

Vol 4 Issue 12

December 2024

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers



Happy Holidays!

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

Within these pages, 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 contributors 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?

The EGWG events for 2024 are complete. It's time to enjoy the holidays with friends and family. The event team will begin planning the 2025 biannual EGWG Seminar at the beginning of January..

This newsletter will feature whatever other events are planned.

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

Annie Proulx

Elk Grove Writers 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 produced.

Guild members can post their WIP on Google Docs and share it with other members for critiques. This is an excellent way to receive input and other writers' valuable insights 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 January 3, 2025 and February 7. Come visit with us.

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](http://CaliforniaWritersClub.com).

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.

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 BlackWomenWriteSac@gmail.com

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

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

The EGWG Bulletin Board

SPEAKERS and TEACHERS

The Guild will plan for the 2025 Conference and other events in January 2025. 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED If you'd like to help make our events the best ever, contact Loy at the above link.

November's EGWG Meeting

The meeting was small, with six people. We began by talking about the upcoming class but that soon dissolved into a "let's get to know each other" discussion.

The first topic was where we'd worked. We then moved on to care home types, schools, and various other topics. It was interesting and a good time with lots of laughter.

With only six people, we ended early. Leaving early suited me because I had another function to go to that evening. I had my car key in my pocket, so I didn't realize until I stopped for gas in Shelton that I had left my purse in the meeting room. After returning to retrieve said purse, I skipped getting gas and made it to the next function on time.

The EGWG website has one Member's Only item: the Library, which lists our extensive collection of books on writing. 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 groups in northern California. It's there for everyone, so check it out.

<http://www.egweg.org>

Don't forget to read the Webmaster's Column for details on all we offer.

Rare or Seldom Used Words

Charientism. To carry an insult within a compliment.

Cruse. A small earthenware pot for holding water, oil, or honey.

Fatiferous. Deadly or destructive. In Latin fate-carrying.

Diaphoresis. Excessive or copious sweating.

Hamartia. A fatal flaw.

More About Dialogue

Dialogue's Purpose

The four purposes of dialogue are:

1. It can heighten the emotional stakes (goals) and increase conflict and tension, which are two necessary parts of a well-plotted novel.
2. Dialogue advances the plot and drives the story forward. It can set up future scenes.
3. It can provide brief bits of backstory. Remember to keep it as short as possible.
4. Dialogue helps to develop the character of the speaker.

Next month will be A Character's Voice in Dialogue.

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NCPA's 31st Annual Book

Awards Competition for all books published between 1 Jan 2024 and 31 Dec 2024 is open for book submissions at norcalpa.org

The deadline to submit (\$65 member * \$95 non-member) books is 31 May 2025, with a one-time non-refundable \$20 late fee for books submitted between 1 June 2025 and 31 July 2025. (\$30 of each full fee includes one banquet dinner).

You do NOT have to be an NCPA member to submit, but it's cheaper.

Book Awards Banquet is on Sunday, 19 Oct 2025, at Cherry Island Golf Course, Elverta Rd., Elverta, CA. For those wanting to attend but have not entered a book, dinner is \$30.

Norma Jean

Norma Jean Thornton

916-804-7201

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) 2014-2025 Book Awards Banquet Coordinator

NCPA Communications Director & Newsletter Editor 2015-2025

NCPA Anthology Coordinator & ProofReader 2019-2025

NCPA Guest Speaker Chair 2009-2025

Web site: www.norcalpa.org

Check the flyer section for more information.



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Hello, dear Friends.

You may have heard by now that our member, Barbara Barrett, has passed away. She left the world a legacy of wonderful poetry, her smile, and her indomitable spirit. Please read the special tributes to Barbara Barrett, written by Kathy Marshall, Penny Clark, and Loy Holder. You'll find them in the body of this Newsletter.

We wish you all a Holiday Season of comfort, peace, and time to enjoy your loved ones, and maybe some quiet time to start that novel, finish that onerous research, wrap up that nonfiction best seller, or finally get the courage to HIT THAT PUBLISH BUTTON.

Best wishes to all for the greatest Holiday Season ever.

Loy Holder

President – Elk Grove Writers Guild

“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 down to the bare essentials is always a little like murdering children, but it must be done.”

