

Vol 2 Issue 07  
July 1, 2022

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

*Writers Helping Writers*

## Welcome!



The Elk Grove Writers Guild's main goal is to help writers be the best they can be.

To expand our efforts in reaching that goal, we created this once monthly newsletter. In it we pass on information of coming events, classes, and guild news. We 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 your work in print. Older newsletters are also available on our website.

I encourage you to contribute short articles and stories, event announcements, writing tips, and recent successes or publication events. Events from other writing groups or any interesting writing things you learn.

Come. Join us on our adventure.

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## What's Happening?

The Guild's Summer Academy continues with the July 30th class featuring Joey Garcia. See the President's column for information on the speakers of July and August and how to join the class.

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**“Lock up your libraries if you like: but there is no gate, no lock, np bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind.”**

Virginia Woolf – *A Room of One's Own*

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The Guild meets on the first Friday of each month. We have begun to meet in a face-to-face/virtual setting and will continue until it's considered safe to meet face to face.

We gather as a Writer's Circle to talk in the language of writers, sharing what and how we're doing. Topics vary as we ask questions about problems we might have with our works in progress or discuss the latest information in the writing and publishing world.

Guild members can 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 and valuable insight on the work presented.

If you're interested in joining the guild, go to the **Join** page on the website listed in the left column. Fill out the membership application and send in your dues.

If you'd prefer to see what we're about first, and want to join our next meeting, contact Loy at [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com) and you'll receive the link.

The next meetings are July 1, 2022, and Aug. 5, 2022. Meetings begin at 12:30 and last approximately one and a half hours.

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## WRITING EVENTS

### CWC

First Friday meeting, July 1st begins at 10 a.m.  
The meeting via zoom is open for chat at 9:30.,  
begins at 10:00-11:00am.

For a link to the meetings, go to the website:  
<https://www.cwcsacramentowriters.org/2022/writers-network-march-4-writing-for-the-environment/>

### NCPA

Their monthly meetings are on the second  
Sunday of the month from 1:00-3:00pm

The meetings usually feature a speaker on  
various writing subjects.

At last report, they will continue their virtual  
meetings on zoom. Check with them at the  
address below for current information.

<https://www.norcalpa.org>

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

Free Monthly Speaker Meetings, 2nd Saturday  
of each month ~ 12 noon – 2:30 pm  
Zoom meetings until return to in-person  
meetings at UOP in Stockton.

<https://www.sjvalleywriters.org>

Open to all genres and levels ~ get published in  
Great Valley Stories Anthology, Vol. 1.

Subscribe for zoom links & newsletter:  
<https://sjvalleywriters.us10.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=899132e01f7a84cc55e31563e&id=7acdb2b23f>

### Summer Classes

**June Gillam, PhD**, is offering Great Valley  
Writing Workshops this summer for writers preparing  
short pieces to submit to anthologies and magazines.

**Days and Times:** Tuesdays, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
PST, over Zoom.

*“It’s none of their business that you have to learn to write. Let them think you were born that way.”* —Hemingway

For details, see <https://www.junegillam.com/writing-workshops>

### Stories on Stage

Electrifying prose and crackling theater, the  
best work of today’s best authors performed  
with theatrical flair. Each month. JUNE 24th

The auditorium at CLARA

1425 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento

Opens at 6:30, performance begins at 7:00

Contribute \$10.00 at the door

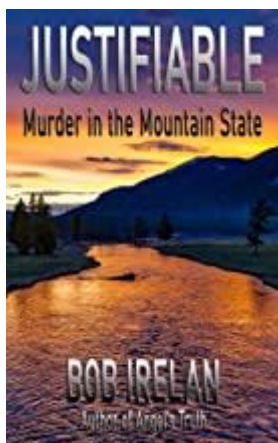
### For 2022 Monthly Schedule

### Stories on Stage Sacramento

“Sometimes all that saves me is being willing to  
make mistakes. There are projects that strike me  
as so beautiful, important, complicated or just  
plain big, that they convince me of my own  
inadequacy. This awful state of reverence leads  
to paralyzing brain freeze. Times like that the  
only way out is for me to decide, ‘To hell with  
it. I can’t do it right, so I’ll do it wrong. I can’t  
do it well, but I can do it badly.’ Sometimes,  
with luck, while I’m sweating to do it wrong, I  
stumble on a right way.”

