

Vol 4 Issue 11

November 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 our goal.

Within these pages, 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

Website

<https://www.egweg.org>

Newsletter & Submissions

Penny Clark - Editor

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

What's Happening?

The 2024 EGWG events will wrap up on November 2 with the seminar on Characters. There'll be a short respite before the Event team hits the ground running and begins to plan for the 2025 biannual EGWG Seminar.

This newsletter will feature whatever else is planned.

“Write while the heat is in you. The writer who postpones the recording of his thoughts uses an iron which has cooled to burn a hole.”

Henry David Thoreau

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 produced.

Guild members can post their WIP on Google Docs and share it with other members for critiques. This is an excellent way to receive input and other writers' valuable insights into 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 at Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Road, in Elk Grove. Meetings are from 12:30 to 2:30+/-.. The following meetings are on October 4, 2024, and November 1, 2024. Come visit with us.

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

GROUPS & EVENTS

CWC's Meetings are on the first Friday, 9-11 am, in the back room at Denny's, 8841 Greenback Ln. The third Saturday, 1-3 pm, isn't always at the Arcade Library. For information on current meetings or events, go to [California Writers Club, Sacramento branch](http://CaliforniaWritersClub.com).

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>

California Writers Club (CWC) **(San Joaquin Valley Writers Branch)**

Monthly Speaker Meetings, 2nd Saturday of each month - 12 noon - 2:30.

Check the link below for venue information.

<https://www.sjvalleywriters.org>

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://goldcountryrtwriters.com>.

Black Women Write Black

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

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

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

The EGWG Bulletin Board

SPEAKERS and TEACHERS

The Guild will plan for the 2025 Conference and other events in January 2025. 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED If you'd like to help make our events the best ever, contact Loy at the above link.

October's EGWG Meeting

Loy began the meeting by asking for a volunteer for the membership head. Many of our group members are active in their craft, writing in genres such as mysteries, children's books, Romantic suspense, and sci-fi. It's encouraging to meet with people who are active and making progress.

While discussing those activities, we learned about drug tunnels going under the southern border, getting books in the library, ISBN numbers, and finding an agent. It was an interesting meeting.

The one Members Only item on the EGWG website is the Library, which lists our extensive collection of books on writing and provides instructions on borrowing them. Make the most of your membership and check it out!

Our newsletter readers can go to the Guild website and, under the Resources menu, find links to writing courses, an archive of our monthly newsletter, upcoming events, and a calendar of writing groups in northern California. It's there for everyone, so check it out.

<http://www.egweg.org>

Read the Webmaster's Column for details on all we offer.

Rare or Seldom Used Words

Satori. A sudden experience of enlightenment of an unsolvable riddle.

Satrap. A provincial tyrant.

Involute. Intricate. Complex as in a maze.

Tiffany. Light gauzy material. Something insubstantial.

Theophany. A visible manifestation of God.

Grobian. A rude or boorish person.

More About Dialogue

What Is and Isn't Dialogue

Writing dialogue isn't about replicating a real-life conversation. It's about giving an impression of it and improving it.

In real life, conversations are messy. People talk over each other, insert "um" and "uh" a lot, and jump from one topic to another at the drop of a hat.

Dialogue in fiction is not pointless conversations. The speaker has a goal or an agenda that shapes the words used. The writer must know what that goal is to help the character say the words to achieve it. If the feeling in the room is confrontational, evasive, ignoring the elephant in the room, the writer must help the character ease his or her way into the subject.

Next month: *The Purpose of Dialogue.*



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Happy November First,

Dear members.

Tomorrow, 11/02, is the EGWG Fall Seminar of 2024.

There's still room, so if you decide to come at the last minute and don't mind missing lunch, you can register at the door with cash or a check. You can also register online today, 11/1, by 11:59 PM at <https://egweg.org/fall2024>.

I encourage you to come because this will be a great workshop event, **different** from other classes on developing characters for your story. Don't miss out.

Hope to see you there."

If you have questions, send an email to loyholder77@gmail.com.

Loy Holder
President – Elk Grove Writers Guild

“You don’t start out writing good stuff. You start out writing crap and thinking it’s good stuff, and then gradually, you get better at it. That’s why I say one of the most valuable traits is persistence.”

Octavia E. Butler



From the Bookshelf

After Midnight

Penny Clark

Emily is gone, taking an unplanned ride to the morgue. I gaze at Detective Seamus, my partner. “I think I’ll walk over and talk to the boyfriend, Jimmy.”