Stephen King

This month, instead of From the Bookshelf, Several of us are presenting memories of Barbara Barrett.

Barbara Barret, My Memories of You

We first met at the Elk Grove Senior Center Writers Group on Sharkey Way. I was younger, and so were you, dear Barbara. I first noticed your tiny frame as you took your place at the table. Next, I noticed your bright, intelligent eyes and hair color, like spun red gold, as you read your poem.

It rhymed perfectly as it told a vivid story set in an ancient time about the abuse and revenge of beautiful women. Was that woman you, Barbara? I never got the courage to ask.

A subsequent Sr. Center meeting haunts me still today. We'd had our infamous "birthday" potluck that day. When the meeting was over, people were filing out, but you stopped and gazed up at me with a tear in your eye. You said, "This was a wonderful meeting. Thank you for what you're doing here."

In 2018, you were excited about the Guild's first Writers Conference. When we formed the non-profit, you became a member very soon. You really liked Jim, too. During our events, you always made it a point to tell him the latest about your favorite football player,

Aaron Rodgers. Later, you'd tell me he was a "Keeper."

Time passed, and sadly, your health started to decline. Wearing an oxygen tube and packing the tank, you fought each day, determined to "carry on." You continued to pay for every event, knowing you might not be able to come. I'd offer you a refund, but you always said no. You wanted to support me and the Guild.

I have good memories of all the times you critiqued my work. Those great suggestions will always reside in the pages of Cat & Mouse and will be published soon.

Through it all, you always attended the Sr. Center and Guild meetings when you could. Recently, you came into the Guild meeting at Round Table with the oxygen. But as the minutes of that meeting rolled by, I noticed your determined smile, yet your eyes and poor breathing were a dead giveaway to the depth of your suffering.

Our last time together was both joyful and scary. It was a Brie and Tea party you hosted. I was so happy to be with you despite noticing your frail condition had worsened. As you struggled to breathe, the oxygen seemed useless. In spite of this, you were determined to feed and visit with us. When it was time to go, we hugged, said our goodbyes, and vowed to do it again soon.

Too much time passed before I sent you that last email. By evening, no response. With a bad feeling deep in

my gut, I called for a welfare check on you, and the officer gave me the bad news.

Today, I know you aren't suffering and need no more oxygen. You're up there in heaven, smiling at us, free to write and cheer us on no matter how hard life gets. Love always, Loy Holder

For My Friend – Barbara B.

In the acknowledgment section of my last book, *Vanished*, concerning the people who critiqued my book, I wrote, “Barbara—Oh my gosh! What would I do without you?”

As of October 6th, I'll struggle to find out. My Barbara, Barbara Barrett, has gone where extraordinary writers and poets go when they leave this mortal plane. I'm sure she's there, correcting other's works, writing poetry, and retelling her tales to eager listeners. I hope she's also watching me, jabbing at me when I need to check my writing.

I don't remember exactly when I first met Barbara, but it was somewhere between 2014 and 2017 at the Elk Grove Senior Center's writing group. Our eyes met when I entered the room, and we smiled at each other. At that moment, I sensed she was someone who would become special to me.

I was right.

From the time I met her, she read and critiqued most of the books I wrote. Her suggestions were spot on, and I learned about repetition and redundancy through her constant reminders. I was so proud when several chapters were returned to me with neither of those R-words in the comments section. Eventually, as I wrote, my mind poked me, and Barbara's voice would say, “Redundant,” or “You've already said that,” and I'd silently thank her as I corrected the offense.

She freely contributed over thirty pieces of her poetry for the newsletter and would occasionally ask if I needed more.

When my stash runs out (too soon), the Poetry Corner might become silent. What a shame.

Barbara was not only a writer and poet but also a person who lived a full and adventurous life and did things most people only dreamed of. I loved hearing her tale of using her writing abilities in exchange for spending time in a total submersion pod.

As people grow older, they forget which memories they've already recounted, and Barbara was no different. But I could sit and listen to

EGWG Newsletter – page 8

her memories for hours, grinning with her as she spoke.

The last thing she emailed me after I finished *Vanished* was to tell me not to wait too long before starting the next book because she enjoyed reading my stories.

That was high praise, and it still warms my heart.

