

Vol 1 Issue 4

June 1, 2021

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Welcome to the EGWG newsletter.



Elk Grove Writers Guild was established as a critique group in 2018. Our main goal is to help writers become the best they can be.

To expand our efforts to reach our goal, we created this once monthly newsletter. In it we'll pass on information of coming events, membership news, and offer little bits of writing wisdom, poetry, memories, writing tips, and whatever news in the publishing world we hear about.

We offer you, our readers, a chance to write and be published in this newsletter and on our website.

All submissions are most welcome, see the back page for more information.

Come join us on our adventure.

Contact

Us

Company Name
Elk Grove Writers Guild

Street Address
7413 Netherbury Ct.

City, ST Zip Code
Elk Grove, CA 95757

Phone
916-747-6898

Email
egwg2020@egweg.org

Website
www.egweg.org

Newsletter & Submissions
Penny Clark - Editor
turlockpenny@yahoo.com

What's Happening?

Looking for the **Conference Update**? Check the Conference column for information on how the plans are progressing.

Check our website www.egweg.org for more news on the writers' conference and other events and, as our fearless leader says, "Stay tuned."

"Just write every day of your life. Read intensely. Then see what happens. Most of my friends who are on that diet have very pleasant careers." *Ray Bradbury*

The Guild meets on the first Friday of each month. Currently, we meet in a virtual setting. We gather to talk in the language of writers and share what and how we're doing, tell what's new in the publishing world, and ask questions about problems we might be having in our works in progress.

If you're interested in joining the guild, go to the Join page on the website. If you'd like to see what we're about first. Join us for the next meeting. Contact Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com and you'll be invited.

The next meetings are scheduled for June 4, 2021 and July 2, 2021.

That's enough business, read on for the good stuff.



Editor's note – That desk is entirely too clean.

Coming Soon

The Summer Academy of Writing

This is the first year for the guild's exciting and informative **Summer Academy** consisting of three Zoom classes.

Save These Dates

June 19 at 2:00pm – Branding and marketing – This enlightening class will be presented by ML Hamilton, a prolific mystery author. She has published 56 novels and sold over 270,000 books.

July 17 at 2:00pm – Pen Names and Finding Your Niche – Cheryl Stapp will present this informative topic. Cheryl is a Northern California Historian and author. She has published 6 non-fiction books that uncover California's vibrant and sometimes seedy past.

August 21 at 2:00pm – Journey of a Self-Published Author – Margaret Duarte will present this insightful topic. She is the author of an award-winning psychological fiction series "Enter the Between."

Registration begins on May 15, 2021. Go to the events page at www.egweg.org click on Summer Academy to register.

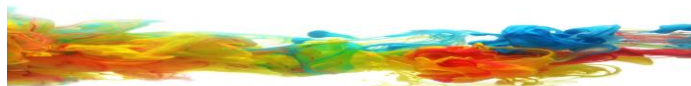
Costs for Classes

For all three classes - \$25.00

For individual classes - \$10.00 each

Registration will close at 5:00pm 7 days in advance of each class. June 12th – July 10th - August 14th.

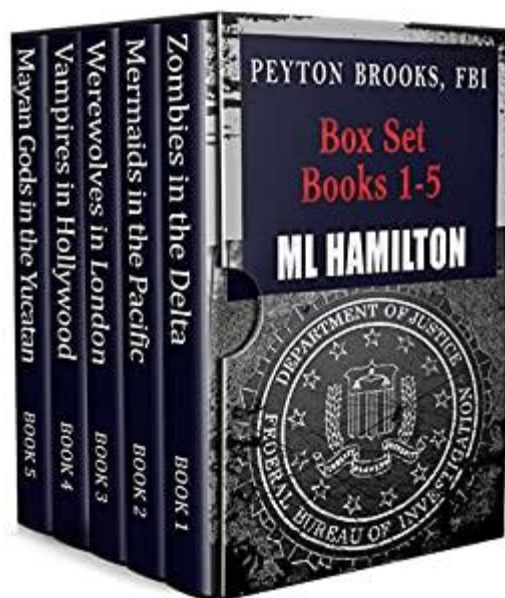
If you register before **June 12th**, you can still attend all three classes for \$25.00



“The most important things are the hardest to say... because words diminish them.” – Stephen King

*****Five Star Review*****

ML Hamilton has been teaching high school English and journalism in Central California for the last 28 years. Teaching students to appreciate literature has made her career rewarding; however, she always dreamed of publishing her own novel. That dream came true. Her first novel, Emerald, was published by Wild Wolf Publishing in 2010.



