

Vol 4 Issue 08

August 2024

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

*Writers Helping Writers*

# WELCOME!



The Elk Grove Writers Guild is committed to helping writers grow and improve their craft. This newsletter is just one way we achieve that goal.

Here, you'll find a wealth of information on upcoming events, classes, and Guild news. We also offer items of writing wisdom, poetry, memories, writing tips, and updates on the latest happenings in the writing world.

We're always looking for new contributions to the newsletter and welcome your submissions. Whether you have news of your group's events, book launch announcements, writing tips, recent successes or publications, or reports of events you've attended, we want to hear from you.

See the [back page](#) for submission information.

## EGWG 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

<https://www.egweg.org>

### Newsletter & Submissions

Penny Clark - Editor

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

## What's Happening?

### **Create Compelling Characters, November 2, 2024.**

Jackie Alcalde Marr from Evolutions Consulting will speak and present a fresh approach to character development. The event will be at the Holiday Inn Express off Highway 99. **Register Now!**

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**“The greatest part of a writer’s time is spent in reading, in order to write: a man will turn over half a library to make one book.”**

*Samuel Johnson*

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**Elk Grove Writers Guild Meetings** are on the first Friday of each month from 12:30 – to 2:30.

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 writers’ valuable insight into the work presented.

If you’re interested in joining the Guild, go to [www.egweg.org](http://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 at Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Road, in Elk Grove. Meetings are from 12:30 to 2:30.

The next meetings are on August 2 and September 6, 2024.

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

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## GROUPS & EVENTS

**CWC's** Meetings are on the first Friday, 9-11 am, at CH Café, 6215 Sunrise Blvd, and on the third Saturday, 1-3 pm, at the Arcade Library. For information on current meetings or events, go to [California Writers Club, Sacramento branch](http://CaliforniaWritersClub.com).

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**NCPA** monthly meetings are on the second Sunday from 4 pm to 6:30 pm. The meeting usually features 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:

<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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**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 writers' events or directions, contact Margie Yee Webb at [mywebb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mywebb@sbcglobal.net) or <https://goldcountryrtwriters.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 organizing events for the 2025 Conference and other classes. We are seeking 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 get in touch with Loy Holder at [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)

(Editor: Please let Penny C. know if there are changes to times or places.)

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

## The July EGWG Meeting

I'm told the meeting was large, considering the triple-digit weather, and that "it was great."

Certain medical conditions can and will rule your life. I was on my way and made it to Herald before my condition said—loud and clear—go home right now, or else! I went home.

Would you like the opportunity to borrow a book on writing or print the transcript for a certain writing subject? On the Guild website, under the Resources menu, you will find links to courses on many aspects of writing, an archive of our monthly newsletter, and a calendar of writing events in northern California. The website also lists our extensive library of books on writing and holds instructions on borrowing them. Make the most of your membership and check it out!

<http://www.egweg.org>

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

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## For Those Who Don't Know

I am continuing to learn little keyboard shortcuts. The newest one is **Control Z**. If you want to delete a mistake you've just written, use the above and it will take you back to where you were. What a time saver.

## Rare or Seldom Used Words

**Orgulous.** Prideful; haughty.

**Palinoia.** Compulsive repetition, or rote learning.

**Perfervid.** Zealous, extremely fervid, burning with passion.

**Exiguous.** Scanty, sparse, meager.

**Crepitate.** To crackle, burp, or audibly emit gas.

**Chiromancy.** The art of palm reading.

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## T-Shirt Truths

1. I make stuff up.
2. Sorry. I can't. Writing. Bye.
3. Meta phors be with you.
4. I just want to pet cats and write.
5. I suffer from authoritis, a permanent chronic need to write. There is no cure.
6. Read, read, read, write.
7. Write. Rewrite. Rewrite.

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**“Making people believe the unbelievable is no trick; it's work. Belief and reader absorption come in the details. An overturned tricycle in the gutter of an abandoned neighborhood can stand for everything.”**

*Stephen King*



Elk Grove Writers Guild  
*Writers Helping Writers*

## EGWG President's Column

Hello, dear friends.

I hope you are all staying comfortable in the waves of heat we've been having.

We're looking forward to you all coming to our Fall Seminar on 11/2/2024 at the Holiday Inn Express, 9175 West Stockton Blvd, Elk Grove.

Watch for the next flier coming soon, announcing the Registration Date with more details.

Stay cool and keep writing.

Loy Holder

For questions, email me at,

[loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com).

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## A Few Fiction Writing Tips

1. Use the active voice. Sentences should use the structure of noun-verb-object to keep the pace moving.
2. Take breaks when you need them. Let your mind relax occasionally
3. Kill your darlings. When words, phrases, or sentences don't work, don't keep them.
4. Read other writers. Reading others can help you find your voice and hone your writing skills.



