

[www.norcalpa.org](http://www.norcalpa.org)

# The Pen & Press

**HAPPY EASTER Sun 9 April** (our normal meeting day, so a change & an update below)

**Sunday 16 April \*2pm – 3pm \* Zoom Meeting ONLY \* Michelle: Writing with Whimsy**

**WRITING WITH WHIMSY:** Trying out some unique writing prompts.

Michelle's also coming up with a few games for those who show up ready to complete some fun activities

Join President Michelle Hamilton for an hour of fun writing activities to get your thoughts flowing and your fingers dancing.

ML says to "Bring your imagination and your sense of humor. We're gonna have a blast!"

**ZOOM INFO** bottom of page 6 – Michelle will send more details later by separate email

**\*NO IN-PERSON MEETINGS UNTIL AUG 2023, then @ FLAMING GRILL: time & day coming soon\***

\*UPDATE: NCPA ANTHOLOGIES: Now accepting stories for both anthologies: Beautiful World \* & \* ALL Holidays Vol 3: entry deadline for both is 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 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Luncheon \* 12Noon Sun 10 Dec 2023 \* Black Angus, in Citrus Heights, same day as our Anthology Launch. Launch or not, there WILL be a Luncheon!

\*UPDATE: NCPA's Annual BOOK AWARDS: \* It's time to START GETTING THOSE 2023 BOOKS PUBLISHED & READY for our BIG 30<sup>th</sup> Book Awards in 2024. Submissions for 2023 published books will begin sometime around Oct 2023! Our 2022 submission date for the 29<sup>th</sup> annual awards has ended, and judging is in progress. (Does this confuse you as much as it constantly does me? I hate having to work with two years at once, and we have to do it with our taxes, too, for double the confusion!)

\*REMEMBER: NCPA's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Awards culminates this year in Elverta, at the Cherry Island Golf Course 5pm-9pm Sunday 25 Jun 2023. TIME TO START GETTING THOSE \$30 dinner TICKETS NOW – go to [norcalpa.org](http://norcalpa.org)



Ponnie telling Tessie & Y'all Happy Easter!



Read more about (long-gone) Tessie-Bunny (and "Lop") on page 3; I tried to copy other photos of her in the litter box and elsewhere, but for some reason those pictures are "unable to share" on my cell phone, so won't copy. At least these two did – Tessie's on the dining room table on the right, and with Ponnie-Kitty in a chair on the left. ---- And while you're at it, hunt for the 15 (fifteen) little green Easter Eggs on the pages inside for out of place informative articles and/or important tidbits. Pages 3 through 12. (Plus 3 on this page)

\*May Guest Journalist, with any luck, will be a duo, with a very special message --- Past President / long-time NCPA member Barry Schoenborn and wife, also long-time NCPA member and generous donor (both are), Jennifer Grainger Schoenborn, will provide us with a "lovely story"!

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

## President's Message

Last month I asked you to fill in a questionnaire. While we didn't get a huge number of people to respond, I want to thank those who did for your honest and thoughtful comments. I appreciate your willingness to share your feedback and the time you took to give us some insights.

The results are as follows:

- **Question 1: In-person, Zoom only, or Hybrid Meetings**  
Hybrid (in-person & zoom): 10  
 In-person only: 6  
 Online (Zoom only): 2  
Conclusion: Hybrid was the clear winner.
- **Question 2: Day of the Week for in-person meetings**  
 Friday Evening: 1: 3.45% \* Monday Evening: 1: 3.45% \* **Saturday Daytime: 7: 24.14% \***  
Sunday Daytime: 6: 20.69% \* Sunday Evening: 2: 6.90% \* **Thursday Evening: 5: 17.24% \***  
Tuesday Evening: 5: 17.24% \* Wednesday Evening: 2: 6.90%
- **Conclusion: Saturday or Sunday daytime is preferred for in-person meetings, but not strongly, with Thursday and Tuesday evenings coming in a close second.**
- **Question 3: Day of the Week for zoom meetings**  
 Friday Evening: 1 3.33% \* Monday Evening: 2 6.67% \* Saturday Daytime: 4 13.33%  
 Saturday Evening: 1 3.33% \* Sunday Daytime: 5 16.67% \* Sunday Evening: 4 13.33%  
 Thursday Evening: 4 13.33% \* **Tuesday Evening: 6 20.00%** \* Wednesday Evening: 3 10.00%
- **Conclusion: Tuesday evening was a narrow winner for zoom only meetings.**
- **Question 4: Times for in-person meetings**  
**During daylight hours only: 9 50.00% \*** Evening hours only: 5 27.78% \* **Either day or night: 4 22.22%**
- **Conclusion: The clear preference is for only daylight hours.**
- **Question 5: Times for zoom meetings**  
 During daylight hours only: 3 16.67% \* During evening hours (I work during the day): 5 27.78% \*  
**Either day or night (it makes no difference): 10 55.56%**
- **Conclusion: For zoom only meetings, there is no clear preference for day or night.**

