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AUGUST 2026

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Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Welcome!



In 2018, after extensive discussions, the Elk Grove Writers Guild was formed. Our primary aim was to support writers in improving their writing skills, and this newsletter, launched in 2021, has been a step toward that goal.

Here, you'll find details on upcoming events, classes, and Guild news. We also share writing tips, updates 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 you've attended, 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?

The mini seminar is right on schedule, so check the flyer section for the flyer and read the President's Column for more information on the October event. This type of seminar and other classes presented each year is why the Guild exists, and we work on it gladly, sometimes tiredly, planning for it to be better than the last event. If you'd like to help, please contact Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com she'd love to hear from you.

"The six Golden Rules of writing: Read, read, read, and write, write, write."

Ernest Gaines

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 we discuss questions and problems, or we share the latest information in the writing and publishing world.

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 **Aug. 7, and Sept. 4 2026.**

Contact loyholder77@gmail.com with 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 being a featured speaker at any Guild event. The Guild is always looking for speakers.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Anyone interested in helping with an event should contact **Loy Holder as listed above.**

Rare or Seldom-Used Words

1. **Satrap:** A provincial tyrant
2. **Inquiline:** Living in another" nest or burrow
3. **Pensile:** Building a hanging nest
4. **Theophany:** A visible manifestation of God
5. **Synecdoche:** Use of a part that signifies a whole (as in "All hands on deck").

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.

Romance Writers Present

Romance Writers, Aug. 22, 10 AM to Noon, NY Times best-selling romance author Jane Porter presents "What Being a Publisher Has Taught Me About Being a Writer."

To attend the Zoom presentation, go to

www.norcalromancewriters.com



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Welcome!

Hello, dear members and friends,

Did you know the EGWG started the Northern California Writers Alliance? It's a collection of writers' group leaders who meet two or three times a year on Zoom to report on and discuss their event programming to avoid "event date collisions."

We also form friendships and new contacts along the way that can help our writers. The most recent group to join was the Northern California Romance Writers. Please look for Romance Writers activities in our August Calendar, as well as those of other writers' groups that've joined the Alliance.

Everyone can access our Calendar and the Alliance Member list on the EGWG Website by going to <https://egweg.org>, clicking Other Resources, then Calendar. The list of Alliance groups should be updated with the Romance Writers soon.

Some of you will be at the State Fair, selling your books and enjoying your time there. I wish you the best sales outcomes ever. But don't forget to sign up for the Elk Grove Seminar at <https://egweg.org/2026seminar>.

I hope to see you there.

Loy Holder, EGWG President



Writing Tips and Lessons

The Framework of a Good Book

Elaine Faber

A **BEGINNING** THAT MAKES YOU
WANT TO READ IT,

A **MIDDLE** THAT HOLDS
YOUR ATTENTION,

AND AN **END** THAT
SATISFIES.

The **beginning of the book** introduces the character, creates the setting, and identifies the problem or mystery to be solved. There must be an inciting incident that occurs quickly, encouraging the reader to join the main character on this journey.

Examples: *The puppy can't be found.*
The boyfriend is seen kissing another girl.

Father is going to jail for embezzlement.
The CIA is in town, hunting for a spy.

If the issue doesn't interest the reader within the first five pages, they'll likely lay the book down and stop reading.

By the **middle of the book**, the characters should be well on their way, struggling to solve the problem. Circumstances MUST continue to go from bad to worse, implying insurmountable problems that prevent any resolution and make a happy ending impossible.

Near the **end of the book**, the protagonist faces a dramatic decision that affects the outcome of the story. Before the conclusion, all loose ends must be explained, all mysteries solved, and the story brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

It may not always have a happy ending, but it must satisfy the reader, or they'll never buy the sequel to the novel.

Elaine

“You write to communicate to the hearts and minds of others what’s burning inside you, and we edit to let the fire show through the smoke.”
Arthur Plotnik

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



Refreshing

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

POETRY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMING EVENTS

SHORT STORIES

FLYERS

WRITING CLASSES

Please submit 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!

August 2026 – National Black Business Month

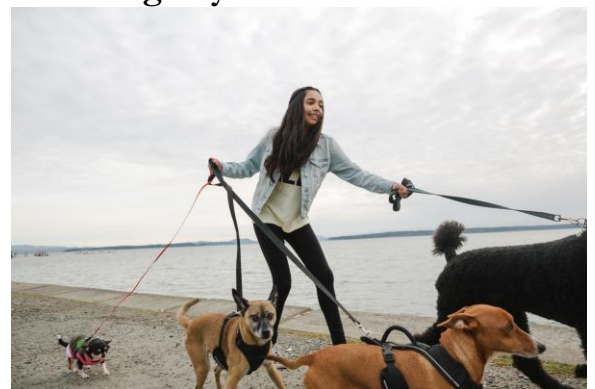
- Aug. 07 -Purple Heart Day
- Aug. 08 -International Cat Day
- Aug. 19 -World Humanitarian Day

(No federal holidays in August.)

Writing Prompts:

1. Share a whimsical thought that sends you to another world
2. Share a memorable camping memory
3. Share a travel experience that turned scary
4. Write a poem about a new beginning
5. Write about an autocorrect that was hilarious or embarrassing

Dog days at the beach



See you next month!

Calendar and Flyer Section,
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August 2026

August 2026						
◀ July						September ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 San Rafael 6-8 p.m. Robin EGabbert -Writing Ekphrastic Poetry gini@ginigrossenbacher.com	6	7 EGWG 1st Fri Mtg. 12:30 – 2:30 at Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Rd. Open to the public.	8 SJWW/CWC – 2nd Sat Zoom Session from Noon -2 PM. James L'Etoile about "Bookstore Relationships," on Zoom. Sacto Suburban – 9 -11 AM meeting at Denny's, N. Sunrise & Douglas, Roseville.
9 Madeline Olson – Romance Reg Mtg 2 PM topic on Zoom. Capitol Crimes – 2:00 – 3:00 PM Crime Time at a local Bookstore. NCPA meets 2-4:30 at Flaming Grill	10 Sacto Suburban – meets from 7-9 PM in the Friendship Hall, Crossroads Church, 5502 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks.	11 Cap Crimes – 2nd Tues., Meet the Author Interview 6 or 7 PM.	12 GCW 10-12 Noon: Drop-in critique. City Hall, Rose Room, Auburn San Rafael 6-8 p.m. Robin Gabbert -Writing Ekphrastic Poetry gini@ginigrossenbacher.com	13	14	15 RoseMary – Black Writers Write was on hiatus, but may be back at Underground Books this month. Capitol Crimes – 3rd Sat, 1-3 PM on Zoom
16	17	18	19 GCW 10-12 Speakers, open to public @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn San Rafael 6-8 p.m Robin Gabbert -Writing Ekphrastic Poetry gini@ginigrossenbacher.com	20	21	22 Romance, 4th Sat, 10-12 noon, presenter on Zoom. Romance Writers www.norcalromancewriters.com
23	24	25	26 GCW 10-12 Noon: Drop-in critique. City Hall, Rose Room, Auburn San Rafael 6-8 p.m Robin Gabbert -Writing Ekphrastic Poetry	27 EGWG Board Meeting on Zoom 1:30- 3:30.	28	29
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!

See FLYERS & EVENTS Below

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 shawnlangwell.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.

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 ☘