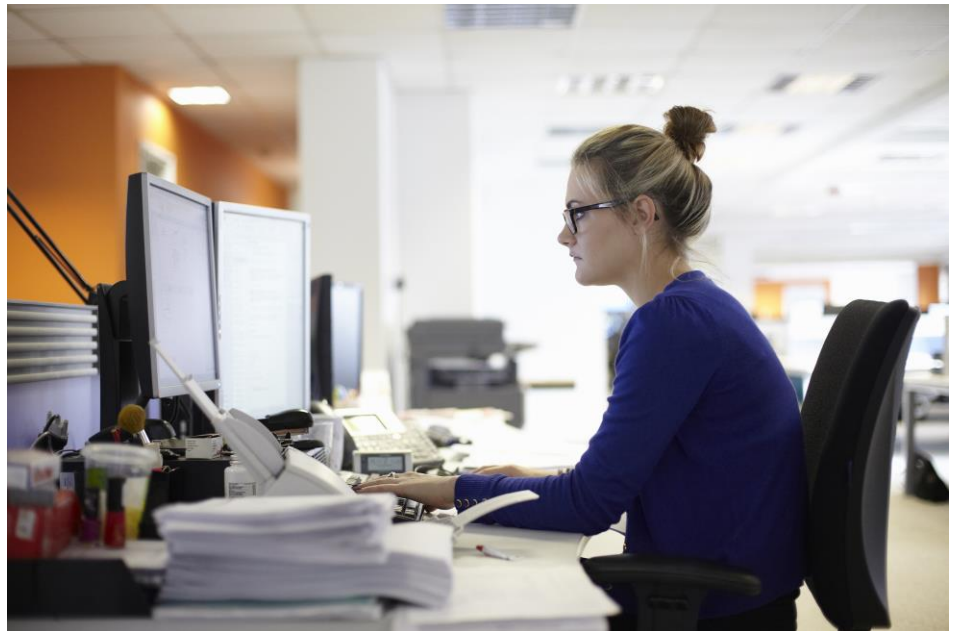
And More



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Welcome!



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

This newsletter is one step toward that goal. We include information about 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 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 information from other writing groups.

Enjoy!

See the back page for submission information.

EGWG Contact Information

Guild Name

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What's Happening?

This month is the end of the Elk Grove Writers Guild's year. The board members are working on events for 2024. Read the President's column to learn what the new year might bring. See the flyer pages at the back of the newsletter for new event flyers.

“If I waited for perfection, I would never write a word.”

Margaret Atwood

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 an excellent way to receive input and other writer's valuable insight on the work presented.

If you're interested in joining the Guild, go to www.egweg.org, click Join, 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 following meetings are Dec. 1, 2023, and Jan. 5, 2024.

Meetings are from 12:30 to 2:30.

Contact loyholder77@gmail.com for answers to any meeting or guild questions.

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 or events, go to California Writers Club, Sacramento branch.

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 or events. <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>

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

Lisa See

Capitol Crimes

Meetings are on the third Saturday of the month from 1 – 3 p.m. For info, go to

<https://capitolcrimes.org/events>

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 or <https://goldcounyrtwriters.com>.

Black Women Write

Black Women Write meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10 until noon. For information contact. BlackWomenWrite2020@gmail.com

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

November's EGWG Meeting

Loy discussed ideas for future topics for events and asked for topic ideas. Some suggestions were speakers on genres, book pricing, poetry in writing, and what readers expect in specific genres.

The members who had October book launches said they were successful and had an enjoyable time.

Listening to the members telling how they were doing, our authors are busy working on cozy and Murder mysteries, survival/ghost tales, suspense/thrillers, and romances—quite a variety to look forward to when finished and published.

Hint for the month: Need a cover? Contact Karen Phillips at phillipscovers.com. Several authors at the meeting have or are using her service and have nothing but praise for her.

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

The Guild's classes on writing are available at egweg.org/classes for free.

They cover the major aspects of writing and may be printed for later study.

“The first draft is just you telling yourself a story.”

Terry Pratchett

From Plot to Print

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

ML Hamilton will reveal hidden gems of knowledge in the key aspects of writing during the classes.

If enough people are interested, the classes will begin on Wednesday evenings starting on 1/10/24 and continuing until 5/8/24.

A class schedule can be found in the flyer section following the calendar.

Express your interest in the classes by reaching out to ML Hamilton at blackcatediting17@gmail.com

Rare or Seldom Used Words

Sciolism. The pretense of wisdom or conceit due to wisdom.

