

Vol 3 Issue 06

June. 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. The newsletter includes information on coming events, classes, and Guild news. We offer bits of writing wisdom, poetry, memories, writing tips, and whatever news in the writing world 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 the Guild's website.

We encourage you to send in news of your group's events, book announcements, writing tips, recent successes or publications, and news 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

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

What's Happening?

The Elk Grove Writers Guild's 2023 Writers Conference will be September 23. Registration is open and waiting for you. Plans for other events during this year are in the works, as well. Track the Guild's plans by checking the President's Column each month. See the schedule for the conference and the first flyer on the Flyer Pages.

“All readers come to fiction as willing accomplices to your lies. Such is the basic goodwill contract made the moment we pick up a work of fiction.”

Steve Almond

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 Road

The next meetings are June 2, 2023, and July 7, 2023.

Meetings are from 12:30 to 2:30.

Contact loyholder77@gmail.com with answers to your questions.

GROUPS & 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 Cub, 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>

“We’re past the age of hero’s and hero kings. ... Most of our lives are basically mundane and dull, and it’s up to the writer to find ways to make them interesting.”
John Updike

Capitol Crimes

Meet on the third Saturday of the month from 1 – 3pm. For info go to <https://capitolcrimes.org/events>

The Gold Country Writers

GCW has an active calendar. For information about their Writers events or directions contact Margie Yee Webb at mywebb@sbcglobal.net or <https://goldcounyrtwriters.com>

Black Women Write

Black Women Write meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10 until noon. For information contact. BlackWomenWrite2020@gmail.com

The EGWG Bulletin Board

SPEAKERS and TEACHERS

The Guild is planning events for 2023, and beyond. We’re searching for fresh content from speakers and instructors in all areas of writing.

If you are interested in being featured in a Guild event, contact Loy @ loyholder77@gmail.com

The May EGWG Meeting

We're still searching for a good place to meet. Several people had suggestions of locales to investigate.

Someone brought up publishing companies, vanity, and well-known self-publishers. That conversation moved into the possibility of presenting classes on formatting, covers, and editing. The classes would either be before or after the regular meeting, possibly on Zoom. We'll cover it in another meeting.

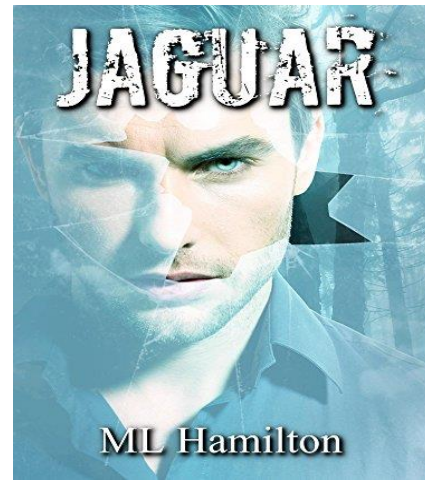
Karen introduced her young son, who is writing an adventure story—maybe a series, and Karen told of their experimenting with AI Chatgpt. She thought this AI feature was valuable for more than writing. Titles, blurbs etc., but it takes time. The title ideas caught my attention – I might try it out.

Loy reminded us that registering for the September conference was open. She also said she was pleased with the outcome of the Big Day of Giving.

As we went around the tables, it was clear that our authors were busy writing and preparing to publish.

I want to remind all Guild members that we have a Lending Library. The list of books about writing is available on the Guild's web site, egweg.org/library. Check in with georgehahnjr@comcast.net to arrange for delivery of book(s).

Remember to check out the Guild's writing classes on egweg.org/classes. The classes can be printed for later study.



[Jaguar - Kindle edition by Hamilton, M.L.. Literature & Fiction Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#)

For Jaguar, the lure of the lights and the crowds has filled his years since leaving Sequoia, but even the brightest lights fade. When his mother falls ill, he puts his career on hold to help her.

Jaguar's return creates a clash with his estranged father and a past lover who has secrets she's been hiding for five years. In the face of his personal turmoil, Jaguar is forced to make a choice between fame and family.

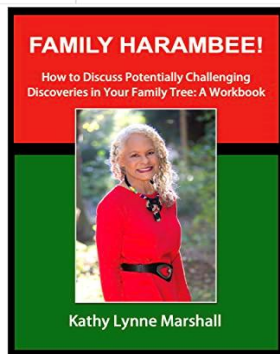
*****The Review*****

Jaguar was introduced in Cafe au Lait of the Zion Sawyers series. I found him to be a very interesting character and I'm so glad he's gotten his own story.

