

www.norcalpa.org

The Pen & Press

BREAKING NEWS!!!

***Due to a variety of reasons (mainly, things suddenly have gotten too overwhelming for those few of us who are carrying all the load, and we need time to take care of our own personal things), there will be**

NO MEETING SUNDAY 12 March 2023-- plus

***NO MORE IN-PERSON MEETINGS UNTIL AUGUST 2023 (however Michelle might test a Zoom meeting in April) - full details in the president's message on page 2 of this newsletter.**

***NCPA ANTHOLOGIES: Beautiful World * & * ALL Holidays Vol 3: WILL CONTINUE, with the following changes: entry deadline for both is now 1 Sep 2023 (date subject to change), and Beautiful World will now include ALL parts of the world, including all of the Americas. That other was way too confusing for all of us. Our tentative launch dates for both will be 12Noon at the Black Angus on Sun 10 Dec 2023.**

***NCPA's 5th Annual Holiday Luncheon will continue * 12Noon Sun 10 Dec 2023 * Black Angus, in Citrus Heights, same day as our Anthology Launch. Launch or not, there WILL be a Luncheon!**

***NCPA's Annual BOOK AWARDS WILL CONTINUE * our 2022 submission date has just ended, and the judging has begun – START GETTING THOSE 2023 BOOKS PUBLISHED & READY for our BIG 30th Book Awards in 2024!**

***NCPA's 29th Annual Book Awards BANQUET (check the new date) continues in Elverta at Cherry Island Golf Course on Sun 25 Jun 2023. TIME TO START GETTING THOSE \$30 dinner TICKETS NOW – norcalpa.org**

***All three critique groups will continue: more on them inside.**

***The newsletter will continue, hopefully with more input from our members:**

***We truly appreciate those members who fairly-regularly attended our meetings, and if any &/or all of you enjoy the meetings and would like them to continue, hopefully this will be a gentle wakeup call and encourage at least a few of you to take a little more interest in getting a bit involved in NCPA, allowing us to continue as a more cohesive group.**

What better way to know each other, than to communicate? What I'm asking now, is for one volunteer each month to be an NCPA Newsletter Guest Journalist for May through Dec. Not only will it give each of you a chance to write whatever you want to share with your peers, but also to promote yourself and your books &/or business to the 265+ Email recipients (I just checked all 24 Emails sent out as far back as 1 Nov 2022 and between 130-168 of them have been clicked on and opened each month). I can't tell if the newsletters have been read, but the Email has at least been opened – that means a little more than 50% on all but a few have been out in the public's eye.

***March 2023 Guest Journalist is NCPA member & Artist, YA & Children's Author, (Frankie) F.B. Barrera**

***April Guest Journalist, with any luck, will be a duo, with a very special message --- Past President & Long-time NCPA member Barry Schoenborn - & hopefully – his wife, also long-time NCPA member and generous donor (both are), Jennifer Grainger Schoenborn, will provide us with a lovely story!**

***May Guest Journalist ---- YOU? Just send me your stuff (bio, pic, book info, story, etc.): normathornton@yahoo.com**

President's Message

For my president's message this month, I want to talk about gardens. Before I begin, let me preface this by saying I'm not scolding. I know the last four years have been challenging in so many ways and the start of 2023 hasn't been as auspicious as I would like.

So, what does this have to do with gardens? Well, if you've ever started a garden, you'll know it's a beautiful thing whether filled with flowers or vegetables. The thing about gardens is they have to be tended. They have to be watered, and weeded, and fertilized. Otherwise, they go to seed.

Professional groups are a lot like gardens. They are only as strong as the flowers (read people) that populate them. If a group isn't tended, it too goes to seed and the gardeners (read Board Members) grow weary.

Analogy aside, I have been president of NCPA for five years. I never planned to be president for so long. In fact, when I first agreed to do the job, I figured I'd do it for a year, then someone else would step up. Now we're faced with a sixth election cycle and while I'll stay president if no one else steps up, I think it might be time for new ideas, new blood, new visions. If anyone is interested in running for president, know I will immediately step aside.

