

Vol 3 Issue 01

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

*Writers Helping Writers*

## Happy New Year!



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

To expand our efforts to reach that goal, we created this 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 writing news that comes our way.

We offer you, our readers, a chance to see your work in print. Past issues of the newsletter are also available on our website.

You're encouraged to contribute short articles and poems, event announcements, writing tips, and recent successes or publications. Events from other writing groups or any interesting writing things you learn. **See back page for submission info.**

Come along. Be a part of our adventure.

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## What's Happening?

With the new year, the Guild's events for 2023 are being planned. This year won't have as many events. The one person who handled the events was run ragged, but the Guild's 2023 Writers Conference will be September 23, and I've heard rumors there is something being planned for the beginning of the year. Keep abreast of what's happening by checking the President's Column each month for information.

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**“We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and it's first chapter on New Year's Day.”** Edith Lovejoy Pierce

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The Guild meets on the first Friday of each month. We gather as a Writer's Circle to talk in the language of writers, sharing what and how we're doing. Topics vary as questions and problems are discussed or the latest information in the writing and publishing world is brought up.

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's a wonderful way to receive input and other writer's valuable insight on the work presented.

If you're interested in joining the Guild, go to the **Join** page on the website [www.egweg.org](http://www.egweg.org) Fill out the membership application and send in your dues.

If you'd prefer to visit first, and want to come to our next meeting it's at Round Table Pizza 10054 Bruceville Rd. **Contact** [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com) with any questions

The next meetings are Jan. 6, 2023, and Feb. 3, 2023. Meetings begin at 12:30 and last approximately one and a half to two hours.

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## WRITING EVENTS

**CWC** Regular monthly meetings are the first Friday of the month and a speaker meeting is later in the month. The venue has changed. For information on current meetings go to, [California Writers Club-Sacramento Branch](#)

**NCPA** monthly meetings are on the second Sunday from 1 to 3pm. The meetings usually feature a speaker on various writing subjects. Check the link for current information on the venue. <https://www.norcalpa.org>

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

Monthly Speaker Meetings, 2nd Saturday of each month ~ 12 noon – 2:30 p.m.  
Check the link below for venue information.  
<https://www.sjvalleywriters.org>

### Capitol Crimes

Meet on the second Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30pm.

<https://capitolcrimes.org/events>

## The Gold Country Writers

For information about the Gold Country Writers or directions to their events, contact Margie Yee Webb at [mywebb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mywebb@sbcglobal.net)

## **Next Generation Indie Book Awards**

is accepting entries for their 2023 awards program. The last day to enter is Feb. 10, 2023.

For award and entry information go to <https://www.indiebookawards.com>

## The EGWG Bulletin Board

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

**The Guild** is planning for events in 2023, including the **2023 Conference**. We're searching for speakers and teachers in all areas of writing that have fresh content.

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

“You never have to change anything you got up in the middle of the night to write.”

Saul Bellow

## The Dec. EGWG Meeting

Another terrific meeting with people relating their progress and activities galore.

The meeting was face-to-face and zoom. The Zoom failed due to a hard-drive problem. Loy will try again this month. Loy introduced new members and a visitor.

A question about book cover art came up and Fiver was mentioned. Several people said to take care dealing with them because of rumors of misconduct. Karen gave a review of her trip to the 20Book50K Seminar held in Las Vegas. It was great with lots of speakers and content.

Creating a book of the classes EGWG put on at the Senior Center just before the pandemic progress was discussed.

Loy asked for ideas of how to make the September conference better. Ideas for recording the speakers, speaker subjects, and several more were discussed.

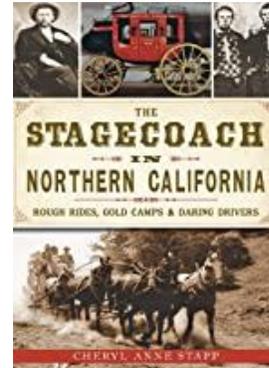
Barbara let us know that the Galt Library presents a speaker on writing each Saturday.

It was another productive and fun meeting.

“I read and feel that same compulsion; the desire to possess what he has written, which can only be subdued by writing something myself.”

Patti Smith, [M Train](#)

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



[The Stagecoach in Northern California: Rough Rides, Gold Camps & Daring Drivers \(Transportation\): Stapp, Cheryl Anne: 9781626192546: Amazon.com: Books](#)

New England stagemen followed thousands of bedazzled gold rushers out west in 1849, carving out the first public overland transportation routes in California. Daring drivers like Hank Monk navigated treacherous terrain. Stagecoaches hauling gold from isolated mines to big-city safes were easy targets for highwaymen like Black Bart. Road accidents could end in disaster--coaches even tumbled down mountainsides. Journey back with author Cheryl Anne Stapp to an era before the railroad and automobile arrived and discover the wild history of stagecoach travel in California.

