

Vol 6 Issue 03

Mar. 2026

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Welcome!



The Elk Grove Writers Guild became more than talk in 2018. Our goal was to help writers improve their writing skills. This newsletter is one way the Guild works toward that goal.

Within these pages, you'll find plenty of information about upcoming events, classes, and Guild news. We also offer writing tips, updates on the latest happenings in the writing world, and writing wisdom.

We're always looking for new contributors and encourage you to submit your work. Whether you have news about your writing group's events, book launches, poems, writing tips, recent successes or publications, or reports from 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?

January 31st was the deadline to volunteer for positions on the EGWG board or in key departments. See the President's column for the new board members. And keep the remaining positions in mind. Can you fill one of the spots? Talk to Loy, if you can.

“The main thing I try to do is write as clearly as I can. I rewrote a good deal to make it clear.”

E. B. White

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 speak the language of writers. We share what we're doing and how we're doing it. Topics vary as questions and problems are discussed or as the latest information in the writing and publishing world is shared.

Guild members can post their work-in-progress (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 first Friday meeting at **Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Road, in Elk Grove.** The next meetings are on **March 6 and April 3, 2026.**

Contact loyholder77@gmail.com for answers to any meeting or Guild questions.

LOCAL GROUPS & EVENTS

CWC's Meetings are on the first Friday, 9-11 a.m. Denny's, 7900 College Town, Sacramento. The third Saturday, 1-3 p.m., isn't always at the Arcade Library. For information on current meetings or events, visit the cwcsacramentowriters.org

NCPA monthly meetings are on the second Sunday from 4 pm to 6:30 p.m. The meeting typically includes a speaker discussing various writing topics. Their new location is Flaming Grill Café at 2380 Watt Ave., inside Country Club Plaza. The link for current information is: <https://www.norcalpa.org>

California Writers Club (CWC) **(San Joaquin Valley Writers Branch)**

Members' monthly Speaker Meetings, 2nd Saturday with a Zoom program, and the 4th Saturday of each month with an in-person meeting at 12 noon - 2:00, at the Lodi Library, 201 W. Locust, Lodi, CA.

Check the link below for other information.

<https://www.sjvalleywriters.org>

Capitol Crimes Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month from 1-3 p.m. For info, go to

<https://capitolcrimes.org/events>

The Gold Country Writers

Wednesday meetings from 10 AM to 12 PM at the Auburn City Hall. 2nd and 4th Wed.—Drop-In Critiques. 3rd Wed.—Speaker. 1st Wed—GCW Business. Plus 8 spin-off genre critiques. For more information, contact mywebb@sbcglobal.net or goldcountrywriters.com

Black Women Write

Black Women Write meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. until noon. For information, contact BlackWomenWriteSac@gmail.com

EGWG BULLETIN BOARD

Seeking Speakers and Teachers

Contact Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com if you wish to be a featured speaker at an event in 2026 or later.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

If you'd like to help ensure the next event runs smoothly or believe you can fill another role, please contact Loy Holder as listed above.

Rare or Seldom Used Words

Suppletion. The act of supplementing or supplying.

Stenotic. About the narrowing of a passage.

Olamic. Eternal.

Invidious. Provoking envy or ill will.

Villous. Shaggy-haired.

T-Shirt Truths

1. My brain has too many tabs open
 2. I don't always write...Wait, yes, I do
 3. Authors do everything by the book
 4. Beware: I might spontaneously talk about writing
 5. I'm a ~~writer~~ rewriter
-

Something to Think About

An Evil Personification

By

Ramona Scarborough

Hoist the fifth flag in the air-the deadly purple one. I am a silent killer, specializing in premature deaths: 4.2 million strong from cancer, heart and lung disease, kidney, and liver failure. I am not a respecter of people but a

ruthless slayer of all ages, vulnerable older folks, middle-aged, and young ones who can't breathe well. Animals, fish, and birds have become extinct because of me. Their organs can't function properly. They are not immune to diseases. Plants wither and die.

