

Vol 3 Issue 07

July. 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.

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 is new 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 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 information.

Contact Information

Guild Name

Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc

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Newsletter & Submissions

Penny Clark - Editor

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What's Happening?

The Elk Grove Writers Guild's 2023 Writers Conference will be September 23. Registration is open and waiting for you. There is one more class in July on writing. See more on this and other Guild events by checking the President's Column each month. See the flyer pages for any flyers the newsletter has received.

“The ability of writers to imagine what is not self, to familiarize the strange and mystify the familiar, is a test of their power.”

Toni Morrison

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 July 7, 2023, and Aug. 4, 2023.

Meetings are from 12:30 to 2:30.

Contact loyholder77@gmail.com for answers to any 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>

“Keep asking questions because people will always want to know the answer.

Open with a question and don't answer it until the end.”

Lee Child

Capitol Crimes

Meets 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 June EGWG Meeting

Alex, Karen's 10 year old son, has finished his children's story. He has put us older writers to shame for the quickness of his work.

Loy brought up the idea of classes again. It was decided to do three on the process of publishing. The classes will be held on Zoom by Karen T. The first two have passed, but the last one is July 6. Contact Loy to join the class.

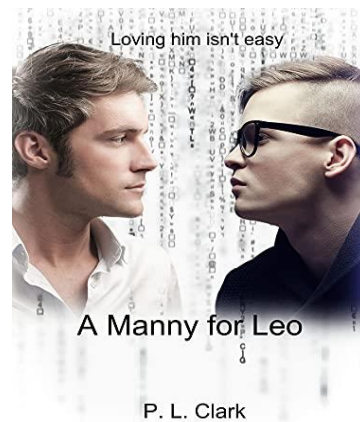
As we went around the tables, we took a side trip into genealogy. There were quite a few members hunting their ancestors or who wanted to find out more about their family's history.

Five more books were brought in for the library. One, "Cause of Death" looked interesting for mystery writers. The full 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. The class titles are:

- [Class 1 - Beginning](#)
- [Class 2 - Characters](#)
- [Class 3 - POV](#)
- [Class 4 - Final Conflict](#)
- [Class 5 - Plot](#)
- [Class 6 - Synopsis](#)
- [Class 7 - Description](#)
- [Class 8 - Revision](#)
- [Class 9 - Blurbs](#)
- [Class 10 - Memoirs](#)

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



[Amazon.com: A Manny for Leo: Loving him isn't easy eBook : Clark, P. L. : Kindle Store](#)

Leo Lemay needs a manny. Widowed at 25, he's failing his baby daughter and his job as The man he hires checks all the boxes on his list for the perfect partner. He's an employee so nothing can go wrong—right? Jesse Chapmen, 29 is a military veteran with one-and-a-half legs. He needs a job, and he has an interview in Lodi with an LGBTQ+ client. He's demi-sexual and won't be attracted to his employer—right?

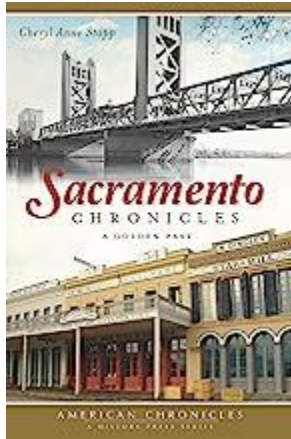
Helen Reid, Leo's mother-in-law is a rabid homophobe. Her action in getting control of her granddaughter is out of character—Why is she doing this??

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

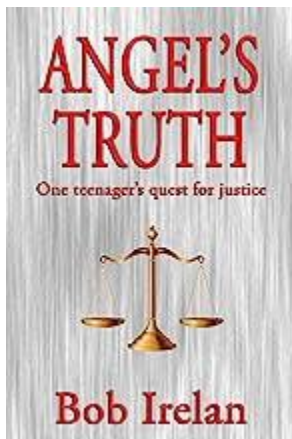
The masterful author created an intriguing story about what it means to be family. Before reaching that calm state, however, the reader is led through a thicket of homophobia and mental illness. Love and plenty of Grandma's cookies cut through the difficulties. Well-paced, the book keeps you guessing what's around the next corner with the manny and Leo, the children, and those whom they care about. Love this touching story! Oh, and it's Hot!

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



[Amazon.com: Sacramento Chronicles: A Golden Past \(American Chronicles\) eBook : Stapp, Cheryl Anne: Kindle Store](#)



[Amazon.com: Angel's Truth: One teenager's quest for justice eBook : Irelan, Bob: Books](#)

By Bob Irelan, available on Amazon.