If you've noticed, we haven't had a meeting in 2023 yet. A lot of it has to do with the poor timing of having our meetings on Sundays at 1:00PM, and a lot of it has to do with the fact that when we do have meetings, often no one shows up. I'm not going to lie – when there isn't commitment from the membership to attend meetings, the motivation of the Board goes down.

I dislike this. I think NCPA is a vital, encouraging organization that has a lot to offer the writing community. The fact that we aren't restricted by genre, the fact that we don't charge to be in our anthologies, the fact that our meetings are free, the fact that we have the only local book awards contest and banquet (a fixture in Sacramento for twenty-nine years), make NCPA more inclusive than a lot of other groups, and I appreciate it immensely, but unfortunately, the same people keep being tasked with doing the bulk of the work, and those people are getting tired.

At this point, we are going to cancel in person meetings until August due to lack of interest. I will try to have a monthly Zoom meeting, but if people don't attend that, I will stop offering those as well.

Please know the Board is willing to continue if there is interest for us to do so, or we are willing to step aside if someone would like to step up and take one of our positions. New blood is always good for an organization. Please communicate with us.

In a few days, I'm going to send out a survey asking members to tell me what day and time would be best for a Zoom meeting. Not to let an analogy die, I'm hoping people will renew their commitment and help tend the NCPA garden, but if not, then the entire Board would be interested to know what our members would like to see in that garden going forward. All suggestions or ideas will be considered. We want to hear from you.

ML Hamilton

authormlhamilton.net

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.

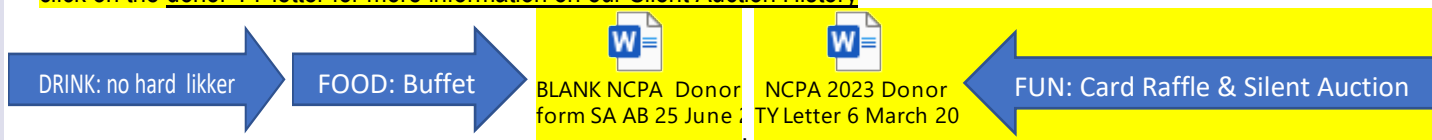
NCPA BOOK AWARDS 2023 FOR BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2022 – List of Books & Authors**OUR 33 BOOKS ARE RECEIVED AND THE 29th Annual JUDGING BEGINS!****13 Fiction * 4 NF * 4 N-F Memoir * 5 Children's * 1 YA * 5 Poetry * 1 Collection * 12 Cover/Interior Design * total 45 entries****GOOD LUCK TO ALL!**

Bernard Wozny	ORP Orzel	F: Historical
Bernard Wozny	Girl Electric	F: Science Fiction
Barbara Klide	Secret Lives of Wild Canada Geese	NF
Georgianna Borgens Pfof	Sticks Go Walking	Children
Georgianna Borgens Pfof	Frank and Taffy's Cheesy Biscuit Mystery	Children
Stefan Kiesbye	No Sound to Break, No Moment Clear	F: Family Life - F: Literary
Stefan Kiesbye	But I Don't Know You	F: Psychological
Sharon S Darrow	From Hindsight to Insight, A Traditional to Metaphysical Memoir	NF Mem
Roberta Davis	Morphers and Mayhem, A Werefolk Tale	F: Science Fiction
Anthony A. Avano	Obviously Intoxicated, Stopping Drunks, Before They Drive	NF Memoir
Marilyn Reynolds	Over 80: Reflections on Aging	NF Memoir
Lois Ann Abraham	Deborah's Gift	F: Historical
Denise Lee Branco	Rabbit at The Sliding Door: Chloe's Story	NF, Memoir
Kathleen A. Cawley	Navigating the Shock of Parenthood: Warty Truths and Modern Practicalities—From a Mom With Twins	NF: Memoir
Betty K. Staley	AFRICA, A Guide for Teachers and Families	NF
Ryan G. Kittleman	The High Cost of Macaroni	Fiction
Ryan G. Kittleman	The Honorable Mentions	Poetry
Mike Garner	The Talking Badge, Battle Scars of Police Work	NF: Memoir
Elaine Faber	Mrs. Odboddy's Desperate Doings	F:
Dorothe D. Kress	THE RISK; Forbidden love Behind the Iron Curtain	F: Romance
Jeanine Stevens	No Lunch Among the Day Stars	Poetry
Alec Scott	Until It Shimmers	F:
Antonio Casares	The White Unicorn	Children
Hayley Smelker	Atlantis Ascending	YA
Edward Gunawan	The Way Back	Hybrid Chapbook Collection
Norma Jean Thornton	Just What is a Critique Group?	NF
Tucker Madison	Green Glass-eBooks	F: Romance
Kimberly Kralowec,	We Retreat into the Stillness of our own Bones	Poetry
Munashe Kaseke	Send Her Back	F:
Francesca L. Preston	If There Are Horns	Poetry
Kristin A. Fulton	Is THAT a Hat?	Children
Nancy Menees Hardesty	Tahoe Mountain Chickadee Vol. #1	Children
Nancy Menees Hardesty	Tahoe Mountain Chickadee Vol. #2	Children
Dana Dargos & Said Al Bizri	Einstein in the Attic-ebook	F:

