

Vol 5 Issue 12

DEC. 2025

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Welcome!



The Elk Grove Writers Guild became more than talk in 2018. The purpose was to help writers improve their writing skills. This newsletter is one way the Guild works 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 holiday season is upon us. December has so many holidays to celebrate and so much shopping to do. Don't forget to write when you have time—it's not likely but try. Check out the holiday gatherings later in this issue.

"Talent is insignificant. I know a lot of talented ruins. Beyond talent lie all the usual words: discipline, love, luck, but most of all, endurance."

James Baldwin

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 we're doing and how we're doing it. 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 December 5 and January 2, 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.com/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.

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Rare or Seldom Used Words

Ankh. The ancient Egyptian symbol for the power to give and sustain life.

Scopulate. Broom-shaped or brush-like.

Bacillary. Rod-shaped.

Aleatory. About gambling or relying on chance.

Litotes. The use of understatement. Example: “he’s not bad,” meaning he’s good.

T-Shirt Truths

1. Metaphorically speaking, this shirt is a poem. Writer. The man. The myth. The legend.

3. I’m an author, a whole world is trapped inside me.

4. “And one day, the girl with a book became the woman writing them.”

Kristen Costello

5. Black writer magic.

6. Write your story!.

Check the Flyer Section

For New Flyers and Other Information

1. Sacramento Book Festival (2026)

Upcoming Events

NCPA: Holiday Luncheon Members and Non-members

Sunday, 12/07/25

12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Black Angus

At Greenback and Sunrise.

Remember to **RSVP** no later than

December 5th

2022NCPAHolidayLuncheon@gmail.com

CWC

Theers and Chapters

Holiday Party Luncheon

Saturday, 12/13/25

12:00-2:30

Tickets: \$46.00

Bacchus House

Unit 100, 1004 East Bidwell, Folsom Square.

Purchase your tickets before 12/06/25
To find the menu descriptions and buy tickets, go to:

<https://cwcsacramentowriters.org/2025/holiday-party-snowed-under-with-fun/>



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Hello, dear Members,

Things will seem quiet for the EGWG Board this December 2025 and January 2026, but we will keep busy diligently improving and possibly automating some of our functions to streamline our work.

We hope you will be patient with us. If you have any questions or suggestions on how we could improve, please offer your help or send your ideas to loyholder77@gmail.com.

Our First Friday meetings will continue, the next one is on December 5, 2025, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Round Table Pizza Restaurant, located at the corner of Bruceville Rd and Whitelock.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Loy Holder – EGWG President

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

“You just have to go on when it is worst and almost helpless--there is only one thing to do with a novel, and that is go straight on through to the end of the damn thing.”

Ernest Hemingway



From the Bookcase

Is It Yule or Christmas?

P.L. Clark

Yule is a pagan festival that celebrates the return of the sun and longer days. It was observed by many cultures, including ancient Germanic tribes and Celtic Druids.

It signifies the return of light following the darkest part of the year. In neopagan traditions, Yule (or Jól) marks the moment when the Oak King, who sacrificed himself at Samhain (pronounced Sa-wen), has traveled through the underworld and is reborn as the child of light, embraced by the goddess.

The period between Samhain and Yule is a time to release what no longer serves you and to reflect on the upcoming year with fresh perspectives and hope for “new beginnings and intentions.

When is Yule?

Yule takes place on the winter solstice, which marks the shortest day and longest night of the year. It doesn't fall on the same date every year, but it generally occurs near the end of December in the Northern Hemisphere. In 2025, Yule will be from December 20 to 23.

What is Yuletide?

Originally, Yuletide referred to pagan winter solstice festivals. Today, it is commonly linked with Christmastide, both referring to the period around Christmas Eve. The suffix "tide" usually indicates a "time period" or "season" when added to other words.

This festival of turning the wheel of the year also includes traditions that may seem familiar to those who celebrate Christmas today.

Is Yule the same as Christmas?

Yule and Christmas are distinct, although some people use Yule to refer to the entire Christmas season. Many Christmas customs, however, originate from older pagan beliefs centered on fertility, protection, and abundance.

Some of these traditions with pagan roots include:

- Decorating the Christmas tree

- Decorating your home with candles, evergreen branches, holly, and mistletoe
- Enjoying sweets and drinks with friends
- Gifts left by a mysterious person. Santa?

The Christmas tree? Yes. Historically, the Vikings decorated trees with runes and protective symbols. They would bring the trees into their homes. During this time, people celebrated enthusiastically with friends and family.

During the Yule festival, children filled their boots with straw and left them out for the Norse god Odin. As the bearded Odin rode by on his **eight-legged** horse Sleipnir, he would slide down chimneys and leave gifts near the hearth. Again, Santa and his eight reindeer?

The Celts also burned a huge Yule Log for 12 days, believing that the sun remained still for 12 days after the winter solstice, and resumed its movement on the 12th day.

Ancient Romans celebrated a multi-day winter festival called Saturnalia, honoring Saturn, the god of agriculture and kingship. The festivities focused on revelry and reversing the usual social order.

Gradually, various winter solstice traditions merged into Christian celebrations as people converted to the new religion. The new converts remained hesitant to abandon their traditional practices and blended them into what is celebrated by much of the world today.

