

www.norcalpa.org

The Pen & Press

IT'S FAIR TIME * 15 Jul-31 July 2022 *

Building B

JULY NCPA MEETING CANCELED

VISIT US IN THE AUTHORS BOOTH AT THE FAIR!

* ML Hamilton * Margaret Duarte * Frank Luna * Danna Wilberg * June Gillam * Sharon Darrow *
 * Gini Grossenbacher * Catherine McGreevy * Martha Dunn * G.C. Harmon * JoAnn Conner *
 * Elizabeth & Hannah Jorgensen * Ron Javor * Norma Jean Thornton * Karen Sanders *
 * Ken & Linda Champion * Bob Irelan * Christina "Chrissi" Villa * Eileen Hook *
 * Anne Polli * Ron Pelzman * Bernard Wozny * Naida West * Brenda Novak *

Authors' Booth OFFICIAL Website for the State Fair including the calendar for when each author is scheduled to be there: <https://www.authormlhamilton.net/california-state-fair-authors-booth.html>

Sun 14 Aug Meeting: **Chrissi Villa** Writing & Publishing Children's Books & More
 at our new location **BROOKFIELDS Restaurant**
 4343 Madison Av Sacto, CA 95842

GUEST JOURNALISTS for July 2022 newsletter NCPA member & author **Roberta "Bert" Davis** and her once-feral cat-turned co-author, **Knightly Nacht** (with lots of cat pictures!)

September 11 meeting: **Linda Joy Singleton** --- details to come

Aug 2022 GUEST JOURNALISTS for newsletter NCPA member & author will be: **Pat Canterbury**

Sun 9 Oct Meeting **TBA**

Sunday 13 NOVEMBER - Moved from July - (BOOK EXCHANGE * usually held in Dec)
We bring back an oldie, but goodie! - Gone when we started having our Holiday Luncheon at the Black Angus, but not forgotten, we bring back the ever-popular Book Exchange / Network & Schmooze. All NCPA MEMBERS (only) who have published books, no matter when, bring them in to brag about, share, sell &/or barter, with others.

Everyone is welcome to attend but **ONLY NCPA MEMBERS** may bring and sell their books

DEC 11 Meeting CHANGE IN TIME & LOCATION: will be our Holiday Luncheon 12Noon Black Angus

NEW info for ZOOM – it takes a while to set up the computer for Zoom, so it won't be available until 30 minutes or so after the meeting time given; we're normally just schmoozing and chit-chatting then anyway, so if we show the meeting starts at 1pm that means ZOOM starts around 1:30pm.

ZOOM MEETINGS: Instructions on how to ZOOM connect inside this newsletter, top of Page 4

Join our **NCPA FB PAGE** <https://www.facebook.com/NORCALPA>

President's Message

When I start to write a President's Message, I usually go to the same month of the previous year and look at what I was interested in at that time. Today, I looked at my July message from 2021 to refresh my memory and found I wrote about point of view. As I mentioned in that message, the topic came from my *From Plot to Print* class where we'd just discussed POV.

Today, I want to talk about branding. I've spoken quite a bit about branding in the past, but I realized recently that not everyone knows what I mean when I say branding. And even more than that, not everyone agrees on how important it is.

If you consider that there are between six-hundred thousand and one million books published each year, it can feel like your book is one grain of sand on the beach. How do you make it stand out and be noticed in such a dense field of competition?

Branding.

I'm always surprised at the pushback I get from fellow authors when I mention this. I've heard the following statements so many times that I can almost mouth them the moment I mention the B-word: *people should want to read my book because I write very well. The plot and the writing are the most important part, and I'm not interested in being commercial.*

I get it. And fundamentally, these authors are absolutely right. No one wants to read a poorly written or boring book, but how in the world do you think your readers are going to know how well you write unless they remember you?

Is it possible for you to be organically discovered by readers? Absolutely.

Is it possible for them to be so smitten with your work that they'll always remember you and search you out? Definitely.

Is it possible that they'll enjoy your book, then promptly forget who you are because there are so many books waiting on their nightstand or in their Kindle for them to read? I'm afraid so.

How do you make sure your readers are going to remember you once they close your book? I'm sure you know my answer: branding.

Some misconceptions about branding and my answer are as follows:

- I have a series, but each of the books is about different characters. I can't brand myself around different characters.
 - You can and should. Pick something in the book that is the same across the series.
 - Setting is a perfect idea. Is it set in a big city? Can you use some iconic images from the city to place on the cover?
 - Can you brand around a color? If it's a police procedural, for example, could every cover be a shade of blue?
 - Can you brand around an image? Every character is named after a flower.
 - Can you brand around a font?

See, the possibilities are endless.

- I don't want my books to look the same.
 - Why not? What is wrong with having continuity so someone can recognize the series when they see it?
 - This can be as simple as every book has a silhouette on it. Or, there is a red band over the author's name.
- I don't have time to worry about this. I've got to get the book out.
 - Why would this ever be the problem? You've spent all this time creating your baby. Why would you send it out into the world without clothes?
- I'm not visual that way.
 - No problem. There are people who are.