NCPA 29th Book AWARDS BANQUET 5-9 Sun 25 Jun 2023 Cherry Island Golf Course, Elverta

Get your \$30 NCPA BOOK AWARDS BANQUET Dinner Tix NOW --- norcalpa.org --- Final date to purchase Tue 20 Jun -- for the premier writing event gala of the year! Only local (Book Awards) "game" in town ... for more than a quarter century!

Have something to donate to our Silent Auction? Just click on the [Donor Form](#) below, complete & return to normathornton@yahoo.com --- click on the [donor TY letter](#) for more information on our Silent Auction History



Go down that rabbit hole with us, and help celebrate the year of the rabbit. Get those tickets quick like a bunny, before they all hop away, or like in the magician's hat ... disappear!! AWARDS: for Books + one Anthology Story Risk Taker - FOOD: buffet – tri-tip & chicken + all the fixin's ... including rabbit greens & carrots (but no rabbit) – DRINK: no hard likker, but wines, beer, sodas, coffee & tea **PLUS BOOKS GALORE**

Meet (Frankie) F.M. Barrera



NCPA March 2023
GUEST JOURNALIST

www.talisman-press.com

talismanpress@aol.com

When Halloween Was Canceled – by F.M. Barrera BOOK TRAILER by NCPA Member Christine L. Villa

(Editor's Note: EXCELLENT – CLICK ON Book Trailer! MUST WATCH!)
An illustrated Halloween poem for children dealing with the fear and confusion caused by the covid-19 pandemic lockdown. **Copy of COVER & MORE INFO ON PAGE XX**

Biography

California native F.M Barrera is an award-winning children's author and illustrator plus middle-grade and YA writer. His books teach on a deeper level, showcasing cultural diversity, environmental issues, ethnic fables, and ancient tales from faraway lands.

Barrera's stories subtly inspire children of all ages to dream and face their own fears. All illustrations are done in a variety of mediums, each style suited to the particular theme and story of each book.

Frankie's books and Taro Cards can be purchased on Amazon.com

Looking for Guest Journalists May-Dec 2023.

Great chance to toot your own horn to more than 250. Never get a better chance!
Respond to this Email if interested – or Email normathornton@yahoo.com

My Self-Publishing Journey --- F.M. Barrera

I started writing and self-publishing back in 1998 before the internet was what it is today. There was no Amazon Kindle, no Ingram Sparks and no online publishing platforms of any kind. Instead of Facebook, only a few AOL chat rooms existed. If you wanted to make your own website, you had to learn HTML coding taught in exclusive workshops or college level courses. The digital revolution was on the verge of happening but had not come on full force yet.

