

**Vol 5 Issue 04**  
April 2025

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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  
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 one way we achieve that goal.

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

We're always looking for new contributors 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?

The 2025 biennial EGWG Conference program details are in the Flyer section. Watch this newsletter and the President's Column for more information as it becomes available.

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**"I believe myself that a good writer doesn't really need to be told anything except to keep at it."**

*Chinua Achebe*

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**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 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 produced.

Guild members can post their WIP on Google Docs and share it with other members for critiques. 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](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 first Friday meeting at Round Table Pizza, 10054 Bruceville Road, in Elk Grove. The next meetings are on April 4 and May 2, 2025.

**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](#).

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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 is <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.

Check the link below for venue information.

<https://www.sjvalleywriters.org>

**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://goldcounyrtrwriters.com>.

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### Black Women Write

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

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## The EGWG Bulletin Board

### **SPEAKERS and TEACHERS**

The Guild is working on the 2025 Conference and future events. 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)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** If you'd like to help make our events run better than ever before, contact Loy using the above link for information.

### **Rare or Seldom Used Words**

**Solanaceous.** Pertain to peppers, tomatoes, eggplants, or other plants of the nightshade family.

**Panegyric.** A speech of high praise; eulogy.

**Detritus.** Rubble, debris.

**Syndetic.** Serving to connect or unite. Connected by a conjunction.

**Postiche.** Something fake. A small toupee. From Italian *posticcio* for counterfeit.

**Zeric.** Of or adapted to dry environments.

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### **T-Shirt Truths**

1. I love the smell of writing in the morning.
2. Booktrovert: A person who prefers the company of fictional characters to real people.
3. Read books, be kind, and stay weird.
4. I'm plotting against you. I'm a writer; it's what I do.
5. Writing is easy. Finding the right words is hard.
6. I read past my bedtime.

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**“There are no laws for the novel. There never have been, nor can there ever be.”**

*Doris Lessing*

### **NCPA's 31st Annual Book Awards Competition**

for all books published between 1 Jan 2024 and 31 Dec 2024 is open for book submissions at [norcalpa.org](http://norcalpa.org)

The deadline to submit (\$65 member \* \$95 non-member) books is **31 May 2025**, with a one-time non-refundable \$20 late fee for books submitted between 1 June 2025 and 31 July 2025. (\$30 of each full fee includes one banquet dinner

You do NOT have to be an NCPA member to submit, but it's cheaper.

The Book Awards Banquet is on Sunday, 19 Oct 2025, at Cherry Island Golf Course, Elverta Rd., Elverta, CA. Dinner is \$30 for those who want to attend but have not entered a book.

#### **Norma Jean Thornton**

916-804-7201

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) 2014-2025 Book Awards Banquet Coordinator

NCPA Communications Director & Newsletter Editor 2015-2025

NCPA Anthology Coordinator & Proofreader 2019-2025 Web site: [www.norcalpa.org](http://www.norcalpa.org)

[For more information, see the Flyer section.](#)

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**“Don't bend; don't water it down; don't try to make it logical; don't edit your own soul according to the fashion. Rather, follow your most intense obsessions mercilessly”**

*Franz Kafka*



Elk Grove Writers Guild  
*Writers Helping Writers*

## EGWG President's Column

Hello, dear members.

I'm excited to tell you we have finished staffing the Elk Grove Writers Conference. A new flyer will be out after I get all the headshots and bios in. Please check the back pages for current details.

Thank you, Ramona Scarborough, for last month's excellent presentation on "How to Make Money Writing While You're Writing Your Book." It drew in more members and guests who came to hear what Ramona had to say, and it was a hit. Our First Friday Meeting in April is 4/4/25. Hope to see you there.

