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# The Pen & Press

**IN-PERSON MEETINGS ARE BACK SAME day ~ NEW time ~ NEW location**

The NCPA Board of Directors invites you to join us at our new location on Sun 10 Sep 2023

**4-6:30PM \* SUN \* 10 SEP \* FLAMING GRILL**

NCPA Treasurer/Webmaster **AMY ROGERS** will (attempt to) teach us how to navigate NCPA's Club Express Website, help members discover the website business directory, and how to use the brand-new NCPA APP

As those of you who read the two Emails I sent out the day before the August meeting know, in addition to having a new time and location, we started something else that was different – asking for an RSVP - and it seemed to work magnificently! We not only knew in advance how many to expect, but also, for whatever reason, our attendance doubled. It was a nice change to have an almost full room, even though it was a bit warm ... but not as hot as it was outside! Food was good, parking plentiful.

We had no guest speaker in August – just chit-chat and get re-acquainted, plus met some new people and gained at least one new member --- WELCOME DENNIS DAHLIN! ...plus, we got to meet Sharon's new puppy: Great Dane, Freddie Melina Mercury

\*8 October Guest Speaker will be NCPA Prez Michelle Hamilton on Merchandising

\*12 November will be the Annual US: ALL MEMBERS TAKING our own Books for Display to Exchange &/or Sell

\*10 December Annual Holiday Luncheon combined with the Launch of at least one, hopefully both, Anthologies ~ NCPA's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Luncheon \* 12Noon Sun 10 Dec 2023 \* Black Angus, in Citrus Heights, same day as anticipated Anthology Launch ~ Launch or not, there WILL be a Luncheon that day!

\*NCPA ANTHOLOGIES: *Beautiful World* \* & \* *ALL Holidays Vol 3* **NEW SUBMIT DEADLINE 1 OCT 2023 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)**

\***START GETTING THOSE 2023 BOOKS PUBLISHED & READY for our BIG 30<sup>th</sup> Book Awards 19 May 2024** Full details coming soon, but we'll start accepting books 1 October 2023.

Exciting things coming for NCPA's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Awards Banquet 19 May 2024 "PEARLS"

Critique group changes: \* Michelle's Fiction group is now permanently moderated by Mary McShane Vaughn

\* Sharon's Non-Fiction/ Memoir will restart after the first of the year (2024)

\* Norma's Basic Generic non-Genre Specific will restart in October or November 2023. More details in upcoming newsletters.

\***Newsletter: REPEATING this from JULY, WITH SOME CHANGES:** In anticipation of our 30<sup>th</sup> Book Awards Anniversary, we started celebrating with the July newsletter and will go through May 2024. Since the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary is **PEARLS**, the theme of 2024 will be celebrated in each newsletter with a new column: **PEARLS OF WISDOM** (and other such worldly stuff). I started August off with help from MLK Jr and Andrea Pirlo. Whomever wishes to impart some Pearls without being asked, THANK YOU; you don't have to wait your turn. The following month, I'll repeat the names of those who didn't submit anything, and hope they'll send a "Pearl" for the next newsletter. A Pearl of Wisdom can be in the form of a saying, a poem about, or with, the word pearl, or a short story of no more than 500 words (but if "ya gotta" really great story longer than 500 words, just send it to me and I'll decide. (5 authors sent Pearls for this month: \* **Arcado** \* **Atherstone** \* **Barrett** \* **Darrow** \* **Garner** \* Thank you!)

**TAG! The following 19 repeats are IT FOR SEPTEMBER ~ send your "Pearls of Wisdom" to [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)**

**Alcalde Marr \* Avanti \* Bize-Boutte \* Boyd Fellure \* Branco \* Canterbury \* Cassady \* Cawley \* Charles \* Clark \* Davis \* Diaz \* Dorow \* Dreizler \* Faber \* Fite \* Fuller \* Fulton \* Garrett \***

We're all writers, or at least wannabees, so let's write! If you're already published this should be a piece of cake, and if you aren't already published, now's your perfect time to do just that, with a measly poem, really short story, or a saying your mom, dad or grandma/grandpa always said to you that irritated you to no end! Surely, we all have at least one of those to share! If there's a story that goes with that Pearl, you can include it, too, if you'd like. **THANK YOU!** **Paybacks are hell**

**(President's Message)** ----- written by the Editor: *Norma Jean*

Michelle's on overload so I gave her a reprieve from her message this month. Not only did the fair recently end (for those who don't already know, and a reminder for those who do), where she was running the Authors Booth for the 17 days of the CA State Fair, but she's dealing with a major turn for the worse for her father and his bout with esophageal cancer, plus she's had a very sick dog. In addition, Michelle just started back to work (HS teacher) the beginning of Aug, and is still trying to find time to write books at her normal pace.

