

Vol 1 Issue 10

Dec. 1, 2021

Inside This Issue

Bulletin Board

Poetry Corner

Coming Events

Five Star review

President's Column

Writer's Corner

From the Bookshelf

Learning Opportunities

Backpage

And More



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Welcome to the EGWG newsletter.



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

To expand our efforts in reaching our goal, we created this once monthly newsletter. In it we'll pass on information of coming events, guild news, and offer little bits of writing wisdom, poetry, memories, writing tips, and whatever news in the publishing world that comes our way.

We offer you, our readers, a chance to see you work in this newsletter which is also available on our website.

All submissions are most welcome. If you're interested in seeing your work in the newsletter, see the back page for submission information.

Come. Join us on our adventure.

Contact Information

Company Name

Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc

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?

Halloween and Thanksgiving are behind us. Now, all the busy December holidays are making us write lists instead of stories. Keep checking the President's Column for information on upcoming events. We're planning a busy year for 2022.

“Find out the reason that commands you to write; see whether it has spread its roots into the very depth of your heart; confess to yourself you would have to die if you were forbidden to write.”
Rainer Maria Rilke

The Guild currently meets on the first Friday of each month. We will continue meeting in a virtual setting for the rest of 2021, and into 2022. We gather as a Writer's Circle to talk in the language of writers. We share what and how we're doing, what's new in the publishing world, and ask questions about problems we might have with our works in progress.

Guild members post their WIP on Google Docs and share it with other members for critiques. The posted work will get a response. It is a wonderful way to receive input from other writers who give valuable insight on the work presented.

If you're interested in joining the guild, go to the **Join** page on the website. Fill out the membership application and send us your dues. If you'd like to see what we're about first, and want to join our next virtual meeting, contact Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com and you'll receive the link.

The next meetings are scheduled for Dec. 3, 2021, and Jan. 7, 2022.

Meetings begin at 12:30 and last one and a half hours.

The time for the meetings has changed to allow the teachers and parents in the guild to fulfill their duties.



DID YOU EVER SLEEP WITH THE DEAD?

by Kathy Lynne Marshall

I needed to pick up a few things for dinner after work.

“Did you ever sleep with the dead?” a portly man asked, as I pushed a grocery cart down the fresh meat aisle at Safeway.

That was an unusual question, especially from a stranger. I stared back at him for a moment, incredulous.

Could he know I slept next to a ceramic urn containing my mother-in-law’s ashes? Could he know how much her residual presence gave me the strength to go on when my marriage collapsed? When we lost our family home? When my dream life crashed and burned from a crack pipe and crystal meth? Did my fractured aura expose the psychic debris feeding my angst? Could he detect the spirit’s arms wrapped around me, always, comforting, coaxing me toward the best path?

I looked more closely at the stranger who seemed to sense my core essence, and whispered, “What made you ask that question?”

After a silence, he smiled the smile of ages. “I am reborn.”

A Christmas Memory

By Penny Clark

My favorite Christmas didn’t involve fabulous gifts, the magic of a winter wonderland, or the reason for the season. I spent that Christmas with my husband in the middle of the Sahara Desert at 103-D, an Occidental oil and gas production facility. The people there were from diverse countries around the world with just as diverse belief systems. We were in a Muslim country celebrating a Christian holiday, and that seemed a special occasion to me.

On Christmas morning, after two days of field trips further into the Sahara, my husband took me to the outside fence of the compound. Several families with excited children were there. We waited for a few minutes and watched down the road beside the fence. Then an elderly Arab came, dressed in pristine white robes, leading a small donkey loaded with bulging bags of brightly wrapped gifts.

When he was close enough to us, he waved to the children, who cheered and clapped. The man stopped the donkey, gave us a beaming smile, and shouted, “Ho-Ho-Ho!” He nodded once as if satisfied and continued his trip to the main building where a Christmas tree waited in solitary splendor.

The company had paid the old man to bring his donkey and the gifts to the camp, but I believe his shouted ho-ho-ho’s were all from him. I was touched. A Muslim Arab had gone out of his way to please Christian children.

For one brief moment I had hopes for humanity. That didn’t last long, but the Arab man in his white robes leading his donkey made that day my most memorable Christmas.

“Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts.”