Katherine Dunn

\*\*\*\*\* 5 Star Review \*\*\*\*\*



[Amazon.com: Justifiable: Murder in the Mountain State eBook : Irelan, Bob: Books](https://www.amazon.com/Justifiable-Murder-in-the-Mountain-State-eBook-Irelan-Bob/dp/B08K111111)

By Bob Irelan

A small West Virginia town's heart is ripped open when the third-generation owner of a venerated business suddenly sells out, locks the doors, and throws more than 200 locals out of work

Russell Kincaid chooses to sacrifice his hometown for personal gain, leaving shock, a sense of betrayal, and hatred in his wake.

Soon after, his naked body is found floating in the river, a bullet hole in his head. State and local police have a homicide to solve.

But with more than 200 possible local suspects and no one likely to help, what chances do they have? Most everyone believes the killing was justified. It's a story of good people experiencing hell but refusing to give up or let a murder define them.

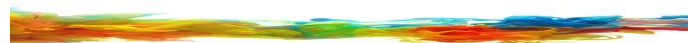
**The Five Star Review \*\*\*\*\***

Bob Irelan has done it again with his second mystery. JUSTIFIABLE is a delightful book, a pleasure to read. The plot and action move quickly but not so fast that the reader does not get to know well the main characters: solid citizens in a small town who support each other. Two themes run concurrently: the search for the killer and the impact of the economic loss of the town's major employer and business. Bob ties it all together at the end but get ready for a surprise.

**The June EGWG Meeting**

Something went wrong with the system for this meeting. The folks on Zoom couldn't hear people at the face-to-face meeting. After spending some time trying to fix the situation, it was decided to cancel the meeting. Loy said she would try and find out what the problem was in time for July's meeting.

We're hoping for good communications on July 1<sup>st</sup> between virtual and in person. June's meeting was the first time we'd had to cancel a meeting.



**The EGWG Bulletin Board**

**ARE YOU A SPEAKER OR A TEACHER?**

**The Guild** is planning now for events in 2022, 2023, and for the **2023 Conference**. We're searching for speakers and teachers for classes on all areas of writing.

If you are interested in joining the guild's speaker roster, contact Loy Holder at [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)

**WANTED**

**Desperate for volunteers to help with event programming, graphics, promotion, and email communication.**

**Contact Loy Holder at**

[loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)



**AWARDS**

Barbara Barrett and Betsy Schwarzentraub won awards at the NCPA Book Awards on June 5. Congratulations to both of you.



## Something New

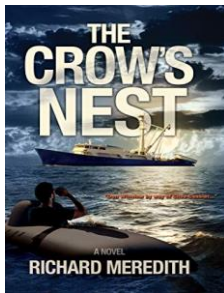
This column is about supporting other writers. We'll be sharing the books of our authors here. If you have a book you want to showcase, send me the info.

[turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com)

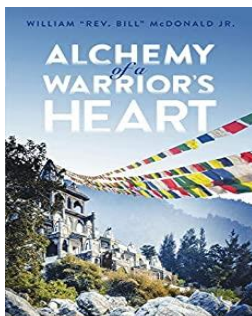
The selections this month are:



[Amazon.com: Special Memory eBook : Francine, Christina: Kindle Store](#) How special memories help the fears of a child about to go to school for the first time. Christina Francine on Amazon



[The Crow's Nest - Kindle edition by Meredith, Richard . Mystery, Thriller & Suspense Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#) A fast-paced maritime thriller by Richard Meredith. Available on Amazon



[Alchemy of a Warrior's Heart - Kindle edition by McDonald JR., Rev. William . Religion & Spirituality Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#) The personal encounters of a real life mystic and spiritual seeker. By William McDonald, available on Amazon.

## T-Shirt Truths.

1. I'm plotting against you. I'm a writer, it's what I do.
2. The art to writing is to write like art.
3. Go away. I'm writing.
4. If I don't write to empty my mind, I go mad – Lord Byron
5. I am a writer who draws inspiration from weird random things.
6. Writer: Because bleary-eyed lunatic obsessed with imaginary friends isn't an official job title.



## Poetry Corner

### **FUZZY BRAIN**

It's a fuzzy brain muddled day  
My mind is made of goo.  
The cobwebs they won't sweep away  
They stick to me like glue.

