

SACRAMENTO WRITER



**CWC Sacramento
Monthly Meeting
BUILDING YOUR STORY
STRUCTURE: So the rest doesn't
come crashing down!
with Jennieke Cohen, Author**
Saturday, September 16, 2023

**Cattlemens
12409 Folsom Blvd.
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670**

Does your story sometimes fall flat and you're not sure why? That could be because it's missing the fundamental building blocks of structure. In this workshop, we'll discuss the basics of story structure and how to apply them to your own writing—whether you're revising or starting a project from scratch. Using some well-known books and movies, we'll pinpoint the difference between a satisfying story and one that's easily forgotten and leave you with the tools to apply structure to your own writing

What you will learn:

- Dealing with structure early can save a lot of aggravation in revision
- If you're working on structure after the book is written, make sure all the appropriate story beats are present
- Knowing what kind of story you're writing not only helps with structure, it's important to know how to sell your book to readers, agents, and editors
- It's easy to get off track in the middle—we'll discuss how having structure can prevent the dreaded saggy middle
- There's no one way to write a book. But almost all strong stories have a strong underlying structure

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Jennieke Cohen is the author of two young adult historical novels, both of which have been translated into multiple languages. Her debut book, *DANGEROUS ALLIANCE*, was a Junior Library Guild selection, and her latest, *MY FINE FELLOW*, is a 2023 Sydney Taylor Award Honor Book. She's worked as a nonfiction ghostwriter and as a writing consultant to Silicon Valley tech companies. A UC Davis graduate, Jennieke also has a master's degree in professional writing from USC.

Program

Networking & Coffee: 11:30 am.

Book display – Bring a copy of your book to display and **SELL!**

Book giveaway – Bring a used book to donate to our raffle.

'Round-the-Room Self-Intros – Meet attendees who have walked the writing and publishing path you are on in your writing and publishing journey!

Meal: Plated, with vegetarian option ordered at the table

Meeting fee: \$32, advance purchase; walk-in, \$37; receipt available upon request.

Post-meeting presentation & club fundraiser: A 30-minute presentation, tips, and Q's & A's! (Attendees who stay are encouraged to give a donation to the club!)

Amplifying Your Author Brand: Tips for Pitching Print and Online Magazines

Member Brina Patel will discuss how authors can write for print or online magazines to publicize their books or build their writing portfolios. Learn effective strategies for writing a compelling pitch and honing in on impactful story ideas. You'll walk away with Brina's 7-step pitching process that'll help you send your story ideas off with confidence!

Brina Patel is a content writer whose bylines have appeared in several publications including *Business Insider*, *Byrdie*, *Well+Good*, and *Verywell Mind*. Brina also edited the *Rituals* anthology with Bell Press Books, and her creative nonfiction has been published in *Heartwood Literary Magazine* and *LEVITATE Magazine*. In her free time, Brina enjoys traveling, reading, going on adventures with friends, and sharing writing tips on her blog at www.brinapatelwriter.com.



Purchase Tickets — click to purchase tickets in advance.

Writers Network

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT ELIZA: Writing Biographies of Ordinary People

Friday, July 7, 2023

9 – 11 am

**CH Cafe & Grill (formally Perko's)
6215 Sunrise Blvd (just off Greenback)
Citrus Heights**

or

[Join with Zoom on CWC-Sacramento website](#)



Eileen Hook
Author

Why write a biography of an ordinary person? How do Eliza's experiences resonate with modern readers?

Eileen Hook has a BS degree in Interpretation from CSU, Sacramento. She has been actively researching and portraying California pioneer women since 1980 at Sutter's Fort and Marshall Gold Discovery Park. Her 40-year study of Eliza Gregson's life has taken her from England to pre gold rush California.

What attendees will learn from Eileen's presentation:

1. Who was Eliza Gregson?
 2. Key sources for writing a biography
 3. Verify the facts, memories can be fuzzy
 4. Writing in first person vs third person makes the story real
 5. Living the life gives a story depth
-

Writers Network

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW:



Writing craft Do and Don't and examples of how NOT to write a short story

Friday, August 4, 2023

9 – 11 am

**CH Cafe & Grill (formally Perko's)
6215 Sunrise Blvd (just off Greenback)
Citrus Heights**

or

Join with Zoom on [CWC-Sacramento website](#)

**Elaine Faber
Author**

Elaine Faber Author

Elaine has published ten mystery novels and an anthology of 'cat' stories. Her short stories appear in 22 anthologies. A member of Sisters in Crime, Northern CA Publishers and Authors, and Elk Grove Writer's Guild, Elaine has led critique groups and enjoys mentoring new writers. She lives in Elk Grove with her husband and two cats.

