Vol 4 Issue 02 Feb. 1, 2024

Inside This Issue

Bulletin Board

Poetry Corner

Coming Events

Five Star review

President's Column

Writer's Corner

From the Bookshelf

Learning Opportunities

Backpage

Area Calendar

Flyer page

And More



WELCOME!



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

This newsletter is one step toward that goal. We include information about upcoming events, classes, and Guild news. We offer bits of writing wisdom, poetry, memories, writing tips, and anything new in the writing world.

Contribute, and see your work in print in the next issue. Past issues of the newsletter are available on the Guild's website.

We encourage you to send in news of your group's events, book launch announcements, writing tips, recent successes or publications, and information from other writing groups. Enjoy!

See the back page for submission information.

EGWG Contact Information

Guild Name

Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc

Street Address

7413 Netherbury Ct.

Elk Grove, CA 95757

Phone

916-747-6898

Email

egwg2020@egweg.org

Website

www.egweg.org

Newsletter & Submissions

Penny Clark - Editor turlockpenny@yahoo.com

What's Happening?

The Elk Grove Writers Guild is preparing for the first event on April 13, 2024, at District 56, presenting Gini Grossenbacher. Read the President's column each month to learn what new events are in store for us. See the flyer pages at the back of the newsletter for new event flyers received by the editor.

"Words can be like X-rays if you use them properly—they'll go through anything. You read and you're pierced."

Aldous Huxley

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 as 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 an excellent way to receive input and other writer's valuable insight on the work presented.

If you're interested in joining the Guild, go to www.egweg.org, click Join, fill out the membership application, and send in your dues.

If you'd prefer to visit first, come to the next meeting, it's at Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Road, in Elk Grove. Meetings are from 12:30 to 2:30.

The next meetings are Feb. 2, 2024, and Mar. 1, 2024.

Contact <u>loyholder77@gmail.com</u> for answers to any meeting or guild questions.

GROUPS & EVENTS

CWC's Regular monthly meeting is on the first Friday of the month. A speaker meeting is held later in the month. For information on current meetings or events, go to <u>California Writers Club</u>, Sacramento branch.

NCPA monthly meetings are on the second Sunday from 4 pm to 6:30 pm. The meetings usually feature a speaker on various writing subjects. Their new location is Flaming Grill Café, 2380 Watt Ave., inside Country Club Plaza. The link for current information is https://www.norcalpa.org

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

Monthly Speaker Meetings, 2nd Saturday of each month \sim 12 noon - 2:30 p.m.

Check the link below for venue information.

https://www.sjvalleywriters.org

"Just write every day of your life. Read intensely. Then, see what happens. Most of my friends who are part of that diet have very pleasant careers." Ray Bradbury

Capitol Crimes

Meetings are on the third Saturday of the month from 1 - 3 p.m. 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 organizing events for the year 2024 and beyond. We are looking for innovative and engaging content from speakers and instructors across various writing disciplines. If you have a passion for sharing your expertise and would like to be a featured speaker at any upcoming Guild event, please contact Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com

January's EGWG Meeting

It was one of the smaller meetings, but that gave us more time to discuss an entire array of discussions.

Loy started us off with a plea for volunteers, specifically event managers, membership manager, and data management. Loy will be sending an email asking everyone to think about helping the Guild grow.

(Note from Editor: If you want the Guild to continue producing events, then think about how you can help. Otherwise, there might not be a Guild in the future.)

Several members are closing in on getting their books published, and others are working on theirs.

Questions on formatting, beta readers, and discussions on works in progress made for a lively and informative meeting.

George Hahn's revised first book, <u>Tau</u> <u>Ceti: A Ship from Earth</u>, will be out on Amazon on January 9th, so watch for it. Books about writing are available on the Guild's website, egweg.org/library. To arrange pickup or delivery, check with <u>georgehahnir@comcast.net</u>

The Guild's classes on writing are available at egweg.org/classes. They're free. They cover the major aspects of writing and may be printed for later study.

Rare or Seldom Used Words

Numinous. Awe-inspiring, mysterious, indescribable.

Syntomy. Brevity, conciseness.

Spall. A chip or fragment. Shoulder blade.

Kakistocracy. Government by the worst citizens.

Nictitate. To wink.

Entropy. A measure of randomness, degree of disorder, or an unstoppable advance to chaos

T-Shirt Truths

- 1. Don't bug me. I'm writing.
- 2. Sorry, I only sprint on paper.
- 3. I write books with happily ever after.
- 4. List of my hobbies: buy books, read books, research books, write books, review books.
- 5. Some of my favorite people are fictitious

"Genius gives birth, talent delivers. What Rembrandt and Van Gogh saw in the night can never be seen again. Born writers of the future are amazed already at what they're seeing now, what we'll all see for the first time and then imitate many times by made writers."

