

www.norcalpa.org

The Pen & Press

SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2023

OOPS! Super Bowl Sunday - NO MEETING THIS MONTH – Enjoy the game!

(My notes below, just a rough draft of upcoming stuff)

March meeting --- TAX GUYS? * April meeting --- ANT-fm?

May meeting –MOTHER'S DAY IS 2nd Sun – CHANGE to 1st or 3rd?

 NO regular June MEETING --- BOOK AWARDS BANQUET INSTEAD – **Sun 25 June Cherry Island GC**

NO JULY SPEAKER – DISCUSS CRIT GROUPS, ANTH & BA – both 2022 & UPCOMING

Aug meeting – * Sep meeting – * Oct meeting – * Nov meeting – BOOK DISPLAY

Sun 10 DEC MEETING - HOLIDAY LUNCHEON & ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH x2 instead of regular meeting –

ALL welcome. Purchase not necessary but appreciated. RSVP needed so Black Angus has enough wait-staff

 (All meetings at) **Black Angus Restaurant** (until further notice)

7925 Greenback Ln, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Guest Journalist for Feb 2023: NCPA member, author & poet, Sandra D. Simmer – brand-spankin'-newly published author, shares her journey to getting published, plus more

Upcoming:

March Guest Journalist will be NCPA member & Artist, YA & Children's Author, Frankie Barrera

No further info on 2023 stuff --- **BUT now accepting Guest Journalists for April thru Dec 2023**

Respond to this Email if interested

ALSO — stories for both anthologies: *Beautiful World* – & – *All Holidays Vol 3*

SUBMISSION DEADLINE for BOTH: 1 Sep 2023 * anticipated launch for both 10 Dec 2023

PAGE #7 for more info



Condolences to Everett and the rest of Elva Anson's family

Longtime NCPA member and Past NCPA President Elva Anson passed away around 21 Dec 2022.

I recently sent an Email to Elva but got no response which is unusual, so checked NCPA newsletter records to see if she had opened hers since she always read them. The last one she opened was Nov, so I called her home.

A daughter answered and was thankful I had called b/c she was worrying about how to let Elva's "writing friends" know. I asked her to send me all the info in an Email so I could pass it on to NCPA, CWC, and Cap Crimes.

Apologies for not sending this sooner, but since the daughter mentioned a memorial Feb 17th, I was waiting on her Email before sending anything, but I've not yet received any contact from the daughter, even though I've left several messages on the home phone in hopes someone would get them, and I can't find anything by doing a Google. If anyone has further info on where the memorial will be, please let me know so I can share.

BTW. Everett was moving to a nursing home the week following our discussion.

President's Message

The Authors Booth at the California State Fair began in 1999, the sesquicentennial of the 1849 Gold Rush. Naida West and Alton Pryor wanted to celebrate the anniversary of the Gold Rush with a booth at the Fair, but the cost for a booth was prohibitive for a single author. They made a special agreement with the Fair, which has lasted for the last 24 years. In all that time, there has been only one significant change: book genres are not limited to California history.

In 2018, I took over the management of the booth and during the two Covid years, we did not have a Fair, but last year, we were invited back. For the authors that participated, it was a good year. We had record sales, even with a reduced author presence. Fairgoers were excited to return to the Fair and buy books from their favorite writers.

The primary mission of the Booth is for authors to visit with fairgoers about writing and publishing. For that reason, our location has always been in the A/B building, which features educational matters of public interest. All book genres are accepted for display and sale, with the exception of those that are political, religious, or sexual. We believe a book should be judged by its quality.

That being said, the Fair does have some requirements. Authors must provide copies of the books to be vetted by the booth manager. Since the Fair is a family friendly event, covers cannot be explicitly sexual, promote any religion, or espouse any singular political beliefs.

Unlike other venues that authors participate in, the Fair is unique. Seven authors are in the booth at the same time. Authors are not allowed to go out and engage with the fairgoers beyond the booth, and they are not allowed to carnival bark at visitors if they are just passing through. Sometimes this makes it difficult for authors who are aggressive in their sales, because they feel there is nothing wrong with going and getting sales, but it is one of the surest ways we can lose the booth in the future.

The Fair provides tables, folding chairs, display cases, and storage. We work eight-hour shifts because the booth has to be manned from start to finish of the Fair each day. Authors handle all their own sales and self-report out to the Fair; however, we do have a voluntary option to sell your books outside of your appointed days. Beyond a small payment for liability insurance and postage, the only cost is 15% of the author's after-tax sales payable to the Fair at the end of the author's assigned dates – this is far less than the \$4,000 to \$5,000 other vendors must pay upfront to be part of the Fair.

What many authors don't understand is that the Fair is not associated with any writing group. You do not have an automatic acceptance because you belong to a local writing organization.

As manager, I have signed a contract with the Fair already. My job is to staff it with seven authors each day, maintain authors in the booth from start to finish of the Fair, act as liaison between Fair personnel and the authors, troubleshoot for the authors, and help authors sell books when they are not in the booth. The more we all sell, the more likely we will be asked back to the Fair.

Why am I writing about this for my president's message? Due to Covid, the number of authors willing to work the Fair diminished, and I'd like to add a few new voices to the booth. If you have a book that you think would be a fit for the Fair, and you're able to work a few eight-hour days, please contact me.

Note, you need to be willing to check your email regularly. If you only check your email once a month or even once a week, this won't work. Many times, I have contacted authors only to not hear from them for weeks. Decisions often have to be made within a day, so if you know you are difficult to get a hold of, please realize this won't work.

