

Vol 4 Issue 04

Apr. 2024

This Issue May Contain

Bulletin Board

Poetry Corner

Coming Events

Five Star review

President's Column

Writer's Corner

From the Bookshelf

Learning Opportunities

Backpage

Area Calendar

Flyer pages

And More



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

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 reports of events you've attended.

Enjoy!

See the back page for submission information.

EGWG Contact Information

Guild Name

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What's Happening?

The Elk Grove Writers Guild members are excited about the first 2024 event, which will be held on April 13 at District 56. Gini Grossenbacher will present a class on Deep Point of View. See the flyer at the back of the newsletter for this event and a flyer announcing another event in our area.

“Plot is people. Human emotions and desires, founded on the realities of life, working at cross purposes, getting hotter and fiercer as they strike against each other until finally there’s an explosion—that’s plot.”

Leigh Brackett

Elk Grove Writing Guild Meetings are on the first Friday of each month from 12:30 – to 2:30.

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 writers’ valuable insight into 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 at Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Road, in Elk Grove. Meetings are from 12:30 to 2:30.

The following meetings are on April 5 and May 3, 2024.

Contact loyholder77@gmail.com for answers to any meeting or guild questions.

GROUPS & EVENTS

CWC's Meetings are on the first Friday, 9-11 am, at CH Café, 6215 Sunrise Blvd, and on the third Saturday, 1-3 pm, at the Arcade Library. For information on current meetings or events, go to [California Writers Club, Sacramento branch](https://www.californiawritersclub.com/sacramento-branch).

NCPA monthly meetings are on the second Sunday from 4 pm to 6:30 pm. The meeting usually features 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:

<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

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://goldcountryrtwriters.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 seek 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 get in touch with Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com

The March EGWG Meeting

Despite the threatening weather, we had a great group and lively discussions.

Loy began the meeting by introducing the new event team, which has met and is deciding on the Guild's next project.

We will hear from the membership volunteers as we get closer to June.

Thank you to all who volunteer their time and effort – you are a blessing.

The announced speaker, Chris Hennessy, had a health problem and canceled his talk. We wish him well.

Two hints for March. 1. Use the app on your phone for ideas or notes when away from the computer 2. Remember to check the spam folder for emails sent there by mistake. *(I checked mine after the meeting and was surprised to see what the computer thought was spam.)*

Another visitor told us about writing her grandmother's stories and memories about life as a Choctaw woman.

When the WIP time came, everyone spoke of how/when they wrote. They were all different and provided lots of laughter and comments.

George Hahn oversees the Guild's library. A list of books about writing is available on the Guild's website, egweg.org/library. If you see something

you'd like to read, contact George at georgehahnjr@comcast.net

The Guild's writing classes are available on the website at egweg.org/classes. They're free and cover the major aspects of writing, from the great idea to finishing the first draft and beyond. They are printable for later study.

Rare or Seldom Used Words

Megrims. The state of depression or down in the dumps.

Captious. Fault-finding or trying to catch someone in a lie.

Petrous. Stony.

Fatuous. Smugly foolish.

Riposte. A sudden and quick reply. Also, a quick thrust in fencing.

Lupine. Wolf-like.

T-Shirt Truths

1. That's what I do. I read and forget things.
2. In my spare time, I read, buy, research, talk about, write, and review books.
3. I read so I don't choke people. Save a life, send books.
4. The secret of a well-balanced life is a cup of tea (coffee) in one hand and a book in the other.
5. Theiyr're.



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Hello, dear friends,

Join us on April 13 for lunch and networking and let Gini Grossenbacher show you an exciting narrative technique that immerses readers by merging the narrator's and protagonist's viewpoints. Sign up soon; you don't want to miss this fantastic event.

For complete information, see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

If you have questions, email loyholder77@gmail.com.

Loy Holder, EGWG President

Fiction Writing Tips

1. **Write every day.** Make it a habit.
2. **Set goals.** Such as words written per day. Make the goals doable.
3. **Understand story structure,** especially for the type of story you're writing.
4. **Learn character development techniques.** Motivation, goals, flaws, backstory, and best POV for characters.



From the Bookshelf

Come into my Office

Penny Clark

“John, please step into my office.”

Mr. Hart's words tore through my thoughts of tonight's plans, sending them off in all directions like a handful of confetti in a windstorm. Really, what did he want now? The man has only been CEO here for two weeks and is making my life miserable. ‘John, do this...John, do that.’ You'd think I'm his servant or something.

I thought taking the job as his assistant would be a step up in this company. I thought I would have a great office with soft carpets and a secretary of my own. Hah! All I do is answer the phones and make appointments for him. No one told me that would be so hard to do.

First, I need to figure out how much time every person needs to be with him. Sometimes, people waiting for their appointments get angry with me because they have to wait their turn. They should be angry at the boss. He's the one taking extra time, not me.

Second, I make endless copies for him of stuff that he probably throws away. All that paper has already killed a whole forest.

EGWG Newsletter – page 6

Third, he wants his carafe filled with fresh hot coffee on the hour. It's only been warm a few times. You'd think it's a capital offense or something.