Jack Kerouac



EGWG President's Column

Hello, dear Members,

The Elk Grove Writers Guild is looking forward to another year of helping writers write and publish, but we need volunteers. See the opportunities offered below:

<u>Membership Director</u> - Maintains the membership file, processes new and renewing membership applicants and funds, and conducts the June membership drive.

<u>Project Manager</u> - Designs, plans, develops, implements, and runs Community Writing Events in Sacramento County and beyond.

<u>Graphic Artist</u> - Designs fliers, posters, Conference Programs, and other artistic activities needed to promote the Elk Grove Writers Guild.

<u>Web Master Assistant</u> - Learn to assist the Web Master with various Website Projects.

Grants Writer and Research Assistant -Learn to find, research, and write grants to fund Elk Grove Writers Guild Projects, including Writers Conferences, Seminars, and a Scholastic Award Program.

If you are interested, email <u>loyholder77@gmail.com</u>. **WE**

WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

Loy Holder. EGWG President



From the Bookshelf

Reflections of Rain

By Penny Clark

"There were gray skies one morning. The weather people said there was a possibility of rain showers, but I didn't believe them. I was sure the only shower I'd be seeing that day was the one in my bathroom."

The above was part of a novel I was writing at the time, and it made me think about rain and the different storms I've experienced during my life.

When I lived in Turlock, California, I remember such a forecast. I scoffed at my coworkers. "This is the Central Valley of California. It's July, and it will stay dry." They agreed with me.

The only reason things grew around Turlock was irrigation. Where the land was not irrigated, tumbleweeds tumbled, and dust devils danced. It's rare it ever rains after May, and the calendar at the time said it was the beginning of July. The sky was overcast, but the clouds would burn off.

The gray didn't burn off. Just before noon, the rain came. Circular wet spots appeared on the road, and little puffs of dust rose in the air as each raindrop fell to the dirt. I huffed out a surprised sound as I watched the dirt change

color. Water collected in the low spots and turned the dirt into mud. The weather report was correct—how strange, but how wonderful.

Don't get me wrong, I love the rain. I like the smell of petrichor—that smell when the ground becomes wet after a long, hot, dry spell. Whether it's a paved road or dirt, there's that special smell. I like walking in the rain, too; the feel of pure, clean water on my face makes me smile.

I grew up in Western Washington, a place famous for great quantities of rain. I have good memories from there and from wherever I've lived. I remember when I was a child, wearing galoshes to school, splashing through the mud puddles, and laughing like a loon. Ahh, those were good times.

In Nebraska, the rain came down by the bucket full. One step outside, and I was soaked. We, my husband and I, being "Army trash," lived in a trailer on the edge of a tiny village. To the south, there was nothing but corn fields as far as the eye could see. The storms generally swept up from the Gulf of Mexico. I'd sit in my doorway and watch the gray curtains of rain come.

One time, a warm storm came through, and I decided to wash the car. We had a big, black Pontiac, and it was always dusty. The other people in the park watched me as I soaped the car up and then helped the rain rinse the car off. They thought I was crazy. "You're getting all wet," they said. I just laughed. When the rain moved on, the car was clean and streak-free, a shining black beauty.

In Libya, the storms would bluster in from the Mediterranean. They were fierce and demanded attention and yet were wonderful in their fury. The cooler air from the Med would hit the heated Sahara Desert air, creating howling winds that rattled the windows. Sometimes, it would hail instead of rain. The thought of why that happened amazed me. The storms were short-lived, and the moisture that fell was quickly sucked into the ground. It was common to see a mud puddle and blowing dust at the same time right after a storm. How marvelous that was.

The Island of Malta had great storms. The waves would crash against the seawalls, their water rising up and dashing across the promenades, traveling right up to the doors of the seaside businesses, but no further before retreating. It was fascinating to watch those booming waves, full of thrumming power that I could feel in my body. Those storms were awe-inspiring and powerful, Mother Nature at her greatest.

Sumatra, Indonesia, has two seasons: The wet season and the dry season. The only difference was that during the wet season, it rained every day. During the dry season, it only rained every other day. The temperature stayed within five degrees all year round, in the high eighties and low nineties. The humidity was around 80 percent in the dry season and 90 percent and above during the wet.