- And if you can't afford those people, do your research. Look at other books. Don't get caught up on one element of that author's branding.
 - Look for images, but also look for symbols, fonts, design elements (maybe every book has a scroll on it).
 - Colors, black-and-white photos, or splashes of random color can be branding.
- I've already paid for the covers and I don't want to change them. I like what I've got.
 - This one is really hard and I don't mean to offend anyone, but you need to ask yourself a difficult question, and you need to be honest. Are you selling books? When was your last sale? How hard did you have to work to achieve that sale? Did you have to "hand" sell the book or was it bought online?
 - If your last few sales have all been "hand" sells, if you haven't had a sale online in weeks or months, you have a branding problem. There are inexpensive ways to change your cover.
 - Should you change your cover? Well, if you realize that nothing is happening toward putting your book in readers' hands, except when you directly have to talk it up to them, you should definitely re-evaluate.
 - And while you may like the cover, are you getting caught up in a sentimental reason that the reader doesn't know or care about? In brutal honesty, no one cares if *you* like the cover. Does it pop for the reader?

Again, I'm not speaking to anyone specifically. And more than anything, I don't want to offend. I'll be honest, the books I've read by "traditionally" published authors lately have left me feeling bored and disappointed. Some really great writing is coming from indies, but in order to swim in an ocean full of sharks, the minnow has got to be faster, sleeker and flashier. (Yes, I know minnows are fresh water.)

As always, if you have any questions, I'm here. Please feel free to ask.

ML Hamilton

authormlhamilton.net

Members: Did you know that NCPA has a **members-only bookstore on the website**? Active members may **list up to 3 titles on the shelves**. To **get your books included**, send the following to **amy@sciencethrillers.com** :

1. Book category (see bookstore page for options)
2. Link to amazon
3. If your book is NOT for sale on amazon, send a cover image and a link to wherever the book can be purchased.

https://www.norcalpa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=162391&module_id=485516

Changed from the CANCELED July meeting to November meeting

SPECIAL 13 November 2022 MEETING * ANOTHER NCPA PERK FOR MEMBERS ONLY

For our **13 Nov meeting**, we bring back the ever-popular **NCPA BOOK EXCHANGE**, previously held every December, until we started going to Black Angus for our Holiday Luncheon. Another NCPA perk, ***ONLY* CURRENT-PAID NCPA MEMBERS** are **welcome to bring your published books** to brag about, share, sell or barter with others. As many books as you want; set them on the tables at Brookfields. **NO CHARGE**, only for food or drink purchases. Bring change for your book sales & be prepared to network & Schmooze. **Everyone is welcome to attend** but **ONLY NCPA MEMBERS are welcome to bring their books**.



Permanent link for monthly ZOOM NCPA meetings:
 Author ML Hamilton is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NCPA Monthly Meeting
 Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime
 (I'm not sure what this means: ask Michelle)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84185416630?pwd=aEJaTGlyakhBQ1pYWU5KS3FEanBTUT09>

Meeting ID: 841 8541 6630

Passcode: 828631

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,84185416630#,,,,*828631# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,84185416630#,,,,*828631# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C.)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 841 8541 6630

Passcode: 828631

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84185416630?pwd=aEJaTGlyakhBQ1pYWU5KS3FEanBTUT09>

ON STAGE!

FRANCES KAKUGAWA'S Little Mouse, WORDSWORTH, is now a MUSICAL in Hawaii in both English and the Hawaiian Language

Trending: Keaka Hawaiian Language Theater Festival, cheese-scented nail polish (hawaiinewsnow.com)

– a short piece on the musical, showing the actors in costume.

Older: Looking for cast: <https://www.wayneharada.com/cast-sought-for-wordsworth-musical/>

CONGRATULATIONS FRANCES – I hope you were able to be there to watch a performance!

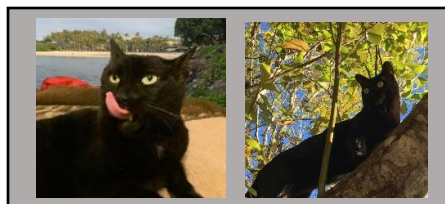
LOCAL STORIES ON STAGE

We would like to personally invite members of Northern California Publishers and Authors to attend a very special Stories on Stage Sacramento event on **July 22. Celebrate with Stories on Stage Sacramento: A Literary Fundraiser** ...but it's much more than that.

As you know, we are a nonprofit organization that has been bringing the work of the best of today's authors to Sacramento area audiences for over twelve years, and doing it as a 100% volunteer organization...

...there will be stories...(from our *Twenty-Twenty* anthology), performed by an actor. And...music from classical clarinet quartet CLARISONIX..., literary games and prizes, a raffle and a silent auction with the work of local artists and other exciting items, brand new Stories on Stage swag, free food...and more. ...we invite special people like you and the members of NCPA, with a literary or literary-adjacent business, group, club or activity to bring information, handouts, fliers or what-have-you to share (*no direct sales please*). The foyer at the Clara (right outside the auditorium) will be a dedicated space for your cards, books, brochures, cards, magazines, mailing list sign-up sheets, etc. **Tickets for the event (\$20) are available on Eventbrite or at the door.** Feel free to e-mail storiesonstage916@gmail.com

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/2?ui=2&ik=522f49784c&attid=0.1.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1736820020278104233&th=181a6c9b3b7690a9&view=att&disp=safe>



Roberta "Berta" Davis & Nacht, the Knightly Cat
Co-Guest Journalists
July 2022 NCPA NEWSLETTER

Long-time NCPA member Roberta "Berta" Davis and Furry Friends!