So – instead, since I was there most of the time helping out (along with Danita, our NCPA secretary), I'll touch bases on the Fair as well as give a quick rundown of our first face-to-face meeting this month, 13 Aug 4pm-6:30pm, at our new location: Flaming Grill in the old CCP shopping Mall at Watt Av & El Camino Av.

**NCPA August meeting recap:** I did something new this time, and asked for an RSVP, whether coming or not, or even just a maybe. It worked really well, and I greatly appreciate those who not only sent a YES, but as requested, several marked NO, and even a couple marked MAYBE. The only thing that wasn't quite 100% helpful, was the amount of Email generated by that request --- LOL --- 68 messages went back and forth, b/c I responded to each. BUT, it worked so well, barring the extra time for me, I'm going to continue doing it, and I hope we continue to get the amount of response – or even more – in upcoming months. I have a system now ..... Maybe .....

**The Flaming Grill** is a great place for our meetings – the service was good, especially since there was only one waiter (but I had told them not to add any extra help, b/c we weren't going to be in any hurry, and nobody would complain if they got a bit backlogged). Surprisingly, he was better than the service we've had elsewhere – except Black Angus. They've always been great; we'll be back at Black Angus 10 Dec 12Noon-?? for our Holiday Luncheon.

For any of you looking for a place to book for another writing organization or other event, Flaming Grill doesn't charge for the quiet, private room (holds 40), we got separate checks, parking is plentiful, the food's good and decent-priced. BTW, I had the Gator-Bite Po Boy served on a toasted Dutch Crunch Roll, and it was GREAT. I asked for it dry, b/c I didn't want anything to distract from the flavor of the alligator (which I've not only eaten before, but have cooked several times). I'll probably have it again at the **Sep meeting – Sun 10 Sep 4pm-6:30pm**.

Our Aug meeting had no guest speaker, instead we just introduced ourselves and visited – gained one new member, a few only had something to drink, a couple also took to-go-orders, and many oohed and aahed over Sharon's new 2-month-old puppy, Great Dane "Freddie" Melina Mercury, who she had there in a shopping cart.

**FAIR Authors Booth Booksellers – past, current, and future:** Just a reminder for next year; we authors are very fortunate to only be required to pay 15% for our daily sales in order to even be there selling our books -- and we pay nothing if we don't sell anything. That doesn't happen if you have to pay for your own space.

FYI - That space, in the prime position it's in – inside an airconditioned building at that (although this year, there were a couple of days during the peak of record temps, 3 of the 4 air conditioners in the building temporarily stopped working), and so close to the most popular booth at the fair (the Cinnamon Rolls) – would run in the high hundreds to thousands of dollars for one or two individual booths if we didn't have it locked in, bringing in a collective amount at least close to the going amount for booth space.

The Fair's Authors Booth isn't tied to NCPA (except for the fortunate fact for NCPA, that Michelle happens to be head honcho for each), so there's no reason to be specific here, on the amounts generated. I'll only say that Michelle was happy that we generated more than she expected, what with the extreme heat, plus decreased amount of fair-goers. My guess is the sales were partially due to a few new authors (to the Authors Booth) with a new batch of books (especially for kids and YA), and previous authors with new books, plus loyal fans of particular authors with a bunch of books, including both older and new (Michelle for one! She has oodles of books, and VERY loyal fans – I believe more than one of those fans walked out with an armful of books that she didn't already have, and specifically waits for the fair to purchase more, in person: full series ... actually multiple series ... 10-15 books, at least, once).

