

Vol 6 Issue 09
SEPTEMBER 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. Check the flyer section for details and read the President's Column for updates on the October event. This type of seminar and other classes presented each year are why the Guild exists. Loy Holder, our president, plans a year in advance, to make each event better than the last. If you want to help, please get in touch with Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com. She'd love to hear from you.

"I kept two books in my pocket: one to read, one to write in."

Robert Lewis Stevenson

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.

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, welcome. Go to www.egweg.org, click **Join**, complete the membership application, and submit 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 **Sept. 4 and Oct. 2, 2026**.

Contact loyholder77@gmail.com with questions about meetings or the Guild.

LOCAL GROUPS & EVENTS

CWC: Meetings are on the first Friday, 9-11 a.m. The third Saturday, 1-3 p.m. For information on current meetings or events, visit cwcsacramentowriters.org



NCPA: monthly meetings are on the second Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 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-only monthly Zoom Speaker Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday. The 4th Saturday is an in-person meeting from 12 noon to 2:00 at the Lodi Library, 201 W. Locust, Lodi, CA. Need information? Visit <https://www.sjvalleywriters.org>



**“As a writer, you should not judge.
You should understand.”**

Ernest Hemingway

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

If you have ideas for an event or would like to help with one, contact Loy Holder as listed above. She's waiting to hear from you.

Rare or Seldom-Used Words

1. **Saturnalia:** An unrestrained celebration; an orgy based on the ancient Roman festival of Saturn
2. **Claque:** A group of paid applauders
3. **Rictus:** A gaping grimace; the expanse of an open mouth
4. **Renable:** Eloquent; fluent; speaking or reading clearly
5. **Charientism:** An elegantly veiled insult



T-shirt Writing Truths

1. I have no shelf control.
2. Member of the Midnight Writers Society.
3. Therapy is expensive. Killing characters is free.
4. I am a writer. I make the voices in my head work for me.
5. I create problems for imaginary people.
6. Words weave worlds.
7. Black author, my pen is diverse, but the ink will always be black.



**“As a writer, you should not judge.
You should understand.”**

Ernest Hemingway



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Welcome!

Hello, dear members and friends,

It's September, and welcome to the beginning of Fall.

The Elk Grove Writers Guild's next meeting is on September 4th. Join us at the Round Table Pizza Restaurant, 10054 Bruceville Rd., Elk Grove, from 12:30 to 2:20 PM. All are welcome. Learn who we are and what we do.

We will celebrate the spirit of California Writers Week on October 24, 2026, with our Half-Day Elk Grove Writers Seminar. Sign up now at <https://egweg.org/2026seminar> for details. I'm looking forward to it and hope to see you there.

Do you have questions? Contact me at loyholder77@gmail.com.

I hope to see you soon.

Loy Holder, EGWG President

PS: See the flyer section for the 2027 **Next Generation Short Story Awards** flyer. LH



Writing Tips and Lessons

A SIMPLE REMINDER of a three-act story structure using an easy five-part model.

ACT 1

1. **SETUP:** Why should we care about the character and their problem?
2. **THEIR PROBLEM:** Your character wants something, but there's a problem. What does your character want? What is the problem? Why does it have to be solved now?

ACT II

3. **MAKE THE PROBLEM PERSONAL:** Why is the problem so hard to solve?
4. **SOLUTION:** Solve the problem.

ACT III

5. **RESOLUTION:** Why does it matter that this problem is solved? For tragedies, what does the world look like now that the problem is solved? For more drama, end all but the last paragraph with a setback or disaster.

Editor's Note: Found this while going through my writing files and thought I'd pass it along. I don't know where it came from or who to credit.



That and Which

Do you ever get these mixed up? Here's help.

THAT: A restrictive clause where that is needed for clarity.

I needed that pencil. Is that the bucket of apples I picked?

WHICH: A non-restrictive clause – not needed for clarity. Within a sentence, it's usually preceded by a comma, dash, or parentheses.

Which apples are in the blue bucket? Which of these pencils do you want?



“Read a thousand books, and your words will flow like water.”

Lisa See



POETRY CORNER

GOLDEN

Thomas N. Atkins
6/8/26

On our wedding day
Years before us seem endless,
A winding white staircase
Into a future unknown.