Once, I went on a native bus trip with a friend. It was a two-day trip to our destination. On our layover night, we went out to poke around the town. Before we managed to get back to our room, it began raining torrentially. We were soaked within seconds. It was nothing new for us "Old-timers." The rain was warm, and we knew as soon as it stopped, we would begin to dry out. That was a special moment, walking through the rain, laughing, and not paying any attention to how wet we became.

The only time I felt the need to be careful in the rain in Indonesia was when thunder came with the storm. Lightning is not my

friend. Even though I love the crash of thunder and the brightness of bolts of lightning, I prefer to view those storms from inside.

Did I mention I like the rain? I really do. Now, I'm back in California, where there isn't so much rain. Sometimes I feel deprived.

Hearing the rain on the roof, being in the rain, feeling the rain, and even driving in the rain all warms my soul.

Rain, rain, don't go away. Come and stay another day.

That's my version of that old rhyme. One more suited to how I feel about rain. Did I mention I like the rain? I did. Well, I really do love it.

Penny Clark

Poetry Corner

BEYOND THE MIST

Barbara A. Barrett

Lurking spectres whisper words That maim like deadly spears. An endless war; with phantom foes In Mists That Feed All Fears. The spectres know which dreams to pluck From gardens deep within With icy cold they kill each one Whenever buds begin. These mouths from hell are parasites. That feed on fear they've wrought. They're ghosts with no reality; No more than just a thought. Rail against these hungry ghosts and Their poison disappears. Tear down fear's misty veil and The Light of Truth appears.

Great Valley Workshops

for Spring 2024

Join us for seven Zoom sessions for preparing short prose pieces for anthologies, contests, blogs, or other venues. Your genre focus can be a memoir, fiction, or personal essay.

Four live Zoom workshop sessions are scheduled every other week. Zoom Writing Sprint sessions are scheduled between the workshop weeks to support the writing.

Mondays, 4:00-6:00 p.m. PST

- Workshops: February 12 and 26; March 11 and 25
- Sprints: February 19; March 4 and 18

\$50.00. Use the Donate button at https://www.junegillam.com/writing-workshops

Or mail a check to

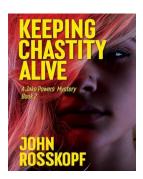
June Gillam Workshops, 3262 Lagunita Circle, Fairfield CA 94533

I'd love to hear from you! June Gillam, gorillagirlink@gmail.com.

"Writing is not necessarily something to be ashamed of, but do it in private and wash your hands afterwards."

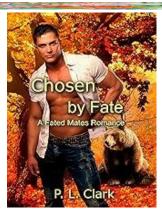
Robert A. Heinlein

NEW BOOKS PUBLISHED



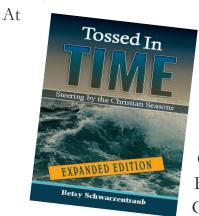
John Rosskopf has published book two of five series featuring Jake Powers, PI. <u>Keeping Chastity Alive</u> is available on Amazon.

Working girl Chastity hires Jake to find her missing roommate. The search leads to solving a murder and keeping Chastity alive.



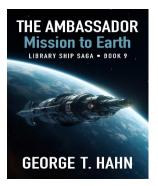
P.L. Clark's fifth book of five in a paranormal fantasy series featuring wolf shifters, this book is about a bear shifter who finds his fated mate and has a lot of trouble keeping her. It can be found on Amazon.

Betsy Schwarzentraub's book, "Tossed in Time, the expanded edition," will be launched on Feb. 4th, Sunday, 2024, from 12:15 – 2:15 pm.



the Elk
Grove
United
Methodist
Church
8986 Elk
Grove
Blvd, Elk
Grove, CA

See her flyer in the flyer section



George's eighth novel, "The Ambassador: Mission to Earth," is available on Amazon. If you've read "The Ambassador: Path to Contact," you'll want to get this and find out what happens next. **His second book**, Tau Ceti: The New Colonists, will be relaunched on Feb. 6th.

"It's none of their business. that you have to learn to write. Let them think you were born that way."

Point of View Workshop

Mark your calendars to come on out to the Avid Reader Bookstore in Davis (617 2nd Street) on Wednesday, February 28, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., to hone your skills and increase your knowledge related to point of view (POV) that essential topic for fiction writers.

Local writers **Judith Starkston** (author of Hand of Fire, Priestess of Ishana, Sorcery in Alpara, Of Kings & Griffins) and **Tim Schooley** (author of The Wool Translator) will share their tactics for bringing readers deeply into the POV of their characters, an essential skill for increasing your readers' emotional response to your words by feeling what your characters feel.

