

Vol 4 Issue 01

Jan. 1, 2024

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Happy New Year!



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

Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc

Street Address

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Newsletter & Submissions

Penny Clark - Editor

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What's Happening?

The Elk Grove Writers Guild's board members are working on events for 2024. The first event will be on April 13th. Read the President's column each month to learn what new events are in store for us. See the flyer pages at the back of the newsletter for new event flyers received by the editor.

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

Harper Lee

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, come to the next meeting, it's at Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Road, in Elk Grove. Meetings are from 12:30 to 2:30.

The next meetings are Jan. 5, 2023, and Feb. 2, 2024.

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 4 pm to 6:30 pm. The meetings usually feature a speaker on various writing subjects. Their new location is Flaming Grill Café, 2380 Watt Ave., inside Country Club Plaza. The link for current information is <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>

“You can’t use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.”

Maya Angelou

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 organizing events for the year 2024 and beyond. We are looking for innovative and engaging content from speakers and instructors across various writing disciplines. If you have a passion for sharing your expertise and would like to be a featured speaker at any upcoming Guild event, please contact Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com

December's EGWG Meeting

Loy announced the first event of 2024 that will be held on April 13. The speaker and the topic are undecided as of December first. The President's Column has more info. (See Pres. Col.) We spent quite a while suggesting topics and went off on a few tangents. We will be waiting for more info as it becomes available.

More book launches were mentioned, and the ones who had launched their books in November sounded like they had a fun party.

George Hahn is relaunching his revised first book, Tau Ceti: A Ship from Earth. For time and place, check his website, <https://tauceti2.com>

Tim, a visitor, had questions we tried to answer, but after much discussion, he was advised that what he wanted would be found in the Monday writing group at the Senior Center.

Books about writing are available on the Guild's website, egweg.org/library. To arrange pickup or delivery, check with georgehahnjr@comcast.net

The Guild's classes on writing are available at egweg.org/classes. They're free. They cover the major aspects of writing and may be printed for later study.

Happy New Year. I hope it's a great one!

Rare or Seldom Used Words

Gulosity. Greediness or an excessive appetite.

Fabaceous. Bean-like.

Fustian. Pretentious or pompous language.

prurient. Fixated or obsessed with sex.

Cantillate. To chant or recite in a monotone.

Boreal. Northern.

“No one else sees the world as you do, so no one else can tell the stories that you have to tell.”

Charles de Lint

How to Decipher the Wild World of Amazon Ads.

A Zoom event presented by Bryan Cohen. Hosted by CWC Redwood Writers.

When: Jan. 13, 2024, from 9 am to 11 am PST.

Price:

Members: \$25

Non-members: \$35

See the flyer in the flyer section.

“I write only because there is a voice inside me that will not be stilled.”

Sylvia Plath



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Hello Everyone, and Happy New Year!

The Elk Grove Writers Guild's next Event is the **Spring Seminar**, on April 13, 2024, from Noon to 4:00 PM. It will be at the City of Elk Grove District 56 Community Center.

Gini Grossenbacher will teach an in-depth class on Point of View.

More details on class content, the program schedule, and Registration will be available in January 2024 and in the February issue of the newsletter.

If you have questions after the announcement in January, email loyholder77@gmail.com.

Loy Holder.”

EGWG President



From the Bookshelf

The Powder Monkey

By Penny Clark

“Get that log raft moving.” My brother Saul and I looked up at the back-lit figure standing above us and groaned. We’d hoped to eat the food we had bought from the woman living near the river. The Captain was the boss, and we wanted to keep our jobs, so we stuffed the rest of our sandwiches into our mouths and got busy.

I’d been with the crew for two weeks, and I didn’t want to jeopardize the steady employment working for the biggest lumber company in the area.

Our job was to ride the rafts of cut timbers downriver to the mill. It was hazardous work, but we were nimble of foot and worked the logs as a team. Saul had done raft work for six months and showed me how to stay steady on my feet while dancing across the slippery logs. Those logs tended to spin and roll, and that was a serious incentive to be able to remain balanced. A fall would either crush a man between two logs or drown him if he went under.

Log jams are tricky things. When the lead logs run afoul of something, the logs behind start piling up until a tall stack of massive logs looks like a child’s game of pick-up sticks.

EGWG Newsletter – page 6

When the critical or key log is moved, the logs near it crash about but sort themselves out and begin floating again. It's our job to get everything hooked together into a manageable raft.

On this jam, the whole crew had tried to pry the logs loose using pry bars and pikes, but nothing worked, so we quit trying. I was glad. Unraveling a jam by hand was risky at best, and suicidal at all other times.

That day, the raft had jammed up against a submerged tree, and the Captain had returned to camp to get the dynamite. The woman had come running from her house with sandwiches for sale. That was where the boss had found us.

