

Vol 5 Issue 03
March 2025

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
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

Website

<https://www.egweg.org>

Newsletter & Submissions

Penny Clark - Editor

turlockpenny@yahoo.com

What's Happening?

The first 2025 biennial EGWG Conference flyer is in the Flyer section. Check it out! Watch this newsletter and the President's column for more information as it becomes available.

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

"I'm out there to clean the plate. Once they've read what I've written on a subject. I want them to think, "That's it!" I think the highest aspiration people in our trade can have is that once they've written a story, nobody will ever try it again."

Richard Ben Cramer

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, 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. The following meetings are on March 7, and April 4, 2025.

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 is planning for the 2025 Conference and other events. If you have a passion for sharing your expertise and would like to be a featured speaker at this or 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 better than ever before, contact Loy using the above link.

February’s EGWG Meeting

Unfortunately, for this column, I’ve stopped driving due to vision problems and won’t be attending the meetings. George H. has opted out of regular Web Master columns, so I’ve decided to present the beginning pages of several classes from the website. This month, it’s about writing a synopsis. I’m beginning with this subject because I’ve noticed some people confuse a synopsis with a blurb or back cover, and that’s just wrong. Do you have any suggestions of what you’d like to see in this newsletter? Let me know at turlockpenny@yahoo.com

The classes are in the research section of the website below. Check them out.

<http://www.egweg.org>

Rare or Seldom Used Words

Neanic. Young, childlike.

Basial. Relating to kissing.

Minatory. Menacing or mean.

Eschatology. The study of final things, including death.

Sennet. A set of notes played on a trumpet to mark the exit or entrance of actors.

Axenic. Uncontaminated or germ-free.

Exordium. The opening portion of a speech or writing.

T-Shirt Truths

1. Leaving reality – entering fiction.
2. If you need me, I’ll be writing.
3. I’ve lived in books more than I’ve lived anywhere else.
4. Reading and writing are my happy places.
5. Be quiet! Book under construction
6. Oh, go chapter 30 yourself.
7. It’s not smut – it’s literature.

Now Enrolling! Poetry Workshop Series!!

Join poets [Robin Gabbert](#) and [Gini Grossenbacher](#) for **The Art & Sense of Poetry**—an inspiring VIRTUAL WRITERS WORKSHOP SERIES designed to transform your words into SPARKLING, RESONANT POETRY! Explore how ARTWORK AND THE FIVE SENSES can enhance your writing, creating VIVID, SENSORY-RICH EXPERIENCES that bring your poetry to life.

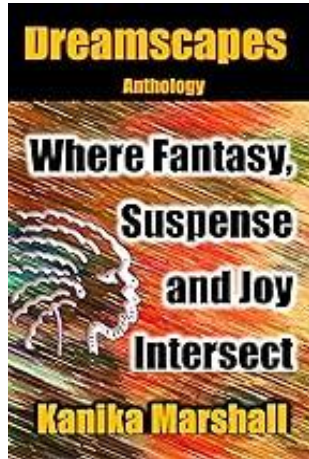
This engaging Zoom workshop runs WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, 6–8 P.M. PST, on MARCH 5, 12, 19, 26, AND APRIL 2, 9. Each class is just \$25, and you can take one or all! SIGN UP BY FEBRUARY 25 AND GET 10% OFF. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE.

✦ SPECIAL GUEST POET: [Terry Tierney, PhD](#)

📍 GET YOUR TICKETS NOW AT [Eventbrite!](#)

Hosted by [San Rafael Writers & Artists](#) – fostering creativity, coaching, and community.

Newly Published by Members

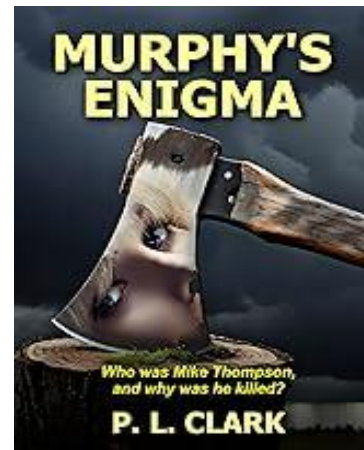


Dreamscapes Anthology. Where Fantasy, Suspense, and Joy Intersect. By Kathy, Kanika Marshall
[Amazon.com: DREAMSCAPES Anthology: Where Fantasy, Suspense and Joy Intersect eBook : Marshall, Kanika: Kindle Store](https://www.amazon.com/DREAMSCAPES-Archives/dp/B000000000)

Welcome to a world where dreams and reality intersect. By day, Kanika Marshall delves into the precise world of art welding and the factual world of genealogy research. But her mind takes flight when night falls, soaring through fantastical landscapes, weaving the 28 captivating tales in this short story anthology.