Sometimes, I'm invisible. But without a doubt, I'm there, hovering above you in the sky. You might smell me rather than see me. My breath may have a sulfuric tinge. My throat belches out pungent acidic fumes. Now, I reek.

Below me, I see you, forced to raise your handkerchief to your eyes, your nose. Phlegm clogs your throat. I am sending you to the doctor to treat your bronchitis and asthma. But as soon as I appear, your symptoms will get worse. Medical bills for skin and stomach problems will pack a wallop to your wallet.

A flaming red, orange, and gold sunset looks beautiful, but don't be fooled by me. That may be my insidious haze enveloping the horizon. When thick grey or black murk covers the sun and dusts you with ashes, you inhale me. You cough and choke. I am smothering you.

You now have warning flags flying below me. The green one means healthy air. I don't see it much. When it is

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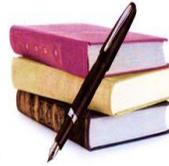
yellow, I'm not that bad. But orange, I might eliminate people with lung problems or at least give them misery. Now, when the red flag, signaling unhealthy conditions, is presented, the smart ones should hide from me inside, no outdoor sports or hiking, but fools go out anyway. But purple, now there's the alert for the ultimate hazardous conditions. There's a chance I might add you to my list of obituaries.

Do I care? No. I'm just an abominable quality called pollution hanging over you. You can rail against me. Or blame me. But you are to blame. From my vantage point, I see 1.4 billion vehicles racing around the earth. Exhaust is one of my favorite extinguishers of life. Factories, nuclear plants, exploded bombs, and forest fires, on March 26, all add to my poisonous cocktail. Tears in the ozone layer allow more of me to bombard you. Plumes of smoke, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide float toward where I am and mingle in the atmosphere in what you call heaven. How ironic!

The question should be, *do you care? Are you trying to get rid of me?* I think I'm gaining, and you are losing. If I continue getting stronger, I could cause you to take your last breath. I might even be a

principal factor in ending life on Earth. Who's going to stop me?

Ramona Scarborough



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Hello, dear Members and Friends.

The Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc. Board welcomes Cheryl Stapp as our new Board Secretary and Rick Davis as our new Board Treasurer. We are excited to have them onboard.

Are you a Business CEO, Web Builder, Program Planner, or Marketing Expert interested in showcasing your skills while helping more writers? If you are, send an email to loyholder77@gmail.com.

I wish you all the sunshine and warmth of early spring, a wealth of love and opportunities, and good health to enjoy the blessings that come your way.

Loy Holder, EGWG President

In the Flyers Page section

Sacramento Book Festival. Gini Grossenbacher's New Class.



From the Bookshelf

KRUISING WITH KANIKA

Introduction

I was a fraud. I had no business signing up for an elegant cruise. I like simple things like comfortable clothes, sturdy shoes, minimal makeup, simple hairstyles, and straightforward conversation. So why did I sign up for a cruise with a group of well-to-do Black folks?

I convinced myself that I deserve to celebrate my upcoming 70th birthday in style. After all, I had scrimped and saved my hard-earned money in mutual funds for my entire adult life. Why leave it all for my kids to spend after I'm deceased?

I plopped down a sizeable minimum payment to secure a "concierge level" room on the seventh deck in the Regent of the Seas' "Grandeur" ship. In October 2026, we will sail from Malta to

Turkey, then to Greece. I would leave my antisocial Caucasian boyfriend at home and luxuriate for eleven days with my brown-skinned peeps.

As the date of departure came closer, I paid for comfort-level airfare and selected off-ship tours, but continued to fret. You see, most Christian Black folk have learned well that everything white is holy, good, pretty, pure, and desirable, whereas most things black are thought of as evil, ugly, and sub-standard. Therefore, I wasn't surprised when our African American cruise tour hostess announced she would have a "white party" onboard the ship. Everyone would be expected to wear white. I don't own anything white, aside from one bulky sweater. That's a racist leftover from me researching and authoring books about the horrific treatment non-whites have received in America for centuries. I won't fit in.

I confided my feelings of inadequacy to a friend. *How could I blend in with the rich and famous on that \$35,000 ten-day cruise, which costs half the price of my first house?*

"Why not use that trip to gather research for a new book?" my buddy proposed.