My arms and legs feel alien.  
They move reluctantly.  
As if they travel once again  
Separately from me.

The day is neither grey nor blue  
It's just a sort of blah.  
A time when nothing's ever new  
No feeling of hurrah.

Although I've got a lot to do  
It's gonna have to wait  
Until the cobwebs say adieu  
And I again think straight.

But it's a tempest in a cup.  
Those webs will be undone  
And when I really do wake up  
I'll be a lot of fun.  
Barbara Barrett



Elk Grove Writers Guild  
Writers Helping Writers

## EGWG President's Column

### Summer Academy

#### **SIGN UP NOW!**

#### **Second Summer Academy Class - July 30th**

Featuring Joey Garcia who coaches' writers and authors on effective strategies to boost their book sales and platforms. She'll be speaking on how to get the media's attention and inspire readers to buy your books. Register at:

<https://egweg.org/Joey/>

The session will run from 1:00 to 4:00pm

For more information on Joey visit her at

<https://www.joeygarcia.com>

#### **Third Summer Academy - August 27<sup>th</sup>**

Terry Wells-Brown will knock your socks off with her presentation on *'Book Release Strategies and Facebook Ads.'*

The session will run from 1:30 to 3:30pm.

Go to <https://egweg.org/Terry/> to register.

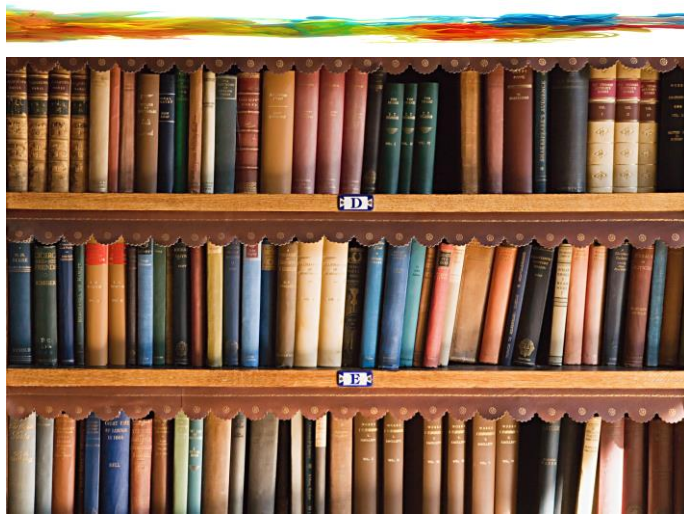
Register for July and August for \$40.00. Get ready to join us for a great time.

#### **NOTE:**

**Wanted** volunteer help. Join the Elk Grove Writers Guild and learn new skills at starting and managing your own nonprofit writers' group. Email [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)

“Words do not express thoughts very well. They always become a little different immediately after they are expressed, distorted, and a little foolish”

Herman Hesse



## From the Book Shelf

### **What the...?**

**By Kathy Marshall**

Surprises never cease to amaze me. My son, Isaac, has been in the Marines since 2003, when the colossal statue of Saddam Hussein was toppled in Iraq. Thankfully, he only had one scary tour there, three stints in North Carolina, two in Okinawa, one in San Diego, and now (poor baby) in Hawaii.

He and his wife, Jae, and my three fabulous grandchildren, plan to visit me in July, stay at my house for several days, then visit Jae's family in the Bay Area. My King-sized waterbed will be perfect for Isaac and Jae, as will the sofa bed in my research room for me and my thirteen-year-old granddaughter. The petite, fire-engine-red sofa in the front room is big enough for both boys. Jae's auntie and cousin want to stay, too, but my sleeping accommodations are inadequate. I've been wracking my brain to allocate more private sleeping spaces. The stress has tired me out.

My curiosity was aroused the next morning, wondering if a gremlin visited me last night. I opened the floor-to-ceiling blinds in my bedroom. *What the?* An eight-foot section of my fence was missing! Somehow, the

neighbors in back of me had replaced it with a large picture window. Two children, their snotty noses pressed against the glass, were staring at me in my nightclothes. *What the?*

Stunned, I disabled my burglar alarm, donned rubbery black sandals, then went outside to explore the unapproved changes to my property. *What the?* All the privet, tea tree, and heavenly bamboo bushes I planted against the fence were gone too! Someone replaced them with a flat layer of gray stucco that matched the color of my house. Those creepy kids were still transfixed, staring at me with their wide, blue cat eyes.