Loy Holder"

Loy Holder, President  
Elk Grove Writers Guild, Inc

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**"I write entirely to find out what I'm thinking, what I'm looking at, what I see, and what it means. What I want and what I fear."**

*Joan Didion*

**Aphorism:** A concise, pithy sentence that conveys a profound or insightful observation or a general truth.

1. There are no new sins ... the old ones just get more publicity.
2. There are worse things than getting a wrong number call at 4 a.m. Like it could be the right number.
3. No one says, "It's only a game," when their team is winning.
4. Be careful about reading the fine print ... there's no way you're going to like it.
5. Do you realize that, in about forty years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos? And rap music will be the golden oldies!

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## The Class on Blurbs

### **How to Write an Effective Book Description**

When readers search for their next book, the first thing that catches their eye is the cover's design. That old saying, "Never judge a book by its cover," doesn't apply to actual books. The second attraction is the blurb or the description of the story.

A descriptive blurb is a **sales pitch** or advertising copy designed to attract a reader and convince them to buy your book. While it's essential to create a solid

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A novel with well-rounded characters, strong goals, and a compelling plot requires a polished blurb to effectively sell your book.

While struggling to write a blurb for the back cover, remember that you will use it on social media networks, Facebook, blogs, Goodreads, and anywhere else you can think of. A short, concise book description has a better chance of being copied and emailed to others with a “buy this” recommendation.

Writing a blurb isn’t easy. It is often much harder than drafting the novel it describes. The blurb should be 100 to 150 words long and shouldn’t be over 200 words. The format should consist of 1 to 4 paragraphs, each containing 2 to 3 concise sentences. There should be space between each section. No one wants to read a solid block of type. Don’t worry about character development and subplots.

The focus of the blurb should be on the first chapters of your story, where you introduce the main character, have an inciting incident, and establish the MC’s goal, and it should end with questions related to reaching that goal.

“A hundred and fifty words? Yikes!” The key is to use as few words as possible. One way to achieve this goal is to write the blurb, judge each word, and ask if it is strong enough and needed. Are you being wordy and using three or four words when one or two will do? Can you say the same thing with fewer words, or are there better,

stronger words you could use? Please keep it simple, concise, and ensure every word counts.

Each paragraph must conclude in a way that draws the reader into the next section. How do you do that? See what I did there? I finished with a question. That psychological technique leaves the reader with a powerful desire to learn the answer. A question at the end of a chapter encourages the reader to continue reading and is also effective in a blurb.

Most online book catalogs have a small space above the "Read More" tab. The hook of your blurb must be in the first few lines. Readers scan hundreds of books, check out covers, and read many blurbs, and they don’t have unlimited time to find their next book. If there isn’t a hook in the first short paragraph, their search will move on.

Do not put praise before the blurb if you’ve received praise or complimentary reviews from an editor or review group. Put it after. Readers on the hunt have short attention spans. Yours might be the fifteenth or fiftieth book they’ve checked out, and, again, their time is precious. Will they be interested in what someone else says or the book’s content? Don’t assume they’ll read the entire blurb. They won’t if you haven’t grabbed their attention above that dreaded *read more* line.

Write the blurb in the third person, present tense, even if you’ve used the first person, past tense in the book. You wouldn’t describe the book using the past tense in a face-to-face situation.

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**Trigger words.** Use expressive power words to create emotion in the blurb. Power words are tormented, charismatic, obsessed, passionate, terrifying, frantic, or ruthless. There are many more than I can list here. Enter power words in your browser, and you'll find hundreds. Use power words sparingly. Remember, you need to stay under 200 words.

Blurbs for different genres won't be the same. If you're writing a thriller, the blurb should be short and snappy; the words will be explosive, and the stakes will be higher—the fall of a government or the destruction of the world. Literary fiction sentences will be long and flowing, giving the reader a glimpse of the writing style. A romantic story will express passion, and the emotions will run high. Family, love, the future, and everything else is at stake. Power words are trope words on steroids, providing the reader with a quick overview of the book.

**Taglines** or subtitles are another asset to use and are on a book's cover and are used as the description header. They are catchy phrases or slogans and give the reader an idea of the book's

The title of my last book was “Vanished,” and the tagline was “Run or Die.”

