

Vol 4 Issue 05

May 2024

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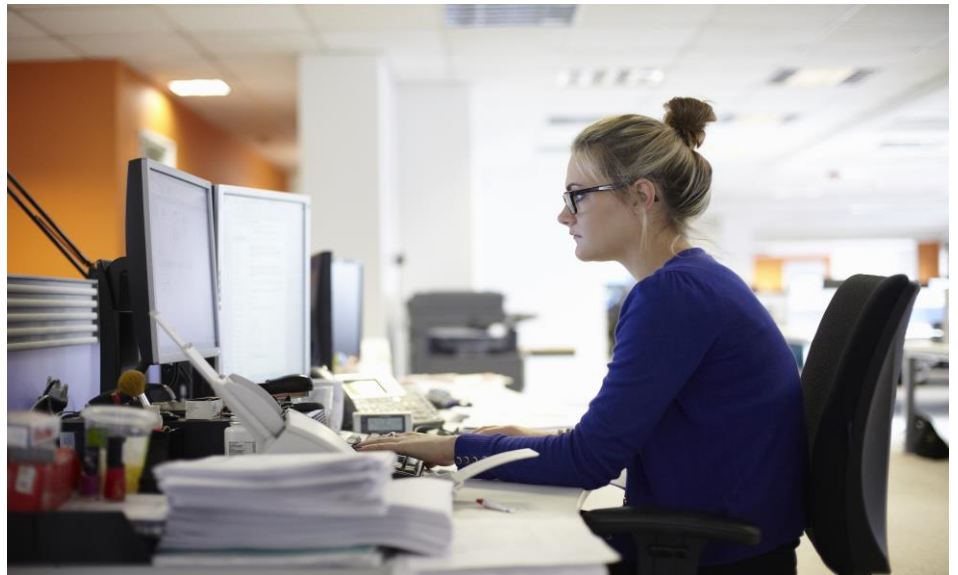
And More



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

Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc

### Street Address

7413 Netherbury Ct.

Elk Grove, CA 95757

### Phone

916-747-6898

### Email

[egwg2020@egweg.org](mailto:egwg2020@egweg.org)

### Website

<https://www.egweg.org>

### Newsletter & Submissions

Penny Clark - Editor

[turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com)

## What's Happening?

What's next for the Elk Grove Writers Guild? The event team is working hard for an event in the fall.

See the flyers at the back of the newsletter for events in our area.

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**“when writing a novel, a writer should create living people; people, not characters. A character is a caricature.”**

*Ernest Hemingway*

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**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](http://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 June 7 and July 5, 2024

**Contact** [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com) for answers to any meeting or guild questions.

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## **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](http://CaliforniaWritersClub.com).

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**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>

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### **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>

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### **Capitol Crimes**

Meetings are on the third Saturday of the month from 1-3 p.m. For info, go to <https://capitolcrimes.org/events>

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### **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](mailto:mywebb@sbcglobal.net) or <https://goldcountrywriters.com>.

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### **Black Women Write**

Black Women Write meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from 10 until noon. For information contact. [BlackWomenWrite2020@gmail.com](mailto:BlackWomenWrite2020@gmail.com)

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### **Coming Book Launch**

Please join author Judith Starkston for the book launch of her latest historical fantasy, *Flights of Treason*, at the Avid Reader Bookstore on May 14th, at 6:30 pm, 617 2nd Street, CA 95616. Davis author Eileen Rendahl will lead an evening of lively conversation and laughter, of course, with wine and goodies.

See the flyer in the flyer section.

## The EGWG Bulletin Board

### **SPEAKERS and TEACHERS**

The Guild is organizing events for 2024 and beyond. We are seeking 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](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)

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### The April EGWG Meeting

It was a cool and rainy day, but people came and filled the tables.

The question of the day was, “How many words do you write per day?” The answers covered a large range, and some created chuckles, groans, and nods of agreement.

Loy began the meeting by mentioning the new event team, and Debra gave us an idea of what they’re doing. Loy reminded us about the Big Day of Giving. (see the flyer in the flyer section.)

When the WIP time came, marketing and the different platforms available were the major topics. Some shared their marketing experiences, good and bad. Someone mentioned a speaker on marketing at A Seat at the Table Books.

The store has speakers on various writing topics on the first Thursday of the month from 5:30 – 7:00. The store is located at 9257 Laguna Springs Dr.

Don’t forget that George Hahn oversees the Guild’s library. A list of books about writing is available on the Guild’s website, [egweg.org/library](http://egweg.org/library). If you see something you’d like to read, contact George at [georgehahnjr@comcast.net](mailto:georgehahnjr@comcast.net)

The Guild’s writing class transcripts are available on the website at [egweg.org/classes](http://egweg.org/classes). They’re free and cover the major aspects of writing, from having a great idea to finishing the first draft and beyond. They can be printed for later study.