The last two questions asked for participants to answer in comments about whether they would be willing to take on a leadership role and what members would like to see for NCPA going forward into the future.

Regarding the leadership question, many people responded that they'd be willing to help, but not in a formalized way or just not at the moment, perhaps in the future. The second question about what people would like to see garnered some great feedback.

A snapshot of the feedback is as follows:

- Book Groups – to discuss different genres
- Social Activities – going out for drinks (no food) or a few people mentioned potlucks
- Resource Options – cover design and book editing
- Public Book Signings
- Speakers on useful writing topics
- Provide a forum for dialog (either on the NCPA website or Facebook)

Again, thank you to all those who participated. For those who didn't have the time to fill in the questionnaire, if you'd like to offer your comments, please email me or any of the board members. We'd love to hear from you. The Board will meet soon to discuss how to implement the suggestions we received. We'll let you know as soon as we have a plan in place.

ML Hamilton  
[authormlhamilton.net](mailto:authormlhamilton.net)

*(Editor's Note: Apologies to Michelle for changing the format and adding the red text and highlights for effect!)*

**(Board is working on day & time. NEW Location: The Flaming Grill in the mall @ Watt Av & El Camino Av)**

## **Just One Trip Down the “Easter Bunny” Rabbit Hole, Thanks to Email and Google!**

The entire month of March was completely chaotic for me so I failed to actively pursue Barry and Jennifer further to be our Guest Journalists for NCPA’s April newsletter. Hopefully that can be done in May.

Instead, like a good Boy Scout (which my boys all were, thus caused me to be an honorary BS by being mom Co-BS Leader (hehehe look at that unintended double entendre) I’m always prepared for anything, so I have a backup plan using some of the writing-related stuff I’ve received through email over the years.

That, and my own stream of consciousness triggered by something that catches my attention whether written, seen on TV, heard...or just suddenly pops into my head, then off I go again! So, you’re stuck with me.

I always wind up finding more than one thing while going down that darned Google Rabbit Hole, and what better month than the one that Easter falls in, with all those little bunnies running rampant (because they’re so darned cute). Then they grow up and if allowed outside, dig lots and lots...and lots more, of those rabbit holes, sometimes in your garden. Hmmm – maybe somebody needs to name their next rabbit *Google*).

And as an example of my experiences “down the rabbit hole” here I go, by getting sidetracked with that darned thing. Who needs a guest journalist when there are rabbit holes!?

One of my pet peeves is stores merchandising stuff for holidays way too early: 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, and in this case, Easter. As with all the others, havoc is created for one’s diet, when most parents, grands and greats, or aunts, uncles and just lovers of the candy, baskets, etc., can’t get past all the sweet and fun stuff the stores have been tempting us with since some time in Feb! Every time I go in a store and see *Peeps*, I just have to buy a box and as soon as I’m in the car, immediately open it exposing the egg-white-foamy original yellow *Peeps* so they can get hard (the other \*colors are ok, and taste the same, but I still prefer the originals), then proceed to eat them all within 24 hours. Just what I don’t need, since I’ve already been making and eating a variety of Rocky Road candies.

