

www.norcalpa.org

The Pen & Press

Sun 13 November 1pm-3pm Meeting

Our ever popular once gone but not forgotten & brought back after a 5-year hiatus

BOOKS on DISPLAY to EXCHANGE &/or SELL

Our guest speakers will be YOU, any NCPA member in attendance who wishes to talk about your book/s

NCPA MEMBERS (only) who have published books, no matter when, bring them in to brag about, share, sell &/or barter

Everyone is welcome to attend but ONLY NCPA MEMBERS may bring and sell their books. Have books you'd like to show, but not a member? Membership only \$40 - join that night and set-up your books. Please RSVP a reply to this Email (Norma) - so we'll know how much table space we'll need for books

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) Gone when we started having our Holiday Luncheon at the Black Angus, but not forgotten, we bring back the ever-popular oldie, but goodie Book Exchange / Network & Schmooze. NCPA MEMBERS (only) who have published books, no matter when, bring them in to brag about, share, sell &/or barter.

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

Guest Journalist for Dec NCPA newsletter will be NCPA member & author Andrea Roth – With a chatty letter all the way from their new home in the 'dismal swamp' in Chesapeake VA!

SAVE THE DATE - 12 Noon Sun 11 DECEMBER * Black Angus

Holiday Luncheon * & * Anthology Launch for Beautiful Americas

DEC MEETING TIME CHANGE * 12 Noon instead of 1pm

Guest Journalist for Jan 2023: NCPA member & author 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 5

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. **2ND Note:** unless there's more participation on ZOOM meetings, b/c of problems

NOVEMBER 2022 will be the final time ZOOM will be used for monthly meetings

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

President's Message – NOT THIS MONTH it's --- Editor's Message

Instead, one from the newsletter editor regarding a bunch of different, specific important stuff, especially including the following rules regarding stories for anthologies (NCPA's in particular), it's a minor touch on self-pub v traditional publishing, "all caps, '!', and", and the major, very important, importance of critique groups in all of the above – all leading up to some changes in the way NCPA will be accepting stories for our anthologies. PLEASE READ – some of it is really IMPORTANT for anyone submitting a story for an NCPA anthology in the future. (RULES APPLIED DIFFERENTLY FOR FIRST TIME SUBMITTERS TO THE ANTHOLOGY, THAN FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN AT LEAST TWO OF OUR PRIOR ANTHOLOGIES). (I'm NOT yelling --- this is addressed further down)

While proofing the anthologies and sending stories back to authors with my/our questions, corrections, adjustments, clarifications or an occasional rejection, I've found it's always best to NOT do it by email.

Besides just not using any social media at all, the only way to prevent instant potential confusion, anger and/or sometimes emotional disaster, is to not take anything personal (and it's really hard not to) when using Email, FB, Twitter and those other tempting things (to some) that I don't use and don't know the names of (except Email - of which, I can never remember the proper way to spell it, and auto-check's no help, because it changes from one time to the next on both the computer and cell phone, whether or not to capitalize or hyphenate). And yes, I know that's one long-winded sentence, but that's how I talk (stream of consciousness), and is what happens when you see it written!

When I was growing up and in school in the very early 1940s through 1960, communication was easy, very simple, and usually, once uttered, quickly forgotten. Out of sight, out of mind.

People actually talked to one another, and we either communicated silently by handwriting or just plain typing, and there was never any of this back-and-forth whining and/or emoji stuff ... it simply took too long ... and there were more important things to do than quibble over some petty stuff written on paper, that was easy to throw away, instead of winding up on a cloud somewhere where it remains for eternity, to come back and haunt someone at the most inopportune of times, and possibly bringing up all that potential resentment from weeks or months ago.

Back then, rhyming was considered poetry, but somewhere in the early 2010 group of years I was informed by a young, professional author, who was also an English teacher, that rhymes aren't considered poems. Really? Then, a year or so later, a professional children's editor from an SCBWI conference advised all in her session that publishers no longer accept rhyming children's books because kids won't read them and those books don't sell. B.S.!

Also in the same time frame, I was told by younger authors that ellipses don't mean a pregnant pause, like I was raised using it/them: for example, a few of those fun little dots that are so great when writing stream-of-consciousness, like: or sometimes a lot: and in extreme cases, depending on what I was writing about at the time, an occasional bunch: instead of the accepted: ...!

To make matters worse, I just found out that an exclamation mark now means the same thing as TYPING IN CAPS does and implies YELLING - thus multiple !!!s must mean really SCREAMING? Who knew? Certainly not me, or I wouldn't be doing it!!!

Or would I? Probably would, because I'm old and don't like change, and I don't mean anything negative with any of those fun little things. If I did, I'd also pepper in a few choice words that would be obvious, and have to be edited out.