The course is designed for both novice and experienced writers, and will cover: POVs used by contemporary authors, statistics about the use of various POVs today, when and how to avoid headhopping, how to choose the "correct" POV for you, writing multiple POVs in one novel or story, and the all-important topic: writing in "deep" or "close" POV. The course will include exercises to help you stretch your POV wings.

Although there is no charge for the class, Avid Reader asks that attendees buy one of either author's books at the store on the evening of the program. Come out to enjoy an evening with fellow writers while studying some of the more challenging skills in fiction writing.

For detailed information, please contact: judithstarkston@judithstarkston.com tim@timschooley.com
SEE FLYER

RESEARCH FOR WRITERS

Kathy Lynne Marshall presents: Writing family legacies or just wanting 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 eight 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 trip will enhance your setting and characters, and how to turn dry facts into engaging tales. Bring a pencil and paper for a couple of writing exercises.

Feb. 2, 2024 – 9 to 11 am Where: CH Cafe & Grill - 6215 Sunrise Boulevard Citrus Heights, or Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85434142426 ?pwd=WFhMVWFVby91Und3dnJqOFpp Y0ZJZz09#success Passcode 811481

SEE FLYER

EGWG Newsletter -Back Page

Something to consider.

"I do not over-intellectualize the production process. I try to keep it simple: Tell the damned story."

Tom Clancy



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

POETRY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
COMING EVENTS
SHORT STORIES
FLYERS (Not in PDF)

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES.

Send submission by the **15**th of the month for the next issue. Contact the editor for anything later.

Take advantage of the free advertising!

Send **Submissions** to:

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

<u>Use Garamond-14</u> for submissions. Send in **Word.Doc** <u>**NOT PDF**</u>. Thanks

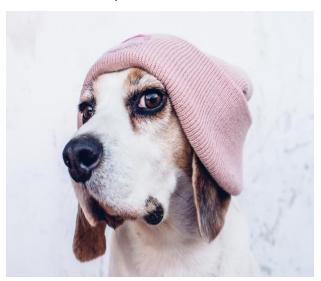
February 2024

- Feb. 2- Groundhog Day
- Feb. 13- Madri Gras Carnival
- Feb. 14- Valentine's Day
- Feb. 19- President's Day

More Writing Prompts

- a. Write your views on climate Change. Is the world doing enough, or do you not believe?
- b. Using sensory language, write about your favorite place.
- c. What is your favorite thing to eat? What memories does it evoke?
- d. About your favorite pet and what a difference they made in your life.

Stay Warm and Dry



See you next month!

Continue for Calendar and Flyers

EGWG -Calendar and Flyers

What's Happening in Our Area?

February 2024	Calendar pedia Your source for calendars
,	Tour source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
					12:30 PM First Friday EGWG Member Meeting SactoCWC 9-11 Kathy Marshall, Research for Writers @ Cafe Grill. 6215 Sunrise	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Cap Crimes 7 pm meet author Baron Birtcher (Zoom)	GCW 10-12: Business Mtg. Auburn City Hall Rose Rm.			SJVW 12-2 on Zoom Jennifer O'Neill Pickering, Writing Contests shepaintsandwrites.c m
11 12	12	13	14	15	16	17
	SSWC (SacSuburban): 7-9 PM monthly mtg on Zoom SJVW 4 6 pm Start of Great Valley Writing Workshop, Contact gorillagirlink@gmail.co		GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique			BWW 10-12: mtg. Cap Crimes 1 pm Zoon Character & Plot SactoCWC 1-3 3rd Sa Monthly Mtg. @ library 891 Watt Ave
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
NCPA 1-3: Monthly mtg @ library, 891 Watt Ave.	Presidents' Day		GCW 10-12: Speaker Lisa Schliff, "Write a Newsletter to Promote Your Books"			
25 26	26	27	28	29	1	2
			GCW 10-12: Drop-In Critique	1:30 PM Last Thurs. EGWG Board Meeting		

If you or your group have flyers for your events that you'd like to see on the flyer page, send them <u>directly</u> to Penny Clark at <u>turlockpenny@yahoo.com</u>

<u>Make sure it's NOT in PDF. I cannot work with PDF.</u>

Below:

- 1. Tossed in Time Expanded Edition Launch dates.
- 2. Research for Writers.
- 3. Handout for Kathy Marshall, Keynote Speaker.
- 4. EGWG Spring Seminar.
- 5. Point of View Master Class.