Huzzah! Just like the Grinch Who Stole Christmas, a scathingly brilliant idea began to blossom in my oppositional-deviant head. Maybe my bold alter-ego,

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Kanika—whom I created in 1993 to sell my handmade ceramic art—would represent me on that cruise. She might even deign to wear a fashionable white outfit, albeit with African-design accents. Kanika could draft the story of *our* adventures eating, chatting, touring, swimming, and dancing with strangers in those strange lands!

My spirits not only lifted but flew into the stratosphere of possibilities. Yes, this would be a proper entree into my eighth decade on Earth, celebrating all parts of she who is me.

Kathy Marshall

“A book is just a slow Kindle.”

Comedian John Johnson

Paraprozdokians

In Greek, it means “Against Expectations.”

- 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*
- I saw a bank that said “24-Hour Banking,” but I don’t have that much time. – *Stephen Wright*

- “That’s the true spirit of Christmas: people being helped by people other than me.” – *Seinfeld*
- I hope that someday you’ll have the indescribable joy of having children and of paying someone else to raise them. – *The Addams Family*
- I always remember my grandfather’s last words: “A truck!” – *Emo Phillips*
- You know what they say: you can lead a herring to water, but you have to walk really fast, or he’ll die. – *Golden Girls*
- I haven’t slept in 10 days, because that would be wrong. – *Mitch Hedberg*
- Gentlemen, you can’t fight here. This is the War Room! – Dr. Strangelove, or. How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb
- When you first entered the restaurant, I thought you were handsome. And then you spoke. – *As Good as it Gets (1997)*

“Get it down. Take chances. It may be bad, but it’s the only way you can do anything really good.”

William Faulkner

EGWG Newsletter – Back page

Something to Consider

“Write drunk, edit sober” might be one of the most famous writing quotes about editing, but we can’t outdrink Ernest Hemingway. Which is why these other words of wisdom and writing quotes exist.”

Anonamous



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.

The Submission Format is Garamond-14. If possible, send it as a Word document(docx). **Thanks!**

March 2026

- Mar. 08- Daylight Saving Time
- Mar. 09- National Napping Day
- Mar. 14- National Pi Day
- Mar. 17- St. Patrick’s Day
- Mar. 25- Tolkien Reading Day

Sentence Starter Prompts:

- 1 The unrelenting sun beat down on his forearms, and all he could think about was how cold he felt inside
- 2 Today is the day she realized her entire world was going to change forever because...
- 3 “Your heart belongs to me,” said the stranger in a hushed yet familiar tone

ERIN GO BRAGH!



See you next month!

The following pages are for the Calendar and Flyers Section

Calendar and Flyer Section

March 2026

This is a blank and printable March [Calendar](#). Downloaded from [WinCalendar.com](#)

◀ Feb 2026		March 2026					Apr 2026 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1	2 Mon. Writers 1-4 critique group, Elk Grove Sr. Ctr., 8230 Civic Center Dr, EG. Drop-In.	3	4 GCW 10-12 – Business Mtg. @ City Hall Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn	5	6 EGWG 12:30-2:30 Members Mtg., Round Table, 10054 Bruceville, Elk Grove Sac. CWC 9-11 at Denny's, 7900 College Town, Sac'to	7	
8 Cap. Cr. 2-3 PM – Crime Time at Pleasant Pheasant, 1059 Court St. #109, Woodland. Register https://capitol-crimesildapricot.org/	9 Mon. Writers 1-4 critique group, Elk Grove Sr. Ctr. 8230 Civic Ctr Dr. Drop In. Sac Sub 7-9 p.m. at 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks & on Zoom	10 Cap. Cr. 7-8 PM Meet author Claire M. Johnson Register at https://capiralcrimes-wildapricot.org	11 GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn	12	13	14 SJWW 12-2 – Speaker on Zoom. Contact https://billsjvw@gmail.com .	
15 NCPA 4-6:30 PM at Flaming Grill, 2380 Watt, #150 (in Country Club Plaza), Sacramento. .	16 Mon. Writers 1-4 critique group, Elk Grove Sr. Ctr. 8230 Civic Ctr Dr, EG. Drop in.	17	18 GCW 10-12: Jojo Cook, "Social Action Writing," @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn. Open to all	19	20	21 Sac. CWC 12 PM Gen'l Meet at Old Spaghetti Factory, 1625 Watt, Sacto.. Janice Hironika artist. BWW 10-12. See Black-WomenWriteSac@gmail.com	
22	23 Mon. Writers 1-4 critique group, Elk Grove Sr. Ctr. 8230 Civic Ctr Dr, EG. Drop in.	24	25 GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn	26 EGWG 1:30 – Board Meeting, Zoom	27	28 SJWW 12-2 – Craft Chat at Lodi Library, 201 West Locust, Lodi.	
29	30 Mon. Writers 1-4 critique group, Elk Grove Sr. Ctr. 8230 Civic Ctr Dr, EG. Drop in.	31					