If you use a tagline, make it eye-catching, shocking, or reflective of the story's core conflict or goal. No clichés.

You can't include all those suggestions in one tagline, but using some will improve it.

Use short, contrasting words or alliteration.

Taglines should be 12 words or fewer.

Use the present tense.

Stay within the context of the book.

Use a question or twist the meanings of repeated words.

**Tropes** are significant or recurring themes or motifs everywhere, from the covers to the characters to the storylines. Tropes are great. For instance, if the main character is Knaargard the Viking, you'd know you will not be reading a police procedural. Tropes act as a filtering system, allowing readers to recognize the genre and avoid getting a romance when they want a dystopian mystery.

Tropes in blurbs? Not so much. However, tropes provide us with trigger words (keywords) for most genres. Some of the most often used words in best-selling blurbs are **Crime**, death, investigate, suspicion, murder, discover, killer, danger, and secrets. **Epic Fantasy**, empire, strangers, fortune, honor, enemy, revenge, betrayal, fate, magic. **Western**, saloon, family, war, brothers, ranch, Indians, soldiers, rustlers, outlaws, posse. **Erotica**, sex, passion, lust, fantasy, desire, seduction, dominance, submission. **Military**, war, mission, technology, weaponry, enemy, victory. Those words tell a reader the book genre, so you don't have to waste words saying, “This is a psychological thriller.”

For more words, check out the tropes for your genre. For example, enter romance tropes, mystery tropes, science fiction tropes, or whatever genre you're writing in

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your browser. You will have many words to choose from.

### The Elements of a Blurb

1. Introduce your male protagonist in one paragraph and your female protagonist in the second paragraph. Use adjectives instead of examples. What's their profession or role? Are they an **intimidating** bodyguard, a **brilliant** scientist, or a **beautiful** dancer? What makes them interesting? The Antagonist, if known, will be in the third paragraph with the same information. Don't include secondary characters. Once you introduce your character by name, don't use the name again. Use a pronoun.
2. Where and when does the story begin? Setting and time.
3. Reference the genre and central theme using keywords, power words, or trope words. Give it an atmosphere with the words you use. Is it a romantic story or a dark thriller?
4. Reveal the core of the conflict that gives the character a goal. What is at stake if he doesn't reach his goal?
5. Remind the reader of the goal and question whether the protagonist will achieve it by ending with a question that will pique their curiosity. Instead of "Can they do it?" or "Will they succeed?" which asks the reader to decide, use "What will happen?" "How can he win?" "Who will help him?" Curiosity is powerful.

6. Keep it concise and to the point. Don't include too much information. Don't try to explain the entire book. The first one or two chapters set the story in motion, and you should use only those chapters in the blurb. Remember: Less is more.

7. Don't introduce subplots. You only have so many words. Don't waste them.

8. If you use a scene, ensure it's from the front of the book. Make it brief and avoid giving away spoilers.

### A Bare Bones Approach

Use the elements of a blurb with the process below and knock out your first attempt.

1. List the words who, what, where, when, and why across a page to form columns. These are the guidelines for every story. The lists under each heading will help you focus when writing the blurb.
2. In each column, jot down a list of the basics. Under "who," write the main character's name and profession, and add relevant secondary characters. Include the antagonist as well.
3. Under "What," write a sentence describing the story's main topic—avoid revealing plot points or the climax.
4. "Where" is the location of the story. If there are multiple locations, choose the one where the characters appear in the most scenes. Again, don't mention significant plot points.
5. "Why" is about the Main Character's primary motive. What drives them to



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do what they do? Don't tell the entire motivation. Surprise the reader.

6. Organize the sentences into tightly summarized paragraphs. Keep it provocative and tantalizing.

When writing the sentences, be sure you're not just setting down dry facts. Connect with the reader with curiosity, mystery, suspense, romance, or another emotion. Connect the reader to the story and make him want to discover what happens. Use trigger, emotional, and power words.

Once most of the blurb is written, how do you finish it? Conclude with emotionally charged questions to spark curiosity.

