

Vol 5 Issue 09

Sept. 2025

This Issue May Contain

Bulletin Board

Coming Events

President's Column

Writing Bits and Pieces

From the Bookshelf

Learning Opportunities

Backpage

Area Event Calendar

Flyers for Events

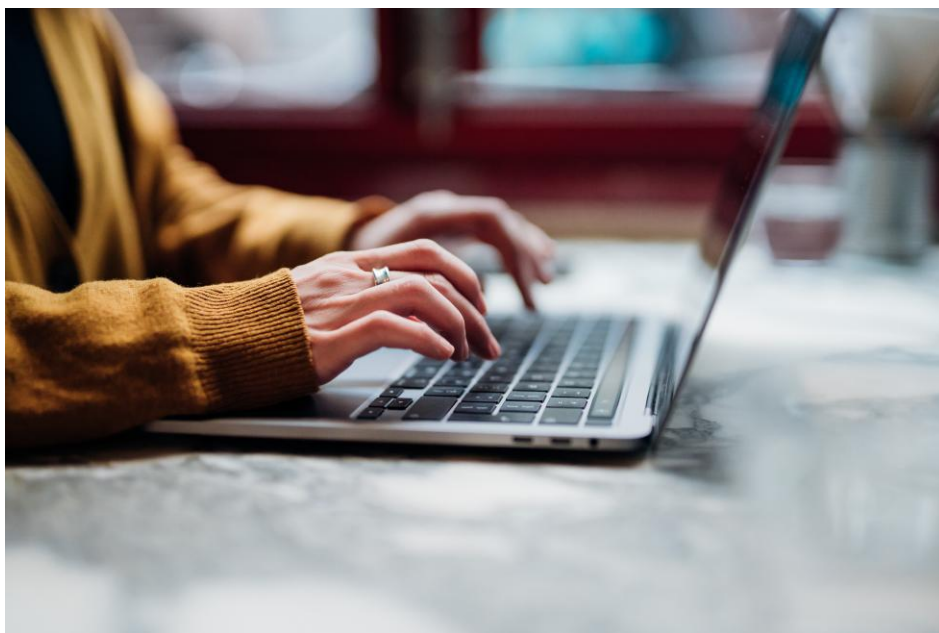
And More



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 one way we achieve that goal.

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

We're always looking for new contributors and welcome your submissions. Whether you have news of your writing 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 new schedule for the 2025 biennial EGWG Conference is in the Flyer section. Watch this newsletter and the President's Column for more information on this great event as it becomes available. You won't want to miss it!

"To gain your own voice, you have to forget about having it heard."

Allen Ginsberg

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 speak the language of writers. We share 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 work-in-progress (WIP) on Google Docs and share it with other members for critique. This is an excellent way to receive input and 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 first Friday meeting at Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Road, in Elk Grove. The following meetings are on September 5, and October 3, 2025.

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

LOCAL 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, visit the [California Writers Club, Sacramento branch](#).

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 is

<https://www.norcalpa.org>

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

Monthly Speaker Meetings, 2nd Saturday with a Zoom program, and the 4th Saturday of each month with an in-person meeting at 12 noon - 2:00, at the Lodi Library, 201 W. Locust, Lodi, CA. Check the link below for other 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://goldcounyrtwriters.com>.

Black Women Write Black

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

EGWG Bulletin Board

SEEKING SPEAKERS and TEACHERS

If you have a passion for sharing your expertise and want to be a featured speaker at an event, please get in touch with Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you'd like to help make our events run smoothly, contact Loy Holder:

loyholder77@gmail.com

Rare or Seldom Used Words

Undulant. Resembling waves; undulating.

Monition. A caution, warning.

Piceous. Pitch dark. Combustible, flammable like pitch.

Misoneism. The hatred of change.

Eudemonia. True happiness resulting in a life lived according to reason.

Caducity. The frailty of old age.