What do you gain by participating the Fair? A chance to sell your books for a minimum expense to you. A chance to network with fellow authors. A chance to get exposure for your work. A chance to build your mailing list with avid readers. A chance to experience the fun of the Fair. There's really nothing like it.

If you think you have a book that would be a good fit, please email me at authormlhamilton@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

ML Hamilton
authormlhamilton.net

Great FREE ADVERTISING FOR YOUR BOOKS OR YOUR WRITING-RELATED BUSINESS!
Contact Norma today if you'd like to be a 2023 NCPA Guest Journalist for a month
Promote yourself and your writing accomplishments, like Sandra this month.

Editor's Note: Author's Booth (AB) @ St Fair: It's a privilege to be chosen to participate in selling ones' books in the AB, something I've been honored to do since 2015, and I'm always excited at the anticipation of being back each year, for the camaraderie between all, to meet new authors, and how we have each other's' backs. Michelle only touched on how fortunate we are, in the rare deal that was made with the Fair in 1999. * I want to stress how important it is that we all graciously follow the guidelines and rules given by the Fair in order to continue being allowed that special agreement. We can be dropped for just one minor complaint to the Fair, or by encroaching upon another author's sales discussions in an attempt to sell your own books, rudely eating something messy while working a sale, or constantly leaving early and not committing to your hours, which is a Fair requirement, and leaves Michelle in a bind with an empty table scheduled to be manned from open to close. NONE of us would make enough in sales even if we were there every hour of the 17 days, to come close to pay one booth fee on our own. * Sales vary from day to day, but worthwhile for the exposure you get, if nothing else, plus NCPA has gained new members: Sharon and I recruited our President, Michelle, to NCPA from the Fair in 2015, a bonus for NCPA, but that doesn't mean NCPA members are automatically invited – there are no special perks for NCPA, we're just in a position to know about the Fair when Michelle does, but we still have to go through the same process as everyone else!

CAL EXPO EVENTS 2022 & 2023 * & * CA STATE FAIR 2023

Home- State Fair - Cal Expo & State Fair (calexpostatefair.com)

CA State FAIR 14 – 30 JULY 2023 * AUTHORS BOOTH – ARTS & KITCHEN COMPETITION

*In addition to the Authors Booth, Chrissi Villa & I are both involved in the State Fair (also in the Sacramento County Fair) competitions: Chrissi in the ARTS, I'm in the KITCHEN (since 2014) – both of us have won multiple ribbons and awards each year for our submissions (my winning candies, cakes, cookies, biscuits, breads and jelly recipes are in my cookbooks) ... including some cash prizes. If you want to know more about entering either, or any, send me an Email.
normathornton@yahoo.com I'll forward the arts inquiries on to Chrissi.



. Minnie, my 8-year-old Chihuahua. This is what I get each time I touch the keyboard--- Here, she's on the chair that's beside my computer chair, and at the time of this picture, is getting ready to lunge at me and bark (bitch) at me, because I'm on the computer. She's been spoiled the last 2 months because I took time away from the keyboard to get stuff done around the house, including paying more attention to her and the four cats, one of which totally freaks me out each time she (deliberately) messes with my touch-screen, for the same reason as Minnie (jealousy)! The cat stretches out and taps the screen with her claw, so she constantly hits one of the folders and it immediately pops up to replace whichever doc it is I'm working with! The first time she did it I had no idea what had happened, and was afraid my computer had gone wonky. I was also terrified I'd lost the NCPA newsletter I had spent hours on, and had just finished typing for that month. It still startles me each time, but at least now I know why.

Due to health and other issues beyond the Board's control, we were forced to make changes with some Critique Groups, BOTH books in the 2023 anthology project, AND the 29th Book Awards & Banquet for 2023.

Norma Jean's Basic Non-Genre Specific Critique Group – live & in person – 1st session tentatively scheduled to start Wed 15 Feb 1- 3pm * Captain Crab * (old Hooter's across from Olive Garden) 1785 Challenge Wy, Sac (by Arden Fair)
Contact me for more info if you're interested in attending: norma.B.N.A.F@gmail.com

***Anthology submission dates is now 1 Sep 2023 for BOTH anthologies, Beautiful World & All Holidays Vol 3**
Projected launch for both will be 10 Dec 2023.

NCPA 29th BOOK AWARDS Competition **FEES & DEADLINE** changes: **ONLY for BOOKS PUBLISHED 1 Jan 2022 - 31 Dec 2022**

Get those books in to Sharon ASAP.

NEW: you now have until **28 Feb 2023 as the final date** to enter your books

GREAT VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT

Show your favorite author you care!

Sharon's looking for judges for the Book Awards --- if you'd like to be a judge this year, or know someone who would, please click on link:

<https://norcalpa.org/docs.ashx?id=1107436>

Book Awards Banquet and BOOK SUBMISSION Deadlines for the 29th BOOK AWARDS have been pushed forward one month each,
BOOK SUBMISSION DEADLINE is now 28 Feb 2023 * BOOK AWARDS BANQUET is now Sun 25 Jun 2023

What Do “e.g.” and “i.e.” Really Mean — And When Should We Use Them? | Word Genius

From Merriam Webster Dictionary:

Obviously, Sandra used i.e., correctly, but someone once used it incorrectly in an anthology story, and when I received an unsolicited email on it from Word Genius last week, I thought it would be the time to address both i.e., and e.g., in a newsletter. It's ironic Sandra should use it in the email (below) at the exact same time. So, what better place than right here on the same page to add the info? BTW, a quick and easy way how I've always easily remembered is “i.e., means ‘that is,’” and “e.g., means ‘such as,’” and repeat it to myself prior to using, so I've never had a problem with either, but here are the long versions for both!