Dang! All of my favorite things - capitalizing for emphasis - exclamation marks for excitement – ellipses for a well-deserved pause - rhyming poems because they're fun, especially for kids – now shouldn't be written.....

Hogwash!!!

I beg to differ, and draw the line on not writing rhyming kid stories because since then, I constantly ask all the little kids I'm around, plus their parents, including a passel of my own grands and greats, and they all love the rhyming stuff!!! At times I BALK at all that other stuff and write what I want, and how I want –


But I still do try to follow the rules. It's just that there are so many that have changed since I learned them 60-70 some years ago, like one space instead of two between sentences. WHY?? Are they just too lazy to type two?

That one I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO DO. As the saying goes, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks!"

And THAT'S one reason why I wound up self-publishing!!!

HOWEVER, ... saying all that, when writing for someone else, their rules must apply, and that

includes anthologies, of which NCPA has completed 6, soon to be 7, in December, hopefully, with numbers 8 and 9 coming in 2023. And, with those two new ones, come new rules and regulations:

- **WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NEWBIES, NOT EVERY STORY WILL BE ACCEPTED, IF THERE ARE MAJOR ISSUES like we've been covering for,** and has been the practice in the past. From now on authors, be sure, especially if you've submitted and been in more than one NCPA anthology already, that your story is professional and ready, the same as though you were submitting to a top-grade publisher. If it isn't, talk to Norma (or Sharon or Michelle) about joining one – or more – of the critique groups we've just implemented. Even if you already belong to a critique group, because obviously, something's not clicking, and we need to find a solution, if not a why. It's always possible that the author is at least partly, if not entirely, the problem. Things shared/learned need to be applied in order to remember them. I experience that daily, with these stories. (My generic, non-genre specific crit group will also focus on anthology stuff)
 - I'm willing to work one-on-one with some of the minor problems we're seeing, but I'm a proofreader, not an editor, and I don't know many of the necessary things well enough to try to explain or help with (I'm still learning myself on some of this) ... those are the ones I pass on to editors Bob, Sharon and Michelle.
 - None of us have the time anymore to do as much work as we've been doing on a few of these stories, so there are two solutions:
 - 1st, I'll (Norma) be sending an Email to each member who in the past, we've noticed some bad habits, or minor problems occurring/repeating (like past/present/current tense --- I can't help with those, as I struggle with them, as well as others, myself at times. That's a Michelle, Bob, possibly Sharon, EDITING situation)
 - Most likely, a single one-on-one session will be all that's necessary in this case, so the author can see on paper, and discuss, what their problem/s is/are. If not, and more sessions are necessary, probably just attending a regular critique group meeting with others who likely have the same issues, can be beneficiary, since stuff can be hashed out, and learned together. Strength in numbers!
 - 2nd, if you know, or just feel that you might have a problem, or have questions, it's great to check with us prior to submitting ... If you don't get an Email from me after you've submitted a story, letting you know that we feel at least a single one-on-one meeting would help you with your writing, you can just attend one (or more) of my critique group meetings, and we can discuss it further to decide which is the best way to go, including joining Sharon or Michelle's critique group --- again, even if you already belong to one, or more.
 - 3rd – I know – I *can* count, but of course, there's always that third way of dealing with things – and almost always it's the WRONG WAY --- if you get a suggested one-on-one Email after submitting your story, you can just say forget it and withdraw, or just don't bother submitting, in anticipation. While you're at it, just stop writing all together, because unless you actually try to make your writing better, you never will if you give up on something as easy as this helpful solution. AND THE BENEFITS ARE AMAZING! You're published, and THIS TIME, you pretty much did it yourself, instead of us running out of time and just cleaning up someone else's sloppy writing, rather than take extra time and make the anthology later by having to wait for the back-and-forth through Email. THAT'S WHY I LIKE IN-PERSON CRITIQUE GROUPS! And, if you read through the prior bunch of stuff I wrote, you'll notice why all the CAPS, and other things --- and you also know that I'm not yelling at you --- just trying to bring them quickly to your attention, without having to read every word written ... because there's definitely a lot, probably way too many, but I'm always concerned about offending, or hurting someone's feelings, and try to explain it away, which generally doesn't work, and possibly just annoys, or bores some/ many. For that, I apologize. (I also use "just" too much).
-  I suggest you go to our NCPA website * norcalpa.org * and on the main page, click on newsletters. Continue on to the ***SEPTEMBER 2022** newsletter, and open it. On pages 2 and 3 Michelle gives a bunch of great information about critique groups. If you haven't already read that, you really should. We want your stories. We've gotten some good ones, some great ones, and also an occasional not so good, but we also want those authors who could use a

little help, to learn from the process, if they're struggling, or turn in a not-so-perfect story, to make it a good, or even a great one, but those authors also need to take the initiative to join us in making their story better.