What attendees will learn from Elaine's presentation:

- Three elements of the perfect scene.
- Hands on opportunity to write a good scene.
- A list of do's and don'ts on writing craft.
- A fun exercise identifying how NOT to write a short story.
- Exploring good dialogue techniques



Introducing a new summer series

What are you working on?

*Come spend a Saturday afternoon sharing your writing journey
with other writers,
your struggles and successes;
and listening to their writing journey.*

Get to know the members of your club a little better.
Perhaps find the help you need.
Or get a chance to share what you have learned with others.
*(Feel free to attend even if you are not presently
working on something.)*

July 15 and August 19
1 pm to 3 pm

Arden-Dimick Library Meeting Room
891 Watt Ave

Any questions, contact Bonnie at beaublue4@gmail.com

Message from Bernard Wozny, CWC Sacramento President.



Dear Members,

What did you do on your Summer Holiday?

Who remembers those essays we had to write when we got back to school after summer? I disliked writing that essay because it made me nostalgic for the summer fun I used to enjoy. For me, summer was a time to get together with friends, free from the constraints of school.

I'm not asking that question (yet). What I am asking is: what are you going to do on your summer holiday?

Please don't tell me about the cruise you will be sailing on, or the globe-trotting travels you will be embarking on. Any of those will make me insanely jealous with envy.

Can I come? Are we there yet?

What I would like to ask is: are you interested in spending some quality time with fellow club members and writers?

I'm talking about collaboration. This is something that is very important to me. This is the reason we gather together in clubs. We are here for each other, in a forum where we can talk and work with each other. Traditionally we have a hiatus in our Saturday meetings. This year, Bonnie, our membership VP, has the Arden-Dimick Library booked for July 15th, and August 19th. Look for details in this newsletter.

On these 2 Saturdays, I invite any and all to come for a simple chat. We will NOT have speakers, but we will have tables & chairs to gather around. I will be there, and I hope to start working on a collaborative project.

I invite everyone to join us for an informal gathering of friends! Think of this as a writer's retreat.

I would like to draw special attention to member achievements. This month we have several members who submitted their work to the 29th annual NCPA Book Awards. (Northern California Publishers and Authors).

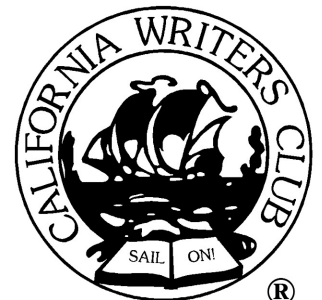
[NCPA Book Awards and Banquet - Northern California Publishers and Authors \(norcalpa.org\)](https://norcalpa.org)

Denise Lee Branco won Bronze for Rabbit At The Sliding Door: Chloe's Story in the memoir category.

Bernard Wozny won double Silver in the Fiction category for Girl Electric Twin Falls, and ORP Orzel The Spirit of Poland.

In the meantime, keep writing and tell me what you think.

Bernard Wozny (bpwozny@gmail.com)



MEMBERS' CORNER

We welcomed three new members in the last month. Please say hello if you see them at a meeting:

Lillie Timmons writes Fiction: Contemporary Romance.

Glen Rocky Meyers writes Non-Fiction, Thrillers and Mystery.

Bonnie Cook writes Young Adult Fiction

New members are invited to share a brief (200 words max) bio and a jpeg headshot for our website's Members page. And you can include a link to your own website in your bio! You can have any books published listed in our Members books section by sending a description and picture of its cover to Bernard bpwozny@gmail.com for the website.

CWC member Raymond Blain is looking for an editor for his new book, Modernizing the United States Constitution for the 21st Century. Please contact him at 916-474-4863 or at raymondblain@comcast.net if you are interested or have a suggestion for him.

The following members will be attending the California State Fair Author's Booth. Their books will be available for purchase, so come along and support your club members!

Denise Lee Branco
Gini Grossenbacher
Eileen Hook
Bob Irelan
Ron Javor
Jenifer Rowe
Cheryl Stapp
Christine Villa
Bernard Wozny

[California Authors Booth - Cal Expo & State Fair \(calexpostatefair.com\)](http://calexpostatefair.com)

Critique Groups

Interested in finding a Critique Group? So many of us write alone and have gotten very little feedback on our work. Exposing our creative efforts to a group of like-minded and considerate writers is the first step towards sending our masterpieces out into the world.