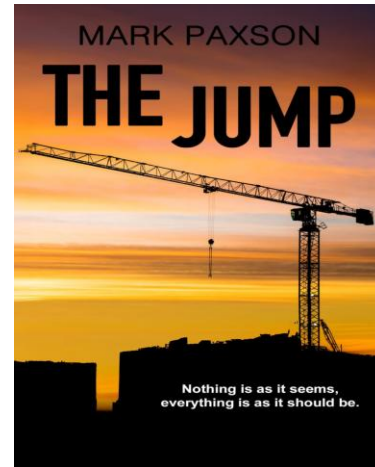
T-Shirt Truths

1. Writer: An individual who is plotting something—usually—sometimes—when they're not procrastinating.
2. Of course I'm crazy—I'm a writer.
3. Easily distracted by cats and books..
4. A well-read woman is a dangerous creature..
5. Rules of grammar—double negatives are a no-no.
6. It's a great day to read a book.

“Sometimes the ideas just come to me. Other times, I have to sweat and almost bleed to make ideas come. It's a mysterious process, but I hope I never find out exactly how it works. I like a mystery, as you may have noticed.”

J.K. Rowling

Coming in SEPTEMBER



THE JUMP by MARK PAXSON

Airplanes crashing into buildings, cities destroyed by The President's Men, the country left as a patchwork quilt of functioning states and those filled with people with no hope. A construction crane is transported around the country to help the distressed and depressed end their misery.

The Jump is a tale set in a not-too-distant future. It is a dystopian take on an America ruled by a President who has declared martial law, created a cult of personality, and ruled as a dictator for far too long.

It's a world where nothing makes sense, and so much is unknown.

Coming to Amazon and wherever books are available online.

eBook available 9/1.

Paperback available 9/15.

EGWG Newsletter – page 5



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Hello, dear members.

The bad news is that no one recovers from anemia faster than 2-3 months. The good news is, I'm mentally up for what it takes to get well.

I have a lot to be thankful for: wonderful friends who've wished me well and a great team marketing our October 25, 2025, conference.

Have you signed up yet? If not, make my day by going to egweg.org/conference2025 to register.

Hope to see you there.

Loy

Send your questions and comments to loyholder77@gmail.com.



Gold Country Writers Announces 2025 Nonfiction Short Story Contest

Gold Country Writers is hosting a nonfiction short story writing competition. It's open to writers over age 18 in Placer, Yuba, El Dorado, Nevada, Sutter, or Sacramento counties.

The opening date for submission is August 6, 2025, with only one entry per

person. **The last day to submit is Sept. 17, 2025.**

The submission fee is \$15 to enter, with a discounted fee of \$10 for current GCW members.

For more information about the contest, see the flyer in the flyer section or visit the official GCW website at www.goldcountrywriters.com.



EVENT OF THE YEAR

A Once-in-a-Century Event

To celebrate 100 years of excellence in Sacramento, the CWC will present a fantastic line-up of esteemed Sacramento area presenters to appreciate the evolution of writing and publishing in the Sacramento area.

The event will take place on Saturday, October 18, 2025, from Noon to 3 pm at the North Ridge Country Club.

There will be a buffet and a no-host bar, and historical exhibits.

For more information and to buy tickets, go to

<http://cwcsacramentowriters.org>

Check the flyer section for more details.



From the Bookcase

The Desert Miracle

Penny Clark

Several years ago, my daughter, son-in-law, and I traveled in our motor homes, visiting sites of interest in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and the Four Corners area.

While in Arches National Park in Utah, we pulled to the side of the road to take pictures of an awesome, almost unrealistic arch.

It was high summer, and the desert was sizzling hot, so I left the engine and the air conditioner running so my two chihuahuas wouldn't bake in the metal vehicle.

We took several pictures and returned to our motorhomes, where I discovered I had somehow locked myself out.

My son-in-law, Mark, called the park rangers, and in short order, a ranger pulled in, withdrew a tool from the back of her SUV, and slid the flat bar-like metal through the top of the driver's side window. But a call came over her radio that a woman had collapsed from dehydration and/or heat prostration.

The ranger dropped the tool, apologized, and kicked up gravel as she sped away.

After studying the dropped tool, I asked my kids, "Does anyone know how to operate one of these things?" I picked up the flat piece of metal.

In unison, they looked at each other, shook their heads, and said, "Nope."

I glared at the driver's door, which didn't impress the lock. Then I studied the windows and contemplated which one I'd break to enter.