For example, the following are things I've written to one or more of our anthology authors, and will probably be sending more of with the next two anthologies. They might be repeated elsewhere in this, worded differently, but I'm not taking the time to go back to find and adjust.

- ✓ I'd recommend that you join one of our critique groups for a few sessions, at least, to ask some questions and possibly get some guidance? Mine will be starting sometime in Jan or Feb, and I'll be sending info out on what that one's going to cover since it's a basic, generic non-genre-specific group and will be especially utilized with/for the anthologies.
- ✓ We'll be a little tighter on stories submitted to the next two anthologies, since we've been doing this for a while now, and I'm noticing a lot of repeat errors/ mistakes/ whatever, so we need to help authors write better. When I get a story that has issues, they'll be highlighted and the story will be returned for the author to correct, instead of us muddling through trying to correct it for the author, who isn't learning anything if said author isn't aware of the problems they have.

IMPORTANT EXCERPTS FROM MICHELLE'S SEPT 2022 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE on Crit Groups

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: <SNIP> *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 critique readers when they suggest something isn't gelling in your work? Do you get defensive and "fight" back?
 1. 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, 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 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. <SNIP> 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.
 - b.

***FOR MICHELLE'S COMPLETE MESSAGE ON CRITIQUE GROUPS, READ THE SEP 2022 NEWSLETTER**

Look for the star at the bottom of page 3 for instructions to find it at norcalpa.org



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=aEJaTGlyakhBQ1pYWU5KS3FEanBTU09>

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

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+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=aEJaTGlyakhBQ1pYWU5KS3FEanBTU09>

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.

Note: unless there's more participation on ZOOM meetings, b/c of problems NOVEMBER 2022 will be the final time ZOOM will be used for monthly meetings

ANTHOLOGY UPDATE

Beautiful Americas, NCPA's final anthology for 2022, with 30 authors and 30 stories, is in the formatting phase now. When that's finished, one final proof from cover to cover (that should only take a day) and it's off to Sharon & Michelle for them to do their magic with Amazon to get this thing printed / published, hopefully in time for our scheduled launch on Sun 11 December!

Once that's done, we'll be requesting stories for the 2023 anthologies --- *Beautiful World & All Holidays Vol 3* ---

In the meantime, you can start writing your stories and getting them in tip-top condition to submit. Pay attention to what's written on pages 2-4 in this newsletter regarding the new way we'll be working the stories. A few of you are still having issues with some things, and I've noticed a pattern in several writings --- example: I always use "that" and "just" way too often, and have to re-read and proof myself to make sure I've dwindled them down to a manageable amount before sending on for an edit. ALSO – Michelle is getting tight with the usage of "OK" – she wants the word spelled out to "okay" – I'm really guilty of that one, too.

We all need to double check our work, because my intent is to return those things to each offending author and have the author make all corrections. If I don't, those with problems will never learn, and so far, we've been making many of the corrections ourselves. Authors can't correct what they have wrong, if they don't know they're doing things wrong. It's just that it's so much quicker to do it myself and takes so long to return to the author for corrections, then wait to get the story back before I can send it on to the next phase, that it's frustrating. **INFO CAN BE FOUND ON MAIN PAGE OF WEBSITE AT NORCALPA.ORG** More detailed info

coming in Dec newsletter: a few important details now: **Questions? Send to Dedicated Email 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com**

500-3000 word max for *World* (ANYWHERE else in the world, but NONE of the Americas) & NO POETRY

500-3500 word max for *Holidays* – POETRY accepted, AFTER you've ALSO submitted a story

MUST BE CURRENT NCPA MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING

NANOWRIMO NEWS FOR NOVEMBER**Not a lot, but a few are better than none!****Let's work on this - AS A GROUP - for next Nov --- 2023!****Thanks June – and GOOD LUCK!**

- June Gillam <gorillagirlink@gmail.com>

To: Norma THORNTON Wed, Nov 2 at 9:33 AM

Hi and yes, I'm doing nano, thanks for asking!

Starting book 6 in Hillary Broome Series, *Fallen Kings*

Author June Gillam, PhD, she/her

www.junegillam.com

Hillary Broome Novels & Writing Workshops

San Joaquin Valley Writers, President

- Barbara Klide hadn't heard of NANOWRIMO before, but says: So thanks for that info. I may use the process for myself in the near future, but will miss the month of November this year.

CONGRATULATIONS & GOOD LUCK TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATEKeep me posted on your progress, even if you didn't respond here.
& thank you to all who did respond, whether participating or not!**Bitsy Kemper says:** Wed, Nov 2 at 12:40 PM

Best of luck to you and NaNoWriMo! I'm not participating but will cheer you from the sidelines.