He has me pulling a boatload of files for him every six minutes, files that he needs. "Today, John, I need them today." I make sure he knows his schedule, where he needs to go, and what he needs to do next. Sure, there have been some mix-ups, but he usually gets to where he's going somewhat close to the right time. That's good. Right?

I call his car for him or tell the driver to go somewhere and pick up someone, and woe is me if the driver goes to the wrong place because of a simple mistake in giving directions. I buy him tickets, airline tickets, sporting event tickets, and tickets for all sorts of other things for him and his family, the company's clients, and out-of-town guests. The Good Lord knows he has had a whole lot of guests. Tickets are hard, but I am beginning to get the hang of it. I haven't sent the driver or anyone else to the wrong place in three days. I admit that I'm rather proud of that.

No, this job isn't what I thought it would be, not by a long shot. I have half a mind to go in there and tell him I want to transfer to another department. This assistant business just isn't working for me. There's too much stress in this job. Even the mailroom would be a better place to be. Wait...No, that wouldn't be better at all. Almost anywhere else would be, though.

I drag myself away from my desk and wander into his office, putting on a big smile. "Yes, sir," I say to him.

"John, I'm afraid working for me just isn't working. You don't seem to understand the importance of an assistant's job, which

requires certain abilities that you don't have. I'm afraid I must let you go."

He looks at me as if he's sad. Now would be the perfect time to request a transfer to another department.

"I'm sorry you feel that way, Mr. Hart. Perhaps it would be better for me to be transferred to another department. I want to go back to advertising or sales. What do you think?" I smile at him encouragingly, letting him know I understand his concerns, whatever they are.

"Ah, I don't think you grasp the problem. A transfer isn't available to you. You're being let go. You're out of the company, John. You are now unemployed. Clear your desk, go to personnel, get your final paycheck, and leave the building." Hart looks down at the papers on his desk and is quiet. I guess I'm supposed to go.

"But I've been doing my job. Isn't your coffee almost always hot, and aren't your appointments being kept better? I know I made a few mistakes, but you don't need to kick me out the door for that, do you? Just transfer me somewhere else, okay?" Surely, he isn't going to fire me for a few mistakes. Everyone makes mistakes.

"That would be acceptable if it were only a few things, but you make the same mistakes every day. My coffee is seldom hot, and my appointments aren't being kept straight. You sent the sales team to Delaware when they were going to Denver. You sent the limo to the wrong airport to pick up one of our most important clients. Moreover, John, you have already worked in almost every department. I have to tell you, none of them want you back." He shook his head in what was supposed to be sorrow, but I can tell he doesn't mean it.

EGWG Newsletter – page 7

“I want you to clear your desk, go to personnel for your final check, and leave the building. Now, John or I will call security to escort you out of the building. Am I making myself clear?” He looks down at his paperwork, and after a moment, I turn to leave.

This just isn't fair. I am doing better. Besides, the assistant's job is difficult. There are too many things to remember, and he wants everything done perfectly and fast. I know I've made a few little mistakes in the other departments, but I don't understand why they don't want me back.

Getting fired is such a bummer.

I leave the building after picking up my last check. Seriously, this whole thing is a downer. I wonder if I can get unemployment. Can you apply for it if you've been fired? I'll have to look into it. Now I'll have to look for another job, and I had a hard time finding this one.

The people at the interviews seemed to like me, but then they called and said there was no job for John. The outside door closes behind me with a thud. That's such a final sound.

So...What should I do now? Let's see. What was I thinking about when the boss so rudely interrupted me?

Yes, parties. There are two of them tonight. I grin as I head for my car. Two parties. Wow, my life is looking up.

P. L. Clark

“When your story is ready for rewrite, cut it to the bone. Get rid of every ounce of excess fat. This is going to hurt: Revising a story to the bare essentials is always like murdering children, but it must be done.”

Stephen King

Poetry Corner

MOTHER NATURE'S EARTHLYBRAWL

Barbara Barrett

The wind and rain blow strong today
And throw their lightning bolts.
The trees bow low, and leaves all play
Like frisky little colts.
It's Mother Nature's earthly brawl with
Power as her mate.
The magic that runs through it all
No one can duplicate.
The clouds are grey and darker now,
The winds all threaten doom.
And rumblings in the sky above
Echo in my room.

More Paraprodsokians

1. My husband can't stand to see trash and garbage lying around the house. He can't stand the competition. *Phyllis Diller*
2. There are three kinds of people in the world – those who can count and those who can't. *Unknown*
3. I can picture in my mind a world without war, a world without hate. And I can picture us attacking that world because they'd never expect it. *Jack Handey*
4. Three may keep a secret if two of them are dead. *Benjamin Franklin*

“Writing is not necessarily something to be ashamed of but do it in private and wash your hands afterwards.” *Robert A. Heinlein*

PSWA Conference 2024

Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV
(rooms discounted)

July 11 through July 14, 2024

Cost: \$275 (hotel not included)

For information and registration, go to the website below.