If interested, email me, Bonnie, at sacramentowriters@gmail.com. I will collect your names and link you up with other interested members. I can also help with ideas for how to get started and provide guidance for creating a safe and supportive group.

Please direct member news to Sacramentowriters@gmail.com.



ANNOUNCEMENT! **ANNOUNCEMENT!**

19th Annual Voices of Lincoln Poetry Contest

The theme of this year's contest is "The Five Ws Of Life: Who? What? Where? When? Why? . . . Discover The Answers Through Poetry."

The five (5) new contest categories include the following:

"Who" Is The Most Important Person In Your Life?

"What" Is Your Most Cherished Memory?

"Where" Do You Want To Be Tomorrow?

"When" Did You Do Something That Made A Difference In Someone's Life? "Why" Should You Never Stop Dreaming?

Poets may submit a maximum of three poems, no more than one in each of three of the five contest categories.

Everyone is encouraged to enter the contest. Poets do not have to live in Lincoln, CA to be eligible. There is no entry fee. Young Poets, 18-years of age or under, are encouraged to submit poems and will compete in a special "Young Poets" category.

Contest Rules and Entry Form can be downloaded from my blog:

<https://slolowe44.blogspot.com/2023/03/2023-voices-of-lincoln-poetry-contest.html>

or requested from me, Alan Lowe, Contest Coordinator, at slolowe@icloud.com. All poems must be received no later than Thursday, July 20, 2023, at the address on the Entry Form.

Add a Nugget to Your Writing Portfolio!

The branch Newsletter Editor position is open and available to a member who wants experience in putting out an online monthly. The CWC branch position offers the opportunity to garner an inside track on speakers and events, and member news. Only a few hours a month are required for collecting articles, and then member Rosi Hollinbeck lays out the newsletter. There is room for expansion and new ideas, depending on an editor's interests. The editor can network with other branch newsletter editors, broadening his or her own reach and professional contact list. If interested, email staff at sacramentowriters@gmail.com.



Name Badges

We are taking orders for name badges for the members of CWC-Sacramento. The subsidized cost to members is \$3.00. If you wish to order a badge, please print and fill out the form below (or just answer the questions on paper) and mail it to the address below with a check made out to CWC-Sacramento.

Name as you wish it to appear:

Backing:

Magnet _____ Pin _____

Method of Payment (\$3.00):

Check _____ (Make payable to CWC- Sacramento Branch)

Description:

2" x 3" name badge, gold metal with black embossed lettering, includes club logo and branch name

Cost to club member: \$3.00

Full replacement cost for lost name badge: \$10.00

Mail a check and this form to:

CWC-Sacramento

P.O. Box 1231

Orangevale, CA 95662



Gold Country Writers Announces Short Story Contest

JUNE 14 TO JULY 26

Gold Country Writers (GCW) is hosting a writing competition open to writers residing in Placer, Yuba, El Dorado, Nevada, Sutter, and Sacramento counties. This is a great chance for writers to showcase their work and win cash prizes.

The competition aims to provide recognition and help local writers build their credentials. The deadline for submissions runs from June 14 to July 26, 2023. The limit for submission is one entry per person.

Only original and unpublished fiction stories are accepted for the contest, with a maximum word count of 1500 words. Writers have the freedom to use any theme or genre. Put ink and imagination to work to write a winning story.

There is a submission fee to enter of \$15 and a discounted fee of \$10 for GCW members. Writers retain full ownership of their work. However, by entering writers agree to allow GCW to use their stories in their publications and to showcase winning entries. In addition, Gold Country Media will publish the winning stories online and in the local newspapers.

The GCW Short Story Contest is open to all writers and offers a great opportunity for new writers to be recognized. To participate in the contest, stories must be submitted in standard manuscript format. This includes double-spacing, using Times New Roman 12-point font, and submitting the story as a Word or Rich Text document. The stories will be judged anonymously based on specific criteria.

Winners of the GCW Short Story Contest will be revealed on Saturday, October 7, at a special celebration event at the Auburn City Hall Rose Room. The top three winners will receive cash prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50. For more information about the contest and to submit your entry, please visit the official GCW website at www.goldcountrywriters.com.

If you have any questions please contact Rebecca Partridge, the Contest Organizer, at rebeccapartridge@att.net. Gold Country Writers (GCW) is a 501c (3) non-profit community organization that aims to foster and support writers in the Gold Country area of California.