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### Rare or Seldom Used Words

**Previsé.** To foresee or notify in advance.

**Execrable.** Loathsome.

**Sere.** Withered, dry.

**Glyph.** A carved figure that imparts knowledge, a vertigo groove as in a column.

**Clavate.** Club-shaped.

**Litotes.** The use of understatement as saying “not bad” to mean good.

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“You should write stories because you love the shape of stories and sentences and the creation of different words on a page.”

*Annie Proulx*



Elk Grove Writers Guild  
Writers Helping Writers

## EGWG President's Column

Hello, dear friends,

1) The Elk Grove Spring Seminar was a success, with Gini Grossenbacher getting rave reviews, but the Pizza Lunch only scored fair in our ratings. We are thankful for your comments on the evaluation sheets we provide. We take them seriously and include these suggestions and ideas in our future event planning.

2) Our new Event Committee, under the direction of Project Manager Debra Kelch, is planning an Elk Grove Writers Guild event on the craft of writing in the Fall of 2024. Stay tuned for the location, date, and time.

For questions, email,  
[loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com).

Loy Holder, EGWG President

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## Congratulations!

One of Kathy Marshall's short stories has been selected to be performed at *Stories on Stage* on May 10<sup>th</sup>. She is excited to see which actor will perform her story and would love for other members to come. [For information, see the flyer section.](#)



## From the Bookshelf

### A Trip to Vegas

P.L. Clark

Maybelle Stamper left the Barstow truck stop restroom and walked outside to join her family. They were on their way to Las Vegas with two cars of family traveling together. She would be 83 the next day, and this trip was a birthday present. She'd never been to "The Strip," and there would be a big birthday dinner and a Las Vegas extravaganza of a show. Her children had given her 100 dollars to gamble away. They said she had to spend it all. Maybelle couldn't wait to see all the bright lights and the sights she'd read about for so long.

She went to the pump where her son had been getting gas, but the car wasn't there. Maybe he had moved it out of the way, she thought. So, she walked around the truck stop building, looking for her son or daughter's car. As she returned to the front door without finding them, she understood she was alone in the middle of the Mohave Desert.

Maybelle frowned. What if they each thought she was in the other's car? She'd have to wait for hours until they realized what



## EGWG Newsletter – page 6

had happened, and hours more for someone to come back for her.

Her purse and cell phone were in her son's car. She had no money and no way to call them. She couldn't remember which hotel they had decided to stay in and felt a touch of panic. But she would be okay staying at the truck stop. It just wasn't a good start for her birthday adventure. Her children would have to waste time and money coming back for her.

The thermometer on the outside wall said it was already a hundred degrees in the shade. She couldn't wait outside, so Maybelle went inside the café. She sat out of the way in a booth at the back of the room.

When the waitress came to take her order, she said, "Just water, please."

An hour passed, and the waitress eyed her, probably wondering what she was doing there, sitting alone, sipping water. Another hour went by, and the waitress walked to the booth with two servings of pie and coffee. She sat one serving in front of Maybelle and slid into the booth across from her.

Maybelle gazed at the pie, looked at the waitress, and blushed. "I can't take this. I can't pay for it." She slowly shoved the pie away from her. It looked so good, and it had been a long time since breakfast.

The waitress pushed the pie back to her. "Eat the pie, honey, it's my treat. My name is Jerri, by the way. Do you want to talk about why you're here? Did your car break down?"

Maybelle introduced herself and told her about her birthday trip to Vegas with her family and how she had been left behind by mistake. "I guess I have to just wait for them to return for me. It seems like a waste of time,

but I'm probably too old to hitchhike." A tear ran down her cheek, and she brushed it away. "I'm feeling sorry for myself. I apologize."

Jerri ate a few bites of pie, looking lost in thought, then snapped her fingers and stood, looking around at the truckers who were eating nearby. She grinned at Maybelle and then yelled, "Red, hey, Big Red, which way are you heading from here?"

A huge man with flaming red hair and a bushy beard that matched looked up from his lunch. "Vegas, Jer, got a run to Vegas." He returned to shoveling in his food with the concentration of a starving man who needed more fuel.

"Maybelle, honey," Jerri said as she sat down and leaned across the table. "Are you up for a birthday adventure?"

"What kind of adventure?" Maybelle asked. She wasn't against adventure. She might be almost 83, but there was still life in her. She used to like doing things she had never done before.

"What about a trip to Vegas in an 18-wheeler? Give me the names of the hotels you all considered, and I'll call them to see if you're registered. You can leave a message for your family so they won't worry or drive back here." Maybelle nodded her head, and Jerri continued. "All right, Red will take you to the hotel's front door. You'll only miss a few hours there. It's perfect. Are you sure you're up for it?"

