

Vol 3 Issue 02

Feb. 1, 2023

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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 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.

Contact Information

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Newsletter & Submissions

Penny Clark - Editor

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What's Happening?

The Elk Grove Guild's 2023 Writers Conference will be September 23. There are hints floating around that it will be better than ever. Plans for other events during the year are in the works, more on them later. Keep up with the Guild's future plans by checking in with the President's Column each month for information.

“You want to tell a story? Grow a heart. Grow two. Now, with the second heart, smash the first one to bits. Gross, right? A bloody pulpy liquid mess. Look at it, try to make sense of it. Realize you can't. Because there is no sense.”

Charles Yu, *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe*

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.. 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 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 with any questions

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

WRITING EVENTS

CWC Regular monthly meeting is the first Friday of the month. A speaker meeting is later in the month. 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



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



“I write to discover what I know.”

Flannery O'Connor



The Jan. EGWG Meeting

Unfortunately, the editor couldn't attend the meeting due to flooding. Every route to get to the meeting was subject to or already flooded.

I know a speaker was invited to speak, and I'm sure everyone enjoyed it.

Unless there is more bad weather or super storms, I'll be there and have a better report for February's meeting.



“You may tell a tale that takes up residence in someone's soul, becomes their blood and self and purpose. That tale will move them and drive them and who knows what they might do because of it.”

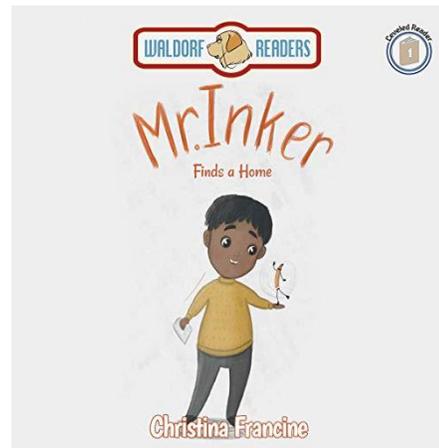
Erin Morgensern, *TheNight Circus*



T-Shirt Truths.

1. I have no idea what I'm doing, and you can't stop me.
2. I'm working on my Ph.D - projects half done
3. Support your local writers!
4. I disappear into books. What's your superpower?
5. The game of why are you doing it that way has no winners.
6. Sometimes I talk to myself then we laugh and laugh.

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



[Amazon.com: Mr. Inker Finds a Home \(Audible Audio Edition\): Christina Francine, Holly Slaughter, Waldorf Publishing: Books](#)

A fun story about a talking pen who tells corny jokes and becomes a Pakistani immigrant boy's best friend in America.

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

I'll begin by stating this, I'm a senior citizen and I really enjoyed the book despite my age.

Even though it states that it targets the level three reader, its far beyond that and I'll tell you why.

In these current times of chaos, hate, and various types of prejudices, one needs to "go somewhere else" mentally! In other words, read a book like this and leave this world behind even for a short time.

This book displays various illustrations and a colorful narrative that makes a person desire peace and tranquility. Remember, we're all still young within our spirit!

Any child will achieve a certain degree of peace reading this book. An excellent read for anyone...even us adults!

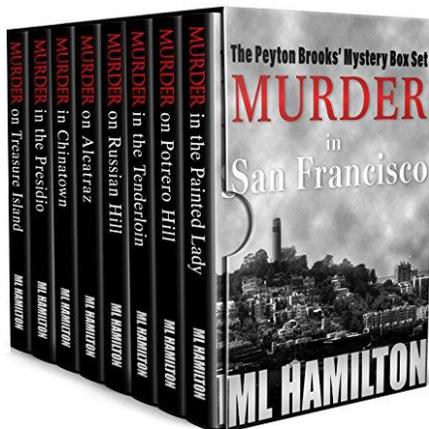
Something Good

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



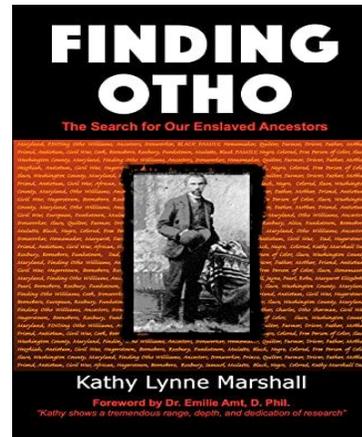
[Library Ship Saga \(8 book series\) Kindle Edition \(amazon.com\)](#)

Begin at the beginning of George Hahn's eight book Library Ship Saga series. Colonization, evil plots, and danger around every corner.



