

Vol 5 Issue 01

January 2025

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

*Writers Helping Writers*



## Happy New Year!

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](mailto:egwg2020@egweg.org)

### Website

<https://www.egweg.org>

### Newsletter & Submissions

Penny Clark - Editor

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

## What's Happening?

It's a new year, and the event team will begin planning the 2025 biannual EGWG Conference this month. Watch this newsletter and the President's column for information as it becomes available.

We will feature whatever other events are planned, as well.

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**“Creativity is a combination of discipline and childlike spirit.”**

*Robert Green*

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**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](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 first Friday meeting at Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Road, in Elk Grove. Meetings are from 12:30 to 2:30+/- . The following meetings are on February 7, 2025, and March 7. Come visit.

**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, 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](#).

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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.

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://goldcountryrtwriters.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 [BlackWomenWriteSac@gmail.com](mailto:BlackWomenWriteSac@gmail.com)

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

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

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### 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](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** If you'd like to help, make our events better than ever before, contact Loy using the above link.

## December's EGWG Meeting

There was a pretty good crowd this time. It was great to see everyone. Loy reminded us of the book festival in May 2025 and said the tables were going fast. The November event went well, with many outstanding reviews.

Two members brought a copy of their newly published book, and others spoke of where they were with their WIP. As usual, a broad array of genres was represented, as well as answers to questions asked.

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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 for 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 the website offers.

## Rare or Seldom Used Words

**Rabato.** A standup collar as seen in the sixteenth and seventeenth-century paintings.

**Rebozo.** A mantilla-like veil or headscarf worn by Mexican women.

**Labile.** Unstable; liable to err or change.

**Preciosity.** Excessive elegance, especially in literary style.

**Obscurant.** One who strives to prevent enlightenment and political reform.

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## T-Shirt Truths

1. A book a day keeps reality away.
2. The scariest moment is always just before you start. After that, things can only get better.
3. Born to read and write, forced to work.
4. If it involves pajamas and books, count me in.
5. I turn coffee or tea into books.

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**“What a miracle it is that out of these small, flat, rigid squares of paper unfolds world after world after world, words that sing to you, comfort you, and quiet or excite you.”**

*Anne Lamott*



## More About Dialogue

### A Character's Voice

Each character has a voice created by the culture or area where they were raised, their level of education, and the vocabulary from their profession.

A person from Maine will sound different from a rancher in Texas or someone from Georgia or Minnesota.

A southern man might cuss up a storm when among other men, but around women or children, their cussing is nonexistent, and it's all “Yes, ma'am,” and “No, sir.”

People talk differently among their co-workers than they do around close friends or family. Their tone of voice might be softer or harder, depending on their history.

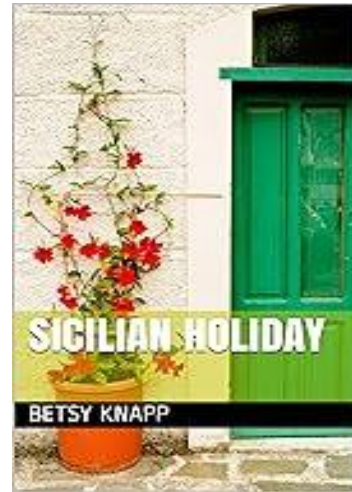
If you use swearing in your writing, you, as the author, might have a favorite phrase or word that you give to your character; remember, everyone uses different words or phrases. Don't have your character use the exact words.

My grandson uses a particular phrase when speaking “You know what I'm saying?”

If you use a figure of speech, don't overdo it so it becomes repetitive.

The next and final column on dialogue will be on the Grammar of Dialogue.