I'll miss you, Barbara, but I'll catch up with you later. Penny Clark

Memories of Barbara Barrett

A knot tightened in my stomach when I learned my talented writer friend, Barbara Barrett, had transitioned to another plane of existence.

Flashes of Barbara stories and Barbara-isms produced precious memories of shared phone calls at midnight, straightforward email critiques, and her periodic “Tea and Brie” parties with cheese, crackers, fresh fruit, and Seasoned Girl Talk. We reminisced at her summer 2024 get-together about the first time we all met at the Elk Grove Senior Center in 2018 after I self-published my amateurish first book the prior year.

Diminutive Barbara had reddish-brown hair and an impish girlish grin. But make no mistake, she was no wallflower. She took no prisoners. Her prose and poems packed a wallop, and she freely shared her expert critiques with those of us trying to step up the ladder of literary success.

I thought fondly about the yin and yang feedback Barbara gave me about my nonfiction genealogy manuscripts. I'll always treasure her motivating critique of my *Finding Marshalls* book, which she almost finished in five hours one night. She emailed, “You are especially good at describing your cousins and the various people you encountered on your trip,



as well as the synchronicity of the events that happened. I felt I knew the people and was right there in the car and wherever you went on your trip. I wanted to know more about your search and your family. Most of all, I feel I got to know you better, and that's

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a privilege when given to another person.” She included quite a few suggestions for improvement but always balanced the tough love with just enough atta-girl compliments to balance her you-need-to-change-this advice.

Barbara also critiqued the wacky fiction short stories I submitted to various writing competitions and anthologies. While supportive of my work, Barbara did not mince words when suggesting improvements. I appreciated her candor. That’s how we grow as authors. She had a knack for seeing the perfect opening sentence to hook the reader. Then, she would propose an ending that wrapped the reader in a warm blanket, encouraging them to seek out more of my stories.

She wrote, “I enjoyed your article, *The Highs, and Lows of Being a Self-Published Author*. I admire you not only for your hard work as a researcher, writer, and self-publisher but also because of the information and inspiration you give to others who attend your lectures. Seven books in five years is amazing, Shero.”

Barbara knew just how to pick me up when I felt berated by someone I admired. She wrote, “Kathy, to give yourself some distance and objectivity, picture yourself surrounded by a white

light. Start at a point about six inches below your feet and bring the white light upward all around you to a point about six inches above your head. It helps you see so clearly. I’m sending lots of love to you.”

What a doll!

And my girl, Barbara, shared some of her triumphs with me, too. “Kathy, I had to

share this with you. My first published book, *Tomboy Fun*, won the Silver Award from the Northern California Publishers and Authors organization. There were no other winners in that category, although there were about eight or nine entrants. All the judges loved it, and that makes me so happy!”

It is beyond difficult knowing that our talented friend is physically gone from our lives. But I had an unbelievable, other-worldly experience that suggests Barbara will forever be with us.

Around 9:30 AM on October 20th, I drove my Voter’s Ballot to a nearby Drop-off Box. I needed to buy some spinach for a dinner party I’d be



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giving that night, so I walked to the next-door Bel Air grocery store—a store I hadn't set foot in for twenty years. Imagine my shock when someone began calling my name from across the store. What? It couldn't be. I walked briskly toward the strawberry-blond woman who hailed me. It was Loy Holder, head of our Monday Writer's Critique group, and her husband. Loy is the one who contacted me the previous day with news of Barbara's death. After a few hugs and tears, a thought hit me like a brick. I choose to believe that this timely meeting had to be Barbara at work! She always said she was a spiritual person. And now, she *is* the spirit.

Barbara wants her story told, so we intend to ensure she is not forgotten in the way we know best: through writing.

Thanks for the beautiful memories, dear friend. Rest in Prestige.
Kathy Lynne Marshall

Thank you for letting us express our grief at losing such a wonderful friend.

Barbara Barrett

2/25/1939-10/6/2024

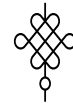


Poetry Corner

THE SHADOW MAN

Barbara A. Barrett

I saw him in the shadows
As I braked for the light.
Against the fence he sat
Covered in a few blankets.
His darkened cart nearby.
In a far-off corner
Little Leaguers hit balls and
Ran bases
As families cheered.
Under bright lights.
The Shadow Man's eyes
Seemed to say,
"Don't notice me; don't move me
From this shelter,
This dim sanctuary.
Or perhaps
He was just too tired,
Too discouraged and
Too hungry to care
Anymore.
I saw the man in the shadows.
I couldn't see inside him.



