

Vol 4 Issue 10  
October 2024

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### This Issue May Contain

Bulletin Board  
Poetry Corner  
Coming Events  
President's Column  
Writing Bits and Pieces  
From the Bookshelf  
Learning Opportunities  
Backpage  
Area Calendar  
Flyer pages  
Webmaster's Column  
And More



Elk Grove Writers Guild  
*Writers Helping Writers*

**WELCOME!**



The Elk Grove Writers Guild is committed to helping writers grow and improve their craft. This newsletter is just one way we achieve our goal.

Within these pages, you'll find a wealth of information on upcoming events, classes, and Guild news. We also offer items of writing wisdom, poetry, memories, writing tips, and updates on the latest happenings in the writing world.

We're always looking for new contributions to the newsletter and welcome your submissions. Whether you have news of your group's events, book launch announcements, writing tips, recent successes or publications, or reports of events you've attended, we want to hear from you.

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](mailto:egwg2020@egweg.org)

### Website

<https://www.egweg.org>

### Newsletter & Submissions

Penny Clark - Editor

[turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com)

## What's Happening?

Registration is still open for **Create Compelling Characters** on November 2, 2024. Jackie Alcalde Marr from Evolutions Consulting and Michelle Hamilton, author and speaker will present a fresh approach to character development. The event will be at the Holiday Inn Express off Highway 99. See the flyer in the flyer section and **REGISTER NOW!**

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**“Literature is strewn with the wreckage of men who have minded beyond reason the opinion of others.”**

*Virginia Woolf*

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**Elk Grove Writers Guild Meetings** are on the first Friday of each month from 12:30 – to 2:30 or 3.

We gather as a Writer's Circle to talk in the language of writers, sharing what and how we're doing. Topics vary as questions and problems are discussed or as the latest information in the writing and publishing world is brought up.

Guild members can post their WIP on Google Docs and share it with other members for critiques. It's an excellent way to receive input and other writers' valuable insights into the work presented.

If you're interested in joining the Guild, go to [www.egweg.org](http://www.egweg.org), click Join, fill out the membership application, and send in your dues.

If you'd prefer to visit first, come to the next meeting at Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Road, in Elk Grove. Meetings are from 12:30 to 2:30+/- . The following meetings are on October 4, 2024, and November 1, 2024. Come visit with us.

**Contact** [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com) for answers to any meeting or Guild questions.

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## GROUPS & EVENTS

**CWC's** Meetings are on the first Friday, 9-11 am, in the back room at Denny's, 8841 Greenback Ln. The third Saturday, 1-3 pm, isn't always at the Arcade Library. For information on current meetings or events, go to [California Writers Club, Sacramento branch](http://CaliforniaWritersClub.com).

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**NCPA** monthly meetings are on the second Sunday from 4 pm to 6:30 pm. The meeting usually features a speaker on various writing subjects. Their new location is Flaming Grill Café, 2380 Watt Ave., inside Country Club Plaza. The link for current information:

<https://www.norcalpa.org>

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### California Writers Club (CWC) **(San Joaquin Valley Writers Branch)**

Monthly Speaker Meetings, 2nd Saturday of each month ~ 12 noon – 2:30 p.m.

Check the link below for venue information.

<https://www.sjvalleywriters.org>

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**Capitol Crimes** Meetings are on the third Saturday of the month from 1-3 p.m. For info, go to

<https://capitolcrimes.org/events>

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### The Gold Country Writers

GCW has an active calendar. For information about their writers' events or directions, contact Margie Yee Webb at [mywebb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mywebb@sbcglobal.net) or <https://goldcountryrtwriters.com>.

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### Black Women Write Black

Women Write meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from 10 until noon. For information contact [BlackWomenWriteSac@gmail.com](mailto:BlackWomenWriteSac@gmail.com)

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**(Editor: Please let Penny C. know if there are changes to times or places.)**

[turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com)

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### The EGWG Bulletin Board

#### **SPEAKERS and TEACHERS**

The Guild is organizing events for the 2025 Conference and other classes. We seek innovative and engaging content from speakers and instructors across various writing disciplines. If you have a passion for sharing your expertise and would like to be a featured speaker at any upcoming Guild event, please get in touch with Loy Holder at [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)

## September's EGWG Meeting

Loy began the meeting by reviewing the November seminar activities. It sounds like a great time to share and learn. (See the program flyer in the Flyer section)

The seminar will be in a few short weeks, so register now!!

