

Vol 3 Issue 03

Mar. 1, 2023

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Welcome!



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

We created this monthly newsletter to expand the Guild's efforts to reach that goal. In the newsletter we pass on information of coming events, classes, and Guild news. We offer bits of writing wisdom, poetry, memories, writing tips, and whatever news in the writing world that comes our way.

In each issue you, our readers, have 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, recent successes or publications, and events from other writing groups.

See back page for submission info.

Come along and 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. The topics and speakers have been selected and the excitement is growing. Plans for other events during the year are in the works, as well. Track the Guild's future plans by checking the President's Column each month.

“Writing is like having a baby, or a German Shepherd, maybe. It just won't leave you alone. It is not a passion, not a joy, not a creative outlet. It is a fierce mistress and a curse.”

Rebecca A. Doyle

Guild meetings are 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 the next meeting it's at Round Table Pizza 10054 Bruceville Rd. **Contact** loyholder77@gmail.com with any questions.

The next meetings are Mar 3, 2023, and Apr. 7, 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

Have an active calendar. For information about the Gold Country Writers events or directions contact Margie Yee Webb at mywebb@sbcglobal.net



The EGWG Bulletin Board

ARE YOU A SPEAKER OR A TEACHER?

The Guild is planning events for 2023, and beyond. 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



Black Women Write

Black Women Write meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10 to noon

Contact.

BlackWomenWrite2020@gmail.com



Enhance your fiction. Join Gini Grossenbacher on Wed evenings, 6-7:30 PM from 3/8 to 4/26, 2023 on Zoom. Reserve a spot at gini.grossenbacher.com.

The Feb. EGWG Meeting

Loy Holder, our fearless leader, began the meeting with a question. “What topics would you like to see at the September conference?” And the discussion began. Ideas were proposed, pros and cons of those ideas and class titles were given, and suggestions were accepted. This was a great example of the Guild in action.

Another discussion concerned the meeting place. A conference room at one of the area’s libraries is being considered, but the room is booked on the first Friday for several months. The pizza place isn’t the best, but we’ll stay there for now. Dress warmly.

The Guild’s authors have been keeping busy with books being published, or getting ready to be published.

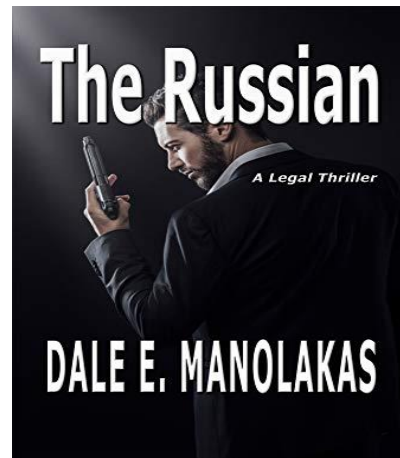
The Arts Festival and how to get information was mentioned.

A chat room for same interest meetings for members was discussed. How that might happen will become a discussion for another meeting.

A member asked a question about writing blurbs, and George reminded us that there are several classes on the Guild’s website, including one on blurbs.

It's the sign of a good meeting when people hang around talking when the meeting is over.

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



[The Russian: A Legal Thriller \(Sophia Christopoulos Legal Thriller Series\) - Kindle edition by Manolakas, Dale E. . Mystery, Thriller & Suspense Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#)

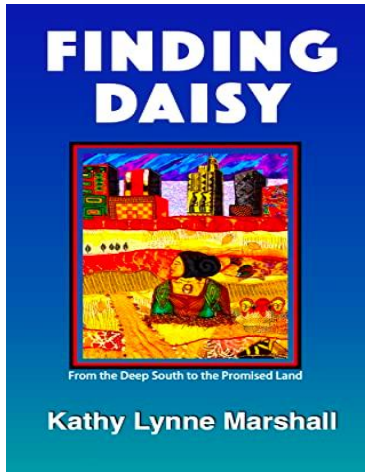
*******The Review*******

Great Read

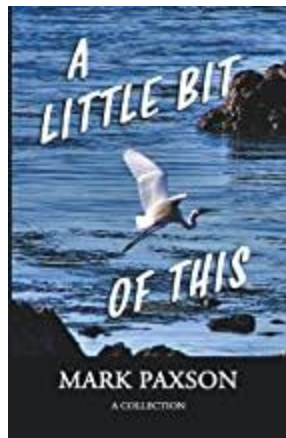
A remarkable legal thriller is written well with attention to detail. I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves gripping courtroom drama. Set in Los Angeles this book takes you to the underworld of the Russian mob and its vicious activities. It infiltrates business and the government to get what it wants. There is a lot of action including helicopter crashes and arson and murders. A great read. A great criminal trial. I found this story to be very moving. It touched on a variety of responses from me. With just enough action and romance interspersed throughout the story. I highly recommend this book.