What to Know: *I.e.*, means “that is,” as in “She’s a Hoosier, i.e., she’s from Indiana.” *E.g.*, means “for example,” as in “She roots for the local teams, e.g., the Pacers and the Colts.”

How to Use ‘i.e.’ *I.e.*, stands for the Latin *id est*, or ‘that is,’ and is used to introduce a word or phrase that restates what has been said previously. What follows the *i.e.*, is meant to clarify the earlier statement: It’s similarly useful for defining or explaining a term or concept whose meaning readers might not know: While *i.e.*, is often set off by brackets or parentheses, it can also sometimes follow a comma or em dash. It is usually followed by a comma.

How to Use ‘e.g.’ *E.g.*, means “for example.” (It stands for *exempli gratia* in Latin.) Used in much the same ways as ‘for example,’ coming before an item or list of items. *E.g.*, is similar to *i.e.*, in the way it is punctuated: it is often placed inside brackets or parentheses, and can sometimes follow a comma or em dash. It is also usually followed by a comma.

Sandra Simmer sandpiper99@hotmail.com To: normathornton@yahoo.com Sun, Jan 15 at 4:53 PM

Hi Norma Jean * I published my first book on Amazon this week. After taking Michelle's Plot to Print class in 2021, I was able to finish the book with her editing help this fall. * Can you put a notice in the next newsletter about my book? Is that something that you do? I'm very excited as this is my first novel. * I hope many of you read the book. I welcome your feedback. I'll be writing the second book in the series this year and it's helpful to know readers' responses to your work.

Meet Sandra SIMMONS



**NCPA February 2023
GUEST JOURNALIST**

Sandra can be found on LinkedIn
and contacted at
sandpiper99@hotmail.com

Editor's Note: Sandra recently notified me that she had self-published her first novel on Amazon, and asked that the info be included in the next newsletter. That's when I asked her to be NCPA's February Guest Journalist (so I could use all of what she sent, not just a blurb), and share her journey to publishing. I used her picture and the bio she submitted with her last anthology story (adjusted to include her news). She'll update her bio later.

Biography -- 21 APR 2021

Sandra D. Simmer comes from a family of artisans who nurtured her creative spirit. She maintained her interest in the arts while raising a family and pursuing a career in non-profit management. Sandra enjoys traveling and has experienced many interesting travel adventures.

Recently retired to the San Francisco Bay Area, Sandra has followed her love of the written word to write about her colorful life; both real and imagined. She joined several writing groups and credits her mentor friends with expanding her writing skills. Sandra also thanks her children, Erin and Bryce, for their encouragement to take chances with her new writing career.

Sandra is a newly published author with stories in NCPA anthologies *Destination: The World Volumes I & II*, and *All Holidays 2020*. *She is currently writing her first novel.

***Note:** "...self-published *The Reclamation: Earth Under Siege* on Amazon Jan 8, 2023."

Need Guest Speakers for the rest of 2023. Great chance to toot your own horn to more than 250. Never get a better chance! Respond to this Email if interested

Hi Norma Jean, here is my article for the newsletter. Thanks for including it.
I wrote the note to include before the story, to help other members see why I am writing about myself.
i.e., hopefully to provide some ideas about things to try themselves. Sandra

Note: I hope you enjoy reading about my journey to becoming an author of a science fiction novel. I surprised myself! I want to share my journey with other NCPA members who might see some of yourself in my story, and can gain some useful ideas about how to reach your own goals. We are all on individual creative journeys. Start with baby steps and keep going! *Sandra D. Simmer*

I Just Published My First Novel! How'd *That* Happen?

I've loved to read since I was a young child growing up on my family's ranch in Southwest Colorado. My mother, an avid reader and writer herself, encouraged my exploration of the world of imagination found between the pages of a book. I had my first library card at age 8 and checked out *Alice in Wonderland* as my first book, though I could only comprehend about every other word. Reading was my main form of entertainment along with enjoying the original *Star Trek*, *Lost in Space*, and *The Twilight Zone* television shows. As I grew older, I read Nancy Drew books and gothic novels.

My family made a life-changing move to Los Angeles, California just before I entered high school. It was a difficult transition but my love of reading followed me. I had a wonderful English teacher in high school who encouraged an interest in the classics and praised my book reports. As a youth, books like *1984* and *Brave New World* captured my interest. The movie *Soylent Green* was released the year I graduated high school. During college I focused on my life science and business courses but continued to read a variety of authors' works. The movie *Star Wars* was released during that time and I enjoyed its imaginary world and unique characters.

Fast forward to the 1980s. My two babies and a full-time career in nonprofit program management took most of my time. Reading became a luxury but my husband and I enjoyed science fiction movies. The *Terminator* films dominated the decade. New adventures of the *Star Trek* realm filled television screens. My children watched the reruns as they grew older. My son and I enjoyed the *X-Files* series. He enjoyed exploring the world of science fiction literature while my daughter became a fan of Harry Potter. We had some interesting discussions about these other-world adventures. I can thank them both for believing in me and for encouraging me to pursue my interest in writing when I retired. My daughter gives detailed, thoughtful, critique of my writing. My son listens to my plot lines, asks questions, and offers suggestions from the perspective of a fellow science-fiction buff. Their input has been very helpful and supportive.

I read a lot of popular literature once my children left home but I never lost my interest in science fiction. When my health forced me into an early retirement, I moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to be near my family. To meet new people and explore my latent interest in writing, I joined a member-run group in 2017 called "Finding Your Voice". We met two Saturdays a month at the Pinole Library to write to a prompt and share our work. Positive feedback from the group, which included former teachers, kept me writing.