I'm Roberta "Berta" Davis: tech writer, creative writer, photoshop editor & graphic design with background as an aircraft mechanic and historian. I advocate for animal care, have significant experience with animals and am studying to be a cat behavior specialist.

My house babies, so and advice process. have



came with a mama feral cat making I learned to trap. Luckily a lot of study from Fieldhaven feline rescue helped this Now Mama Feral and her wildest kids multiple hangouts, including my shed with two doggie doors. I have four tamed feral kitties inside and seven untamed ones outside. (Well, feral Poppet is taming: I can brush her). I've also re-tamed kittens and strays for adoption. Wish I could earn a paycheck doing this.

Aside from cats, I write books and working to start my own business of freelance writing, designing pet stuff and hopefully making things like pet bunk beds. Partial retirement feels long overdue. Working ten-hour days sucks! I have written since childhood, was a historian for two years, and been a tech writer (boring) for over ten years. My finally-finished and published book is influenced by animals, sci-fi/fantasy, mythology, and aviation.

Hot off the Presses – Berta Published this Year! CONGRATULATIONS!



My novel is now out: *Morphers and Mayhem, a Werewolf Tale*, by Berta Davis. It feels like I spent a thousand years writing the darned thing, and I visualize the story being compatible with sci-fi and even some fantasy universes.

Available in kindle and paperback via Amazon, it's a bit big: You can use it for self-defense.

Overview: Humans are fledglings in their age of deep space travel. Their allied species, Atleans is a humanoid/elfish/animalistic species with varying telepathy, empathy, or morphing (shape changing) abilities. The villain is an exceptional telepath and infamous human-hater, intent on shattering alliances between his people and humans. He feels the Neanderthals must evolve for another millennia. I hope readers will enjoy the mix of near-magical tech, adventure, and comic relief.

UPCOMING Conference Updates & more upcoming stuff

2022 SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE RESCHEDULED

SFWC Registration — San Francisco Writers Conference (sfwriters.org)

Same great conference * New Dates July 21-24 * 2022 Hyatt Regency San Francisco



Erma Bombeck WRITERS' WORKSHOP rescheduled to October 20-22 2022

2022 Workshop University of Dayton, Ohio (udayton.edu)

Programs & Exhibits - Cal Expo & State Fair: calexpostatefair.com

CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR

15 JULY-31 JULY

Drop by the Authors Booth = Visit NCPA members & MORE

State Fair's site AUTHORS BOOTH: <https://calexpostatefair.com/fair/california-authors-booth/>

Authors' Booth OFFICIAL Website for the State Fair including the calendar for when each author is scheduled to be there: <https://www.authormlhamilton.net/california-state-fair-authors-booth.html>

8th Annual Rio Linda Elverta Country Faire

Sat 17 SEP \$40 for 10x10 space

Deadline to sign up 9 September 2022

riolindaelvertacountryfaire.com for application & PayPal

Joining Berta as Co-Journalist is none other than: her Furry NCPA Anthology series Co-Author: Nacht, the Knightly Cat

My cat series starring Nacht are stories based on my feral cats and their animal friends. The series in work has short stories in several NCPA anthologies, and will be compiled into a book starring a black cat named Knightly Nacht, and his human writer lady, Celeste. Nacht prides himself as being a co-author of the stories, for after all, he tells them, and Celeste writes them. The next section is from Nacht. He is a compilation of cats in my life. **Nacht, the Knightly Cat**



Nacht, the Knightly Cat

Hello furry friends, my name is Nacht, the black feline traveler, species catius royal. Wait—these treats are soo good. I am he who babysits kittens. They ask me to tell them stories and there's many to tell. My muse, Celeste, became a main character when we hooked up in Italy. We decided to be a writing team of stories that are mostly about, well, me... and other animals, our misadventures, and creature comforts.

Special thanks to Norma Thornton and Alex Roberson for pics of their black kitties. Today, I will tell the story of a feline white buffalo named Hufflepoof, aka "Poofy."



Poofy the Feline White Buffalo

Told by Nacht, written by Roberta "Berta" Davis

These are the chronicles of a zillion baby steps, a feline evolution of a fluffy stray/feral cat. Feral cat Hufflepuff brought home a girlfriend, nicknamed Hufflepuff for her ability to poof in and out of sight, and her long, poofy, fur. "Poofy" stuck.

There're different levels between feral and tame. A true feral is unsocialized, perhaps all his or her life. They won't let you touch them and will typically remain silent and unseen. To fear them is ridiculous. They are far more afraid of us.

Poofy would hang out in the daylight, but remain distant. She was either lost or abandoned very young and had been going wild for some time. The first time she was trapped and put in a temporary kennel in the garage, she banged the door of the crate open and escaped. She climbed up the Camaro's undercarriage and held the car hostage for three days. Omg! Good thing the second car was outside! She finally was caught and taken to Fieldhaven to get fixed. Berta says when you're fixing a bunch of ferals and don't always get vouchers, that low-cost vet helps a lot.