From the Webmaster

George Hahn

Next up on my continuing series on EGWG resources is our archive of materials from previous classes. As with the resources I have talked about previously, these are available from the Resources menu on the website.

Soon after the Guild began, we presented a class on writing, comprising ten sessions on characters, plot, description, and other topics. The text of the presentations have been preserved on the EGWG Classes web page.

If you need a broad view on what it takes to be a writer, this is a good start.

In 2023, Karen Trinkaus held a three-session class on publishing. The sessions are also available on the EGWG Classes page, but only for members. A password is needed to access them. Members can get the password by sending an email to egwg2020@egweg.org.

You can find the list of resources on the website

at <https://egweg.org/resources>.

George

T-Shirt Truths

1. I like books and maybe three people.
2. There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.
3. Coffee, books, and Oxford commas.
4. Books because it's too peoplely out there.
5. If I can't take my book, I'm not going!
6. My brain has too many tabs open.

More Writing Tips

Shrug, Nod, Smile, and Reach are common words sometimes overused by authors.

While that doesn't make them bad, you want to be sure there isn't a more accurate, succinct, or specific way to describe the action.

Sometimes, a smile is just a smile, but if you're using the word too often, you need a better way of saying it.

Example: instead of, "She smiled as he walked through the door," use, "She beamed with excitement when she caught sight of him."

"Writing is the painting of the voice."

Voltaire

CONFESSION OF A BLACK SHEEP WRITER

Elaine Faber

Other writers may outline, synopsis, write 6-page characterization charts for each character, and draw a detailed family history and backstory. They may summarize every scene before they put pinkie to paper. I'm the black sheep writer. I throw out all those conventional rules, write by the Grace of God, a vivid imagination, and trust the characters to tell their own story.

THINGS TO CONSIDER before I begin.

Is the main character male or female, animal or human? I have a general idea for a story arc, set the protagonist's goal, and select a timeframe and setting. Determine if a character is serious (nahh!), snarky, or funny (that works). How about a sidekick? Who and how many POV characters are there? (One to four) What is the major complication to reaching the said goal?

Example – Mrs. Odboddy and the Conniving Candidate: Set during WWII in No. CA, Mrs. Odboddy, runs for city council, and her unworthy opponent is doing his level best to complicate her life. Her sidekick is her granddaughter, Katherine, who does the hair and make-up at Whistlemeyer's Mortuary.

HOOK THE READER In the first chapter, jump straight to an inciting incident (action, disaster, problem, or crisis). In chapter one, someone enters Mrs. Odboddy's home and disconnects the kitchen pipes, flooding her house. In addition to an intriguing story concept, the protagonist must exceed the

reader's expectations: unselfish and brave. I must convince the reader to admire my character enough to want to accompany her on this quest or journey.

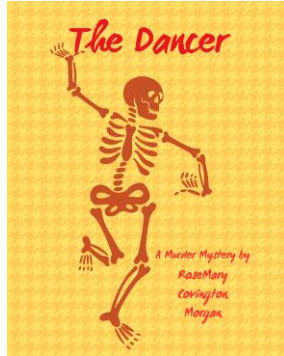
CRISES ERUPT Once the requirements listed above are firmly in my head, the characters begin to tell their own story from beginning to end. Subplots emerge, and crises erupt. If I get writer's block, I ask, "What is the WORST thing that can happen right now?" And that's what happens. At the end of each chapter, the POV character faces either a small crisis or a question. With a 2-character POV format, switch to the other POV character in the next chapter. This keeps the reader turning pages. There should be an over-arching issue encompassing the whole story, but always end each chapter with a small inciting event/statement.

EDITING Edit, edit, edit! Consider the first draft carefully. I may change the events in a scene, move it to another location, change the POV character in the scene, or even remove paragraphs and sentences while adding others. Improvement comes with editing and tightening.

TYING UP THE LOOSE ENDS. About 3/4 of the way toward my desired word count, I'll begin to tie up the loose ends. Answer some of the questions. I don't leave them all to the last chapter with a big tell-all, information-dump conversation. The climax scene is 1-2 chapters before the end of the manuscript, so the resolution of the biggest mystery or the major goal can be accomplished in the last chapter.

