

Vol 6 Issue 04
April 2026

This Issue May Contain

Bulletin Board

Coming Events

President's Column

Writing Bits and Pieces

From the Bookshelf

Learning Opportunities

Backpage

Area Event Calendar

Flyers for Events

And More



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.

“Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on.”

Louis L'Amour

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 **April 3 and May 1, 2026.**

Contact loyholder77@gmail.com for answers to any questions about meetings or the Guild.

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 are interested in being 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 think you can fill another role, please contact Loy Holder as listed above.

Rare or Seldom Used Words

Anaphora. The deliberate repetition of a word in several clauses.

Demit. To relinquish an office or function.

Exigent. Requiring immediate attention.

Apostrophize. To digress or turn away from the audience. To speak to an imaginary person.

Suggested by Nancy Miller:

"I write entirely to find out what I'm thinking, what I'm looking at, what I see, and what it means. What I want and what I fear."
Joan Didion

T-Shirt Writing Truths

1. Getting published is like the MMA. It's all about submission
2. Procrastinate now, write later
3. Sorry, I wasn't listening...I was planning subplots and cliff hangers
4. Authors are plotheads
5. In my head, I'm writing a bestseller
6. Word Nerd
7. This writer is losing the plot

In the Flyers Page section

Sacramento Book Festival.
Gini Grossenbacher's New Class.
May's Big Day Of Giving

A Reminder

From the Webmaster

George Hahn

I want to highlight one of the least used resources on the Guild's website: our library. Since the Guild is a small organization without a dedicated space, I believe that's why the library is often overlooked. That's unfortunate because we have dozens of excellent books on writing donated by our members.

Since we don't have a dedicated storage space for these books, we keep them at a member's home—currently mine—which makes borrowing a bit awkward but still possible.

The website displays these books.

To reserve one, just email the guild at egwg2020@egweg.org and request it.

The easiest way for you to get the book is to attend the next Guild meeting, but other arrangements can be made as well.

We all have room for improvement as writers, and the right book can help. Check out the list and choose one that suits your needs

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

George Hahn



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Welcome to April 2026

Dear members and friends.

The Board is working to help the new board members get settled in and to develop a marketing plan for the Guild's "Big Day of Giving" on May 7, 2026.

The flyer is in the Newsletter's flyer section. Shelby Johnston will have the lead on this. Let her know if you're interested in helping by emailing sheljohnston@surewest.net.

Also, are there any members out there who'd like to practice "speaking," or do any of you have a presentation on a hot topic you'd like to share?

Let me know, and I'll schedule a half-hour talk for you at a future member meeting.

Our next First Friday Meeting is booked for April 3, 2026. I'll see you there.

Loy Holder, EGWG President



“Literature is strewn with the wreckage of men who have minded beyond reason the opinion of others.” *Virginia Woolf*



From the Bookshelf

What's Your Favorite Music?

Penny Clark

I would find it difficult to tell anyone what my favorite genre of music is, let alone what my favorite song is; it's simpler to say what it isn't.

The loud noise of heavy metal music harms my ears. Rap, with its confusing words piled one on top of another, comes at me too quickly to fully understand, although I enjoy the driving beat of much of it. My least favorite is the new-age music that starts in the middle and stays there, with a repetitive, dull melody that quickly leads me to either boredom or the urge to scream.

The one I'd listen to any day is bluegrass, the so-called old-timey, hill country, or hillbilly music. It's music filled with mandolins and banjos, fiddles and

EGWG Newsletter – page 6

guitars, with maybe a harmonica or a Jew's harp thrown into the mix.

Bluegrass originated from the English, Welsh, Scottish, and Irish immigrants who settled in the Appalachian hills and valleys during the eighteenth century. They came to America bringing their ballads and laments, along with an argot of their native languages and slang.

African American rhythm and blues, which is another of my favorites, also shaped the sound of bluegrass. Some bluegrass tunes are similar to jazz, with one instrument leading the melody while others improvise around it, blending discord into harmony.