The members attending shared that their books were at an agent, being published, back from the editor, and being worked on. Many of our group members are active in their craft, encouraging us to keep writing.

While discussing those activities, we also learned about the bushmaster snake in Brazil, how to get footnotes to work, and books and thoughts on grief. We are an eclectic group.

After going around the room for WIP news, the meeting devolved into a multisubject conversation on seminars and other events in various places in Elk Grove with many questions and answers.

It was an enjoyable meeting.

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The one Members Only item on the EGWG website is the Library, which lists our extensive collection of books on writing and provides instructions on borrowing them. Make the most of your membership and check it out!

Our newsletter readers can go to the Guild website and, under the Resources menu, find links to writing courses, an archive of our monthly newsletter, upcoming events, and a calendar of writing groups in northern California. It's there for everyone, so check it out.

<http://www.egweg.org>

Read the Webmaster's Column for details on all we offer.

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## Rare or Seldom Used Words

**Orrery.** A mechanical model of the solar system.

**Recreant.** Cowardly or disloyal duty.

**Apatetic.** Camouflaging or imitating color or shape.

**Turbinate** Spiral or cone-shaped to spin.

**Derogate.** To reduce the value of.

**Redact.** To edit or revise.

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## T-Shirt Truths

1. You know you're a writer when...Your mood depends on what's going on in your story.
2. It's not hoarding if it's books.
3. or time-Then. For comparison-Than. Know the difference.
4. The art of writing is to write like art.

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**“There is no beauty without a little strangeness.”** *Edgar A. Poe*





Elk Grove Writers Guild  
*Writers Helping Writers*

## EGWG President's Column

### Happy October

Dear members and friends,

It's time to sign up for our Fall Seminar on November 2, 2024.

The program schedule and event flyer are on the back pages of this newsletter. Please take a moment to review the information and register at <https://egweg.org/fall2024>.

It's almost that time again. In mid-January 2025, we'll begin working on our biennial Writers Conference for the Fall of 2025.

Come to our member meetings and bring your ideas and suggestions to share.

Our next meeting is on 10/4/2024 at 12:30 PM in the Round Table Restaurant, Bruceville Rd and Whitelock.

I hope to see you there.

If you have questions, send an email to [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com).

Loy Holder  
President – Elk Grove Writers Guild

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**“A book is simply the container of an idea—like a bottle: what is inside the book is what matters.”**

*Angela Carter*



## From the Bookshelf

### A Writer's Road to Rejection

Elaine Faber

Some years ago, I wrote the first draft of a cozy cat mystery novel and began to pursue publication. Back in those days, I typed and mailed multiple query letters to traditional publishers, including self-addressed return envelopes. Some were returned with form rejection letters, some actually with 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. Perhaps they just steamed the stamps off my self-addressed return envelopes.

As time progressed, e-mail queries became preferable, allowing the publishing houses time-saving procedures. No more opening envelopes, steaming off stamps, or licking envelopes to return snide rejection slips. It also saved me days and weeks of anticipation and frustration.

## EGWG Newsletter – page 6

Now, my auto-rejection notices came by return e-mail, one in a record-breaking fourteen minutes following submission. Efficiency at work!

Eventually, I was thrilled to find a couple of editors at small presses who requested the entire manuscript. In due time, one editor replied that it contained too much romance, another, not enough romance. One editor *loved the story* and suggested if I removed all the exclamation points and fragmented sentences, she'd reconsider. Another suggested I have it professionally edited. After I made all the suggested changes, paid to have it professionally edited, and resubmitted the manuscripts, still none were interested. Yet another publishing house stated it was not a COZY mystery at all but a *Fantasy-Paranormal-Romance-Adventure*. Where does that fit on a bookstore shelf?