## Newly Published by Members



Sicilian Holiday

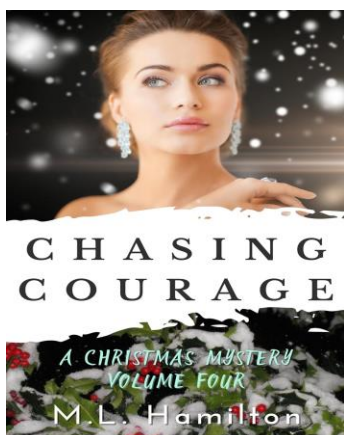
by Betsy Knapp (Author)

[Sicilian Holiday - Kindle edition by Knapp, Betsy. Romance Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#)

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**Deciding she's ready for a holiday, Senior Prosecuting Attorney, U.S. State Department, Division of International Organized Crime Nancy McFarlane heads to beautiful Sicily. What awaits her is anything other than rest and relaxation. Is Nancy in over her head, or is she falling head over heels? Join Nancy on her Sicilian Holiday to find out what happens on her dangerous and exciting vacation.**

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And More



Chasing Courage (A Christmas Mystery Book 4)

By M. L. Hamilton

Book 4 of 4: A Christmas Mystery

[Amazon.com: Chasing Courage \(A Christmas Mystery Book 4\) eBook : Hamilton, M.L.: Kindle Store](#)

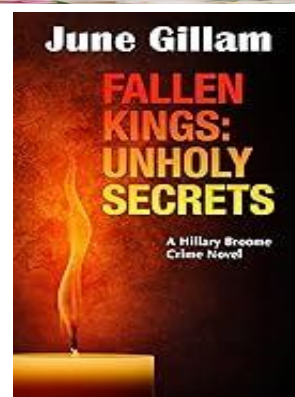
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Missing Persons Detective Everleigh Becket and her P.I. partner Isaac Stern have built a reputation as an elite team, able to solve the coldest cases. However, when A.D.A. Marie Schurr asks for their help in tracking down a missing witness, Everleigh isn't sure she wants to get into the business of forcing a terrified woman to testify against a known killer.

Madison Wheeler thought she'd met the man of her dreams, but when a business deal ends in murder, Madison is the only one left who can

get justice for the dead man. That is if Everleigh and Isaac can find her.

Do they have another Christmas miracle in them? Or is this one time when Everleigh would be happy not to solve the case?



Fallen Kings: Unholy Secrets: A

Hillary Broome Crime Novel

by June Gillam (Author)

[Amazon.com: June Gillam: books, biography, latest update](#)

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What begins as a vacation in Italy for Professor Hillary Broome's family turns into a nightmare when her gay teenage daughter Claire disappears. Hillary uncovers an ominous plot led by Father Tommaso, who aims to reverse women's rights progress. Battling personal demons and confronting her past, Hillary races against time to save Claire. The story intertwines themes of family, redemption, and societal progress, set against a backdrop of religious conspiracy.

**Great Valley Writing Workshops**



SPRING 2025. Focus on writing short pieces to submit to contests and anthologies such as the 2025 San Joaquin Valley Writers Anthology, BEGINNINGS, AND ENDINGS. All writers are welcome. Workshop leaders include June Gillam, PhD, & other California authors as guest speakers. June’s “Gold Country Hillside” short story appears in the Redwood Writers 2024 anthology *Transitions*.

**ZOOM SESSION Dates & times. 7**  
**Monday sessions, Pacific time.**

4:00-6:00 p.m. January 13 & 27  
and Feb. 10 & 24. Four 2-hour  
workshops

4:00-5:30 p.m. January 20 and  
Feb. 3 and 17. Three 90-minute  
process chats

REGISTER NOW:

<https://www.junegillam.com/writing-workshops> or email  
[gorillagirlink@gmail.com](mailto:gorillagirlink@gmail.com)

**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](http://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

Web site: [www.norcalpa.org](http://www.norcalpa.org)

[For more information, see the Flyer section.](#)

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**“As a writer, you should not judge. You should understand.”**

**Ernest Hemingway**



Elk Grove Writers Guild  
*Writers Helping Writers*

## EGWG President's Column

Hello, dear Friends.

