

www.norcalpa.org

The Pen & Press

Sun 11 September 1pm-3pm Meeting:
NCPA member & AUTHOR Linda Joy Singleton
WRITING FOR CHILDREN

*With a fun, short exercise about tapping into our childhood memories for stories.
Come join us at the Black Angus, and bring your memories with you!
Maybe you can get that hidden children's story written!?*

TEMPORARY location for Sep meeting - Black Angus Restaurant
7925 Greenback Ln, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Sep 2022 GUEST JOURNALISTS for newsletter NCPA member & author Sharon Darrow discussing something of special interest, & NEW to Northern California Authors! The newly formed NC Alliance of ????? You'll just have to wait to hear what all Sharon has to say – but NCPA member Loy Holder has a big part in it, as do representatives of a few other local writing organizations

Sun 9 Oct Mtg: **DISCUSSION** with ML (Michelle) Hamilton, Sharon Darrow & Norma Jean Thornton
The Importance of Critique Groups & More than You Ever Wanted to Know about Them

Oct & NOV 2022 Guest Journalist for newsletter NCPA member & Author Barbara KLIDE

Sunday 13 NOVEMBER meeting - 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

Guest Journalist for Dec NCPA newsletter will be Andrea Roth –
a chatty letter all the way from the 'dismal swamp' in Chesapeake VA!

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

Guest Journalist for Jan 2023: Barbara Barrett –
A Rootin' Tootin' Wonder Woman, with Lots of Tales to Tell!

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

NOTE: in-person attendees start getting there around 1pm but it takes a while to set up the Zoom process, so the actual meeting doesn't start until 1:15-1:30. If you're there early on Zoom, the screen will be blank.

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

President's Message



Nana ML & 1st grandchild

At the last NCPA Monthly meeting, I updated people on the formation of a critique group for fiction writers that will begin in October. I don't have the actual date yet, but I will make sure everyone receives the information in order to sign up if they want support.

We also discussed Sharon Darrow's critique group for nonfiction writers that has been operating for around six months now. She gave some feedback on their specific organization, and more generally on the benefits of having a critique group for your writing.

Since it was such a topic of import at the meeting, I thought I'd touch base in my president's message as well.

A critique group can be an author's best resource. I have seen mediocre chapters come alive after a rewrite when the author has really taken the constructive criticism to heart and made dramatic improvements. A critique group can also be a nonthreatening way to get your writing in front of other people without worrying about incurring the wrath of the one-star gods, those anonymous people online who crush an author's dreams like a hobby. If you develop a strong relationship with your fellow members, they can guide you to finding the best in your work and identify where you might be missing the mark.

However, there are concerning situations that can happen in a critique group. A non-supportive group can damage an author's confidence. Conversely, a critique group that is just a mutual admiration society is worthless. I know that last statement seems harsh, because who doesn't love lavish praise for everything we do, but if your critique group is just a circular back-patting session, it's doing you less than no good. In fact, it may be doing you harm.

What do I mean?

I've heard the following statements from a significant number of authors: *I have a critique group and they went over my manuscript, but my sales are anemic and I'm getting one-star reviews*, or *I have a critique group and they went over my manuscript, but you found so many obvious and glaring grammatical errors in my work. What is happening?*

The answer might be multifaceted and will likely require some serious soul searching.

1. Do you argue with your readers when they suggest something isn't gelling in your work? Do you get defensive and "fight" back?
 - a. If the answer is yes, the problem is you. People will only try to be honest with you so many times before they back down and throw up their hands. They are likely just telling you everything is wonderful because they don't want to battle you over it.
2. Do you listen during the critique, but when it comes time to rewrite, do you ignore the suggestions and tell yourself that your readers just don't "get" you? Do you tell yourself it's their problem, not yours?
 - a. If the answer is yes, the problem is you. I use the Rule of Three. If I hear something three times, even if I think I'm right and everyone else is wrong, I know I have to change something. There is a problem.
3. Do you have a critique group where every writer is at the same level of experience as you are? Are they all at the same level of publication as you are? Are they struggling in their own writing careers?