## From the Bookshelf

### **Voodoo at High Noon**

(Written from a writing prompt in 2014 before I had a handle on POV.) Penny Clark

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“There, the doll’s finished.” Schrody tightened the knot and clipped the last thread.

“Bill,” she yelled.

“What? Leave me alone; I’m editing,” Bill said but came into the room anyway.

“Take this doll and leave it where Bishop will find it.”

“Bishop?” Bill stepped back, alarmed.

“How much longer are we doing this? It’s getting dangerous; we could go to jail or worse.”

“We’ll continue until Bowman tells us to stop. Now go, shoo.” Schrody flapped her hands at him, and Bill left, mumbling his complaints.

Later, when Bishop opened his front door, he found more than his daily paper. He studied the doll. “Voodoo?” he murmured. Bishop noticed a slip of

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paper attached to the figure's clothing and carefully removed it.

Moments later, he phoned his boss. "Captain Kilroy, a note was left for me, tied to a voodoo doll."

The captain waited before saying, "Well, what did the note say?"

"Oh, it says meet me at the Bazz Cargo Warehouse at noon if you dare."

"Hmm, why at Bazz's warehouse? Bishop, you know what to do." Kilroy hung up.

Bishop called his partner. "Hey, Max, get ready for a noon meet." He told him about the note.

"About time we got a reaction from the Los Panchos. I'll be ready," Max said.

Ten minutes before noon, they met two blocks from the warehouse. "I say we bust in and take them down," Max said as he checked the clip and jacked a bullet into the chamber of his Glock before slipping it into his holster.

"Not so fast, Max, the Captain wants Los Pancho alive. He wants answers."

Max growled but remained silent.

Bishop shivered. What was with the voodoo doll? What was he getting into? He'd seen spiritual voodoo before, and it scared him. He didn't want anything to do with it.

As they started toward the warehouse, Bill ran up to them. "Bishop, hey ... wait

a minute." He bent with his hands on his knees, catching his breath.

"Who are you?" Bishop asked.

"Never mind who I am. You can't go into that warehouse. They're going to kill you," Bill said. "They're planning to take over the city, the state, and eventually the nation. You're spoiling their game, and they're out to get you."

"You do know we're special agents, don't you?" Max asked.

"Why are you warning us?" Bishop asked.

"I can't do this anymore. This voodoo crap is getting to me," Bill muttered something else.

"What?" Bishop asked.

"I said I have to go. I'm in the middle of editing my epically splendid novel." He turned and ran from them.

"Never mind him," Max said. "Let's go."

Two minutes before noon, the two closed in on the warehouse. "You circle and come through the back," Bishop said. "I'll wait until noon and go in the front."

When the two minutes were up, Bishop strode through the warehouse door. Jay Anfinson was waiting and pointed a gun at him. "Hello, Bishop, long time no see."

"You! I thought you retired. Why are you mixed up in this?"

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“Los Pancho pays well, and retirement from the agency sucks. He’s upstairs, waiting for the show—you’re the main attraction. A little voodoo, a few incantations, and poof, you’re gone for good.”

“The hell you say.” Bishop lunged for Anfinson’s gun and swept it out of his hand. He tackled the taller man, and they fell to the floor. Sounds of fists hitting flesh and swearing filled the air.

A shot echoed through the warehouse, stopping the fight. Los Pancho stood over the two as smoke curled from the barrel of his Colt.

With no warning, Bazz stepped through the door and shot Los Pancho in the shoulder. Max rushed in from the back and slapped the cuffs on the groaning villain. Bazz, an undercover agent, helped subdue Anfinson.

After Schrody, Bill, and Bowman had been arrested, Captain Kilroy congratulated his agents, “Good work, men, you’ve saved the city—again.”

Bishop, Max, and Bazz looked at each other and shrugged. Another day, another criminal was brought to justice. It was no biggie.

*P. L. Clark*

**Aphorism:** A short, pointed sentence that expresses a wise or clever observation of a truth.

1. No one has more driving ambition than a teenager who wants to buy a car.
2. There are no new sins ... the old ones just get more publicity.
3. There are worse things about getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m. ...it could be the right number.



### Poetry Corner

#### **PART AND PARTICLE**

Barbara A Barrett

The atoms that whirl  
    Inside me,  
Are older than the Earth  
    And men who first  
    Walked here.  
Born in the universe,  
Hitching rides on asteroids  
    And flaming comets,  
I have been everywhere and  
    Everywhen.



## EGWG Newsletter –Back Page

### Something to consider.

“Don’t expect the puppets of your mind to become the people of your story. If they are not realistic in your own mind, there is no mysterious alchemy in ink and paper that will turn wooden figures into flesh and blood .”