"The Elk Grove Writers Guild wishes you the best in 2025.

Maybe it's the time and solitude to polish that novel and hit the send button. Connect with an agent who likes your story. The love of your life coming back or that pain in your back or elsewhere going away, and you can finally sit at your computer, or you planned a beautiful holiday dinner with family, and everyone loved the food and each other. Whatever brings you joy, peace, and health, we wish that for you.

Trust that we have all of you in mind when planning our 2025 programming. Stay tuned for our newsletters and announcements in early 2025. We also encourage you to share your ideas on what you'd like to learn by emailing [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com). We always love to hear from you.

Loy Holder, President

Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc"



**"If you have built castles in the air,  
your work need not be lost; that is  
where they should be. Now put  
foundations under them."**

**Henry David Thoreau**



## Poetry Corner

### **MOTHER NATURE'S EARTHLY BRAWL**

By Barbara A. Barrett

The wind and rain blow strong today  
And throw their lightning bolts.

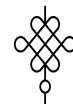
The trees bow low and leaves all play  
Like frisky little colts.

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.





**From the Webmaster**

George Hahn

This month, I would like to announce a new resource on our website. Member Rev. Bill McDonald has sent us a list of publishers with links to their pages in Wikipedia.

On each publisher's Wikipedia page, you should find their website address and a wealth of other information about the publisher.

You can find a link to the list in PDF format from the Resources menu. The website address is

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

George



More Writing Tips

**Really and Very**

Really and very are heavily used in writing but are almost always inferior. In nearly every case, there are stronger adjectives that will describe the situation more accurately. The exception is when the words are used in dialogue.

Example: Instead of, “the giant was very big,” use, “the giant towered over me.”



**From the Bookshelf**

**Could it ever rain frogs? Apparently, it can!**

Before a severe thunderstorm, when a high-pressure system forms over a body of water, it may cause a small tornado called a waterspout (a whirlwind that picks up water and anything lightweight within it).

Frogs weighing little more than a few ounces are no match for a watery waterspout.

Like tornados crossing land, the center of the waterspout is a low-PRESSURE TUNNEL within a high-pressure cone. Any lightweight item (i.e., frogs) can be sucked into the vortex.

When a particularly large tornado with a waterspout and those hitchhiking frogs reaches land, it loses some of its energy and slows down. As the vortex loses pressure, it releases whatever cargo it has picked up along the way— The end result? It rains frogs.

**Author’s Corner:** Maybe your current WIP rambles and fails to move the story forward. Maybe you have slipped back into writing more passive than active sentences. These are the *frogs* of unintended consequences every author needs to watch out for.

**Everyday folks:** Life is complicated. Sometimes, through no fault of our own, we find ourselves the recipient of unintended, short-lived, or life-long consequences. We are like the innocent storm, crossing a lake, minding our own business, and suddenly...we’ve picked up those *frogs* along the way.

Elaine Farber

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## How to Eliminate Unnecessary Words

Before you send your manuscript to a professional editor or self-publish it, trim excess words to tighten your prose.

Start by deleting words like really, actually, basically, somehow, very, and just. They take up space and add nothing to your writing.

**Delete Tautologies:** saying the same thing twice. They are redundant, and one needs to go. You can replace small in size with small and basic fundamentals with fundamentals.

More examples of tautologies are the evening sunset, the autobiography of her life, scorching hot, a free gift, and the meal was delicious and mouth-watering.

Then, there are filtering phases, such as she saw or he realized. For example, she saw the cat run away, which can be replaced with the cat ran away. That makes the sentence more compelling. And he realized that she wasn’t coming back can become, she wasn’t coming back, and his heart ached.

Whenever you have a pronoun and a verb, check to ensure it’s not a filtering phase.

The goal is to make your readers forget they are reading and help them immerse themselves in the story as if they are standing in the character’s shoes or seeing through the character’s eyes.