I was working at the Sacramento Bee newspaper at the time as a graphic artist, and the company was also moving into the digital world. Transitioning an entire newspaper to a digital platform was not an easy task, but it had to be done. All the employees had to learn new programs like Photoshop and Quark Xpress. It was then I decided to write a novel based on my life using the skills I had learned at the Bee.

The publishing world was rough back then, but I was determined to get my book published by any means necessary. Soon I accumulated a stack of rejection letters from so-called agents and publishing companies and I was losing hope. Yet I believed in my story and in my writing ability and I wanted - needed - to tell it. Writing was a form of healing and catharsis for me. I was convinced that no one had had experiences like mine and that my story was the best one ever to be told.

But I was wrong; everyone has a story to tell and everyone has a right to tell it. We should all have the opportunity to write a book and get published if we want to.

In preparation for my self-publishing journey, I took all sorts of desktop publishing courses, including Quark Xpress, PageMaker, Illustrator, InDesign, Word and an off-set printing course at the local city college. I was on a mission. I had already drawn, written and produced my own comic book earlier, so I figured I could save money by designing my own cover and typeset the interior by using PageMaker (which doesn't even exist now in 2023).

I surfed through the early internet and sought my own printer, through recommendations, and painstakingly obtained quotes from well-known authors at the time. I learned how to buy an ISBN number and how to get a scan of the barcode. Even obtaining a Library of Congress number was a different process back then. When the boxes of printed books arrived at my home, the process wasn't over; it had just begun.

I needed to learn about marketing and distribution and get my book into stores. I learned about Ingram distribution and Baker and Taylor. Eventually, Bookazine ordered a number of my books and I ended up breaking even for the total cost of production and printing. Bookazine was good for me but they ended up sending back half of the unsold books and finally going out of business. I hustled locally, managing to get my book into Tower books, Borders, and other locally owned book stores on consignment. I had a few informal book signings, because I believed in my book and in my story. I persisted.

(continued on next page, #5)

(continued from prior page, #4)

Over the years online publishing grew and many things changed. Platforms went extinct or out of style and then Amazon came along to brighten up the party. Publishing became easier and more accessible. I thrived in the new millennium, writing up a storm and illustrating my own covers and interiors. I started a fantasy series which comprised a total of seven books. I sought editors and networked with the local writing community. I created my own website with easier to use tools not involving learning HTML.

Things were looking up, but the digital revolution of Amazon had caused some adverse effects.

Bookstores were closing and marketing and distribution became trickier. It became harder to sell books due to the glut in competition and the quirks and algorithms of an oversized book-selling platform. I didn't sell many books and resigned myself to writing and publishing only because that was what made me happy. I believed in myself and in my talent to tell stories, and my illustrations could be seen by many more people, if only through thumbnails.

As a fine artist, I kept up with my artwork and continued with my painting and sculpture as well as my illustration. Every year I donated a piece of ceramic sculpture to the KVIE art auction and I entered and competed in the Cal Expo Fair art competition. I also dabbled in jewelry design and learned how to make one-of-a-kind steampunk pieces which I sold at the Elk Grove Fine Arts Center.

In time, after gaining more experience, I rewrote things and unpublished them with the intention of re-publishing in the future. It is very difficult to remove books listed online because Amazon never deletes the book's web listing in order for used copies to be re-sold. I managed to delete some listings but not others. My intention was to rewrite my fantasy series, hire an expensive editor and re-introduce it into the public realm.

I feel that a writer is always rewriting and editing their own work. We are our own worst critic, but that's OK. Being self-published and owning your own work allows you to do this. I joined a sci-fi-fantasy writer's group that helped me greatly in tightening up my chapters and plot. If you believe you can do better, then go ahead and do what you have to do. Don't be afraid to fail or to challenge the system. You can publish and unpublish and write and rewrite. No one is going to tell you not to.

There are no rules, except with the big publishing houses, which I have not had the pleasure of being under. At least not yet...

I was under this rewriting phase of my publishing journey when the pandemic came along to change everything. Printing and uploading new books to both Amazon and Ingram Sparks became more difficult. Customer service on these platforms was non-existent and many in the community were lost as to how to proceed. I became a hermit and, as it turned out, was more productive and creative than ever.