[Policewriter.com/2024-pswa-conference](https://policewriter.com/2024-pswa-conference)

The Public Safety Writers Association is a lively, intimate association that exists to support people involved in writing about public safety:

1. People with public safety careers who write stories, poetry, or non-fiction about their incredible experiences.

2. Mystery, thriller, and other writers who write about public safety characters and situations.

3. Publishers, editors, and other professionals.

There will be four speakers with 12 panels.

Authors can sell their books, meet publishers, and enter a writing contest.

For \$45 extra, there is a pre-conference workshop.

For complete information and the registration forms, go to the website:

[Policewriter.com/2024-pswa-conference](https://policewriter.com/2024-pswa-conference)

New Writers Mistakes

(And not-so-new writers)

1. Too many characters, subplots, themes, and unnecessary elements. Too complex.
2. Boring first chapter. Include an unusual action for the character. The first chapter is the hook, so be sure to hook them.
3. There is too much backstory and too many flashbacks. Use only the most important ones to the scene or plot.
4. No clear character goal(s). Without a goal, there is no story.
5. POV errors. POV is complicated. Take a class (April 13, 2024) or go to the EGWG website, research/page/classes, and click on the POV class.
6. Redundancy. Don't repeat scenes, dialogue, or sentences in different words with the same meaning.
7. Don't worry too much about themes. Focus on the story, and the theme will be there.
8. Remember, you aren't the exception to the rule. Please don't break the rules until you know what they are, especially concerning structure. Some things are expected.

EGWG Newsletter –Back Page

Something to consider.

“Anyone who is going to be a writer knows enough at 15 to write several novels.”

May Sarton



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

POETRY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMING EVENTS

SHORT STORIES

FLYERS (Not in PDF)

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES.

Please send your submission by the 15th of the month for the next issue or contact Penny Clark, the editor, for later submissions.

Take advantage of the free advertising!

Send Submissions to turlockpenny@yahoo.com.

Please Use Garamond-14 for submissions. Send in **Word.Doc**, NOT PDF or JPEG. Thanks

April 2024

- Apr. 1- April Fool's Day
- Apr. 2- Autism Awareness Day
- Apr. 15- Tax Returns Due
- Apr. 16- Emancipation Day
- Apr. 22- Earth Day

More Writing Prompts

- a. List the times someone has done something beneficial for you. Choose one and write about it.
- b. Rewrite your resume as a short story.
- c. What would happen if the oceans dried up?
- d. You're sitting in a bar talking to a giraffe. What's the conversation like?

It's getting warmer



See you next month!

Continue for Calendar and Flyers

EGWG Calendar and Flyers

What's Happening in Our Area?


April

2024

Encouraging Northern California writers to learn from one another

No. CA Writers Alliance

BWW = Black Women Write
 Cap. Cr. = Capitol Crimes
 EGWG = Elk Grove Writers Guild
 GCW = Gold Country Writers
 NCPA = No. CA Publishers & Authors
 Sac. Sub. = Sacramento Suburban Writers
 SJVW = San Joaquin Valley Writers CA Writers Club
 Sac. CWC = Sacramento CA Writers Club
 San Raf. = San Rafael (formerly Elk Grove) Writers & Artists



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			10-12 GCW Poetry contest Celebration @ Auburn City Hall		12:30-2:30 EGWG 9-11 Sac. CWC @ C H Cafe	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			10-12 GCW Drop-In Critique @ City Hall Rose Room		10-12 GCW Read & Review @ Auburn Depoe Bay	12-3 EGWG Seminar: POV @ EG District 56 12-2 SJVW Zoom
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
4-6:30 PM NCPA @ Flaming Grill, Watt Ave.			10-12 GCW speaker @ Rose Room		1-3 Sac. CWC → @ Arcade Library	10-12 BWW. 1-3 Cap. Cr. 9-11 Sac. Sub. @ C H Café
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			San Raf. Writers & Artists Zoom			EG Festival of the Arts 12-2 SJVW GabFest
28	29	30				

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 at turlockpenny@yahoo.com

Make sure it's NOT in PDF or JPEG. I cannot work with them.

Flyers Below:

1.GWG Spring Seminar.

2. Big Day of Giving

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. **To Register, click on <https://egweg.org/spring/>**

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

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.

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



Hello Dear Friends

The Sacramento Region Community Foundation's **Big Day of Giving is Coming. Early Giving Begins April 18th, 2024, and Big Day of Giving is on May 2th, 2024.**

The Elk Grove Writers Guild is privileged to participate. Our mission is to help writers be the best they can be through educational events and resources, biennial conferences, networking, and critique services.

Good News! Use a Golden 1 Credit Union debit or credit card and have your gifts proportionately matched. Please support this work by sending your donations to:

<https://www.bigdayofgiving.org/organization/Elk-Grove-Writers-Guild>, and hit the donation button anytime between 4/18/24 and 5/2/2024.

Your donation will help the Guild carry out its mission and meet operating expenses such as yearly insurance, website maintenance, accounting fees, and brand marketing. Any amount you give will be appreciated.

For questions or comments, email loyholder77@gmail.com.