Something Good

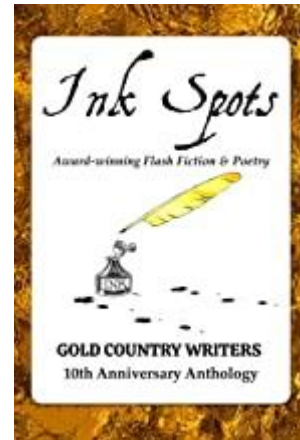
This column shares the books of our authors. If you have a book you want to share, send info to turlockpenny@yahoo.com



[Finding Daisy: From the Deep South to the Promised Land - Kindle edition by Marshall, Kathy Lynne. Literature & Fiction Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#) Another great book about finding the facts about an ancestor.



[A Little Bit of This: Paxson, Mark: 9798986699271: Amazon.com: Books](#) This is a collection of stories with a little bit for everyone. Published Feb. 2023



[Ink Spots: Flash Fiction and Poetry - Kindle edition by WRITERS, GOLD COUNTRY, Webb, Margie, Brady, Jody, Cassady, Cathy, Nevins, Pauline, Osborn, Susan, Schwarzentraub, Betsy, Unis, Georgette, Whitwell, Randy, Nissen, Frank. Literature & Fiction Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#)

the Gold Country Writers present flash fiction and poetry that highlight the ups, downs, and oddities of life.



T-Shirt Truths

1. I'm not arguing. I'm explaining why I'm right.
2. You know you're a writer when you fall in love with your own character.
3. Shh, writer at work.
4. If you ever check my internet history, just know that it's for a book I'm writing.
5. If we shouldn't eat at night, why is there a light in the refrigerator?
6. Never underestimate an old lady who loves reading.
7. I'm a writer, therefore, I am not sane.



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Hello dear writers.

NCPA Anthologies for 2023. Beautiful World, includes anywhere in the world including the Americas and the deadline for submitting your story is 9/1/23. Word limit, 500-3000 max. For more info, send all correspondence on Beautiful World to 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com.

Elk Grove Writers Conference is 9/23/23. Save the date. The schedule can be found in the FLYER section. By 4/1/23 I will have speaker pics and bios to share.

CWC has 2 interesting upcoming events. **(1)** Sign up or come to listen. Open Readings begin April 13 at 7:00 PM. Contact 2johnpatterson@gmail.com to sign up for the open readings. Since April is National Poetry Month, the open readings will feature poetry from our members. **(2)** Stephanie Chandler, national speaker, will appear on Saturday 3/18/23 from noon to 2 PM at the Cattlemen's Restaurant to talk about self-publishing, owning your own niche, creating a business plan, and using the internet to successfully market books.

Send any questions or comments to loyholder77@gmail.com. And, 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

Into the Light

Penny Clark

Early in life, I knew I was different from everyone else. I never made friends easily, being in a crowd made me uncomfortable, and I'd hear myself saying strange or inappropriate things. I didn't join in on conversations unless the subject matter was of interest to me, and small talk was beyond my abilities. My interests didn't match those of other girls my age, and I simply couldn't relate to those around me. I wasn't normal.

I became a loner and avoided social functions whenever possible. Somehow I managed to marry twice, and I was lucky that both of my husbands were also loners. It was a miracle we even found each other.

The questions of why and how I was not normal remained a mystery. When I had access to the internet at home, I spent a great amount of time searching for information on sites concerning psychiatry and psychology. I delved into the indication of psychotic and sociopathic people, and read articles from the darker areas of mental illness.

While each type of illness had one or two aspects that matched me, not one matched enough to say, “Ah-hah, that's it.” I continued

to try and jam my round marbles into square holes, but they wouldn't fit.

I tentatively settled on Social Anxiety as the cause of my differences. I matched a lot of that diagnosis, and it was something to say to the people who asked “why,” when I turned down invitations to potlucks and other social functions. I could live with that. It wasn't a definitive answer, but it was enough.