I didn't want to deal with the driver or passenger windows with their electronic components. The huge windows in the living area would be a nuisance to drive with until they were replaced.

After careful consideration, I settled on the slender window in the kitchen door. It was my only choice. "Mark?" I asked, "Do you have a hammer I can borrow?"

EGWG Newsletter – page 7

“I do, but are you sure you want to do that? I can call for another ranger.”

“Okay, make the call.”

He glanced at me with a frown as he put his phone away. “They don’t have another ranger available right now.” Mark stared at me, sighed, and turned toward his rig. I’ll get the hammer, but let me do this.”

Then, out of nowhere, a dust-free black sedan parked twenty feet behind my rig. A man in pressed black dress slacks and a crisp white shirt exited the car and walked toward me as if on a singular mission.

He stopped in front of me, took a key out of his pocket, and handed it to me. “Here,” he said. “I think this will work.”

It was a motorhome kitchen door key. It probably wouldn’t fit my door, but I wouldn’t lose anything by trying it.

I went to the other side of the rig, fit the key into the lock, and turned it. Tumblers dropped, and the door opened. I turned to the man in open-mouthed wonder. “It worked. How is this possible?”

He shrugged and smiled as he took back the key, saying, “All that matters is it worked. Have a great day.” He turned and walked back to his car,

got in, made a U-turn, and returned to wherever he’d come from.

I exchanged wide-eyed stares with my daughter, Dara-Lee, before we continued following our planned itinerary, stopping at the ranger station to drop off the useless tool on our way toward our next destination.

As we got back on the road, my mind tried to find answers to the questions of where the man had come from, how he knew I needed a specific key, and where he had gone.

Answers didn’t come, and I settled on the explanation that I had a problem, and the Universe provided. Perhaps it was a type of manifestation, or, simply put, a miracle.

Note: This is a true story—I still have questions, but no answers. P. L. Clark

Check the Flyer Section

For New Flyers and Other Information

1. Gold Country Nonfiction Short Story Contest
2. Flash Memoir Workshop
3. EGWG’s Press Release for Conference
4. EGWG Conference Flyer #2
5. EGWG Conference Program
6. Once in a Century Event

EGWG Newsletter – Back page

Something to Consider

“On first drafts: It is completely raw, the sort of thing I feel free to do with the door shut—it’s the story undressed, standing up in nothing but its socks and undershorts.”

Stephen King



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

POETRY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMING EVENTS

SHORT STORIES

FLYERS

WRITING CLASSES

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.

The Submission Format is Garamond-14. If possible, send in a Word document(docx). **Thanks!**

SEPTEMBER 2025

- Sept. 01- Labor Day
- Sept. 02- V J Day
- Sept. 04- Eat an extra dessert Day
- Sept. 22- Autumn Equinox

More Writing Prompts

- a. Write about a special memory you don't want to forget.
- b. Write about your first job.
- c. Write a book review and submit it on Amazon.
- d. Describe where and how you get your story ideas..

Joyful times



See you next month

[Continue on Next Page for the Calendar and Flyers Section](#)

September 2025						
Aug 2025						Oct 2025
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3 GCW 10-12 – Business Mtg. @ CityHall Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn	4	5 EGWG 12:30-2:30 Members Mtg., Round Table, 10054 Bruceville, Elk Grove Sac. CWC 9-11 "Writing Memoir" with John Patterson @ Denny's on Greenback, Sac'to	6	7
8 Sac Sub 6:30 p.m. Writing Techniques; 7-9 p.m. 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks & on Zoom www.sactowriters.org	9	10 GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ CityHall Rose Room, Auburn	11	12 Cap. Cr. 1-3 "Crime-a-Thon" → by Zoom. See https://capitolcrimes.wildapricot.org/events	13 SJWW 12-2:30 speaker presentation on Zoom	14 Cap Cr. 2-3, "Crime Time" at Bloodstone Books, @ 3214 Riverside Blvd., Sac'to. NCPA 1-3 @ Flaming Grill, 2380 Watt, #150, Sac.
15 North State Writers 6 pm networking + 6:30-8 p.m. meeting @ Veterans Hall, 554 Rio Lindo Ave., Chico	16	17 GCW Nonfiction contest deadline to submit. GCW 10-12 "Why Is This a Poem?" by Bob Stanley	18	19 SF Peninsula CWC → 10-12 Bus. & speaker @ Sequoia Yacht Club, 441 Seaport Ct., Redwood City	20 BWW 10-12 Sac. CWC 12-2:30 "Insider Book Publishing Secrets" by Brenda Knight, publisher & editor @ Spaghetti Factory, 1625 Watt, Sac'to	21
22	23	24 GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ CityHall Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn Business of Writing 12:30-2:30, Depoe Bay, 893 High St., Auburn	25 EGWG 1:30 – Board Meeting, Zoom	26	27 SJWW Craft Chat @ Papapavlo's restaurant, 501 Lincoln Ctr, Stockton	28
29	30					

