

Vol 5 Issue 02  
February 2025

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### This Issue May Contain

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

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?

Planning for the 2025 biannual EGWG Conference has begun. 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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**“Genius gives birth, talent delivers. What Rembrandt or Van Gogh saw in the night can never be seen again. Born writers of the future are amazed already at what they're seeing now, what we'll all see in time, and then see imitated many times by many writers.”**

*Jack Kerouac*

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**Elk Grove Writers Guild Meetings** are 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 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, and March 7, 2025.

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 at the first of the year. 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.

## January's EGWG Meeting

Another good turnout. It was great to see everyone.

The question was asked, "What are your writing goals for 2025?" The answers showed that we're an ambitious group. Here's hoping we all achieve our goals.

There was a lengthy discussion on AI, and it was suggested that it be noted on the information page that - **No AI was used in creating this book.** I noticed in most of the books I've been reading that the authors are including something like - **No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including AI, information storage, or retrieval systems, without express and written permission from the author, except for using brief quotations in a book review.**

We had four new people at the meeting. It's always good to see new faces.

Another interesting discussion on marketing, the pros and cons, had good information. A link called Writer Beware was suggested as a place to check for scammers. [See other links concerning scam detection on page 8.](#)

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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!

Under the Resources Menu, you'll 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 go see what's available.

<http://www.egweg.org>

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## Rare or Seldom Used Words

**Gibbous.** Humped, humpbacked, a moon that is more than half full..

**Claudicant.** Lamé or limping

**Desinence.** A termination or ending.

**Colletic.** Adhesive or adhesive surface like glue.

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## T-Shirt Truths

1. I can't fix stupid, but I can write about it.
2. The sooner we change the subject to books, the better!
3. Poetry will save your life.
4. A writer is a world trapped in one person.
5. Write honestly—write fearlessly—write true—but above all, WRITE.
6. Just one more chapter.

## More About Dialogue

### The Grammar of Dialogue

Each character needs their own paragraph. When there is a change in speakers, drop down to a new paragraph. The only time more than one speaker is in a paragraph is when several speakers are talking simultaneously, and then dialogue tags would indicate who was speaking.

Dialogue tags are needed for clarity, but if it's easy to follow who is speaking, don't use them. Tags such as said and asked are the primary tags to use and are almost invisible to the reader. It is best to use them before using non-standard words.

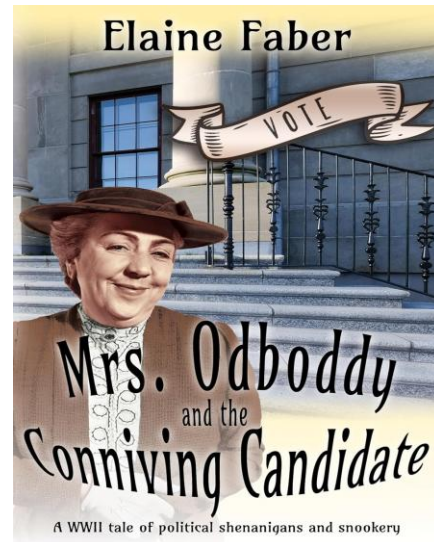
NEVER use adverbs with dialogue tags. That is telling, not showing. Use action beats instead.

Action beats are the actions of the characters. No one sits perfectly still when talking or listening. People use body language. It's been proven that body language is the most important part of communication between people.

It is estimated that the body is capable of over 1,000 different positions and 20,000 facial expressions. Our characters must move, and as writers, we have our work cut out to make them come alive.

(This is the last column on dialogue.)

## Newly Published by Members



**Mrs. Odboddy and the Conniving Candidate: A WWII tale of political shenanigans and snookery (Mrs. Odboddy Mysteries Book 5)**

[Amazon.com: Mrs. Odboddy and the Conniving Candidate: A WWII tale of political shenanigans and snookery \(Mrs. Odboddy Mysteries Book 5\) eBook : Faber, Elaine: Kindle Store](#)

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As the war continues to rage in Europe, Election Day approaches in Newbury. Among other inequities, the Newbury City Council makes it difficult for local women to obtain business licenses, even for home-based businesses. Mrs. Odboddy decides to run for the vacant city council seat, but she has no idea

## EGWG Newsletter – page 6

what political obstacles she will face. The trouble starts, first with disasters in her home, to violence and racism against her friends, and then theft charges are filed against her!

Agnes suspects her political opponent is behind all the trouble, including the state's attempts to remove their beloved ward, Mattie. It seems that Agnes is up against a conniving opponent who will stop at nothing to prevent her from winning the election. How can she prevail against such sinister deeds? Is winning an election worth it when her family is at risk?

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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](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. Dinner is \$30 for those who want to attend but have not entered a book.

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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### Paraprosdokians of Politicians

1. “Thomas Jefferson once said, We should never judge a president by his age, only by his works. And ever since he told me that, I stopped worrying.”  
*Ronald Reagan*
2. “You know nothing for sure...except you know nothing for sure.” *John F. Kennedy*
3. Blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the national debt.”  
*Herbert Hoover*
4. “People say I’m indecisive, but I don’t know about that.” *George H. W. Bush*
5. “If I had to name my greatest strength, I guess it would be my humility. Greatest weakness, it’s possible that I’m a little too awesome.” *Barack Obama*



Elk Grove Writers Guild  
*Writers Helping Writers*

## EGWG President's Column

Happy February, dear members.