Jerome (stage name, Jaguar) always marched to the beat of his own drum, and that didn't sit well with his father. Returning home wasn't necessarily the easiest thing for him to do, but when his career was stalling, his mom's health was failing, and when an unexpected surprise hits him, it's just what he needs.

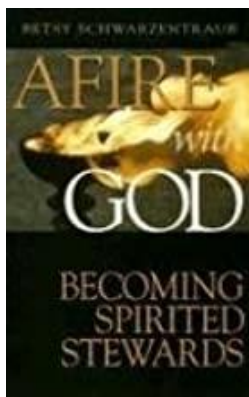
Something Good

We're sharing the books of our authors and readers. If you have a book you want to share, send title and author's name to turlockpenny@yahoo.com



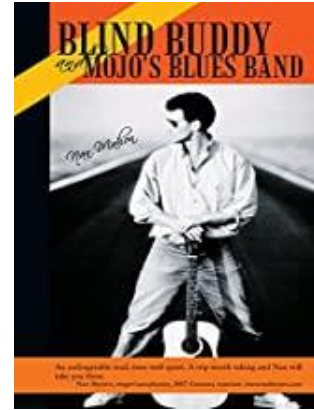
[Family Harambee!: How to Discuss Potentially Challenging Discoveries in Your Family Tree: A Workbook - Kindle edition by Marshall, Kathy. Politics & Social Sciences Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#)

Kathy Marshall's Workbook.



[Afire with God: Becoming Spirited Stewards: Betsy Schwarzentraub: 9780881775204: Amazon.com: Books](#)It may have changed its name, but the KGB is up to its old tricks.

Betsy Schwarzentraub available on Amazon.



[Blind Buddy and Mojo's Blues Band - Kindle edition by Mahon, Nan. Mystery, Thriller & Suspense Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#)

By Nan Mahon, available on Amazon.

T-Shirt Truths

1. Writer. Someone with the insane compulsion to bare their soul on paper, cry over the keyboard, and bang their heads against a literary wall.
2. You are dangerously close to being killed off in my novel.
3. I don't have to be normal, I'm a writer.
4. I write better than I talk.
5. Edit or regret.
6. No more tacos. No, more tacos. Commas improve lives.
7. Write brained.
8. Metaphors be with you.

“It ain't what you write, it's the way you write it.”
Jack Kerouac



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Hello dear writers.

June 1st is the due date for EGWG membership renewal, be sure to send in your 2023-24 dues.

Registration for the Elk Grove Writers Conference on Sept. 23 is open. To register go to egweg.org/events. The schedule and flyer are posted on the Flyer pages at the end of the newsletter.

A huge thank you to Gold County Writers, and San Joaquin Valley Writers for sponsoring this conference.

AND

Three Classes on Zoom

Free For Members

Elk Grove Writers Guild
Members & Non-Members

Featuring Speaker – Karen Trinkaus

Save the Dates:

**June 10, 2023, 1-3 PM – Preparation
Before Publishing**

**June 23, 2023, 1-2 PM – Atticus
Demo on Formatting**

July 6, 2023, 1-3 PM – Publishing

Members do not need to register/ Instead, send Loy an email, saying which class or classes you will attend. Include the email you'll be using to attend, and she'll send you the link on the morning of each class.

**NON-MEMBERS ARE INVITED
BUT SPACE IS LIMITED**

\$50 FOR ALL THREE CLASSES

OR \$20.00 PER CLASS.

Register Now at egweg.org/events!

Questions – email

loyholder77@gmail.com

Stay tuned.

Sign up for The Kindlepreneur Newsletter

Dave Chesson stays busy testing new [book marketing tactics](#), helps authors [improve their book sales](#), and so much more. He's been a paid consultant for multiple major publishing companies.

In order to help authors, reach new levels with their book marketing, He created kindlepreneur as a free resource with the sole goal of giving you everything you need to take action, and see results. Go to kindlepreneur.com to learn more.



[From the Bookshelf](#)

The Highs and Lows of Being an Indie Author

By Kathy Lynne Marshall

May I vent and scream, but also pat myself on the back for a moment?