If this is a series but is a stand-alone, add a sentence such as "This is book three in the (title) series and can be read on its own." If it isn't a stand-alone, make it clear that readers should read the earlier books for a more enjoyable experience.

When the book needs a warning, add that at the end. Caution: profane language ... erotic or explicit scenes ... extreme violence ... abuse, or anything that might be a trigger. Also, note if it is or isn't suitable for readers under 18.

### The Elements of Nonfiction How-To Blurbs

1. Write a hook that discusses who the book is for and what the reader will gain from reading it. Remember, this is one short sentence.
2. Use lists. They help.
3. List the benefits, but don't just state what they are. Add how that benefits

them. For example, "You'll gain methods of reading faster, so you can read more books faster."

4. Come up with another short list of things to include that will sound like bonuses.
5. Why are you the person who will solve the problem? If you have professional status, life experience, licenses in the subject, or any other qualifications that would recommend you, mention them before the CTA.
6. Provide the call-to-action (CTA) phrase. For example, "Start living your best life by clicking the **BUY NOW** button at the top before the price changes."

Use bold, a larger font, or underlining for the most critical points. Be careful not to overdo it, or the special effects will lose their value.

Find the trigger words and use them. Those words or phrases will have a significant impact on the marketing of your book.

### Writing a Blurb Summary

1. Write in the third person present tense.
2. Keep it between 100 and 150 words.
3. Use spaces between paragraphs.
4. Use bold and italics for awards such as "*#1 Best Seller*"
5. Add genre keywords such as mystery, thriller, dystopia, or science fiction. Please don't overdo it. You only have a limited number of words to use.
6. Use adjectives to describe and introduce the main characters. (See # 1 in Elements of a Blurb.)
7. Condense the plot to feelings rather than retelling actions.

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8. Ensure the blurb clearly conveys the book's content. Don't exaggerate or insert events that don't occur in the novel to boost sales.
9. Edit, revise, edit again, and proofread. The blurb stands for your work, so make it as well-written as possible.
10. Watch for passive phrases. Eliminate 'is,' 'was,' 'has,' 'has been,' and the rest of the 'to be' family of verbs.
11. Again, the blurb introduces the character, conflict, goal, or stakes and uses tropes to convince the reader to buy.
12. Good luck!

### Back Cover Sins

1. Don't give away spoilers or excessive information.
2. Don't say how fantastic your book is or compare your writing to a popular author's work.
3. If the blurb isn't smooth, read it aloud and then adjust.
4. Don't write in one block of text. Use brief sentences in 1 to 4 paragraphs with space between each section.
5. Avoid repetition. Avoid using repeated words, including names and places.
6. Summarize. Keep it short. Less is more.
7. Don't include subplots. The only thing that matters is the main plot or theme.

8. Make sure you've emphasized the conflict of the story.

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Editor: This was a two-hour class, but almost all of it was valuable.

I removed the wordiness and a few sections that were not about blurbs.

If you want to see or copy the entire class, go to

**egweg.com ..... then**

**Research ..... then**

**EGWG Classes...then**

**#9 Blurbs**

**(Next month's class will be class #10 on Memoirs.)**

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### The 3/7 Meeting with Speaker Ramona Scarborough.

Ramona Scarborough arrived early, preparing for her talk on "How to Sell Your Writing While Writing Your Book." After a brief discussion of the coming conference, I introduced Ramona, and she was a hit. Everyone was engaged and interested in what she had to say. She brought fliers with the names of Publishing Companies that post online writing contests. They want short stories, and they pay the contest winners. This seemed particularly appealing to some of the group who were just starting to write. Toward the end of her speech, her husband took pictures of all of us, and since Ramona does news articles for the EG Citizen. An article has been published.

Loy Holder

## EGWG Newsletter – Back page

### Something to Consider

“A blank piece of paper is God’s way of telling us how hard it is to be God.”