- a. If the answer is yes, the problem is you. You need to diversify your group. Having novice writers in the group is exciting, but attracting some veterans, who've made all the mistakes, might be just the answer you need.
4. Do you have a critique group made up of fans or personal friends? Are they your biggest cheerleaders and support everything you do without question?
 - a. If the answer is yes, the problem is you. We all want fans. We all want loyal friends, who support us unconditionally. That's why I have two golden retrievers. However, this may not make a great critique group when the first word in the label is *critique*. They may be more worried about hurting and discouraging you, than they are about helping you hone your craft.

Here are some final pointers on how to both give and receive constructive criticism:

How to give feedback.

- Be specific.
- Give examples if you can.
- Do not take pushback as a reason to agree with the author.
- Be aware that the author is vulnerable, so be patient and firm.
- Do not attack the person or the idea.
- Give ways to improve upon what is here.
- If you wouldn't write about this topic, don't write about it; however, never criticize someone for their ideas.

Avoid the following:

- Don't scold.
- Don't criticize without offering a solution.
- Don't just praise blindly.
- Don't just assume; ask questions if you're confused.
- Don't say *I'd do it this way*. Make suggestions: *What if you... Maybe you could... Could you try...*

How to receive feedback.

This is a very vulnerable moment and you may feel defensive if people do not immediately accept what you are saying. Please have an open mind and try to minimize your ego. We are all striving to help each other.

How do you know if the criticism is relevant or warranted? We've all experienced criticism that has one of the following problems:

- Not about the writing or the plot (may be a personal preference on the part of the reader)
- A misreading of the text by the reader
- Not even about our book (I received a one-star review on my book because the inflatable mattress had a hole in it - not kidding!)

If in the middle of the critique, you find yourself feeling hurt or angry by what is being said, ask for a break and time to process the information. We all feel like criticism of our work is criticism of us as a person. That's understandable, and sometimes a break will help us compartmentalize those feelings. In the end, if you assume everyone really does have your best interests at heart, it'll make sending our precious creations out into the world that much easier.

ML Hamilton

authormlhamilton.net

Editor's Note: Attention authors in all phases of writing! Even if you're already in a crit group, especially if you have a story in any of our anthologies, & have questions: please consider attending 1 or 2 of each of our 3 critique groups to either get help if you're a newbie, or help others if you're more seasoned – or even just to see what's going on in different critique groups.



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>

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.

Something to chuckle about – how true it is!

- Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.
- It's weird being the same age as old people.
- When I was a kid, I wanted to be older... This is not what I expected.
- Life is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter either.
- It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.
- Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked. So, remember... don't sing!
- We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story anyway.
- I see people my age mountain climbing. I feel good just getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

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. **NO CHARGE**, only for food or drink purchases, if applies. 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.

Frances kakugawa <fhk@francesk.org>



CONGRATULATIONS
FRANCES &
WORDSWORTH!

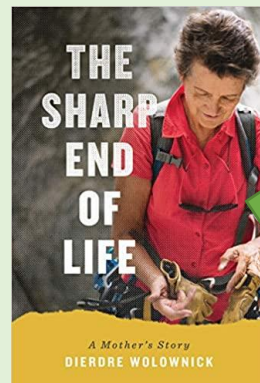


Hey Norma,
Here's another development with my Wordsworth book. See below: The First Lady of Hawaii, Gov's wife Dawn Amano-Ige reads Wordsworth the Poet followed by a Q&A with me where I discuss Wordsworth, poetry and children's literature.

Read Aloud - <https://youtu.be/vriz-ffpCKY>

Q+A - <https://youtu.be/Vn3No1Jp95Q>

Editor's Note: I watched both youtubes, and suggest you do the same. FLOH Amano-Ige has a wonderful moderated reading voice, and served the entire story well. She's also very gracious, allowing Frances to say what she wanted/ needed, to answer each question, rather than cut her off like many do when interviewing.



Congratulations Dierdre!