But what I had intended on saying prior to rattling on about the stores above, is about rabbit holes, and that we’ve had bunnies before – both indoors and out. Our indoor, and most recent one, Tessie, not only had the run of the house, but also all the furniture in every room, including the table, bar and counters! We couldn’t keep her off of things, but at least she always used the cat’s litter box. (Pictures on the main page, but not the ones I wanted, b/c naturally something went wrong with my cell phone and those were “unable to share.”!?)

The three *outdoor* bunnies were years and years ago; two of the rabbits disappeared after a few years, but the one large gray female lop we just called “Lop” stayed. While they were here, they did all run rampant in our back yard and did dig holes all over, including their main hole inside the open-doored metal shed.

That hole went all the way from our fenced yard through both the next-door-neighbor’s fenced yard (also happened to be a corner house, but we had an extra parcel, also fenced, behind their property, giving us access to a road), and the neighbors behind us with their many acres of property and loosely railed fencing.

One day we got up to a small (less than half Lop’s size), obviously young, white and orange bunny that had suddenly appeared in our well-fenced yard (except for the exits from that main rabbit hole). That little guy turned out to be just that – a little guy, and that little guy did exactly what little guy bunnies do --- *multiplied like a rabbit!* Because, unlike Lop, who we could hold if we wanted, he wouldn’t let us get near, so we didn’t know he was a he until later.

We found out the morning our cat, Demon, came “flying” through the bedroom window just a little over a month later carrying a VERY small squealing baby bunny and dropped it in bed with us.

We didn’t even know Lop had been pregnant, nor given birth, until we took that bunny from the cat and out into the back yard. There was Lop and the then immediately named *Quick* plus 3 more baby bunnies, obviously siblings to the one Demon had brought in. That surprise was made doubly so considering Lop was at least 9 or 10 years, and never had babies before.

Norma Jean

Note: \*colors: Good thing I don’t eat the other colored Peeps, since I just heard on TV not an hour after typing the above. that Peeps are being “called out for containing Red Dye 3. a known carcinogen!”

**Looking for Guest Journalists June 2023 -- Dec 2023.**

**Great chance to toot your own horn to more than 250 people. Never get a better chance!**

**Respond to this Email if interested – or Email [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)** 

The following from: WORD GENIUS

### *Do You Know the Real Meaning Behind These Popular Sayings?*

- **Close, but No Cigar:** Cigars were once given as prizes at fairs and carnivals. Near-misses were common, so results would have been close, but no cigar.
- **Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover:** The cover of a book may have absolutely nothing at all to do with anything written inside (sometimes even the title doesn't). Likewise, a person's looks may have very little, if anything, to do with who they really are.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Tricky Plurals You Always Spell Wrong*

For more: <https://www.wordgenius.com/challenging-plurals/Xr0yWBPAJQAG8w> 8

As we all know (or at least should know), all plural words do NOT end with an "s." Why?

According to *Word Genius (WG)*, some English words have different origins, thus the root language can often impact the usage.

- Per *WG*, if a noun ends in a single "f," there's a strong possibility that instead of adding an "s" you drop the "f" and add "-ves."
  - "Wolf" becomes "wolves." "Calf" becomes "calves." "Loaf" becomes "loaves."

**BUT - The exception to this exception is:**

- If the word ends in a double "f" — that's a plural "s."
  - "Cliffs," "cuffs," and "mastiffs" are all **regular plural nouns**.

There are too many to include all **irregular plural nouns**, but here are a few:

- Goose → Geese
- Fungus → Fungi
- Appendix → Appendices
- Ox → Oxen
- Deer → Deer (**Zero plural nouns are spelled the same in plural and singular forms.**)

*Again, per WG: Where do these irregular plurals come from? Blame their "parents."*

- Words like "fungus" and "appendix" come from Latin, and
- "goose" and "ox" have Germanic origins.

These words retain the plural rules from their original languages. English borrows so much from other languages that it's no surprise it has so many irregularities.

- Sometimes there isn't just one way to spell a plural. That can work in two ways — either it makes tricky plurals harder to grasp, or it makes them more flexible.

Sometimes the plural form of a word is outdated

- Take "roof." Under the "f" rule explained earlier, the plural should be "rooves." That actually was a commonly accepted use in English, and it's technically not wrong. It's just not what most people use in modern English.
- Instead, it's "roofs." **This word becomes irregular by following the regular plural convention.**

Animals are especially common in the world of irregular plural choices.