Speaking of those new sellers this year, the ones who sold the most, were the YA authors – and YA was also the most genre asked about - lending to the thought that because we don't have many in that genre, we need more YA authors for next year. So, if you're a published YA author living anywhere in California, and would like to participate at the Authors Booth at the CA State Fair next year, please contact Michelle after 1 January 2024 for submission and acceptance procedure information. (The fair normally runs from the middle of July to the end of July – 17 days total. Each author generally is physically there 2 -- 4 days, but can leave your books for Danita to sell the other days. All of that info will be explained by Michelle once you've submitted).

You can respond to this Email if you don't have Michelle's info, and have questions. I'll forward to her.

## Member News

### Aging Well: Writing keeps Hawaii-born author, poet feeling young CONGRATULATIONS FRANCES!

Article/radio interview on **NCPA's own Poet Laureate, Frances Kakugawa**, from her home state of Hawaii

If you can, listen to it all b/c the text doesn't give the haiku she does for the host (but be advised, there's a very quick ad that you may or may not be able to click ... depends on which ad comes up when you start ... to skip just before the interview begins). Great piece from KITV-4, CONGRATS FRANCES!

[https://www.kitv.com/kakou/aging-well/aging-well-writing-keeps-hawaii-born-author-poet-feeling-young/article\\_bfa4d89a-3bcf-11ee-8218-3f5a0655ba9d.html](https://www.kitv.com/kakou/aging-well/aging-well-writing-keeps-hawaii-born-author-poet-feeling-young/article_bfa4d89a-3bcf-11ee-8218-3f5a0655ba9d.html)



### Gentle critique from a picture-cartoon. Scene: author sitting with a publisher:

**Publisher:** *We loved all the words in your manuscript, but we were wondering if you could maybe put them in a completely different order?*

**Me:** Perhaps a good Critique Group is what that author needed, to help put his words in the proper order?

NCPA has 3 critique groups in varying stages of activity currently, but all should hopefully be up and fully running by Jan 2024.

### NCPA CRITIQUE GROUPS

**MICHELLE's Fiction** has been permanently handed over to Mary McShane Vaughn

**SHARON's NF & Memoir** is on hold until Jan 2024

**NORMA JEAN's Basic Non-Genre-Specific, Touch-on-it-All-a-Little** will restart once I get caught up with both this newsletter and Sep newsletter, plus start on the anthologies – **AND the Rio Linda Country Faire's** over (Sat 16 Sep – I volunteer with it all year, too) – hopefully our next critique meeting will be in late Sep or Oct, at the latest.

Publishing info from NCPA member **Barbara KLIDE**: A little bit of news: my Audiobook for *Secret Lives of Wild Canada Geese* has published with just a couple of links listed below. More are coming, including on Amazon.

- Kobo, Walmart: <https://www.kobo.com/us/en/audiobook/secret-lives-of-wild-canada-geese-1>
- Chirp: <https://www.chirpbooks.com/audiobooks/secret-lives-of-wild-canada-geese-by-barbara-klide>

### CONGRATULATIONS BARBARA!

\*\*\*\*\*

And from NCPA member **Rae RANKIN**:

- My book, ***Meet the Birds***, was recently awarded an Honorable Mention for Penelope's Prize, an online awards program recognizing top children's picture books.
- The same book also won a Purple Dragonfly at the 2023 awards in the category Children's Educational books.
- *Meet the Birds* is a fun counting book for your littlest birders featuring birds seen in many North American backyards! It is available on my website [www.raerankin.com](http://www.raerankin.com).

### CONGRATULATIONS RAE!

In addition, Rae wrote: Also, I'm running a free virtual Summer Reading Program for kids featuring over 40 international Horse Book Authors. The program is running through September 1. I know the newsletter comes out in August, but there is plenty of time for kids to still participate. The websites are [www.wereadhorsebooks.com](http://www.wereadhorsebooks.com) [ebooks.com](http://ebooks.com) **Rae's Summer Reading Program for Kids information is on page 5.**

## Fun Piece from NCPA member [Elaine FABER](#) – [Thank you Elaine](#) **How to Write a Best-Selling Mystery Novel**

### The Hook

Chapter one has a hook that keeps the reader turning pages. She must connect with the main character enough to continue this journey past page ten. The plot should be original, compelling, and not a carbon copy of other cozy mystery novels.

