

Vol 5 Issue 11
NOV. 2025

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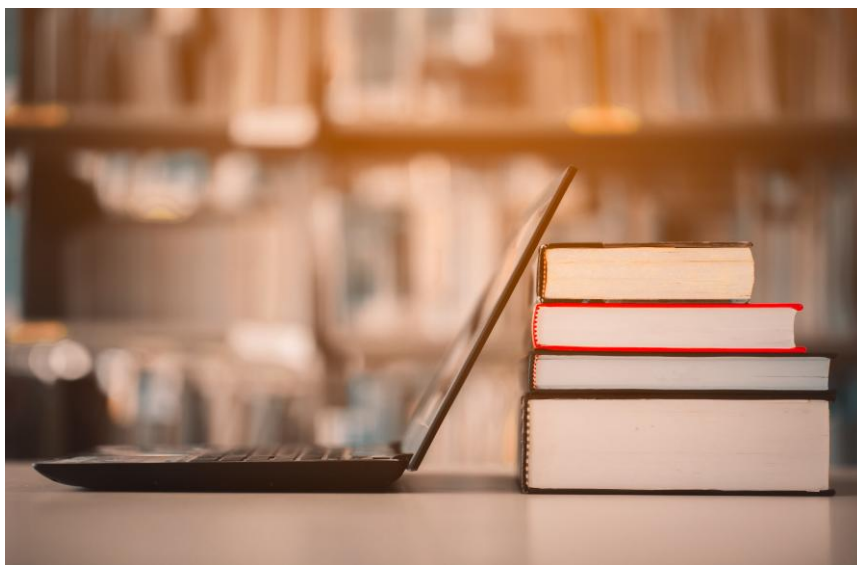
And More



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Welcome!



The Elk Grove Writers Guild was established to help writers improve their skills. This newsletter is one way we work toward that goal.

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

We're always seeking new contributors and welcome your submissions. Whether you have news about 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 2025 biennial EGWG Conference is over. If you attended and learned something new, or enjoyed yourself, give Loy a shout out at loyholder77@gmail.com

It's always great to hear that what you've worked hard to produce was worth the effort.

“If my doctor told me I had only six minutes to live, I wouldn't brood. I'd type a little faster.”

Isaac Asimov

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 shared.

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 next meetings are on November 7 and December 5, 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 Lane. 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](https://www.calwritersclub.org/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)**

Members' 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://goldcountryrtwriters.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 in 2026 or beyond, please get in touch with Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Volunteers are always needed. If you'd like to ensure the next event runs smoothly or think you can fulfill any role, please get in touch with Loy Holder, listed above.

Rare or Seldom Used Words

Sprezzatura. The art of doing a difficult thing gracefully.

Myrmidon. A faithful follower who carries out orders with no hesitation.

Lowery. Cloudy, gloomy. Lowering sky.

Execrable. loathsome.

Pelf. Riches, as in ill-gotten gains.

Sere. Withered or dry.

T-Shirt Truths

1. Technical writer—noun, a person who does precision guesswork based on unreliable data.
 2. Write drunk, edit sober – *Hemingway*.
 3. Keep calm and proofread.
 4. Save a writer – buy a book.
 5. Save a writer – leave a review.
 6. Real men write poetry.
-

Check the Flyer Section

For New Flyers and Other Information

1. Sacramento Book Festival
(2026)

Writing Tips

Instead of using very, use a better verb

Angry = furious

Beautiful = gorgeous

Big = massive

Boring = dull

Noisy = deafening

Poor = destitute

Cheap = stingy

Clean = spotless

Short = brief

Difficult = arduous

Dry = arid

Quick = rapid

Bad = awful

Smart = intelligent

Sad = sorrowful

Upset = distraught

Cold = freezing

Strong = forceful

Huge = colossal

Calm = serene

Ugly = hideous

Small = petite

Funny = hilarious

Quiet = hushed

Rich = wealthy

Expensive = costly

Dirty = filthy

Tall = towering

Easy = effortless

Wet = soaked



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Happy November!

Dear Members,

I am happy to share that the 4th Biennial Elk Grove Writers Conference was a great success. Sixty participants attended, making it an inspiring and productive event. This achievement was made possible thanks to the dedication and support of many committed individuals.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to **ML Hamilton of Black Cat Editing** for her outstanding graphic design work on the conference flyers and the Event Program for 10/25/2025.

We also appreciate **Jody from Cornerstone Copy and Print**, who consistently goes above and beyond to support our needs.

The EGWG Marketing Team, led by Betsy Schwarzentraub and supported by Georgianna Pfof, Cris McLucas, Ida Jones, Terri Love, George Hahn, and Shelby Johnston, played a crucial role in promoting and organizing the event.

A huge thank you to the presenters—**Chris Hennessy, Shawn Langwell, Jordan Rosenfeld, Karen Trinkaus, Gini Grossenbacher, Joan Griffin, and Dr. Lally Pia**—who generously shared their time and knowledge to provide a valuable learning experience for all participants.