I am ecstatic to have self-published seven family history storybooks since July 2017. However, it has been a grueling and expensive passion to commemorate my ancestors in print. The actual printing of a book is almost nothing, but the entire book project costs about \$3,000. That includes a weeklong genealogy trip to the land of my ancestors, purchasing DNA tests to find relatives, and hiring an editor. It also includes purchasing a box or two of books to sell and give to my family. Thankfully, a few of the books have won local, national, and international awards from my niche market, and Amazon gives me a steady, dinner-dessert-drink-sized check every month.

Researching, writing, and self-publishing is a Herculean effort, but it produces a tangible product. The colorful book covers gracing my piano make me smile every time I pass by. Touching the books confirms they are real, not cloud dreams. Knowing our heritage lives inside those books invigorates me to continue this important work. Top that off is a joyful feeling that I don't have to kowtow to a publisher who may dawdle on printing and marketing my stories. I can choose to publish one or more books a year if my stamina holds.

On the flip side, a dozen times a day, I ask the walls, "Why is it so hard to do this? Why can't I connect the fact dots to what happened before 1870? What's the proper format for this chart? Why isn't this upload working? How can I manipulate Microsoft Word and Apple Pages to do what I want?"

A publisher would assign someone to liberate me from those arduous problems. She would (theoretically) also guide me on how to develop marketing strategies to push my book to new heights. But believing I can publish a book whenever and however I want appeals to my inner control freak.

The latest pin jammed under my fingernail is trying to upload my *Finding Marshalls: A Genealogy Trip with a Black and White Twist* manuscript to Ingram Spark®. That's an independent publishing platform which offers indie authors and publishers the ability to create print books and eBooks. Most

bookstores require authors to publish their masterpieces with Ingram Spark®. The cover and inside of my PDF book files uploaded just fine last month to Kindle Direct Publishing. KDP is owned by he-who-must-not-be-named (Amazon, the local bookstore killer).

I spent hours setting up a “New Title” in my Ingram Spark® account to take advantage of their “publish five books for free before April 30” offer. Normally, they charge a whopping \$49 each! I provided the book title, ISBN bar code, keywords, book description, reviews, search categories, book size, paper color, image color or black and white, book price, and marketing distribution choices. That was a mouthful, right? Then it was time to upload my manuscript .PDF and the book cover .PDF file. Again, both uploaded just fine last month on KDP.

But not today. Darn! The computer spewed a full page of foreign language curse words that I didn’t understand. I imagined a robotic voice reciting, “PDF contains ICC color profiles. Please convert all colors to grayscale for black-and-white images, or CMYK for color images and remove all color profiles. Saving a new PDF with a default setting of PDF/X-1a:2001 will address the issue.”

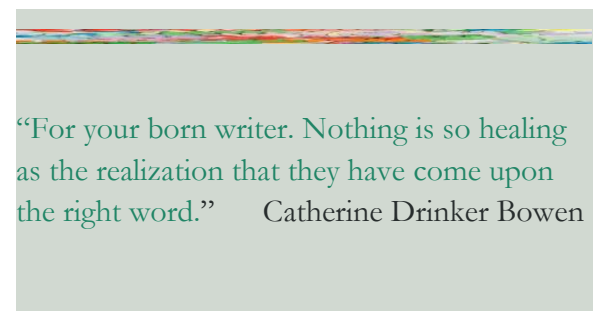
My insistence on including fifty or more images in each book increases the problems of composing the manuscript layout. Would it be worth the many additional hours to reformat those

images like the Ingram robot ordered? I’d have to reinsert them into the manuscript and try the upload again... for a paltry \$3.00 revenue per \$20 book. Would you have thrown in the towel twenty minutes ago? Ernest Hemingway said, “But man is not made for defeat... A man can be destroyed but not defeated.”

It’s been a goal of mine to publish my books on Amazon’s KDP and Apple Books. But I also want to sell them in bookstores and to customers via my website, at local book fairs, or after my speaking engagements. I also donate books to the libraries and historical societies where my African American family lived, to help proclaim the important role that we, too, played in making America.

The pain and the glory of self-publishing books is the struggle to compose an interesting story that leaves behind a physical legacy of our creativity and persistence.

I think I’ll follow the lead of my heroes, ML Hamilton, and other brilliant authors in our Elk Grove Writing Guild: stick with Amazon.



