

Vol 6 Issue 05  
May 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

From the Webmaster

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](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com)

## What's Happening?

You might have heard that I'm moving out of state. It's true. But this newsletter is my baby, and I intend to keep writing it as long as I'm still physically and mentally able. Please continue to send me what's going on in your area, and I'll still write it up. Penny Clark at [turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com)

---

**“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 chosen 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 a first Friday meeting at **Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Road, in Elk Grove.** The next meetings are on **May 1 and June 5, 2026.**

Contact [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com) with 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](http://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 Zoom Speaker Meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday and on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 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 information on meetings, 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](mailto:mywebb@sbcglobal.net) or [goldcountrywriters.com](http://goldcountrywriters.com)

---

### **Black Women Write**

Black Women Write meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. until noon. For information, contact [BlackWomenWriteSac@gmail.com](mailto:BlackWomenWriteSac@gmail.com)

---

### **EGWG Bulletin Board**

Contact Loy at [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com) if you are interested in serving as a featured speaker at an event in 2026 or beyond.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

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

## Rare or Seldom Used Words

**Supererogatory.** Going above and beyond the call of duty.

**Cacography.** Poor handwriting.

**Pica.** A unit of type size equal to 1/6 inch or 12 points. A craving for strange foods, as in pregnancy.

**Effluvium.** An outflow or rising vapor, usually a foul-smelling one.

**Orrery.** A miniature planetarium: a mechanical model of the solar system.

---

## T-Shirt Writing Truths

1. **Writer Warning!** If I'm quiet, I'm probably plotting
  2. I put the pro in procrastinate
  3. I don't just read books – I write them
  4. Write now, then right later
  5. Evil writer at work
  6. I'm either writing or thinking about it
- 

## **FLYERS & EVENTS**

1. Guild Fall Seminar Info
2. Gini Grossenbacher Classes
3. Big Day of Giving
4. Gold Country Writers Events
5. The Copyright Detective

## A Reminder

### From the Webmaster

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

Since there isn't 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 feasible.

The website lists the books. To reserve one, email the guild at [egwg2020@egweg.org](mailto:egwg2020@egweg.org) The easiest way to get a book is to attend the next Guild meeting, but other arrangements can be made as well.

We all have room to improve 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*

---

**“I don't want just words. If that's all you have for me, you'd better go.”**

*F. Scott Fitzgerald*



Elk Grove Writers Guild

*Writers Helping Writers*

## EGWG President's Column

**Welcome!**

**Hello,** dear Members and Friends,

I hope you are well.

Under the April 30, 2026, Board Meetings agreement, the Guild will begin planning a half-day Seminar to be held on October 24, 2026.

For now, the message is "SAVE THE DATE!"

Our new Secretary, Cheryl Stapp, and our new Treasurer, Richard Davis, are doing well. We are now beginning the search for an Event Project Director and a Membership Director.

If you have any questions or are interested in applying for either position, please send an email to [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com).

Our First Friday Meeting is also on May 1, and I hope to see you all there.

**Loy Holder**, EGWG President



## A Writing Retreat

### **Women's Wine, Walking, & Wellness**

For writers craving community, learning, fun, and time to write your best words!

A full and memorable experience! 3.5 days dedicated to you and your writing project with 6 mini workshops on craft, publishing, and marketing, and 1 private coaching session following the retreat.

Other events:

Private wine tasting.

Historical walking tour for writing inspiration.

Sound bath experience and mini wellness boosts.

Wine reception, 7 meals, snacks, and beverages.

3 nights lodging in a beautiful vacation home

**Friday, June 12, 4:00 to  
Monday, June 15, 4:00**

In the quaint, historic town of Murphys, CA.

The group is limited to 8 writers, and lodging is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Refer a friend and get 10% discount.

## EGWG Newsletter – page 6

### Price Per person:

Queen bed - private room (4 available)

Twin - shared room (4 available)

Queen bed - shared with a friend

Program only - lodging on your own

\$850

\$725

\$650

\$525

**Don't delay** - registration fee increases on May 15.

### Register at:

<https://www.writersjourneycoaching.com/contact>

Indicate you're interested in "Retreats."

I'll be in touch!

[www.WritersJourneyCoaching.com](http://www.WritersJourneyCoaching.com)

### About the Venue & Murphys

Murphys is a historic gold rush town known for the colorful people who walked here in the 1850s, like Ulysses S. Grant, Black Bart, and our favorite literary star, Mark Twain.

It was a hidden gem until Frommer's highlighted it in its "Top 10 Coolest Small Towns" list and Sunset magazine touted its allure. Less than two hours from Sacramento, it's now a wine lover's paradise and boasts great restaurants, shops, and activities - all while keeping its quaint and authentic charm.

We'll spend our time together in two vacation homes, each with its own unique style. The homes are a 7-minute walk from each other, and each is a 10-minute walk to town.