I don't have all the answers to the question of how to write the perfect story, but this is how this black sheep writer writes her books.

Newly Published



The Dancer - A Murder Mystery (The Williams Family Cases)

Paperback – September 28, 2024

by [Rosemary Covington Morgan](#) (Author)

[See all formats and editions.](#)

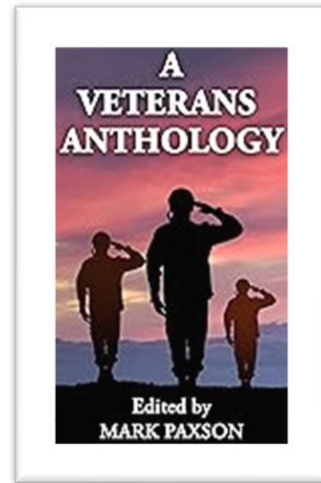
[Amazon.com: The Dancer - A Murder Mystery \(The Williams Family Cases\): 9798227644688: Morgan, Rosemary Covington: Books](#)

Lyla Williams, a successful lawyer living her best life, married a wonderful man. Too wonderful. They divorced after a few years.

His remarriage was quick, and his murder was just as quick. Killed by his new wife, Carol. Or so the District Attorney says.

Who does Carol come to for help? Lyla, of course. Did Carol kill him? Maybe, maybe not.

In a story full of twists, the killer emerges in an ending bound to surprise you. You'll have fun with this roller coaster of a story.



A Veterans Anthology Kindle Edition

by [Mark Paxson](#) (Author), [Berthold Gambrel](#) (Author), & [9 more](#)

[A Veterans Anthology - Kindle edition by Paxson, Mark, Gambrel, Berthold, Lloyd-Williams, E.K., Nolan, Fred, Matson, Gregg, Patterson, John, Roskopf, John, Woodside, Julie, de Maine, Lionel, Ehinger, Marcia, Clark, P.L.. Literature & Fiction Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#)

A doctor in Napoleon's army. A young man seeking fame fighting for the North in the Civil War. Tributes to fathers who served. Vignettes as told by those who lived through them. Speculative tales of wars of a different kind. These stories and more fill this anthology with the adventures of veterans, in and out of war.

Featuring fiction, flash fiction, and non-fiction from John Patterson, Julie Woodside, Lionel de Maine, John Roskopf, Marcia Ehinger, Gregg Matson,

P.L. Clark, Mark Paxson, Fred Ryan, E.K. Lloyd-Williams, and Berthold Gambrel.

EGWG Newsletter –Back Page

Something to consider.

“I have fallen in love with the imagination. And if you fall in love with the imagination, you understand that it is a free spirit. It will go anywhere, and it can do anything.”

Alice Walker



Good times spent with family and friends

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 for later submissions.

Take advantage of the free advertising!

Send your Submissions to turlockpenny@yahoo.com.

Please: Use Garamond-14 for submissions. Send in a **Word**

document(docx), NOT PDF or JPG.
Thanks!

December 2024

- Dec. 07- Remember Pearl Harbor
- Dec. 21- Winter Solstice - Yule
- Dec. 25- Christmas
- Dec. 25- Hanukkah begins
- Dec. 26- Kwanzaa Begins
- Dec. 31- New Years Eve

More Writing Prompts

- a. Look out your window and describe in detail what you see. Use at least three of your senses.
- b. Write about a time when you had to start over in life. What did you learn?
- c. Write about how you deal with procrastination.
- d. A starter prompt: He wasn't sure what the crying creature was, but it wasn't human.

Happy Holidays



See you next year!

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

EGWG – Calendar and Flyers

December

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	5	6 12:30-2:30 EGWG @ Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville, Elk Grove	7
8 4-6:30 NCPA Holiday Luncheon @ Black Angus, Sunrise/Greenback Sacramento	9	10 Capitol Crimes meeting?	11 10-12:30 GCW Holiday Party & celebrate authors (with books)	12	13	14 SJVW No meeting
15	16	17	18 10-12 GCW Drop-In Critique @ Rose Room, City Hall, Auburn	19	20	21 10-2 BWW contact BlackWomenWrite-2020@gmail.com
22	23	24	25 GCW No Meeting	26	27	28 SJVW No Meeting
29	30	31 Happy New Year				

If you have flyers for your own or your writing group's event that you'd like to see in the flyer section, send them to Penny Clark at

turlockpenny@yahoo.com.