**2023 Redwood
Writers Prose
Anthology
One Universe to the
Left
Open to all CWC
Members**

Pointed ears. Pointed teeth. Eyes that glow with magic or electricity. Aliens, robots, magicians, eldritch beings disguised as trees; what else might you find in a world different from ours? You are invited to explore the possibilities in this year's prose anthology, which has themes of fantasy and science fiction.

Submissions will be open from May 1 to June 30. OPEN TO ALL CWC.

Excitement is in the air. Give us a glimpse of what's happening one universe to the left!

Information
at redwoodwriters.org/2023-one-universe-to-the-left-anthology

The Poetry Corner

BALANCE

A veil of mist divides the road
And strong winds bind it there.
On one side lies a sunny day
The other holds despair.

My way winds down the median.
A life on either side.
Tormented by the question:
Where shall my soul abide?

The sun has endless energy
It offers warmth and light.
But unrelenting radiance
Brings hopes of dark and night.

Within the rain I find my heart
Watered with my tears.
Together with the sun and rain
I've grown throughout the years

The synergy that binds them there
Gives all of this its stance.
A multicolored trill that plays
The music for Life's Dance.

Barbara Barrett



“We are all apprentices in a craft where no one ever becomes a master.”

Ernest Hemingway

Something to consider.

“You do not have to explain every single drop of water contained in a rain barrel. You have to explain one drop.”

George Singleton



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

POETRY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMING EVENTS

CONTESTS

SHORT STORIES

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES.

Send submission by the **15th of the month** for the next issue.

Take advantage of the free advertising!

Send **Submissions** to:

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

Use Garamond-14 for submissions.

Send in **word doc not PDF**. Thanks.

June 2023

- June 6- D- Day
- June 14- Flag Day
- June 18- Father’s Day
- June 19- Juneteenth
- June 21- Summer Solstice

More Writing Prompts

- a. If you could visit anywhere on earth for one month, where would you go?
- b. Your character is a retired military officer. One day they walk into a bank robbery in progress. what does he do? Save the day, or give up?
- c. Write about a person who has had a profound impact on your life, either positive or negative.
- d. Budget is no problem. What would your dream birthday look like?



More Sunny Days!



See you next month!

What’s Happening in Our Area?

June 2023

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
			GCW 10-12: Flash Fiction contest celebration Auburn		12:30 PM First Friday EGWG Mtg, Round Table 10054 Bruceville, EG SactoCWC 9-11Writers Network @ café grill, 6215	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			GCW 10-12: Business mtg. Auburn City Hall Rose Room, officers elected			SJWW 12-2 2nd Sat. on Zoom Terry Wells-Brown, "Using BookFunnel" us02web.zoom.us/j/83590890331
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	SSWC (SacSuburban): 6:15 PM Advanced Writing Techniques; 7-9 PM monthly mtg, 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks		GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique, Rose Room			BWW 10-12: 3rd Sat. SactoCWC 1-3 3rd Sat. Monthly Mtg. @ library, 891 Watt Cap. Crimes 3rd Sat 1-3
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Juneteenth		GCW 10-12: Speaker: Richard Meredith, "The Making of a Thriller Novel"			
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
			GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique	1:30 PM Last Thurs. EGWG Board Meeting		

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Date provided 'as is' without warranty

For other month’s 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 Make sure it’s not in PDF.

See the next page for the 2023 Conference Schedule and the flyer after that.

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



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

PRESENTS

OUR SPEAKERS:



JUDITH STARKSTON
SPEAKER
Show Emotion in the Details



KAKWASI SOMADHI
SPEAKER
Let the Scenes Move the Story



CHRIS HENNESY
SPEAKER
How to Build a Media Platform



KRISTEN TATE
SPEAKER
Get Your Book Edited



JOEY GARCIA
SPEAKER
How to Write a Blurb



KAREN PHILLIPS
SPEAKER
What About the Cover Design
of Your Book?



GREGORY RANDALL
KEYNOTE
On What's New in Writing



September 23, 2023
**ELK GROVE
WRITERS
CONFERENCE**

REGISTRATION OPENS:
May 1, 2023
at egweg.org/23conf



On September 23, 2023, join us at
the Elk Grove District 56 Campus
8230 Civic Center Drive
Elk Grove, CA 95757

Check in at 7:00AM
Admission is \$75 and includes
Continental Breakfast and Lunch