For me, bluegrass does not perform loud, thunderous pieces full of deafening noise. No, the melodies can be comforting or haunting, sweet or bitter, telling stories of idealized romance and love, and sometimes laments of love forbidden and doomed to tragedy. At other times, the music is lively tunes full of the joy of life.

Bill Monroe, one of the pioneers of today's bluegrass, once said the genre was "Scottish bagpipes and ole-time fiddlin'. It's Methodist, Holiness, and Baptist. It is blues and jazz, and it has a high lonesome sound."

That "High Lonesome sound" appeals to me. I appreciate the honesty in the lyrics about life's unfulfilled dreams, as well as the chimera and otherworldliness described by others. The laments tug at my heart and make me feel sad. I can close my eyes and picture tough living, working hard every day with no clear reward, or working in the dark coal mines and earning Black Lung Disease as a prize. The music resonates with me, and I play it when I want to hear music that matches that particular mindset.

Each artist—Bill Monroe, Scruggs and Flatt, Patty Loveless, Ricky Scaggs, and others—plays songs I enjoy listening to. Sometimes I sing along with them; other times, if the rhythm feels right, I get up and dance.

Penny Clark

Nancy Miller has an "Inspiring Writing" group on LinkedIn. She posts writing prompts or information a couple of times each month. Here is the name and link in the EGWG newsletter. There are over 100 members in the group, but Nancy would love to have more who share their writing just for fun.

Inspiring Writing Group (Nancy Miller, group manager)

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13566016/>

EGWG Newsletter – Back page

Something to Consider

“First, find out what your hero wants, then just follow him.”

Ray Bradbury



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

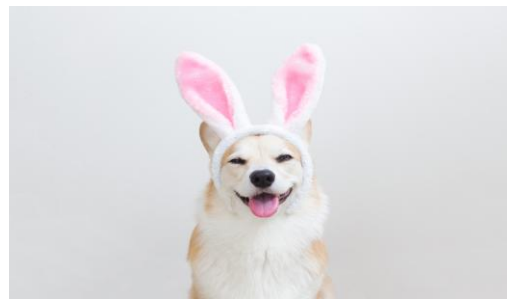
April 2026

- Apr. 01- April Fool's Day
- Apr. 02- 09 Passover
- Apr. 05- Easter Sunday
- Apr. 15- Tax Day
- Apr. 22- Earth Day

Sentence Starter Prompts:

- 1 The clock struck three, and it was as if the entire world turned upside down.
- 2 No one knew him more than she did, but there were things she simply could not look past.
- 3 This place was home – it always had been, so why did it feel so strange?

Hi, my name is Bunny.



See you next month!

See calendar and flyers below

Calendar and Flyer Section

APRIL 2026

◀ Mar 2026		April 2026					May 2026 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 GCW 10-12 – Business Mtg. @ City Hall Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn	2	3 EGWG 12:30-2:30 Members Mtg., Round Table, 10054 Bruceville, Elk Grove	4	
5	6 Mon. Writers 1-4 critique group, Elk Grove Sr. Ctr., 8230 Civic Center Dr, EG. Drop-In.	7	8 GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn	9	10	11 SJWV 12-2 – Speaker on Zoom. Contact https://billsjvw@gmail.com .	
12 NCPA 4-6:30 PM at Flaming Grill, 2380 Watt, #150 (in Country Club Plaza), Sacramento.	13 Sac. CWC 7-9 PM at 5501 Dewey Dr, Fair Oaks Mon. Writers 1-4 critique group, Elk Grove Sr. Ctr., 8230 Civic Center Dr, EG. Drop-In.	14	15 GCW 10-12: Karen Phillips, "Using Tropes to Strengthen Your Story," @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn. Open to all.	16	17	18 Sac. CWC 9-11 at Denny's, 7900 College Town, Sac'to BWW 10-12. See Black-WomenWriteSac@gmail.com	
19	20 Mon. Writers 1-4 critique group, Elk Grove Sr. Ctr., 8230 Civic Center Dr, EG. Drop-In.	21	22 GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn	23	24	25 SJWV 12-2 – Craft Chat at Lodi Library, 201 West Locust, Lodi.	
26	27 Mon. Writers 1-4 critique group, Elk Grove Sr. Ctr., 8230 Civic Center Dr, EG. Drop-In.	28	29	30 EGWG 1:30 – Board Meeting, Zoom			

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 or a format that can be copied. I don't have an app for handling PDFs or JPGs.