In October Dierdre will begin a three-country book tour in Europe. She'll be giving her slideshow presentation and signing copies of her book, *The Sharp End of Life*, which has been published in French, Spanish and Italian. She'll present at events in Italy, Switzerland and Greece.

The send-off presentation will take place at the **Presentation Summit** in San Diego, days before she leaves for Europe. The month-long tour will include several speaking events in each country, and lots of rock climbing in the Dolomites (Italy), the Alps (Switzerland) and the mountains of the Peloponnese in Greece.

• *The Sharp End of Life: A Mother's Story* — Mountaineers Books (for pictures & more, scroll down towards the bottom, past the other books for sale. Interesting stuff down there!)

Published worldwide, in:

Spanish — [El Filo de la Vida](#)

French: — [Toujours Y Croire](#)

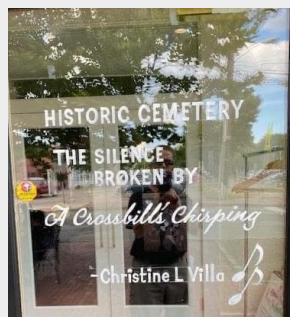
Italian — [In Cordata con Alex](#)

• [Movie Trailer](#)

Editor's Note: I included the Spanish, French & Italian links in case you'd like to check them out. They're totally different than the US websites and really interesting. Even the book covers were different. I MUCH prefer the US cover. (Tip: might take a while to find what you're looking for --- if you don't speak the language, just look for Dierdre's full name. Or better yet, when it opens in Amazon, type in Wolownick and scroll down to find her books in each language! I found it worth the extra time).

My haiku was selected in a contest. It was painted on a building's main entrance in Lexington, Massachusetts!

I was asked to make a video for the Tanka Society of America. I do a video of all the tanka poet winners every year. Chrissi Villa - chrissivilla@gmail.com



CONGRATULATIONS CHRISSI!



(THE SILENCE BROKEN BY A Crossbill's Chirping)

-Christine L. Villa

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WRITE FOR HARLEQUIN
CARINA PRESS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

<http://carinapress.com/blog/submission-guidelines/>

Carina Press accepts *both agented and unagented submissions*

MORE FROM DIERDRE re ALEX MAKING HISTORY AGAIN!

<https://www.fatherly.com/news/alex-honnold-just-made-history-ingmikortilaq>

Whether or not you watched Free Solo on the Nat Geo Channel, there's a 30 minute update on 8 Sep 7pm & 11pm – (Edge of the Unknown w/Jimmy Chin: BEFORE FREE SOLO) – on Nat Geo again and I highly recommend you watch as Alex climbs 3 mountains in Morocco in preparation for El Cap WOW is all I can say. Takes my breath away –

UPCOMING Conference DATES

Erma Bombeck WRITERS' WORKSHOP rescheduled to October 20-22 2022
 2022 Workshop University of Dayton, Ohio (udayton.edu)

Gold Rush Writers Conference at the Historic Hotel Leger in Mokelumne Hill, CA **October 7-9, 2022**

Only 55 miles from
 Sacramento – just over an
 hour's drive

Contact:
manzanitawp@gmail.com
 209-754-0577
 209-286-8012



Hotel Leger prices range from
 \$115 - \$175/week-end night

Might have special rates for
 Conference. Note says to call
 Hotel Leger direct and say
 you're with the Gold Rush
Writers * 209-286-1401

<https://goldrushwriters.com>

- Mark your calendars and reserve your spot. Space is limited. Gold Rush Writers Conference will be the happening place for writers at Hotel Leger in Mokelumne Hill, CA, OCTOBER 7-9, 2022! We're in person and no more postponing for anything! See you there. GRWC is a fantastic, intimate boutique writers conference that fits the budget and offers great opportunities for networking and writer camaraderie. Sign up for your writer's getaway in the historic, quaint little town of Mokelumne Hill.
- \$240 --Conference registration Price Includes:
- Your selection of four workshops out of twelve. Several are limited so register early (first-come, first-served).
- Informal supper Friday night
- Open mic poetry readings
- Sit-down dinner in an historic Gold Rush hotel followed by a presentation by [Ace Antonio Hall](#)
- Brunch Sunday with speaker [Sands Hall](#)