More Calendars: [Apr 2026](#), [May 2026](#), [2026](#)

ABOUT THE FLYER SECTION

If you have flyers for your own event or your writing group's event that you'd like to see in this section, please ensure they are in Word doc format. I don't have an app for handling PDFs or JPGs.

Send your flyer directly to Penny Clark at turlockpenny@yahoo.com

Thanks

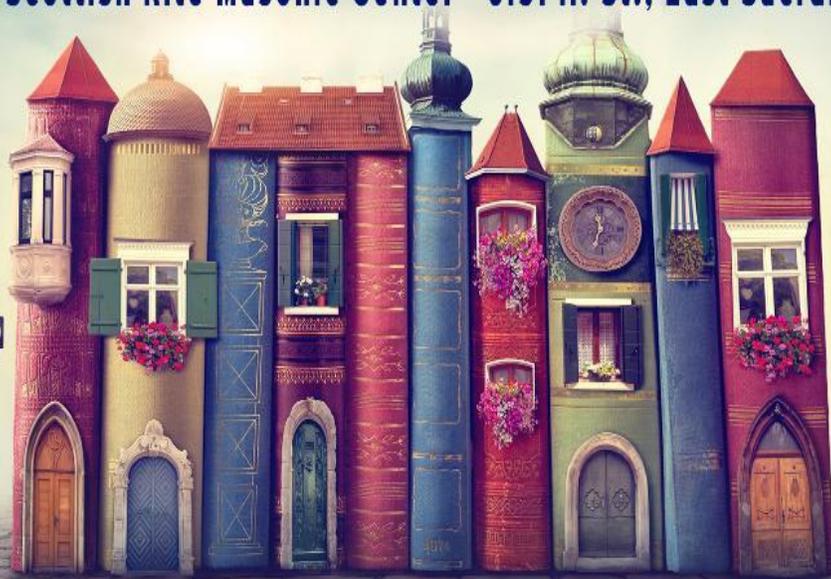
Flyers Beginning Next Page

- Sacramento Book Festival
- Gini Grossenbacher Class

SACRAMENTO BOOK FESTIVAL

SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2026, 10-5

All Ages | Scottish Rite Masonic Center - 6151 H. St., East Sacramento



This is a Free
Non-Profit
Literary Event



SacramentoBookFestival.com

Gini Grossenbacher Classes

March Writing Classes!

I'm inviting you to **Celebrate the Novel and other prose forms** with us.

You may bring prose poetry, memoir, and other longer-form writing to work on, as well as the novel.

Though we'll be looking at arc and characterization in the novel, many of the principles apply to other forms of writing, as I will demonstrate.

Feel free to bring your works-in-progress.

Each class will feature a mini-lesson based on a how-to writing book, time to work on our own material, followed by sharing and commenting in a safe space.

Zoom, four Wednesdays, March 4 through 25th. 6-8 pm. You may attend one or all classes.

Please let me know if you're interested, and I'll send you the pay links. \$25 per class.

gini.writers1@gmail.com

All my best for a great writing New Year!!

Gini Grossenbacher, M.Ed.

Educator, Author-Editor