Check them out:

Red Gate Retreat >

[www.airbnb.com/h/RedGateRetreat](http://www.airbnb.com/h/RedGateRetreat)

Rocky Hill Retreat >

[www.airbnb.com/h/RHRMurphys](http://www.airbnb.com/h/RHRMurphys)

I'm Jackie Alcalde Marr.

I love gathering people to learn, laugh, ponder, and grow!

That's who I am.

My career has been about helping others develop their skills and make an impact. I'm a certified leadership and life coach and an Author Accelerator-certified book coach.

My book coaching blends story craft with personal effectiveness. Writing retreats are all that, plus a community that supports your journey.

I'm so excited to welcome you to Murphys and help you make progress on your project and your writing practice! *Jackie Alcalde Marr.*

---

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

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

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

## May 2026

- May. 01- May Day
- May. 05 Cinco de Mayo
- May. 10- Mother’s Day
- May. 16- Armed Forces Day
- May. 25- Memorial Day

---

### Writing Prompts:

- 1 Write about a traumatic experience in your life and how you dealt with it.
  - 2 Waking from a nap with their eyes closed, they stretch their arms out and hit a cold body. They live alone.
  - 3 Research your favorite cold case mystery, then rewrite the story with your own twist of events.
- 

**I loves road trips with my hoomans.**



**See you next month!**

**See calendar and flyers below**

**Calendar and Flyer Section, Next Page**

# May 2026

May 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> EGWG 12:30-2:30 Members Mtg., Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville, Elk Grove Sac. CWC 9-11 at Denny's, 7900 College Town Dr., Sac'to	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Mon. Writers 1-4 critique group, Elk Grove Sr. Ctr., 8230 Civic Center Dr, EG. Drop-In.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> BWW 10-12. <a href="#">BlackWomen- WriteSac@gmail-com</a> SJWW 12-2 – Jackie Alcade Marr, "Coaching Your Characters" on Zoom
<b>10</b> NCPA 2-4:30 PM at . Flaming Grill, 2380 Watt, #150 (in Country Club Plaza), Sacramento.	<b>11</b> Mon. Writers 1-4 critique group, Elk Grove Sr. Ctr., 8230 Civic Center Dr, EG. Drop-In.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Sac Sub 9-11 Writers → Mingle, Denny's, N. Sunrise & Douglas, Roseville	<b>16</b> Sac. CWC 1-3 at Unitarian Universalist Society, 2425 Sierra Blvd. Sacto BWW 10-12. <a href="#">Black- WomenWriteSac@gmail- com</a>
<b>17</b> CapCrimes 1 PM Crime Time @ Old Haunts Bookshop, 8789 Auburn Folsom Rd., #C, Granite Bay	<b>18</b> Mon. Writers 1-4 critique group, Elk Grove Sr. Ctr., 8230 Civic Center Dr, EG. Drop-In.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> GCW 10-12:Geri Spieler, "Journalistic Rigor in Fictional Storytelling," @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn. Open to all.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> SJWW 1-3 – Craft Chat on "Vulnerable Writing" at Lodi Library, 201 West Locust, Lodi.
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> No Monday Writers (holiday)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn	<b>28</b> EGWG 1:30 – Board Meeting, Zoom	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						

## 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 document format or another 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](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com)

Thanks!

Flyers and Events Begin on Next Page

## **FLYERS & EVENTS**

- 1. Guild Fall Seminar Info**
- 2. Gini Grossenbacher Classes**
- 3. Big Day of Giving**
- 4. Gold Country Writers Events**
- 5. The Copyright Detective**



### **Guild Fall Seminar Info**

---

The Guild will hold a half-day seminar on October 24, 2026, in accordance with the Board Meeting budget acceptance on April 30, 2026.

The positions of Event Project Director and Membership Director are open. If interested in either position, contact Loy at one of the first Friday meetings or email her at [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com).

More information about this event will follow as progress continues.

## 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](http://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 on May 7, 2026.

The Elk Grove Writers Guild Inc. is privileged to participate. Our mission is to help writers become 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 its mission and cover operational expenses, including annual insurance, website maintenance, accounting fees, and brand marketing. Please know that any amount you give will be appreciated. For questions, email [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com).

*Thank You*



## Gold Country Writers

### Speaker Schedule for May and June

## May Speaker

Gerri Spieler

Wednesday May 20, 2026 @ 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

**Our speaker will be Gerri Spieler on “Bringing Journalistic Rigor to Fictional Storytelling”**

Former Investigative Journalist Gerri Spieler landed an agent and a publisher for her breakthrough book, *Housewife Assassin: The Woman Who Tried to Kill President Ford* (Diversion Books), based on her extensive and vetted research. Subsequently, she landed an option for a ten-episode TV series based on the book. Gerri has written for the Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and Forbes; and has been interviewed by the New York Times, Washington Post, the Associated Press, the BBC, and by Brian Lamb, founder of C-SPAN. For more info, visit <https://gerispieler.com/>.

**GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS**

**Gerri Spieler**

**BRINGING JOURNALISTIC RIGOR TO FICTIONAL STORYTELLING**

**WHAT REPORTERS DO THAT NOVELISTS NEED TO KNOW –**  
Former Investigative Journalist Gerri Spieler will present a practical guide to applying a reporter's research, verification, and storytelling discipline to stronger, more credible fiction. Based on her extensive and vetted research, Gerri landed an agent and a publisher for her breakthrough book, *Housewife Assassin: The Woman Who Tried to Kill President Ford* (Diversion Books). Subsequently, she landed an option for a ten-episode TV series based on the book. Gerri has written for the Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and Forbes, and has been interviewed by the New York Times, Washington Post, the Associated Press, the BBC, and by Brian Lamb, founder of C-SPAN. For more information, visit <https://gerispieler.com/>

**MAY 20, 2026**  
**10 AM to NOON**

AUBURN CITY HALL  
ROSE ROOM  
1225 LINCOLN WAY  
AUBURN, CA 95603  
[goldcountrywriters.com](http://goldcountrywriters.com)

PUBLIC INVITED FREE

Speaker meetings are held in the Rose Room at Auburn City Hall.

Public Invited — Free

[Click here for Rose Room address, map, and directions. Also, info on Rose Room parking, now offsite only.](#)

---

# Gold Country Writers

## Speaker Schedule for May and June

### June Speaker

James L'Etoile

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 @ 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Our speaker will be James L'Etoile on **“The Author’s Toolkit: Building a Successful Book.”**

James L'Etoile uses his twenty-nine years behind bars as an influence in his award-winning novels, short stories, and screenplays. He is a former associate warden in a maximum-security prison, a hostage negotiator, and director of California’s state parole system. His most recent novels are Illusion of Truth in the Detective Emily Hunter Mystery series, and Sins of the Father in the Nathan Parker Detective series. James serves as the Executive Vice President of Mystery Writers of America. For more info, visit <https://jamesletoile.com/>.

**GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS**  
**JAMES L'ETOILE**  
**"THE AUTHOR'S TOOLKIT:  
BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL BOOK"**

Multi-award winning author James L'Etoile will offer simple tools authors can use to create a story that readers can't put down. James will provide tips to take an author from a completed manuscript to bookstore shelves - including editing, social media, author-branding, agents, contracts, and the query process. James most recent novels are Illusion of Truth in the Detective Emily Hunter Mystery series, and Sins of the Father in the Nathan Parker Detective series. James serves as the Executive Vice President of Mystery Writers of America. For more info, visit: <https://jamesletoile.com>.

**JUNE 17, 2026  
10 AM TO NOON**

Auburn City Hall - Rose Room  
1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603 **PUBLIC INVITED  
FREE**

[www.goldcountrywriters.com](http://www.goldcountrywriters.com)

Speaker meetings are held in the Rose Room at Auburn City Hall.

Public Invited — Free

[Click here for Rose Room address, map, and directions. Also, info on Rose Room parking, now offsite only.](#)

---

# The Copyright Detective



Brought to you by the Elk Grove Writer's Guild, Inc.

## The Copyright Detective®

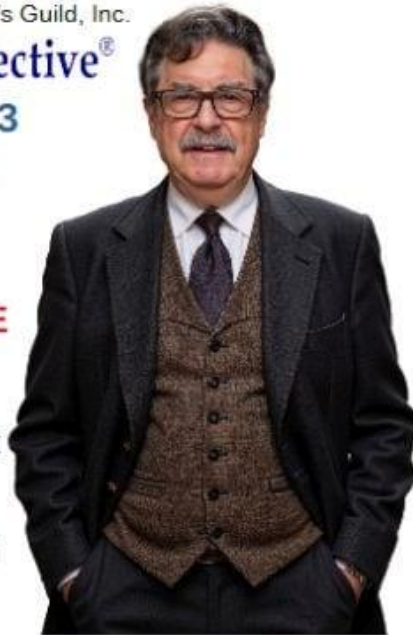
Saturday, May 23

1:30 -2:30 PM

Via Zoom

### **COPYRIGHT IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

**Dan says:** "In a world increasingly shaped by AI-driven innovation, how do we navigate the complexities of copyright law? This presentation explores the intersection of artificial intelligence and intellectual property, addressing pressing questions about authorship, ownership, and accountability."



Admission Free to EGWG Inc. Members

Registration begins February 21

To Register: Hit the "Save My Spot"

Green Button Below:

Questions – email:  
[loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)

Dr. C. Daniel Miller is *The Copyright Detective*, the Managing Partner of Integrated Writer Services, LLC, an independent copyright consulting and clearance service. Dan served as president of the Collective of Independent Publishers and Authors (CIPA), formerly known as the Colorado Independent Publishers Association. He is a presenter and conducts workshops on "Copyright in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" for writers, authors, editors, independent publishers, and related support service groups. He also co-authored *Copyright Clearance for Creatives*, an essential guide about copyright issues for the creative community.



This page is left blank on purpose

Actually, I couldn't delete it this time, and stopped trying.