“You think he’ll be there?” He glances at his watch. “It’s after midnight; the restaurant must be closed.”

“There’s only one way to find out.”

Seamus nods and looks back at his notes. “All right, I’ll come find you when I finish here.”

I stare at the blood on the ground where Emily was found. Images of the battered girl float before me, and I turn to leave. The restaurant is a block away.

I figured if Emily was going to see her man before she was killed, then he’s probably there.

Poor girl. It makes me sad that she was murdered while she was young and happy.

The psychic ability to talk to the recent dead is useful, considering I’m a cop and see a lot of fresh bodies. Still, it’s a pain in my rear more often than not. The dead are often confused and not sure of exactly what happened to them.

Emily was sharp. She said she’d raked her nails across the killer’s face and kicked him in

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the family jewels. We'd get DNA from the skin and blood under her nails, but it would be weeks before the tests were run and the reports issued.

My thoughts grind to a halt when the restaurant is just ahead. It's dark and looks closed, but there's a faint glow of light from the back. There's no way I'll get in through the front door, so I move around the building. Luck is with me as I see a girl push through the backdoor with a bag of trash for the dumpster. Hurrying, I catch the door before it closes.

"Hey, you can't go in this way. We're closed," she says, braver than she should be in the dark alley.

"Oh, Emily gave me a message for Jimmy. He's still here, right?"

"Uh..." She looks me up and down and then shrugs. "Yeah, he's in the office."

I enter the empty kitchen, hear the rattle of an adding machine, and head toward the sound.

The office door is open. I stand to the side, watching Jimmy count the till. There are three long scratches on his cheek. That's enough probable cause for me. I pull my Glock from its holster and enter the room.

"Jimmy Martin, I need you to come along with me," I say in my official 'police' voice.

He lets out a squawk and dives for the handgun on the end of the desk.

"Hands up! Drop the gun! Drop the gun!" I yell, my heart pounding.

Jimmy is wild-eyed and grabs the pistol, swinging it toward me.

I have no choice but to aim for the shoulder of his gun-arm to disable him. Unfortunately, he makes a lunge just as I shoot, and my bullet hits him dead center, and he falls, lifeless.

"Jimmy, tell me why you killed Emily?" I ask the corpse.

"I was angry. I saw her talking with another man, acting too friendly."

"Why kill her? Couldn't you ask her what she was doing?"

"I started to, but she flashed this big ring at me, and I went crazy. She was going to leave me."

"Aw, Jimmy, she wasn't leaving you. That ring was her grandmother's engagement ring. She had left it to Emily in her will. Emily had just received it and was coming to show it to you."

The howl of remorse Jimmy let out was deafening and soul-searing—at least to me. I heard Seamus pounding on the back door and went to let him in.

Yeah, psychic powers are swell, but not in cases like this one. Two young people were dead for no real reason. A little conversation would have saved a lot of tragedy.



T-Shirt Truths

1. I'm a writer, and of course, I spend most of my time not writing.
2. There has never been a time when people who banned books were the good guys!
3. You know you're a writer when deleting whole paragraphs from your manuscript is the emotional equivalent of stabbing yourself in the chest REPEATEDLY.
4. My weekend is fully booked.



Poetry Corner

NOTHING HERE FOR ME

Barbara A. Barrett

I'm sick and tired and angry too.

There's nothing here for me,

Yet something binds me to this place

What it is, I can't see.

I long to stretch my wings and fly

But I don't know where to flee

And can I ever run away

From eternity?

So, every day, I plod along

And do what I must do.

Inside, I have another life

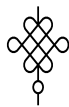
And to this one, I am true.

From it comes my poetry

With its shy and quiet voice

That echoes through and helps me know

It's I who made the choice.



**Barbara Barrett died on October 6,
2024**

Barbara graciously shared over thirty poems with us, and I was honored to present them to you in the Poetry Corner.

I have two more of her poems and one limerick for the December and January issues, and then—there will be no more. But she will live on in the memories of those who cared for her. The editor

From the Webmaster

George Hahn

This month, I would like to discuss one of the least used resources available from the Guild through the website: our library. The Guild is a small organization without a place of its own, and I suspect that's why the library is largely ignored. That's unfortunate because we have dozens of excellent books on writing donated by our members.