- Take your pick between "fish" and "fishes," "shrimp" and "shrimps." Spellcheck might pick one version over the other, but:
- both are technically correct.

\*\*\*\*\* (BTW: I don't know where my email from Word Genius came from – one day it just started appearing in my email, and like the blogger below, I enjoy it and share some things.) \*\*\*\*\*

If you missed it on KVIE-TV 29 Mar, then click below for 26 minutes & 56 seconds of Yosemite's sheer waterfall delight

<https://vids.kvie.org/video/lost-falls-of-yosemite-nqgts/> 

## For Idioms & Puns to Make You Laugh on April Fools' Day (2024) – MORE WORD GENIUS

e.g.: Fool Me Once \* When Pigs Fly \* Bull in a China Shop \* “Denial ain't just a river in Egypt” \* and more, click on:

[https://www.wordgenius.com/idioms-puns-to-make-you-laugh-on-april-fools-day/ZAo\\_TVcTewAIKFPf?utm\\_source=blog&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=1762668408](https://www.wordgenius.com/idioms-puns-to-make-you-laugh-on-april-fools-day/ZAo_TVcTewAIKFPf?utm_source=blog&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1762668408)

### Fun to Say WORDS & DEFINITIONS: (from Word Genius)

- Piffling: Unimportant
- Spizzerinctum: 1: Determination, ardor, or zeal – 2: Chutzpah, guts. Nerve, or backbone
- Opsigamy: Marriage at an old age
- Frippery: 1: Showy or unnecessary ornament in architecture, dress, or language 2: Tawdry or frivolous thing
- Craquelure: A network of fine cracks in the paint or varnish of a painting
- Raisonneur: Person in a play or book embodying an author's viewpoint
- Eldritch: Weird and sinister or ghostly
- Consentient: Of the same opinion in a matter; in agreement
- Effloresce: 1: Blossom 2: Lose moisture & turn to fine powder on exposure to air (of a substance)
- Borborygmus: Rumbling or gurgling noise made by movement of fluid and gas in the intestines
- Solipsistic: 1: Very self-centered or selfish. 2: Relating to the view or theory that be known to exist
- Pirandellian: Describing drama in which actors become inseparable and indistinct from the characters that they play
- Taradiddle: 1: A petty lie. 2: Pretentious nonsense
- Mumpsimus: A traditional custom or notion adhered to although shown to be unreasonable
- Videlicet: 1: More formal term for “viz” 2: In other words (used to introduce an explanation)

**AND BELOW, ANOTHER TRIP DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE, THANKS TO WORD GENIUS** – I suddenly wondered how accurate that site really is, and if they legitimately know what they speak of? But then, how legit is the *Travel Bug Bite*? That's why I always include qualifiers: reportedly, supposedly, apparently, according to, per, as stated by, etc., because I don't have the time to source everything I find of interest, and include in the newsletter. I did a search on *Word Genius* to see if it's legit, and this Blog (since 2012) is just one of the things I found:

**There's lots more.** For full info go to: [Word Genius: Daily Vocab Expander \\* The Travel Bug Bite](#)

(Partial stuff) **COPIED WORD FOR WORD from the Blog: *The Travel Bug Bite*:**

*Word Genius sends me an email or two every day. I waste a lot of time clearing spam and emails that I once thought I'd want to subscribe to. However, I always open and enjoy my emails from [Word Genius](#). You can subscribe to get a word a day and I feel like I have actually learned a lot in the month or so of my free subscription. Some days, instead of a new word you get a mini quiz to test your vocab knowledge. I enjoy both the quizzes and new words. I even look forward to these emails on a daily basis.*

**Word of the Day:** *You don't need to subscribe to enjoy Word Genius. The website also shows you daily words and has quizzes as well as more fun stuff to explore. Today's word of the day is “noctambulate,” for example. Fascinatingly enough, WordPress underlines it as incorrect! It means ‘to walk outside at night.’ Word Genius shows the word in a sentence, tells you about the popularity of the word in history and you can hear it being pronounced correctly. Apparently, it was the most popular in the 1950s, but I say we should bring noctambulate back!*