ABOUT THE FLYER SECTION

If you have flyers for your own event or your writing group's event that you'd like to see in the flyer section, please ensure they are in Word doc format. I don't have an app for dealing with PDF or JPG.

Send your flyer directly to Penny Clark at turlockpenny@yahoo.com

Thanks

Flyers Beginning Next Page

1. Gold Country Nonfiction Short Story Contest
2. Flash Memoir Flash Workshop
3. EGWG Press Release for Conference
4. EGWG Conference Flyer #3
5. EGWG Conference Program
6. Once in a Century Event

Gold Country Writers Announces 2025 Nonfiction Short Story Contest

Gold Country Writers is hosting a short story writing competition open to writers in Placer, Yuba, El Dorado, Nevada, Sutter, or Sacramento counties.

Only original and unpublished nonfiction stories are accepted for the contest, with a maximum word count of 1500. Writers have the freedom to use any theme or genre. **The opening date for submission is August 6, 2025, and ends on September 17, 2025.** One entry per person.

This is an excellent chance for writers to showcase their work and win cash prizes. The competition aims to provide recognition and help local writers build their credentials. There is a submission fee of \$15 to enter, and a discounted fee of \$10 for GCW members. Writers retain full ownership of their work. However, by entering, writers agree to allow GCW to use their stories in their publications and to showcase winning entries. Gold Country Media will also publish the winning stories online and in local newspapers.

The GCW 2025 Nonfiction Short Story Contest is open to all writers over age 18 and offers a great opportunity for new writers to be recognized. To participate in the contest, **stories must be submitted in standard manuscript format. This includes double-spacing, using Times New Roman 12-point font, and submitting the story as a Microsoft Word or PDF document.** The stories will be judged anonymously based on specific criteria.

The GCW Nonfiction Short Story Contest winners will be revealed at a special celebration on October 4 in the Auburn City Hall Council Chambers and the Rose Room. The top three winners will receive cash prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50. For more information about the contest and to submit your entry, visit the official GCW website at www.goldcountrywriters.com

Gold Country Writers is a 501(c) (3) non-profit community organization that aims to foster and support writers in the Gold Country area of Northern California.

The Past as Flash: A Flash Memoir Workshop Series

Unlock the power of your personal stories in "The Past as Flash: A Flash Memoir Workshop Series." This immersive series invites you to delve into the art of flash memoir, where brevity meets depth, and every word counts. Designed for both seasoned writers and passionate beginners, this workshop series will guide you through the process of capturing your most vivid memories in a concise and impactful format.

Join a community of like-minded storytellers and explore techniques to transform your experiences into compelling narratives. Through guided exercises, inspiring prompts, and insightful feedback, you'll discover new ways to express your unique voice and create memoirs that resonate with readers. Whether you're looking to document your personal history, explore transformative moments, or discover a new creative outlet, this series provides the tools and inspiration you need.

Led by Gini Grossenbacher, M.Ed., an experienced instructor, each session is a stepping stone toward mastering the craft of flash memoir writing. Embrace the challenge of distilling your life stories into their purest essence and witness the past unfold in flashes of memory.

Date & Time: Wednesday evenings, 6-8 pm on Zoom, September 3, 10, 17, 24

\$25 per class + tax; take one class; take them all! Scholarships available.