Books available for purchase on Amazon and wherever books are sold online

Author Presentation: Feb. 4, '24

"The Worship Seasons and Daily Hours"

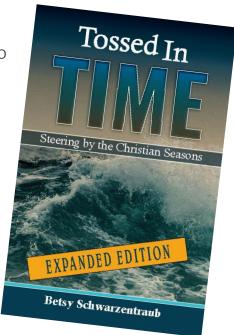
1215 to 2:15 p.m. in the Community Room,

Elk Grove United Methodist Church,

8986 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA

The Tossed in Time Expanded Edition introduces people to

the ancient worship seasons to help them find their personal bearings in the midst of the social disruptions of recent years. It gives a new rhythm to begin again, with down-to-earth themes, reflective questions, and interactive workshop ideas to experience each season for family, home school, church, or Christian school. Line drawings remind us that Jesus is as accessible to us now as back in biblical days.



For More Information:

See https://generousstewards.com/personal-bio

Contact Betsy at: betsy@generousstewards.com

RESEARCH FOR WRITERS FOR THE CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB

For California Writers Club Feb 2, 2024

9 to 11 AM

RESEARCH FOR _____ WRITERS

Kathy Lynne Marshall

KathyLynneMarshall.com



TALK DESCRIPTION:

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 eight 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 trip will enhance your setting and characters, and how to turn dry facts into engaging tales. Bring a pencil and paper for a couple of writing exercises.

Where: CH Cafe & Grill - 6215 Sunrise Boulevard Citrus Heights, or

Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85434142426?pwd=WFhMVWFVby91Und3dnJqOFpp Y0ZJZz09#success Passcode 811481

Keynote Speaker for the 2024 Maryland Black History Month Program Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society February 24, 2024, 7 AM PST - Handout



- Diversify the American historical record by publishing our stories NOW.
- Interview elders about their artistic talents: painting, writing, dancing, woodworking, metalworking, cooking, quilting, music, ceramics, etc.
- Check obituaries, local newspapers, census, galleries/museums and books for ancestral talent information.
- DNA test your family and contact your genetic matches to share documents/photos/stories.
- Check Historic American Buildings Survey: https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/
- Report your findings in a blog, paperback, documentary, YouTube video, or make a photo book from shutterfly.com, walgreens.com, or costco.com (check discounts)
- Watch Kathy's metalworking TV interview: <u>americanspark.tv/kanika-marshall/</u>
- Understand that all of Kathy Marshall's books have a "Solving Your Mystery" appendix with easy-to-follow ideas on how you can start and organize your manuscript, make a book cover, and print or self-publish your own family heritage book.



Please write your stories and show the world who we are!

ELK GROVE WRITERS GUILD PRESENTS

SPRING SEMINAR



APRIL 13, 2024

Elk Grove Community Center, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Suite 140, Elk Grove, CA 95757.

Registration Begins 1/20/24.

Registration Fee is \$35.00.

Program:

12:00 - 1:00 PM - Check-In and Pizza Lunch

1:15 – 3:30 PM - Gini Grossenbacher, M. Ed, Speaker Presents:

Exploring Deep Point of View: Fiction and Memoirs

Join Us!

Our class on Deep Point of View (DPOV) in fiction and memoirs delves deeply into the perspectives of your characters.

The course begins by laying the groundwork of Point of View (POV), differentiating between First Person (1st POV) and Third Person (3rd POV). We examine the specifics of each, covering aspects like pronoun usage and narrative perspective, and offer insights into crafting engaging stories using one of the other POVs.

The focus then shifts to DPOV, a narrative technique that immerses readers by merging the narrator's and protagonist's viewpoints. This section discusses DPOV's benefits in enriching reader engagement and its implementation in notable literature.

We study the common challenges in maintaining a consistent POV, highlighting frequent mistakes and ways to rectify them. Please bring your work-in-progress to practice refining DPOV.

By the end of the class, you will have a thorough understanding of DPOV, gaining the ability to create stories that vividly portray characters' inner worlds. This knowledge is crucial for

those aiming to write engaging novels or memoirs, making DPOV an invaluable element in your writer's toolkit.

© 2024 Gini Grossenbacher, Author-Editor-Educator, https://ginigrossenbacher.com/

Please email <u>loyholder77@gmail.com</u> with any questions or comments. Hope to see you there.

WRITING WORKSHOP

POINT OF VIEW MASTER CLASS

FEBRUARY 28TH

WEDNESDAY

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Avid Reader

Book Store, Davis

Join local authors

Judith Starkston & Tim Schooley

for an evening of fun, honing your writing skills,
learning

- points of view in contemporary fiction
 - choosing the "correct" point of view
 - deep or close point of view

For detailed information, please contact: judithstarkston@judithstarkston.com tim@timschooley.com