Narratives like *True Power* and *Join the Club* invite you to explore the uncharted territories of your own

mind. You become part of a worldwide issue with *It Starts with One* which was performed by Sacramento Stories on Stage. Watch your step for *Tripping Into Home and* relax after a hard day with *Gravity Queen and the Tush*. Cheer our hero in *The Road to Ravenna*, and clap for our Shero in *Not on My Watch!* Last but not least, Dreamscape encourages you to *Linger, Savor, and Enjoy* every day.



Murphy's Enigma: Who was Mike Thompson, and why was he killed? By P. L. Clark

[Amazon.com: Murphy's Enigma: Who was Mike Thompson and why was he killed? eBook : Clark, P. L.: Kindle Store](https://www.amazon.com/Murphy's-Enigma-Who-was-Mike-Thompson-and-why-was-he-killed/dp/B000000000)

California private Investigator Annie Ireland thought she'd seen it all—until she was hired to unravel the enigma of a murdered man's alias. A cryptic collection of newspaper clippings and a series of decades-old robberies seem to hold the key, but nothing about this case is simple. When another murder shakes a small California community in Amador County, Annie finds herself entangled in a murder investigation. Brutal killers are on a desperate hunt for something worth millions, and they will stop at nothing—not even taking out a determined P.I. to get it. Deputy Sheriff Jake Lang is used to trouble, but Annie is different. Tough, resourceful, and surprisingly vulnerable, she stirs more than his curiosity as they team up to chase down leads. But mixing murder investigations with personal intrigue is a recipe for complications neither of them predicted. As the bodies pile up and the mystery deepens, Annie and Jake must untangle a web of greed, betrayal, and deadly secrets before the killers strike again. Twists, danger, and unexpected chemistry collide in this gripping page-turner.

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. 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

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

“When I sit down to write a book, I do not say to myself, “I’m going to produce a work of art.” I write it because there is some lie that I want to expose, some fact to which I want to draw attention, and my initial concern is to get a hearing.” *George Orwell*

What is a Synopsis?

A synopsis is a business document, not a sales pitch.

It is a concise summary or general survey of something from the beginning to and including the end.

Most literary agents will read your query or cover letter first and then read the chapters or however many words they've requested. If they like what they've read, they will read the synopsis to see if the story interests them. The synopsis will tell them if your work is worth their time pursuing. If it is, they'll ask for the complete manuscript.

The synopsis outlines the main plot, shows a clear story arc, and gives a satisfying ending. A good synopsis will cover the central conflict and its resolution while describing the emotional development of the protagonist. That's it. Don't waste your time on supporting characters, settings, subplots, descriptions, dialogue, backstory, or writing styles.

Basic Requirements

Length. A synopsis will be between 500 and 800 words. The requirements for the synopsis length will differ from agent to agent. Check the specific

requirements before you submit it to anyone. Not following the specifications will indicate that you can't follow directions, and your submission will be tossed in the trash.

Language. Write the synopsis in a clear, to-the-point, and business-like manner. It's okay to tell and not show.

Presentation. It should not contain typos or spelling mistakes. Use a standard font, margins, and line spacing no narrower than 1.5. Many synopses will run to two pages, and that's fine unless an agent specifies one page. Keep it within the word limit, and don't use over two pages.

Character names. Put the names in caps and bold when first introduced. It makes it easier for the agent to read the complete document.

Character sketches. Give a quick resume of who they are. The format would be name, age, profession, and personality. For example, JAMES BOND (38), a British agent, is handsome, cruel, and sensual.

Use the third person. No matter how you've drafted your novel, use the third person for the synopsis.

File name. When you email your file, do not use general computer names such as synopsis.doc. The agent will have multiple files to look through to

find yours, and many will be similar. Use the title of your novel, for example, farewell-to-arms-synopsis.doc. This will make your submission easier to find.

Outlining Your Synopsis.

Research. Each company in the publishing industry and individual editors will have unique needs. Go to their website and print out what they want. Do they want a one or two-page synopsis? How many pages or chapters do they want? What font or type size? You must adjust your synopsis to fit each different requirement. Beware, this is another test. It will tell them if you can follow simple directions.

Wait until your manuscript is finished. An established author may send in a synopsis of what they plan to write, but you can't. Once you finish writing, you'll be able to identify principal characters, plot points, and conflict. You must know how the story ends, and that is liable to change from what you think it will be at the beginning.