Berta also thought after seeing great reviews of taming another cat, surely the "pros" could tame her better than an amateur with ferals. They got her fixed and gave up after a few weeks. So Poofy returned to her outside home. Very discouraging. Doubt and the inability to forget nagged at her rescuer, Berta. What if Poofy was pregnant when spayed? Berta moaned that taking "expert" advice and letting them treat Poofy as a feral felt like a terrible mistake. Worse, some hack job had cropped one of her beautiful ears. NO! Why not tattoo an ear instead!

Feral behavior can be a culture shock for all involved. The first time inside was all drama and this feral stuff was new. After days and much nagging from "experts," Poofy was set free. Once outdoors, she acted quite pleased. Hufflepuff and Griffinpaw were the nicest to her. I love them for that. Their feral mama Serena was indifferent. Others bullied her.

Months went by before Poofy allowed petting. It was a micro-pet, a teeny pet here and there as she drew near for her food. Eventually she wanted pets before eating. She'd jump up on her special table on the patio, get petted and eat chow then take off, often into their shed with two doggie doors, and a slew of cat cubbies.

One night during a bad storm Poofy laid on a back porch chair all night. In the wee hours Berta donned a thick leather coat. When Poofy hopped up on her table, Berta grabbed her. Too flabbergasted to even fuss, Poofy found herself in the spare bedroom with comforts of home.

With the sounds of her meows inside and the raging storm outside, Berta returned to bed, mighty proud. Poofy hissed, hid, and barely ate for over two weeks. The local "experts" insisted she was too feral. AGAIN, Poofy won. Out she went. A day later she returned for chow, buddies again. Sooo disheartening!

Thus, Poofy earned the nickname "untamable white buffalo". She would jump on her table, eat close to her human, get petted, then run off. More months crept by. As winter closed in, Poofy lingered on the back porch instead of the shed. Hmm. One magical day something happened. She dropped and rolled within reach.

Woo! Exposing the belly is a big sign of trust, but Poofy was still was quick to escape being held. Berta left the dog crate outside for the cats to get used to, in hopes of trying to get Poofy inside again. Good thing her winter coat is like a yeti.



Continued on page 9, as *The Husky Story* by Nacht

Learning next to nothing from the dictionary – a dog's POV (& pic)

This is cute:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=5290290224382791&id=100002055976624&set=a.923188341093023>

A few of Berta's Ferals



* Griffinpaw & Huffle *

* Griffin & Taz * * Shanty, Huffle & Mama Serena *

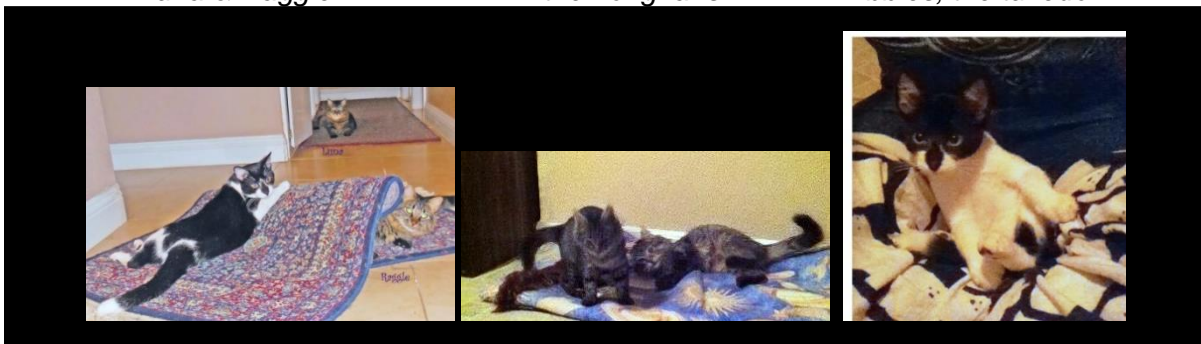
Berta began intense studies of cats and how to help their behavior. It's not easy to herd cats or earn a feral's trust. Serena's final litter was three babies, Zeus, Zane, and Xander, and all three easily found homes. Five other strays re-tamed and were adopted out.

Three mystery kittens, Raggle-Taggle, Luna-Lovepaw, and Tibbles grew up in Berta's home. All the while, Poofy unwittingly awaited her turn to come inside. She remained a stubborn feral for two years.

* Luna & Raggle *

* the Longhairs *

* Tibbles, the tuxedo *



MORE TWISTED WORDS

Any more vs Any More: Using the right term:

<https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/vs/any-more-vs-any-more-using-right-term>

Tooting my Own Horn *Norma Jean*

I finally took time away from NCPA stuff to do some of my own writing and after 11 long years, decided enough was enough in the tweaking of a book and actually caught a Lulu deadline to publish the 9th revision of that long-awaited handbook I've been working on for so long: The copies should be here in time for most of my days in the Authors Booth at the CA State Fair. I can't wait ... for the fair, either!

It's not the cover, nor the color I had been working with, nor wanted, and the title spacing is off, but Lulu has changed so much since the last time I ordered any books from them, I was afraid to mess with it so went with this, at least temporarily. I can hopefully always change it later. At least they didn't boot me out this time, as they have in the past – for my “*font isn't embedded in (their) system*”: that was odd – all I wanted was to purchase copies of my book that was already in their system! OR, my password didn't work. If you've had the same problems, try them again.

JUST WHAT IS A CRITIQUE GROUP? A Writer's Symbiotic Relationship! ... Do I Need One, or Not? ... & How About Joining Writing Organizations?