*Sidney Sheldon*



### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

#### POETRY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COMING EVENTS

SHORT STORIES

FLYERS

WRITING CLASSES

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

Submission Format: Garamond-14. If possible, send in a **Word document(docx.)** Thanks!

### April 2025

- Apr. 01- April Fool’s Day
- Apr. 15- Tax Day
- Apr. 20- Easter
- Apr. 25- Arbor Day

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### More Writing Prompts

- a. Relive the joy of getting your first pet.
- b. Practice writing a synopsis of your last or current book or story.
- c. Write a funny list of all the things you are not going to do during the rest of 2025.
- d. Your character’s 90-year-old grandfather has wandered off. Write how she finds him

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### Leaping into Spring



See you next month

Continue for Flyers

## EGWG – Calendar & Flyers

### April

◀ Mar 2025		April 2025						May 2025 ▶
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun		
	1	2 GCW 10-12 Business Mtg. @ City Hall Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn	3	4 EGWG 12:30 – Members Meeting at Round Table, 10054 Bruceville, EG Sac. CWC 9-11 Speaker Lisa Montanaro @ Denny's, 8841 Greenback, Orangevale	5	6 NCPA 4-6:30 PM @ Flaming Grill, 2380 Watt Ave. #150 (inside Country Club Plaza) Sac CWC 1-3 @ Arcade Library		
7	8	9 GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn	10	11	12 SJWV 12-2 – "It's Poetry Month" by Cassi Nesmith	13		
14	15	16 GCW 10-12 Speaker: Donna Levin, "Dialogue: Rules, Revelations, & Room to Experiment," City Hall Rose Rm, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn	17	18	19 Sac. CWC 1-3 Speaker Andrea Fleck-Nisbet @ Arcade Library BWW 10 a.m. Place TBD	20		
21	22	23 GCW 10-12 Drop-In Critique. @ City Hall Rose Room, Auburn	24 EGWG 1:30 – Board Meeting, Zoom	25	26 SJWV 12-2 – "Desires, Motivation, Story." Meet at Papapavlo's, 501 Lincoln Ctr., Stockton	27		
28	29	30 GCW 10-12 – Poetry Contest & 100-Word Contest Celebration, City Hall upstairs & Rose Rm.						

Calendars with Holidays - European Union May 2025, Jun 2025, Jul 2025

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 directly to Penny Clark at

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

### Flyers Below

1. [Flash Fiction World](#)
2. [EGWG Conference Program](#)
3. [EGWG Conference Flyer #1](#)
4. [The Art and Sense of Poetry](#)
5. [NCPA Book Awards Competition \(two pages.\)](#)
6. [The 2025 Sacramento Writing Workshop: April 11, 2025 \(two pages.\)](#)
7. [Sacramento Book Festival](#)

San Rafael Writers & Artists  
Present

# Flash Fiction World

Virtual Writers Workshops

Gini Grossenbacher, M.Ed.



May 7, 14, 21, 28 Take One, Take All!

Unleash your inner storyteller in our immersive **Wednesday evening, four-week Flash Fiction classes** where expert guidance and dynamic creative exercises help you craft captivating micro-stories. Join our vibrant online community and transform your writing skills as you pack powerful meaning into every word.

## Enrolling now



10% EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT  
\$25 /class



What If?

Fables

Letters

Diary Flash

List Flash

Miniatures

Mass Compression

Prose Poetry

Surrealism

Book your Flash writing adventure today! For tickets and more information, visit our [Eventbrite](#) site! Or check in with Gini at

[www.ginigrossenbacher.com](http://www.ginigrossenbacher.com)

# Program for October 25<sup>th</sup> Conference

## Speakers

Joan Griffin

Gini Grossenbacher

Cris Hennessy - Keynote

Shawn Langwell

Lally Pia

Jordan Rosenfeld

Karen Trinkaus

## Presentation

Explore Narrative Nonfiction and Jazz Up Your Writing

Critical Tasks for Foolproof Editing

How to Captivate Literary Agents and Publishers

The Art of Presence: Pro Marketing and Self-promotion Tips for Writers and Entrepreneurs