Make a list of your protagonist, antagonist, love interest, or best friend's secondary character. Mention only the most essential characters in the synopsis. Write out who your characters are. Make sure they

aren't flat characters. They need to be well-rounded. Each character must affect the story in some significant way.

Identify significant plot points. The plot points are part of the story's narrative arc and seldom include a subplot unless it's crucial to the story arc. If you've written a memoir, you might write a one-sentence summary of each chapter. If you've written a screenplay, list what happens in each act. If it's a collection of short stories or poems, show the principal theme of each work.

What's unique about your story? Agents and publishers must read hundreds of synopses a week. Make yours stand out by stressing what is exceptional. You might have used a different POV, maybe from an animal's point of view. Do you have a unique plot twist? "The murderer was closer than he thought." Is your story of special interest? "This memoir explores growing up in a religious cult."

This is the beginning of the class on a Synopsis. To read the rest of the class, go to ...

egweg.com then

Research then

Class then

#6 Synopsis

(next month, I'll present the class on Blurbs.)



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Hello, dear members and friends,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the sun between the storms.

Plans for the Elk Grove Writers Conference on October 25, 2025, are coming together. Please check the latest conference information in the flyer section of this Newsletter.

If you have any questions or comments, email me at loyholder77@gmail.com.

Have a great March 2025.

Loy

Loy Holder, President
Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc

“If you tell the reader that Bull Beezley is a brutal-faced, loose-lipped bully, with snake’s blood in his veins, the reader’s reaction may be ‘Oh, yeah?’ But if you show the reader Bull Beezley raking the bloodied flanks of his weary, sweat-encrusted pony and flogging the tottering red-eyed animal with a quirt, or have him booting in the ribs of a starved mongrel and, boy, the reader believes.”

Fred East

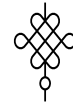


Poetry Corner

There Once Was...

by
Barbara A. Barrett

There once was an unpublished writer
Who labored with pen and typewriter
When creations were few,
She was in quite a stew,
And nothing could really excite her.



(This is the last of Barbara Barrett’s poetry and the last of the Poetry Corner unless someone sends in a poem or two.)

Kathy Marshall sent this link for an interview she did for “Your Life Over 50”—if you’re interested in hearing it, here’s the link.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/your-life-over-50/id1694860431?i=1000692936615>

Also, she’ll be giving a presentation for the Afro-American Family History Seminar on March 8, from 8:30 to 1:30. If it sounds good to you and you want to join, you can register at AAFHS.com.



From the Bookshelf

Paying the Rent

(Circa 1970-73 in Tripoli, Libya)

Penny Clark

It was time to pay the rent in the middle of each month. I could write a check in ordinary life, but we lived in Tripoli, where nothing was ordinary.

The long pants and long-sleeved blouse I wore were hot for the Sahara climate, but I always dressed carefully when paying the rent or whenever I went out.

I'd heard the rumor that groups of Arab men were grabbing any woman, western or not, who was wearing short or not-so-short skirts and blackening their knees with shoe polish. I didn't mind the thought of blackened knees, but the possibility of being physically grabbed bothered me enough that I didn't want to take any chances.

On rent day, I went into the Old Suk. Everyone said, "Go with a group, or don't go at all." I seldom travel with

groups, and the rent had to be paid. I went into the Suk every month and was still in one piece.

I knew the rules of engagement and would be all right. I reassured myself with those words and knocked on wood as a precaution.

When I arrived downtown, I searched for a parking spot close to the old marketplace. I still had to walk three blocks before I reached the Suk. I tried to stay on the less traveled strand, a broad promenade that curved around the bay, but eventually, I had to cross the street and walk down the crowded sidewalk. I went past several coffee shops where young and old men sat at little tables, smoking from a hookah and drinking tiny cups of Turkish coffee.

I continued past the newspaper stands, where papers from different nations in many languages were sold.

A young man came out of nowhere and brushed against me, rubbing my shoulder, whispering, "I love you" in my ear as he passed. It happened fast, and by the time what he'd said registered, he'd disappeared into the crowd. That sort of occurrence was common when walking in downtown Tripoli.

Dodging fast-moving cars, I crossed a wide boulevard to the Old Suk. A wide, arching doorway cut through the thick, stone walls of the ancient fort that

EGWG Newsletter – page 11

once guarded the city led into a maze of dark, narrow alleys. Each side was lined with overstuffed shops ranging from the size of walk-in closets to single-car garages.

Merchandise hung like flags from poles outside the shops, dangling colorful goods for sale just above the shopper's heads. The murmurs and shouts of bargaining in the narrow alleys were a constant background noise. I pushed steadily forward, slipping through the crowds of shoppers. I'm short and have always been able to wiggle through a crowd—it was a handy trick to have in Libya.