The Husky Story by Nacht

This was serious business. One windy day, someone's Husky entered the yard. The ferals took to hiding. When Berta emerged with dinner, here came Poofy for food, and there came the young Husky, in full chase of the cat.

Berta transformed into an adrenalin beast. It looked like it took all her energy to intercept that dog. Poofy was smart and ran into the bushes. The husky pursued, and the human crashed into the bushes after it. A moment later, the dog scrambled out of the bushes. He must have realized this human was really MAD!! The canine was young and skinny enough to go through a hole in the fence that was meant for the cats. Ignoring commands and dodging grabs, the pooch wiggled through the fence and escaped.

A woman and a few others in a truck came down the alley behind the fence, looking like they were after the dog.

Berta, who tends to like all animals, was LIVID! *"Is that your dog? HEY! Keep your damned dog out of my yard! It's supposed to be safe here! If you let your *####! dog try to murder someone's pet, you could at least APOLOGIZE!"* More ranting continued.

Crickets. They said nooothering.

Farther down the alley, the humans apprehended the dog and ignoring a slew of profanity, retreated. Then, the back gate swung shut. Luckily, it was only a short block that Berta had to walk around to get back in. A lot more loud cussing ensued. What a freaking NIGHTMARE. Thankfully, Poofy was there for chow the next day. Berta said she was never so relieved to see that little escape artist.



After several more unsuccessful tries by Berta to catch her, Poofy showed up with an infected injury on her neck. It was 100 plus degrees outside. That was IT. Berta was ready with warm tuna and the dog crate on its side so the open door was on top. Poofy showed up, oblivious to what was about to happen.

Once she focused on the tuna, Berta scruffed her, put a hand under her butt, and put her in the dog crate. The cat was bawling before the door closed. She appears part Siamese and used her full, wide, vocabulary.

Poofy may be a scaredy, but is incredibly sweet and gentle. Berta took her to the urgent care vet. The cat had an infected bite or deep scratch, a fever, and was dehydrated. Berta said the total bill of care plus shots was \$700. The vet might have expected the fatal answer. Instead, Berta told them: *"Do whatever she needs and while she's already miserable, please microchip her."*

Around 10 p.m., the frazzled duo came home. At least this time, Poofy adapted to indoors like a champ. She spent the first several days in the bathroom, and then moved to the den. It has a loft bed over a playhouse from a young girl who once lived there, cute stuff. The enclosed loft became her safe area.

The boys, Raggle and Tibbles, are stubborn as heck, and can get sick from stress. It's been a slow process of repeated exposure through baby gates with play and treats, and kitty room swapping. It's a quest. Poofy is staying. Her lives outside were running out.

Why can't we cats just sniff each other's butts like dogs do, and chill out? Because we're cats and territory is gold.

Poofy warmed up fast. She remains untrusting, paranoid even, of the other cats. After a year inside, she finally climbs on her human some, and interaction without a baby gate is hopeful. This feels like the longest cat-to-cats intro in history, but Berta's friend's cats took two years. Poofy doesn't like being picked up, but she's lovable, gives face-rubs and tries to eat hair. Her biggest challenge now is to try and play enough to control her lazy, full, belly.

more on Page 11- Lessons & Morals by Berta

2019 NCPA Anthologies



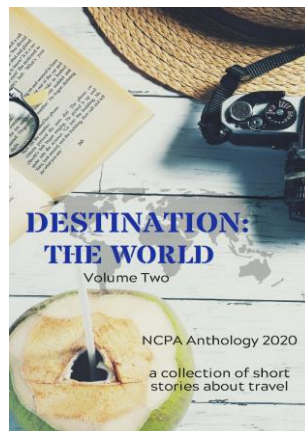
BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA Anthology
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals



MORE BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA ANTHOLOGY
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals and Other Things

\$40/ year to join
www.norcalpa.org

2020 NCPA Anthologies



ALL (five) 2019 & 2020 ANTHOLOGY BOOKS (above) AVAILABLE

PAPER COPIES @ Cost for Authors) \$10 for others From Sharon Darrow:

Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com OR [NCPA Anthologies \(5 book series\) Ebook & Paperback Edition \(amazon.com\)](https://www.amazon.com/NCPA-Anthologies-5-book-series/dp/B08YJQZQZQ)



COVER FOR Beautiful Americas



ALL Holidays 2021 had a name change –
it's now ALL Holidays Vol 2

ONLY 4 spaces left for the *Beautiful Americas*, and once this newsletter is sent, I'll get back to work on *Americas*, to hopefully launch during our Holiday Luncheon on 11 Dec 2022 at Black Angus in Citrus Heights.

If you've not sent in a story for *Beautiful Americas*, do it NOW – first come - and only 4 spaces.