T-Shirt Truths

1. Talk wordy to me.
2. Life is better when you write.
3. Write brained.
4. I'm not procrastinating, I'm researching.
5. I got the write stuff!
6. The Rules of Writing:
 1. Write crappy first draft.
 2. If words don't bleed, cut them.
 3. There are no mistakes, only creative opportunities.
 4. Don't think – just write.
 5. Rules? There are rules?

Sparkle, Flicker, Flash

Wednesdays beginning on July12
thru August 23, 2023 – 6-8pm
\$25/pay as you go

Come join Sheryl Bize-Boutte' and Gini Grossenbacher for a unique opportunity to develop your writing skills! In this class you will explore Flash Fiction and a variety of writing techniques, styles, and ways to revise your work before publishing.

To register contact Gini at ginis.writers1@gmail.com



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Hello dear writers.

Writers and Readers - The Elk Grove Writers Guild is Looking for a real-live literary agent to join our Conference team for a half-day session on 9/23/23. Fee provided. Send an agent's contact information to loyholder77@gmail.com.

The Elk Grove Writers Guild wishes to thank the Gold Country Writers, San Joaquin Valley Writers, and the Northern California Publishers and Authors for their sponsorship of the Elk Grove Writers Conference.

The last EGWG Zoom Publishing Class is on 7/6 at 1:00 PM. Karen Trinkaus will teach you how to put your work on the self-publishing website. It's free to Elk Grove Writers Guild Members. Just send an email to loyholder77@gmail.com saying you want to attend. Non-members pay \$20.00 and register on egweg.org.

Stay Tuned!
Loy Holder, EGWG President



From the Bookshelf

The Stone Portal

By Penny Clark

Depression stooped Sam's shoulders as he shuffled through the park gates. In the past week, he'd lost his job, his fiancé had left him, and an eviction notice rode in his jacket pocket alongside the cold weight of a handgun.

Death seemed the only way out of his miserable existence. He walked a seldom-used trail, waiting for just the right place to use the weapon and end his pain for good.

Sam usually loved the fall. The summer's heat was becoming a memory, and the weather was once again mild. Winter's chill had yet to show its face.

His path led him through a forest of beech trees covered in golden leaves shining in the sun. Each leaf was a shimmering coin worthy of a Pirate's treasure chest, but today Sam saw no beauty, no color.

He rounded a curve in the track and came upon a stone portal straddling the trail. Sam stopped to look it over in wonder. There were no walls or fences, just a stone-built archway leading nowhere. Sam approached the portal and laid his hands against the weathered stones. They were warm to the touch, even though the structure stood in the cool shade. He leaned forward and laid his forehead between his outstretched hands as he rested.

After a few seconds, a scene played out behind his closed eyes. People were dancing in a circle. Small creatures with pointed ears played the pipes, and others beat out lively rhythms on little drums. A woman danced to the music, laughing as her red skirts swirled about her ankles. A yearning came over, Sam. He wanted to be in that circle, dancing with her. But what he saw wasn't real. He had to be hallucinating.

Another woman spun like a mad dervish; her green shawl floated behind her as she whirled. A tall man caught her and carried her into the trees, laughing when she clung to him as if her entire life depended on him alone. A stab of jealousy pierced Sam as they disappeared.

The drummers stepped up the beat, and the pipers kept time. The dancers danced, coming together with laughter

and breaking apart in merriment. Happiness bubbled inside Sam, and he longed to dance with them, but the steps were intricate, and he would make a fool of himself if he tried. Besides, this wasn't real.

The woman in red looked his way and smiled as if she could see him. She beckoned, inviting him to come through the arch and join her in the dance.

He pushed away from the stones and opened his eyes. She was on the other side, motioning and smiling. Sam froze, too stunned to move. Could this be real?

With a squealing roar, a wild boar crashed into the midst of the dancers, snorting and whipping his body around in tight circles. He tossed his head and threatened everyone with his ivory tusks. The music stumbled to a halt, and everyone fled into the trees, screaming in fear, leaving the boar standing and trembling with tiny rage-filled eyes.

The woman in red approached the boar and spoke to the animal. Then, chanting and moving her hands in delicate motions, the boar stilled and watched as if mesmerized. Sam gasped as the boar melted into the air, as if he were only a bad memory.

After a moment, the dancers and the musicians filtered through the trees and re-entered the circle by ones and twos.

The group gazed around them as if searching for danger. Then, with a solemn tap-tap-rat-ta-tap-tap of the drum, they turned and entered the trees. The boar's visit had silenced the music. The dance was over.

Unsteady on his feet, Sam staggered back from the stones and stumbled to a nearby bench. He sat and tried to make sense of what he'd experienced. Had the past week driven him crazy? He stared through the portal to the space beyond. It was empty except for more trees and the path that snaked through them.

