Vol. 6 Issue 11
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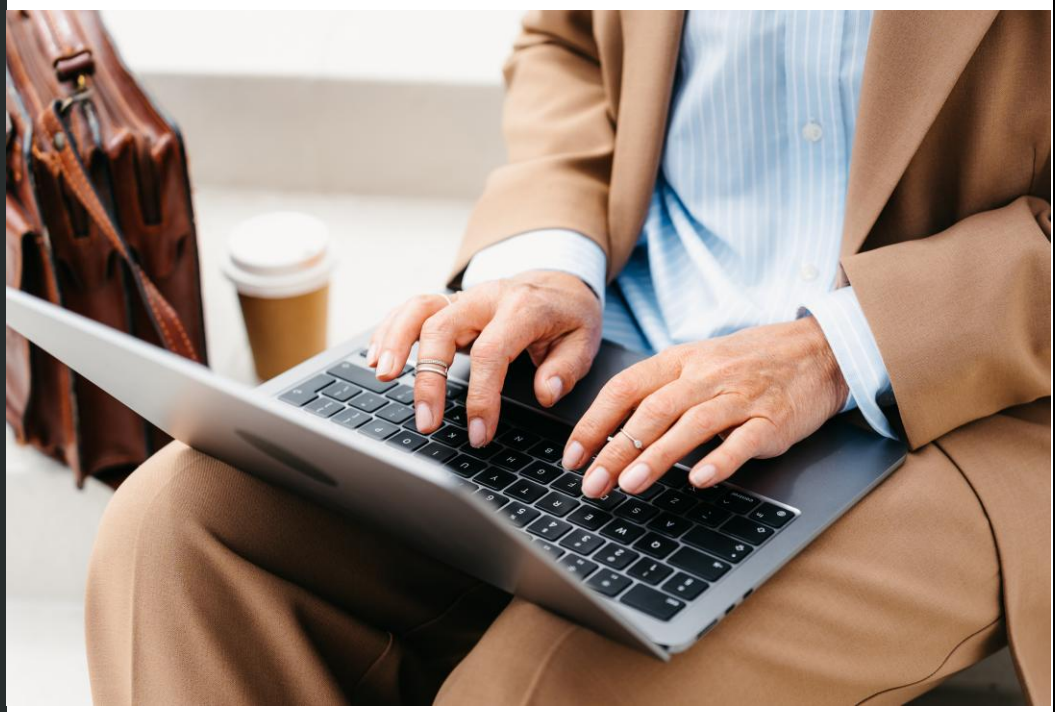
This Issue May Contain

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!



In 2018, after thorough discussions, the Elk Grove Writers Guild was established. Our main goal was to help writers build their skills, and the newsletter, which started in 2021, was a step toward that goal.

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

We are always looking for new contributors and encourage you to share your work. Whether it's updates about your writing, your group's events, book launches, poems, flash fiction, writing tips, recent achievements, publications, or reports on events you've attended. Please see the back page for submission information, or contact turlockpenny@yahoo.com.

EGWG Information

Guild Name
Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc
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What's Happening?

The fall Mini-Seminar is over. And this year's events are finished. Rumor has it that there are more events in the planning stage for the coming year.

" The first draft is just telling yourself a story."
Terry Pratchet

Elk Grove Writers Guild meetings are on the FIRST FRIDAY of each month from 12:30 to 2:30. Non-members are welcome.

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 share the latest information on 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, we welcome you. 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 **Nov. 6 and Dec. 4, 2026.**

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

LOCAL WRITING GROUPS

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



NCPA: monthly meetings are on the second Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Meetings typically include 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)
Non-members are welcome. Zoom Speaker Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday. The 4th Saturday is an open-to-the-public meeting from 12 noon to 2:00 at the Lodi Library, 201 W. Locust, Lodi, CA. For info: https://www.sjvalleywriters.org



"Prose is architecture, not interior design." ***Ernest Hemingway***

Capitol Crimes: Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month from 1-3 p.m. For more information: 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're interested in being a featured speaker at any Guild event. The Guild is always looking for new and exciting speakers.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you have ideas for an event or a speaker and would like to help, please contact Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com

Rare or Seldom-Used Words

1. **Elench:** A fallacious argument that seems true
2. **Rabato:** A 16th-century stand-up collar
3. **Revanchist:** A person out for revenge
4. **Patulous:** Wide open or gaping
5. **Preciosity:** Excessive elegance, especially in writing
6. **Gibbous:** Convex in shape; the moon when it's half full

T-shirt Writing Truths

1. I closed my book to be here
2. Tea and writing fill my day
3. Don't stop writing! Your story may be the reason someone keeps going
4. If anyone needs me, I'll be writing, so please don't need me
5. I don't have to be normal – I'm a writer
6. Books, mind, and umbrellas only work when they're open
7. A reader without a book is a tragedy

"If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that." ***Stephen King***

Henry David Thoreau

Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Hello, dear Members and Friends.

Fall seems reluctant to settle in, as if it wants the warm days and nights to linger. Or is it just my imagination?

We have some ideas for 2027 event programming. We're considering a fundraiser for the Elk Grove Writers Guild, possibly in early spring, and ML Hamilton may offer a class on converting a book into an audiobook. These ideas are still in the early stages of development. My December column will include more information.

I hope to see you at our November First Friday Meeting on 11/6/2026 at the Round Table Pizza Restaurant, 10054 Bruceville Rd., Elk Grove. All are welcome.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday.

Loy Holder, *EGWG President*

"Writing comes out of a superior devotion to reading."