It's not alone that the first step is taken,
It is together this climb begins,
Each step supported by the one beside
us
Holding hands in firm resolve.

The guardrails of love aid the ascent,
Love that changes, evolves, twists, and
soothes.
That swells and recedes,
And steadily grows.

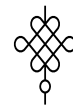
The love that exploded and consumed
us when we met,
Is different than the love that got us to
the altar,
Is different than the love that got us to
be good parents,

Is different than the love that got us to
become friends with our children,
Is different than the love that got us
more children through vows,
Is different than the love that got us
grands,
Is different than the love that sustained
us in illness and tragedy,
Is different than the love that got us to
the fifty-year mark of that staircase,
Is different than the love that keeps us
stepping up.

We slide our hands along those guard
rails
as they change shape and form
and texture and temperature –
As love does,
Not rising to the summit, not
yet.

At fifty years the crest draws closer
And then love will be different than
what it was in life.

Thomas N. Atkins



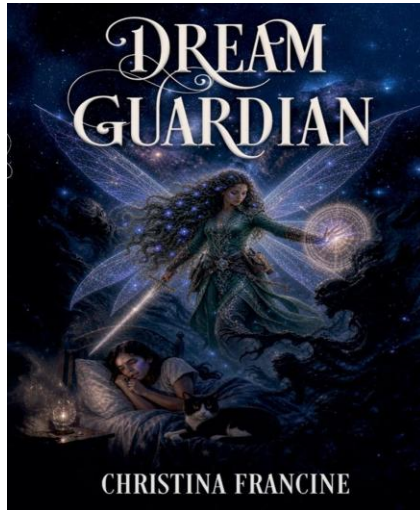
Congratulations on 50 years.



“Read, read, read. Read everything—
trash, classics, good and bad, and see how
they do it, just like a carpenter who works
as an apprentice and studies the master.
Read! You’ll absorb it. Then write. If it’s
good, you’ll find out. If it’s not, throw it
out the window.”

William Faulkner

JUST PUBLISHED



[Amazon.com : christina francine](https://www.amazon.com/christina-francine)

Available on Amazon as a paperback

As Earth spirals toward psychological and catastrophic ruin, a desperate divine decree echoes from the stars. Asima, a lethal, six-winged vanguard of an alien Special Forces unit, is among a mere handful charged by the Great Creator to intervene. Her mission is grueling and absolute: weaponize the light to shield humanity from soul-stealing nightmares-vicious, parasitic entities that thrive and feed on a dying world's deepest despairs.

But Asima carries a private, haunting mission of her own. Haunted by the scars of her past, she searches the fading world for a myth she isn't sure exists: true, selfless love.

When she is assigned to shield a traumatized young girl from a wave of encroaching dream demons, she encounters the girl's father-a man of quiet strength and deep mystery who stands defiant against the overwhelming darkness. As

the shadows close in and the brutal war for Earth's survival intensifies, the line between soldier and savior begins to blur.

To save two worlds from total annihilation, Asima must survive a high-octane, visceral battle against a relentless nightmare realm and decide if the man she was sent to protect is the salvation she's been searching for-or the ultimate heartbreak in a universe already on the brink.

Congratulations Christina



ATTENTION MEMBERS

If you have a book coming out or have published your work somewhere, send info to turlockpenny@yahoo.com. I'll feature it here and help spread the word.



JUST A THOUGHT

Each time a writer takes a class, attends a conference, or goes to a seminar, they are bound to learn something new. After all, writing, like the English language, is always evolving.

Four good reasons to attend as many classes, seminars, and conferences as possible are

- Stay on top of new ideas.
- Renew what you may have forgotten.
- Discover new marketing ideas.
- Connect with other writers.

EGWG Newsletter – Back page

Something to Consider

“One sure way into a person's soul is his reading list.”

That's scary

Mary B. W. Tabor



Falling Leaves = Fall Work

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

POETRY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMING EVENTS

SHORT STORIES

FLYERS

WRITING CLASSES

Please send submissions for the next issue by the 15th of the month or contact Penny at the email below for info after the 15th.

Take advantage of free advertising!