As I traveled this Road to Rejection, all those rebuffs forced me to re-examine my goals, re-evaluate my skills, and devote more time, investment, and energy to improving my writing craft. Three different teachers taught me more about the craft of writing than I ever thought possible. 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 publication in the first

place. I set about to revise, edit, re-edit, cut the story 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 one of the main POV characters, adding his wit, wisdom, and charm by narrating part of the story. (Black Cat's Legacy)

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

The Road to Rejection forces the committed writer to polish her skills and sharpen the mettle of those willing to accept that they *don't know what they don't know*. This can be done through critique groups, accepting critique and correction with a willing heart, studying with individual teachers, and reading scores of books on writing.

You say you just published your first novel? Congratulations. You've traveled and vanquished the Road to Rejection. Now, convinced that the world is waiting with open arms to receive your words of wit and wisdom, you can begin to promote and market your baby.

Oh, wait! You're at another crossroads.  
It's called The Road to Frustration!

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## Body Language

### **Non-verbal Communication.**

A recent study came up with these figures:

**55%** of communication is body language.

**38%** of communication is expressed through tone of voice.

**07%** of communication is through oral words.

To write better, use body language everywhere: dialogue, character actions, and interactions with others unless your characters are robots.

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## More Keyboard shortcuts

If you want to align to the center, highlight and use **Control+E**.

To underline words only, use **Control+W**.

This one helps write internal thoughts. Use **Control+I** to convert words to italics.

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**“Do not hoard what is good for a later place in the book or for another book: Give it, give it all, give it now.”**

*Annie Dillard*



## Poetry Corner

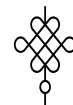
### THE THIMBLE

Barbara A. Barrett

There's a big black hole that I can't fill.  
An eternal bottomless pit.  
A mindless beast with its own will.  
A cunning thing I can't outwit.  
A monster that I feed all day  
And is never satisfied.  
Worst of all, to my dismay  
That food shows on my hide.

Can nothing fill this void in me  
Aching for satisfaction  
Is there perhaps a secret key?  
Perhaps a counteraction?  
Please tell me, Lord, what shall I do?  
"Nothing." I heard a faint voice say.  
"The pit itself cannot be true.  
See the Love and you'll find the way."

When Love arose within, I knew.  
It was straight from God's own light.  
I felt its echo through and through  
Its loveliness, a sheer delight.  
I asked about my lost symbol  
And upon my soul was writ:  
"The black hole's but a small thimble.  
God's Love is infinite."



## From the Webmaster

George Hahn

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. This column will talk about one of these features each month.

The first item in the Resources menu is Critiquing. I hope we can all agree that getting feedback on our work is vital to producing good writing. While most of the Resource items are available to anyone, the list of members willing to comment on the work of other members is protected by a password to protect member information. Reading the work of other authors helps the writer, but it can also help the person doing the critiquing, and the Guild encourages members to make themselves available. A member can request readers from the list, but the prospective reader can always accept or turn down the opportunity.

To enable remote critiquing, the requestor uploads the writing to Google Docs (or, as we like to call it, the Wall) and sends the reader or readers a link that they can use to read the document and record feedback. More details on how to do this are available on the Critiquing web page.

I hope to see you at the next meeting.

George

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**“If it sounds like writing, I rewrite it.”**

*Elmore Leonard*

## The Nine Rules Of Dialogue

1. Dialogue heightens the emotional stakes (goals) and increases conflict and tension.
2. Dialogue must have a purpose. It should drive the storyline forward and advance the plot.
3. Dialogue should flow. Don't overuse dialogue tags when it's clear who is speaking. Vary the length of conversations to ease the reader's eyes. People don't remain stationary when talking—let them move.
4. Dialogue should be concise. Never use ten words when five would do.
5. Don't let characters sound the same. Consider their background and cultures. (Think Texas versus Boston speech patterns.)
6. Give each character a personal agenda. They'll often be different.
7. Avoid obvious dull or routine dialogue. Imagine a conversation at the breakfast table or arriving home in the evening.
8. Use subtext in dialogue. Have the characters say things they don't mean to cover what they do.
9. Get the punctuation right. Should you use one quote mark or two? What do you do when a speaker runs into another paragraph? What's the difference between using an ellipsis and an em dash, and when do you use them?



## EGWG Newsletter –Back Page

### Something to consider.

“Write while the heat is in you. The writer who postpones the recording of his thoughts uses an iron which has cooled to burn a hole with.”