Wm. Strunk Jr. and E.B. White, *The Elements of Style*

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



[Amazon.com: The Year of Discovery Box Set eBook: Hamilton, M.L.: Kindle Store](#)

Get the entire Year of Discovery series in one box set: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and the explosive conclusion, December. Over 700 pages of tragedy, tribulation, and triumph in one volume.

Twelve women connected by the death of another, realizing what they most want from life and reaching for it – this is the year of discovery, the year of new beginnings.

****** The Review ******

More than Just a Good Read

Good stories but much more. A tale of seeing oneself fail but then try again and that to make it we need not only our own strength but the help of the people around us. A delightful plot about how if we help someone, they in turn can help us even when we don't realize we need any.

Coming Events

Mining for Gold: Description, Detail, and Delivery.

This course improves our descriptive skills to illuminate our non-fiction work as well as poetry, stories, novels. Open to both literary and prose stylists, this course guides us through an inspiring examination of description in its many forms. With thoughtful instruction and engaging exercises, we'll develop greater skill in using the senses and powers of observation so important in creating memorable work. We'll uncover the rich, evocative words that accurately portray our mind's images. We'll examine dozens of descriptive passages written by master poets and authors to inform our process. We'll also learn how to weave our writing together using description as a unifying thread. An inspirational class that will jumpstart your writing year. Tuesday evenings, Zoom, January 11-March 15, 2022, \$25/class, pay-as-you-go. Please enroll with Gini Grossenbacher, M. Ed., certificated editor, Elk Grove Writers & Artists.

Email: ginis.writers1@gmail.com



CWC First Friday meeting, Dec. 3, 2021, 10 -11am via zoom with Scott Evans, UOP Writing Professor Emeritus, "Plot Flows from Character."

The Sacramento Monthly Meeting, Nov. 20, 2021, 1-2pm, via zoom open for chat at 12:30, "Get a Book Deal with a Publisher." with Randy Peyser.

For a link to the meetings, contact Marcia Ehinger of CWC at mehinger@concast.net Or contact CWC at www.cwcsacramentowriters.org and click on announcement

Check out the NCPA link below for more fun events.

 [2021_10 NCPA Newsletter](#)

Poetry Corner

A Poem

This isn't a poem from a little girl.
But from a woman who's walked life's path.
I've cried some tears, and worked 40 years, and
at myself I've learned to laugh.

And where did I get the grit and the strength
to go until I drop.
And then to give a little more,
that extra mile to the top.

To do it myself; to try a new way.
To get up and do it again the next day.
Yes, Mother - these were your gifts to me.
Strength and stubborn tenacity.

A will to win and do my best.
Approval to be different from the rest.
Independence and a lust for living.
The value of friends, and the joy of giving.

You gave these to me when I was young,
so, when life's troubles came,
I could confront the pain, and laugh in the rain,
and never need a cane.

Loy Holder

TIME IS FUNNY

Though Einstein said you're relative
We really are not kin.
You go too fast when I want slow
And shorten my weekend.

And when I have you on my hands
It's much to my dismay.
Cause all I get is extra work
Without the extra pay.

You're good for wine and some bourbons
But terrible for skin.
And all who race must beat you first
If they expect to win.

You're nanos short and eons long --

No uniform amount.
And some of us who count on you
Have found that you don't count

So please slow down when I am late
And need the extra time.
Then go just like a bat from hell
When I must stand in line.

Barbara Barrett

Editor's Note: I am repeating this poem because the
last three lines didn't belong as given last month.
Oops.

Cellphones

A Tanaka for your pleasure

Some folks are crazy

Clearly, they are demented

Talking to thin air

It's plain to see no one is there

They smile and laugh at nothing

Penny Clark

The EGWG Bulletin Board

The Guild is planning now for events in 2022 and for the **2023 Conference**. We're searching for speakers for classes and other speaking events.

Are you interested in joining the guild's speaker roster? If you are, contact Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com

“Substitute ‘damn’ every time you’re inclined to write ‘very;’ your editor will delete it and the writing will be just as it should be.”

Mark Twain

President's Column

Loy Holder

On 3/12/22 - **On 3/12/22, the Elk Writers Guild will host Joan Gelfand to speak on Zoom from 1:30 to 3:30.** With over 15 years of experience as a writer, educator, community organizer, and writing coach, Joan brings more to the table than basic troubleshooting. Her real-world publishing experience helps seminar attendees find answers for those tough questions: How do I publish? Where to publish? How to find an agent? What's the advantage of self-publishing over traditional? Joan is the author of three poetry collections, a chapbook of short fiction, and the Amazon #1 best seller, *"You can be a Winning Writer,"* (Mango Press). Joan's debut novel, *"Extreme,"* was published by Blue Light Press in July 2020.