## \*\*\*\*\*The Review\*\*\*\*\*

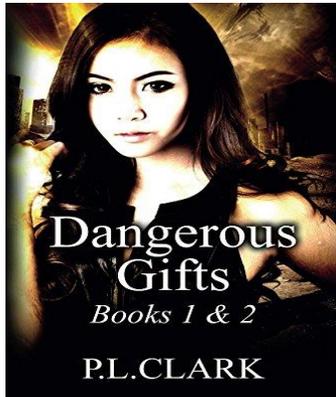
Enjoyed this stagecoach ride through the trails of northern California. I wish there were maps included so I could virtually travel along with the book. I have a hankering to seek out these trails and feel what our pioneers must have experienced. I am convinced that if time travel ever becomes available, that the

hardships of this era may cause me to skip a visit.

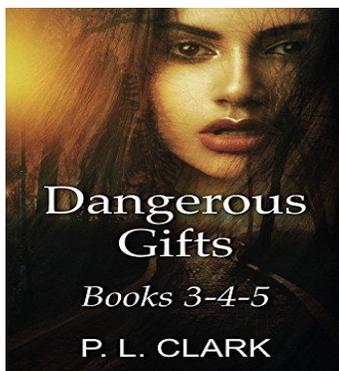
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## Something Good

This column shares the books of our authors. If you have a book you want to share, send info to [turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com)

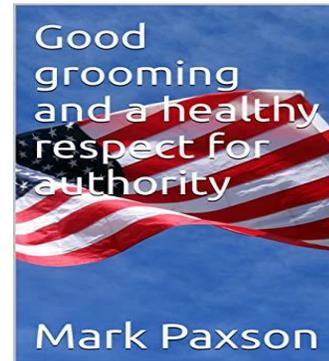


[Dangerous Gifts Books 1 & 2 - Kindle edition by Clark, P. L., Ravenborn, SelfPubBookCovers. Literature & Fiction Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#) Books 1 and 2 of the paranormal Dangerous Gifts series, Available on Amazon.



[Amazon.com: Dangerous Gifts Books 3-4-5 eBook : Clark, P.L., SelfPubBookCovers/Slogan4, Cover Art: Kindle Store](#)

Books 3-4&5 of above series on Amazon.



[Good grooming and a healthy respect for authority - Kindle edition by Paxson, Mark. Literature & Fiction Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#) Just published by Mark Paxson. It's Available on Amazon.

## T-Shirt Truths.

1. One does not stop buying books just because there's no more shelf space.
2. I am retired; reading books is my job.
3. BOOKS—helping introverts avoid conversation since 1454.
4. In my dream world books are free, chocolate is healthy, and reading makes you thin.
5. Drink tea (coffee). Read books. Be happy.

“I have lived a thousand lives and have loved a thousand lovers. I've walked on distant worlds and seen the end of time.”

George R. R. Martin

## Poetry Corner



Source: NASA website

### **CONE NEBULA**

You rule the sky amid the stars  
Bejeweling your long hair.  
A Hubble photo captured you  
I know you're really there.

You stand so tall and elegant  
A titan with no face.  
Your eyes are turned away from earth  
And look toward endless space.

Does what you see bring smiles of joy  
Or pain that breaks your heart.  
And can you see where time will end  
Then turn to watch it start.

Although your brain is all aglow  
Do you have eyes that see  
Your starry span is just a mote  
In God's eternity.

Barbara Barrett

## **Congratulations Update!**

Lally Pia, MD, author of *Doctor of Doctors*

Lally, one of five finalists in a STEM writing competition, was one of the two top finalists and will get help in publishing her book.

### A New Class From

The Elk Grove Writers & Artists

**Gini Grossenbacher's** newest class begins on Wednesday, January 4th, 2023 - Feb. 26, 2023, on Zoom, from 6-8 PM. Each class is \$25.00.

This class will show you how to boost the success potential of your writing project by elevating and energizing the language in which it is written.

Please let Gini know if you want to Register for the class at [ginis.writers1@gmail.com](mailto:ginis.writers1@gmail.com).

### **Editor's Note:**

My computer crashed and died in late December and this issue on the new computer looks **different** as I write it. I haven't figured out how to change it back the way I had it – yet.

#### **Fair Warning-**

I may have to reinvent it, so the format of the newsletter may change.

## Another New Class

**General Info:** June Gillam's Great Valley Writing Workshops are for writers preparing short pieces to submit to anthologies and magazines. Each set of Zoom sessions is limited to 10 writers.

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom.