VENDOR OPPORTUNITY 8th Annual Rio Linda Elverta Country Faire **Saturday 17 Sep 2022 * 9am-4pm * Depot Park * Rio Linda**

Sat 17 SEP \$40 for 10x10 space * **Deadline to sign up 9 Sept 2022** * 120 Vendors
riolindaelvertacountryfaire.com for application & PayPal

FUN FOR ALL – FOR THE KIDS - Whether you're selling or not:

You don't need a booth to attend the RLE Country Faire – but if you have kids, take them to the Old-Fashioned Country Faire – everything is free for the kids (except food and merchandise) * Rides * Games * Climbing Wall * Animals * Entertainment * Music * Free Bike Drawings for boys & girls; Bikes for all ages * * Pirates * and MORE * - * FOOD TRUCKS * And for the adults * Beer Garden * Food * Fun * FREE PARKING *

**Elk Grove Writers Guild
 Presents**

A HOLIDAY SEMINAR
 5 Nov 2022 12N-4:45pm

Registration \$45
 Register NOW:

Egweg.org/holiday/

Questions?
Egwg2020@egweg.org

Great Valley Book Fest October 8, 2022, Manteca, California

Visit several NCPA members, CWC & Sacramento's Capitol Crimes at the Great Valley Bookfest! Cap Crimes has a table and a panel presented by authors Claire Booth, James L'Etoile, Richard Meredith, and Jessica Cline.
gvbookfest.org for more information and how to get your own author's table.



President NCPA 2015-2018
VP NCPA 2018-Present
Membership 2014- Present
Book Awards Coordinator 2014-Present



SHARON DARROW * Guest Journalist * September 2022 NCPA NEWSLETTER

The Non-Fiction & Memoir NCPA CRITIQUE GROUP:

I'm a firm believer in the value of critique groups, and enjoy facilitating one for NCPA members. I lead the group for writers of non-fiction and memoirs, from beginners to well-established authors. We meet via Zoom, and everyone benefits from having the other members of the group critique their work, as well as learning how to do the same for them. You do have to have a fairly tough skin—good practice for all writers—but all critiques are done from a supportive, positive point of view. The critique group has been going since January of this year, but new members are always welcome. And remember, you can join the group just to watch and listen at first, then submit when you are ready. Anyone interested should contact Sharon at sharonsdarrowcritiquegroup@gmail.com with questions, comments, or just more Zoom meeting information.

Sharon Darrow

Submissions to be sent to: sharonsdarrowcritiquegroup@gmail.com Maximum 15 pages, plus one for a brief synopsis of the work. Times, 12 pt font, double-spaced with 1" margins around. I will then email them out to the group (or subgroup) of people who will be critiquing the work.

Info to join SHARON's NCPA NF & Memoir Zoom Meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86187871725?pwd=QlZwN1hQVGVTFTFhNuzZTNHkNG1YzZ09>

Meeting ID: 861 8787 1725

Passcode: 221177

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,86187871725#,,, *221177# US (San Jose)

+16694449171,,86187871725#,,, *221177# US

Editor's Note:

MORE CRITIQUE GROUPS COMING SOON

Michelle Hamilton will start a Fiction critique group sometime in October 2022 – by Zoom most likely.
Norma Jean Thornton will be doing a non-specific genre critique group sometime early 2023 – LIVE & IN PERSON ONLY!

CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR

All NCPA members should be extremely proud of Michelle Hamilton and Danita Moon for the jobs they did in organizing and promoting the California State Fair Authors Booth. The writers came from all over California, but the two that made it happen are both NCPA members. The layout was new, the timeframe for planning and organizing all of the writers that took part was much shorter than usual, and nobody knew how things would work out after the fair was closed for two years because of Covid-19. The booth ended up being a big success, with good sales for the individual authors and for the "Nook," where Danita sold books for participating writers on days when they were not at the fair. *Sharon Darrow*

Editor's Note: I definitely second that – and Michelle didn't know until MAY, just 2 months shy of the start date, that there was even going to be a fair, so she had to scramble like crazy to make it happen. Fortunately Danita was willing and able to assist, and we had many willing authors to participate. So a big CONGRATS to all involved!