**NCPA Oct & Nov 2022
GUEST JOURNALIST
Meet Barbara KLIDE**

Barbara graduated with an MBA from Golden Gate University, San Francisco, and a Certificate in Graphic Design from the University of California, Davis. She retired from Director of Marketing for Quest Technology Management, California. A member of NCPA she's published in each of the anthologies, and Barbara's Canada goose compendium series has received much acclaim including from Dr. Lorin Lindner, PhD, *Wolves and Warriors*, as seen on Animal Planet and Bill Bianco, President, Audubon Society, Sacto.

**NCPA Oct & Nov 2022
GUEST JOURNALIST
Barbara KLIDE**

Born in NYC, Barbara is the author of the book trilogy, *Along Came Ryan...the Little Gosling King*, the true saga of a mated pair of elegant, sensitive and smart Canada geese and their offspring who nested three years in a row where she works. She donates book profits to various wildlife rescue groups.

She also has published short stories in the NCPA Anthology series of books.

SUMMARY of Barbara's 3-part "short stories" (AKA Book Reports?)

Klide's topic as guest journalist for the Oct (part 1) & Nov (part 2) newsletters – plus her story in the upcoming NCPA All Holidays Vol 3 anthology coming Dec 2023 (*Henry Miller and the Burned Turkey* – a fun read)

Consuming Henry Miller's books and writing these three short stories was nothing short of rewarding and mind blowing all at once. The two book reports (Oct & Nov newsletters) happened because of my burning a Thanksgiving turkey as a teen (the initial short story) after I got hung up thumbing through Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* in a bookstore, a book that even the Supreme Court took to reading some thirty years after publication, for which they made their own pronouncement (read short story #3 in NCPA's *All Holidays Vol 3* anthology scheduled to publish end of 2023), when I should have been home tending to a turkey roasting in an oven.

In the course of reading *Colossus of Maroussi* there was a coincidental surprise of surprises, Miller says something to the effect that, "this day should not be Thanksgiving, but Easter!" How many books are there that mention Thanksgiving? OK, maybe quite a few and maybe I'm stretching the connection and perhaps you, the reader, suspect that I may have imbibed some of that Black Laurel. For me, though, I wanted to believe. And when I read those words, I gave it a pass since it gave me the chills—that vague déjà vu feeling that it was one of life's little gifts.

In any event, this has turned into a dissertation about Mr. Miller and it has been a joy, pleasure, and an honor to be both an observer and a student in the writing realm of Henry Miller. ∞ **Barbara KLIDE – continued on page 7**

\$\$\$**WRITE FOR HARLEQUIN CARINA PRESS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES****\$\$\$**<http://carinapress.com/blog/submission-guidelines/>Carina Press accepts **both agented and unagented submissions**

(Continued from page 6)

Henry Miller in Greece or Esprit d'escalier—the wit of the staircase

Barbara Klide

Part two in Barbara's three-part short story series: Henry Miller and the Burned Turkey Continued from Part one in Oct Newsletter

Editor's Note: Portions of the following will also be in the third and final part of Barbara's three-part short story series,

Henry Miller and the Burned Turkey

as Barbara's story in the upcoming *NCPA ALL Holidays Vol 3* anthology scheduled to publish in late 2023

Part two in the three-part short story series: Henry Miller and the Burned Turkey

Another of Henry Miller's books piqued my interest, curious as I was to investigate his writing trajectory, and in turn, his personal evolution. I chose *The Colossus of Maroussi*—it has been called “an impressionist travelogue” written several years after *Tropic of Cancer*. You can imagine that I had no desire to slog through content that would again offend my sensibilities laden with excessive pornography, and I hoped this wouldn't—I needed a break. Like a sommelier, I had to cleanse my palate with the simple, starchy flavor of white bread. A nice French bread would do.

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald had been in my sights having recently entered the public domain in 2021, and due to researching quotes that I could legally use in my own books, of which Fitzgerald had a few. It was yet one more (of many books) that passed me by years ago. It was also written in the first-person which appealed to me. More importantly, it was the exact opposite of *Tropic of Cancer* with *Gatsby*'s sheer materialism, living the American dream—starchy white bread for sure.

∞

I finished reading *Gatsby* (I have no intention of doing a study on it), having done its intended job, and now, with palate sufficiently cleansed and neutralized, I can't wait to dive into Henry Miller's *Colossus of Maroussi*.

As I began reading Miller's book about his Greek travels, I was reminded of my own youthful European journeys. I met many locals and other travelers, and noted similar feelings as I explored Miller's own idiosyncratic observations and they are exactly as had been described in other book reviews, “impressionistic”. I can add to that—this book is also refreshingly sans the overindulgent pornography of *Tropic of Cancer*, that being the first Henry Miller book I ever read. Further, this is not a Rick Steves' travel guide having far less suggestions for travel modes, but is more on the exploration and immersion into the way of life of its residents taking the less-traveled approach. Miller is organic, writing with abandon as he ever did.