This event is sponsored in part by the Arts Council of Placer County and Gold Country Media.



Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

PRESENTS

OUR SPEAKERS:



JUDITH STARKSTON
SPEAKER

Show Emotion in the Details



KAKWASI SOMADHI
SPEAKER

Let the Scenes Move the Story



CHRIS HENNESY
SPEAKER

How to Build a Media Platform



KRISTEN TATE
SPEAKER

Get Your Book Edited



JOEY GARCIA
SPEAKER

How to Write a Blurb



KAREN PHILLIPS
SPEAKER

What About the Cover Design
of Your Book?



GREGORY RANDALL
KEYNOTE

On What's New in Writing



September 23, 2023

ELK GROVE WRITERS CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION OPENS:

May 1, 2023

at egweg.org/23conf



On September 23, 2023, join us at
the Elk Grove District 56 Campus
8230 Civic Center Drive
Elk Grove, CA 95757

Check in at 7:00AM
Admission is \$75 and includes
Continental Breakfast and Lunch



Return of the Book Architect! Sunday, October 8

Members are excited to find out that the renowned Book Architect is returning to this area after a six year absence while giving workshops around the nation. Whether you're working on fiction or non-fiction, Stu Horwitz has something for you! Please join us Sunday, October 8 at a special 6-hour seminar, ***Finish***

Your Book in Three Drafts: Crafting Fiction and Creative Non-Fiction with the Book Architecture Method

Whether your book is nearly finished or early in its development, the Book Architect's method will help transform messy manuscripts into polished books. Attendees will learn:

- what "plotting" actually means, and why there isn't one narrative arc but several
- how to make sure your book has one "theme" – and one theme only
- how to separate your work into scenes and use this disassembly to diagnose what's wrong with your manuscript
- the secret to why some narratives feel like they are all coming together at an emotional pay-off while others do not

The seminar includes exercises so that attendees will leave with a new perspective on their book's core, its structure, and where the work of revision lies. For more on the seminar and Stu's credentials, please go to <https://www.cwcsacramentowriters.org/2023/crafting-fiction-and-creative-non-fiction-with-the-book-architecture-method/>

In the meantime, we welcome back to Sacramento, Mr. Book Architect!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PAYMENT

\$45 DUE

CWC Fiscal Year starts JULY 1st



You can renew online with a credit card at
<https://california-writers-club.square.site/> - Or -
Mail a check for \$45 to: CWC, PO Box 1231, Orangevale, CA 95662

ANNOUNCING FALL'S OPEN READING

*SIGN-UP TO READ—OR—COME & LISTEN TO YOUR
COLLEAGUES WORK*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH AT 7:00 PM.

To Sign-up for the Open Reading, contact 2johnpatterson@gmail.com .

You may join in to read to, and/or listen to, fellow members' work. After each piece we share comments. However, this is not a critique group. Please note, if you arrive after the reading has started, you will be admitted as soon as the piece is concluded. Your piece should be approximately 6-8 minutes long.

We're taking the summer off, so make note of this opportunity now and pencil it in your calendar.



Attending Write to Publish (WTP) Conference

By Chris Hennessy

The Write to Publish Conference at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois on June 13-16, 2023, was a life-changing experience for me. Learning what's needed, moving forward for my memoir, *Touched by Hannah*, and networking, fellowship, and good times—I'm excited for the future.

The conference directors did an excellent job before, and during the conference. My email questions were always answered within 24 hours, the event ran seamlessly, was very well organized.

I learned a ton from the seminars. I thought I knew how to Build my Platform. The three day seminar (90 minutes each day) on Building your Authors Platform, taught by Blythe Daniel, a highly respected literary agent, gave me the ammunition needed to accomplish platform with aplomb.

It was a small writers conference, 300 attendees. I enjoyed the more intimate atmosphere vs. a huge conference with thousands wondering aimlessly in every direction. It was easier to meet other writers, the speakers, publishers, and agents.

Many authors asked me about video—everyone knows they should use video in their marketing/promotion, but not many know what videos to make--how, where, and when to start.

I'm currently proposing/pitching an Authors Video Seminar for WTP 2024, and other upcoming conferences. It appears to be an important niche. Helping others on their journey, will certainly come back to, and help me on my journey.