The Peyton Brooks, FBI series follows the career of Special Agent Peyton Brooks and her team, the Ghost Squad, as they tackle crimes around the world.

This compilation includes titles: *Zombies in the Delta*, *Mermaids in the Pacific*, *Werewolves in London*, *Vampires in Hollywood*, and *Mayan Gods in the Yucatan*.

******* Review *******

INCREDIBLE! I LOVE these books! Even the mess-up phone call between Peyton & Marco in *Mermaids in the Pacific*. I love the way Peyton messes with stuff and breaks stuff; it makes her here with me laughing. I love the ending of the last book. I can see myself buying 6 & 7. WORTH READING!!! I would recommend reading "The Peyton Brooks' Mysteries Box Set." First.



From the Bookshelf

THE CEMETERY AT THE END OF THE ROAD
Barbara A. Barrett

My friend John DeWalt and I were really off the beaten path. The pavement ended several miles ago and still, there was no cemetery. John was pretty sure it was the right road. On both sides, the woods were thick with tall trees that came to the edge of the straight and narrow dirt road. The underbrush looked impenetrable. It seemed we hadn't seen a house or car for miles. The low hills ahead made it impossible to see very far, giving us a sense of surreal timelessness.

This trip was a spur of the moment thing. Both of us were getting over a bad cold and we were tired of being cooped up. So, here we were driving through this remote and picturesque area. Sometimes Fate just steps in and if you're willing to go with the flow, it can take you to unexpected places and adventures. And searching for a ghost certainly qualifies as adventurous.

It was a pretty aimless drive until John remembered local stories about a cemetery at the end of the road that is supposedly haunted by the spirit of Mary Jane Hendrickson. It sounded intriguing so off we went in search of a graveyard with a ghost.

All I knew at this time was the local lore about her. According to the stories, she had been burned as a witch and legends tell of really bad things happening to anyone spitting on her grave. Her ghost had haunted Mount Olive Cemetery in Ohio for decades.

When we finally came to the end of the road, a space in the woods opened on our left. There was a dilapidated wire fence, but the gravestones could be seen from the car. We found a small entrance and walked around reading the headstones. Most of them dated back over 125 years. Standing in the middle of that old cemetery, with its remoteness and the quiet hush that comes with being alone, the centuries began to blur.

It wasn't a very big cemetery, and it didn't take long to check but the only mention of her name was on the big stone at the entrance that listed all the graves. We didn't see or hear any ghosts. In fact, there was a sense of peace and serenity rarely found today. When John and I left, I did some online research about Mary Jane and that cemetery.

Several websites dedicated to ghosts and supernatural phenomenon have featured her story. Some of the visitors told lurid tales about nights so black the moon couldn't be seen through the tree line and even with flashlights they couldn't see 10 feet. A few stated they were chased out of the graveyard by who or what they thought was the ghost of Mary Jane.

One news article described her as a witch and a Shawnee herbalist and stated she died at age 25. Another reported the cemetery was a favorite hangout for rowdy youths and the shadowy rumors about the place grew darker and scarier when after a visit to the cemetery, a car full of drunken teens was wrecked tragically on a nearby road.

But, more of my research revealed the stories about her were just that: stories. The real Mary Jane was born on 22 Sep 1825 and died at age 72 of cancer. She was a church going member of the Evangelical Association and had lived with her sister and brother-in-law for 16 years—a far cry from the story of a young witch being hung by her neighbors at age 26.

In his article "The Curse of Mary Jane's Grave" on the Richland Source website, Timothy Brian McKee delved into Mary Jane's side of the story explaining that her legend arose in the summer of 1960 when a camp counselor looked around the graveyard for an appropriate stone for his campfire witch tales. He chose the humble headstone under a big old spruce. The name on it was Mary Jane Hendrickson.