*Henry David Thoreau*



Trick or Treat

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

### POETRY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMING EVENTS

SHORT STORIES

FLYERS (Not in PDF)

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES.

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 Submissions to [turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com).

Please: Use Garamond-14 for submissions. Send in a **Word document(docx)**, NOT PDF or JPG.  
Thanks!

## October 2024

- Oct. 02-4- Rosh Hashanah
- Oct. 11-12- Yom Kippur
- Oct. 14- Indigenous People Day
- Oct. 31- Halloween or Samhain

### More Writing Prompts

- a. Make a list of all the things you'd like to say “no” to. Then write the reasons you don't.
- b. Your character is a clerk at the courthouse. He's just discovered he was adopted. How does he feel, and what does he do?
- c. Write about your favorite pet. What can animals teach about life?
- d. Sit in a café and write a short story about the people sitting close to you.

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Have a spooky October.



See you next month!

Continue for Calendar and Flyers

# October

2024

Encouraging Northern California writers to learn from one another

## No. CA Writers Alliance

- BWW = Black Women Write
- Cap. Cr. = Capitol Crimes
- EGWG = Elk Grove Writers Guild
- GCW = Gold Country Writers
- NCPA = No. CA Publishers & Authors
- Sac. Sub. = Sacramento Suburban Writers
- SJVW = San Joaquin Valley Writers CA Writers Club
- Sac. CWC = Sacramento CA Writers Club
- San Raf. = San Rafael (formerly Elk Grove) Writers & Artists



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			10-12 GCW Business @ Rose Room, City Hall, Auburn		12:30-2:30 EGWG @ Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Rd, E.G.	GCW celebrates Short Story Con-test finalists, Council Chamber
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			10-12 GCW Drop- In Critique @ Rose Room, City Hall, Auburn		SJVW at →	9-4 Great Valley Bookfest, Manteca See gvbookfest.com
13	14	15	16	17	1-3 Sac CWC @ → Arcade Library	19 Sonoma Writers Conference:
4-6:30 PM NCPA @ Flaming Grill, Watt Ave.			10-12 GCW: speaker, Joey Garcia, editor & book coach		Chris Hennessey & 14 workshops 12 <sup>th</sup> Annual →	8:30-5 at Finley Ctr., 2060 W College Ave, Santa Rosa
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			10-12 GCW Drop- In Critique @ Rose Room, City Hall, Auburn			12-2 SJVW Craft Chat: Flash Fiction, @ Papapavlo's, 501 Lincoln Ctr., Stockton
27	28	29	30	31		
			10-12 5 <sup>th</sup> Wed. GCW Halloween Costume Party, Rose Room			

If you have flyers for your own or your writing group's event that you'd like to see in the flyer section, send them to Penny Clark at

[turlockpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:turlockpenny@yahoo.com).

**If they're in PDF or JPEG, I will try to copy them,** but it would be perfect if you could send them in a Word document that I could copy without using outside resources.

Continue on the Next Page for Flyers:

1. SONOMA Writers Conference
2. SAVE The Cat Classes
3. EGWG Fall Seminar Schedule
4. EGWG Fall Seminar Flyer
5. INFORMATION Just for You

## Sonoma Writers Conference, the 12<sup>th</sup> biennial

Hosted by Redwood Writers

*the largest chapter of the California Writers Club*

<https://redwoodwriters.org/2024-conference>

8:30 am to 5 pm Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024

Finley Community Center

2060 W. College Ave.

Santa Rosa, CA

### **Featuring**

**Also featuring (there are 14 Presenters)**

#### **JEFF GOINS**

Best-selling author of five books, including *The Art of Work* and *Real Artists Don't Starve*. Tens of millions have visited his award-winning blog, Goinswriter.com

KEYNOTE--The Art of Being Interesting: How to Succeed as a Writer Without Selling Your Soul

WORKSHOP - Bestseller Bootcamp: How to Bake the Marketing of Your Book into the Writing Process

#### **Roger C. Lubeck, PhD**

President of the California Writers Club and a past president of Redwood Writers and membership chair for Redwood Writers

WORKSHOP - Understanding the Elements of a Great Short Story

#### **Chris Hennessy**

Award-winning filmmaker, TV producer, speaker, author, and board of directors at California Writers Club, Sacramento.