**Then it's *Beautiful World* and *ALL Holidays Vol 3* for 2023. ~ Full info on main page at: norcalpa.org
Get your thinking caps on and start writing for those two! Questions? 2021NCPAAnthology@gmail.com**

Lessons and Morals of the Story: by Berta

- ✚ *Every cat's different. Even with ferals, some can tame.
- ✚ *Even if ferals and strays don't tame, they can be outside buddies and competent mousers.
- ✚ I'd take them over vermin or snakes any day.
- ✚ Learn from experts, but remember that even expert advice is not always perfect for you.
- ✚ If you add another pet, especially adult versus adult, expect a challenge and many baby steps! It is doable but such changes are stressful to the pets! I recommend Jackson Galaxy YouTubes.
- ✚ Ferals and strays aren't tough superhero tough. They, like us, need food, water, and a safe shelter. Despite conflicting opinions, most outdoor cats, especially strays, don't survive well, or at all, without human help. Helping in a shelter is a quick way to learn this.
- ✚ It is against the law to harm or relocate them. It's easy to Google rescues and ways to help. And for those who don't like cats, well, repellent is affordable. If nothing else, leave them alone and request help from shelters or rescues if an animal looks sick or injured. It doesn't hurt to post a pic on public media and share info about the animal.

Poofy and her pet Puffy, inside, fat n happy * Showing love to her human, Berta



Poofy is now the ex- feral princess.

***** that's all she wrote!

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISSI VILLA for her wins at the 2022 Sac Co & CA State Fairs

*1st row includes all photographs: * Color Photography (People) - 2nd place * Black & White Photography (Animals) 1st place- * Fair Photos (Past Sac Co Fair Photo) 1st place

*2nd row: * Painting 1st place * Any Mixed Media 1st place * Adult Clothing & Textiles Counted Cross Stitch 1st place

[Christine L. Villa \(christinevilla.com\)](http://christinevilla.com)
[Purple Cotton Candy Arts - Home](#)

MORE CONGRATULATIONS to CHRISSI

**For the 3 wins from PURPLE
 DRAGONFLY BOOK AWARDS:**

1st Best Photography * *The Eskalets*
Honorable Mention * Cultural Diversity:
Our Christmas Lantern

Honorable Mention * Book Trailer:

When Halloween was Canceled by F.A. Barrera

(Chrissi's Purple Cotton Candy Arts made the trailer for *Halloween*)



YOU TOO COULD ADVERTISE HERE for a whole year EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT A MEMBER

Just donate something of value to the Silent Auction held during our 2021 Book Awards Banquet in 2022
SUNDAY 5 June 2022 at the Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta

SILENT AUCTION DONORS 2019 * THANK YOU SO MUCH to our donors *

Cherry Island G.C. * Sharon Darrow * Jennifer T. Grainger * Grand Oaks Inn B&B * Dierdre Honnold * Frances Kakugawa * Placer Pops Chorale * Roaring Camp Mining Company * Amy Rogers: Science Thrillers Media * Sharif Jewelers * Antelope Walmart Bakery

Looking for a great venue for your Banquet &/or more? How about a decorated Cake?

Both great for Writing Organizations, and Highly recommended by NCPA Book Awards Banquet Committee

Cherry Island Golf Course * 2360 Elverta Rd * Elverta, CA * www.golfcherryisland.com * 916-991-6875

Looking for a great decorated cake for ANY event, including that Banquet?

Walmart Supercenter Bakery * 5821 Antelope Rd. * Antelope 95843, CA * Bakery: **916-729-6217**

Placer Pops Chorale & Orchestra 2022

Great present for ALL * www.placerpops.com * Locations, DATES & TIMES COMING CLOSER to dates

ADVERTISING FOR MORE OF OUR DONORS, all NCPA members

Looking for a detailed critique and line edit? Contact donor **Amy Rogers: Science Thrillers Media**

Amy Rogers, independent publisher, beta reader for James Rollins, and former judge for International Thriller Writers' Thriller Awards. amy@AmyRogers.com Web: AmyRogers.com (916)-712-3334

Need a Manuscript Evaluation? Contact donor **Jennifer Grainger**

Jennifer says a manuscript evaluation is not editing. It is evaluating the quality of the writing so she will carefully and thoughtfully read your manuscript from beginning to end and provide very explicit feedback for you on what works, what could be better and how to fix the weaknesses.

jennifer@JenniferTheEditor.org www.JenniferTheEditor.org 209-369-6188

Want your own Website? **Sharon Darrow** will build you one **through Wix.Com**

Hourly rate, with a four-hour minimum appointment. ~ in your home. (Will accept phone calls for help for 3 months after completion if you still need it. Anything further, price will be negotiable.) **916-803-1665**

sharon@sharonsdarrow.com

Writing Picture Books for Kids? **Chrissi Villa** gives detailed Picture Book Evaluations

Chrissi also hosts PB Workshops. contact her chrissivilla@gmail.com * www.Christinevilla.com

www.purplecottoncandyarts.com/about.html * <https://www.velvetduskpublishing.com/about.html>

916-993-8798 h

916-500-3492 c

Need a special gift ~ Or a donation to your non-profit event?

Check out the fine jewelry at Sharif's

Sharif Jewelers * 1338 Howe Ave, Sacramento, CA * www.sharifjewelers.com ~ 916-927-0542

There are three (3) locations, total ~ check out their website for the other ones.