Eudora Welty



Writing Bits & Pieces

BOOK COVER DO'S AND DON'TS

Penny Clark

A book cover should make the genre clear, so readers know what to expect and aren't disappointed.

When designing a cover, watch out for these five major pitfalls.

1. **Genre mismatch** occurs when a cover suggests a different genre from the book itself. For example, two people kissing on the cover may signal romance, even when the story is a thriller or horror.
2. **Too many images.** A cover filled with seemingly unrelated pictures can be confusing. Which genre is it meant to promote? A single focal point will draw readers in.
3. **A small author's name** won't help readers remember you. Hiding it at the top or bottom of the cover is self-defeating. Make your name large enough to stand out on an Amazon page.
4. **A cover that's too distinctive** defeats its purpose. It should resemble other covers that signal the tropes readers expect. Be obvious.
5. **Are Your Covers Legal?** A publicly available image doesn't mean it's free of copyright restrictions. Use reputable, legal sources. Designers can provide proof of purchase and/or a license agreement upon request. Make sure you can do the same.

Final Thoughts

- Know your genre's tropes and use them to your advantage
- Make sure your cover shows the genre
- Keep the images simple
- Let your name be large enough to be noticed
- Use ethically sourced images

Do these things, and you'll be on your way to a great, noticeable book cover.

Gold Country Writers: upcoming dates

At City Hall Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn.
"I Am the Story" (Workshop)

Wednesday, November 18, 2026
Author **Dan Hanel**
"History, Mystery and Murder – In the Shadow of Diablo Series"
(Doing research for historical novels)
https://goldcountrywriters.com/upcoming-events/

"You never have to change anything you get up in the middle of the night to write." ***Saul Bellows***

Looking For Beta Readers

"Ten books in ten years," that's what my ancestors demanded on October 1, 2016. This is the last year and I'm finishing up my tenth family heritage book. I would love for you to take a gander at what I have put together for this momentous occasion, and comment on any or all of the following:

* Which of the book covers and book titles on page 1 do you prefer (and why)?

* Is there too much duplication of information throughout?

* Is the text/analysis too complicated?

* Are there too many images or not enough?

* Is it confusing or hard to read the italics for the imaginative stories?

* Are the speculative stories written from the point of view of my ancestors believable?

* Are the relationship abbreviations too confusing? e.g., 5XGGF stands for five-times great-grandfather.

* Should I always spell out the states every time? Do I need to repeat the state names and county names
each time I mention the town where family lives?

If you are game, email me to obtain access to my manuscript file. With the link, you should be able to leave specific comments directly on the document. I am hoping to receive all comments by November 20. Thank you in advance for any comments you're willing to share. Use one of the emails below for the latest link.

Kathy Lynne Marshall

Kanikaas@icloud.com
kanikaas@gmail.com

:



What is the Zeigarnik Effect?

Even though it didn't have a name, storytellers have used it since day one. It's the premise that unfinished things tend to stick in the mind.

Keeping readers turning pages is as simple as leaving a question of what happens next.

Who is at the door?
What's in the letter?
Why did she do that?

It doesn't have to be a cliffhanger. A small unanswered question will keep readers engaged.



"I think if you're a writer, you have to be receptive to what the world gives you, and then you have to run it through your filter of creativity. Out the other end comes the original idea." ***David Balducci***

EGWG Newsletter – Back page

Something to Consider

"Read! You'll absorb it. Then write."

William Faulkner



Be Thankful For What You Have

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!

November 2026

- **Nov. 01 -Turn Clocks Back**
- **Nov. 03 -Voting Day**
- **Nov. 11 -Veterans Day**
- **Nov. 26 -Thanksgiving**
- **Nov. 27 -Black Friday**

Writing Prompts:

1. While cleaning out her late mother's attic, a woman finds a journal written in a language she doesn't know but understands perfectly.
2. A character finds a locked box in their garden… what if it can only be opened during a storm?
3. Imagine meeting your childhood self. What advice or warning would you give?
4. Ask three "what if" questions to any existing plot ideas

Cozy Blankets for a cold-weather nap!



See you next month!

Calendar and Flyer Section, Next Page

Monthly Calendar

November 2026

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 DST ends	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6** **CWC Sacto/speaker** 9-11 am @Denny's College Town. **EGWG** 1st Fri. 12:30-2:30 PM @Round Table – Open to all. 10054 Bruceville Rd	**7**
8 **CWC** Writers Week 11-17. **Romance – 2nd Sun** Zoom 2 PM **NCPA** 2-4:30 MTG a@ Flaming Grill **Cap Crimes 2-3 PM**	**9** **Sacto Suburban Writers** 7-9 PM, Crossroads Church, Dewey Dr.	**10** **Cap Crimes** – Meet the Author 6 or 7 PM	**11** Veterans Day	**12**	**13**	**14** **Romance** – Holiday Party at Rancho Cordova City Hall. **SJVW-CWC-** Celebrating contest winners.
15	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21** **CWC** Sacto-Mtg w/speaker 1-3 PM, Unitarian, Sierra Blvd **Black Women Write** Underground Books. **Cap Crimes** -Zoom
22	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26** Thanksgiving Day	**27** **EGWG Bd.** Mtg 1:30 - 3:30 on Zoom	**28** **Romance** – 4th Sat 10-noon, presenter on Zoom. **SJVW** – Craft chats @ Lodi Library, 201 West Locust St.
29	**30**	1	2	3	4	5

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

Thanks!

FLYERS & EVENTS Below

- **Short Story Awards Information**



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

For more information, go to www.ShortStoryAwards.com

Enter Today

categories