[The Peyton Brooks' Mysteries Box Set - Kindle edition by Hamilton, M.L.. Mystery, Thriller & Suspense Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#)

THE ORIGINAL PEYTON BROOKS' MYSTERY SERIES BOX SET Get all eight of the popular Peyton Brooks' Mysteries in a single box set, including the prequel, Murder in the Painted Lady..



[Amazon.com: Finding Otho: The Search for Our Enslaved Ancestors eBook : Marshall, Kathy Lynne: Books](#)

Otho Williams, was born a slave in 1834 in Maryland. Who were his parents? Who owned him and what was his life like almost 200 years ago?



[A Time for Love - Kindle edition by Clark, P. L.. Contemporary Romance Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#)

A romantic suspense, published Jan. 2023.



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Hello dear writers.

Hello dear Writers. The Elk Grove Writers Guild Profile for the May 4th, 2023 Big Day of Giving has been approved. That's a big deal and we are looking forward to support from all our members and friends to help us bring you new and improved Writers Programs in 2023. Stay tuned for more information from us on our Big Day of Giving.

The Elk Grove Writers Guild website, at <https://egweg.org>, is now being upgraded and improved. Please send any comments regarding what you'd like to see changed or added to georgehahnjr@comcast.net, jmm@mac.com, and/or loyholder77@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you.

Please send any questions or comments to loyholder77@gmail.com.

As always, stay tuned.



“A great novel, rather than discouraging me, simply makes me want to write.”

Madeleine L'Engle, *A Circle of quiet*



From the Bookshelf

FORGIVENESS

George Hahn

He first had the dream the night before the funeral. She was standing there, looking at him, her eyes sad but with puzzlement in the lines of her mouth. Cheating bitch, he thought. You're dead; stop bothering me.

“Forgive me,” she said.

“Not likely.”

From somewhere behind her, black hands appeared and closed around her ankles. She looked down, her face distorted with terror. The background was out of focus, and he couldn't see the owner of the hands, but they pulled on her, and she went down on her stomach. Her fingers clawed at the floor, fighting whatever was dragging her, but it was

futile. She slid slowly and inexorably back anyway. Her legs disappeared into the blurry background, and she looked up at him, pleading with her eyes.

“Forgive me,” she begged. But he watched as she was swallowed up, first her legs, then her torso, then her shoulders. Finally, just before her head disappeared, she looked at him once more. Then she was gone.

He woke up, feeling horrified, but with an undertone of satisfaction. “Serves her right,” he mumbled. “She belongs in hell.”

People stared at him throughout the funeral. He said nothing unless addressed, and then he replied in gruff monosyllables. People might have thought that his grim expression was because of his sorrow. If so, they were wrong. He only wished to get the farce over with so that he could go home and open the bottle of single malt scotch he had saved for the occasion. He was tempted to look around the chapel to wonder if she had slept with any of the men attending. Perhaps a faint smile on someone’s lips would have betrayed the culprit. But he didn’t look. He didn’t care. He only wanted it to be over soon.

That night, the dream came again. She stood there with the same expression on her face. This time, he noticed she was

wearing the nightgown he had given her on their tenth anniversary. It was black and clingy, and he had thought she looked very sexy in it. She had said it was special and only wore it for special occasions such as his birthday and St. Valentine’s Day. He wondered if she had worn it when she had been with some other man.

“Forgive me, please,” she said. Then the black hands were back, pulling her away. “No, wait,” she screamed. She looked at him. “You have to forgive me. Please!” Then she was gone again. He woke, troubled but not as horrified as the first time. The satisfaction was still there, though.

At first, he had visitors, some bringing food, all bringing condolences and kind words about her. He tried to be cordial, but he knew he wasn’t very successful. His friends were realizing that the stony face at the funeral wasn’t that way because he mourned. The visits became less and less frequent. And every night, he had the dream.

After a while, the only friend he still saw was John, his best friend since high school. Two weeks after the funeral, John dropped in unannounced. “Thought you’d need some cheering up,” he said at the open door. He walked

in without an invitation and took a seat in the living room.