Cemetery at the end of the road – Cont.

...The fictional campfire tale told of Mary Jane abusing her evil powers until the neighbors finally rose up against her and hung her in the cemetery from a mighty pine. The tale concluded with a cautionary curse intended to protect the tree and her grave from mischievous trespassers.

It all began as harmless fun for a Halloween-in-July theme day activity, when kids took a spooky hike through the nighttime forest to a haunted graveyard. It was so popular the spook hike became a yearly, and then a weekly event at camp for thousands of youngsters through the ensuing decades.

Who could have imagined in 1960 what the seed of that party-game would sprout into by the 70's, and what a bizarre, thorny poisonous vine would emerge through the 2000's to choke the life out of a once-lovely peaceful country boneyard? As a result of the stories told about Mary Jane, her grave and most of the fifty or more graves in that cemetery from the late 19th century, were defaced by vandals. So much so that her exact location cannot be determined.

And even the tree is no longer there. When John and I visited in May 2016, instead of the tall, lush spruce, there was only a two-foot-high stump. A year before, a 17-year had taken a chain saw and cut down the tree, estimated to be between 120 and 145 years. It fell on several headstones, breaking them and knocking others off their bases, adding more wounds to the already scarred graveyard.

If Mary Jane Hendrickson is haunting the Mount Olive graveyard, perhaps she just wants to clear her name so she and others who are buried in the cemetery at the end of the road can rest in peace. - Barbara Barrett

Uncle Fred's Misadventures



No entries for May –

The \$25 visa prize will roll over to June entries. A \$50 visa card – It's 100 words. Come on People!

Send your story to turlockpenny@yahoo.com and you might be the winner.

See the back page for details.

* * * *

Something New

AUSTRALIA KDP

Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) is finally opening a print-on-demand (POD) facility in Australia, which is great news for authors, small publishers, and Amazon customers in Australia.

The new facility is set to begin its launch on May 19, 2021.

KDP authors should check their paperback pricing options starting on May 12, 2021. On this date, you will be able to check your list price and royalty for Australia, and if necessary, you can adjust the list price for AU. The printing costs are apparently higher in Australia, so you want to make sure that your royalty isn't zero or extremely low (if it is, you can adjust the royalty by increasing the list price, if needed).

* * * *

“There is probably no hell for authors in the next world – they suffer so much from critics and publishers in this one” *C. N. Bovee*

“The English language is an arsenal of weapons. If you are going to brandish them without checking to see whether or not they are loaded, you must expect to have them explode in your face from time to time.”

Stephen Fry

Writing Events and Opportunities

A New Summer Class "The Practicing Poet."

Begins every Tuesday from June 8th through July 13th. The Practicing Poet begins with "Discovering New Material," "Finding the Best Words," "Making Music," "Working with Sentences, and Line Breaks," "Crafting Surprise," "and Achieving Tone."

The concepts become progressively more sophisticated, moving on to "Dealing with Feelings," "Transforming Your Poems," and "Rethinking and Revising."

You will write many poems, share your feedback, and discuss ways to publish and share your writing with others.

Susan Weidner, MFA in Poetry, is the guest speaker.

It's \$25.00 per class. To sign up, email...

ginis.writers1@gmail.com.

* * * *

If you live in **Laguna West** or **Lakeside**, Nancy Mees is offering you the opportunity to place your short stories, essays, and poems in the Laguna West Neighbors Magazine as a resident-submitted article.

Submissions should be in word.doc, not PDF, and no more than 500 words long. It can also include a family-friendly photo. If you want to submit, send your article and photo to Nancy, nmees@bestversionmedia.com. Email Nancy if you have any questions. Deadline is the 9th of each month for the following month's issue

More Writing Craft Opportunities

A CLASS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU PUBLISH

From Plot to Print

Do you want to write, edit, and publish your manuscript in one eighteen-week course?

Instructor M.L. Hamilton

Contact her for more information:

authormlhamilton@gmail.com

The classes are once a week on Wednesdays at 4:00pm on Zoom, starting on **June 9th** and **ending October 6th**.