Because we don't have a place to keep these books, we have to keep them in the home of one of our members (currently me), making borrowing them awkward but not impossible. The website has a list of these books. To reserve one of them, you need only email the guild requesting one. The easiest way to get the book to you would be for you to attend the next Guild meeting, but other arrangements are possible.

We can all improve as writers, and the right book can help. Check out the list and choose one that meets your needs at <https://egweg.org/resources>.

George

New Publications



EWGW member Christina Francine's dark fantasy novella, *The Woman in Green from Cromarty: A Legend*, is available for pre-sale at Amazon

KINDLE 0.99 USA (released Oct. 31, 2024) Print 4.99 USA (released Dec. 1, 2024) 81 pages

<https://a.co/d/29lvISH>

The 81-page novella is based on a Scottish legend, an event in the author's life, and stirred with creativity. "Not every nightmare comes from imagination, and not every premonition from a hunch," says the author. "Sometimes there's a troll from the 1400s at your window and a stray cat by your side." The Kindle release date is October 31. The date will benefit readers who want a Halloween read.

All Kelly wants is a fresh beginning, but when she meets an elderly woman who claims to be her great, great, great grandmother and finds an ancient evil that wants her young baby's blood, she reaches for archaic tradition.

But something goes very wrong when a frightening troll appears at the window of her second-story apartment, and she learns her premonition is spot on: something is after her daughters.

Gudrun claims to be a relative from the 1400s who comes to stop the woman in green from Cromarty from draining her daughters' blood. Kelly disbelieves the elderly woman and discounts her premonition until, in the dead of night, she finds an ancient evil hovering over her oldest daughter's bed, ready to open a vein, and her toddler is watching the predator. The events are shocking enough. Now, there's a seductive helper with Gudrun. Who is the bigger threat? The evil after their lives or the man stirring her heart, living under her nose.

<https://a.co/d/29lvISH>

And One More



Vanished: Run or Die

by [P.L. Clark](#) (Author)

Format: Kindle, Kindle Unlimited, and Paperback

[Amazon.com: P.L. Clark author page](#)

His words, "I'd be better off as a widower," gave her a choice:

Run or Die.

When Paige Carpenter collects enough evidence of her husband's criminal activity in Indianapolis to put him in federal prison, dangerous things begin to happen. A thwarted mugger's hands around her throat and his promise to catch up to her later makes her choice clear—it's time to vanish.

David Drake, a police detective in a Southern Oregon city, bumps into her several times. While she's attractive, she's a puzzle to solve—at first. He's

soon drawn into her flight from danger. Their attraction grows as her enemies, set on killing her, grow closer.

Can she and the detective survive the deadly attacks that follow her? Will David stay beside her until her goal of seeing her husband behind federal bars is reached?

Want to find out what happens? Go to Amazon and push the BUY button.

[Amazon.com : P.L. Clark author page](#)

Changing Passive Voice

Remove the passive voice from your work to make your language more active and effective. The passive voice is often telling instead of showing.

To find the passive voice, look for “to be” words, such as was, were, and words ending in “ing,” such as singing or dancing, and find ways to rewrite them. This usually involves switching the subject and object and altering the verb tense to match.

Another way to find a passive voice is to remember that describing an action is subject—verb—object. For example, Joe threw the ball, not the ball “was” thrown by Joe.

The active version feels more vital and compelling than the passive one, which slows the story's pace.

A grammar checker like ProWritingAid or Grammarly can help you find and change your sentences from passive to active.

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Something to consider.

“Write while the heat is in you. The writer who postpones the recording of his thoughts uses an iron which has cooled to burn a hole with.”

Henry David Thoreau



Good times spent with family and friends

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 your Submissions to turlockpenny@yahoo.com.

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

November 2024

- Nov. 03- Clocks go back one hour
- Nov. 05- Election Day
- Nov. 11- Veteran’s Day
- Nov. 13- World Kindness Day
- Nov. 28- Thanksgiving
- Nov. 29- Black Friday

More Writing Prompts

- a. Write a letter to someone who matters to you and tell them what they mean to you.
- b. Do you believe in the supernatural? Why or why not?
- c. Write about your favorite trip. What made it your favorite?
- d. Write a list of all the things you are not going to do in 2025.

Happy Thanksgiving?



See you next month!