I thought I could simultaneously read *Colossus of Maroussi* and with great ease collect and impart my thoughts—not so when dealing with Henry Miller. Never underestimate his power to take you on an intensely exhilarating ride.

On several occasions, Miller focuses on a local (who was more important than I realized at the start) about whom he says, “He talked about himself because he was the most interesting person he knew. I like that quality myself—I have a little of it myself.” I took this to be not so much a pronouncement of Miller's conceit, but a realization of his own ability to express all that he believes to be true on any given topic.

What I ultimately found was a man on a nine-month sojourn in a cleaner, healthier environment, than that of Henry Miller's Paris in *Tropic of Cancer*, though he was still with “...no home, no dependents, no boss, no aim.”

My sense about Miller's journey was he wanted peace and to find himself, and was rewarded in such a way that, I too was lifted up with him. I felt like I had completed an introductory course on Henry Miller, though self-directed, having chosen to dive in the deep end first with *Tropic of Cancer*, ultimately with him on an unorthodox trip in an inspiring destination to Greece.

Miller was seduced by Greece's beauty and people, falling madly in love with both and with a pure and hopeful heart, continued in his inimitable way to memorialize his impressions. He was still living free, but not so much the hobo in the partial fiction, partial memoir of his former book. Still sometimes I found him to be dishonest with individual people, though tantalizingly honest with his readers.

Miller is lighter and airier in this book and is still on a quest for a utopia for which Greece, it appears to him, is as close to—as much as the heavens themselves. I felt, as I continued reading, that Henry Miller would have been most happy in the Garden of Eden. Of course, in the “garden of Greece”, he was on a natural high; occasionally one influenced by a pint of Retsina a shot of ouzo, or a snifter of cognac.

I did find some typically introspective moments where Miller spewed these revelations, “I need to be alone. I need to ponder my shame and my despair in seclusion; I need the sunshine and the paving stones of the streets without companions, without conversation, face to face with myself, with only the music of my heart for company.” He was at home in a land of Greek Gods of writing—the poets, philosophers and the exquisite Grecian land and sea. **Continued on page 9**

Words in the News

PYRRHIC – a new one to me: link gives definition, origin and how to pronounce

https://www.google.com/search?q=pyrrhic+meaning&client=safari&channel=ipad_bm&sxsrf=ALiCzsYb7f6lFdyvYIXzWDLgVGc25Pzxew%3A1668107300615&source=hp&ei=JExtY5KUG_3TkPIPyqy5kAl&oq=pyrrhic&gs_lcp=ChFtb2JpbGUtZ3dzLXdppei1ocBAGAlYDQgAEIAEELEDEIMBEAoyDQgAEIAEELEDEIMBEAoyDQgAEIAEELEDEIMBEAoyDQgAEIAEELEDEIMBEAoyDQgAEIAEELEDEIMBEAoyBwgAEIAEEAoyBwgAEIAEEAoyBwgAEIAEEAoyBwgAEIAEEAoyBwgAEIAEELEDEIMBOgsILhCABBDHARDRAzoICAQsQMqgWE6CggUEMcBEK8BECc6CAguEIAEELEDOgsILhCABBCxAXCDAToICAQgAQQsQM6CAgAEIAEEMkDOgUIABCSAzoFCAAQgAQ6CggAEIAEELEDEAoyDQguEIAEELEDENQCEApQjAIY7RIgry5oAHAAeACAAb4BiAGHCplBAzAuOJgBAKABAbABDw&scient=mobile-gws-wiz-hp

TWISTED WORDS CHUCKLE TIME

- If you were scared half to death twice, would you be 3/4 dead or 100% dead?
- If the cops arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?
- If you ate pasta and antipasti, would you still be hungry?
- If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest end up drowning as well?
- What should you do if you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

TWISTED WORDS (from anthology stories)

HOOFs v HOOVES

Both are acceptable, but hooves have been preferred for past 50 years or so

ON GUARD v EN GARDE

https://www.google.com/search?q=on+guard+v+en+garde&client=safari&channel=ipad_bm&sxsrf=ALiCzsY7VI-q4igZvfahKWYWD_iget8tlq%3A1667771815828&source=hp&ei=py1oY6KBLedgkPIP1vSj4Ao&oq=on+guard+v+en+garde&gs_lcp=ChFtb2JpbGUtZ3dzLXdppei1ocLgBA_gBATIGEAAyFhgeMgUQABiGAzIFEAAyhgMyBRAH GKABMgUQIRigATIFECEYOAeyBRAH GKABWglHECMY6gIYJ8ICBxAuGOoCGCfCAgQQIxnwglLEAAyGAYsQMYgWCAhEQLhiABBixAXiDARjHARjRA8ICCAuGIAEGLEDGIMBwglLEC4YgWEYsQMYgATCAgQLhiABBjHARjRA8ICDhAuGIAEGLEDGIMBGNQCwglFEAAyGATCAgQLhiABBixA8ICCAuGLEDDGIMBGNQCwglJEAAYgAYQYChgDwglLEC4YgAYsQMY1ALCAggQABIABBixA8ICCAuGIAEGMcBGK8BwglHEAAyGAYQYCsICBRAH GKsCwglIECEYFhgeGB2oAg9lI2RQjwhYmFRwAXgAYAEAKAEAmAhPaAB4xagAQYwLjE4LjE&scient=mobile-gws-wiz-hp