Here's the link to WTP, 2023

<https://writetopublish.com/#:~:text=June%2013%2D16%2C%202023>



First Friday Meeting Review

Pulling Your Reader in Close:

Mastering Deep Point of View

June 02, 2023 Review

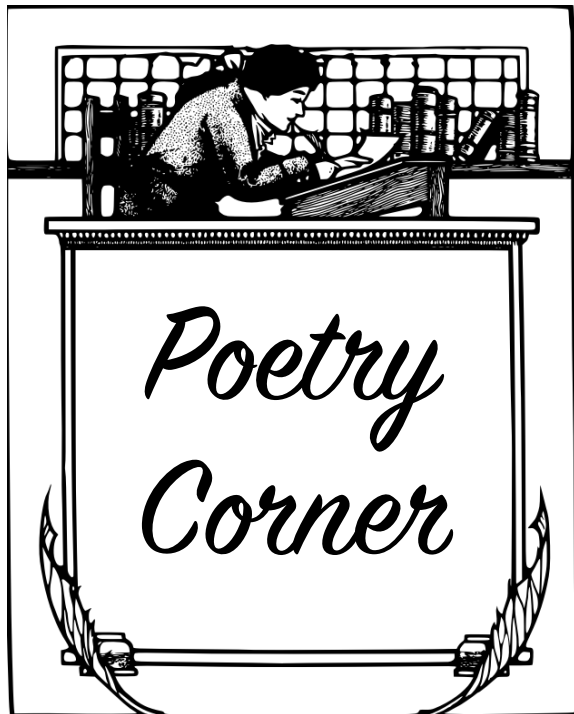
by Deanna Jones-Guinasso

- How to recognize what deep point of view is and why you want it
- How to fix common ways we distance our readers
- How to add details that close the distance
- How to get physical without clichés
- How to put deep point of view into your setting



Ms. Starkston shared with us the importance of figuring out a character's deep point of view. Learning how to approach writing from this perspective was a long, hard process for her. According to Judith, we read to learn what happens to the characters we care about, and deep POV is crucial in creating that bond. She gave us lots of great tips for showing connections between characters and warned about something she referred to as head hopping or shifting POV. She advised layering in deep POV from the very beginning, by telling only what the reader needs to know at the moment. A close POV can put the reader inside of the character. She added that instead of describing how the character is embarrassed, you want the reader to feel flushed, because readers are junkies for emotions. Ms. Starkston points out the importance of using all the senses, and even suggests pretending to be the character blind. Through a close POV, action and/or dialogue can reveal subtleties like background, education, and emotional stability.

Judith Starkston earned degrees in Classics from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and Cornell. She loves myths and telling stories. Her solution is her brand: Fantasy and Magic in a Bronze Age World. *Hand of Fire* was a semi-finalist for the M.M. Bennett's Award for Historical Fiction. *Priestess of Ishana* won the San Diego State University Conference Choice Award. Judith is represented by Richard Curtis. www.judithstarkston.com/



Edith Sitwell was born on September 7, 1887, in Yorkshire, England. An eccentric and controversial figure of her time, she wrote plays, fiction, and nonfiction as well as poetry. Her collections of verse include *The Wooden Pegasus* (B. Blackwell, 1920), *Five Variations on a Theme* (Duckworth, 1933), and *Green Song and Other Poems* (Macmillan & Co., 1944). Sitwell died in London December 9, 1964.



Edith Sitwell

Interlude

Amid this hot green glowing gloom
A word falls with a raindrop's boom...

Like baskets of ripe fruit in air
The bird-songs seem, suspended where

Those goldfinches—the ripe warm lights
Peck slyly at them—take quick flights.

My feet are feathered like a bird
Among the shadows scarcely heard;

I bring you branches green with dew
And fruits that you may crown anew

Your whirring waspish-gilded hair
Amid this cornucopia—

Until your warm lips bear the stains
And bird-blood leap within your veins.



CWC Sacramento Club Positions FY 2023-2024

Board of Directors

Officers

President: Bernard Wozny
bpwozny@gmail.com

First Vice-President/Programs: OPEN

Second Vice-President/Membership: Bonnie Gault Blue
beaublue4@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tim Schooley
timschooley@comcast.net

Secretary: OPEN

Directors

Kimberley Edwards
Chris Hennessy
Jason Orta
Cheryl Stapp

Club Positions

Contest Coordinator - Judith Presnall
Historian - Julie Bauer
News and Events Distributor - **OPEN**
Newsletter Content - **OPEN**
Newsletter Layout - Rosi Hollinbeck
Open Readings Host & Coordinator - John Patterson
Publicity Chair (Print/TV/Radio/Social Media) – Chris Hennessy
Webmasters – Bernard Wozny
Writers Network Coordinator- Cheryl Stapp