**Daily Quizzes:** Other than daily new words, Word Genius also offers daily quizzes. These quizzes are great because they give you a lot of information. You do need to subscribe to play, but I definitely recommend doing it anyway because the emails are so much fun! My vocabulary is average at best, but I often make correct guesses in these quizzes, which is very encouraging. There is always a button to learn more about the word in the quiz and just reading it will help you memorize new words and learn new things! \*

Wrong is wrong, even if everyone is doing it.  
Right is right, even if no one is doing it.  
*Motivational Spark*

**9 Words You're Saying Incorrectly (from Word Genius)** (Not me – I said them all correctly, except that weird last one!)

**Acai \* Meme \* Cache \* Valet \* Gif \* Electoral \* Gyro \* Mauve \* Rooibos** (Plus lots more stuff)

<https://www.wordgenius.com/words-you-say-wrong/Xr0yWBPAJQAG8w9a>

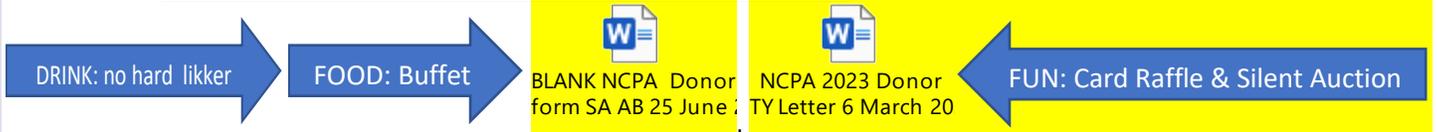
**3 Ways You're Using “Whom” Wrong (another Word Genius)** (who = subject \* whom = object) Plus lots more stuff

<https://www.wordgenius.com/three-main-ways-youre-using-whom->



**GREAT GIFT FOR: \* Easter! \* Mother's Day! \* Father's Day! \* GREAT GIFT**

**Get your \$30 NCPA BOOK AWARDS BANQUET Dinner Tix NOW** --- [norcalpa.org](http://norcalpa.org) --- **Final date to purchase Tue 20 Jun** -- for the premier writing gala event 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](mailto: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 Award per Anthology \* PLUS BOOKS GALORE \* On-Site Book Store**

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 \*\* **Silent Auction with proceeds to Friends of the Library**

**HOW BOOKS ARE JUDGED FOR AN AWARD**

Important short, simplified information on judging books for the Book Awards Competition. ●

I've received a couple of questions regarding how books are **judged against each other** for the "contest" – first, this is not a *contest* with books competing against one-another for a single 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place award in a genre. We can, and *have* in the past, chosen more than one book in each award category.

Rather, it's strictly a *competition*, judged by a matrix that has 10 questions with up to 5 grade examples: A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2, F=1 point/s for each question. Each of the 50 answered grades is totaled at the end, then those totals are combined for a grand total which is the final numerical grade for an award. For example, if we had 10 submitted in a genre and all 10 were worthy of the same award, then we'd have 10 books awarded in a genre. Likewise, if none of those 10 are worthy, then there are zero books awarded in a genre. That also has happened in the past.

Hopefully this explains the system, and I didn't make it more confusing. ....Norma Jean

**Permanent link for monthly ZOOM NCPA meetings:**

Author ML Hamilton is inviting you to a scheduled NCPA Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84185416630?pwd=aEJaTGlyakhBQ1pYWU5KS3FEanBTU09>

Meeting ID: 841 8541 6630

Passcode: 828631

One tap mobile

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

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

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

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

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 841 8541 6630

Passcode: 828631

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/k2lhfkR3>

## The Importance of Proper Comma Placement: An oldie but a goodie! ●

### Panda EATS, SHOOTS & LEAVES

A panda walks into a café, orders a sandwich, eats, then draws a gun and fires two shots in the air. \* "Why?" asks the confused waiter, as the panda makes towards the exit. \* The panda produces a badly punctuated wildlife annual and tosses it over his shoulder. \* "I'm a panda," he says, "Look it up." \* The waiter turns to the relevant entry and, sure enough, finds an explanation: Panda. Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves. Anonymous