Special thanks to **Editor Gini Grossenbacher** and **Agent Jessica Larios-Zarate** for offering their professional insights to help writers refine and market their works in progress.

Next, I want to express my gratitude to my husband, **James Holder**, for his unwavering support of the Guild and for helping me accomplish everything I do.

Lastly, Photos of the conference are on our website: <https://egweg.org>

I look forward to seeing you at our next EGWG Member Meeting, scheduled for 11/7/2025, from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM at the Round Table Restaurant at the corner of Bruceville Rd and Whitelock.

Loy Holder – EGWG President

Contact loyholder77@gmail.com for questions and/or comments.



From the Bookcase

A Writing Prompt Story

GOING STRAIGHT ISN'T EASY

P.L. Clark

First Week Out of Jail

I've been hitting the streets looking for someone willing to give me a chance to work. Finding a job isn't easy when you have a criminal record.

While I was in prison, I learned to be a bookkeeper. Looking back, that probably wasn't the best career choice, especially considering I was incarcerated for armed robbery.

When I picked that class, I didn't think about it, but I've always liked numbers and found it fascinating how certain numbers interconnect. It would be a good fit.

However, I've found that employers are not willing to hire a former thief as a bookkeeper. I considered lying on job applications, but I want to improve my life, and my girlfriend stresses that honesty is key. She encourages me to keep going, but I'm barely making it.

At least I'm not short on cash. I've kept the money I made from the robbery a secret. If I

were going to jail, I might as well have something stashed for when I got out. I've been careful about how I spend it because I'm sure the insurance company is watching, waiting for me to splurge on cars or start living extravagantly.

The other night, my old friend Joey from the neighborhood stopped by. He wanted me to join him in the numbers racket. As I mentioned, I've always liked numbers, but I'm trying to go straight. My girlfriend told me she wouldn't stay with me if I didn't, and, well, she's beautiful—smoking hot, in fact.

I need one person to give me a chance. That's all I want. I scan the help-wanted ads every day and head out hoping there's a job waiting for me.

Someone told me many employers don't even check references, and I thought about leaving town or spicing up my resume.

I even considered asking Joey to pretend to be a former employer and vouch for me if any potential jobs called to check my references.

He could have praised me and helped me get my foot in the door, but I stopped considering those options because I plan to go straight this time.

Week Two

This week was a complete waste of time and shoe leather. I kept hearing, "It's the economy, or there aren't many jobs available."

Joey stopped by again, full of stories about the big money to be made in this numbers game, and how we could get in on it from the start. I told him—again—that I'm trying to go legit.

He needs to stop tempting me with this game. I want a simple life with my girlfriend: a family, children, and a home.

Week Three

Another week gone, and nothing's happening around here. Saturday night, I went with Joey to meet some guys. He convinced me that it wouldn't hurt to hear them out.

I went and listened. When they asked questions, I said, "I have a lot to think about."

Week Four

This week was exciting!

I got hired at a great job! I'll start on the ground floor, and the pay is decent, with plenty of room for advancement, and I'll have a bright future.

Unfortunately, my girlfriend left me, as she said she would, but hey, I'm not hard on the eyes, and there are plenty of gorgeous women out there eager to spend my money.

Week Five

Going straight isn't what it's cracked up to be.

It's too difficult trying to be an average Joe.

Nobody would give me the time of day, let alone a chance to prove my skills.

I enjoy working with numbers, and the numbers racket is perfect for me.

Going straight? Who needs it?

"I just gave myself permission to suck. I delete about 90 percent of my drafts, so it doesn't really matter much if, on a particular day, I write beautiful and brilliant prose that will stick in the minds of my readers forever, because there's a 90 percent chance I'm just going to delete whatever I write anyway. I find the hugely liberating."

John Green

The Origins of Thanksgiving

Several accounts exist about the origins of the first Thanksgiving celebration. However, the most widely accepted version describes it as a three-day feast that occurred in 1621. The Pilgrims hosted this event at Plymouth Colony, which is in present-day Plymouth, Massachusetts. The gathering brought together the Pilgrims and members of the local Wampanoag tribe to share food and give thanks for a successful harvest.

Most traditional historians consider this the first American Thanksgiving feast.

Over 200 years later, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation appointing the last Thursday in November as a day of giving thanks. It wasn't until 1941 that Congress officially made Thanksgiving a national holiday.

In 1947, President Eisenhower became the first president to pardon a turkey, establishing a tradition. Since then, the White House has held an event called "The National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation" a few days before Thanksgiving each year. At this event, the current President is given a live turkey, which he does not eat. Instead, the President "pardons" the bird, sparing it from slaughter and allowing it to spend its natural life on a farm.

Editor note:

Happy Thanksgiving to all!!

EGWG Newsletter – Back page

Something to Consider

“Just write every day of your life. Read intensely. Then see what happens. Most of my friends who are put on that diet have very pleasant careers.”

