

Vol. 6 Issue 10
OCTOBER 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

Webmasters Thoughts

And More



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

Welcome!



In 2018, following 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, is 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, we'd 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?

It's October. The Seminar date is closer than ever. Have you registered? If you haven't, now's the time. The guild tries to make each program better than the last, so you don't want to miss it. REGISTER at <https://egweg.org/2026seminar>. If you'd like to help during the seminar, contact Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com. She could use your help.

**“There are two types of people in this world:
those who can edit and those who can't.”**

Jarod Kintz

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 **Oct. 2 and Nov. 6, 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)

Members-only monthly Zoom Speaker Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday. The 4th Saturday is an open-to-all in-person meeting from 12 noon to 2:00 at the Lodi Library, 201 W. Locust, Lodi, CA. For info:
<https://www.sjvalleywriters.org>



“If I waited for perfection, I would never write a word.”

Margaret Atwood

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 get in touch with Loy Holder as listed above. She's waiting to hear from you.

Rare or Seldom-Used Words

1. **Eristic:** Aiming for a win rather than the truth; a person given to disputation
2. **Indaba:** A conference discussion or a person's concerns
3. **Zenial:** Pertaining to hospitality
4. **Hamartia:** A fatal flaw
5. **Colubrine:** Snake-like
6. **Columbine:** Dove-like. A flower



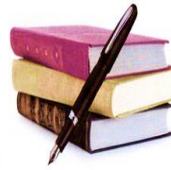
T-shirt Writing Truths

1. Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.
2. Pay no attention to my browsing history. I'm a writer, not a serial killer.
3. My three favorite things are eating my family and not using Oxford commas.
4. Never underestimate a woman who reads Steven King.
5. Careful, or you'll end up in my novel.
6. There is no such thing as too many books.
7. I'm actually quite tall for a hobbit.



**“How vain is it to sit down to write
when you have not stood up to live.”**

Henry David Thoreau



Elk Grove Writers Guild

Writers Helping Writers

EGWG President's Column

Hello, dear Members and Friends.

You may have heard that the California Assembly passed a resolution designating the third week of October as California Writers Week.

The Elk Grove Writers Guild will celebrate the spirit of California Writers Week at our Elk Grove Seminar on October 24, 2026, with Writers Helping Writers: "Target the Right Market" for selling their books; "Learn About Writing Romance"; and "Learn Where to Begin When Writing a Memoir."

The Seminar promises to be a wonderful opportunity to combine learning and networking with the speakers and other writers.

The final filing date for this event is coming soon. Register at egweg.org/2026seminar. I'll see you there.

Also, come to our next meeting on October 2, 2026, to meet some of our members. It's open to the public and will be held at the Round Table Restaurant, 10054 Bruceville Rd, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. For questions, email

egwg2020@egweg.org

Warm regards,

Loy Holder, EGWG President



Writing Tips and Lessons

A Writer's Road to Rejection

Elaine Faber

If you're planning to write or publish a novel, you've probably already traveled the Road to Rejection, whether from entering contests, submitting magazine articles, or sending query letters to various publishing houses. I've worn ruts in this much-traveled road.

Some years ago, I wrote my first cozy cat mystery and began to pursue publication. I typed and mailed multiple query letters to traditional publishers. Some were returned with form-letter rejections; some actually added three to six handwritten words, e.g., *Sorry!* - *Not interested!* - *Perhaps another publisher!* - *Try again!* - *You've got to be kidding!* (That hurt!) Many didn't reply at all. I suspect they just steamed the stamp off my self-

addressed, return envelope for use in their further correspondence.

As time progressed, publishing houses used e-mail rejection slips to save time. No more opening mail, steaming off stamps, or licking envelopes to return snide rejection slips. It also saved me days and weeks of anticipation and anxiety. Then, I received email rejection slips. One within fourteen minutes following submission. Efficiency at work!

Eventually, I was thrilled to find a couple of small press editors who requested the entire manuscript. One editor claimed there was too much romance; another, not enough romance. One editor *loved the story* and suggested that if I removed all the exclamation points and fragmented sentences, she'd reconsider. Another one recommended that I have it professionally edited. After making all the suggested changes, paying a professional editor, and resubmitting the manuscript, none of the small presses offered a publishing contract.