Continue for Calendar and Flyers

EGWG – Calendar and Flyers

November

2024

Subtitle

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
- SJVV = 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
					12:30-2:30 EGWG @ Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville, Elk Grove 1	11:30-4:00 EGWG Fall Seminar: "Compelling Characters," Jackie Marr * ML Hamilton @ Holiday Inn, 9175 W Stockton Blvd, Elk Grove 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	12-2 SJVV Celebrating Success! <u>mbrs'</u> achievements (private) 9
4-6:30 PM 10 NCPA member book launch (@)	11	7-8:30 Cap Cr. 12	10-12 GCW Business @ Rose Room, City Hall, Auburn 13	14	15	10-2 BWW contact BlackWomenWrite- 2020@gmail.com 16
17	18	Meeting with Jennifer Hilt. See capitolcrimes.org 19	10-12 GCW Drop-In Critique @ Rose Room, City Hall, Auburn 20	21	22	12-2 SJVV Craft Chat @ Papapavlo's, 501 Lincoln Ctr., Stockton 23
11 am-1 24 Cap. Crimes Foul Play Launch, Fowler	← Fowler Ranch Brewery, 3111 Lincoln, Lincoln 25	26	10-12 GCW 27	28	29	Drop-In Critique @ Rose Room, City Hall, Auburn 30

If you have flyers for your own or your writing group's event that you'd like to see in the flyer section, send them to Penny Clark at

turlockpenny@yahoo.com.

If they're in PDF or JPEG, I will try to copy them, but it would be perfect if you could send them in a Word document that I could copy without using outside resources.

Continue on the Next Page for Flyers:

1. SAVE The Cat Classes if you want to jump in.
2. EGWG Fall Seminar Schedule
3. EGWG Fall Seminar Flyer: it's not too late.
4. INFORMATION Just for You



SAVE THE CAT: A NOVEL APPROACH

*The art of great screenwriting applies to the novel!
New and experienced novel writers are welcome!
Participants may work on writings in progress or begin new work.*

**ZOOM SIX WEEK CLASS, WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
OCTOBER 16, 23, 30, AND NOVEMBER 6, 13, 20
6 PM-8 PM**

**Week One: Creating Your Hero(ine) & Beat Sheet
Week Two: Your Genre & the Dark Side
Week Three: Life's Passage & Social Groups
Week Four: Superheroes & Survival
Week Five: Underdogs & Friendships
Week Six: Magic & Quests + Reading Salon Presenter,
published author Gini Grossenbacher, M.Ed.
WITH GUEST Authors
Sheryl Bize' Boutte'
*June Gillam, PhD***

***Based on Jessica Brody's groundbreaking book Save the Cat! Writes a Novel*
\$27.00 + tax PER CLASS + TEXTBOOK, PAY AS YOU GO; One free class if you prepay
for six weeks.**

ENROLLING NOW AT:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/save-the-cat-writes-a-novel-tickets-1023828768407?aff=oddtcreator>



SAN RAFAEL WRITERS & ARTISTS
CLASSES, COACHING, COMMUNITY

CRAFTING COMPELLING CHARACTERS

Elk Grove Writers Guild Fall Seminar

November 2, 2024

12:00-4:00 pm (*Lunch at 11:30 am*)

AGENDA

11:30-12:00	Networking and box lunches	
12:00-12:10	Welcome and Introductions	Loy Holder
12:10-12:15	Agenda review and session goals	Jackie Alcalde Marr & Michelle Hamilton
12:15-12:30	Warm-up: Grab bag	Attendees
12:30- 12:40	TOOL 1: Character Goals, Insights, & Actions	Jackie
12:40-12:50	Tool 1 Model	Michelle
12:50-1:05	Tool 1 Practice	Attendees
1:05-1:15	TOOL 2: Character Life (back)Story	Jackie
1:15-1:25	Tool 2 Model	Michelle
1:25-1:40	Tool 2 Practice	Attendees
1:40-1:55	Break	
1:55--2:05	TOOL 3: Character Worldview	Jackie
2:05-2:15	Tool 3 Model	Michelle
2:15-2:30	Tool 3 Practice	Attendees

2:30-3:15	WORKSHOP & Table Shares	Attendees
3:15-3:45	Full Group Discussion, Q & A	Jackie, Michelle, Attendees
3:45-4:00	Closing and Prize Drawing	Jackie, Michelle & Loy

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.



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/>

This page is empty—it's waiting for your event flyer for December, January, and beyond.