

Vol 6 Issue 07
July 2026

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Welcome!



In 2018, the Elk Grove Writers Guild took action beyond just talking. Our primary aim was to support writers in enhancing their writing skills, and this newsletter is one step toward that goal.

Here, you'll discover details about upcoming events, classes, and Guild news. We also provide writing tips, news on recent developments in the writing community, and valuable writing insights.

We are continually seeking new contributors and invite you to share your work. Whether it's news about your writing, your writing group's events, book launches, poems, flash fiction, writing tips, recent achievements or publications, or reports on events visited, we would love to hear from you.

Please 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?

Check the President's Column for information on the October mini seminar. Check the flyer section for the first Mini Seminar Flyer. This type of seminar and other classes presented each year is why the Guild was set up, and we do it gladly, sometimes tiredly, but better each event. If you'd like to help, please contact Loy Holder at, loyholder77@gmail.com she'd love to hear from you.

“Being a writer is a very particular sort of job: It's always you versus a blank sheet of paper(or a blank screen) and quite often the blank piece of paper wins.”
Neil Gaiman

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 selected members for critique. 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 any first Friday meeting at **Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Road, in Elk Grove.** The next meetings are on **July 3 and Aug. 7, 2026.**

Contact 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

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 2nd Saturday and on the 4th 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 or goldcountrywriters.com

Black Women Write

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

EGWG Bulletin Board

Contact Loy at loyholder77@gmail.com if you are interested in serving as a featured speaker at any Guild event.

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

Unfortunately, the book of seldom-used words is still packed in a box, yet to be discovered. This will be back in August.

T-Shirt Writing Truths

1. Authors have character.
 2. No, I don't want to write your story idea.
 3. Writers are gonna write.
 4. I am a writer. Crime is my beat; murder is my specialty.
 5. Introvert willing to discuss my book.
 6. I write – Stuff happens – The end.
 7. I am a novelist – I dream while awake.
-

Member Announcement

JR Roth

I'm thrilled to share that my new short story, "Last Dance with Mr. Brownstone," has found a home in the Spring 2026 issue of *The Raven Review*. It's a quiet piece about a man, his dog, and a walk through the woods that takes an unexpected turn. It's free, and I'd love for you to check it out here: <https://www.theravenreview.org/archive/last-dance-with-mr-brownstone-roth>.

A Reminder **From the Webmaster**

Guild Resources

The Guild has put a lot of work into providing features to help us become better writers. Most of these can be found under the Resources menu.

The first item in the Resources menu is Critiquing. I hope we can all agree that receiving feedback on our work is vital to producing good writing.

While most Resource items are available to anyone, the list of members willing to comment on other members' work is password-protected to safeguard members' information. Reading other authors' work helps the writer, but it can also benefit the person doing the critiquing, and the Guild encourages members to make themselves available. A member can request readers from the list, but prospective readers can always accept or decline the opportunity. To enable remote critiquing, the requester uploads the writing to Google Docs (or, as we like to call it, the Wall) and sends the reader(s) a link to read the document and provide feedback. More details on how to do this are available on the Critiquing web page.

See you at the next meeting. – George

EGWG Newsletter – page 5



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Welcome!

Hello, dear members and friends,

I'm excited to tell you that we have met some new Romance Writer Friends. They are delightful and interested in meeting writers and authors from the other writers' groups in Northern California. So, from time to time, you may see news about their activities and events in our newsletters.

Our Membership Drive has closed, and an updated Membership Directory will be emailed to Members as an attachment by the first week of July.

Registration is now open for our seminar on October 24, 2026. See the flyer in the flyer section of this newsletter.

This Seminar features three wonderful speakers who will help you "Target the Market" to sell your book, learn how to "Write Romance," and "Know Where To Start" when writing a memoir.

Don't miss our upcoming Elk Grove Writers Guild Membership Meeting. It's open to the public. Join us at the Round Table Restaurant, 10054 Bruceville Rd., at the intersection of Bruceville and Whitelock, from 12:30 to 2:30 pm on Friday, July 3, 2026. Have a safe and happy July, and. . .

Write On.

Loy Holder, EGWG President



FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Missives from the Membership

By

JR Roth

I wanted to thank the Elk Grove Writers Guild.

A picture in June's Newsletter of a father fishing with his son made me want to take my own son fishing. I

thought you should know how it turned out.