Enate. Growing outward.

Rugate. Wrinkled.

Bilbo. A sword or the iron bar between shackles.

Apodictic. Demonstrably true.

Anabasis. A military expedition.

“The difference between the almost right word and the right word...is the difference between a lightning bug and lightning.”

Mark Twain



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

"Hello, dear friends,

The Elk Grove Writers Guild wishes everyone a Joyful Holiday Season to share with family and friends and time to relax and find peace within.

Stay tuned for what we are planning for 2024. Loy Holder."

EGWG President



WRITING HINTS: Whatever you're writing, be it flash fiction, short stories, or epic trilogies, most fiction stories require the following six components:

1. **Plot:** the "what happens" of your story.
2. **Characters:** whose lives are we watching?
3. **Setting:** the world that the story is set in.
4. **Point of View:** from whose eyes do we see the story unfold?
5. **Theme:** the "deeper meaning" of the story or what the story represents.
6. **Style:** how you use words to tell the story.



From the Bookshelf

My Favorite Christmas

Penny Clark

My favorite Christmas didn't involve fabulous gifts, the magic of a winter wonderland, or the reason for the season. I spent the 1971 Christmas with my husband 250 miles into the Sahara Desert. I spent several days at 103-D, an Occidental oil and gas production facility. The people there were from diverse countries worldwide; we were in a Muslim country celebrating a Christian holiday, which seemed a special occasion to me.

On Christmas morning, after several days of field trips and fun, my husband took me to the outside fence of the compound. Several families with excited children were there. Down the road, beside the fence, came an elderly Arab dressed in pristine white robes, leading a small donkey loaded down with bulging bags of brightly wrapped gifts.

When he was close enough, he waved to the children, who cheered and clapped. The man stopped the donkey, gave us a

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beaming smile, and shouted, “Ho-Ho-Ho!” He nodded once as if satisfied, and continued to the main building, where a brightly lit Christmas tree waited in solitary splendor.

That old man had been paid to bring that donkey and the gifts to the camp, but I believe the shouted ho-ho-ho’s were all him. I was touched. An Arab had gone out of his way to please Christian children.

The man in his white robes and donkey made that my most memorable Christmas.

Penny Clark

The Elk Grove Holiday Faire with Crafts and Books on Dec. 7 @ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: District 56, 8230 Civic Ctr. Drive, #100, in Elk Grove.

It’s just in time for Christmas gift-giving! Come to the Elk Grove Senior Center Holiday Fare for the arts, crafts, goodies — and books! Betsy Schwarzentraub will have three books, and George Hahn will have his latest for your Christmas giving list. You’ll see their display front and center in the big room.

Come by and say hello!

Poetry Corner

Christmas is coming. The geese are getting fat,
Please put a penny in the old man’s hat;
If you haven’t got a penny, a ha’penny will do,
If you haven’t got a ha’penny, God bless you!

—Beggar’s rhyme.

A haiku

Empty tree branches,
Colorful leaves on the ground,
Birds gone. Winter comes.

Penny Clark

T-Shirt Truths

1. Edit or regret it.
 2. Life is better when I’m writing.
 3. When talk fails, writing speaks.
 4. I create worlds with words.
What’s your superpower?
 5. Writers write, right?
 6. Every day is a good day to write.
 7. Secretly hoping you’ll ask me about my book.
 8. Plot. It builds character.
-

“I write books because I have always been fascinated by stories and language. And because I love thinking about what makes people tick.”

Lois Lowry

Holiday Soft Molasses Cookies

These cookies will stay fresh and covered at room temperature for one week.

Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1-1/2 teaspoons ground ginger
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup shortening or softened butter
1 cup sugar, plus more for topping
1 egg
1/4 cup dark molasses
(Raisins are optional)

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
In a large bowl, cream the shortening and sugar until light and fluffy. (If using a mixer, beat on high speed for about 2 minutes.) Add the molasses and beat until combined. Add the egg and beat well until combined. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl as needed. Sift the flour, soda, salt, and spices together. Add a little of the dried ingredients at a time to the creamed mixture. Optional: Cut in a few raisins at the same time. Form dough into small balls (about the size of a golf ball) and roll in sugar. Place on an ungreased baking sheet, about 3 inches apart. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes or until browned, and edges appear set. Let cool on a baking sheet for five minutes before transferring them to a container.