In May 2022, The Elk Grove Writers Guild and Nan Mahon, will present **"Words and Music,"** an event where music lovers, readers, and writers will come together in an afternoon to listen to music, buy books, and read a poem, or a few pages from a latest work.

Stay tuned to this News Page for Updates as planning continues.

Barbara Barrett sent in this handy item.

Writing a timed piece, and need info on a particular date and year? I Googled "What happened in 1940?" and found: TakeMeBack.to

<https://takemeback.to/year/1940> To be more specific, I added December 18,1940 and got the following: Wednesday, what happened on 12/18/1940 | TakeMeBack.to

<https://takemeback.to/18-December-1940> You can do the same by changing the year and dates, or just leave them blank.

Looking for what happened in a specific date? Use <https://takemeback.to/> and fill in the year and/or date.

November EGWG Meeting

November's meeting included another discussion on the scams that continue to prey on writers.

Remember to be wary if anyone wants money up front in a book deal. Money should always come to you.

We discussed how to find free pictures and Betsy S. couldn't remember a site she had found helpful. The resource is unsplash.com check it out.

Kathy M. sent in the answer to her question. "OK, I did a test of the paper/color/cover quality of KPD vs. lulu.com

lulu wins hands-down for inside color quality. They use a slick white paper which makes the colors POP. But it costs \$10.50 for 80 pages, with a glossy cover. Kindle uses about the same poor-quality paper as they do for black-and-white images, which produces exceptionally dull color images. As you know, I am a bump-up-the-color kind of gal, so Kindle's offering is not what I want to pay extra money for. The cost for 250 pages was a reasonable \$10.07, but the quality was unimpressive.

I have not yet received my color hardback book from Kindle; the cost was \$17 for a 165-page 8.5x11. I ordered 6 copies on October 28th and the new delivery date is Dec 4-6. I do hope the hardback color paper weight is heavier/better than the Kindle color paperback paper weight, and I hope it gets here before the holidays."

Here's a video of her findings:

<https://youtu.be/UDBcV65Qz6M>

The meeting's highlight was Lisa Reynolds. Lisa is writing a series of books where a group of young people strive to save endangered creatures all over the world.

She gave a presentation of her trip to several places in Africa. Her upcoming book is set in a certain national park in Uganda, and that park invited her to visit. They took her to see the Gorillas her first book is about.

The pictures and her presentation were excellent, and it looked like a phenomenal trip. The wonderful thing is the people there recommended her to other agencies in countries featured in her next books. What a fantastic opportunity for Lisa.

Food for Thought

“Read, read, read. Read everything—trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You’ll absorb it. Then write. If it’s good, you’ll find out. If it is not, throw it out of the window.”

William Faulkner



Finally! It’s time for Christmas cookies.

SUBMISSIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

I’m looking for poetry, special memories, favorite author’s quotes, flash fiction, a response to a writing prompt, or a book coming out in 2021 or early 2022? Send it to me.

If chosen, I will print it in one of the next issues and it will be available on the EGWG website’s Newsletter’s page.

Do you or your group have an event coming up? Send me info, at least a month in advance, and I’ll publish it. Take advantage of the free advertising!

Address for submissions

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

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

Do you know anyone who would enjoy this newsletter? Send their email address to,

loyholder77@gmail.com

December

- Dec. 8 Rohatsu (Bodhi Day) - Buddhist
- Nov. 28-Dec.6 Hanukkah - Jewish
- Dec. 21 Solstice (Yule) – Wiccan/Pagan
- Dec. 25 Christmas – Christian
- Dec. 31 New Year’s Eve – The End of 2021

A Few More Writing Prompts

- The most beautiful smile I ever saw was...
- He turned the key and opened the door. To his horror, he saw...
- Jason said it was an accident. But was it, really...?
- What’s the most exciting thing that’s ever happened to you? Describe it.

Whatever holiday you celebrate, I hope the event(s) is wonderful and filled with family and friends.



Have a great holiday, and I’ll see y’all next year.