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

Thanks

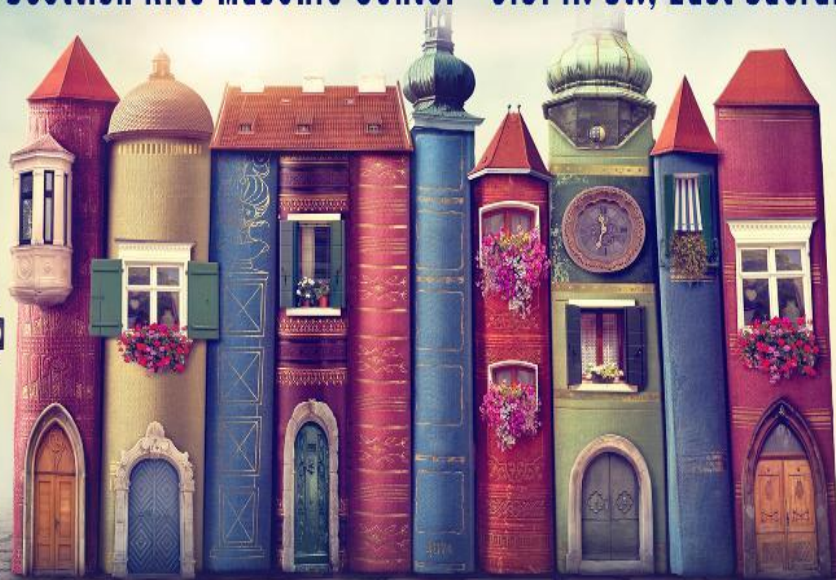
Flyers Beginning Next Page

- Sacramento Book Festival
- New Gini Grossenbacher Classes
- May's Big Day Of Giving

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

Future Writing Classes!

Hi Elk Grove Writers and Authors,

I am offering the following writing classes this year. **All classes meet on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, 6-8 pm**, except for **Drop In to Write**, which meets at my house or a cafe in or near San Rafael.

Zoom classes are \$25 per class (attend one or all); **Drop In to Write is \$10/class**. **Drop In to Write** is held to five participants due to space considerations. All classes are enrolling now.

June - Flash Fiction (novelists, memoirists, short story authors welcome, too).

July - Drop In to Write

August - Art-Inspired Poetry (Ekphrastic) co-taught with award-winning poet, Robin Gabbert

September - On Vacation

October - Voice & The Novel with special guest, Jordan Rosenfeld

November - Drop In to Write (no class Thanksgiving week), Wednesdays, 4, 11 & 18.

About **Drop In to Write**: I provide prompts, and we work side by side on our current projects, then share our writing in a safe space without pressure.

Let me know what questions you may have. We would love to have you join us!

Contact me through my website, www.ginigrossenbacher.com

All my best,

Gini ☘



Hello, dear Members and Friends. This year, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation's Big Day of Giving is coming on May 7, 2026.

The Elk Grove Writers Guild Inc is privileged to participate. Our mission is to help writers be the best they can be through educational events and resources, biennial conferences, networking, and critique services. On 5/7/2026, support this work by sending your donation to:

<https://www.bigdayofgiving.org/organization/Elk-Grove-Writers-Guild>

Your donation will help the Guild carry out their mission and meet operational expenses such as yearly insurance, website maintenance, accounting fees, and brand marketing. Please know that any amount you give will be appreciated. For questions, email loyholder77@gmail.com.

Thank You