Paraprodokians

One-liners from movies and television

1. If you want to receive emails about my upcoming shows, please give me money so I can buy a computer.

Friends

2. He taught me housekeeping; when I divorce, I keep the house. *Zsa Zsa Gabor*

3. We can always count on the Americans to do the right thing - after they have exhausted all other possibilities. *Winston Churchill*

Churchill

4. Giving up smoking is the easiest thing in the world. I know because I've done it thousands of times. *Mark Twain*

Twain

5. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be. *Peter De Vries*

Peter De Vries

6. The Texan turned out to be good-natured, generous, and likable. Within three days, no one could stand him.

Joseph Heller, Catch 22

“The secret of it all is to write...without waiting for a fit time or place.”

Walt Whitman

EGWG Newsletter –Back Page

Something to consider

“Every secret of a writer’s soul, every experience of life, every quality of life, is written large in his works.”

Virginia Woolf



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

POETRY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMING EVENTS

SHORT STORIES

FLYERS (Not in PDF)

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES.

Send submission by the **15th 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

Use Garamond-14 for submissions.

Send in **Word.Doc** **NOT PDF.**

Thanks

December 2023

- Dec. 7- Pearl Harbor Remembrance.
- Dec. 21- Winter Solstice. (Yule)
- Dec. 25- Christmas.
- Dec. 26- Kwanzaa Begins.
- Dec. 31- New Year's Eve.

More Writing Prompts

- a. Next time you go to the grocery store, make a note of the first person you see. What are they wearing? Are they alone? Write a description as if they are the main character in your book.
- b. What makes you laugh out loud? Why?
- c. There’s a locked door in the place you’re staying. What’s behind that door?
- d. Have you ever seen a ghost or sensed their presence? Write an account of your experience.

Stay Warm and Cozy



See you next year!

EGWG Newsletter –Calendar and Flyers

What’s Happening in Our Area?

December 2023

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
					12:30 PM First Friday EGWG Meeting SactoCWC 9-11Writers Network @ café grill, 6215 Sunrise Blvd., Sacto	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			GCW 10-12: Business mtg. Auburn City Hall Rose Room			SJW 12-2 2nd Sat. at UOP presenter
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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: Holiday Party			BWW 10-12: 3rd Sat. mtg. SactoCWC 1-3 3rd Sat. Monthly Mtg. @ library, 891 Watt Ave. Can Crimes 3rd Sat 1-3
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Christmas Day		GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique	1:30 PM Last Thurs. EGWG Board Meeting		
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Year's Day					

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Data provided 'as is' without warranty

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

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

Below:

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

CLASS DYNAMICS & CALENDAR

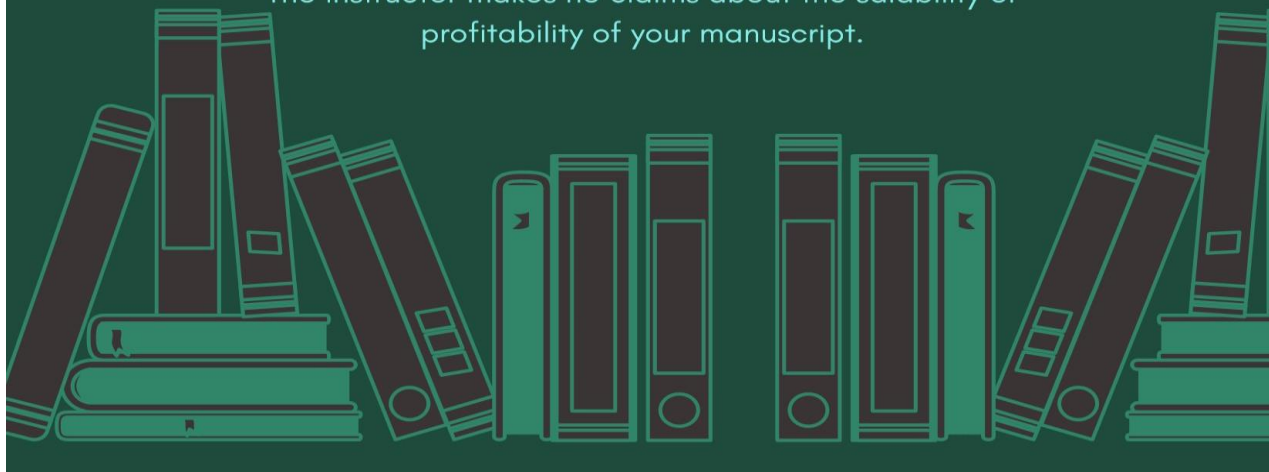
CLASS MEETINGS: WEDNESDAYS

- 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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