Throughout the course, you will accomplish the following:

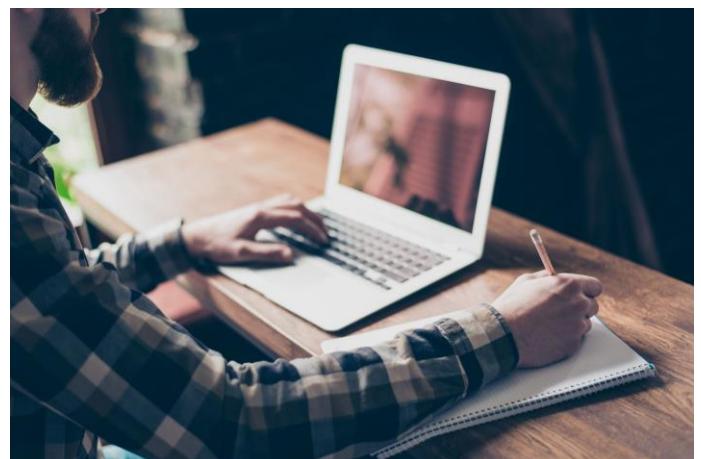
1. Write your manuscript
2. Workshop your chapters
3. Find an editor
4. Learn cover design
5. Format your book for print and eBook
6. Publish your book

Space is limited.

Sign up at

<http://www.authormlhamilton.net/mlhamilton-store.html>

\$250.00 for course and workbook





Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

Conference Update

The venue for the Conference is confirmed. The Elk Grove Writers Guild Conference will take place on October 9, 2021 at the City of Elk Grove Center, District 56 - 8230 Civic Center Dr. in Elk Grove.

Admission, barring any unforeseen circumstances, will be \$60.00, and will include breakfast with assorted muffins, coffee, tea, and water. You may bring your own lunch, go to any nearby restaurants, or order lunch at the District 56 Cafe a few days prior to the conference.

The conference is in the planning stage, searching for three more speakers on the following topics:

- How to write an intimate scene
- Word Choice for Powerful Prose – analogy, metaphor, parallelism, assonance, consonance, stronger verbs, onomatopoeia.
- Choosing the Right Point of View
- Elements of Conflict

If you're interested in presenting one of the above topics, please email Loy Holder with your topic of choice at loyholder77@gmail.com.

If you are selected to present, you will receive \$100 to defray expenses, a complimentary continental breakfast, a table to sell your books, and a bookseller will be available while you are conducting your class.

Stay Tuned, Loy Holder, EGWG President

* * * *

“A writer is a person for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people.” – *Thomas Mann*



More on the Book Fair Contest

On October 9th, 2021, the Elk Grove Arts Commission will be doing a Short Story Contest during the combined Book Fair & Elk Grove Writers Guild Conference. Here are some details of the Short-Story Contest:

- First place prize - \$200. Second place prize - \$100.
- Fiction or nonfiction, 2000 words or less.
- The story must have a connection to Elk Grove.
- Open to all - age 18 and over.
- Manuscript must be in a PDF Format, with a cover page including title, author's name, and contact information. Pages should include the title, but not the author's name.
- There's an entry fee of \$10, due with submission of the manuscript.
- Fees must be paid by credit card only.
- **Deadline for submission is August 1, 2021 at 5:00 PM.** No submissions accepted after that date and time.
- Winners will be announced on Saturday, October 9, 2021 during the Book Fair.

More information, submit your manuscript, and other information on the Book Fair is available on the Elk Grove Arts Commission Website at [Great Read Book Fair - City of Elk Grove \(elkgrovecity.org\)](http://GreatReadBookFair-CityofElkGrove.elkgrovecity.org)

and the Elk Grove Writers Guild Website at www.egweg.org.



Both the writers' conference and the book fair are presented on October 9, at District 56 by the City of Elk Grove, Elk Grove Arts Commission, and the Elk Grove Writers Guild.

Writer's Corner

Need an Editor?

