

Vol 4 Issue 09
September 2024

This Issue May Contain

Bulletin Board
Poetry Corner
Coming Events
President's Column
Writing Bits and Pieces
From the Bookshelf
Learning Opportunities
Webmaster's Column
Backpage
Area Calendar
Flyer pages
And More



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

WELCOME!



The Elk Grove Writers Guild is committed to helping writers grow and improve their craft. This newsletter is just one way we achieve that goal.

Here, you'll find a wealth of information on upcoming events, classes, and Guild news. We also offer items of writing wisdom, poetry, memories, writing tips, and updates on the latest happenings in the writing world.

We're always looking for new contributions to the newsletter and welcome your submissions. Whether you have news of your group's events, book launch announcements, writing tips, recent successes or publications, or reports of events you've attended, we want to hear from you.

See the back page for submission information.

EGWG 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

<https://www.egweg.org>

Newsletter & Submissions

Penny Clark - Editor

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

What's Happening?

Create Compelling Characters, November 2, 2024.

Jackie Alcalde Marr from Evolutions Consulting will speak and present a fresh approach to character development. The event will be at the Holiday Inn Express off Highway 99-next to Mimi's. Read the flyer in the flyer section and **REGISTER NOW!**

**“When I say work, I only mean writing.
Everything else is just odd jobs.”**

Margaret Laurence

Elk Grove Writers Guild Meetings are on the first Friday of each month from 12:30 – to 2:30 or 3.

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 September 6, 2024, and October 4, 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, in the back room at Denny's, 8841 Greenback Ln. The third Saturday, 1-3 pm, isn't always at the Arcade Library. For information on current meetings or events, go to [California Writers Club, 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://goldcounyrwriters.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 2025 Conference and other classes. 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

(Editor: Please let Penny C. know if there are changes to times or places.)

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

The August EGWG Meeting

Wow! The meeting room was packed. More than twenty people were present, but they may have come to hear Chris Hennessy speak.

Chris spoke of what to do despite obstructions. Some highlights were keywords: there is no box to hold you in, think outside of any box people put you in. If you can write a story, you can be a speaker. On Facebook, promote yourself—tell your story and what you're working on. Always remember to respond to people who support you. Chris uses humor while speaking, and he's always entertaining and informative.

It was encouraging to hear about people's progress with their projects. Several, including me, said, "I finished writing my book." Others spoke of the progress and holdups in their writing. There was lots of laughter and loads of good knowledge through others' experiences. All in all, it was a great meeting.

The one Members Only item on the EGWG website is the Library, which lists our extensive collection of books on writing and provides instructions on borrowing them. Make the most of your membership and check it out!

Our newsletter readers can go to the Guild website and, under the Resources menu, find links to writing courses, an archive of our monthly newsletter, upcoming events, and a calendar of writing events in northern California. It's there for everyone, so look for it at <http://www.egweg.org>
Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Rare or Seldom Used Words

Nugatory. Powerless, Futile.

Supererogatory. Above and beyond the call of duty.

Cacography. Poor handwriting.

Solipsism. The belief that only the self is real and understandable.

Pileated. Crested like a woodpecker.

Hyetal. Rainy.

T-Shirt Truths

1. I don't just read books, I write them.
2. Pay no attention to my browsing history. I'm a writer, not a serial killer.
3. I don't need therapy. I just need to write.
4. I write, stuff happens, the end.
5. Read a banned book.



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Hello dear friends,

The Guild has been busy cleaning out files, catching up on nonprofit paperwork, and working behind the scenes to make sure our November 2, 2024, Fall Seminar will teach our class participants to create believable characters and bring them to life on the page.

You can register right now. Just click on: <https://egweg.org/fall2024>.

Hope to see you there.

If you have questions, send an email to loyholder77@gmail.com.

Loy Holder
President

Elk Grove Writers Guild

CHECK THIS OUT

Dave Chesson presents information and programs about Book marketing, writing, editing, formatting, publishing, and cover design through his website, YouTube videos, and newsletter.

As the Kindle in his address suggests, Dave keeps up with changes in Amazon's process. The newsletter is worth having. Look into it and subscribe at: kindlepreneur.com.

(This is not a paid advertisement.)



From the Bookshelf

How to Write a Best-Selling Mystery Novel

Elaine Faber –

The Hook

Chapter one has a hook that keeps the reader turning pages. She must identify enough with the main character to continue the journey past page ten. The plot should be original, compelling, and not a carbon copy of other cozy mystery novels.