### Conflict

Some conflict occurs quickly, that prevents the main character from easily fulfilling his goal until page 265. Perhaps it's a CIA agent bringing a killer to justice, or a turbulent romance with the boy next door, or an interplanetary six-headed monster. If the CIA agent catches the villain on page twenty-one, why continue reading? If the girl receives an engagement ring on page six, where is the conflicted romance? If the monster is vanquished by Round-Up weed killer on page forty-nine, the book becomes a paper-weight.

### Supporting Characters

Besides the intriguing main characters, a good story has convincing, entertaining supporting characters. They are the friends, relatives, or even the protagonist's pet—someone or something to interact and react with the main character. They may provide the conflict or be the catalyst of the plot, as when Agnes sees old Dr. Schatzsman burglarizing neighborhood homes in my latest **Mrs. Odboddy's Desperate Doings**.

### Beginning-Middle-End

A good book has an exciting beginning, an interesting middle, and a satisfying end. The beginning of the story jumps into an event that intrigues the reader. A specific conflict and goal must be revealed within the first few pages to keep the reader turning pages.

The middle deals with the conflict, where the character struggles to overcome the obstacles, but events go from bad to worse, and when all seems lost, we come to the exciting conclusion. The reader leaves the dog in the bathtub or cookies in the oven to see what happens next.

The ending ties up the loose strings, solves all the puzzles and reaches a conclusion that is acceptable to the reader. Did you ever read a 300-page novel and the main character dies on the last page? You want to heave the book against the wall!

### The Satisfying Conclusion

In a satisfying conclusion, the antagonist is revealed and brought low, the hero gets the girl, or the interplanetary six-headed monster is relieved of at least two of his six heads. The conclusion leaves the reader satisfied and, hopefully, looking for the sequel.

### The Right Editor

A best seller needs a good editor and mentors to correct spelling or punctuation errors, poorly written sentences, or scenes that are less than compelling. She provides corrections in a constructive manner that helps the author complete an exciting novel.

### The Book Cover

The book cover is snappy, good-looking, and brightly colored with an easily read title. The cover should convey at least the general theme or storyline. An appealing cover tempts the potential buyer to flip over the book and read the back cover blurb, and the blurb secures the book's sale.

Now I've told you how you write a best seller. The next step is to promote, market, and sell your 'best seller.

If you have the magic formula for that, please contact me. Elaine

### **NCPA 30<sup>TH</sup> BOOK AWARDS coming soon**

The big number 30 NCPA Book Awards competition is tentatively scheduled for **Sunday 19 May 2024**, once more at the Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta, CA. If you have, or will have, a book published and available for sale any time **from 1 Jan 2023 through midnight, 31 Dec 2023**, why not enter it in our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Awards Competition? You don't have to be a member to submit a book, but it's cheaper if you are (norcalpa.org for more info). Help us make #30 our biggest yet. Book Submits start 1 Oct



Rae RANKIN sent the following to me on 14 July, the first day of the 17-day run of the State Fair. Unfortunately, her Email got lost in all the other Email and slipped through the cracks. Many apologies to Rae that the newsletter's so late and there's less than 2 weeks left for her program to be utilized... but this way you'll have it for throughout the year, including holidays, plus you'll be ahead of the game, and ready with it, for next year! **THANK YOU, RAE!**



### RAE'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM :

We are in the midst of summer here in the Sacramento Valley and the weather has finally turned hot. School is still weeks from starting and a lot of parents are looking for things to help keep their kids occupied for the remaining few weeks before the school bell starts ringing again.

While getting the time to take a break from learning is important, it is equally as important to for children to continue to read during the time off. Over the summer months, kids can lose valuable skills and knowledge. Studies show participating in a summer reading program increases reading skills, motivation, confidence, and enjoyment.

The latest *Scholastic Kids Reading and Family Report* indicated 61% of kids surveyed say they love reading in the summer and a whopping 93% of kids are happier when they read books they pick out themselves! But here is the disturbing factor: 96% of parents surveyed know summer reading is important but they don't know why.