UPCOMING Conference DATES Info thanks to SSWC newsletter:

Palm Springs Writers Retreat—ROHM LITERARY RETREATS & COURSES

Date: December 12-16, 2022, or Weekend Workshop, Dec. 17-18, 2022

Write with NY Times best-selling authors & literary agents.

<https://www.pariswritersretreat.com/palmspringwritersretreat.html>

CAL EXPO EVENTS 2022 & 2023 * & * CA STATE FAIR 2023 [Home - State Fair - Cal Expo & State Fair \(calpostatefair.com\)](https://www.calpostatefair.com)

UPCOMING EVENTS @ CAL EXPO: HARVEST FESTIVAL 18 -20 Nov * IMAGINARIUM 18 Nov-31 Dec * HMONG NEW YEAR Festival 25-27 Nov * CA State FAIR 14 – 30 JULY 2023 * AUTHORS BOOTH – ARTS & KITCHEN COMPETITION *

BIG EVENT FOR HORSE LOVERS & AUTHORS of HORSES 1-4 Dec 2022

Wav to Go Rae! Congratulations!

Filmmakers all over the world will be here & NCPA's very own member & author Rae Rankin will manage the Literary Corral

EQUUS Film & Arts Fest to Host "Mustang Summit" in Sacramento California, December 1 – 4, 2022 - American Horse Publications (americanhorsepubs.org)

Holiday Artisan Faire Maidu Community Center Roseville 19 Nov

Enchant Christmas.com – Christmas Light Maze & Village Sutter Health Park, Sacramento --- 25 Nov -1 Jan 2023

Continued from page 7

In another instance, Miller makes a strong pronouncement that: "I am done with civilization and its spawn of cultured souls...From now on, I am a nomad, a spiritual nobody. Take your fabricated world and put it away in the museums. I don't want it, can't use it...We are to know one day what it is to have life eternal—*when we have ceased to murder.*" The thoughts of which summed up his very pacifistic beliefs which carried him throughout his life.

∞

More decrees while in various cities...

- It was time for Miller to visit the island of Crete "the cradle of civilization". At Knossos, which introduced the alphabet to the Western World, he seemed at times to have gone completely mad, or was it his artistic imaginings that he wrote for his readers and for effect? It was a madness that may have stemmed from his disgust and frustration of the dark side of civilization and humans even so far as Miller being a luddite—eschewing even airplanes when it would have been expedient. He takes you instead on foot, in a car, or in a boat out at sea, and in towns, and up to the high, farthest mountains, and places of wonderment as enchanting as any on the face of the planet. Here he concluded that, "The great and fundamental lack, which is apparent everywhere in our civilized world, is the fatal absence of anything approaching a communal existence."
- In a climactic moment of Miller's Greek journey, he reached an apogee, sending him into a blissful state, "This is the first day of my life." He appeared so happy sending out a benediction, blessing the whole world visiting the palatial ruins surrounded by plains and majestic mountains, "a place of beauty joy and peace...a moment of bliss" in anticipation of climbing a steep bluff to Phaestos, the abode of Queens." All is so sublime for Miller, "It stills the very process of thought" this place, Phaestos, the center of the universe."

And this is the Henry Miller I'd hoped he'd become after the raw and unhappy version of him in *Tropic of Cancer*.

- Traveling during a time of pre-war Greece he pontificated on the past, present, and future of humankind which flowed from this pacifist of a man. And finally, he had the "imperious desire" to go to Athens, a phrase I recall from Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson. Not sure if this was a commonly used phrase at the time or one Miller simply "borrowed" a little over 50 years after Stevenson published his own book with using that phrase in 1886.

There In Athens, Miller realized that to some, "beauty was incidental, for us everything." And that, Greece as a whole, is almost the symbol for our "unappeasable lust for beauty, passion, love."

Miller offered impressions of many more places he visited including Thebes and Delphi with even more descriptions: analogies, beautiful and dark all at once, travelling alone and with friends he met along the way that appear throughout the book offering a thread of story

It's truly fascinating that Miller's descriptions of people, places, and things can shift with his personal perception of them; from a heaven-like scenario to the ugliness of hades and everything in between—all of which Miller paints with words that easily stream from his being.