The dynamite was there, and Saul scrambled up the bank and started laying out his charges.

He bundled the sticks together and told me what he was doing and why. When the bundles were ready, he walked back to the jam and looked it over, deciding where the charges would go.

I held my breath as he inserted the blasting caps, and I helped him set the charges. He wired everything together, and I ran the ignition wire back to the detonator.

We'd blown a jam two days before, and he'd shown me what to do. Now, he expected me to pick up the slack and help him. I was afraid of the power of the dynamite but more fearful of the ridicule I'd receive from the other men if I backed down.

We yelled, "Fire in the hole!" and everybody scattered away from the river, and we flattened out on the ground. As soon as Saul pushed the plunger down, we buried our heads in our arms and hung on.

When the dynamite went off, it was a treacherous event. The air filled with water and

splinters. Pieces of wood zipped around like shrapnel, and we kept our heads buried. As soon as the air cleared and the logs stopped jumping, we got to work, getting the raft in shape and moving in the right direction.

There were two more jams during the next few days. One was a simple pile-up at a tight curve in the river, but the second jam changed my life forever.

We were poking around, trying to move the main logs, the water was backing up fast, and everyone was working as quickly as they could. I looked at my brother on his end of the log we were trying to move. At that moment, his boot hit a slick spot. His feet went out from under him.

I watched in horror as he slid between the logs. It didn't take more than a second for me to start toward him and only a few more to get to where he had disappeared. I called his name and tried to pry the logs apart, but the crew had been trying to move those logs all day, and I had no luck. The logs opened, snatched my brother, and then snapped shut.

We ran to the edges of the jam, trying to see if he'd float out, but it was a mess under the water. The jam had him and wasn't letting him go.

He was gone. My brother, my mother's oldest son, was gone. The boss came and put his hand on my shoulder. He talked to me, but I was numb and wasn't listening.

Finally, his words broke through. "James," he said. "Your brother's job is on you now. You're the new powder monkey. Set the charges, son. Your brother would want you to carry on." I could only look at him in horror. A powder monkey? Me?

I did carry on that day. I was terrified every minute. I set those charges. They went off just right, and the jam was broken."

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The old man sat beside me at the bar, staring into his beer. “That was the last time I worked the timber or used dynamite. I got wise and went home. I took up farming like my dad wanted.”

He turned to me, and moisture glistened on his cheeks. “I still miss Saul. He was the best powder monkey, but those accursed logs ate him up.”

I paid for his beer and the next one before leaving the bar. All I’d asked was, “How you doing?” and he’d told me the story of his youth.

The ancient man was stuck in the past, but perhaps that was where he wanted to be.

Poetry Corner

Standard Procedure

By Deborah Kelch

Physician Note

Discussed TAVR procedure pros, cons, risks, to patient’s satisfaction

*He looked over and above my gray head,
eyes fixed on walls, not sure what he said
words and images float in the air.*

Procedure Note

Patient underwent right transfemoral transcatheter AV replacement

*Heart beating in chest, mouth dry, fuzzy eyes
bright fluorescent lights replace blue skies
now quiet, sinking, tranquility so rare.*

Nurse Progress Note

Received patient s/p TAVR at 1429.
Patient intubated at 1615.

*Can’t stay awake, room spins around
voices, beeps, shadows surround
beaming light ... stay ... no ...
surrender there.*

Death Note

Patient deceased at 1747. Wife updated in waiting room.

*Say it again, he can’t be dead
minutes ago, I saw him in the bed
so just turn away . . .
too late for you to care.*

Paraprodokians

One-liners from movies and television

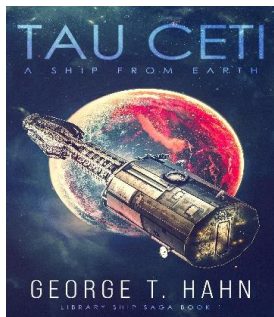
1. I’m not superstitious, but I am a little stitious. – The Office
2. Standing in the park today, I was wondering why a frisbee looks larger the closer it gets—then it hit me – Stewart Francis
3. The company accountant is shy and retiring. He’s shy a quarter of a million dollars. That’s why he’s retiring. – Milton Berle
4. A freelance writer is a man who is paid by the piece or per word or perhaps. – Dave Barry

T-Shirt Truths

1. I drink tea, read banned books, and dismantle systems of oppression.
2. Just because I'm awake doesn't mean I'm ready to do things.
3. I write not because it is easy. I write because I thought it would be easy.
4. Read books on a boat with a goat. On the train in the rain. With a fox in a box. With a mouse in the house. Here, there, everywhere.
5. Books. Where the adventures begin.