Memoir: Writing to Inspire

The Sound of Story

A Demonstration on How to Use the AI Tools

**\*Invitation to apply for an appointment with the Editor or Agent will go out in September 2025 to paid registrants of the Conference. Stay tuned for the invitation in September.**

Gini Grossenbacher - Editor - Half Day

Kesia Lupo - Agent - Half Day

Save  
the  
date

JOIN US



OCTOBER 25, 2025

4TH BIENNIAL ELK GROVE WRITERS CONFERENCE IS  
COMING TO THE HOLIDAY INN  
9175 WEST STOCKTON BLVD.  
ELK GROVE, 95758

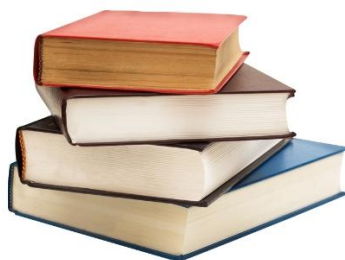
REGISTRATION FEE IS \$60

Check in at 7AM with complimentary breakfast  
and  
All-day coffee service

Bring your own lunch and purchase water  
and soft drinks in the lobby.

Program begins at 7:45AM.  
Registration date and more details soon.

For questions and comments email  
[loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)



Elk Grove Writers Guild  
*Writers Helping Writers*

**Upcoming: 31<sup>ST</sup> Annual Northern California Publishers & Authors  
2024/25 (NCPA) Book AWARDS Competition (19 Oct 2025)**

Here's to New Beginnings as we go into our (3<sup>rd</sup>) decade by starting all over again with the 31<sup>ST</sup> Annual (NCPA) Book AWARDS Competition (11<sup>th</sup> year, 1<sup>st</sup> decade, for *this* committee). We're turning back the clock and the price structure: NO MORE Early Bird fees. Instead, there will be a One-Time-Only \$20 LATE FEE for members and non-members who don't make the original deadline; we've listened to our committee and attendees and will hopefully fix the air conditioning problem with a new month! Goodbye June - Hello OCTOBER, when it should be cooler; and finally, we're ADDING another Genre: GRAPHICS

**BOOK ENTRY DEADLINE: Regular Submissions 1 August 2024 until 12-  
midnight 31 May 2025**

**ONE-TIME \$20 LATE FEE per book 1 June through midnight 31 July  
2025 absolute FINAL submit date**

- ❖ Did you publish between 1 January 2024 and 31 Dec 2024, including books that came out under a new edition during the year? If so, we encourage you to submit it online or contact Sharon Darrow to get four copies of your book to her by midnight, 31 May 2025, for a regular price. Final chance: add a \$20 late fee per book from 1 June through Midnight 31 July 2025
- ❖ NCPA keeps one, but three copies will be for sale at the banquet, and you'll receive payment for any books sold. All unsold will be returned to the author AS LONG AS YOU or a representative ARE AT THE BANQUET. Those books will be used elsewhere if you aren't represented at the banquet. Ask Sharon for more info. 916-803-1665
- ❖ Entry form and Registration information should be ready soon at <https://www.norcalpa.org/book-awards> or contact VP and Book Awards Chair Sharon Darrow at [sharon@sharonsdarrow.com](mailto:sharon@sharonsdarrow.com) 916-803-1665  
NCPA website: [norcalpa.org](http://norcalpa.org) \* NCPA membership \$40, includes perks (see [norcalpa.org](http://norcalpa.org) for different prices)
- ❖ Tell your friends and other writers. You do NOT have to be a member to enter: It just costs more. BIG CHANGES in entry fee: NO MORE Early Bird – ONE fee for ALL entries through midnight 31 May 2025 will be

\$65 members (through 12 Midnight, 31 May 2025)

\$95 non-members (through 12 Midnight, 31 May 2025)

There will be one FINAL chance for those who, for whatever reason, can't make the May deadline