Please register: <https://www.simplertix.com/e/the-past-as-flash-a-flash-memoir-workshop-tickets-228560>.

Gini Grossenbacher/JGKS Press

San Rafael Writers & Artists (Gini Grossenbacher's Workshops)

San Rafael Writers & Artists, led by experienced historical novelist/editor Gini Grossenbacher, offers Amherst Writers & Artists–based workshops via Zoom, focusing on memoir, flash fiction, poetry, and novel writing (ginigrossenbacher.com). These workshops follow the AWA method, emphasizing equal respect, creative voice, and supportive feedback without harsh critique, fostering a safe space for writers at all levels. Sessions typically involve writing prompts and guided peer responses to strengthen craft, nurture community, and encourage every writer's unique creative potential.

Email Gini for more information! ginis.writers1@gmail.com

Transform Your Writing Dreams Into Reality

Calling All Writers to The 10/25/25 EGWG Conference

Your breakthrough moment awaits. Whether you're ready to breathe life into that dormant manuscript or finally start the book that's been calling to you, this is where your writing journey accelerates.

Saturday, October 25, 2025 | Holiday Inn Hotel | 9175 West Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove

What You'll Master:

- Narrative nonfiction that captivates readers
- Memoir writing that inspires and moves
- The essential sound of compelling storytelling
- Pro marketing and self-promotion strategies that work
- Cutting-edge AI tools for writers
- Foolproof editing techniques

Learn from NorCal Publishing Powerhouses: Award-winning authors Gini Grossenbacher, Joan Griffin, Jordan Rosenfeld, Shawn Langwell, Karen Trinkaus, and Dr. Lally Pia will share the secrets behind their success.

KEYNOTE: Award-winning filmmaker and author Chris Hennessy reveals "How to Cultivate Literary Agents and Publishers" – the insider knowledge that can change everything.

"When you listen to Chris Hennessy speak, his words touch your soul—he is more than impactful and inspirational. He makes you want to get up and move. He makes you believe in yourself."

John Britto, author, Stockton, CA

Event Details:

- 8 AM - 4:40 PM (Registration & breakfast from 7 AM)
- Network with industry pros during lunch break
- Just \$60 – an investment that pays dividends

Register now: <https://egweg.org/conference2025>

Sponsored by Elk Grove Writers Guild. Contact: loyholder77@gmail.com

Don't just dream about being published. Make it happen.

4TH BIENNIAL ELK GROVE WRITERS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 25, 2025

Featuring:



Chris Hennessy
Keynote Speaker



Jordan Rosenfeld
The Sound of Story



Karen Trinkaus
A Demonstration on
How to Use the AI
Tools



Jessica Larios-Zarate
Literary Agent



Shawn Langwell
The Art of Presence:
Pro Marketing & Self
Promotion Tips for Writers
& Entrepreneurs



Dr. Lally Pia
Memoir: Writing to
Inspire



Joan Griffin
Explore Narrative
Nonfiction & Jazz Up
Your Writing



Gini Grossenbacher
Critical Tasks for
Foolproof Editing

Registration Opens 4/20/2025

Registration fee is \$60

Register at egweg.org/conference2025/

Check in at 7:00AM with complimentary
breakfast and all-day coffee service

Bring your lunch and purchase drinks in
the lobby

Program begins at 8:00AM
Lunch from 12:20 to 1:20PM
Program Ends 4:40PM

Location: Holiday Inn, 9175 West
Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95758



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

Invitation to apply for an appointment with Gini/Editor
or Jessica/Agent will go out in September, 2025 to paid
registrants of the conference. Stay tuned for the
invitation in September.