Here is the why:

1. Studies show students lose up to two months of reading skills and 2.5 months of math skills over the summer. By the time a student has reached middle school they have lost two years of learning.
2. Teachers need to take two to four weeks at the beginning of the school year to reteach what students have lost. This impacts our educational system, costing somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1500 per student for the time it takes to reteach what is lost.
3. Students are still playing "catch up" from losing skills during the pandemic, making summer reading equally as important.

I can continue to spout off statistics, but I think at this point, it's more important for us to take action.

### What can we do?

- Find a local summer reading program. Many area libraries, local bookstores, and Little Free Libraries offer free summer reading programs. AND the best part is they can help your child pick books that interest them.
- Check with your local kids' clubs, community recreational districts, or Boys and Girls Clubs.
- Does your child have a special interest such as sports, horses, scouts, science or art? Many of these clubs have free summer reading programs.
- Email your school or child's teacher. Before classes get out for summer, email your child's teacher and ask if they can send books home over the summer OR provide you a reading list with suggested titles.
- Google. There are many online resources for free summer reading programs.

### What can we do at home?

(Continued on page 6)

- Read with your child.
- Ask them questions about what they are reading.
- Encourage them to choose books about topics they like.
- Read a recipe.

Children average 4,000 to 12,000 words a year through reading – if your child averages 8000 words a year, they gain 1335 words over the summer.

### Check out these great Summer Reading Programs and Activities

- Sacramento Public Library Summer Reading Program - <https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Summer-Reading>
- El Dorado County Library Summer Reading Program - <https://eldoradolibrary.org/beanstack-reading-programs/>
- Placer County Library Summer Reading Program - <https://www.placer.ca.gov/8019/Summer-Fest-at-Your-Library-2023>
- Yolo County Library Summer Reading Program - <https://yolocountylibrary.org/summer/>
- Horse Book Summer Reading All Around – Free virtual online summer reading program – [www.wereadhorsebooks.com](http://www.wereadhorsebooks.com). **Founded by NCPA author Rae Rankin** and supported by over 40 international horse book authors.
- Ruby's Bookstore (Folsom) - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rubys-summer-reading-program-celebration-tickets-632714284457>
- Barnes and Noble - <https://dispatch.barnesandnoble.com/content/dam/ccr/bnstores/kids/misc/2023/BNKidsSummerReading85x11.pdf>

**Thank you, Rae**, and my suggestions would be to not stop when summer is over – instead, continue on throughout the year, especially during the long holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas, spring break, etc. (and apologies if this isn't p.c., or if I've unknowingly not included other holidays. I no longer have kids in school and don't know when they're in or out of school any more. Things have changed a bunch since I last had to deal with this).

I might also suggest, instead of just reading a recipe, actually have the kids follow recipes and help make something. Cookies and candies are always great things for kids to help with. Here's a really quick and easy candy recipe that works great for all the holidays and everyone enjoys. It's my own recipe that has won the blue first place ribbon at both the Sacramento County Fair & the California State Fair each time I've entered, plus Best of Something at both Fairs, the first year I made it, but I can't remember which "Best" (just NOT best of show, that I'm sure of).

### Nonie's Special Peanut Butter-BUTTERFINGER Rocky Road

- 1 small pkg Mini-Marshmallows
- 1 8 oz pkg BUTTERFINGER BITS (found in the chocolate chip section at Walmart)
- (1 small jar peanuts if desired - optional - I used them once, prefer without)

Lightly mix in large bowl and set aside

Butter a large (9"x13") rectangular Pyrex (or similar) baking dish. Cover every inch, especially the corners. Set aside

- 1 8oz pkg Milk Chocolate Chips (Dark Choc ok – I prefer Milk Choc)
- 1 to 2 C Peanut Butter (Amount, to taste) (Crunchy or Smooth, either is fine)
  - ½ cube of Margarine – or butter, either works
- 1 small can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk (DO NOT USE ANY OTHER BRAND)
  - 1 t Vanilla

Add chips, peanut butter, margarine, milk, and vanilla in medium-size pan and heat on LOW until chips melt. Stir almost constantly to prevent burning or scorching. If it does burn or scorch, toss and start over. As soon as chips melt, pour the WARM mixture over bowl of marshmallow mix. Stir gently to blend well, dump into buttered Pyrex and cool in fridge. When firm cut into desired squares – OR - drop by spoonful on wax paper-covered cookie sheet to make individual pieces.