EGWG Newsletter – page 6

I decided we would go to Lake Shasta on Saturday.

I printed out the page with the picture and stuck it to my fridge with a magnet.

Tommy lived with his mother most of the time after the divorce. Every other weekend, he came to stay with me, and usually just wanted to sit on the couch and play games on his phone. So, when I asked if he'd like to go fishing, I was surprised when he said yes.

We stayed Friday night at a friend's house in Redding so we could reach Shasta early.

We woke at 5:00 a.m. I loaded our fishing poles and cooler into the back of my pickup, and we headed out. We stopped at an AM/PM. Tommy got a donut, and I filled my thermos with coffee.

When I pulled into the bait shop at Crag Knot Pine, the dock was lined with boats, tethered in groups of three.

I gave Tommy the job of carrying our gear down to the dock and loading one of the outside boats. He puffed out his chest and dragged the cooler down the planks.

Inside, the old man at the counter made polite conversation and took my money.

"Be back in a sec with the worms," he said.

I looked around the shop. Nothing had changed. It was the same as when I was a boy with my father.

Through the window, I saw Tommy moving between the boats, shifting our gear. One of the boats drifted slightly as he stepped across it. I held my breath as he steadied himself and brought them back together.

The old man handed me a Styrofoam cup of soil and worms and wished me luck on the lake.

I stepped back outside, whistling a Grateful Dead tune my father used to hum.

Tommy wasn't where I expected him to be.

The cooler bobbed softly on the surface of the water.

"Tommy?" I called.

There was no answer.

The Sheriff said he probably hit his head and drowned.

I still have that picture on my fridge. I thought you should know that.

Sincerely,

J.R. Roth (*Jon promises this is fiction*)

Gone Forever

Chris Hennessy

The EGWG experienced his generous spirit, humor, and selfless volunteer service to the Elk Grove Writers Guild. Despite his ongoing battle with cancer, his presence helped our meetings and events succeed.

We will miss him.



A 101 Word Story

A Farmer's Elegy

JR Roth

Her truck took the sharp turns of the mountain road with ease.

One last drive, she thought, blinking away the tears.

Grandpa bought the Chevy new in '48. In '72, Pa had the farm's logo stenciled on its door. In 1995, it passed to her for her eighteenth birthday.

"Farm Foreclosure" reflected in reverse off the windshield from the letter on the dashboard.

Tariffs destroyed the markets, then laborers disappeared. No harvest meant no money for bills or livestock feed. Now, she's lost everything.

Thank God Pa already passed.

She closed her eyes and pressed her boot down on the accelerator.

Write Flash Fiction

On June 20th, 101Words.org published one of my stories. <https://101words.org/how-did-we-get-here/>

They publish a new story every day—each exactly 101 words long. The next one could be yours!

The challenge is deceptively simple: tell a complete story in just 101 words. Every word counts. There's no room for lengthy descriptions or unnecessary exposition. The result is a rewarding exercise in clarity, creativity, and discipline.

It takes them about 8 weeks to get back to submitters, but they respond to everyone. Submissions are free, and only one submission per month is allowed. It is a fun exercise. To learn more, visit their "Submissions" page.

Give it a try. You might be surprised by how much you can say in just 101 words.

JR Roth

Sounds like a challenge. Have fun with it, people.

EGWG Newsletter – Back page

Something to Consider

“It’s none of their business that you have to learn to write. Let them think you were born that way.”

Ernest Hemingway



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!**

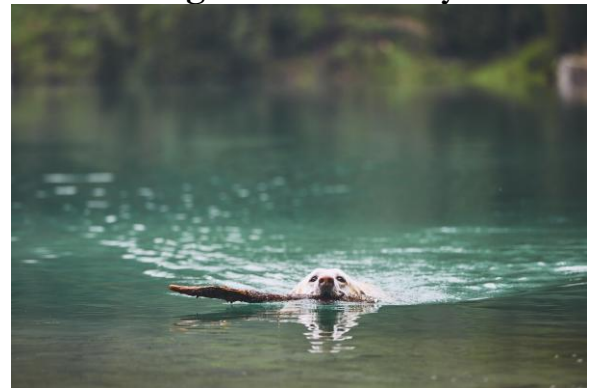
July 2026 – Month

- July 04- Independence Day
- July 17- National Hot Dog Day
- July 26 World Day For Grandparents

Writing Prompts:

1. Write a 101-word story
 2. Write about your childhood – good or bad
 3. What is your philosophy of life?
 4. Write a poem about regret
 5. Someone finds a secret passageway in the house that they never knew existed. What did they find?
-

Cooling off on a *hot* day



See you next month!