Sharon Darrow attended an Indie Author Day event at the Pinole Library in October 2019. She gave a Self-Publishing 101 speech and talked about the Northern California Publishers and Authors (NCPA) group. That was my lucky day! I discovered all the benefits of joining NCPA. Sharon encouraged me to join and to submit a story for the next anthology. My upsetting move as a teenager became the subject of my first published short story. *The Road Ahead* in the NCPA anthology, *Destination the World Vol. I*. I have a story or memoir published in every subsequent NCPA anthology.

Then the COVID pandemic hit in 2020.

I had also joined a memoir writing group at the local senior center. Both the "*Memoiristas*" and the Pinole Library Writers Group had to suspend meetings. To keep our creative spirits alive, we continued to meet through Zoom and by e-mail. Submitting weekly writing samples and sharing feedback helped me to further build my skills. I won first place for my memoir *Turning Ten* and a third-place ribbon for my short story *Nightmare*, at the 2021 San Mateo County Fair writing competition.

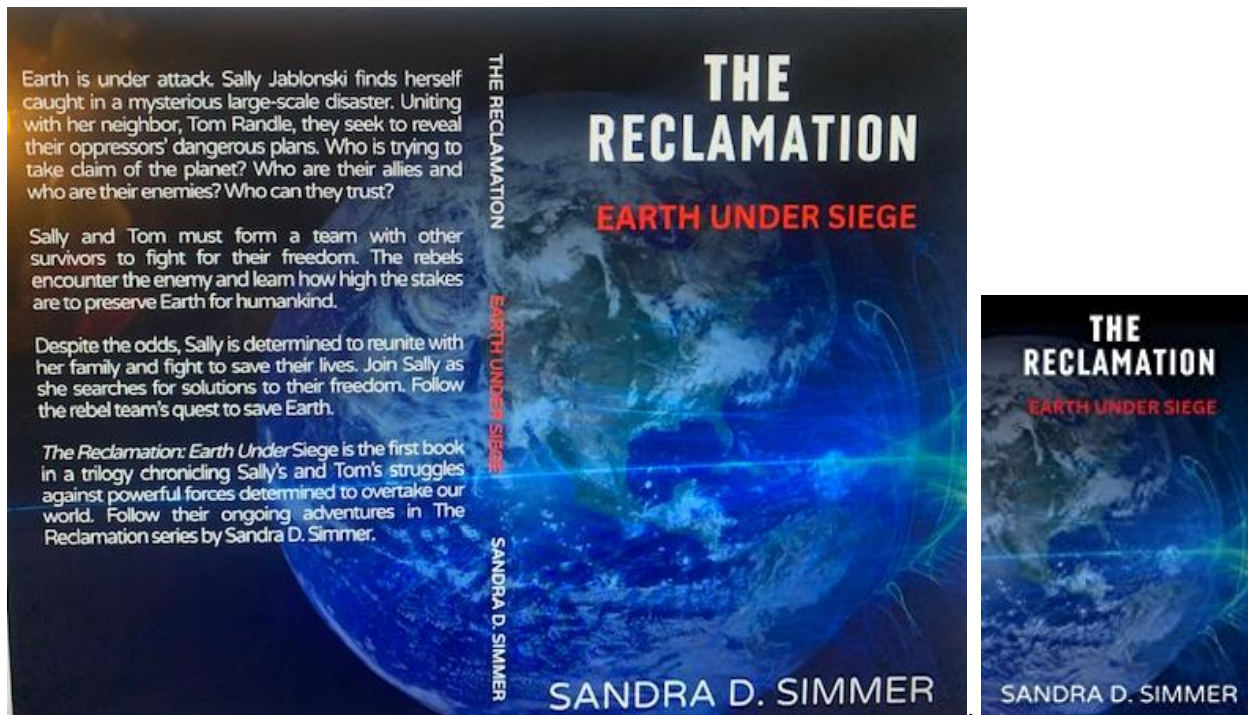
When it was suggested by my Pinole friend group that I turn my short story *The Pod* into a novel, I was taken aback. I didn't think I had the ability to write an entire science fiction book but the idea was intriguing. I felt that I needed more formal training. It had been a long time since my high school literature class.

I was fortunate to find Gabriela Pereira's comprehensive and well organized *Do It Yourself Master's in Fine Arts (DIYMFA)* on-line Writing 101 course. I completed it over the summer of 2020 during the height of the pandemic. I gained helpful, detailed tools and guidelines for writing a book. The course information gave me the confidence I needed to start writing my novel.

About 10 chapters and ten months into my book my confidence again slipped. I wasn't sure where I wanted to go with the plot and I was insecure about my level of writing. Fortunately, I learned about NCPA President, and author Michelle Hamilton's, in-depth *Plot to Print* class and signed up to take her 10-week course over the summer of 2021. Writing, submitting chapters to classmates, and reviewing others work during class provided the impetus to finish my novel. Thank you, Michelle, Penny, June, and Denise for reading my chapters and providing valuable critiques. Thank you, Michelle, for guiding me through the final steps to publication.

I self-published *The Reclamation: Earth Under Siege* on Amazon on January 8, 2023.

Sandra



Apologies for a “not-so-good” rendition of the full cover. This is entirely my fault, because it came to me as a pdf, thus won't copy, and since I have absolutely no idea how else to take a copy of it in order to get it in the newsletter as-is, I went through the backdoor: enlarged it, took a picture with my cellphone (which is why the yellowish upper left-corner – from the light I had on), then emailed it to myself, saved it as a picture and cropped the awkward angles to make it more symmetrical, and voila! Here it is!