Save the date. October 25, 2025

We are excited to announce our fourth biennial Elk Grove Writers Conference, which will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at the Holiday Inn, 9175 West Stockton Blvd, Elk Grove, CA. 95758. Stay tuned for more details as they're developed.

The Elk Grove Writers Guild will be participating in the April 26 Elk Grove Festival of the Arts and the May 31 CWC Sacramento Book Fair.

If you are interested in sharing a table with the Guild at these events, space is limited, so please email [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

Loy Holder, President  
Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc

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**“Geniuses can be scintillating, and geniuses can be somber, but it’s that inescapable sorrowful depth that shines through.”**

*Jack Kerouac*



## Poetry Corner

### HEDGES

by

Barbara A. Barrett

Trimmed to perfection  
No leaf or blade askew.

Ruthless shears

Cut

Each

Sprouting bud.

The perfect hedge conforms,  
But what happens to its soul?



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## Writing Tips

### Adverbs

Adverbs prop up weak verbs, but strong verbs grab the reader's attention.

Using adverbs in dialogue tags is telling instead of showing. Use action beats to show emotions. An example would be, "he said angrily." Instead, show his actions—He slammed his fist on the table.

Not all adverbs are bad. Sometimes, they are needed.

Fix adverbs that support weak verbs or dialog tags that tell, and your writing will improve.

**From the Webmaster**

George Hahn

Nothing from George this month.



**The Art of Manuscript Revision Workshops.**

Polish to Perfection: The Art of Manuscript Revision Workshops.

The class is a four-week mini-series, \$25.00 per class, Feb 5, 12, 19, and 26 each evening from 6:00-8:00 PM.

Gini Grossenbacher, an excellent and experienced author and teacher, is offering the class on Zoom so you can attend from the comfort of your home.

If you are interested, contact Gini at [ginis.writers1@gmail.com](mailto:ginis.writers1@gmail.com).



**AVOID WRITER SCAMS**

When investing in self-publishing, writing programs, or publishing services, check with the following websites: Alliance Independent Authors, Writers Beware, and Self-publishing Advise's list.

If you've never heard of the company offering services, check to ensure it's not on one of these lists. This will help you avoid being scammed.

This information is from [Kindlepreneur.com](http://Kindlepreneur.com). Check it out for more interesting subjects.



**From the Bookshelf**

**A Successful Reading Experience**

Elaine Faber

A reader spends hours immersed in reading a book. She chooses various genres for different reasons, all seeking a successful reading experience. She travels alongside the main character, or if the writer is talented enough, the reader feels she 'becomes' the main character.

But, to create a SUCCESSFUL reading experience, all genres must have the same elements.

**S IS FOR SECRETS.** The key to a good plot must be the discovery of a secret. The reader must be willing to accompany our heroine as she seeks answers to the compelling secret. Without a secret, there is no reason to keep turning pages.

**U IS FOR AN 'UNKNOWN' VILLAIN.** Without a villain, there would be no impediment to overcome or the question to answer: Who done it?



## EGWG Newsletter – page 9

**C. IS FOR COMPANION.** The heroine usually has an interesting sidekick or companion, whether animal or human, to resolve the problem and add to the mysticism or humor of a compelling story.

**C. IS FOR CLUES.** Clues and red herrings are often sprinkled throughout the story to complicate the issue, and clues are often given in dialogue. Each reaction and comment must be true to the characters' personalities.

**E. IS FOR EXCITEMENT.** Without a fair amount of drama and excitement, the reader may lose interest and pick up the Wall Street Journal instead. Every thread of the story must come together to keep the suspense or momentum going until the end.

**S. IS FOR STRATEGY.** The way the protagonist uses strategy to solve the problem is as important as the clues she follows. Some authors outline the entire novel before beginning to write. Others have a general idea of the storyline, and the character's strategy evolves as it comes together in a cohesive manner.

**S. IS FOR SUSPICIONS.** Plenty of suspicions, sometimes correct, more often incorrect, make a good book even better.

A satisfying conclusion must leave the reader wishing the book had an

additional hundred pages. She wonders where to find the sequel. The characters have become unforgettable, and she wishes she could spend another afternoon with them. All these elements are needed for a successful reading experience.

E. Faber

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### More Writing Tips

#### Hidden Verbs

There are verbs and nouns. Hiding a verb is changing it into a noun. This is often, but not always, done with the addition of 'ion,' such as discuss vs discussion.

For example, we will make (weak verb) an announcement (hidden verb). To correct this, we will announce it.

Other examples of making a change and eliminating wordiness are: We will—

Perform an analysis = Analyze

Make a decision = Decide

Perform a review = Review

Make an adjustment = Adjust

Offer an explanation = Explain

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**“One thing that helps is to give myself permission to write badly. I tell myself that I’m going to do my five or ten pages no matter what and that I can always tear them up the following morning if I want. I’ll have lost nothing—writing and tearing up five pages would leave me no further behind than if I took a day off.”**

*Lawrence Block*

Something to Consider

“It is not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer.”