Jerri looked enthused about the whole idea, and Maybelle caught some of that excitement. She had never been in a big rig. Wouldn't that be something to talk about at the next Bingo game?

## EGWG Newsletter – page 7

Maybelle imagined Big Red cruising down the highway with her sitting beside him. “Yes, I’m in.”

“Okay, kiddo, here’s some paper and a pencil. Write down which hotels were mentioned while I go talk to Red. Don’t you worry about him, either? He’s a stand-up guy and will take you where you need to be.”

Jerri slid out of the booth and walked toward Red while Maybelle started writing down the hotel names she remembered.

Thirty minutes later, Maybelle was sitting in the passenger seat of an 18-wheeler, hauling groceries to Vegas. She marveled at the view from the high cab and was delighted to listen to Red talk on the CB to other truckers. He explained some of the codes they used and handed her the mike so she could give a shout-out. She gave herself the moniker of LA Belle and enjoyed talking to others who were on the road.

When they stopped at the Nevada border for a pit stop and coffee, she met some of the truckers she had been talking and listening to on the way there. She laughed and joked with them and had a lot of fun. One trucker even told her she could hitch a ride with him anytime. Maybelle felt young and giddy sitting with all the rugged men. She looked younger, too. The frown lines between her eyes disappeared as she smiled and laughed while at the stop.

When Red pulled his rig to a stop outside the hotel where she was staying, her family was there. They ran to meet her and thanked Red for bringing her to them.

Her ride with Big Red had been an incredible adventure. Now, she was in Sin City, ready for more. Maybelle believed this

birthday was already the best one ever. Too bad she had to wait 83 years to experience it

She walked into the hotel and wondered what adventure she could go on for her 84th birthday. She’d always wanted to do so many things, but she hadn’t stepped out of her daily routine for decades.

Maybelle smiled as she remembered an old cliché. “It’s better late than never.”

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### T-Shirt Truths

1. Sisters in Crime, where writers belong.
2. I Never dreamed I’d be a super sexy poet, but here I am, killing it.
3. NANO – so many crimes, so little time.
4. Just a girl who loves writing.
5. A day without writing is—just kidding. I have no idea.
6. A book a day keeps reality away.

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**Aphorism:** A short, pointed sentence that expresses a wise or clever observation of a truth.

1. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
2. Money will buy a fine dog...but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
3. If you don’t have a sense of humor...you probably don’t have any sense at all.
4. Seat belts are not as confining as a wheelchair.

## More Paraprosdokians

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*
5. Gravity is a contributing factor in 73 percent of all accidents involving falling objects. *Dave Berry.*

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## ATTENTION

Do you have a blog or a website?

If so, send your link and a few words about your content to [elkgrovepenny@gmail.com](mailto:elkgrovepenny@gmail.com), and I'll promote your site in this newsletter.

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“Successful writing is one part inspiration and two parts sheer stubbornness.” *Gillian Flynn*

## Poetry Corner

### FACES IN MY DREAMS

Barbara Barrett

All sorts of faces in my dreams  
That I don't even know.  
All clearly want a word with me.  
Whether friend or foe.  
I just wish they would spell it out  
And give it to me straight.  
This convoluted way they speak  
Does not communicate.  
Are they saying quite what they mean?  
Or just its opposite.  
I would love to hear from all of you.  
Just clearly say your bit.

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### IF I HAD NO FEAR

Barbara A. Barrett

When fear's in charge, ideas are squashed.  
Trust too is discarded  
Whenever we follow the well-worn path  
Of the truly fainthearted.  
When what we do is not from love,  
When a doomsday goblin rules,  
When flitting fears leave acts undone,  
They conjure up their ghouls.  
If I could strike fear from my heart  
And see with unchained eyes,  
The path ahead would brighten and  
Those monsters could not rise.  
I'd pass right through that helpless fear,  
Not deviate or swerve.  
I'd fix my eyes upon my goal,  
And never lose my nerve.  
While I still have fear in my heart and  
My eyes aren't always clear,  
I know there's courage deep inside  
To fearlessly face that fear.



## 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)

## More New Writer's Mistakes

(And not-so-new writers)

1. Complexity over clarity. Focus on clarity; don't make your reader work to figure out what you mean.
2. No clear inciting incident. Each story needs to have the incident that starts the story.
3. No character flaws. A well-rounded character will have a flaw or two. Are they afraid of spiders?
4. Overly long sentences. Break them into smaller pieces. They'll be easier to read.
5. Flowery dialogue tags. Stick to "said" or "asked" Please – don't use adverbs; that's telling. Show your character's actions or feelings in your dialogue.
6. Using cliches. If your mind automatically finishes a statement, it might be a cliché. Happy as a\_\_ Swam like a\_\_ Sank like a\_\_ Try to think of a new ending. Something fresh.
7. Overusing the same sentence construction: He grabbed, He walked, He stood. Vary by using characters' actions and descriptions or stringing some sentences together.