BTW & FYI: Running the Authors Booth at the State Fair is NOT A PAYING JOB. Michelle volunteers her services. All participating authors are very fortunate to have her, and NCPA is doubly fortunate to also have Michelle as our President.

Apologies to those who sent something for the newsletter and it's not here – unfortunately everything in my house that has any ties at all to AT&T: land-line, I-net, Direct TV, Computer and Cell phone, has been wonky off and on for months (actually years! Ever since I accepted U-Verse 14 Mar 2014!!), but has come to a head – again – this time building up to the major outage with not only my home phone, cell phone and Direct TV, but also on my computer with my modem and DSL (I'm probably saying this wrong, but those are the things mentioned by those who know what they mean, and pass on to me, wrongly assuming I have even an inkling of what they're talking about). Whatever, I can't get on-line on the computer, which means I can't reach any Email through my computer to add things to the newsletter, nor send anything out. In addition, I'm hoping what I'm about to do works --- downloading all of this to a thumb drive and taking it to Sharon for her to send to the website. *njt*

CLASSES Sep-Nov 2022:

EGWA Fall Writing Course *Story Genius: Novels & Memoirs* * Gini Grossenbacher, M.Ed.
https://mail.google.com/mail/u/2?ui=2&ik=522f49784c&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1742238125869331590&th=182dac583e957486&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=f_17afmvbh0_

If the above link doesn't work, here's a quick summary:

Email: gini.writers1@gmail.com * **Website:** www.ginigrossenbacher.com

Zoom Wed 6-8pm Sep 21-Nov16 2022 1st Class FREE Begins 21 Sep ends 16 Nov \$25/pay-as-you-go.

Local Writing Organization's Master Calendar

Cap Crimes * CWC * EGWG * Gold Country Writers * NCPA * San Joaquin CWC *

IF YOUR WRITING ORGANIZATION'S NOT ON THIS LIST, CONTACT US!

Loy Holder, President of the Elk Grove Writers Guild, made one of my long-standing dreams come true in July. She invited representatives from other local writers' groups to meet together and collaborate on a master calendar to include event dates for the different organizations. We can all finally go to one place, <https://egweg.org/calendar/> to check out what's happening locally and plan accordingly. This not only benefits each group so they can make plans without conflicting with others, but also helps individual writers take advantage of all that's available in the area. All of us that met in July to work this out and provide dates will meet again in 2023 to update event information and discuss other ways we can work together. *Sharon Darrow*

Congratulations to us (NCPA)!

Last year your NCPA board confronted the fact that our organization's legal status was hopelessly out of date. Because we believe NCPA has a bright future, we have re-organized as a Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation and successfully obtained exemption from federal income tax under IRS Section 501(c)6.

While this doesn't directly affect our day-to-day operations, keeping NCPA in compliance with state and federal tax law protects the officers and secures our group's ability to serve our members for years to come. Under 501(c)6, donations to NCPA are NOT deductible as charitable contributions. However, your membership dues may qualify as a business expense.

Amy Rogers
Treasurer, NCPA

MORE "how true" CHUCKLES

- My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffered from mental illness... I said, "No, we all seem to enjoy it."
- Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say, "Close enough."
- Being an adult is the dumbest thing I have ever done.
- I'm a multitasker. I can listen, ignore and forget all at the same time.
- Retirement to do list: Wake up. - I Nailed It!
- People who wonder if the glass is half empty or half full miss the point...the glass is refillable.
- I see people my age mountain climbing. I feel good just getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance!