While he gazed at the portal a woman materialized and moved through the arch. Her hair was the red of a maple leaf, her jacket was golden velvet, and her deep red skirt moved with the rhythm of her steps. Ivy twined through her long hair as if crowning her beauty.

Her smile was gentle as she pulled the stem of the vine loose and placed it in his hands. Still smiling, she turned and moved toward the portal. Sam glanced at the slender ivy and then back at the woman, but she'd disappeared. After a moment, he stood, followed her through the arch, and continued down the park's path.

A few steps later, Sam tilted his head at the faint sound of pipes and drums riding on the wind. He stopped to listen,

but it was the rustling of the Beech leaves. He studied the ivy. The leaves had captured several strands of shining red hair. Sam gathered the hair and twisted the strands into a circle around his fingers and tucked the loop of hair into his shirt pocket as his spirits lifted.

He smiled and then laughed, spinning around on the trail, giddy and carefree. Still grinning, Sam walked away from the arch. What he had seen had opened his eyes to life, and he reveled in the golden beauty surrounding him.

Sam wrapped his hand around the gun in his pocket and kept moving. The trail led to the bridge over the river. That would be the perfect place for the pistol, in the deepest part of the river, right under the bridge.

His feelings of despair had disappeared. The ring of hair in his shirt pocket was a warm talisman, and the joy of life flowed through him.

Tomorrow would be his new beginning.

Once again, the sound of the pipes echoed in the distance. Sam closed his eyes, smiled, and listened. Someday, he would go back to the stone portal, and if the pipes played, he'd walk through the arch and dance with the red-haired woman.

Penny Clark

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

Ernest Hemingway



Congratulations!

On June 19th EGWG Member Kathy Marshall was featured with others on CBS13.

The segment addressed trying to find African American ancestors who were held in slavery.

It was interesting and informative. For those who missed it, Kathy sent a video with extra information at the end describing how to start the adventure of finding the roots of your family tree.

<https://kathylynnmarshall.com/african-american-lineage>

Paraprodokians

Say what? Paraprodokians in Greek mean “Against Expectation” and when you see the examples, you’ll say, “Oh, yeah, those.” A few examples are...

“She thinks I’m too critical, that’s another fault of hers.”

“Take my wife—Please!”

“I’ve had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn’t it.”

“I’m a very tolerant man, except when it comes to grudges.”

“Always remember my grandfather’s last words: A truck!”

“He’s a writer for the ages...for the ages of four and eight.”

And from Stephen King, “I have the heart of a young boy – in a glass jar on my desk.”

Poetry Corner

Universal Center

It’s the scariest thing I know
To finally realize,
The sole world I’m the center of
Lies right behind my eyes.

The Prison

If I could release this body
And finally break free
I’d travel throughout Time and Space
Wandering aimlessly.

I would sit upon the moon’s high ridge
And peek at its other side,
Play dodgeball in the Asteroid Belt
And catch a comet ride.

I’d wash my hair with stardust,
Visit the Nebula Cone
Then go where it all began.

I’d look for other worlds like this
And beside a sleepy stream,
I’d eat the fruit from nearby trees;
For an afternoon, I’d dream.

Barbara Barrett

Something to consider.

“If I waited for perfection, I would never write a word.”

Margaret Atwood



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.

July 2023

- July 2- World UFO Day
- July 4- Independence Day
- July 13- world French Fry Day
- July 27- Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

More Writing Prompts

- a. Your character is a serial killer, confessing his crimes.
- b. Your character discovers that werewolves are real. How do they feel about that?
- c. Describe your favorite vacation spot. What specifically makes it your favorite?
- d. What did a favorite pet – past or present – teach you about yourself?



Hot summer days ahead!



See you next month!

What’s Happening in Our Area?

July 2023							Calendarpedia Your source for calendars
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
25	26	27	28	29	30	1	
Cap Crimes 3rd Sat 1-3							
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
		Independence Day	GCW 10-12: Business mtg. Auburn, City Hall Rose Room		12:30 PM First Friday EGWG Meeting		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	SSWC (SacSuburban): 6:15 PM Advanced Writing Techniques; 7-9 PM monthly mtg, 5501 Dewey Dr. Fair Oaks		GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique			BWW 10-12: 3rd Sat. mtg. SJWW 12-2 2nd Sat. at UOP presenter BWW 10-12: 3rd Sat. Cap Crimes 3rd Sat 1-	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
			GCW 10-12: Speaker mtg.				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
			GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique	1:30 PM Last Thurs. EGWG Board Meeting			
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	

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Data 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