How about an Outdoor event for the entire family

Roaring Camp Mining Company in Pine Grove, CA just 1-1 ½ hours south east of Sacramento ~ Roaring Camp has BBQ Cookouts, Guided Gold Mine & Gold Panning Tours & Dinners, All Day Adventure & Gold Panning Tours & more ~ Camping or Cabins available

www.roaringcampgold.com ~ 209-296-4100 ~ info@roaringcampgold.com

OR a romantic Indoor Stay for grandma & grandpa, or mom and dad ~ on the way to Roaring Camp

Grand Oaks Inn B & B ~ Joe & Ann Mehrten 21941 Buena Vista Road P.O. Box 518

Clements, CA 95227 grandoaksinn.com 209 759-3453 or 209-759-3713 grandoaks@inreach.com

Grand Oaks, Sharif & Roaring Camp Mining Co have all generously donated to NCPA for every Silent Auction we've had **since 2010**

More 2021 SILENT AUCTION DONORS

Many thanks to the generosity of Sacramento's Bouchercon 2020, for the donation of a case of Totes, some were used in our 2020 NCPA Book Awards, during the Silent Auction Sunday 29 August 2021. Thanks also to Rae James and M. Penny Manson from Capitol Crimes (Sacramento chapter of Sisters in Crime) for arranging for, and getting, the totes to me.

Special thanks also to Elaine Faber for the Vintage Thomas Round Wood Radio/ Cassette Player reproduction, Barbara Barrett for the pair of cut-glass Hurricane Lamp-shaped Candle Holders, Kathy "Kanika" Marshall for her Kanika creations, Bob Irelan and Michelle Hamilton for their great baskets, and the EGWG for the donation of one ticket to the October 2021 Elk Grove Writers Conference

INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY? During the shut-down, the Library has generously made their access to Ancestry.com FREE from your own home to ALL WHO HAVE A LIBRARY CARDTHE CENSUS RECORDS ARE GREAT, EVEN IF YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING ELSE

Go to www.saclibrary.org and click on Books & Media – Special Collections – Genealogy Collection – Have Questions (at bottom of screen) – click on "Learn More" under "Do you have other genealogy services available?" (or just click on this link as a shortcut - <https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/History/Genealogy>). (Other Genealogy sites free also)

Once there, you'll see the links to the websites in green. Once you click on the website, you'll be asked to enter your library card and PIN. If you don't know your PIN, click on Reset My PIN in blue and enter a new PIN. **THIS MAY NOT WORK NOW THAT LIBRARIES ARE OPENING**

Genealogy Presentations at Sacramento Central Library

For information, please contact Beth Daugherty, Librarian, at bdaugherty@saclibrary.org Sacramento Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, Phone: 916-264-2920. <http://www.saclibrary.org>

Check out all organizations for ZOOM meetings ~ contact info for each is on following page

FREE MEETINGS

3rd Sat monthly 1pm-3pm

Capitolcrimes.org for more info

ZOOM MEETING FREE

Gold Country Writers meetings (FREE)
3rd Wed 10am-12Noon each month
Goldcountrywriters.com **CONTACT** for more information

CWC meeting 3rd Sat monthly 11am-1pm
CWCSacramentowriters.org

\$20-member \$25 Non-member lunch included

ZOOM MEETINGS FREE

1st Fri each month Perko's 6215 Sunrise

3rd Sat each month at Cattleman's on Folsom

**29th NCPA
BOOK AWARDS
BANQUET
5pm-9pm
Sun 7 MAY 2023**

***Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC) 2nd Mon ea/mo**
7pm-9pm * Sactowriters.org * ZOOM MEETINGS FREE
Crossroads Fellowship Christian Church, **5501 Dewey Dr**, Fair Oaks.

COVID RULES WILL APPLY

Sun 11 Dec 2022 ~ 12Noon-?
Citrus Heights' Black Angus on Greenback
NCPA's 5th Holiday Luncheon - 2022
Email me: NCPAAnthologyLuncheon@gmail.com

FREE MEETINGS 2nd Sat monthly 12Noon – 2:30 pm
San Joaquin Valley Writers CWC ZOOM Meetings
<https://junegillam.com> <https://www.sjvalleywriters.org>

**YOUR Writing Club/ Organization INFO
CAN GO HERE – JUST LET US KNOW**

MAKING CONNECTIONS CORNER with our Local Sister Writing Organizations

➤ **California Writers Club (CWC) (Sacramento Branch)**

Monthly Luncheon Meetings generally **3rd Saturday** of each month ~ 11am – 1pm
\$15 members, \$25 non-members, includes lunch **Rancho Cordova Cattlemen's**

Writers Network 9-11am **1st Fri** monthly **Perko's** 6215 Sunrise, Citrus Heights

Open to public, pay for your own breakfast (**NEW LOCATION**)

For information & prices on joining, go to: cwcsacramentowriters.org

➤ **Capitol Crimes (Cap Crimes) (Sacramento Chapter of Sisters in Crime)**

If you write anything crime-related, or want to, then check out Cap Crimes.