As I made my way along the Road to Rejection, all those rebuffs forced me to re-examine my goals, re-evaluate my skills, and devote time, money, and effort to improve my craft. Three different teachers taught me more about writing than I ever thought possible.

EGWG Newsletter – page 6

Surprise! *You don't know what you don't know*. Which is to say, the early version of my novel probably wasn't worthy of print in the first place. I began to revise, edit, re-edit, cut the storyline in half, and flesh out the characters and plot. Along the way, the cat, previously a minor character, took on a life of his own and became a POV character—adding his wit, wisdom, and charm by narrating part of the story.

Looking back, I've come to believe that The Road to Rejection is not necessarily a pothole-riddled, mud-filled, weed-infested sticker-path meant to trip up and discourage new writers (Though it certainly does that). Rather, it is a road of lessons learned, character building, and knowledge testing meant to weed out the weak and ill-equipped writers (of which there are far too many).

The Road to Rejection forces the committed writer to polish her skills and sharpens the mettle of those willing to accept that they *don't know what they don't know*. This can be done by a willingness to accept criticism with humility, studying with individual teachers, and poring through scores of books on the subject.

If you're writing a novel that you hope to publish one day, or are now seeking

publication for a completed manuscript, be sure you've honed your craft, followed the advice of worthy mentors, and completed your manuscript as nearly perfect as possible before submitting to agents or small presses, whether choosing a traditional or indie path to publication.

You say your first novel was just published? Congratulations. You've successfully traveled the Road to Rejection and vanquished it.

Now, convinced that the world is waiting with open arms to receive your pearls of wisdom, your fantasy world, or divine inspiration, you must promote and market your baby. Fame and fortune wait right around the corner.

Oh, wait! Marketing your baby means yet another crossroads ahead. It's called The Road to Frustration. *Elaine F.*

Notice

I bought a used George Steck (New York) spinet piano in 1984. It has been kept indoors ever since. Do you know of an organization or family who would love and use the piano? I will rehome it for free to a good home. The new owner must move it from the Elk Grove home. Contact me at Elaine.Faber@mindcandymysteries.com or 916-686-4739, and I'll send a picture via email if desired.

What Are Filter Words?

Penny Clark

Filter words, also known as weasel or crutch words, are extra words, generally placed at the beginning of a sentence, most following a pronoun.

Filter words tell the reader to look at the character, not through their eyes. They tend to weaken writing.

Every filter word in your story reminds the reader that they're not experiencing the story as the character does. It reminds the reader that the story is just words on a page. It pushes the reader away from the character.

Below is a list of the usual villains. When you revise and edit, search for these words and cut them if possible.

Filter Words in Your First Draft

While writing the first draft, include filter words. When you try to edit them out as you write, you'll limit creativity. Just write. Deal with filter words after you finish the first draft.

As with most skills, practice improves your writing. By working with filter words, rewriting sentences, and editing them out, you'll use fewer filter words the next time you write. Your eyes will catch them the way you'd catch a misspelling or other error.

Eliminating filter words is crucial in deep point of view because this style immerses the reader in the character's perspective, letting them experience the drama, excitement, and action alongside the character.

Try it and see if your writing isn't tighter and stronger.

A List of Common Filter Words

- Saw
- Seemed
- Thought
- Wondered
- Heard
- Decided
- Knew
- Felt
- Watched
- Looked
- Noticed
- Realized
- Gave
- Could
- Noted
- Wanted
- Sounded

EGWG Newsletter – page 8

- Chose
- Experienced
- Remembered

Remember, these verbs usually follow a pronoun: she realized, he watched, he remembered, she saw, etc.

For example, "she remembered when he had done this before" becomes "he had done this before." Another example: he wondered if she'd show up becomes – would/will she show up this time?

Editor's note: This reminder is a reprint from the March 2022 issue of the EGWG Newsletter.

ATTENTION WRITERS

ML Hamilton wants to know whether any EGWG members or others would be interested in attending her class, "Plot to Print." Please review her attached flyer for the class and let her know at authormlhamilton@gmail.com if you are interested.

The class flyer is in the flyer section. Check it out and let Ms. Hamilton know.