His experience with a particular wine and its effect on him knocked my socks off. It was an exotic wine called mavrodaphne, a dark wine with a purplish reflected color and a mixed aroma of coffee, chocolate, plums, and caramel and meaning "black laurel". I won't relay more than the following taste of the full passage of well-over 100 amazingly strung together words, in case you plan to read the book for yourself: "...one feels as nimble as the antelope and yet powerless to move...But above all it makes the heart glow." (See page 142 of a New Directions paper book publication.)

At one point Miller consults an unsuspecting person who seemingly sheds light on who Miller was and would become, and I thought just maybe would be the climactic lead up to producing the answer to a dilemma which was building in my mind. Why did Miller name his book, *Colossus of Maroussi*? It was not.

As I neared the end of the book, I kept hoping for Miller to mention the name of the book within the pages which authors often do, and furnish the title's meaning. With each page I turned, I was disappointed wondering if I had somehow missed it in earlier passages and it was becoming worrisome.

Miller had a purpose for his title, *Tropic of Cancer*. He had stated that, "Cancer symbolizes the disease of civilization." The title seemed to be a key in all that I learned, but I then recalled that there was no mention of the title itself within the pages of that book.

However, this book was dedicated to Giorgos Katsimbalis the local Greek intellectual, poet and storyteller, who he met in Greece and whose manner of living life to the fullest, Miller found impressive. He particularly admired Katsimbalis' unique stance where such a person would never "...inquire which side of the fence you are on because the world they inhabit has no fences." I too admire that since I believe that we are all on this planet together and need to have rational discourse over our differences in order to thrive.

Continued on page 11

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*

NCPA CRITIQUE GROUPS

Sharon Darrow started a non-fiction and memoirs critique group in Jan 2022 - - via Zoom

Contact Sharon: sharonsdarrowcritiquegroup@gmail.com

Michelle Hamilton started a Fiction critique group in October 2022 - by Zoom

Contact Michelle: authormlhamilton@gmail.com

ANOTHER CRITIQUE GROUP COMING SOON

Norma Jean Thornton will be doing a basic, non-specific genre critique group sometime early 2023 - LIVE & IN PERSON Days &/or nights, times, locations, extra days or nights TBD once we start setting up the initial time. If necessary, we can have meetings once a month, twice a month, or once a week, whatever's needed, including taking one day a month, or ???, to focus specifically on writing anthology stories, if anyone would like extra help, or if I request one or more of you to have a one-on-one with me. Full details and Contact info coming late December 2022.

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. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ENTER THE BOOK AWARDS, BUT IT'S CHEAPER**

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 AUTHOR ONLY.**

• *Sharon Darrow*

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WINDOWS Updates features & fixes: <https://www.komando.com/security-privacy/optional-windows-updates/862931/>

Next Generation Indie 2023 Book Awards accepting entries through 10 Feb 2023 <https://www.indiebookawards.com> ---

Indie info thanks to EGWG newsletter:

Continued from page 9

By book's end, though, I still had no answer. Finally, the title dilemma manifested itself well after I had turned the last page and began writing this review. I Googled the Colossus of Maroussi and the only item that kept coming up was Miller's book. I am embarrassed to admit that I thought the Colossus of Maroussi was some sort of ancient Grecian ruins. With further investigation, I discovered that Maroussi is a suburb of Athens—and that there is no colossus!

"Esprit d'escalier" or "the wit of the staircase" hit me like a ton of bricks. I was just too dense to see it. The title, *Colossus of Maroussi*, was Miller's reference to Giorgos Katsimbalis all along. Why was I so late in figuring this out? I do not know. I should have known because for all his faults, Henry Miller is nothing less than generous and with his admiration of the man he mentioned throughout the book, he *had* to entitle the book for him—the "colossus" was a man.

Miller's last day in Greece was in Delphi awaiting passage on a ship to New York influenced by the coming of World War II—and, at this point, Miller wants nothing less than a utopia or at least wishes for one, but I don't think the human animal is capable of such a world, though we have seen partial utopias bubble up in some times and places, but few and far between.

∞

I am inclined to read more Henry Miller as I have been beguiled by the depth of his human journey and how very much it parallels my journey, but by far a deeper, shinier, more intelligent take on life than my own mere commoner's thoughts.

Of course, there are variations in perception as one person is different from another. But I will take a break before I do so as I've done before—though I was tempted. I thought better of ordering two more Miller books, *Black Spring* and *Tropic of Capricorn*, both highly pornographic I understand. The truth is that I just did not have the appetite, or stamina, to wade through sexual antics in order to reach his extraordinarily written thoughts. I seek other genres right now—maybe a nice "take me away" Diana Gabaldon book—historical fiction with a little fantasy thrown in.