“I would offer you a beer, but I’m all out. I wasn’t expecting anyone.” That was a lie, but maybe John would take the hint and not stay.

“Don’t worry about it,” John answered.

“I just thought we could talk.”

“What about?”

“Whatever you would like to talk about. You’ve been pretty down since your wife’s funeral.”

John was trying hard to cheer him up, but John still assumed he missed her, and his misconceptions doomed his efforts to failure. “I wonder where she is now,” he said. “Heaven or hell?”

John laughed. “If you believe in that sort of thing. Someone once told me that heaven and hell are the same place; you get full knowledge of what you’ve done in life and what the results were.” John shook his head. “Not sure I like that. There are some things I’ve done...”

If she is living with what she did, it’s no wonder she’s in hell. He looked at John. “I’ve got some work I have to do. Maybe we can get together again soon.”

John looked a little hurt, but he stood, and they shook hands. “Take care,” he said. “I know it’s rough, but things will get better.”

He wondered if John was one of the men she had slept with. The thought

tore at him, and John must have felt it because he left without speaking again. After that day, even John stopped coming.

Only the dreams came to him now.

“Please, you have to forgive me,” she pleaded. She looked behind her as if she knew now that the black hands were coming. Then she turned back to him. “You must forgive me before it’s too late.” Then the hands came, and the dream ended as it always did.

“It’s already too late,” he snarled. This time, he didn’t even wake up.

There had been a time when they had walked through the park together, usually hand in hand. That had ended, of course, when she confessed, she had cheated on him. He hadn’t been in the park since then, but it was a warm spring day. He wouldn’t allow her to deprive him of the pleasure of a walk on such a day.

Somehow, though, the bright sunlight, singing birds, and blossoming flowers didn’t have the effect he had expected. He walked briskly along. His thoughts confused. He missed not having her at his side, but, at the same time, was glad he didn’t have to deal with the devious slut. In that state, he hardly noticed the beauty around him or the stares of the other people enjoying the day.

Eventually, he gave up and went back to the empty house. The scotch was gone, but there was half a bottle of vodka in a kitchen cabinet. He poured himself a glass and took it into the living room. He was still sitting there, brooding, when the sun set and the room darkened.

“Please, please. Forgive me. You have every right to hate me, but you must let go of your anger. It’s almost too late.” He stared at her until the black hands came again. “I hope that means that soon I won’t have this dream anymore.” He woke then and couldn’t get back to sleep. Grumbling, he got up and poured the rest of the vodka into a glass.

The next day, he decided to try a walk in the park again. It was early in the morning, and fog still hung over the street in front of his house. He thought about going back, but the gray morning seemed to fit his mood, so he walked down the steps to the sidewalk. He liked the silence that seemed to go with the fog.

The park was across the street, and he stepped onto the road. He never saw the Prius moving too fast for the foggy conditions.

He was standing in a room, and for a moment, he didn’t know where he was.

Then he recognized the same room as in the dream, but he hardly noticed that. A sudden epiphany sent shock waves through his mind. His wife hadn’t been pleading for forgiveness for her sake. It was too late for her to be saved. The forgiveness she had begged for had been for his salvation!

He felt the black hands close around his ankles.

George Hahn



2023 Sierra Writers Conference

The 2023 conference celebrates the 20th 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 8th through the 16th.

General admission tickets are \$65. See their website for more information.

<https://sierrawritersconference.wordpress.com/sierra-writers-conference-2023/>

Poetry Corner

THE FOOTBRIDGE GATE

Barbara Barrett

It's just a gate
Only a gate
The fence itself is gone
It's crooked now
And yet somehow
I'm stopped and can't move on.

Oh gate spread wide
Let me inside
The long grass hides a ledge
No safety net
And one false step
Means falling off the edge

Something's amiss
There's eeriness
The shadows are askew
Each side is bright
With sun's gold light
But there's a different view.

The gate shade's dark
And leaves its mark
Across the flattened ground
No light behind
That I can find
And no one else around

What can this be
This sorcery?
What lies beyond the gate?
The road to hell?
I can't yet tell
It's either walk or wait.

Barbara Barrett

Congratulations!