FREE monthly meetings, generally the **3rd Saturday** of each month, generally with guest speakers, generally crime-related. They normally meet at **1pm** at the

Rancho Cordova Library 9845 Folsom Blvd in Rancho Cordova

No-Host lunch 11:30am prior to meetings usually at Perko's 9647 Micron Av

Must be a member of Sisters in Crime (\$50) to join Cap Crimes (\$20) Capitolcrimes.org

➤ **Elk Grove Writers Guild (EGWG) [Elk Grove Writers Guild \(egweg.org\)](http://Elk Grove Writers Guild (egweg.org))**

Meets the 1st Fri of each month in Elk Grove - **BY ZOOM RIGHT NOW**

No further info, but go to the following for more:

* Email egwg2020@egweg.org

➤ **Gold Country Writers (GCW) <http://goldcountrywriters.com/>**

3rd Wed Monthly Speaker Programs ~ 10am-12Noon: FREE & open to Public

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1279 High St, Auburn, CA 95603

"Writers Working Together to Promote and Improve their Work" Questions contact Margie

Yee Webb mywebb@sbcglobal.net

➤ **Sacramento Suburban Writers (SSW)**

Meets 2nd Mon of each month 7pm- 9pm

Crossroads Fellowship Christian Church, 5501 Dewey Dr, Fair Oaks, CA

Meetings, generally with guest speakers, are **FREE** ~ (\$40 membership fee)

Like with NCPA, you don't have to be a member to attend Sactowriters.org

➤ **Sacramento Valley Rose (SVR)**

(Sacramento Chapter of Romance Writers of America {RWA})

If you write Romance, or want to, then check out SVR ~ they generally meet at 10am at the

White Rock Community Clubhouse, 10488 White Rock Rd, Rancho Cordova

4th Saturday of each month \$20 for members \$30 for non-members

Contact: Deb at debjulienne@gmail.com for RSVP information & directions

Debbie Putnam, President: DebbiePutnam.SVR@gmail.com

Suggest you go to their site for their rules & stipulations Must be a member of Romance Writers of America (\$99+) before joining SVR (\$30) Sacramentovalleyrose.com

➤ **San Joaquin Valley Writers (SJWV Branch CWC) **FREE** Monthly Meetings generally**

2nd Saturday of each month 12Noon-2:30pm UOP in Stockton - Questions? June Gillam

President SJWV-CWC <https://junejillam.com> Dues Info unknown at this time

➤ **Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI) (CA North/Central)**

If you're interested in writing ... or illustrating ... for kids of any age, this is the premiere INTERNATIONAL organization to belong to! **Your first year of SCBWI membership is \$95, with an ongoing annual renewal fee of \$80.** No monthly meetings, but there are occasional Schmoozes, Workshops, Intensive-Events, Special Events, and Critique Groups, as well as a great Holiday Party in December, and a discounted Spring Spirit Conference ... plus more ...

Go to their website for full information: <https://canorthcentral.scbwi.org/>

All info may be outdated. Suggest you contact prior to attending any.

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Note that the Executive committee consists of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and communications director, the five elected officers

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 916-396-3414

Anthology 2019, 2020 & 2021

Norma Jean Thornton: **Coordinator**
 Michelle Hamilton: **Editor**
 Bob Irelan: **Editor**
 Norma Jean Thornton: **Proofreader**
 Sharon Darrow: **Publisher**
2021NCPAAnthology@gmail.com

Sunday afternoon meetings with or without guest speakers now 2nd Sun of each month

In Person 1pm-?* New Location: Brookfields Restaurant 4343 Madison Av 95842

No purchase necessary but at least a soda would be appreciated * By ZOOM 1pm- ???

Daytime meetings with NO guest speakers are the 3rd Wednesday of each month

ON HOLD 12 Noon to 2pm Denny's 3520 Auburn Blvd RSVP's REQUIRED COVID

Meetings are always FREE ~ Visitors are always welcome.

www.norcalpa.org

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA)

PO Box 214673 ~ Sacramento, CA 95821

Michelle Hamilton, President ~ 916-837-6812 * Norma Jean Thornton, Editor ~ 916-991-5751

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The editor reserves the right to accept or reject submissions and to edit submissions for length, clarity, or style.

Readers are free to print copies for noncommercial personal use, and NCPA members are welcome to print copies of the newsletter to share with friends, colleagues, and prospective members.

Other News, Announcements, and Comments

All submissions for this section of *The Pen & Press* including short items about NCPA members or otherwise of interest to writers, editors, publishers and allied folks, are welcome.

A Note from the Editor

Send your articles and announcements to normathornton@yahoo.com

Please type either **NCPA N/L** or **NCPA NEWSLETTER** as the email subject heading, to help me find newsletter submissions easier.

Please provide submissions in Microsoft Word (or compatible) format, or in plain text. **NO PDF**, please, since I have to retype anything sent by pdf to make it fit.

If you have any suggestions, an article idea or any other questions or comments about the newsletter, feel free to email or phone ... normathornton@yahoo.com or 916-991-5751

Any news of members' books, activities, marketing, speaking engagements, and/ or other accomplishments are greatly appreciated.

Also: any information on members' insights into the challenges and opportunities of writing and/or publishing, or information on regional resources for authors and publishers works well.

Cover illustrations and other photos are welcome in jpeg or other standard format. Please keep file sizes reasonable. When in doubt, call or email editor in advance.

Submissions for each issue will be the 5th of each month, unless otherwise noted ~ and ~ **if you have something after the 5th call me (916-991-5751), then send it anyway** ~ I'm flexible, so we'll probably be able to work it in, since the monthly Pen & Press publishing date depends on time available for the editor to complete and send out; sometime after the monthly meeting, held on the 2nd Thursday of each month, and as late as the last day of each month.

The goal of the current editor is to publish one Pen & Press each month, with two in April every year in order to cover the Book Awards Banquet ... one prior to the event, and one after.

... Norma Jean Thornton, editor *The Pen & Press* 2016-2020