**Days and Times:** Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. PST (other times/days may be available, please inquire)

### **Workshop Sessions in 2023**

Short Fiction: January 4, 11, 18, 25

Short Nonfiction: February 1, 8, 15, 22

**Writer Information Sheet:** I'd love to know more about your interests, so I can shape the sessions to your needs. In the Workshop Application, below, please let me know what you would most like to work on next.

Cost is by donation:

[www.junegillam.com/writing-workshops](http://www.junegillam.com/writing-workshops)



“Writing isn't about making money, getting famous, getting dates, getting laid, or making friends. In the end, it's about enriching the lives of those who will read your work, and enriching your own life, as well. It's about getting up, getting well, and getting over. Getting happy, okay? Getting happy.”

Stephen King, [On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft](#)



Elk Grove Writers Guild  
*Writers Helping Writers*

## EGWG President's Column

Hello dear writers.

The Elk Grove Writers Guild Webmaster and Vice President, George Hahn and Assistant, John Maliga have been busy enhancing our website. Be patient because I know the result will be worth the wait.

When you get a chance, check out our Donation Page. Your donations and show of support will, without question, help us bring you quality programming.

Loy Holder, President, is busy applying for grant funding and program planning for 2023. We are excited about presenting some earlier events and, of course, the Elk Grove Writers Conference on September 23, 2023.

Please send any questions or comments to [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com).

As always, stay tuned.



“When you make music or write or create, it's really your job to have mind-blowing, irresponsible, condomless sex with whatever idea it is you're writing about at the time.”

Lady Gaga

### There once was...

There once was an unpublished  
writer  
who labored with pen and  
typewriter  
When creations were few  
She was in quite a stew  
And nothing could really excite her  
Barbara Barrett



## From the Bookshelf

### A Late-Night Visitor

By Penny Clark

A wisp of mist floated under the bedroom door. It crossed the room and a figure formed at the foot of Chase Hall's bed. The Spector gazed at him, as if contemplating the nature of the man before it.

Chase sensed a presence in the room and came awake in an instant. He stared at the apparition and saw an impossibly tall figure wearing a hooded cloak. The

image of a scythe in the things' hand sprang, unbidden, into his mind.

"Who are you? How did you get in my room?" he asked, beginning to get angry. "I asked you who you were!"

"I am the servant of my Lord Azrael. My master has sent me for you, human. It is your time to go." The cloaked figure had a deep voice and spoke with a finality that defied discussion.

The figure stood with a stillness that denied life, and a chill moved through Chase's body. He knew the name Azrael. When he was a child, his grandmother said, "If you aren't good, the Archangel Azrael, the angel of death, will come to get you in the night."

Chase shook his head, thinking he must be dreaming. Azrael was a myth, the tactic old women used to scare a child. That was all it was, nothing more.

"What have I done that you are here now? I'm not sick or dying, there's no reason for you to come for me." He studied the cloaked figure wondering if this was his last night. Had his grandmother been telling the truth?

The heavy gaze of the servant settled on Chase, and he began to squirm. He must be dreaming, and he pinched his arm. "Ouch." It was no dream and fear curled into a hard ball in his gut.

"I am here because you are a liar, and it is time for you to come with me." The figure lifted an arm and pointed a bony finger at Chase. "You will come. Now!" His voice rang with absolute authority.

There was no choice, and no question in the word “now,” as it was uttered.

Chase glared at the spirit, anger spiking through him. “Everyone lies. Are you going to kill everyone?” His face felt hot. Everybody lied every day. That was a fact. His anger died quickly as his fear grew. He lied as part of his job, it was almost required, but that was no reason to die.

“Yes, everyone lies. Lying keeps the peace and enables some to hide from danger or to protect one who doesn’t understand a situation. You do not lie to avoid hurting feelings or to improve your own self-image. Your lies are not those that are called white. You lie to deliberately cause harm to others. Your lies are a perjury. They are base and a sickness in you. You want to hurt whoever you lie to. For that am I sent to collect you this night.” The servant hissed and then paused.

Two spots of glowing red appeared inside the cowl. The thing was watching him, as if waiting for him to speak, to exonerate himself...if he could.

“I lie for a good reason. I don’t want to hurt people. I’m trying to unmask evil people, so they’ll be seen as they are. I lie to convict them of their crimes.” The Spector’s hand dipped into the cowl as if the creature were stroking its chin, as if it were thinking.

“Lying is wrong, I know that, but I lie because I’m a policeman. I lie to trick the truth out of evil people. I lie to get

them away from society, to get them locked up where they belong. It’s for the greater good, and to maintain peace for society’s sake. Can’t you see that?” Chase asked.

The dark figure stood utterly still as if thinking. The face was hidden in the darkness of the cowl, so he couldn’t see any reaction.