With a heavy sigh, I left my denuded yard and returned to my bedroom, shaken to the core. How could that happen so quickly? My plants. Thirty years of landscaping my yard over the past thirty years. Now it felt bereft, deserted. I grabbed my smart phone and called The Man—that’s what I call my equal half—describing what happened. He commiserated, suggesting I spend a few days with him to calm down and get my bearings. He would help me figure out how to fix the situation.

I returned home a couple of days later, parking in the garage, entering the house passed the laundry room, and disarming my alarm. You know the Spidey Sense that fires your synapses, cluing you that something is amiss, that danger lurks around the corner? I sensed my house had been violated. Without thinking, I ran to the kitchen and grabbed a long, sharp knife. Heart pumping, adrenaline activated, I examined each room, hunting for the imagined breach. In the far reaches of my mind, one of Detective Poirot’s little grey cells illumined a niggling thought... my security system had registered no intrusion. I proceeded on my paranoid quest, anyway.

The kitchen and dining room passed my visual inspection. I guess nobody wanted my \$20 Ninja blender or Instapot. My new 4K TV still reigned large in the family room, and my art collection appeared undisturbed in the front room. So far, so good. The five-foot mirror at the end of the hall—which once topped my father-in-law’s old dresser—reflected my concerned visage. I was a crazy woman, weapon in hand, ready to call 911 after bludgeoning the culprit.

Skulking down the hall, I creaked open the door to my research room, ready for someone to spring forth.

Nothing, so I peered around the doorway, holding my breath. The books on shelves, oversized monitor, printers, and pull-out couch were undisturbed. I forcefully opened the walk-in closet door to scare anyone who might hide there. I should have known; nothing else could fit in that crowded storeroom. I chuckled, slowing my 150-beat-per-minute heart rate.

Back in the hallway, I glanced down a row of high oak cabinets containing blankets and sheets, then at the lonely lower cabinets guarding family games now never played. Should I lock the deadbolt to the garage in case someone was hiding out there? No. Everything was fine. I was acting like a melodramatic teenager. Splashing cold water on my face would wake me up from what was surely just a bad dream.

I walked through the double doors to my 18-by-12-foot bedroom. *What the?* Next to my California King waterbed stood a beautiful, double-wide, velvet-brown chaise lounge. Invisible fingers beckoned me forward: “You seem tired, Missy, why not take a little nap?”

Mesmerized, I dropped the knife on the floor, plopped my rump into the lounge’s ample lap, twisted my body to slide my legs along its decadent length, finally relaxing my torso into its comfy back. It was so pillowy soft, and supportive. After a few moments of bliss, the panic returned like a Mac Truck. *Who put this furniture here? Were they still inside my house?* I reached for the knife, then rolled out of the chaise’s embrace.

Opening my bedroom blinds, I gasped anew. *What the?* Now, there were several pots of twelve-foot Golden Bamboo lining my property boundary, along with tropical Canna and Bird of Paradise plants. Yay! No more prying eyes. It was a lush jungle, and I half expected to hear doves cooing and see colorful toucans perched on the canes.

Pulling myself away from the wondrous scene, I exited my bedroom, noting nothing out of the ordinary in the guest bathroom. Thank goodness.

Then I opened the craft room door where my art materials are stored, and works-in-progress stagnate. *What the?* In front of the window, which looked onto my vegetable and flower garden, there now stood a low-backed, navy-blue sofa bed, like those IKEA sells for \$199 before the fall school season starts. I sat on its hard foam surface, rubbing my hand over the tight cotton weave. Similar to the bright red couch in my living room, you just have to pull the back section



toward your body to release the spring mechanism, then let it fall back flat to form a cozy double bed.

It hit me like a ton of bricks that I now had enough private bed space for my son's family to visit, as well as for my daughter-in-law's aunt and cousin. But I was still concerned about the intruder, so I called The Man with my shocking discoveries. "Happy early Birthday!" he crooned.