*Charlotte's Web*



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

- POETRY
- RECENT PUBLICATIONS
- COMING EVENTS
- SHORT STORIES
- FLYERS
- WRITING CLASSES

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).

Submission Format: Garamond-14. If possible, send in a Word document(docx), NOT PDF or JPG. Thanks!

February 2025

- Feb. 01- National Freedom Day
- Feb. 02- Groundhog Day
- Feb. 09- National Pizza Day
- Feb. 14- Valentine's Day
- Feb. 17- President's Day

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More Writing Prompts

- a. Write about when you met your spouse or significant other. Did you think it was fate?
  - b. Write about why breaking the rules in life is sometimes essential.
  - c. Write about the town you grew up in and how it shaped your perspective on life.
- 

Happy Chocolate Day




See you next month

Continue for Calendar and Flyers

EGWG – Calendar and Flyers

February

February 2025						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		Note: Plan now for Black Women Write May 3 conference on Lisa Randolph's bk., <i>Guardians of the Gorilla</i>	Feb. series: San Rafael: Ginni Grossenbacher course series, "The Art of Manuscript Revision." See <a href="mailto:giniis.writers@gmail.com">giniis.writers@gmail.com</a>	Note: Sacto CWC 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sat., 10/19. More later.	1	2
3	4	5 GCW 10-12 Business Mtg. @ City Hall Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln, Auburn San Rafael 6-8 pm – Gini Grossenbacher series, "The Art of Manuscript Revision" Part 1.	6	7 EGWG 12:30 – Members Meeting at Round Table, 10054 Bruceville, EG Sac. CWC 9-11 Speaker Anna J. Stewart @ Denny's, 8841 Greenback, Orangetown	8 SJWW 12-2 on Zoom, "Writing Memoir: Short and Long," by Becky Ellis.	9 NCPA 4-6:30 PM @ Flaming Grill, 2380 Watt Ave. #150 (inside Country Club Plaza)  Sac CWC 1-3 @ Arcade Library
10	11	12 GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn San Rafael 6-8 pm – Gini Grossenbacher series, 2.	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15 Sac. CWC 1-3 Speaker Ted Witt @ Arcade Library	16 BWW 10 a.m. Place TBD
17	18	19 GCW 10-12 Speaker: Rina Wakefield, "Oral Tradition & Poetry Performance," Rose Rm, Auburn San Rafael 6-8 pm – Gini Grossenbacher series, 3	20	21	22 SJWW 12-2 Craft Chat: "Lines That Make Your Heart Swell" @ Papapavlo's, 501 Lincoln Ctr., Stockton	23
24	25	26 GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn San Rafael 6-8 pm – Gini Grossenbacher series, Part 4	27 EGWG 1:30 – Board Meeting, Zoom	28		

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).

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. The 2025 Sacramento Writing Workshop: April 11, 2025 (two pages.)

3.

**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

This section isn't a flyer but was sent as an Email from Betsy Schwarzentraub

The Sacramento Writers' Workshop will be presenting at the Sacramento Convention Center on April 11, 2025, an event entitled "**How to Get Published,**" from 9:30 to 5:00. The cost is \$169.

The program will have at least five agents (named on the website) plus scheduled plenary times for:

- Understanding the publishing industry in 2025

- Literary agents and writing an awesome query letter

- "Writers Got Talent" critique fest (one page, no names)

- Social media, blogging, and format

- Evergreen keys to writing success

Plus, agent and editor pitching is available throughout the day.

“The website is **sacramentowritingworkshop.com**. It has more information. Chuck Sambuchino of Writing Day Workshops is putting it on (you can Google his name). I think he's putting on eleven of these across the U.S.” Betsy S.

Editor: the page below contains information about the event from their website.

The website has a schedule of events and much more. If you're interested, check it out. See below for the first page of the website.



## **The 2025 Sacramento Writing Workshop: April 11, 2025**



After coordinating many successful past events around the country (including three in Sacramento), [Writing Day Workshops](#) is excited to announce **The 2025 Sacramento Writing Workshop** — a full-day in-person “How to Get Published” writing event in Sacramento, CA on Friday, April 11, 2025.

This in-person writing event is a wonderful opportunity to get intense instruction over the course of one day, [pitch a literary agent or editor](#) (optional), get your questions answered, and more. Note that there are limited seats at the event (125 total). All questions about the event regarding schedule, details, and registration are answered below. Thank you for your interest in the 2025 Sacramento Writing Workshop! We are very proud of our many success stories where attendees sign with agents following events — [see our growing list of success stories here](#).

*(Please note that this is an in-person event. We at Writing Day Workshops plan both online/virtual and in-person events. This next SWW is an in-person event happening on April 11, 2025. See you there.)*

Email Chuck at [WritingDayWorkshops@gmail.com](mailto:WritingDayWorkshops@gmail.com) to register for the Sacramento event. Or go to [sacramentowritingworkshop.com](http://sacramentowritingworkshop.com) and register there