What else could he say? What would convince this thing to leave? Chase pinched his arm again. How could this be happening? It couldn’t be real.

Chase trembled as the gaunt figure stared at him, assessing him. It felt as if a feather brushed against his soul and he shivered, pulling up his blankets. The room was icy cold, a cold his blankets were no protection against.

Finally, in a voice filled with dire warning, the servant said, “I will tell my Lord Azrael what you have said, human. You have won a reprieve, for now. My Great and Mighty Lord will decide if I must come again.” When the last word was spoken the form of the servant turned into a fine mist and floated through the keyhole in the door.

Chase was left, wide eyed and shaking from more than the room’s cold. He realized the truth in the old saying of feeling someone walking over your grave. He breathed in deeply and wished his grandmother was still alive to hear about this night.

His fear was almost gone, but a remnant remained when he thought about Spector’s last words. It would be coming

back if Azrael ordered it so. Chase decided without delay to be more circumspect in lying to anyone, criminal or not. He didn't want to see the servant of Azrael anytime soon.

He pinched himself one last time and tried to sleep with his mind already concocting a story of the strange dream.

A spooky figure turning into mist and the servant of an Archangel? Come on, the next thing would be that fairy tales were real. It had been nothing but a dream.

It had to have been a dream, right?

Chase Hall slept on as his brain worked to create a cover story, another lie.



## 2023 Sierra Writers Conference

The 2023 conference celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sierra College Press and Standing Guard, it's landmark book of stories about Japanese internment during WWII.

This year's conference draws on a diverse group of speakers to expound and provide instruction on stories of social justice, environmental concerns, and the craft of writing.

The conference will be in-person and online from February 8<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>.

General admission tickets are \$65. See their website for more information.  
<https://sierrawritersconference.wordpress.com/sierra-writers-conference-2023/>



## A Reminder

### Tautology

A tautology is saying the same thing twice using different words, meaning you can cut one of the words.

Examples include phrases like “evening sunset” or “autobiography of her life.” In these examples “evening” and “of her life” mean the same thing as “sunset” and “autobiography” you don't need both.

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### A Problem the Editor Owns

#### Run-on Sentences

Comma splices consists of two independent clauses fused together with a comma.

To fix them either insert a coordination conjunction, separate them into two separate sentences with a period, or use a semi-colon. An example 1. “Penny is cold, she wants to go inside” to fix it, “Penny is cold. She wants to go inside.” 2. “Jim woke late, he missed his bus” fix it as “Jim woke late, and he missed his bus.”

## Something to consider

“Almost anyone can be an author; the business is to collect money and fame from this state of being.”

A. A. Milne



## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Submit

**POETRY**

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMING EVENTS

CONTESTS

SHORT STORIES

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES.

Send submission by the **15<sup>th</sup> of the month** for the next issue. The 20<sup>th</sup> is the last possible date for submissions

**Take advantage of the free advertising!**

Send **submissions** to:

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

Use **Garamond/12** for submissions.  
Send in **word doc** **not** PDF. Thanks.

## January 2023

- Jan. 1- New Year's Day
- Jan. 1-31- National Soup Month
- Jan. 2- Science Fiction Day
- Jan. 9- Word Nerd Day
- Jan. 18- Thesaurus Day
- Jan. 27- Chocolate Cake Day

## More Writing Prompts

- a. If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?
- b. What is your favorite day of the week and why?
- c. Why did Sally have to hitch a ride home?
- d. Why did Marcy burst into tears when she saw the dog?



**Stay Warm**



**See you next month!**

What’s Happening in January?

January 2023

Calendarpedia  
Your source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b> New Year's Day (observed)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> GCW 10-12: Bus. Mtg. Auburn Airport Barnstormer Rm.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 12:30 PM 1st Friday EGWG Mtg Speaker Ramona Scarborough publishing SactoCWC 9- 11Writers Network@	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> NCPA 1-3: Monthly mtg.	<b>9</b> SSWC (SacSuburban): 6:15 PM Advanced Writing Techniques; 7-9 PM monthly mtg, 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> SJWW 12-2 2nd Sat. Zoom: Pam Van Allen on Copyediting us02web.zoom.us/j/8 3590890331
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Martin Luther King Day	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> GCW 10-12: SpeakerGeorgette Unis Poetry Wkshop	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> BWW 10-12: 3rd Sat. mtg. SactoCWC 1-3 3rd Sat. Monthly Mtg. @ library, 891 Watt Ave.Lori Galvin re Literary Agents
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique	<b>26</b> 1:30 PM Last Thurs. EGWG Board Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Sacto CWC 2-3 Crime Time @ Capital Books Jennifer Morita host	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

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click on resources and then  
Calendars