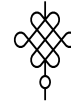
Editor's note: I've taken that class and have nothing but good things to say about it. It's worth the cost, and the workbook is invaluable.



POETRY CORNER

POETS

If you have published your poetry, feel free to submit some of your published poems to the newsletter and let readers know where to find more of your work.



Gold Country Writers: upcoming dates

At City Hall Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn.

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Author and Writing Mentor **Lisa Frenkel**

Riddiough

"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/>

EGWG Newsletter – Back page

Something to Consider

“Being a good writer is 3% talent and 97% not being distracted by the internet.”
Anonymous



Trick or Treat

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!

October 2026

- Oct. 04 -National Taco Day
- Oct. 11 -Yom Kippur
- Oct. 12 -Indigenous Day
- Oct. 29 -National Cat Day
- Oct. 31 -Halloween - Samhain (saw-when)

Writing Prompts:

1. A 70-year-old woman decides to learn something new for fun. What does it cost her
2. Write a poem about the last thing that made you laugh
3. A character gets exactly what he wants – and hates it. Why
4. Write nonstop in your WIP for ten minutes

BOO!



See you next month!

**Calendar and Flyer Section,
Next Page**

Monthly Calendar

October 2026						Calendar media Your source for calendars
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
					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.	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			San Rafael Writers Gini Grossenbacher Zoom Class on The Novel 6-8 PM			SJVW – 2nd Sat Zoom with Tomas Moniz – "Setting and Place" Sacto Suburban 9-11 AM Denny's
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
CWC Writers Week 11-17. Romance – 2nd Sun Zoom 2 PM NCPA 2-4:30 MTG a@ Flaming Grill Cap Crimes 2-3 PM	Columbus Day Sacto Suburban Writers 7-9 PM, Crossroads Church, Dewey Dr.	Cap Crimes – Meet the Author 6 or 7 PM	San Rafael Writers Gini Grossenbacher Zoom Class on The Novel 6-8 PM			CWC Sacto-Mtg w/speaker 1-3 PM, Unitarian, Sierra Blvd Black Women Write Underground Books. Cap Crimes -Zoom
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			GCW – Rose Room Lisa Riddiough – "I am the Story" Workshop- San Rafael Writers Gini Grossenbacher Zoom – Novel 6-8			Romance – 4th Sat 10-noon, presenter on Zoom. EGWG – Writers Seminar 1-5 PM. Reg egweg.org/26seminar
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
			San Rafael Writers Gini Grossenbacher Zoom Class on The Novel 6-8 PM	EGWG Bd. Mtg 1:30 -3:30 on Zoom		

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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

EGWG One Day Seminar

Schedule for One Day Seminar

Gini Grossenbacher Classes for Oct. Nov.

ML Hamilton Class

Short Story Awards Information

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 shawnglangwell.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



October 24, 2026

Elk Grove Writers Seminar – Program Schedule

12:00 Noon	Check-In at Tracy Room	Beverages, Snacks, and meet the Speakers
1:00 PM	Speaker – Shawn Langwell	How to Target the Market For Selling Your Book
2:00 PM	Break -	
2:15 PM	Speaker - Anna J. Stewart	Writing Romance
3:15 PM	Break -	
3:30 PM	Speaker - Daniel Babka	Beginning a Memoir: Where Do I Start
4:30 PM	Q &A and Evaluations	Speakers & Attendees
5:00	Close of Program	



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 p.m., except 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 limited to five participants due to space considerations. All classes are enrolling now.

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 ☘

A CLASS DESIGNED TO HELP
YOU PUBLISH
FROM PLOT TO PRINT

Do you want to write, edit, and publish your
manuscript in one eighteen-week course?

INSTRUCTOR M.L. HAMILTON

Contact me for more information:
blackcatediting17@gmail.com

Classes are once a week on Wednesdays at
5:00PM on Zoom.

Dates will be determined based on interest.

Throughout the 18 week course, you will accomplish the
following:

- write your manuscript
- workshop your chapters
- learn about editing
- learn cover design
- format your book for print and ebook
- publish your book

Space is limited.

Sign up at <http://www.authormlhamilton.net/ml-hamiltons-store.html>

\$250 for course and workbook



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

For more information, go to www.ShortStoryAwards.com

[Enter Today](#)

[Categories](#)