Space candy about ½" apart if dropping onto cookie sheet. Cut into 1" to 2" squares if using Pyrex bowl – can also use both!

## PEARLS OF WISDOM: *a new monthly column from now until 30 June 2024*

**THANK YOU NCPA members: Tony, Pam, Barbara, Sharon & Mike**

Since the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary is "PEARLS" we'll celebrate *Pearls of Wisdom* from now until then:

- Pearls of Wisdom can be: fun or serious, fact or fiction;
- passed down from one or more relative (read Mom, trying to get you to do what she wants you to) or things you've either "think up on yer own" or found along the way;
- will be added to upcoming newsletters from now until June 2024.

**Find Pearl Nuggets scattered throughout the newsletter, highlighted in green**

**\*Tony Arcado:** I have two that I have simply learned along the way.

Listening leads to understanding. Understanding leads to knowledge, agreement, and friendship.

Being kind to self produces a peaceful spirit which is reflected as kindness to others.

**\*Pam Atherstone:** Here is my "pearl.."

"A leaf at home, a camel elsewhere." This was something my grandmother would say to me when I was complaining about being a nobody. She said it was an Arabic proverb but was known in Russia as well because camels were common as farm animals in Russia prior to WWII.

Her explanation was that sometimes a person is just one of the crowd at home, like a leaf among many on a tree, but when he goes someplace where nobody knows him, he tells them he's an important person, and he's believed because nobody knows him any other way. He stands out like a camel in a herd of horses.

I think it's pretty appropriate for us authors, as well.

**\*Barbara Barrett:** Note that Nos. 1 and 2 are from plaques hanging on my wall.

Don't let anyone dull your Sparkle.

**Surround yourself with the Dreamers** and the **Doers** \* the **Believers** and **Thinkers** \* **But most of all surround yourself** \* **With those who see** \* **Greatness within you** \* **Even when you don't see it** \* **Yourself.** (Different type and font at Barbara's request)

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery

Something wonderful is going to happen to me today. Thank You for the unknown blessings already on their way

Lines from "To Beat the Devil" by Kris Kristofferson : I was born a lonely writer\* and I'm bound to die the same.

Still I have to feed the hunger in my soul.... (\*Kris wrote 'singer')

**\*Sharon Darrow:** Many years ago, a speaker at a big event threw out a question to the audience "What do you want people to say about you after you die?" That struck me at the time and has stayed with me ever since.

My answer is I'd like people to say that I made a difference. And that thought definitely has become something to live up to.

Not a big or original one, I know, but perhaps it will touch someone.

**\*Mike Garner:** His uncle, Sam Chan, gave Mike these nuggets of wisdom and Mike has passed them on:

Sam said most people spend too much time on urgent things and not enough time on important things. He told me to do what's important first and urgent second. He also believed that if you want to be rich, be generous. If you want to make friends, be friendly. If you want to be heard, listen. If you want to be understood by others, take the time to truly understand them. And if you want an interesting life, be interested in all that happens around you.

AND from Bob, a friend of Mike's Dad: By making daily positive affirmations and avoiding negative thoughts, it's possible over time to reprogram or rewire your brain in order to think differently and be a happier person

**\*Dan Poynter:** American author, consultant, [publisher](#), professional speaker and [parachute](#) designer, **Poynter** (17 Sep 1938 – 3 Nov 2015), starting in 1969, wrote more than 130 books, many reports, and more than 800 magazine articles, most of them on book [publishing](#).<sup>[1][2]</sup> The writing and publishing of *The Self-Publishing Manual* in 1979 propelled him to notoriety in the publishing industry. Each year he addressed scores of groups on the subject of publishing. \*\*\* NCPA was one of those groups, where he was an instructor at one of our final conferences around 2009 or 2010. He also donated a book to our Book Awards Banquet Silent Auction in 2015, just before he died. Poynter was the founder of Para Publishing [Dan Poynter - Wikipedia](#)

**When we participate in a group, we feel more invested, so participate: send me your pearls**

**"If you wait for inspiration to write, you're not a writer, you're a waiter." Dan Poynter ---**

OK you **WRITERS** on this list--- **stop being waiters** and send me your Pearls of Wisdom, even if you have to make something up!