WORKSHOP - Create Your Book Buzz with Story Telling Crossover!

<https://henschtick.substack.com>

Registration is open; you can choose your workshops. There are 14 Presenters, and slots are filling quickly.



**SAVE THE CAT: A NOVEL APPROACH**

*The art of great screenwriting applies to the novel!  
New and experienced novel writers are welcome!  
Participants may work on writings in progress or begin new work.*

**ZOOM SIX WEEK CLASS, WEDNESDAY EVENINGS  
OCTOBER 16, 23, 30, AND NOVEMBER 6, 13, 20  
6 PM-8 PM**

**Week One: Creating Your Hero(ine) & Beat Sheet  
Week Two: Your Genre & the Dark Side  
Week Three: Life's Passage & Social Groups  
Week Four: Superheroes & Survival  
Week Five: Underdogs & Friendships  
Week Six: Magic & Quests + Reading Salon Presenter,  
published author Gini Grossenbacher, M.Ed.  
WITH GUEST Authors  
*Sheryl Bize' Boutte'*  
*June Gillam, PhD***

***Based on Jessica Brody's groundbreaking book Save the Cat! Writes a Novel*  
\$27.00 + tax PER CLASS + TEXTBOOK, PAY AS YOU GO; One free class if you prepay  
for six weeks.**

**ENROLLING NOW AT:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/save-the-cat-writes-a-novel-tickets-1023828768407?aff=oddtcreator>



**SAN RAFAEL WRITERS & ARTISTS**  
CLASSES, COACHING, COMMUNITY



# CRAFTING COMPELLING CHARACTERS

Elk Grove Writers Guild Fall Seminar

November 2, 2024

12:00-4:00 pm (*Lunch at 11:30 am*)

## AGENDA

11:30-12:00	Networking and box lunches	
12:00-12:10	Welcome and Introductions	Loy Holder
12:10-12:15	Agenda review and session goals	Jackie Alcalde Marr & Michelle Hamilton
12:15-12:30	Warm-up: Grab bag	Attendees
12:30- 12:40	<b>TOOL 1: Character Goals, Insights, &amp; Actions</b>	Jackie
12:40-12:50	Tool 1 Model	Michelle
12:50-1:05	Tool 1 Practice	Attendees
1:05-1:15	<b>TOOL 2: Character Life (back)Story</b>	Jackie
1:15-1:25	Tool 2 Model	Michelle
1:25-1:40	Tool 2 Practice	Attendees
1:40-1:55	Break	
1:55--2:05	<b>TOOL 3: Character Worldview</b>	Jackie
2:05-2:15	Tool 3 Model	Michelle
2:15-2:30	Tool 3 Practice	Attendees

<b>2:30-3:15</b>	<b>WORKSHOP &amp; Table Shares</b>	Attendees
<b>3:15-3:45</b>	Full Group Discussion, Q & A	Jackie, Michelle, Attendees
<b>3:45-4:00</b>	Closing and Prize Drawing	Jackie, Michelle & Loy

*This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal SLFRP0166 awarded to Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc. by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.*



## Crafting compelling characters



Jackie Alcalde Marr has been a certified leadership and life coach for more than 14 years and is a certified book coach.



Michelle Hamilton teaches high school English and journalism and is the author of 73 books, including the Peyton Brooks Mysteries.

In any story, fiction or nonfiction, the plot and action entertain us, but how the characters react to that action, how they make decisions, and, importantly, how they feel about what happens sticks with us long after we close a book.

In this seminar, learn how to use the lens of a life coach to create believable characters striving for the insight and lessons they need to achieve their goals. Workshop key questions about your characters to flesh out their backstory and bring them to life on the page.

*This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal SLFRP0166 awarded to Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc. by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.*

## Elk Grove Writer's Guild Fall Seminar

November 2, 2024,  
11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn  
Express & Suites  
9175 W. Stockton Blvd  
Elk Grove, CA



Box lunches at 11:30 a.m.  
Program begins at noon

*Register Now!*

**Registration Fee: \$50**

Registration Link

or go to

<https://egweg.org/fall2024/>

This page is empty—it's waiting for your event flyer for November and beyond.