And naturally, then I realized I could've just gone to Amazon.com and copy the cover from there, so here IT is ... the tiny one next to the messed-up one: But note, Amazon's doesn't show the spine and back cover, so it was still a necessity, and worth it!

Below is the Back Cover wording for the tiny copy of *The Reclamation: Earth Under Siege* (Third and Final rewrite), in case you can't read it on the actual Back Cover above:

Earth is under attack. Sally Jablonski finds herself caught in a mysterious large-scale disaster. Uniting with her neighbor, Tom Randle, they seek to reveal their oppressors' dangerous plans. Who is trying to take claim of the planet? Who are their allies and who are their enemies? Who can they trust?

Sally and Tom must form a team with other survivors to fight for their freedom. The rebels encounter the enemy and learn how high the stakes are to preserve Earth for humankind.

Despite the odds, Sally is determined to reunite with her family and fight to save their lives. Join Sally as she searches for solutions to their freedom. Follow the rebel team's quest to save Earth.

The Reclamation: Earth Under Siege is the first book in a trilogy chronicling Sally's and Tom's struggles against powerful forces determined to overtake our world.

Follow their ongoing adventures in The Reclamation series by Sandra D. Simmer.

Sandra also adds: I am excited to announce I've published my book! * My protagonist is a brave young woman who is caught in unimaginable circumstances and is good at finding solutions to her challenges. Plus, there's also an underlying message to us all. Even if you aren't a big science fiction buff, I think you will like the adventure. Please share this message with a friend who enjoys the genre.

Find Sandra's *The Reclamation: Earth Under Siege* on Amazon.com

--- in both paperback and Kindle ---

contact Sandra direct on LinkedIn or at sandpiper99@hotmail.com

Sandra's stories included in the following NCPA Anthologies (also on Amazon.com, or from NCPA Publisher Sharon Darrow):
Destination: The World, Vol 1 – The Road Ahead * Destination: The World, Vol 2 – Cancun Conversion * ALL Holidays 2020 – Finding My Way Home * ALL Holidays, Vol-2 – The Christmas Spirit * Beautiful Americas – Grand Canyon Honeymoon

NCPA ANTHOLOGIES 2023

Beautiful World & All Holidays Vol 3* --- Start writing your stories now*Questions? Send ONLY to Dedicated Email 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com****MUST BE CURRENT NCPA MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING to submit a story****DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR STORY for BEAUTIFUL WORLD is now 1 September 2023.****500-3000-word max for World -- NO POETRY -- *&*****NEW CHANGE: due to mass confusion Beautiful World can now include all of the Americas****ANYWHERE in the world, INCLUDING the Americas****ALL Holidays Vol-3 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR STORY is now ALSO 1 Sept 2023.****500-3500-word max for Holidays -- POETRY accepted, AFTER you've ALSO submitted a story****Anticipated launch -- NEW CHANGE: for BOTH anthologies -- joins our Holiday Luncheon Sunday 10 December 2023****In addition to each story, you also need to submit two signed and dated documents that I'm including as attachments with this Email. THERE ARE TWO LINKS copied below - one for each anthology. Those links each have guidelines, an application, and an agreement, and there are two places on each that need to be signed and dated. (May not reflect current changes).****UPDATED GUIDELINES MAY COME LATER.****Please be sure to send all correspondence ONLY to the****dedicated Email address: 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com****The attachments are in Word doc and can be E-signed and returned. If you're having problems signing them, send me an Email and your phone number and I'll walk you through how to do it. An E-signature, for those who don't know, is when you type your name to a document and send it by Email. That's just as good as a signed, written signature, in this case.**

Hopefully the links below can be used by clicking on them in this Email --- if not, you can Email me direct at the dedicated Email address 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com for a copy.

[NCPA All Holidays Vol 3 Word doc](#)[NCPA Beautiful World](#)

Thank you for your interest in joining our Anthology projects - it's a very simple, and FREE, process, to get published, and a great start for those of you who have never published anything before. We're happy with our regular authors, some of whom are in each volume, but we also like to have fresh blood, so to speak. We would also like to hear from a few of our members who have never published anything, anywhere, anytime, before.

Remember, 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com for ALL correspondence re THESE TWO anthologies, including questions and help.

Norma Jean

COMPUTER TIPS: Just click on link below:[5 ways to use your keyboard's Shift key to increase productivity \(komando.com\)](#)

Keyboard Shift key capitalizes letters & reverses common commands. Examples:

Ctrl +Z = undo; **Shift +Ctrl +Z** = redo

Space = scroll down a webpage; **Shift +space** = scroll up on a webpage

Ctrl +Tab = next tab; **Shift +Ctrl +Tab** = previous tab

Alt +Tab = next app; **Shift +Alt +Tab** = previous app

Ctrl +T = open a new tab; **Shift +Ctrl +T** = reopen the last closed tab

Computer Tips from KIM KOMANDO

5 Ways to Protect Your Windows PC & Keep it Running Smoothly

<https://www.komando.com/kims-column/common-windows-mistakes/874607/>

From Sacramento News & Review

Child literacy advocates in Sacramento see hope in statewide partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library:

<https://sacramento.newsreview.com/2023/01/10/child-literacy-advocates-in-sacramento-see-hope-in-statewide-partnership-with-dolly-partons-imagination-library/>

Upcoming: FREE & OPEN TO ALL * GENEALOGY presentations from the Sac Library: Newspapers are an excellent source of genealogical, social, and historical information about our families and their communities, and reveal what was happening in a time and place-something other records might not tell us. Newspapers can be found on both free sites and subscription sites.