Editing isn't one-size-fits-all. It depends on where you are in your writing process. In the publishing field there are 12 or more types of editors. This brief article will concentrate on four distinct types of editing. The editors listed below are in the order of use, beginning with:

DEVELOPMENTAL EDITORS are coaches who help writers with the overall structure, including content creation, organization, tone of voice, plot, and character development. They are concerned with the entire manuscript rather than dealing with grammatical issues. Their goal is to assess how to make the writing clear and effectively reach its goals. If writing genre fiction, a developmental editor will compare the stories elements with what readers will expect from the story.

COPY EDITORS identify grammar issues, punctuation errors, awkward sentences, spelling, and inconsistent language. They may rephrase or rewrite certain areas to enhance readability.

LINE EDITORS address clarity and style, line by line. They may modify some phrasing from the sentence level up to major rewrites of entire paragraphs, sections of chapters. The focus is on style and the overall effect.

PROOFREADERS find formatting and grammatical errors in the finished product. They are the last editor to use before your manuscript gets published.

Other Thoughts

Joining a writing group specializing in critiquing will offer a valuable service.

Beta Readers supply another type of editing and will give a fresh opinion on the story.

Online editors will look over your content online. They are freelancers with varying skillsets. Make sure to question their expertise in the type of editing you need.

Notes from the May Guild Meeting

Looking for an Editor?

kboards was recommended for finding various services like editors, cover designers, as well as general writing questions. Another recommendation was The Artful Edit, and Reedsy for vetted services, though these tend to be on the more expensive side. Make sure you ask for a sample to see if they gel with you and that you're getting the feedback you want. Also see what other books they've edited, and check Amazon's Look Inside feature to see if there are any errors. They're subscription service is great, too.

For Outlining or keeping track of things:

Karen recommends Plottr. Looks like it's a paid service now (\$25/year) but you can try it 30 days for free. It's excellent if you're a visual person. It has templates for all the major outlining methods, and you can drag stuff around easily.

For Fantasy Authors:

The Self-Published-Fantasy Blog-Off will open for submissions on May 14 at 6pm **GMT**. This annual contest is a good way to bring attention to your book if you make it to the finals (there's also a contest for the covers). They only take 300 entries, and it fills up extremely fast. Make sure you read the requirements on the website.

Publishing Options

KDP (Amazon) is the one everyone knows, but you can also publish directly to Apple, Google Play, Kobo, and Barnes & Noble. You can also use an aggregator like Smashwords or Draft2Digital to get into small eBook stores and libraries. Just make sure you're not enrolled in KDP Select (Kindle Unlimited) if you do this, as KDP Select requires exclusivity.

If you do print books and want to get into libraries or local bookstores, you must print through IngramSpark. Bookstores will not take books printed via Amazon as they're a huge competitor. – Karen Trinkaus

8 Common Mistakes Writers Make

1. **Not being consistent in the spelling and capitalization of names and places.** If you spell a character's name Jayne in the first three chapters and spell it June later in the book, the reader will notice and wonder if June is a new character. They may stop reading and go back to check the spelling.

I had to consult my grammar books on capitalizing while writing my first fantasy. The problem word was alpha. People kept telling me this use of alpha should be capitalized, but don't use caps for that other use of alpha. I decided to mentally substitute president for alpha as far as capitalization went. That helped me use the word correctly

2. **Names beginning with the same letter or sounding the same.** Jim, Jennifer, and Jake met at the restaurant. Mac and Jack were best friends. Cases like this can lead to misnaming somebody in a scene. Again, this stops the reader and makes him reread a section. It's an easy thing to do, so keep the names distinct from one another to avoid confusion.

3. **Naming a character after yourself or your name somewhat altered.** Editors will toss your story in the trash because you're an amateur. (This doesn't apply to memoirs.)

4. **Shifting tenses for no purpose.** Stay in one tense, usually that will be past tense. If you're using past tense—He moved to the door, and then use—He sits in the chair, it's annoying and it is an error.

5. **Misusing a thesaurus.** Don't use it to find bigger words. Simple is better. The best advice is don't write at more than an eighth grade level. Using big words is pretentious.