By Kathy Marshall

## How to Describe Laughter and What it

### Looks Like

**Smirk:** Slight, often fleeting upturn of the corners of the mouth, a voluntary and controllable action.

**Smile:** Silent, voluntary, and controllable, more preceptive than a smirk. A smile begins to release endorphins.

**Grin:** Silent, controllable, but uses more facial muscles, but still controllable.

**Snicker:** first emergence of sound with facial muscles, but still controllable.

**Giggle:** Has a 50% chance of reversal to avoid a full laugh. The sound of giggling is amusing. Efforts to control it tend to increase its strength.

**Chuckle:** Involves chest muscles and have a deeper pitch.

**Chortle:** Comes from deeper in the chest and involves muscles of the torso. It usually provokes laughter in others.

**Laugh:** Involves facial and thoracic muscles as well as abdomen and extremities. Sounds like barking or snorting.

**Cackle:** First involuntary stage; pitch is higher, and the body begins to rock, spine extends and flexes, with an upturning of the head.

**Guffaw:** Full body response; feet stomp, arms wave, thighs slapped, torso rocks, sound is deep and loud and may result in free-flowing tears, increased heart rate and breathlessness. This is the strongest solitary laughter experience.

**Howl:** Volume and pitch rise higher and higher, and the body becomes more animated.

**Shriek:** Greater intensity than a howl, and a sense of helplessness and vulnerability.

**Roar:** Lose individuality, i.e., the crowd roared.

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The next time you want your character to smile or laugh, consider what you want them to look like and how you want them to feel.

### Five Errors that Will Hurt Your Book

1. Typographical errors: There are programs online that can help you. An error or two is not a disaster, but consistent errors throughout the book will insure the reader won't want to read anything else you write.
2. Not knowing genre expectations: Readers expect certain storylines in each genre. A thriller isn't written the same as a cozy mystery or a romance. Know your genre and what's expected.
3. Amateurish book covers: Readers DO judge a book by its cover. The cover is the first thing people see. Choose your cover art with care.
4. Not researching your books facts: Readers aren't kind if they find errors in facts. The internet can answer most questions or talk to someone who knows the facts you need.
5. Not taking advantage of experienced writers: Listen when they try to help you. Take a class that another author is giving. Join a writer's group and share your work to get feedback.

"If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that."

Stephen King

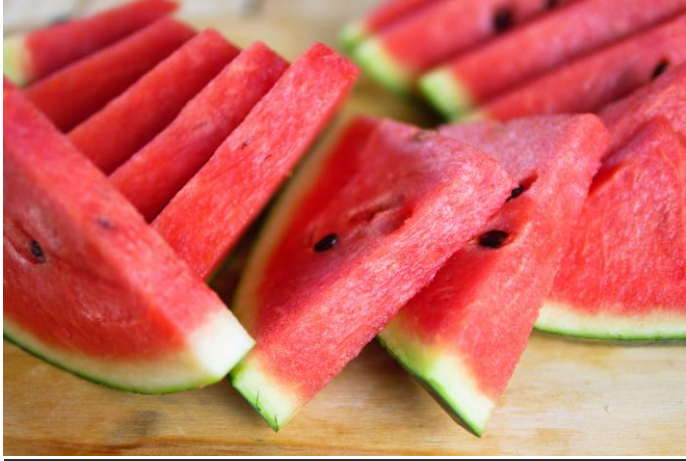
Editor: Next month I'll present a brief touch on how to write a description of a character's actions when they tell lies and what those movements mean.



## Something to consider

“You must stay drunk on writing so reality cannot destroy you,”

Ray Bradbury – *Zen in the Art of Writing*



Enjoy the bounty of summer.

## 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 2022**? Send it to me.

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

**Do you or your group have an event coming up?** Send me info by the **20<sup>th</sup>** of the month for the next issue.

**Take advantage of the free advertising!**

Email for submitting: [turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)

## July 2022

- July 4-Independence Day
- July 13-Supermoon. **Biggest one this year**
- July 17-Ice Cream Day
- July 29-Rain Day (or CA wishful thinking day)
- July 30-Paperback Book Day

## A Few More Writing Prompts

- a. No one had ever kissed me like that.
- b. My life changed the day I found an envelope stuffed with cash in the coupon bucket.
- c. Sam was sick and tired of being pushed around. He shoved the last bullet in the clip. Today, he'd do something about it.
- d. Growing old was the most difficult thing Jim had ever done.
- e. Describe your best friend. Include as many details as you can.



Summer is here—Stay cool.



See ya next month!