P. L. Clark

Writing Tips and Reminders

- A person is who, and a thing is that
- Bullet points do not end with punctuation
- Use less for mass—things you can't count, and fewer for those you can count
- Spell out acronyms the first time you use them, and repeat in separate sections of longer manuscripts
- Don't start a sentence with a number or a year
- Write 1990s, not 1990's
- Website, homepage, and email are one word – no hyphens, no spaces
- Writing time. Correct: **3:00 p.m.**
Incorrect: 3:00 pm, 3:00pm, 3:00PM

POETRY CORNER



A triolet is an eight-line poem with a specific rhythm scheme of
ABaAabAB

A Safe Place

P. L. Clark

In this place a spirit dwells
Sweet smells of cedar rise
Listen and hear the silver bells
In this place a spirit dwells
Listen and hear the silver bells
Peace floods and torment dies
In this place a spirit dwells
Sweet smells of cedar rise

“The best advice on writing was given to me by my first editor, Michael Korda, of Simon and Schuster, while writing my first book. “Finish your first draft, and then we’ll talk,” he said. It took me a long time to realize how good that advice was. Even if you write it wrong, write and finish your first draft. Only then, when you have a flawed whole, do you know what you have to fix.”

Dominick Dunne

EGWG Newsletter – Back page

Something to Consider

“A professional writer is an amateur who didn’t quit .”

Richard Bach



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!**

DECEMBER 2025

- Dec. 20-Yule and Winter Solstice begin
- Dec. 22- Hanukkah begins
- Dec. 25- Christmas Day
- Dec. 26- Kwanzaa begins
- Dec. 31- New Year's Eve

Writing Prompts Just for Fun:

- 1 Write a humorous tale of what happened at a holiday gathering.
- 2 Write a bucket list of 10 things you want to accomplish.
- 3 Describe a funny or sweet story about your pet.
- 4 Outline a story about a woman who is a stay-at-home mom during the day and an undercover cop at night.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



See you next year!

**Continue for Calendar and Flyers
Section**

Calendar and Flyer Section

December 2025

December 2025						
◀ Nov 2025					Jan 2026 ▶	
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5 EGWG 12:30-2:30 Members Mtg., Round Table, 10054 Bruceville, Elk Grove	6	7 NCPA 12-2:30 Holiday Lunch @ Black Angus, Greenback & Sunrise
8 Sac Sub 6:30 PM Holiday Celebration. Bring a dish & read a story. 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks, in the Fellowship Hall	9 Cap Crimes 7-8 PM Meet author Lisa Jones Gentry, on Zoom	10 GCW – 10-12 Holiday party @ City Hall Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn	11	12	13 SJVW – No meeting Cap Crimes 1 PM Holiday Party @ Old Spaghetti Factory, 1625 Watt, Sacto CWC Sac Holiday Lunch 12-2:30 Bacchus House – 1004 E. Bidwell, Folsom	14 NCPA 4-6:30 PM at Flaming Grill, 2380 Watt, #150, Sacramento
15 North State Writers 6 pm networking + 6:30-8 p.m. meeting at Veterans Hall, 554 Rio Lindo Ave., Chico	16	17 GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn Bus. of Writing 12:30 PM Holiday party	18 EGWG 1:30 – Board Meeting, Zoom	19 SF Peninsula CWC 10-12 Bus. & → speaker @ Sequoia Yacht Club, 441 Seaport Ct., Redwood City	20 Sac Sub 6:30 PM? Holiday Cheer @ # Denny's, Roseville, Sunrise & Douglas www.sactowriters.org	21
22	23	24 GCW – No meeting	25 	26	27 SJVW – No meeting	28
29	30	31 GCW – No meeting				

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 handling PDFs or JPGs.

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

Thanks

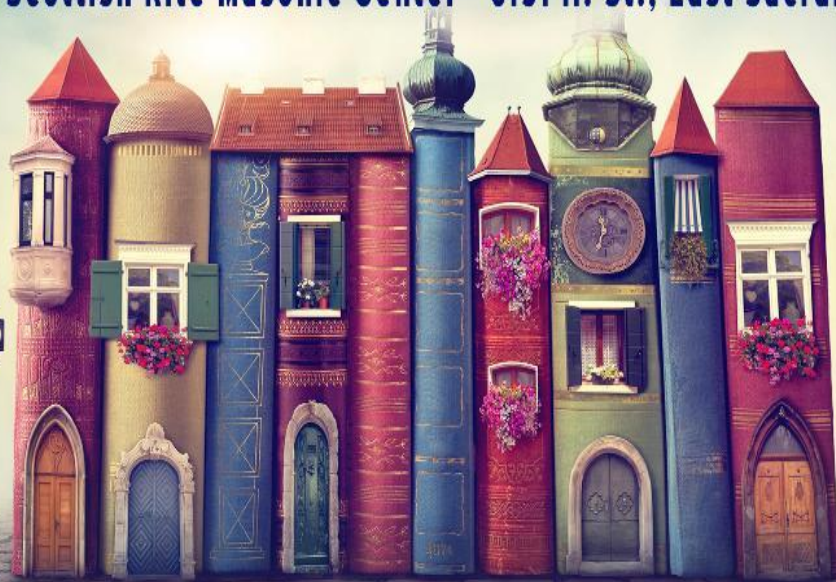
Flyers Beginning Next Page

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