\*\*\*

**CRAZY STATE LAWS:** Montana: It's illegal to have a sheep in your truck without a chaperone. Don't let your sprinkler get the street wet in Kalispell – it's against the law. \* Nevada: Camels are prohibited from walking on public highways. \* Ohio: In Youngstown, running out of gas is a misdemeanor. Cincinnati taxi drivers can only wear shorts from May 16 through Labor Day\* South Carolina: In Hilton Head it's illegal to accumulate garbage in your car. \* Washington: It's against the law to hua someone while you're driving.

Due to health, death, 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](mailto:2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com)**

### NCPA ANTHOLOGIES 2023

**Beautiful World & All Holidays Vol 3 --- Start writing your stories now**

**Questions? Send ONLY to Dedicated Email [2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

✓ **REMEMBER: 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](mailto: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, FREE, process, to get published, and a great start for those 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](mailto:2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com) ONLY for ALL correspondence re THESE TWO anthologies ONLY, including questions and help.** Norma Jean

[Conference Keeper.org](https://conferencekeeper.org) \* <https://slig.ugagenealogy.org/> \* <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/ngs>  
[Midwest African American Genealogy Institute](https://midwestafricanamerican.org) (MAAGI)  
[Gen-Fed 2023 Registration Coming Soon! – Genealogical Institute on Federal Records](https://genfed2023.org)  
[42nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy](https://iajgs.org) ●

**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.

Mam-ma's Southern Family: <http://mammassoutherfamily.blogspot.com/> My Trails into the Past <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.**

**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](mailto: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](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwtrWI_IBMJsRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6R)

Questions? Contact [bethd2073@gmail.com](mailto:bethd2073@gmail.com) or Dave [contact@saclibrary.org](mailto:contact@saclibrary.org)

**Info on library's upcoming genealogy programs, through June 2023** \***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.

**Ancestry® Storymaker Studio** \* Enhance Photos and Capture Audio: Family History on the Go! ●

**California Genealogical Society \*\*\*\*\* CaliforniaAncestors.org (in OAKLAND, CA)** ●

Reservations no longer needed to visit the library during its open hours Wed, Thu & Fri from 10am-2pm & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat ea/month 10am-4pm  
 (NOTE: Visits are free for members; NON-members can pay \$5 fee at time of visit or join and have fee applied to membership)

**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 card .....the census records are great, even if you don't do anything else

Go to [www.saclibrary.org](http://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](mailto: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. trv [bethd2073@gmail.com](mailto:bethd2073@gmail.com))

» [50 Literary Journals That Pay Their Authors \(authorspublish.com\)](https://authorspublish.com)» \$\$\$\$ (authorspublish.com) \$\$\$\$

» [56 Manuscript Publishers with Geographic Restrictions \(authorspublish.com\)](https://authorspublish.com)

FROM SHARON to Help Other Writers: ARE YOU A WRITER OR AN AUTHOR? Click below

**"Pay It Forward" Always a winning strategy! (samatiypress.com)**

COMMA TIPS: 8 Comma Rules to Remember:

<https://www.wordgenius.com/do-commas-even-have-rules/Xr0yWBPAJQAG8w86>

10 Old English Words We Wish Would Come Back

[https://www.wordgenius.com/10-old-english-words-we-wish-would-come-back/ZAo\\_CFcTewAIKFPZ](https://www.wordgenius.com/10-old-english-words-we-wish-would-come-back/ZAo_CFcTewAIKFPZ)

**UPCOMING 2023 NCPA EVENTS – & others**

**C  
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**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 6<sup>th</sup> Holiday Luncheon 2023**  
& 2 Anthology launches (anticipated)  
(1<sup>st</sup> one in 2017 - COVID canceled only one?)

**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](mailto:2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com)

In Person NCPA meetings with or without guest speakers each month are TEMPORARILY ON HOLD through July 2023. Meetings will re-start in August at The Flaming Grill Country Club Plaza Shopping Mall at Watt Av & El Camino. **Times and location determined, but will probably not be on the same site as necessary but a soda/drink would be appreciated if available.** Meetings always FREE ~ Visitors always welcome.