The thesaurus is perfect for finding the right word when the one you've used sounds wrong, but you can't think of a better word. It's useful in finding a similar word when using the same word too often. It's helpful in finding a better verb as well—He walked becomes he strolled, stomped, or crept across the parking lot.

6. **Making mistakes in professional procedures:** medical, law enforcement, military, even mechanics; any profession that takes specialized training needs to be as accurate as you can make it. Don't have any professional person doing something they aren't trained to do or that is unethical.

Be aware someone out there is one of those people and they will scorch your hide in a review if you get their profession wrong. Research. Talk to people in those professions. I've found that people are willing to talk to me and answer my questions when they hear that I'm writing a book.

7. **Repetition of description, action, dialogue.** There is no need for a character to repeat the same action or scene to different people. *He told her what had happened,* covers it. Tell events once. Period. You can save some bit of information to add as in, *he told her what had happened, and added, "And then this other thing happened."*

8. **Forgetting to use contractions.** Without contractions your writing and dialogue will be stilted and robotic. **People use contractions** when they talk unless they're stressing. "No, I said you can't go," compared to "No. You can not go!" Please, use contractions in dialogue and narration.

* * * *

A few more lazy words to avoid

- Almost is a wishy-washy word. The fly is almost dead—or—The fly was dying?
- Always/Never is useful in some cases, but most things in life are not so certain.
- Sadly/Tragically are usually redundant. Be more direct when describing something tragic or sad.
- However is a fine word, except *but* can be used instead. Readers prefer short words over longer words that mean the same thing.
- Accordingly/Therefore are similar to the above however long and formal. These two words can be replaced by the much shorter – *so*.



From the Bookcase #2

Shall We Gather at the Table?

by Kathy Lynne Marshall

Restrictions from the Covid pandemic haven't all been bad. Wearing masks and social distancing may have reduced the incidence of influenza in 2020, helped us to reconnect with the people living in our houses, and forced us to slow down our hectic lives.

Gone are the days of having to get up early, shower, dress for work, grab a bite to eat, rev up the car, navigate stop-and-go traffic, and have to spend eight hours in a cold, sterile office. Now many of us only fill the gas tank once a month instead of weekly. We can watch Netflix movies in the comfort of our fortresses-against-infection, containers of sanitizing wipes in every room. We can purchase toilet paper from Amazon, order pizza and restaurant take-out for home delivery. Those with school-age children have learned to use Zoom for distance learning. Yes, we may have grown used to the technology, but many grieve our inability to physically gather socially, to visit elders and grandchildren, and to hug friends and family.

Admittedly, I'm probably like most retired folks who haven't noticed much difference in my normal lifestyle. I am one of the lucky ones. Staying home actually feeds my passion. I want to channel the investigatory brilliance of Sherlock Holmes, as well as aspire to the story writing acumen of Pulitzer Prize winner, Isabel Wilkerson. As a former researcher, analyst, and

technical writer for the California Highway Patrol, I relish uncovering secrets, and publishing books about my formerly enslaved family's past.

Pearls of wisdom burst from my brain upon waking with whole paragraphs formed in my mind, all shared by my ancestors who want their stories told. In bed, laptop open, full water glass, toasty toes under the duvet, my ancestors express their stories through me, challenging me to transform their thoughts into brilliant prose. I spend most of my days formulating theories of parentage and ownership, sleuthing genealogy information like probate records and deeds, analyzing data, and typing page upon page to grow my book. Unfortunately, my frenetic pace to publish one book per year is petering out.

I need more information *and* human intervention. I must see the place of my ancestors to finish this fifth book. I must smell and touch the fertile red clay soil. I must find remnants of plantations. I must experience a cotton field. I must search county courthouses for records that aren't available online. I must meet others who come from the same place and who share the same genes. I crave to convene a "Gather at the Table" experience, meeting with relatives of different races who descend from the same common ancestor. Thanks to the smarties who developed Covid vaccines and our government who made it possible for all adults to be vaxed, I feel comfortable taking a plane to my ancestral homes in Georgia and Alabama later this month.