If they're in PDF or JPEG, I will try to copy them. but it would be perfect if you could send them in a Word document that I could copy without using outside resources.

Continue on the Next Page for Flyers:

1. NCPA Book Awards Competition (two pages)
2. INFORMATION Just for You

Upcoming: 31ST Annual Northern California Publishers & 2024/25 (NCPA) Book AWARDS Competition (19 Oct 2025) Authors

Here's to New Beginnings as we go into our (3rd) decade by starting all over again with the 31ST Annual (NCPA) Book AWARDS Competition (11th year, 1st decade, for *this* committee). We're turning back the clock and the price structure: NO MORE Early Bird fees. Instead, there will be a One-Time-Only \$20 LATE FEE for members and non-members who don't make the original deadline; we've listened to our committee and our attendees and are hopefully fixing the air conditioning problem with a new month! Goodbye June - Hello OCTOBER, when it should be cooler; and finally, we're ADDING another Genre: GRAPHICS

BOOK ENTRY DEADLINE: Regular Submissions 1 August 2024 until 12-midnight 31 May 2025

ONE-TIME \$20 LATE FEE per book 1 June through 12 midnight 31 July 2025 absolute FINAL submit date

- ❖ Did you publish between 1 January 2024 and 31 Dec 2024, including books that came out under a new edition during the year? If so, we encourage you to submit it online or contact Sharon Darrow to get four copies of your book to her by midnight, 31 May 2025, for a regular price. Final chance: add a \$20 late fee per book from 1 June through Midnight 31 July 2025
- ❖ NCPA keeps one, but three copies will be for sale at the banquet, and you'll receive payment for any books sold. All unsold will be returned to the author AS LONG AS YOU or a representative ARE AT THE BANQUET. Those books will be used elsewhere if you aren't represented at the banquet. Ask Sharon for more info. 916-803-1665
- ❖ Entry form and Registration information should be ready soon at <https://www.norcalpa.org/book-awards> or contact VP and Book Awards Chair Sharon Darrow at sharon@sharonsdarrow.com 916-803-1665
NCPA website: norcalpa.org * NCPA membership \$40, includes perks (see norcalpa.org for different prices)
- ❖ Tell your friends and other writers. You do NOT have to be a member to enter: It just costs more. BIG CHANGES in entry fee: NO MORE Early Bird – ONE fee for ALL entries through midnight 31 May 2025 will be

\$65 members (through 12 Midnight, 31 May 2025)

\$95 non-members (through 12 Midnight, 31 May 2025)

There will be one FINAL chance for those who, for whatever reason, can't make the May deadline

BUT there will be a non-refundable \$20 LATE FEE per book 1 June 2025

through 12 Midnight 31 July 2025. With late fee: * members (\$85) * non-members (\$115) *

- ❖ More info? NCPA website: norcalpa.org Questions? Sharon 916-803-1665 or Norma Jean 916-991-5751 _____(Editor. See more information below)

\$30.00 of each Entry Fee will cover one dinner at the 2024-
2025 NCPA Awards Banquet 5 pm-9 pm on Sunday, 19
October 2025 * CHERRY ISLAND GOLF COURSE
Elverta, CA

- General Fiction
- General Non-Fiction
- Non-Fiction Memoir
- Children's
- Young Adult
- Poetry
- Collections / Anthologies (ask us more about this)
- Foreign Publisher
- Adult Coloring Book
- Cover/ Interior Design
- NEW FOR 2024/25 -- GRAPHICS

NOW ACCEPTING BOOKS
PUBLISHED 1 JAN 2024 thru 31
DEC 2024
FOR NCPA'S 31st BOOK
AWARDS DEADLINE TO
SUBMIT 31 MAY 2025 –
ONE TIME \$20 LATE FEE 1 JUNE thru 31
JULY 2025

- ❖ Winners receive an award certificate and supply of gold award winner stickers for book covers.
- ❖ PR provided to local media and more.
- ❖ Panel of judges: winners announced at the Book Awards Banquet 19 October 2025

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It's waiting for your personal or group event flyer.