For more information:

Contact Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com

Program for the October 25th Conference

Conference Schedule

<u>Time</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Speaker Name</u>	<u>Presentation Title</u>
<u>6:30 AM</u>	<u>EGWG in bldg</u>		
<u>7:00 AM</u>	<u>Check-In</u>		
<u>7:45 AM</u>	<u>Welcome Address</u>	<u>Loy & Introduce Keynote Speaker</u>	
<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>Keynote Speaker</u>	<u>Chris Hennessey</u>	<u>How to Captivate Literary Agents and Publishers</u>
<u>8:45 AM</u>	<u>Break</u>		
<u>9:00 AM</u>	<u>First Speaker</u>	<u>Jordan Rosenfeld</u>	<u>The Sound of Story</u>
<u>10:00 AM</u>	<u>Break</u>		

<u>10:15</u> <u>AM</u>	<u>Second</u> <u>Speaker</u>	<u>Shawn Langwell</u>	<u>The Art of Presence:</u> <u>Pro Marketing and Self</u> <u>Promotion Tips for</u> <u>Writers and</u> <u>Entrepreneurs</u>
<u>11:15</u> <u>AM</u>	<u>Break</u>		
	-		
<u>11:20</u> <u>AM</u>	<u>Third</u> <u>Speaker</u>	<u>Karen Trinkaus</u>	<u>A Demonstration on</u> <u>How to Use the AI</u> <u>Tools</u>
<u>12:20</u> <u>PM</u>	<u>Lunch</u>		
<u>1:20</u> <u>PM</u>	<u>Fourth</u> <u>Speaker</u>	<u>Ginni</u> <u>Grossenbacher</u>	<u>Critical Tasks for</u> <u>Foolproof Editing</u>
<u>2:20</u> <u>PM</u>	<u>Break</u>		
<u>2:30</u> <u>PM</u>	<u>Fifth</u> <u>Speaker</u>	<u>Joan Griffin</u>	<u>Explore Narrative</u> <u>Nonfiction and Jazz Up</u> <u>Your Writing</u>
<u>3:30</u> <u>PM</u>	<u>Break</u>		

<u>3:40</u> <u>PM</u>	<u>Sixth</u> <u>Speaker</u>	<u>Dr. Lally Pia</u>	<u>Memoir: Writing to</u> <u>Inspire</u>
<u>4:40</u> <u>PM</u>	<u>7th class</u> <u>ends.</u> <u>Collect</u> <u>evaluation</u> <u>sheets</u>		
<u>5:30</u> <u>PM</u>	<u>Out of bldg</u>		

Dear Fellow Writers,

We want to be sure you all know about our Centennial Celebration: **100 Years of Writing Excellence in Sacramento**. The celebration will take place on Saturday, October 18, at North Ridge Country Club in Fair Oaks. At this event, we hope to unite all writers—regardless of genre—in a show of unity for the Sacramento region's past, present, and future of literacy. We realize that some other clubs have events within our time period of October 18. We are so sorry, but this is California Writers Week, as deemed by Joint Legislative Resolution, and within days of our 100th anniversary.

That said, we welcome you all and stand together to celebrate writers.

At the event, awards will be presented to seven local individuals and organizations who have contributed selflessly to literacy in Sacramento. Literary agent Sandra Proudman and Ali Litman of the local CBS affiliate will present the awards. Names are expected to be released next week, and we know that you will support the recipients' deserving efforts.

Pulitzer Prize winner Jack Ohman will deliver a keynote you won't want to miss: **"At Wit's End."** Rich Ehisen of Capitol News will M.C.

102-year-old Kiyo Sato, winner of the William Saroyan International Writing Award for *Dandelion through the Crack* (renamed *Kiyo's Story*), will be in attendance. Her book sits on display at the Smithsonian Institute. Bring along a copy of her book if you desire an autograph. Many of our early writers wrote romance and crime, some of which was made into movies. Many rare books will be displayed, and you'll receive an overview of writing and publishing in the Sacramento area. This area also had illustrators from Sacramento, Auburn, Yuba, and the surrounding areas. At least one went on to become internationally famous. We have everything to be proud of here.

Service providers desiring visibility may wish to purchase sponsorships for the event. Sponsors will receive publicity in our keepsake program and on the website <https://sacramentowriters.org>. Some of you have already offered to sponsor, and we want you to know that your support means a lot and keeps us motivated to do our best for all writers.

We are proud to present this day as a gift to the area that in 100 years has given our community so many opportunities. We hope to see some of you there, though we know how busy you are. Feel free to pass this email on to our heritage-rich literary community, still being uncovered!

For more information, tickets, and to sponsor the event, please check out <https://sacramentowriters.org>.