The variety of incense burning in different shops stung my nose. The sweet yet foul odor of rotting fruit, tanned or raw leather, tobacco smoke, urine, perfume, and sweating people all left their signature aroma in the Old Suk. It was heady and not easily forgotten.

I made my way deeper into the maze, and it was a miracle I never lost my way.

Behind the shops was a confusing rabbit's warren of narrow lanes. The corners had small plaques on the wall, written in Arabic. I had no idea what those signs said, but I memorized the shapes of the letters. One corner had damage to the plaster in the form of a rabbit. Another corner came with the painting of a window with blue shutters

on the wall. I used whatever I could to choose the right path, afraid I'd get lost and never find my way out.

Two more corners and I'd reach my destination—I relaxed a little. Then I felt a hand fondle my butt for a brief second. Ah, yes, the rules of engagement. One must be open-minded to go into the Old Suk. A little pat on the bum was nothing to get excited about—it wasn't personal. Most of the people in the alleyways were male, and all of them seemed repressed and eager to touch a woman, any woman.

Another man approached, and I lifted my arm to block an incoming touch to my breast. The man smiled at me, with a glint of gold shining among his greenish teeth, acknowledging my block. There were rules for me, too, and I played my part. I couldn't go on the offensive, but I could deflect what I saw coming.

Finally, my landlord's office appeared. A small boy ran out the door as I entered. He would return with tea. That meant I wouldn't be leaving for a while. I preferred when the man was busy and didn't have time for tea.

He gestured, and I sat on the hardwood chair in front of the massive table he used as a desk.

We exchanged the usual pleasantries, As-salaam Alaikum, peace be unto you. Sabah al-Khair, good morning.

EGWG Newsletter – page 12

Kayf Halak, how are you? Shukran, fine. One person said these customary greetings upon meeting another, and the other person repeated them. They were the first phrases I learned and came in handy whenever I left the flat.

My landlord always amazed me, and it was hard to avoid staring at him. He reminded me of Sidney Greenstreet, who played the large man in the white suit in Casablanca. My landlord was enormous, wore a long white dress shirt and a Turkish fez, and smoked skinny brown, sweet-smelling cigarettes. I'd never seen him standing. He just sat behind his table. He'd snap his fingers if he needed something, and a flunky ran to get whatever he wanted.

It was easy to imagine him, a hulking spider, sitting in the middle of his web, pulling strings, and telling people to go there, come here, do this, or don't do that. I could picture him as a ruthless puppet master, and I was always ultra-polite to him. He gave off an aura of enough power to scare me.

Soon, the boy returned, bearing a tray of thick, 4-ounce glasses of pitch black and too-sweet tea or shay (pronounced sha-hee).

The landlord launched into the telling of a long story. I understood only one word in ten of his broken English, so the point of his story was a mystery.

I nodded and smiled while sipping my tea. When the story was over, and the tea glasses were emptied, I was ushered out of the office with a whispered ma'a salama, go with Allah.

Back in the little alleyways, I wiggled my way to the entrance of the Suk, fighting a few more skirmishes along the way.

I breathed in the clean sea air as I emerged onto the boulevard and returned to my car. I'd paid my rent for another month, and the rules of engagement had held. They could change at any moment, but they had worked for one more time.

A saying throughout the ex-pat community became subtle sarcasm. "Gracious foreign living," usually said with rolling eyes. I lived overseas from late 1970 through early fall of 1979 and never found any truly gracious living among the oil field workers' families.

Still, I wouldn't trade my experiences in Libya, Malta, or Sumatra for anything anyone could ever offer. *Penny Clark*

“Writing is like sex. First, you do it for love, then you do it for your friends, and then you do it for money.”

Virginia Woolf

EGWG Newsletter – Back page

Something to Consider

“To survive, you must tell stories.”

Umberto Eco



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.

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

March 2025

- Mar. 04- Mardi Gras
- Mar. 09- Daylight Savings
- Mar. 17- Saint Patrick’s Day
- Mar. 20- Spring Equinox

More Writing Prompts

- Write about your last nightmare.
- A woman is running down the sidewalk, pushing a stroller. Who/what is she running from or to?
- Write a dystopian story about the fall of American democracy.
- Write a list of New Year’s resolutions that you’ve already broken. Can any be saved?