**Monthly NCPA meetings ON HOLD until Aug**

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

**In August 2023 NCPA Monthly meeting location will change to the Flaming Grill in the old Country Club Plaza Mall at Watt & El Camino, where WinCo is an anchor store. Day & Time not yet decided.**

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

[Home- State Fair - Cal Expo & State Fair \(calexpostatefair.com\)](http://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](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com) I'll forward the arts inquiries on to Chrissi.

REMEMBER, the only ties NCPA has with Michelle and the State Fair AUTHORS BOOTH, is she just happens to be involved in both. NCPA has absolutely NO SAY IN WHO SELLS BOOKS AT THE AUTHORS BOOTH. We're just fortunate that Michelle is our President, and has the ability to notify ALL WRITING ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING NCPA, early, about the booth.

To all SSWC members and those who received an SSWC newsletter from Feb, March and April, they contain incorrect info regarding the California State Fair's Authors Booth and NCPA. Although a correction has recently been made on their current on-line newsletter, that incorrect information has still gone out to mailboxes for three months. Please read above (typed in green text, highlighted in yellow) for correct info.  Editor

**Norma Jean's Basic Non-Genre Specific Critique Group – live & in person – this month scheduled for Wed 19 April 1pm - 3pm, or???**

\* Inside Country Club Plaza Mall (corner of Watt Av & El Camino Av, the side where WinCo is an anchor store), all the way back towards WinCo, by the bathrooms. Plenty of tables and chairs await us, with lots of space between, in the center of that portion of the mall surrounded by empty store-fronts, in peace and quiet. There are also a few places scattered within to get something to drink, OR BYO! – plus a bite to eat, including ice cream, if you want – OR go inside one of the local restaurants to eat. 

**Please RSVP for the Critique Group** so we know how many copies of our work to bring [norma.B.N.A.F@gmail.com](mailto:norma.B.N.A.F@gmail.com)  
Or contact me for more info if interested in attending \* 916-804-7201 c / 916-991-5751 h \*

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

### 2019 NCPA Anthologies

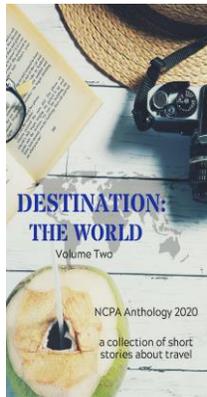


**BIRDS OF A FEATHER**  
*An NCPA Anthology*  
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals

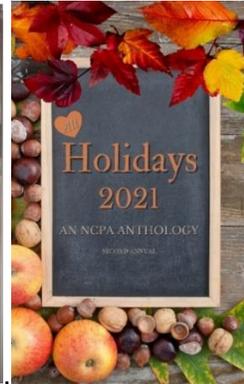


**MORE BIRDS OF A FEATHER**  
*An NCPA ANTHOLOGY*  
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals and Other Things

### 2020 NCPA Anthologies



### 2021-22 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](mailto: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 \* 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:amy@AmyRogers.com) Web: [AmyRogers.com](http://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@JenniferTheGhostwriter.com](mailto:jennifer@JenniferTheGhostwriter.com) \* <https://JenniferTheGhostwriter.com> 209-269-2210 \* 209-327-5475  **NEW 2023 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](mailto: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](mailto:chrissivilla@gmail.com) \* [www.Christinevilla.com](http://www.Christinevilla.com)  
[www.purplecottoncandyarts.com/about.html](http://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 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](http://www.roaringcampgold.com) ~ 209-296-4100 ~ [info@roaringcampgold.com](mailto:info@roaringcampgold.com)