2022 A BUSY YEAR FOR SHARON AND HER PUBLISHING COMPANY, SAMATI PRESS

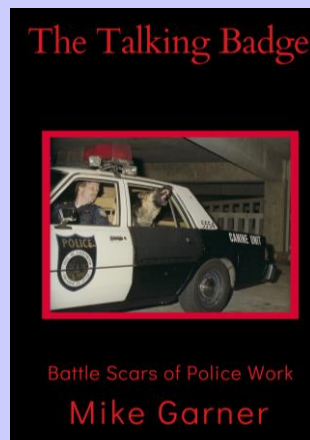
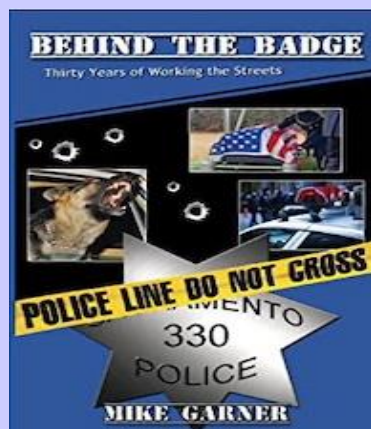
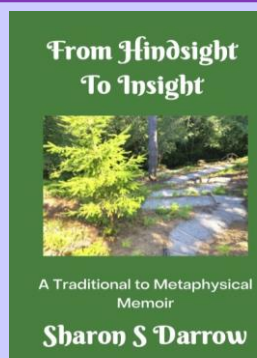
2022 has been a busy year thus far, and should stay that way through the end. In February we published Roberta Davis' great first SciFi novel [*Morphers and Mayhem, A Werefolk Tale*](#). I just finished an updated edition of my memoir [*From Hindsight to Insight, A Traditional to Metaphysical Memoir*](#) which is now available for preorder through Amazon. It will ship on November 1st.

[*The Talking Badge, Battle Scars of Police Work*](#) is almost finished. It, too, is available for preorder through Amazon and will ship on December 1st. This is Mike Garner's second book. Ken Umbach published his first book, [*Behind the Badge, Thirty Years of Working the Streets*](#) so the second will be published under the Umbach Publishing imprint of Samati Press to keep Ken's legacy alive.

Ken was one of the early members of NCPA, and a very special friend to those of us who knew him. Both Roberta and Mike are members of NCPA, so we all need to congratulate and support them.

I love writing and publishing my own work, but publishing for another author is incredibly satisfying as well. Watching their dream and hard work turn into a final product they can be proud of is amazing—I'm nearly as thrilled as they are, sort of like a proud grandparent!

Sharon Darrow



NCPA 29th ANNUAL BOOK AWARD COMPETITION

Now that the Book Award Banquet has faded into the background, it's time to get ready for the next competition. It is my honor to be the Competition Coordinator for the 9th year, in concert with Norma Jean Thornton, Michelle Hamilton, Chrissi Villa, and Amy Rogers. That means that anyone who has published, or will publish a book by December 31, 2022, should think about entering it in the competition.

Details such as prices and cut-off dates, in addition to application forms for the new competition was published on the NCPA website the end of August. We will start accepting submissions on October 1st 2022, and the last date for receiving submissions is January 31st 2023. Submissions can be in paper, Mobi (format used for Amazon) or pdf formats, but must be the exact same as what the reader will download online. The date for the Awards Banquet is May 7, 2023, and each submission includes one ticket for the banquet.

This year we are excited to add a totally new category for entries—**Collections.**

Anthologies, which include the work of multiple different writers, are still not accepted.

Collections can include multiple stories, poems, and/or essays, by ONE PERSON ONLY.

Now is the time to quit procrastinating: get those old short stories, novellas, poems, etc. you've written (and don't know what to do with) polished, published and entered in NCPA's 29th competition.