On Halloween 2020, a poem came to me inspired by the lockdown. Officials were recommending canceling Halloween, or at least severely limiting trick-or-treating. The poem turned into a children's book and I proceeded to illustrate it. I converted it into a pdf and crossed my fingers while I uploaded it onto Ingram Sparks. I got lucky and it went through.

When Halloween Was Canceled became the first of seven children's books I created during the covid lockdown period. The ideas kept coming in one after another and I found myself writing and painting non-stop. Why not? I asked myself; there was nothing else to do. Producing children's books was new to me yet very familiar. As a previous comic book writer and artist, telling stories through pictures and words was second nature to me. I wrote environmental books and poetry books and story books about all the things I love to read about. I found a new creative direction. Through Facebook groups I was able to find a Spanish translator who helped me with my two bilingual books, *Humo, the Tortilla Making Dragon* and its prequel *Mama Cheva and the Dragon's Egg*.

My list of books grew and I added Tarot cards to my repertoire. I created two separate decks of oracle cards which I illustrated and wrote. *The Lost Cards of Atlantis* is centered on the Atlantis myth, and the *Mystic Brujeria Oracle Cards* is based on Mayan/Aztec mysticism and magic.

I entered book contests and both won and lost a few of them. This year, I was lucky enough to win in eight categories of the Royal Dragonfly Book Awards. Currently, I am working on a supernatural children's chapter book about a city that appears and disappears on earth only one day a month during the full moon. It will be called *Feliciudad*, which is a combination of two Spanish words meaning "happy city" (felicidad = happiness, ciudad = city).

Overall, self-publishing has been a fun journey with many twists and turns and I have learned a lot. I hope I have encouraged people who are on the self-publishing fence to take the leap and get your book published. It doesn't cost much and it's very satisfying to hold something that you have written and created in your own hands.

I look forward to creating more books in the future and bringing more stories and dreams to life. I also invite and encourage everyone to come to the Elk Grove Festival of the Arts this spring where I will have a table with my books for sale.

2023 Festival of the Arts is scheduled for April 29 10am-5pm under the Old Town plaza canopy.

It's free and there will be food trucks and free entertainment.

F.M. Barrera

SAMPLES OF FRANKIE'S stuff



BOOK TRAILER by NCPA Member Christine L. Villa

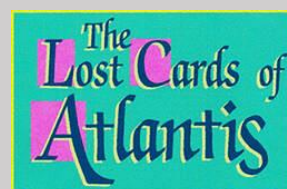
(Editor's Note: EXCELLENT – CLICK ON! MUST WATCH!)

An illustrated Halloween poem for children dealing with the fear and confusion caused by the covid-19 pandemic lockdown. A father tries to explain to his children why Halloween and trick-or-treating was canceled. Amid the sadness and regret of the children, a new plan for celebrating is formed. A last-minute backyard party is thrown, and everyone dresses up in their costumes. Everyone has a grand time until bedtime comes.

BUY ON AMAZON

Winner of a Purple Dragonfly Book Award for 2021

TAROT CARDS ..



The Lost Cards of Atlantis is a deck of 52 Tarot style oracle cards. They can be used in traditional Tarot spreads and other layouts. These cards were channeled from an ancient master who calls himself "Babazar: Father of the Cards". He was a being who lived in the time of Atlantis. The cards were lost to time but have now resurfaced. According to Babazar, simply hold the deck to your forehead, ask a question, and spread out 7 cards between two lit black candles.

SAMPLES OF FRANKIE'S stuff

**Mystic Brujeria
ORACLE CARDS**



Learn the magical art of Brujeria while giving or receiving a reading. The **Mystic Brujeria Oracle Cards** is an artistic 62 deck system based on Mexican-American Brujeria, Aztec and Mayan Mysticism, traditional Tarot, Lenormand and Loteria cards. Created using English, Spanish, Aztec Nahuatl and Mayan terms, they draw from many spiritual and religious traditions. Use them to obtain answers or to help you to learn individual Brujeria rituals.