Spring Cleaning



See you next month

Continue for Calendar and Flyers

EGWG – Calendar and Flyers

March

March 2025						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	San Rafael: "Art & Sense of Poetry" 3/5-4/9. \$25 a class. Gini Grossenbacher. See Eventbrite for tickets				1	2
3	4	5 GCW 10-12 Business Mtg. @ City Hall Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn San Raf 6-8 pm on Zoom – "Art of Poetry" class with Gini Grossenbacher & Robin Gabbert. Eventbrite.	6	7 EGWG 12:30 – Members Meeting at Round Table, 10054 Bruceville, EG Sac. CWC 9-11 Speaker Jenifer Rowe @ Denny's, 8841 Greenback, Orangevale	8 SJWV 12-2 on Zoom, "Writing Conferences" by Deborah Grochau	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 Raf 6-8 pm on Zoom – "Art of Poetry" class with Gini G. & Robin Gabbert.	13	14	15 Sac. CWC 1-3 @ Spaghetti Factory BWW 10 a.m. Place TBD	16
17	18	19 GCW 10-12 Speaker: Sarah Pressley & Susan Osborn, "Adding Humor to Your Writing," Rose Rm, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn San Raf 6-8 pm on Zoom – "Art of Poetry" class with Gini G. & Robin Gabbert	20	21	22 SJWV – NO Craft Chat this month	23
24	25	26 GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn San Raf 6-8 pm on Zoom – "Art of Poetry" class with Gini G. & Robin Gabbert	27 EGWG 1:30 – Board Meeting, Zoom	28	29	30
31						

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.

Continue to the Next Page for Flyers:

1. EGWG Conference Flyer #1
2. The Art and Sense of Poetry
3. NCPA Book Awards Competition (two pages.)
4. The 2025 Sacramento Writing Workshop: April 11, 2025 (two pages.)
5. Sacramento Book Festival

Save
the
date

JOIN US



OCTOBER 25, 2025

4TH BIENNIAL ELK GROVE WRITERS CONFERENCE IS
COMING TO THE HOLIDAY INN
9175 WEST STOCKTON BLVD.
ELK GROVE, 95758

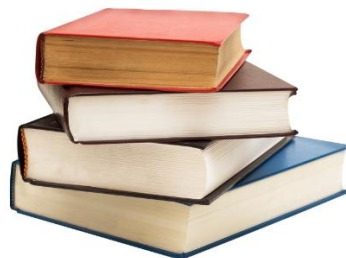
REGISTRATION FEE IS \$60

Check in at 7AM with complimentary breakfast
and
All-day coffee service

Bring your own lunch and purchase water
and soft drinks in the lobby.

Program begins at 7:45AM.
Registration date and more details soon.

For questions and comments email
loyholder77@gmail.com



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers



Poets Robin Gabbert

&

Gini Grossenbacher

Invite You to



The Art & Sense of Poetry
VIRTUAL WRITERS WORKSHOP SERIES

Transform your words into sparkling, resonant poetry using
artwork and the five senses to create vivid,
sensory-rich experiences.

Wednesday evenings, 6-8 p.m. PST

March 5, 12, 19, 26. April 2, 9

\$25 per class, take one or all!

Take 6, get one class free!

*Perfect for poets who want to deepen
their craft and bring their words to life!*

Tickets at Eventbrite

New Poets Welcome!



SAN RAFAEL WRITERS & ARTISTS
CLASSES. COACHING. COMMUNITY

Special Guest Poet:
Terry Tierney, PhD

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 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 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 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 Questions? [Sharon 916-803-1665](tel:916-803-1665) or [Norma Jean 916-991-5751](tel: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 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.

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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 to register for the Sacramento event. Or go to sacramentowritingworkshop.com and register there

A promotional poster for the Sacramento Book Festival. The background features a blurred image of the Sacramento skyline and the Tower Bridge. The text is overlaid on this background. In the top left, it says "Save the Date..." in a cursive font. In the top right, "FREE EVENT!" is written in a bold, stylized, outlined font. In the center, there is a logo of an open book with a building facade inside it, followed by the text "SACRAMENTO BOOK FESTIVAL" in large, bold, blue capital letters. Below that, the date and time "May 31st, 2025, 10AM-4PM" and the location "Shepard Garden & Arts Center" are listed, along with the address "3330 McKinley Blvd, East Sacramento, Near McKinley Park". At the bottom, it says "Join the newsletter for all the details:" followed by the website "www.sacramentobookfestival.com" in large, bold, blue capital letters.

Save the Date...

**FREE
EVENT!**

 **SACRAMENTO
BOOK FESTIVAL**

May 31st, 2025, 10AM-4PM
Shepard Garden & Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd, East Sacramento, Near McKinley Park

Join the newsletter for all the details:
www.sacramentobookfestival.com