In 2011, at a family barbecue, I was sitting next to my daughter, who, at that time, was an inclusion specialist with the school district. She was explaining to someone about how to help some of the children in the schools who had Asperger's. I listened to her, interested because I'd never heard of Asperger's Syndrome. In mid-sentence she stopped talking and turned to me, and, in an off-hand manner, said, “That's what you are, Mom. I think you'd score as a High Functioning Autistic on one of the tests.”

I was speechless. Was that the answer to all my questions? I left the gathering early and rushed home to get on the internet. The more I read about Asperger's, the more of my marbles dropped into the round holes they belonged in. I matched the traits that were consistent with almost all Asperger's Syndrome people.

My daughter had mentioned a test, and I searched until I found a test to take. My score put me on the autistic scale, but low enough to have Asperger's. That was a revelation and turned my understanding of myself on its head.

After 71 years of wondering what was wrong with me, the heavy blanket of worry dropped off my shoulders. The most epic moment I'd ever experienced was when I felt the comfort and a sheer relief that came from

knowing that there were other people like me in the world. Not only was I not defective or mentally ill, but I wasn't alone.

Autism occurs when the brain is wired differently, so perhaps I was a little imperfect, or maybe it was the “normal” people, who were imperfect, who can say.

If Autism was recognized when I was younger, I might have been trained to be socially adept, and I'd be able to read people's faces for those tiny tells of human communication. Alas, Autism wasn't on anyone's radar until many years after I was an adult, and that's all right. I never felt the need to be fixed. All I ever wanted was an explanation of why I was different from everyone else.

Many people are locked in a closet for various reasons; they hide who they are and live a lie afraid if they step outside people won't like or love the real them. I identify with that.

Closet dwellers don't come out until they are ready or until someone outs them.

To throw open the doors of a closet, a person needs to understand and fully accept who they are. They need to be able to say, “This is me! This is who I am.” I didn't have a clue, and the lack of knowledge meant that my closet had a lock, but no doorknob.

With my daughter's simple words at that barbecue, my closet door was blown off its hinges, and I was free to strut into the room, throw my arms in the air, and shout, “Ta-da, here I am!” I sloughed off the lie I'd been living and took pleasure in knowing that I was part of a large community. I even joined several autistic sites on the internet and Facebook.

Of course, having a label to slap across my forehead hasn't changed the majority of my life. I'd still rather stay home, I still avoid social occasions whenever possible, and there's

anxiety whenever I do go out, especially if there are crowds, a crowd being more than three people.

My emotions are not in the normal range, so to some extent, I still have one foot inside the closet, still afraid to take on the world, or own how I look at certain realities of life. That's okay; I learned long ago to keep my opinions to myself.

The most significant change in my life was internal. I didn't move across the country, start a new job, or give myself a total makeover. My major change was the acceptance of what and who I am, and the ability to speak out. I am free to flash my label to explain my social ineptness, and to avoid situations where I'll be uncomfortable or overwhelmed.

It's a new world. Now I have a legitimate reason for my actions or my sometimes unknowing rudeness.

I can decline invitations to go here or there or do this or that.

If people don't accept the explanations I give, then that's on them. I no longer need to feel guilty.

Penny Clark



The 2nd annual Festival of the arts 2023 is scheduled for April 29, 10 to 5pm.

To apply for a space go to <http://elkgrovesfineartscenter.org/festival/>

Poetry Corner

The Picnic

Barbara Barrett

Here we lie in the long green grass

Entwined so lovingly

Soul to soul through every age

What is, will always be.

The shadows from the filtered sun

Caress and dance—they know.

Their pleasure is reflected in

The love that lies below

The picnic food's forgotten

Temporarily at least.

As summer breezes stir the leaves

We have a lover's feast.

Barbara Barrett



“The impulse to write things down is a peculiarly compulsive one, inexplicable to those who do not share it, useful only accidentally, only secondarily, in a way that any compulsion tries to justify itself. I suppose that it begins or does not begin in the cradle.”

Joan Didion, *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*

Congratulations!

Jim Guigli has stories in two new publications.

In *Guilty Crime Story Magazine Issue Seven*, one of the stories is my *Not Funny*, where a standup comedian borrows trouble.