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 ALL of 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

Due to health and other issues beyond the Board's control, we were forced to make changes with the 2023 anthology project **Anthology submission date now 1 Sep 2023 for both *Beautiful World & All Holidays Vol 3*, with projected launch 10 Dec 2023.**
SEND YOUR QUESTIONS &/or STORIES to our dedicated email: 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com

FREE ADVERTISING For Your Books or Writing-Related Business! Contact Norma today normathornton@yahoo.com if you'd like to be a one-month 2023 NCPA Guest Journalist. Promote yourself and your writing accomplishments like all our guest journalists since 2022, which has turned out to be an interesting experiment, one I'd like very much to continue. **YOU CAN BE NEXT.**

**Norma Jean's Basic Non-Genre Specific Critique Group – live & in person – this month tentatively scheduled
Wed 15 March 1- 3pm * Olive Garden * 1780 Challenge Way Sacramento (between Cal Expo & Arden Mall)**

RSVP - Contact me for more info if interested in attending * 916-804-7201 c / 916-991-5751 h * norma.B.N.A.F@gmail.com

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_IBMJsRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6R

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)

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

ANCESTRY DNA St. Patrick's Day * SALE * \$59 * reg \$99 – save 40% - (Add Traits for \$10 more)
SALE ENDS 11:59 pm ET * 17 MARCH 2023 -- Checkout (ancestry.com)

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

UPCOMING 2023 NCPA EVENTS – & others

C
H
A
N
G
E

29th **NCPA** **BOOK AWARDS** **BANQUET** 5pm-9pm

Sun 25 June 2023

Cherry Island Golf Course
Elverta, CA

COVID RULES WILL APPLY

NOTE:

NCPA DATE CHANGE

Sun 10 Dec 2023 ~ 12Noon-?
Citrus Heights' Black Angus on Greenback
NCPA's 6th Holiday Luncheon 2023
& 2 Anthology launches (anticipated)

NEW UPDATED NCPA 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

CWC 18 MARCH 2023 MEETING ONLY

Special luncheon March 18, 2023: 11:30, in place of regular 3rd Saturday meeting: @ **Cattlemen's** Rancho Cordova. \$30 in advance, \$36 at the door. www.cwcsacramentowriters.org for speaker details.

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

Monthly meetings ON HOLD until Aug 2023

NCPA Monthly meeting location remains, until we find one more suitable:
Black Angus Restaurant 7925 Greenback Ln, Citrus Heights

Critique Groups plus Book Award Competition, and Elections

All writers, no matter their genre, can benefit greatly from a good critique group. NCPA sponsors three different groups for members to choose from (must be a member to continue in critique groups, although non-members may attend two meetings to see if it's a fit):

- Non-fiction or memoir, facilitated by Sharon S Darrow, meets via Zoom monthly, with email submissions. New attendees are always welcome. The next meeting is Tue 3/14. Questions? Contact Sharon at her dedicated email: sharonsdarrowcritiquegroup@gmail.com * or * by phone (916-803-1665).
- Fiction, facilitated by Michelle Hamilton meets every other Tuesday via Zoom. The next meeting is 3/7. Questions? Contact Michelle at authormlhamilton@gmail.com or (916) 837-6812.
- Basic, non-genre-specific critique group moderated by Norma Jean Thornton, which means everyone's welcome, no matter your genre, and is great for anthology assistance. Meetings are in person, face-to-face, tentatively scheduled for third Wednesdays 1-3pm, subject to date and location changes. This month's meeting will be Wed 15 March at Olive Garden on Challenge, between Cal Expo and Arden Fair Mall. Contact normathornton@yahoo.com * 916-804-7201c or 916-991-5751 h

The book award competition is now closed to submissions, but we have a good number. Thirty-Three books were entered in a total of forty-five categories (cover/interior formatting is a separate category, so twelve books are in two categories). The winners will be announced at the banquet, with all entered books on display, available for purchase.