Send your submissions to turlockpenny@yahoo.com. Use Garamond, 14-point type. If possible, send them as Word documents (.docx). Thanks!

September 2026

- Sept. 07 -Labor Day
- Sept. 11 -Patriot Day
- Sept. 11-13 -Rosh Hashanah
- Sept. 23 -Fall Equinox
- Sept. 27 -Gold Star Mother's Day



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



Falling Leaves = Fall Fun



See you next month!

**Calendar and Flyer Section,
Next Page**

Monthly Calendar

September 2026

Calendar

edia

Your source for calendars

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
					CWC Sacto /speaker 9-11 am @Denny's College Town. EGWG 1 st Fri. 12:30 - 2:30 PM @ Round Table – open to all. 10054 Bruceville Rd.	
6	7 Labor Day Suburban Writers , 7-9 PM Crossroads Church, 5502 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks	8 Cap Crimes Meet the author, 6-7 PM	9 GCW 10-12 Noon: Drop- in critique. City Hall, Rose Room, Auburn	10	11	12 SJWW , 12 noon – 2 PM, Anne DaVigo on "Creating Fiction F/ Real Events." Suburban Writers – 9-11 AM, Denny's N. Sunrise & Douglas
13 Romance on Zoom @ 2 PM, Use AI to make our life easier? Cap Crimes – 2 to 3 PM, Bookstore NCPA /Mtg 2-4 PM Flaming Grill	14	15	16 GCW 10-12 Speakers, open to public @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn	17	18	19 Black Women Write at Underground Books. CWC Sacto -Mtg w/speaker 1-3 PM, Unitarian, Sierra Blvd
20	21	22	23 GCW 10-12 Noon: Drop- in critique. City Hall, Rose Room, Auburn	24 EGWG Board Mtg Tent. Scheduled from 1:30-3:30.	25	26 Romance Writers - Bonnie Phelps – on Social Media & Marketing Strategy RC City Hall
27	28	29	30 GCW – Members' book sale.	1	2	3

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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
*Complimentary Snacks and Coffee***



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

Arts + Culture
CITY OF SACRAMENTO

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 p.m.**, 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.

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 if you have any questions. We would love to have you join us!

Contact me through my website, www.ginigrossenbacher.com

All my best,

Gini ☘

Next Generation Short Story Awards



A Not-for-Profit International Awards
Program for Authors of Short Stories

www.ShortStoryAwards.com



2027 Next Generation Short Story Awards

Call for Entries

Have an unpublished short story ready to be discovered?

The 2027 Next Generation Short Story Awards is now accepting original, unpublished short stories of up to 5,000 words. Writers of all experience levels—including first-time authors—from the United States, Canada, and around the world are invited to enter.

Submit by **Thursday, January 28, 2027**, for the opportunity to earn **cash prizes, medals, story inclusion in a digital Anthology, literary exposure, and recognition** for your work.



More Than 30 Categories

The 2027 awards program will recognize:

- **Three Grand Prize Winners** selected from all eligible entries
- **One Winner and three Finalists** in each of more than [30 categories](#)

Grand Prize Winners

First Place - \$500 cash prize, trophy and gold medal

Second Place - \$300 cash prize and gold medal

Third Place - \$200 cash prize and gold medal

Grand Prize Winners will also receive an invitation to the annual Next Generation Indie Book Awards gala reception, where they will be recognized. Selected winning stories will be included in the complimentary digital *Anthology of Winners*.

Category Winners

Each Category Winner will receive:

- A \$75 cash prize
- A gold medal
- Inclusion of a selected winning story in the complimentary digital *Anthology of Winners*

Finalists will have their name and story title included in the anthology.

Each Category Winner will receive:

- A \$75 cash prize
- A gold medal
- Inclusion of a selected winning story in the complimentary digital *Anthology of Winners*

Finalists will have their name and story title included in the anthology.



[Enter Today](#)

- **Recognition** on the [Next Generation Short Story Awards](#) website for one year
- **Social media coverage**
- A complimentary **digital Winner or Finalist award sticker** to display on their website, social media, or promotional materials

Finalists may also purchase silver medals, and Winners and Finalists may purchase digital or printed certificates.