Lisa S. Gorrell, a Certified Genealogist, has been researching both sides of her German, Irish, and southern US family more than 25 years and has also researched her husband's English, German and Swedish family tree. She volunteers at the Contra Costa County Historical Society's archives at the History Center in Martinez. Lisa writes about her family on two blogs "Mam-ma's Southern Family" at <http://mammassoutherfamily.blogspot.com/> and "My Trails into the Past" at <http://mytrailsintothepast.blogspot.com>

Sac Library virtual Genealogy programs take place on Zoom. To register in advance for any meeting, click link: <https://saclibrary.evanced.info/signup/Calendar> On that calendar screen, go to date and click on title of event. In description that pops up, click on link to register, and enter your name and e-mail address. After clicking the "register" button, you will receive a confirmation email containing an invitation to join the meeting on Zoom. You can also register on library homepage (<https://www.saclibrary.org/>) by clicking "Events" link towards top of screen. **The library's genealogy programs are free and open to all to attend. Please share this information with anyone you know who might be interested in attending.**

Presentations are recorded and posted on the Genealogy Playlist of the library's YouTube channel for 30 days, but it will possibly be a week or more after presentations for recordings to post on library's YouTube channel - If you need more information about availability of any recording, contact librarian Dave Munger: contact@saclibrary.org There are other recordings of some past library genealogy presentations available to watch on the library's YouTube channel. **Library card not needed to view Library's Genealogy playlist link:** https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwtrWI_IBMJsZRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6R

Questions? Contact bethd2073@gmail.com or Dave contact@saclibrary.org

Info on library's upcoming genealogy programs, through June 2023: ***25 Feb:** Millions of Members: Finding Your Ancestor in Fraternal Organization Records, speaker Melinda Kashuba PhD ***25 Mar:** What City Directories Can Tell Us, speaker Mary Sayles. ****22 Apr:** Ancestral Road Trips, Part I: East of the Mississippi, speaker Madeline Yanov. ***20 May:** Ancestral Road Trips, Part II: Go West, Young Man, speaker Madeline Yanov. ***24 June:** Introduction to Mexican Genealogy, speaker Lisa Medina.

INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY? During the shut-down, the library had generously made their access to Ancestry.com **FREE** from your own home to all who have a library cardthe census records are great, even if you don't do anything else

Go to www.saclibrary.org and click on Books & Media – Special Collections – Genealogy Collection – Have Questions (at bottom of screen) – click on "Learn More" under "Do you have other genealogy services available?" (Or just click on this link as a shortcut - <https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/History/Genealogy>). (Other Genealogy sites free also) Once there, you'll see the links to the websites in green. Once you click on the website, you'll be asked to enter your library card and PIN. If you don't know your PIN, click on Reset My PIN in blue and enter a new PIN. **THIS MAY NOT WORK NOW THAT LIBRARIES ARE OPEN: Try this one:**

thanks to Barbara Barrett: <https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/Online-Learning/Online-Resources-Alphabetical>

2023 Genealogy Presentations at Sacramento Central Library

For information, please contact Beth Daugherty, Librarian, at bdaugherty@saclibrary.org Sacramento Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, Phone: 916-264-2920. <http://www.saclibrary.org> (Possible old info. if so. try bethd2073@gmail.com)

Gorgeous COVER designs for Cookbooks, Family History & Genealogy Binders/ Books plus lots More!

<https://www.zazzle.com/store/thetreeoflife>

San Francisco Writers Conference
16-19 Feb 2023

GENEALOGY Research Websites

Proving Mayflower Ancestry:

<https://hubs.americanancestors.org/guide-to-proving-your-mayflower-ancestry>

Getting Started with Church Records:

<https://hubs.americanancestors.org/church-records>

Amazon Genealogy Books –Native Americans Hidden in Family Trees

<https://www.amazon.com/Secret-Genealogy-IV-Native-Americans/dp/1500756105>

SO-CAL Genealogy Society BURBANK, CA

Southern California Genealogical Society

Genetic Genealogy 2023

In-Person and Virtual Conference

Friday – Sunday
March 31 – April 2, 2023



Explore the Schedule and Register * Explore the Schedule - SCGS Genealogy Jamboree 2023 (31 March-2 Apr 2023)
GENETIC GENEALOGY – GENETIC - FREE Roundtables Sun 2 Apr – Attendance is free Sunday. but registration required

UPCOMING 2023 NCPA EVENTS

29th NCPA BOOK AWARDS

BANQUET

5pm-9pm

Sun 25 June 2023

Cherry Island Golf Course
Elverta, CA

COVID RULES WILL APPLY

NOTE: DATE CHANGE

Apologies to those (e.g., Jennifer), who have sent info on Silent Auction donations & I've not yet contacted. I've gotten really behind, but will get with you ASAP

Sun 10 Dec 2023 ~ 12Noon-?

Citrus Heights' Black Angus on Greenback
NCPA's 6th Holiday Luncheon 2023
& 2 Anthology launches (anticipated)

NEW UPDATED ANTHOLOGY INFO & DATES
NCPA SUBMISSION DEADLINES both 1 Sep 2023
& Anthology Launch BOTH – 10 Dec 2023

Beautiful World (now **INCLUDES THE AMERICAS**)
ALL Holidays Vol 3

Submission Email & Contact info for both anthologies:
2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com

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

Meeting location remains, until we find someplace more suitable, at * Black Angus Restaurant
7925 Greenback Ln, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Weird Words!

slubberdegullion – Per Merriam Webster: A dirty rascal: scoundrel, wretch

floccinaucinihilipilification – Per Oxford Dictionary: "the action or habit of estimating something as worthless ... is based on a quartet of Latin terms that mean 'at little value'"

sesquipedalian -- Per Merriam Webster: Very long words *(Etymology: Latin *sesquipedalia* {verba}, literally, {words} a foot and a half long)

mumpsimus (from Word Genius) – Per Merriam Webster: A bigoted adherent to exposed but customary error.