Annual election results will also be announced. The entire Board is willing to continue serving, but would happily step aside for new officers. Now's your chance to serve NCPA in a new dynamic way, if you'd like to run for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Communications Director. If interested, or you'd like to nominate someone, please contact Sharon Darrow to be sure that name is on the ballot. The Election will be during late April or early May, with results announced on 6/25.

Thank you all for your patience and participation.

Sharon S Darrow

916-803-1665

sharon@sharonsdarrow.com

sharonsdarrow.com

sharonsdarrow.com/samati-press

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

2019 NCPA Anthologies

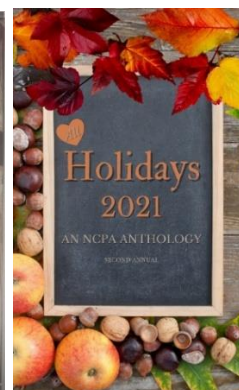
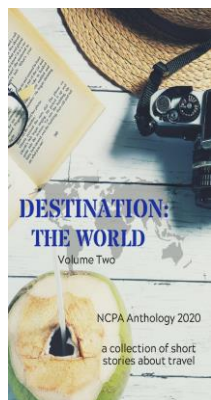


BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA Anthology
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals



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/)

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**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 Schoenborn**  **NEW INFO**

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 209-269-2210  **NEW INFO**

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

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

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

Chrissi also hosts PB Workshops. contact her chrissivilla@gmail.com * www.Christinevilla.com
www.purplecottoncandyarts.com/about.html * <https://www.velvetduskpublishing.com/about.html>
916-993-8798 h 916-500-3492 c

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

Check out the fine jewelry at Sharif's

Sharif Jewelers * 1338 Howe Ave * 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 1/2 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 Meetings generally **3rd Saturday** of each month ~1pm-3pm (**NEW INFO**) Arden

Dimick Library- 891 Watt Av  * ALSO * Writers Network 9-11am **1st Fri** monthly

(**NEW INFO**) **CH Café & Grill** 6215 Sunrise, Citrus Heights 

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

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

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

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

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

Rancho Cordova Library 9845 Folsom Blvd in Rancho Cordova

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

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

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

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

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

* Email egwg2020@egweg.org

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

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

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

"Writers Working Together to Promote and Improve their Work"

Questions contact Margie Yee Webb mywebb@sbcglobal.net

➤ **Sacramento Suburban Writers (SSW)**

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

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

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

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

➤ **Sacramento Valley Rose (SVR)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

➤ **San Joaquin Valley Writers (SJVW Branch CWC) FREE** Monthly Meetings generally **2nd Saturday** of each month 12Noon-2:30pm UOP in Stockton - Questions? June Gillam President SJVW-CWC <https://junegillam.com> Dues Info unknown at this time

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

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

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

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

NCPA Board of Directors**President**

Michelle Hamilton

authormlhamilton@gmail.com

916-837-6812

Secretary

Danita Moon

danita@danitamoon.com

(916) 980-0375

Communications Director / Newsletter Editor

Norma Jean Thornton

normathornton@yahoo.com

916-991-5751

Immediate Past President

Sharon Darrow

Membership Chair

Sharon Darrow

Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com

800-462-2328

Book Awards Chair

Sharon Darrow

Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com

800-462-2328

Awards Banquet Chair/ Coordinator

Norma Jean Thornton

Monthly Speaker Coordinator

Norma Jean Thornton

Normathornton@yahoo.com

916-991-5751

Webmaster & Photographer

Chrissi Villa

chrissivilla@gmail.com**norcalpa.org****Vice President**

Sharon Darrow

Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com

800-462-2328

Treasurer

Amy Rogers

Amy@AmyRogers.com

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

Social Media Director

Chrissi Villa

chrissivilla@gmail.com**FB & Promo Coordinator**

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 Ireland: **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 **TEMPORARILY ON HOLD through July 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
The Pen & Press is published by Northern California Publishers & Authors, a coalition of authors, small presses, and independent publishers. All newsletter content, unless otherwise attributed, is copyrighted by NCPA.

Material from the newsletter may not be reproduced in any way without written consent of the copyright holder.

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