In the new anthology by Murderous Ink Press, *CRIMEUCOPLA We'll Be Right Back -- After This!* my story is *Blood on the Stairs*, another Bart Lasiter story, where Bart pencils in a murder.



To Be Verbs

To be verbs include the words was, is, are, were, etc. Those words are necessary, but they are often a neon sign that says a better verb could be used.

For example, instead of saying “Jane was sleepy,” you could say, Jane rubbed her eyes, trying to stay awake.”

Using to be verb is a clue that you're telling rather than showing. To be verbs can also be an indication of passive voice. Remember, subject – verb – object.

“My first feeling was that there was no way to continue. Writing isn't like math; in math two plus two always equals four no matter what your mood. With writing, the way you feel changes everything.”

Stephenie Meyer



A Tidbit from the Chicago Manual of Style

Bias-Free Language

1. Bias-free language refers to both gender-neutral language and language describing people with disabilities, people from particular cultures or ethnic groups, and others.
2. The goal is not political correctness but rather avoiding unintentional judgements, preserving credibility, and achieving maximum clarity.
3. As a rule, use adjectives, not nouns (e.g., “A deaf person,” not “a deaf-mute.” “A Jewish man,” not “a Jew.”)
4. Some groups advocate the use of “Person-first language; this is rarely offensive and should be preferred where it does not create awkward sentences. “A person who stutters,” not “a stutterer,” or “A child with autism,” not “an autistic child.”

Something to consider

“When dealing with people, remember you are not dealing with creatures of logic, but creatures of emotion.”

Dale Carnegie



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/14 for submissions.
Send in **word doc not PDF**. Thanks.

March 2023

- Mar. 12- Daylight Savings Time Starts
- Mar. 14- Pi Day
- Mar. 17- Saint Patrick’s Day
- Mar. 21- World Poetry Day
- Mar. 29- National Vietnam War Veteran’s Day

More Writing Prompts

- a. Write a bucket list of 10 things you want to do.
- b. What are your hobbies? Why do you like them?
- c. What was your favorite childhood toy?
- d. The nation is controlled by...
- e. What’s the nicest thing anyone has done for you?



Hoping for a warm spring



See you next month!

What’s Happening in Our Area?

March 2023

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
			GCW 10-12: Bus. Mtg. Auburn Airport Barnstormer Rm.		12:30 PM First Friday EGWG Meeting SactoCWC 9-11Writers Network @ café grill, 6215 Sunrise Blvd., Sac'to	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
NCPA 1-3: Monthly mtg.			GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique			SJWW 12-2 2nd Sat. on Zoom presenter us02web.zoom.us/j/83590890331
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	SSWC (SacSuburban): 6:15 PM Advanced Writing Techniques; 7-9 PM monthly mtg, 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks		GCW 10-12: Speaker mtg.			BWW 10-12: 3rd Sat. mtg. SactoCWC 1-3 3rd Sat. Monthly Mtg. @ library, 891 Watt Ave.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique			
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
			GCW 10-12: Poetry contest celebration	1:30 PM Last Thurs. EGWG Board Meeting		

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Data provided "as is" without warranty

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

If you or your group have flyers for your events that you’d like to see on the flyer page, send them directly to Penny Clark - turlockpenny@yahoo.com

[See the next page for the 2023 Conference schedule](#)

Time	Laguna Room	Franklin/Sheldon Room
6:30	In the Building	
7:00:00 AM - Check-In - Hallway	Continental Breakfast & Book Store f/Speakers	
8:00 AM		Gregory Randall - What's New in the Writing and Publishing World in 2023.
8:45 AM		Close Partition bet. Franklin and Laguna
9:00 AM		Kakwasi Somadhi - Let Your Scenes Move the Story.
10:00 AM		Break
10:15 AM		Chris Hennesy - How to Build Your Media Platform.
11:15 AM		Break
11:30 AM		Kristen Tate - What You Need to Know About Getting Your Book Edited.
12:30 PM		Lunch
1:30 PM		Joey Garcia - How to Write a Blurb. It's Easier Than You Think.
2:30 PM		Break
2:45 PM		Judith Starkston - How to Show Emotion in the Details.
3:45 PM		Break
4:00 PM		Karen Phillips - What About the Cover Design of Your Book.
5:00 PM		Close and Clean Up
6:00 PM		Leave the Building