Word of the Day Roundup (Lots more weird words on this site {below}--- plus more stuff):

https://www.wordgenius.com/word-of-the-day-roundup-march-2021/YGN3QhM0cQAHP1-v?utm_source=bonus&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1713344627

Interesting Theatre Superstitions: Stories behind 9 Strange Theatre Traditions:

https://www.interestingfacts.com/theater-traditions-explained/YtYKCaYHnQAHPR-b?liu=aeb96f8c695efefae2a5377b243bc259&utm_source=blog&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1713344627

MORE CHUCKLE TIME:

A man died after drinking varnish. It was a terrible end but a beautiful finish. * Why is Peter Pan always flying? He Neverlands. * What kind of tea is the hardest to swallow? Reality. * If 7-11 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, why are there locks on the doors? * If a cow laughed really hard, would milk come out her nose? * If nothing ever sticks to Teflon, how do they make Teflon stick to the pan? * Is it true that cannibals don't eat clowns because they taste funny? * My wife just completed a 40-week bodybuilding program this morning. It's a girl and weighs 7lbs 12 oz. * The CEO of IKEA has just been appointed as the Prime Minister of Sweden. He's currently assembling his cabinet. * **OLD AGE COMES AT A BAD TIME! WHEN YOU FINALLY KNOW EVERYTHING, YOU START TO FORGET EVERYTHING YOU KNOW!** * Why don't the 99% of us who aren't offended by everything quit catering to the 1% who are? * The Butcher: I have some cured meat -The Customer: Was it sick? * Margie to her friend: I don't have any kids - The Friend: So, what do you do for criticism? * Margie again: What's your opinion on the right to bear arms? The Friend: I like sleeveless blouses myself. * What do sheep count when they can't get to sleep? * If you wear an antenna to a wedding, would the reception be better? * Why is abbreviated such a long word?

NCPA 29th ANNUAL BOOK AWARD COMPETITION **NEW CHANGES**

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 started accepting submissions on October 1st 2022. **The last date for receiving submissions has changed to February 28, 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 has also changed, to Sunday June 25, 2023.** Each submission includes one ticket for the banquet. This year we are excited to add a totally new category for entries: Collections.

- ✓ **Anthologies**, like our NCPA anthologies, which include the work of multiple different writers, are still **NOT** accepted.
- * **HOWEVER** *
- ✓ **Collections** that include multiple stories, poems, and/or essays, by **ONE PERSON/AUTHOR ONLY ARE NOW** accepted.

UPDATE ON FREE NCPA CRITIQUE GROUPS

*Sharon Darrow's non-fiction & memoirs critique group via Zoom **MAY BE ON HOLD DUE TO HER STROKE IN DECEMBER**
Contact Sharon: sharonsdarrowcritiquegroup@gmail.com for current info

*Michelle Hamilton started a Fiction critique group in October 2022 – by Zoom
Contact Michelle: authormlhamilton@gmail.com for current info.

*Norma Jean Thornton will hold a **basic, non-specific genre critique group, tentative start 15 Feb 2023 – LIVE & IN PERSON**, days &/or nights, times, locations, extra days or nights TBD during our first meeting. 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 with their anthology story, or if I suggest one or more of you to have a one-on-one with me
Norma Jean's Basic Non-Genre Specific Critique Group – live & in person – 1st session tentatively scheduled to start Wed 15 Feb 1- 3pm * Captain Crab * (was an old Hooter's, across from Olive Garden) 1785 Challenge Wy Sac (by Arden Fair)
Contact me for more info if you're interested in attending: norma.B.N.A.F@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS CHRISSI VILLA & FRANKIE BARRERA

For winning multiple awards in the **2022 Purple Dragonfly Book Awards** * More details in March newsletter.
Frankie will be Guest Journalist in March, so as many pages as he needs are available to him!!

Many thanks to **Sandra, Barbara**, and each guest journalist from 2022. It turned out to be a fascinating, interesting experiment, one I'd very much like to continue. Anything family friendly you want - **YOU CAN BE OUR NEXT Guest Journalist: just send me an Email**

Click here for site: [30 Magazines Accepting Creative Nonfiction and Essays](#)

These literary magazines and other outlets publish a variety of nonfiction/essays. A few are looking for themed submissions. Some of them pay writers. Most, but not all, of them are open for submissions now...

Free book: Submit, Publish, Repeat How to Publish Your Creative Writing in Literary Journals [Get Your Copy \(Free\)](#)

Want to write for us? We welcome submissions. Read our submission guidelines.

Authors Publish

(From Authors Publish. I receive unsolicited Email from them all the time, but know nothing more about them. **Use at your own risk**)

DISCLAIMER: From Word Genius – another unsolicited Email I receive, but both this one and Authors Publish have some interesting stuff. I just don't know how accurate either is, so use both at your own risk.