Conflict

Some conflict must occur quickly, which prevents the main character from easily fulfilling his goal until the end of the novel. Perhaps it's a CIA agent bringing a killer to justice, a turbulent romance with the boy next door, or an interplanetary six-headed monster. If the CIA agent captures the villain on page twenty-one, why continue reading? If the girl receives an engagement ring on page six, where is

EGWG Newsletter – page 6

the conflicted romance? If Round-Up weed killer vanquishes the monster by page forty-nine, the book becomes a paperweight.

Supporting Characters

Besides the intriguing main characters, a good story must have convincing, entertaining supporting characters.

They are the friends, relatives, or even the protagonist's pet cat—someone or something to interact and react with the main character. They may provide the conflict or be the catalyst of the plot, as when the displaced carnival tiger's life is at risk in my latest novel,

Mrs. Odboddy's Desperate Doings.

Beginning-Middle-End

A good book has an exciting beginning, an interesting middle, and a satisfying end. The beginning of the story jumps into an event that intrigues the reader. A specific conflict and goal must be revealed within the first few pages to keep the reader turning pages.

The middle deals with the conflict, where the character struggles to overcome the obstacles, but events go from bad to worse, and when all seems lost, we come to an exciting conclusion. The reader might leave the dog in the bathtub or cookies in the oven to see what happens next.

The ending ties up all the loose strings, solves all the puzzles, and reaches a conclusion that is acceptable to the reader. Did you ever read a 300-page novel, and the main character dies on the last page? You want to heave the book against the wall!

The Satisfying Conclusion

In a satisfying conclusion, the antagonist is revealed and brought low, the hero gets the girl, or the interplanetary six-headed monster is relieved of at least two of his six heads. The conclusion leaves the reader satisfied and, hopefully, looking for the sequel.

The Right Editor

A best seller needs a good editor and mentors to correct spelling or punctuation errors, poorly written sentences, or scenes that are less than compelling. She makes suggestions that help the author complete an exciting novel.

The Book Cover

The book cover is good-looking and brightly colored with an easily read title. The cover should convey the general theme or storyline. An appealing cover tempts the potential buyer to flip over the book and read the back cover blurb, and the blurb secures the sale.

EGWG Newsletter – page 7

Now that I've told you how you write a best-seller, the next hurdle is to promote and market your 'best seller.' If you have the magic formula for that, please contact me.

Elaine Faber@mindcandymysteries.com



Poetry Corner

SILLY THINGS

Barbara A. Barrett

I believe in silly things
Because it's fun to think
Of ants who are uncles
And teddy bears that wink.
And why don't critters talk to us?
Well, one at least confirms,
"It's not that we can't say a word
We're not on speaking terms."
And when giraffes chew a treat
Their long, long necks are fun.
But when it comes to bitter pills,
They'd like a shorter one.
And though I've tried it many times,
It all turns out reversed.
Cause every time I lay it down
The last straw is the first.



From the Webmaster

George Hahn

Although the Guild provides many resources for writers, two are the most used: the monthly meeting and critiquing. This first entry in the newsletter will talk about the meeting. Next month, I'll discuss how critiquing is done in the Guild.

The Guild meets on the first Friday of each month. Currently, meetings are held at Round Table Pizza (10054 Bruceville Rd, Elk Grove, CA 95758). At the meetings, members talk about their current projects and ask for help when they have problems. The meetings are also an opportunity to suggest more ways the Guild can help our writers.

We have presenters occasionally, as we did at our last meeting when Chris Hennessy joined us to provide some inspiration and encouragement. He also recorded a short adlib interview with Kathy Marshall. You can [view it here](#) or from the website (Resources->Videos). The meetings begin at 12:30 and go to about 2:30. We have a little fun, get help and encouragement, and feast on pizza or salad.

I hope to see you at the next meeting.

George



Another shortcut

If you want to copy an entire piece of writing or article, use **Control+A** to select all. And...

Control+Y will replace what you've used **Control+Z** to undo.

EGWG Newsletter –Back Page

Something to consider.

“I always start writing with a clean piece of paper and a dirty mind.”

Patrick Dennis



Fall Colors

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

POETRY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMING EVENTS

SHORT STORIES

FLYERS (Not in JPG)

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES.

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

Take advantage of the free advertising!

Send **Submissions** to turlockpenny@yahoo.com.

Please: Use Garamond-14 for submissions, and send in a **word document(docx)**.

Thanks!

September 2024

- Sept. 02- Labor Day
- Sept. 11- Patriot Day
- Sept. 20- Talk Like a Pirate Day
- Sept. 22- Fall Equinox
- Sept. 30-One Month to Halloween.