Checking filtering phrases is also a part of Deep Point of View. For more information on Deep POV, check the EGWEG website resource section for the class on Point of View.

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**“Keep a small can of WD-40 on your desk—away from open flames—to remind yourself that if you don’t write daily, you will get rusty.”**

*George Singleton*

**Something to Consider**

“Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine, and at last, you create what you will.”

George Bernard Shaw



Happy New Year

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

Please: Use Garamond-14 for submissions. Send in a **Word document(docx), NOT PDF or JPG.**

**Thanks!**

**January 2025**

- Jan. 01- New Year’s Day
- Jan. 01- Kwanzaa Ends
- Jan. 02- Hanukkah Ends
- Jan. 20- Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 22- Lunar New Year

**More Writing Prompts**

- a. Think of the way you’ve changed over the years. Can you identify any turning points? Describe them.
- b. Describe something you’ve done that you’re proud of. How did you get there?
- c. Your character is an office clerk who discovers the company is brainwashing its employees for a sinister purpose.

Stay Warm and Cozy



See you next month

**Continue for Calendar and Flyers**

EGWG – Calendar and Flyers

January 2025

January 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> No EGWG meeting	<b>2</b> Sac CWC 9-11 am – Writers → Network: Larry Mandelberg, "Setting Goals for the New Year," @ Denny's, 8841 Greenback, Orangevale	<b>3</b> <b>EGWG 12:30 – 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Members Mtg.</b> <b>9-11 Sacto CWC Writers Network @ Café Grill, 6215 Sunrise Blvd., Sac'to</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> GCW 10-12 – Business Mtg., Rose Room, Auburn City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> SJVW 12 pm – Bill Van Patton, "Submit, Submit, Submit," on Zoom
<b>12</b> NCPA 4-6:30 pm @ Flaming Grill Café, 2380 Watt #150 (in Country Club Plaza), Sac'to	<b>13</b> ← Cap Crimes Crime Time 2 pm – @ Pleasant Pheasant Bkstore, 105 Court St., Woodland	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> GCW 10-12 – Speaker Randy Landenberger, "Turning Your Story into an Audio Book," Rose Room, Auburn City Hall	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Cap Crimes 1-3 on Zoom: → Paula Munier, "An Agent's Secrets to Writing Stories Readers Can't Put Down"	<b>18</b> Sac CWC 1-3 @ Arden Dimick Library, 891 Watt. Chuck Sambuchino, "How to Get Published" BWW 1-3 @Arcade Library, 2442 Marconi, Sac'to
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> GCW 10-12 – Drop-In Critique, Rose Room, Auburn City Hall	<b>23</b> <b>EGWG 1:30 – Board Meeting</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> SJVW 12:00 – Craft Chat @ Papapavlo's, 501 Lincoln Ctr., Stockton: How to Avoid Information Dumps"
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> GCW 109-12 – Drop- In Critique, Auburn City Hall Rose Room	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

More Calendars: [Feb 2025](#), [Mar 2025](#), [2025](#)

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](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com).

Continue on the Next Page for Flyers:

1. NCPA Book Awards Competition (two pages)

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

Here's to New Beginnings as we go into our (3<sup>rd</sup>) decade by starting all over again with the 31<sup>ST</sup> Annual (NCPA) Book AWARDS Competition (11<sup>th</sup> year, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 attendees and will hopefully fix 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 | June through 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](mailto:sharon@sharonsdarrow.com) 916-803-1665  
NCPA website: [norcalpa.org](http://norcalpa.org) \* NCPA membership \$40, includes perks (see [norcalpa.org](http://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 from 1 June 2025 through 12 Midnight on 31 July 2025. With late fee: \* members (\$85) \* non-members (\$115) \*



- ❖ More info? NCPA website: [norcalpa.org](http://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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 a 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 on 19 October 2025