\$\$\$

WRITE FOR HARLEQUIN CARINA PRESS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES \$\$\$

<http://carinapress.com/blog/submission-guidelines/> Carina Press accepts **both agented and unagented submissions**

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

2019 NCPA Anthologies

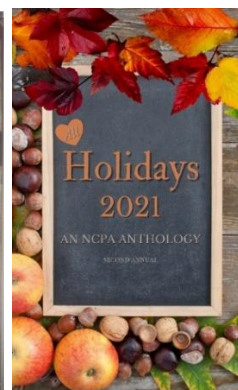
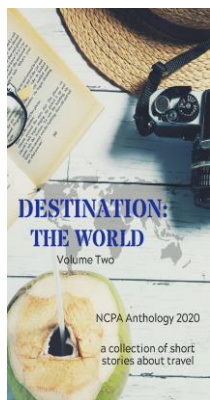


BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA Anthology
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals



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

2020 NCPA Anthologies



ALL (seven) 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 ANTHOLOGY BOOKS (above) AVAILABLE PAPER COPIES @ Cost for Authors from Sharon Darrow: Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com or [NCPA Anthologies \(7 book series\) Ebook & Paperback Edition \(amazon.com\)](https://www.amazon.com/NCPA-Anthologies-7-book-series/dp/1526900000)

2023 NCPA Anthologies --- COMING DECEMBER 2023

BEAUTIFUL WORLD
COVER COMING
SOON (as soon as I
give it to Michelle &
she fixes it out of a pdf
format so I can copy it
here)



(Holidays' title will also change: from 2022 to Vol 3)

Get those thinking caps on and start writing now for NCPA's next two anthologies in 2023:

Submission deadline on both * Beautiful World * & * ALL Holidays Vol 3 * 1 Sep 2023

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

SILENT AUCTION DONORS Apologies 2023: I'm behind on responding to those who have replied**Want your name and info advertised here?** It's really simple:

Just donate something to the Silent Auction during one or more of NCPA's Annual Book Awards Banquets. Beneficiary of amounts received during the 2022 (published) Book Awards Banquet Sun 7 May 2023 will once more be Friends of the Library

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

Just donate something of value to the Silent Auction held during our 2022 Book Awards Banquet in 2023

CHANGE OF BANQUET DATE: SUNDAY 25 June 2023 at the Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta**SILENT AUCTION DONORS 2022 * THANK YOU SO MUCH to our donors ***

Cherry Island G.C. * Sharon Darrow * Ant-fm * Grand Oaks Inn B&B * Chrissi Villa * Frances Kakugawa * Placer Pops Chorale *
Roaring Camp Mining Company * Amy Rogers: Science Thrillers Media * Sharif Jewelers * Linda Joy Singleton

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

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

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

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

Walmart Supercenter Bakery * 5821 Antelope Rd. * Antelope 95843, CA * Bakery: [916-729-6217](tel:916-729-6217)**Placer Pops Chorale & Orchestra 2022****Great present for ALL * www.placerpops.com * Locations, DATES & TIMES COMING CLOSER to dates****ADVERTISING FOR MORE OF OUR DONORS, all NCPA members****Looking for a detailed critique and line edit?** Contact donor **Amy Rogers: Science Thrillers Media**

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

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

Jennifer says a manuscript evaluation is not editing. It is evaluating the quality of the writing so she will carefully and thoughtfully read your manuscript from beginning to end and provide very explicit feedback for you on what works, what could be better and how to fix the weaknesses.
jennifer@JenniferTheEditor.org www.JenniferTheEditor.org 209-369-6188

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

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

Writing Picture Books for Kids? **Chrissi Villa** gives detailed Picture Book EvaluationsChrissi also hosts PB Workshops, contact her chrissivilla@gmail.com * www.Christinevilla.comwww.purplecottoncandyarts.com/about.html * <https://www.velvetduskpublishing.com/about.html>**916-993-8798 h****916-500-3492 c****Need a special gift ~ Or a donation to your non-profit event?**

Check out the fine jewelry at Sharif's

Sharif Jewelers * 1338 Howe Ave * There are other locations: check out their website for all.**How about an Outdoor event for the entire family**

Roaring Camp Mining Company in Pine Grove, CA just 1-1 ½ hours south east of Sacramento ~ Roaring Camp has BBQ Cookouts, Guided Gold Mine & Gold Panning Tours & Dinners, All Day Adventure & Gold Panning Tours & more ~ Camping or Cabins available
www.roaringcampgold.com ~ 209-296-4100 ~ info@roaringcampgold.com

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

Clements, CA 95227 grandoaksinn.com 209 759-3453 or 209-759-3713 grandoaks@inreach.com**Grand Oaks, Sharif & Roaring Camp Mining Co have all generously donated to NCPA for every Silent Auction we've had since 2010**

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)**

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

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

* Email **egwg2020@egweg.org**

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

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

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

"Writers Working Together to Promote and Improve their Work"

Questions contact Margie Yee Webb **mywebb@sbcglobal.net**

➤ **Sacramento Suburban Writers (SSW)**

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

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

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

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

➤ **Sacramento Valley Rose (SVR)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

➤ **San Joaquin Valley Writers (SJWV Branch CWC) FREE** Monthly Meetings generally **2nd Saturday** of each month 12Noon-2:30pm UOP in Stockton - Questions? June Gillam

President SJWV-CWC **https://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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Note that the Executive committee consists of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and communications director, the five elected officers

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Charlene Johnson

circleoftheredscorpion@gmail.com**Book Events Coordinator**

Danita Moon

danita@danitamoon.com

(916) 980-0375

Anthology 2019 - 2023Norma Jean Thornton: **Coordinator**Michelle Hamilton: **Main Editor**Bob Irelan: **Editor**Norma Jean Thornton: **Proofreader**Sharon Darrow: **Publisher**2021NCPAAnthology@gmail.com**Main Webmaster**

Amy Rogers

Amy@ScienceThrillersMedia.com

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

In Person 1pm TEMPORARY Location: through March 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

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