Amy is one of the Caucasian descendants of my slaveowners. She and I met through DNA, which prompted us to compare our online family trees and begin daily dialogues via email. She will fly from Salt Lake City to meet me in Georgia on May 23rd. We'll drive northeast from the Atlanta airport to meet Cousin Eddie in Lawrenceville. He's a Caucasian descendant whose Y-DNA—the "baby daddy" paternity test—confirms that my family genetically descends from Marshall generations going back hundreds of years to the United Kingdom.

There will be several full days for exploration in Talbot County, located in central-west Georgia, the place where my Marshalls were enslaved from 1830 to 1865. Imagine the excitement of researching in the

Shall We Gather at the Table? – Cont.

courthouse vault” for plat maps and other tangible evidence of my family’s existence. I can hardly wait to tour the properties where my first- and second-great-grandfathers, Henry, and Samuel Marshall, were enslaved. Amy and I will speak with a local history expert who knew my last slaveowner’s son and where and how his family lived there.

Kathy Marshall



Did you know we have a Facebook group?

Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/215922289606382>

Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ElkGroveWritersGuild>

It’s fairly new and hasn’t had much traffic. Friend us. Let’s talk, and share ideas, or ask those important writing questions.

* * * *

“If you wait for inspiration to write, you’re not a writer, you’re a waiter.” Dan Poynter

Editor: The same is true if you wait until you have time. When people who want to write tell me, “I can’t find the time.” Or “I don’t have time.” I get frustrated and am convinced that they don’t really want to write.

Poetry Corner

The Tanaka is a thirty-one-syllable poem. It’s a form of *waka*, Japanese song, or verse. In Japanese Tanaka translates as “short song,” and is known for its five-line, 5/7/5/7/7 syllable count form.

An example of Tanaka taken from online:

Storm

Winds blow fitfully

Clouds scud across the blue sky

Birds sit still in trees

Seeking shelter and safety

Waiting for the storm to pass

Editor: If you wish to read better examples of Tanaka, go online and enter [Michael McClintock](#).

Tanaka is different from Haiku in that Haiku has a syllable count of 5/7/7 in three lines.

An example of Haiku:

Hunter

A fox quiet, waiting

A rabbit, going homeward

Dinner is being served



Tanaka and Haiku are different from the usual poetry. Their beauty is in their brevity. A few words can impart as much meaning as longer poems.

Food for Thought

“If you write one story, it may be bad; if you write a hundred, you have the odds in your favor.” – Edgar Rice Burroughs



"You have to follow your own voice. You have to be yourself when you write. In effect, you have to announce, “This is me. This is what I stand for, this is what you get when you read me. I’m doing the best I can—buy me or not—but this is who I am as a writer."

- DAVID MORELL

SUBMISSIONS

Do you have a poem, a special memory, a favorite author’s quote, flash fiction, **a response to a writing prompt**, or a book coming out in 2021? If chosen (probably will be) it will be printed in the next issue and will be available on the EGWG website.

Do you or your group have an event coming up? Send it to me, at least a month in advance, and I’ll publish it.

Address for submissions

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

Please, use Garamond – 12 for submissions. Send in **word not PDF**. Thanks.

See you next month!

JUNE? half a year is gone? Yikes!

June 5 is National Gingerbread day – Yum.

June 18 is Father’s Day – Got one? Thank him.

June 19 is Juneteenth – Honor the reason.

June 21 is the first day of Summer – Time to be hot.

A Few More Writing Prompts

- It was the first snowfall of the year.
- The smell of freshly cut grass.
- This time her boss had gone too far.
- “Shh! Hear that?” “I didn’t hear anything.”

Enter the Contest!

In approximately 100 words describe why Uncle Fred isn’t allowed to drive anymore.

Uncle Fred’s Misadventures to choose from:

Isn’t allowed to babysit anymore.

Isn’t allowed to cook anymore.

Isn’t allowed to drive anymore.

RULES: Fred, and his misadventures will appear each month from June through August. Submit your 100+ words (any genre) about Uncle Fred. (See example in May issue on page 7.) All submissions will be posted, and the best one **each month** will win a \$25.00 Visa card. Let’s have some fun with this. Submit your Fred story to: turlockpenny@yahoo.com



Summer, time for lemonade and writing.