Calendar and Flyer Section, Next Page

July 2026

July 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 EGWG 12:30-2:30 Members Mtg., Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville, Elk Grove NO Sacramento CWC this month	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 San Raf 6-8 p.m. Poolside Drop-In to Write. Contact gini@ginigrossenbacher.com	9	10 GCW Read & Review at Depoe Bay, 893 High Street, Auburn	11 SJWV 12-2 – Deborah Grochau, "Do's & Don'ts of Tropes," on Zoom NO BWW this month
12 NoCaRW 2 PM Zoom "Creating & Using Short-Form Videos" NCPA 2-4:30 PM at . Flaming Grill, 2380 Watt, #150 (in Country Club Plaza), Sacramento. CapCr 2-3 Crime Time at a bookstore	13 Mon. Writers 1-4 critique group, Elk Grove Sr. Ctr., 8230 Civic Center Dr, EG. Drop-In. Sac Sub 7-9 pm Meet in Crossroads Church hall , 5501 Dewey Dr Fair Oaks	14 Cap Cr 7 p.m. Meet Vinnie Hansen, Zoom	15 GCW 10-2:Rebecca Inch-Partridge, "The Trilogy Survival Guide" @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn San Raf 6-8 p.m. Poolside Drop-In to Write. Contact gini@ginigrossenbacher.com	16	17	18 Sacto CWC 1-3 at Unitarian Universalist Society, speaker, 2425 Sierra Blvd Sacto Cap Cr 1-3 on Zoom Sac Sub 9-11 at Denny's, N. Sunrise & Douglas, Roseville
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 San Raf 6-8 p.m. Poolside Drop-In to Write. Contact gini@ginigrossenbacher.com	23 EGWG 1:30 – Board Meeting, Zoom	24	25 SJWV 1-3 – Craft Chat at Lodi Library, 201 W. Locust NoCaRW 10-12 Kathleen Sweeney of Book Brush, "Social Media Made Simple for Authors" on Zoom
26	27 Mon. Writers 1-4 critique group, Elk Grove Sr. Ctr., 8230 Civic Center Dr, EG. Drop-In.	28	29 GCW 10 – ? Writers' Retreat at "The Ranch" in Penryn San Raf 6-8 p.m. Poolside Drop-In to Write. Contact Gini on website	30	31	

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 JPEGs.

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

Thanks!

FLYERS & EVENTS

1. Guild Fall Seminar Info
2. Gini Grossenbacher Classes

SAVE THE DATE

THE ELK GROVE WRITERS GUILD
PRESENTS

A HALF DAY SEMINAR OCTOBER 24, 2026



Shawn Langwell

*You Wrote the Book,
Now How Do You Sell It?*

Shawn Langwell is an award-winning sales and marketing expert with 35 years of experience in media sales, a Gap Mindset Coach, Marketing Consultant, and the 2025 recipient of the prestigious Jack London Award.

Find him at shawnlngwell.com.



Anna J. Stewart

Writing Romance

Anna J. Stewart is a National and USA Today bestselling author of more than sixty emotionally layered romances. She writes for Harlequin's Heartwarming & Romantic Suspense lines, and is the author of the award-winning Circle of the Red Lily romantic thriller series from Tule Publishing.



Daniel Babka

*Beginning a Memoir:
Where Do I Start?*

Daniel grew up where his novella, "Lightning Bugs And Aliens: A Small Town Coming-Of-Age Story," is set in 1960. The book is dedicated to the son of Mississippi sharecroppers with whom the author spent hundreds of hours on the back steps of his family's tavern, a landmark gathering place for the town.

SATURDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2026



1:00PM TO 5:00PM



AT THE HOLIDAY INN
EXPRESS HOTEL



9175 W. STOCKTON BLVD.,
ELK GROVE

REGISTRATION FEE IS \$60
REGISTRATION STARTS JUNE 15TH, 2026
REGISTER AT EGWEG.ORG/2026SEMINAR
Complementary Snacks and Coffee



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers



Gini Grossenbacher

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.

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, pressure-free space.

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 ☘