Ray Bradbury



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 it as a Word document(docx). **Thanks!**

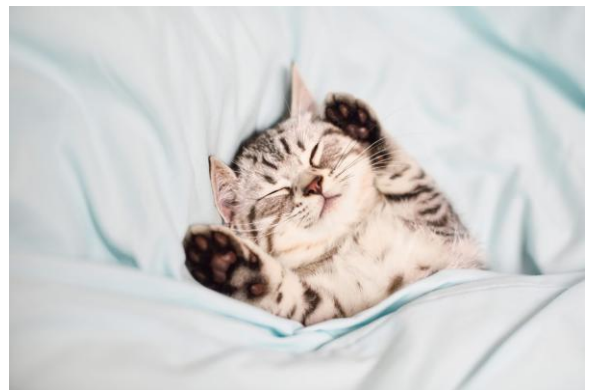
NOVEMBER 2025

- Nov. 02, 2 am- Turn the clocks back one hour for Daylight Saving Time.
- Nov. 04-Election Day - VOTE
- Nov. 09- Carl Sagan Day
- Nov. 11- Veterans Day
- Nov. 27- Thanksgiving

Writing Prompts Just for Fun

- a. What are you thankful for? Explain
- b. What saying do you try to live by? Mine is *to live with no regrets*.
- c. Write about your worst Black Friday shopping experience.
- d. Write down your bucket list—things you want to do before you get too old.

A warm winter's nap



See you next month

Continue on Next Page for the Calendar and Flyers Section

Calendar and Flyers Section

November 2025						
? Oct 2025						Dec 2025 ?
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5 GCW 10-12 – Business Mtg. @ City Hall Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn	6	7 EGWG 12:30-2:30 Members Mtg., Round Table, 10054 Bruceville, Elk Grove Sac CWC 9-11 speaker @ Denny's on Greenback, Sac'to	8 SJVV 1-4 Celebration of Excellence & Book Launch @ Valley Brew, 157 W. Adams St. Stockton. Sign up on website	9 NCPA 4-6:30 PM at Flaming Grill, 2380 Watt, #150, Sacramento
10 Sac Sub 7-9 p.m. with speaker at Denny's, 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks & on Zoom www.sactowriters.org	11	12 GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn	13	14	15 Sac Sub 9-11 am at Denny's, 122 Sunrise, Roseville Sac CWC – No meeting. SF CWC 11 a.m. speaker @ Sequoia Yacht Club, 441 Seaport Ct., Redwood City	16
17 North State Writers 6 pm networking + 6:30-8 p.m. meeting at Veterans Hall, 554 Rio Lindo Ave., Chico	18	19 GCW 10-12: Catherine Bramkamp, "The Creative Impulse in an Age of False Perfection" @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn. Open to all.	20 EGWG 1:30 – Board Meeting, Zoom	21	22 Cap Crimes – Meeting? Check with https://capitolcrimes-wildapricot.org	23
24	25	26 GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn Bus. of Writing 12:30-2:30, Depoe Bay, 893 High St., Auburn	27 Thanksgiving Day 	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 this 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

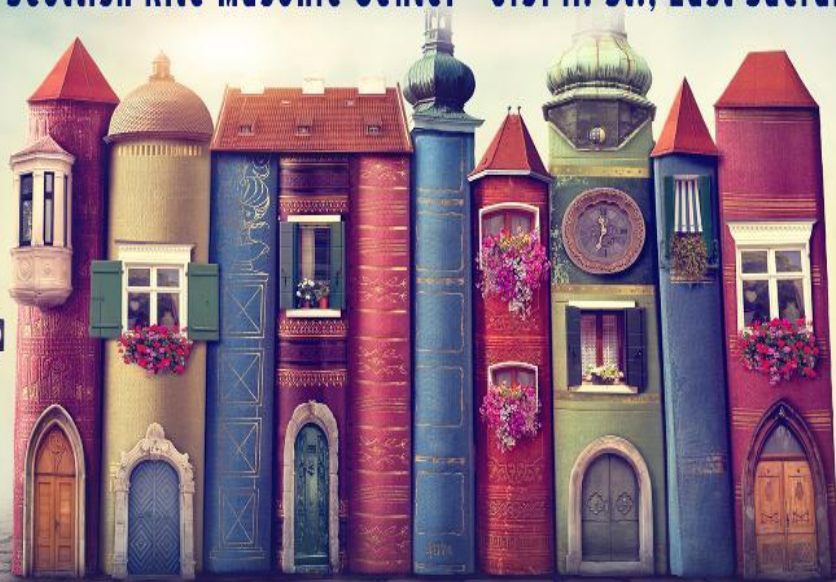
Flyers Beginning Next Page

1. Sacramento Book Festival (2026)

SACRAMENTO BOOK FESTIVAL

SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2026, 10-5

All Ages | Scottish Rite Masonic Center - 6151 H. St., East Sacramento



This is a Free
Non-Profit
Literary Event



SacramentoBookFestival.com