**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 2023 INFO**) Arden Dimick Library-  
 891 Watt Av  \* ALSO \* Writers Network 9-11am **1st Fri** monthly  
 (**NEW 2023 INFO**) **CH Café & Grill** 6215 Sunrise, Citrus Heights   
 Open to public, pay for your own breakfast (**NEW 2023 INFO**)  
 For information & prices on joining, go to: [www.cwcsacramentowriters.org](http://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](http://Capitolcrimes.org)
- **Elk Grove Writers Guild (EGWG) Elk Grove Writers Guild (egweg.org)**  
 Meets the **1st Fri** of each month in Elk Grove at the Round Table Pizza Restaurant,  
 corner of Bruceville Rd. and Whitlock at 12:30 pm  (**NEW 2023 INFO**)  
 For more info, go to [egwg2020@egweg.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://Sactowriters.org)
- **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 above info may be outdated. Suggest you contact prior to attending any.**

**If there are any changes in any of the above organizations, please let me know ASAP --- [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)**  
 I removed Sacramento Valley Rose & RWA since I've not been able to find them anywhere with a Google search or anything else &  
 was told SVR had separated from RWA and restructured with a new name, but the person telling me couldn't remember the name.

**IF YOU KNOW OTHER LOCAL WRITING GROUPS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW SO I CAN ADD THEM** ●

**FREE ADVERTISING For Your Books or Writing-Related Business!** Contact Norma today [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto: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.** ●

**CLICK ON: [Nobody showed up to a best-selling author's book launch. She called it a 'career low point' but found out she's far from alone. \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com)** \* What just happened to a NYT Best Selling Author - ● - Encouragement for newbies!

## NCPA Board of Directors

### President

Michelle Hamilton  
[authornlhamilton@gmail.com](mailto:authornlhamilton@gmail.com)  
 916-837-6812

### Secretary

Danita Moon  
[danita@danitamoon.com](mailto:danita@danitamoon.com)  
 (916) 980-0375

### Communications Director / Newsletter Editor

Norma Jean Thornton  
[normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)  
 916-991-5751 (h) 916-804-7201 (c)

### Immediate Past President

Sharon Darrow  
Membership Chair  
 Sharon Darrow  
[Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com](mailto:Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com)  
 800-462-2328

### Book Awards Chair

Sharon Darrow  
[Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com](mailto:Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com)  
 800-462-2328

### Awards Banquet Chair/ Coordinator

Norma Jean Thornton  
Monthly Speaker Coordinator  
 Norma Jean Thornton  
[Normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:Normathornton@yahoo.com)  
 916-991-5751 home (has V/M)  
 916-804-7201 cell (NO V/M)

### Webmaster & Photographer

Chrissi Villa  
[chrissivilla@gmail.com](mailto:chrissivilla@gmail.com)

## norcalpa.org

### Vice President

Sharon Darrow  
[Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com](mailto:Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com)  
 800-462-2328

### Treasurer

Amy Rogers  
[Amy@AmyRogers.com](mailto: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](mailto:chrissivilla@gmail.com)  
 FB & Promo Coordinator  
 Charlene Johnson  
[circleoftheredscorpion@gmail.com](mailto:circleoftheredscorpion@gmail.com)

### Book Events Coordinator

Danita Moon  
[danita@danitamoon.com](mailto:danita@danitamoon.com)  
 (916) 980-0375  
Anthology 2019 - 2023  
 Norma Jean Thornton: Coordinator  
 Michelle Hamilton: Main Editor  
 Bob Irelan: Editor  
 Elaine Faber: Editor  
 Norma Jean Thornton: Proofreader  
 Sharon Darrow: Publisher  
[2021NCPAAnthology@gmail.com](mailto:2021NCPAAnthology@gmail.com)

### Main Webmaster

Amy Rogers  
[Amy@ScienceThrillersMedia.com](mailto:Amy@ScienceThrillersMedia.com)

**In Person NCPA meetings with or without guest speakers each month are TEMPORARILY ON HOLD through July 2023 Meetings will re-start in August at *The Flaming Grill* in the Country Club Plaza Shopping Mall at Watt Av & El Camino Av Times and Dates yet to be determined, but may not be on a Sunday. No purchase necessary but a soda/drink would be appreciated \*Alcohol is available Meetings always FREE ~ Visitors always welcome.**

[www.norcalpa.org](http://www.norcalpa.org)

[www.norcalpa.org](http://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.

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> of each month, unless otherwise noted** ~ and ~ **if you have something after the 5<sup>th</sup> 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