Sharon Darrow

2019 NCPA Anthologies



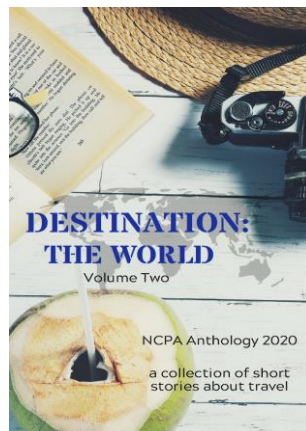
BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA Anthology
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals



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 \(amazon.com\)](http://NCPA Anthologies (5 book series) Ebook & Paperback Edition (amazon.com))



COVER FOR Beautiful Americas Vol 1



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

*** *Beautiful Americas* launch scheduled with Holiday Luncheon on 11 Dec 2022, Black Angus in Citrus Heights. * **SAVE THE DATE****

Get those thinking caps on and start writing now for two books in 2023:
* *Beautiful World* plus get your memories stirring for Our *3rd Volume of *ALL Holidays*
COMING SOON * A new dedicated Email address for these two



SHARON'S PERSONAL BIO

I've been passionate about three things my whole life: reading, flying, and animals.

Reading is as important to me as breathing, and one of my greatest joys now as an author is getting to know other writers. What could be more awesome than reading a fantastic book and being friends with the writer? Well, one thing is on the same level—hearing from readers that they enjoyed and appreciated my books. My hope is always to inspire and touch my readers.

Thanks to a marvelous husband who knows how much I love flying, I've been up in a hot air balloon, a two-man helicopter, a glider, and an open cockpit bi-plane. He even encouraged me to get my private pilot's license, and sympathized when I had to quit during the economy crash in 2008. Every minute in the air was amazing, and today I'd go up in anything, with anyone willing to take me, anytime, and anywhere. No wonder one of my writing idols is Richard Bach, pilot and author of *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* and my favorite book ever, *Illusions, The Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah*.

My love of animals made me want to be a veterinarian, but I fell in love and dropped out during my first year of college. I still made a contribution to animal welfare by raising 514 bottle-fed kittens, working an all-volunteer cat spay and neuter clinic every month for 20 years, and writing books about animal rescue.

Sacramento, California has been home for most of my life. My husband, Stan and I live next door to my parents, and share our home with our cats Gracie, Portia, Bonnie, Becca, and Ash. We also have three chickens, Bernice Williams, Anna Banana, and Lady Cluck, that fertilize and cultivate our garden while taking care of insects throughout the yard.

My philosophy of life is simple. If you find harmony within, you can make a difference to the people around you. That in turn spreads out and makes a difference in the world. Life just gets better each year as long as you keep dreaming and loving. *Sharon*

Editor's Note: SPEAKING OF CATS — I have a couple of comments to make on personal situations with my own cats, that have experienced diabetes (x2, both males) with insulin shots x2 daily, for each. They both knew when their shots were due and would jump up on the counter waiting for their jab. If we didn't come in immediately, they'd find us and let us know we were late – and would even follow along behind, nipping at our heels if we dallied even a little on our way in to give them meds. The boys were at separate times, and each experienced the same symptoms: losing weight, ratty looking fur, excessive drinking of water, thick pee ... really thick. Both presented at around 14-15 years of age.

Then came the partially blind, mostly deaf old granny-cat whose seizures progressed from occasionally, to 17 times in one day when she was 22 years. In between the boys and granny-cat, there were occasional seizures in 4 or 5 other furies we've had over the years (we've never had only one cat at a time. There have always been 3 or more, up to 5 together - not by choice, but grand-kitties). Plus, another 6 or 7 males & bouts with UTIs. (Caused by something in the food, supposedly) – easiest symptom to get your attention? Peeing in places they aren't supposed to – like on the couch, in the bathtub, on your bed, etc. etc. VET TIME! But you really have to watch the seizures. I have numerous scars from being in too-close contact during seizures.

Most recently ... two currently ... one male (12 years), one female (19 years) diagnosed with Hyperthyroidism and presenting with clumpy-knotted-dry fur, weight loss, vomiting, and nighttime vocalizing. A LOT ... and recently the female, with the most plaintive, eerie, long and loud yowls, even during the day. She sounds so pathetic, and I don't know if it's because she hurts, doesn't feel good, or just feels the need to do it, but it's totally stressing me. I can only imagine what it's doing to her. There are meds, x2/day, but the problem is, side effects from those meds are the same things as what the disease is doing to them, so this suddenly progressive daytime vocalizing worries me that it's due to the meds. She takes them fine. He refuses, stopped his constant loud purring which he always used to do, hides from me, and would spit the pills out each time I did try to poke them down him. I stopped trying and he's back to purring ... a little, at times. He has all the other symptoms including nighttime vocalizing.