For you, the reader, if you are already familiar with Miller's writing or are just open to taking an unusual trip to Greece, you may like *Colossus of Maroussi* as much as I did.

∞

My goal in reading *Colossus of Maroussi* was to see how Henry Miller evolved. And I came upon the book's own conclusion not at the end of the book, but when Miller was sitting alone in an amphitheater on the island of Epidaurus. Miller understood the meaning of peace to be gained surrendering one's ego to it. He stated that his greatest enemy, after vanquishing all his enemies, was himself and even to conquer himself is the last act of egotism and that there is nothing more to conquer. And that an ocean of peace lay before him bringing the healing light and the warmth of compassion, and that real peace is found in the heart—the amphitheater only a symbol of it.

In retrospect, the finality of my Henry Miller studies can be summed up simply. He embraced a sort of religion of true love, living with the dignity and love exuded by the peoples of Greece. He was carefree without industry except writing, making friends, eating, and simply enjoying himself seeking a more earthy peace and to live simply. He was the original "raging man against the machine" (pre the band of the early 90s with a similar name), but supremely intellectual without the rabidity). In his writings over the years, Miller continued quietly proselytizing for a humane and just world unlike the rather hateful rantings of some who took this thinking to a clearly-non-pacifistic level.

Finally, in Henry Miller's own summary he wrote, in a clear-headed moment, "...in the stillness in the great peace that came over me, I heard the heart of the world beat."

∞

A few more inspirational Henry Miller quotes:

Some of those quotes I referenced from Henry Miller's later writings, showing his continued evolution which held a great deal of weight for me include:

"Develop an interest in life as you see it; the people, things, literature, music - the world is so rich, simply throbbing with rich treasures, beautiful souls and interesting people. Forget yourself."

"The aim of life is to live, and to live means to be aware, joyously, drunkenly, serenely, divinely aware."

...We all derive from the same source. there is no mystery about the origin of things. We are all part of creation, all kings, all poets, all musicians; we have only to open up, only to discover what is already there."

End

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

2019 NCPA Anthologies

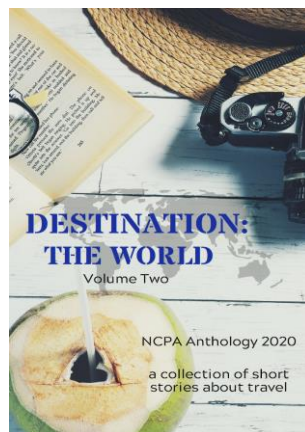


BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA Anthology
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals



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

2020 NCPA Anthologies



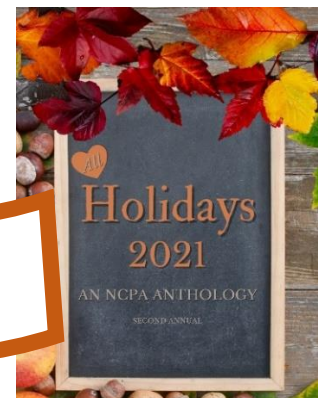
ALL (five) 2019 & 2020 ANTHOLOGY BOOKS (above) AVAILABLE

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-ebook-paperback-edition)



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



***SAVE THE DATE * Beautiful Americas anthology is almost ready * LAUNCH RSVP * 2022NCPAHolidayLuncheon@gmail.com
Launch is scheduled with Holiday Luncheon 12Noon Sunday 11 Dec 2022, Black Angus in Citrus Heights.**

Get those thinking caps on and start writing now for two books in 2023:

*** Beautiful World * & * ALL Holidays Vol 3 ***

NEW dedicated Email address for both anthologies: 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com

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<https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/History/Genealogy>). (Other Genealogy sites free also)

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

Gold Country Writers meetings (FREE)3rd Wed 10am-12Noon each monthGoldcountrywriters.com **CONTACT** for more information**FREE MEETINGS**3rd Sat monthly 1pm-3pmCapitolcrimes.org for more info**ZOOM MEETING FREE****CWC meeting 3rd Sat monthly 11am-1pm**CWCSacramentowriters.org

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

ZOOM MEETINGS FREE1st Fri each month Perko's 6215 Sunrise3rd Sat each month at Cattleman's on Folsom

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COVID RULES WILL APPLY**

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.**Sun 11 Dec 2022 ~ 12Noon-?**

**Citrus Heights' Black Angus on Greenback
NCPA's 5th Holiday Luncheon 2022
& Beautiful Americas anthology launch**

Email me:

2022NCPAAntologyLuncheon@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,**
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 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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Amy@ScienceThrillersMedia.com

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

In Person 1pm & Zoom 1:30pm TEMPORARY Location: through Jan 2023 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.

www.norcalpa.org

Face-to-Face Crit Group meetings coming in Jan or Feb 2023. Info TBD later.

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* 2016-2022