Another of Jim Guigli's Flash Fiction crime stories, *Ben Hurt!*, has been published:

If you're tired of Covid-era home-gym stories and Peloton ads, you might enjoy *Ben Hurt!*

You can read the story online at:

[Ben Hurt! by Jim Guigli](#)

[Drumbeats: Boom—boom, boom—boom. "Battle speed!" Boom—boom, boom—boom. "Attack speed!" B...](#)



Feeling and thinking words to avoid.

These are words like felt, feel, think, thought, wonder, ponder, understand, realize, or believe.

These words are signs that you're telling, not showing. You can use better verbs, or rephrase the sentence to show more. Perhaps use emotion.

The words listed distance your reader from the head of the POV character.

For example: "I thought the food tasted horrible."

Instead, you could say, "Yuck! That food made me gag."

Something to consider

“I can’t compose and choreograph words on pages. When it’s good, the words dance and sing.”

@kaufmannskri.mis



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Submit

POETRY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMING EVENTS

CONTESTS

SHORT STORIES

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES.

Send submission by the **15th of the month** for the next issue. The 20th is the last possible date for submissions
Take advantage of the free advertising!

Send **Submissions** to:

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

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

February 2023

- Feb. 2- Groundhog’s Day
- Feb. 14- Valentine’s Day
- Feb. 20- President’s Day
- Feb. 21- Mardi Gras
- Feb. 22- Lent

More Writing Prompts

- a. If you could be any person in the world, who would you be, and why?
- b. “I told you not to come back!”
- c. Brian needed cash and he needed it now!
- d. Marcy turned to her sister. “Of course, you can’t keep it,” she said. “You have to take it back NOW!”
- e. 6-year-old Susan had never been to a funeral before. How does she feel about it?



Stay Warm



See you next month!

What’s Happening in February?

February 2023

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | GCW 10-12: Bus. Mtg. Auburn Airport Barnstormer Rm. | | 12:30 PM First Friday EGWG Meeting SactoCWC 9-11 Writers Network @ cafe grill, 6215 Sunrise Blvd., Sacto | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| | | SactoCWC 7-8:30 PM Meet author Terry Shepherd | GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique | | | SJWW 12-2 2nd Sat. on Zoom: Denise Lee Branco on Writing a Tribute to Your Pet us02web.zoom.us/j/83590890331 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| NCPA 1-3: Monthly mtg. | SSWC (SacSuburban): 6:15 PM Advanced Writing Techniques; 7-9 PM monthly mtg. 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks | | GCW 10-12: Speaker | | | BWW 10-12: 3rd Sat. mtg. SactoCWC 1-3 3rd Sat. Monthly Mtg. @ library, 891 Watt Ave. Ellen Byron, Organics of Outlining |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| | Presidents' Day | | GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique | 1:30 PM Last Thurs. EGWG Board Meeting | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | | | | |

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Data provided "as is" without warranty

For other calendars go to egweg.org
click on Resources and then
Calendars.

Do you have a flyer for an event?

If so, send it to Penny Clark
turlockpenny@yahoo.com

**SEE THE FLYER ON NEXT
PAGE!**



GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

Kathy Lynne Marshall

RESEARCH FOR WRITERS

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

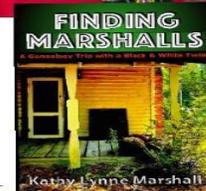
10 am to noon

Need to polish your research skills? In this workshop the speaker will reveal the tools she applied to locate details that have made her books rich in storytelling and facts. Learn how to develop a research plan to improve your work's credibility and turn dry facts into engaging tales. Marshall has written seven books that record the lives of her European and enslaved African American ancestors. Her latest is *Finding Marshalls: A Genealogy Trip with a Black & White Twist*.

WORKSHOP: BRING PEN & PAPER

PUBLIC INVITED FREE

GOLDCOUNTRYWRITERS.COM



**AUBURN AIRPORT
BARNSTORMER ROOM
13626 NEW AIRPORT ROAD
AUBURN CA 95602**

Wednesday, Feb 15, 2023, 10-12

Gold Country Writers

Auburn City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Rose Room

Writing family legacies or just want to polish your research skills for novels and nonfiction books? In this workshop, author Kathy Lynne Marshall reveals the tools she applies to locate the details that have made her seven books rich in storytelling and fact.

You will learn how to develop and implement a research plan to improve your story's credibility, how taking a research road trip can enhance your setting and characters, and how to turn dry facts into engaging tales.