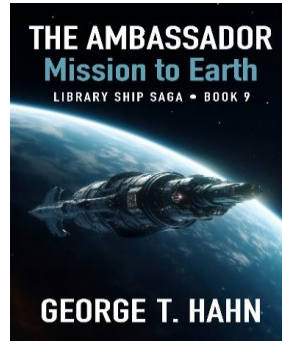


BOOK LAUNCHES



The relaunch of George Hahn's first book, "Tau Ceti: A Ship from Earth," will be released as a Kindle and paperback on January 9th. The Kindle version is available as a preorder. If you've read the original

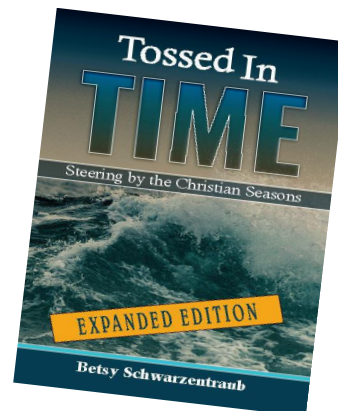
edition, this is almost the same, but there have been some plot tweaks to improve the flow.



George's eighth novel, "The Ambassador: Mission to Earth," will also be available very soon, although a firm date has not been set at this time. If you've read "The Ambassador: Path to Contact," you'll want to know what happens next.

Betsy Schwarzentraub is launching her book, "Tossed in Time, the expanded edition," on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024, from 12:15 – 2:15 pm.

At



the Elk Grove United Methodist Church 8986 Elk Grove Blvd, Elk Grove, CA

Congratulations

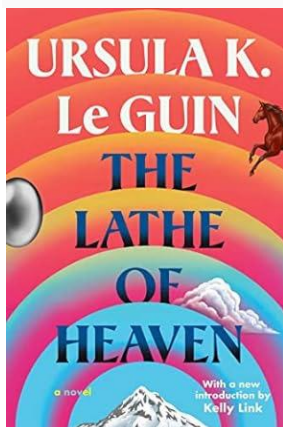
Fortune School of Education presented **Kathy Marshall's** appearance at an event on December 7th on how to find your black ancestors. Kathy is becoming a go-to person for genealogy questions and has appeared on television, at seminars, and at multiple meetings

Congratulations Kathy.

“People say, ‘What advice do you have for people who want to be writers?’ I say they don’t really need advice; they know they want to be writers, and they’re gonna do it. Those people who know that they really want to do this and are cut out for it, they know it.”

R.L. Stine

Writers’ Annex Presents



Online
Thursdays:
January 18 to
February 8, 2024

This winter, across four sessions, The Writers' Annex presents a Short Course on the Prose, Poetry, and Craft of **Ursula K. Le Guin**. Led by Nebula and PEN/Faulkner Award-winning author **Karen Joy Fowler** and featuring esteemed special guests, this short course will feature over 8 hours of guided sessions, plus additional readings, discussion groups, and more.

Ursula K. Le Guin (1929-2018) was a celebrated author whose body of work includes 23 novels, 12 volumes of short stories, 11 volumes of poetry, 13 children’s books, five essay collections, and four works of translation.

Le Guin was a great champion of the imagination, her own having such a powerful gravitational pull that eventually all of American letters bent around it. In this course, we will explore the life, work, and craft of this tremendous writer.

Special Guests: Brian Attebery, Molly Gloss, John Kessel & Kelly Link.

Financial Aid is available.
Register by January 10 to take advantage of the Early Bird discount.

[See the flyer in the flyer section.](#)

EGWG Newsletter –Back Page

Something to consider.

“If you do not hear music in your words,
you have put too much thought into your
writing and not enough heart.”

Terry Hart



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

January 2024

- Jan. 1- New Year's Day
- Jan. 4- World Braille Day
- Jan. 15- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 25- International Education Day

More Writing Prompts

- a. You're walking home alone one night. Several cats are stalking you. Suddenly, the streetlights go out. What happens next?
- b. Write a poem about rhythm. It might be the rhythm of music, a flowing river, or the clatter of a train. Weave the rhythm you hear in your head into the tempo of your poem.
- c. Write about your plans for tomorrow and how you hope it will turn out.
- d. Write a fantasy story based on the last dream you remember.

Stay Warm and Cozy



See you next month

EGWG –Calendar and Flyers

What’s Happening in Our Area?