But there will be a non-refundable \$20 LATE FEE per book from 1 June  
2025 through 12 Midnight on 31 July 2025. With late fee: \* members (\$85) \*  
non-members (\$115) \*





- ❖ More info? NCPA website: [norcalpa.org](http://norcalpa.org) Questions? Sharon 916-803-1665 or Norma Jean 916-991-5751 (Editor. See more information below)

\$30.00 of each Entry Fee will cover one dinner at the 2024-2025 NCPA Awards Banquet, 5 pm-9 pm on Sunday, 19 October 2025 \* CHERRY ISLAND GOLF COURSE Elverta, CA

- General Fiction
- General Non-Fiction
- Non-Fiction Memoir
- Children's
- Young Adult
- Poetry
- Collections / Anthologies (ask us more about this)
- Foreign Publisher
- Adult Coloring Book
- Cover/ Interior Design
- NEW FOR 2024/25 -- GRAPHICS

**NOW ACCEPTING BOOKS**  
**PUBLISHED 1 JAN 2024 thru 31**  
**DEC 2024**  
**FOR NCPA'S 31<sup>st</sup> BOOK**  
**AWARDS DEADLINE TO**  
**SUBMIT 31 MAY 2025 –**  
**ONE TIME \$20 LATE FEE 1 JUNE thru 31**  
**JULY 2025**

- ❖ Winners receive an award certificate and a supply of gold award winner stickers for book covers.
- ❖ PR provided to local media and more.
- ❖ Panel of judges: winners announced at the Book Awards Banquet on 19 October 2025

This section isn't a flyer but was sent as an Email from Betsy Schwarzentraub

The Sacramento Writers' Workshop will present "How to Get Published" at the Sacramento Convention Center on April 11, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$169.00.

The program will have at least five agents (named on the website) plus scheduled plenary times for:

- Understanding the publishing industry in 2025

- Literary agents and writing an awesome query letter

- "Writers Got Talent" critique fest (one page, no names)

- Social media, blogging, and format

- Evergreen keys to writing success

Plus, agent and editor pitching is available throughout the day.

“The website is **sacramentowritingworkshop.com**. It has more information. Chuck Sambuchino of Writing Day Workshops is putting it on (you can Google his name). I think he's putting on eleven of these across the U.S.” Betsy S.

Editor: The page below contains information about the event from their website.

The website features a schedule of events and additional information. If you're interested, take a look.

See below for the first page of the website.

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## The 2025 Sacramento Writing Workshop: April 11, 2025



After coordinating many successful past events around the country (including three in Sacramento), [Writing Day Workshops](#) is excited to announce **The 2025 Sacramento Writing Workshop** — a full-day in-person “How to Get Published” writing event in Sacramento, CA on Friday, April 11, 2025.

This in-person writing event is a wonderful opportunity to get intense instruction over the course of one day, [pitch a literary agent or editor](#) (optional), get your questions answered, and more. Note that there are limited seats at the event (125 total). All questions about the event regarding schedule, details, and registration are answered below. Thank you for your interest in the 2025 Sacramento Writing Workshop! We are very proud of our many success stories where attendees sign with agents following events — [see our growing list of success stories here](#).

*(Please note that this is an in-person event. We at Writing Day Workshops plan both online/virtual and in-person events. This next SWW is an in-person event happening on April 11, 2025. See you there.)*

Email Chuck at [WritingDayWorkshops@gmail.com](mailto:WritingDayWorkshops@gmail.com) to register for the Sacramento event. Or go to [sacramentowritingworkshop.com](http://sacramentowritingworkshop.com) and register there

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*Save the Date...*

**FREE  
EVENT!**



# SACRAMENTO BOOK FESTIVAL

May 31st, 2025, 10AM-4PM

Shepard Garden & Arts Center

3330 McKinley Blvd, East Sacramento, Near McKinley Park

Join the newsletter for all the details:

**[www.sacramentobookfestival.com](http://www.sacramentobookfestival.com)**