*Leslie Gordon Bernard*



Thirst Quencher

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

#### POETRY

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

#### COMING EVENTS

#### SHORT STORIES

#### FLYERS (Not in PDF)

#### WRITING OPPORTUNITIES.

Please send your submission by the 15th of the month for the next issue or contact Penny Clark, for later submissions.

Take advantage of the free advertising!

Send Submissions to [turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com).

Please: Use Garamond-14 for submissions. Send in word document(docx) NOT PDF or JPG. Thanks!!

### August 2024

- August- Natl. Parks Month
- Aug. 03- Natl. Watermelon Day
- Aug. 09- Book Lovers Day
- Aug. 14- Love Your Bookshop Day
- Aug. 26- Natl. Women’s Equality Day

### More Writing Prompts

- a. Describe social media to someone who has never heard of it.
- b. What would you like people to know about you when you’re gone?
- c. When you finish reading your next book, write a different ending.
- d. Write a 300(+/-) word dialogue with no he/she said tags. Show the different speakers through what they do and the words they use.

Stay cool but have fun



See you next month!

Continue for Calendar and Flyers



## EGWG – Calendar and Flyers



No. CA Writers Alliance  
 BWW = Black Women Write  
 Cap. Cr. = Capitol Crimes  
 EGWG= Elk Grove Writers Guild  
 GCW = Gold Country Writers  
 NCPA = No. CA Publishers & Authors  
 Sac. Sub. = Sacramento Suburban Writers  
 SJVW = San Joaquin Valley Writers CA Writers Club  
 Sac. CWC = Sacramento CA Writers Club  
 San Raf. = San Rafael (formerly Elk Grove) Writers & Artists



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 12:30-2:30 EGWG @ Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Rd. F.G.	3
4	5	6	7 10-12 GCW Business @ Rose Room, CityHall	8	9	10 12-2 SJVW on ZOOM, M.L. Hamilton, "Modern Publishing"
11 4-6:30 PM NCPA @ Flaming Grill. Watt	12	13	14 10-12 GCW Drop-In Critique San Raf Flash	15	16	17 9-11 Sac Sub @ CH Café, Sunrise NO Sac CWC this month
18	19	20	21 10-12 GCW Mentorship + Self- Publishing	22	23 Setting & Scenes →	24 12-2 SJVW Craft Chat @ Papapav- los, 501 Lincoln Ctr, Stockton
25	26	27	28 10-12 GCW Drop-In Critique Short Story	29	30	31

If you 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). **If they're in PDF or JPEG I will try to copy them,** but I may email you if there's a problem.

### Flyers Below:

1. Francis Ford Coppola Presents
2. EGWG Fall Writing Seminar

FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA PRESENTS

Z O E T R O P E

# ALL-STORY

The annual **Zoetrope: All-Story Short Fiction Competition** and **American Zoetrope Screenplay Competition** are open for entries on our new platforms!

The [Short Fiction Competition](#) will be judged by [C Pam Zhang](#), an honorable mention in our 2016 competition who has since published two best-selling and critically acclaimed novels, one of which landed on President Obama's list of the best books of 2020. She's also been named a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Honoree, a winner of the Academy of Arts and Letters Rosenthal Award, and a finalist for prizes from the Booker Prize Foundation, PEN America, and the National Book Critics Circle; and her short fiction has appeared in the *New Yorker* and *Best American Short Stories*. Three prizewinners, along with seven honorable mentions, will be considered for representation by leading literary agencies; and the winning story will be published as a special supplement to the Spring 2025 edition of *Zoetrope: All-Story*. [Enter now!](#)

**Francis Ford Coppola** and the American Zoetrope staff will judge the [Screenplay Competition](#), with a cash prize to the winner and the top ten scripts receiving consideration for representation and development by the best talent agencies and production studios. Original television pilots are also eligible. [So, ready that long-simmering idea, and submit.](#)

Thanks much. We're eager to read your work!



## Crafting compelling characters



Jackie Alcalde Marr has been a certified leadership and life coach for more than 14 years and is a certified book coach.



Michelle Hamilton teaches high school English and journalism and is the author of 73 books, including the Peyton Brooks Mysteries.

In any story, fiction or nonfiction, the plot and action entertain us, but how the characters react to that action, how they make decisions, and importantly, how they feel about what happens, sticks with us long after we close a book.

In this seminar, learn how to use the lens of a life coach to create believable characters striving for the insight and lessons they need to achieve their goals. Workshop key questions about your characters to flesh out their backstory and bring them to life on the page.

*This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal SLFRP0166 awarded to Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc. by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.*

## Elk Grove Writer's Guild Fall Seminar

November 2, 2024  
11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn  
Express & Suites  
9175 W. Stockton Blvd  
Elk Grove, CA



Box lunches at 11:30 a.m.  
Program begins at noon

*Register Now!*

**Registration Fee: \$50**

Registration Link

or go to

<https://egweg.org/fall2024/>