January 2024

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day (observed)	2	3 GCW 10-12: Bus. Mtg. Auburn City Hall Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn	4	5 12:30 PM 1st Friday EGWG Mtg Elk Grove Round Table, SactoCWC 9-11Writers Network @ Café & Grill, 6215 Sunrise Blvd., Sac'to	6
7 NCPA 1-3: Monthly mtg.	8 SSWC (SacSuburban): 7-9 PM monthly mtg: Frank Nissen, historical fiction, 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks	9	10 GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique	11	12 GCW Read & Review, at Depoe Bay: <i>The Risk</i> by Dorothe Kress	13 CapCrimes 2 pm Crime Time at the Bookhouse San Joaquin Valley Writers (SJVW) 12-2:30 2nd Sat. Zoom
14 NCPA 4-6 pm: Monthly mtg. at Flaming Grill Café, 2380 Watt #150 (Country Club Plaza)	15 Martin Luther King Day	16	17 GCW 10-12: Speaker LaraGularte: "Prose Poem or Flash Fiction" Poetry contest starts (members)	18	19	20 CapCrimes 1 pm Zoom Mbrs Mtg BWW 10-12: 3rd Sat. mtg. SactoCWC 1-3 3rd Sat. Monthly Mtg. @ Arcade Library, 2442 Marconi
21	22	23	24 GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique	25 1:30 PM Last Thurs. EGWG Board Meeting	26	27 SJVW Gab Fest lunch @ Papapavlo's restaurant, 501 Lincoln Ctr, Stockton
28 Sacto CWC 2-3 Crime Time @ Capital Books Jennifer Morita host	29	30	31	2	3	4

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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 cannot work with PDF.

Below:

1. Registration information for How to Decipher the Wild World of Amazon Ads.
2. Registration for a short course on the prose, poetry, and craft of Ursula K. Le Guin.
3. Tossed in Time Expanded Edition Launch dates.



HOW TO DECIPHER THE *Wild World* OF AMAZON ADS with Bryan Cohen

**Saturday, January 13, 2024
9:00 a.m. PST on Zoom**

redwoodwriters.org/amazon-ads

HOSTED BY REDWOOD WRITERS
& CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB



Bryan Cohen, Workshop 1-13-24 - How to Decipher the Wild World of Amazon Ads

When

Saturday, January 13, 2024 from
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM PST
[Add to Calendar](#)

PRICE

Members: \$25
Non-Members: \$35

Where?

This is an online event.

Dear Penny,

On behalf of Redwood Writers and The California Writers Club, you are invited to a very special presentation with Amazon Ads expert, Bryan Cohen on January 13, 2024.

Did you know Amazon is now the third largest advertising network in the world (behind Facebook and Google)? As it becomes harder and harder to be seen on this major bookselling platform, learning how to run ads could be the difference between success and failure.

During this talk, Author Ad School Founder Bryan Cohen will help you take your first baby steps into the confusing and rewarding platform of Amazon Advertising,

You will walk away with a better understanding of what it takes to make Amazon ads work for you.

THIS MEETING WILL BE RECORDED AND SENT TO ALL REGISTRANTS.

[Get more information](#)

Register Now!

ABOUT BRYAN COHEN:

Bryan Cohen is the CEO of Best Page Forward, a company dedicated to helping authors with ads, blurbs, and more. He's an author himself with eight novels and over 150,000 copies sold. He was recently invited to be a part of the Amazon Ads Educators and visited Seattle to collaborate with the Amazon Ads team on new content for authors.

On behalf of Redwood Writers and The California Writers Club, we look forward to seeing you at this virtual two-hour workshop on January 13th, 2024.

Sincerely,

Roger Lubeck, President California Writers Club

Shawn Langwell, Immediate Past President Redwood Writers

The Writers' Annex Presents: Words Are My Matter
A Short Course on the Craft of



Photo: Marion Wood Kollich

Ursula K. Le Guin

Led by novelist
**Karen Joy
Fowler**



Photo: Bert Hall Jones



More Details
& Registration:
communityofwriters.org

Online Thursdays
Jan. 18 - Feb. 8, 2024

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January 18 to February 8, 2024

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Le Guin was a great champion of the imagination, her own having such a powerful gravitational pull that eventually all of American letters bent

around it. In this course, together we will explore the life, work, and craft of this tremendous writer.

Special Guests: Brian Attebery, Molly Gloss, John Kessel & Kelly Link.

Financial Aid is available.

**Register by January 10 to take advantage of
the Early Bird discount.**

Tossed in Time
Expanded Edition
Steering by the Christian Seasons



Book Release Date: Jan. 1, '24

Books available for purchase on Amazon
and wherever books are sold online

Author Presentation: Feb. 4,
'24

“The Worship Seasons and Daily Hours”

12:15 to 2:15 p.m. in the Community Room,
Elk Grove United Methodist Church,
8986 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA



The Tossed in Time Expanded Edition introduces people to the ancient worship seasons to help them find their personal bearings in the midst of the social disruptions of recent years. It gives a new rhythm to begin again, with down-to-earth themes, reflective questions, and **interactive workshop ideas** to experience each season for family, home school, church, or Christian school. **Line drawings** remind us that Jesus is as accessible to us now as back in biblical days.



For More Information:

See <https://generousstewards.com/personal-bio>

Contact Betsy at: betsy@generousstewards.com