RE WINDY's Hyperthyroidism I've used the word plaintive before, but unsure it was what I wanted here, so Googled to be sure it was correct, and checked on synonyms while at it: found lots more, which gave me an idea: **SEND me a SHORT OR FLASH STORY USING 3 OR MORE OF THESE SYNONYMS FOR PLAINTIVE:** (All stories submitted & accepted will be included in next newsletter) mournful · sad · wistful · doleful · pathetic · pitiful · piteous · melancholy · melancholic · sorrowful · unhappy · wretched · woeful · grief-stricken · broken-hearted · heartbroken · desolate · heart-rending * forlorn * woebegone * disconsolate · plangent · heartsick · dolorous

Thank you to DONORS @ NCPA Silent Auction during 2022 Book Awards Banquet

Need a speaker for your writing organization?

Meet the Amazing **Chrissi! (Christine L. "Chrissi" Villa)** NCPA's Secret Jewel!
Find out from Chrissi how to write a book for children - then ask her how to have your children write a book for you! Chrissivilla@gmail.com

Great info on just a little bit more of what Chrissi does in her "spare" time -- she also did the Book Trailer on *Eskalets* (below)-- in addition to writing the book and taking all the pictures in it --- I'm totally mesmerized!

Chrissi's also a Poet and has her own Publishing website for that: *Velvet Dusk Publishing* - she does Tanka and Haiku plus more - plus her *Purple Candy Arts* includes Arts & Crafts as well as publishing --- Chrissi's one busy little bee! Just a sampling of what she does:

- Chrissi's Email - Chrissivilla@gmail.com
- Chrissi's Book Trailer on her book of birds - [Eskalets - Christine L. Villa \(christinevilla.com\)](http://www.christinevilla.com) (THIS ONE on a family of birds IS GORGEOUS! CHECK IT OUT!)
- Website - www.christinevilla.com
- Website - <http://www.christinevilla.com/about-me.html>
- Chrissi's Poetry Pub Website - [About - Velvet Dusk Publishing](http://www.velvetduskpublishing.com)
- Pub website: Chrissi's Arts & Crafts plus Publishing - www.purplecandyarts.com
- Readers of Purple Candy Arts Books - [chrissi villa books\](http://www.chrissivilla.com) - [Bing images](http://www.bing.com) (some aren't Chrissi's --- you just need to look for her and the kids; LOTS of them!)
- 2019 Filipino News Article on Chrissi - <https://www.asianjournal.com/magazines/mdwk-magazine/teaching-kids-a-deeper-appreciation-of-their-heritage/>
- An oldie but a Goodie; Chrissi's HAIKU Poems - [NaHaiWriMo - Chrissi Villa](http://www.nahaiwri.com)

Want your name and info advertised here? It's really simple:

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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**

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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 & *NCPA member Barbara Barrett for the set of lantern-shaped cut-glass candle holders

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

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<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 OPEN: Try this one: thanks to**

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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://ElkGroveWritersGuild.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 (SJVW Branch CWC) FREE** Monthly Meetings generally **2nd Saturday** of each month 12Noon-2:30pm UOP in Stockton - Questions? June Gillam

President SJVW-CWC **<https://junegillam.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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Sunday afternoon meetings with or without guest speakers **now 2nd Sun of each month**
In Person 1pm & Zoom 1:30pm **TEMPORARY Location: SEP 2022 Black Angus Restaurant**
@ Greenback & Sunrise, Citrus Heights (on Greenback, across from Sunrise Mall)

No purchase necessary but at least a soda/drink would be appreciated *

Meetings always FREE ~ Visitors always welcome.

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**

www.norcalpa.org

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA)

PO Box 214673 ~ Sacramento, CA 95821

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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* 2016-2022