More Writing Prompts

- a. Open a dictionary to any page and use the first word that catches your eye to write the opening paragraph of a suspenseful story.
- b. Write a short story using any three of these words: Mountainous, parched, field mouse, time travel, and Black Forest Gateau.
- c. Write a short story about love at first sight. It doesn't have to be about young people, even about people at all.
- d. What are you afraid of? Describe how it feels. Show don't tell.

Have a fun September



See you next month!

Continue for [Calendar](#) and [Flyers](#)

September

2024

Subtitle

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 10-12 GCW Business @ Rose Room, City Hall, Auburn	5	6 12:30-2:30 EGWG @ Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Rd, E.G.	7
8 4-6:30 PM NCPA @ Flaming Grill, Watt Ave.	9	10	11 10-12 GCW Drop-In Critique @ Rose Room, City Hall, Auburn	12	13	14 12-2 SJVW on ZOOM, "Author Website Kit," Pauline Wiles
15	16	17	18 10-12 GCW: E J DeBrun, "Fiction Realer Than Real"	19	20	21 9-11 Sac Sub @ CH Café, Sunrise 1-3 Sac CWC @ Arcade Library
22	23	24	25 10-12 GCW Drop-In Critique. Short Story Contest continues	26	27	28 12-2 SJVW Craft Chat @ Papapavlos, 501 Lincoln Ctr, Stockton
29	30					

If you have flyers for your writing group events that you'd like to see in the flyer section, send them **directly** to Penny Clark at turlockpenny@yahoo.com. **If they're in PDF or JPEG I will try to copy them,** but I may email you if there's a problem.

Continue for Flyers:

1. CWC Workshop - Launch your Book
2. EGWG Fall Writing Seminar
3. SONOMA Writing Conference



don't just hit publish,
LAUNCH
your book! WITH ROBBIE SAMUELS



Saturday, September 7, 2024 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. PDT on Zoom

CWC Workshop

Don't just hit publish, LAUNCH your book!

Saturday, September 7, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Open to all CWC members

Congrats, you wrote a book! You've been counting down to the day it publishes. Have you realized that publishing isn't the final goal?

Wouldn't it be great if your network actually read your book and discovered how valuable your content is so they can buy from you and/or refer you?

What's your strategy to use this book to wake up and engage your network?

Our workshop presenter, Robbie Samuels, will cover three areas: timing, building a launch team, and getting 50+ Amazon reviews.

This online workshop is hosted by Redwood Writers and is open to all members of CWC.

Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email with a Zoom link

[**LEARN MORE & REGISTER**](#)



Crafting compelling characters



Jackie Alcalde Marr has been a certified leadership and life coach for more than 14 years and is a certified book coach.



Michelle Hamilton teaches high school English and journalism and is the author of 73 books, including the Peyton Brooks Mysteries.

In any story, fiction or nonfiction, the plot and action entertain us, but how the characters react to that action, how they make decisions, and, importantly, how they feel about what happens sticks with us long after we close a book.

In this seminar, learn how to use the lens of a life coach to create believable characters striving for the insight and lessons they need to achieve their goals. Workshop key questions about your characters to flesh out their backstory and bring them to life on the page.

This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal SLFRP0166 awarded to Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc. by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Elk Grove Writer's Guild Fall Seminar

November 2, 2024
11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn
Express & Suites
9175 W. Stockton Blvd
Elk Grove, CA



Box lunches at 11:30 a.m.
Program begins at noon

Register Now!

Registration Fee: \$50

Registration Link

or go to

<https://egweg.org/fall2024/>

Sonoma Writers Conference, the 12th biennial

Hosted by Redwood Writers

the largest chapter of the California Writers Club

<https://redwoodwriters.org/2024-conference>

8:30 am to 5 pm Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024

[Finley Community Center](#)

2060 W. College Ave.

Santa Rosa, CA

Featuring

Also featuring (there are 14 Presenters)

JEFF GOINS

Best-selling author of five books, including *The Art of Work* and *Real Artists Don't Starve*. Tens of millions have visited his award-winning blog, Goinswriter.com

KEYNOTE--The Art of Being Interesting: How to Succeed as a Writer Without Selling Your Soul

WORKSHOP - Bestseller Bootcamp: How to Bake the Marketing of Your Book into the Writing Process

Roger C. Lubeck, PhD

President of the California Writers Club and a past president of Redwood Writers and membership chair for Redwood Writers

WORKSHOP - Understanding the Elements of a Great Short Story

Chris Hennessy

Award-winning filmmaker, TV producer, speaker, author, and board of directors at California Writers Club, Sacramento.

WORKSHOP - Create Your Book Buzz with Story Telling Crossover!

<https://henschtick.substack.com>

Registration is open; you can choose your workshops. There are 14 Presenters, and slots are filling quickly.