## EGWG Newsletter –Back Page

### Something to consider.

“You can’t use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.”

*Maya Angelou*



### 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](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com).

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

### MAY 2024

- May 5- Cinco de Mayo
- May 12- Mother’s Day
- May 18- Armed Forces Day
- May 25- National Wine Day
- May 27- Memorial Day

### More Writing Prompts

- a. What’s the funniest thing that’s happened to you?
- b. Write a poem about a feast that’s not Thanksgiving. Use at least 4 senses.
- c. Write about the best writing tip you’ve read or heard that you use.
- d. If you were to write an autobiography, how would it start?

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Have a fun month!



See you next month!

Continue for Calendar and Flyers

EGWG Calendar and Flyers

# May

## 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 10-12 GCW Poetry contest Celebration @ Auburn City Hall	2	3 12:30-2:30 EGWG 9-11 Sac. CWC @ C H Cafe	4
5	6	7	8 10-12 GCW Drop-In Critique @ City Hall Rose Room	9	10	11 12-2 SJVW Zoom: Business of Writing, Terry Wells=Brown
12 4-6:30 PM NCPA @ Flaming Grill, Watt Ave.	13	14	15 10-12 GCW speaker @ Rose Room	16	17	18 1-3 Sac. CWF @ Arcade Library 9-11 Sac. Sub. @ C H Cafe Sunrise
19	20	21	22 10-12 GCW Drop-In Critique	23	24	25 12-2 SJVW GabFest
26	27	28	29 10-12 GCW Flash Fiction contest Celebration	30	31	

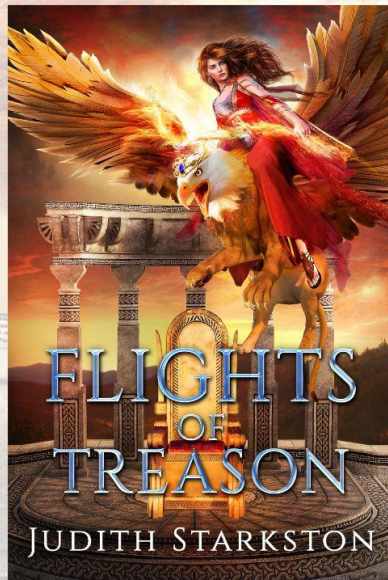
If you have flyers for your events that you'd like to see on the flyer page, send them **directly** to Penny Clark at [turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com). **If they're in PDF or JPEG, I will try to copy them,** but I may call you if there's a problem.

Flyers Below:

1. Judith Starkston's Book Launch.
2. Big Day of Giving.
3. Stories on Stage.



**You're Invited!**  
**At The Avid Reader, Davis**  
**Judith Starkston's**  
**Flights of Treason**  
**Book Launch Celebration**



**An evening of lively conversation & laughter led by Davis author Eileen Rendahl. Dive into Judith's Hittite inspired historical fantasy series.**

**May 14th, 6:30 pm**  
**The Avid Reader Bookstore**  
**617 2nd Street Davis, CA 95616**



### Hello Dear Friends

The Sacramento Region Community Foundation's [Big Day of Giving is Coming. Early Giving Begins on April 18th, 2024, and the Big Day of Giving is on May 2nd, 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](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com).





# Literature. *Live!*

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Our next event is one month  
away  
on Friday, May 10!



***IMAGINE A WORLD***  
***TALES TO MAKE YOU THINK***

**FRIDAY, MAY 10 @ 7 PM**  
**THE AUDITORIUM AT CLARA**  
**(1425 24TH ST.)**

**STORIES ON STAGE**  
SACRAMENTO

[STORIESONSTAGESACRAMENTO.ORG](http://STORIESONSTAGESACRAMENTO.ORG)

**Imagine a World**  
**Tales to Make You Think**  
**Friday, May 10 at 7 p.m.**

Featuring innovative stories by Kathy Lynne Marshall, ayreÁAnna

**Ross, Rhys Shaw** (aka Ruby Sketchley) and **Brian Winters** read aloud by professional actors **Voress Franklin, Jennifer Smith, Stuart E.W. Smith** and **Katherine Stroller**.

[Buy Tickets](#)

Buy a 2024 season subscription and **save 11%!**

[Buy Now and Save!](#)

For more information, visit [storiesonstagesacramento.org](https://storiesonstagesacramento.org).

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Stories on Stage Sacramento  
Each month  
1425 24<sup>th</sup> St.  
Sacramento  
Begins at 7:00

## SOSS 2024 SEASON

\*All performances on second Fridays\*

February 9

May 10

August 9

November 8

All performances will take place at our usual venue,  
the Auditorium at CLARA (1425 24th St.)