**IF YOUR NAME IS LISTED BELOW PLEASE SEND ONE PEARL OF YOUR WISDOM to [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com) – ASAP for Sep!**

**Alcalde Marr, Jackie \* \* \* Avanti, Michele \* \* Bize-Boutte, Sheryl J. \* Boyd Fellure, Kathy \* Branco, Denise Lee \* Canterbury, Patricia \* Cassady, Cathy \* Cawley, Kathleen A. \* Charles, Scott \* Clark, Penelope L. \* \* Davis, Paula J. \* Diaz, Loren R. \* Dorow, Terri \* Dreizler, Bob \* Faber, Elaine \* Fite, Barbara "Bobbie" \* Fuller, Frances \* Fulton, Kristin \* Garrett, Barbara A\* **Eye for an Eye****

Let's stick with writing stuff – once you've sent me your Pearl/s of Wisdom, and a story or two for our two anthologies, how about being a guest journalist in the newsletter for a month?

### Looking for Guest Journalists Sep--Dec 2023.

Send all your writing info, your bio, brag about your books and other successes, your dogs, your cats, your lizards or rats, your kids, significant other, or ??? - give me a story, an article, a poem, a picture, whatever strikes your fancy. Anything goes as long as family-friendly. If not suitable, you'll know  
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](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)

The NCPA Board of Directors invites you to join us at our new monthly meeting location on Sun 10 Sep 2023

~ MUCH AWAITED IN-PERSON MEETINGS RETURNED IN AUGUST ~

**Same Day \* New Time \* New Location**

NCPA Webmaster Amy Rogers will be our speaker for 10 September meeting and will (attempt to) teach us how to navigate NCPA's Club Express Website, help members discover the website business directory, and how to use the brand-new NCPA APP

**Flaming Grill Café** Don't bite the hand that feeds you

in the CCP Mall at Watt Av & El Camino Av

(2380-Watt Avenue, Suite 150 Inside Country Club Plaza)

**4pm-6:30pm \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of each month \* Sun 10 Sept 2023**

(Flaming Grill used to be on El Camino Av: also serves wild game

Check out the menu --- Link below

[flaming grill hours - Google Search](#) [Country Club Menu](#) — [Flaming Grill Cafe](#)

WATCH  
FOR  
AN  
RSVP

### UPDATE From July Newsletter:

THANK YOU TO OUR SILENT AUCTION DONORS & ALL BIDDERS AT THE 2023 BANQUET

Sharon also had a 50/50 card split, and the winner of their 50% gave their winnings back so the entire amount of \$90 was also donated to the library from the card split. Unfortunately, I don't know who won and donated back, but many thanks to that generous person also! If / when I find out, I'll let everyone know. She contacted me!

**OUR ANONY WINNER/Donor was Georgianna B. Pfost - Thank you Georgianna!**

Are you an NCPA member? NCPA's accepting stories for 2 current anthologies FREE to ENTER & receive one FREE BOOK

If you've not already sent one, how about a story for one or both of our current work-in-progress-anthologies? (*Beautiful World* \* & \* *ALL Holidays Vol 3* **Deadline 1 Oct 2023**, anticipated launch: during the NCPA Holiday Luncheon 10 Dec 2023 at Black Angus

**NOT A MEMBER? ONLY \$40 for one year membership.**

ALL INFORMATION in the links below – just click on them in this Email (it worked for me, but if not for you, Email me direct at the dedicated Email address [2023NCPAAAnthologies@gmail.com](mailto:2023NCPAAAnthologies@gmail.com) for a copy). Also for ALL correspondence re THESE TWO anthologies ONLY, including questions and help. [2023NCPAAAnthologies@gmail.com](mailto:2023NCPAAAnthologies@gmail.com)



[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. **MUST BE A MEMBER to have a story in NCPA anthologies** Norma Jean



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

## 2019 NCPA Anthologies

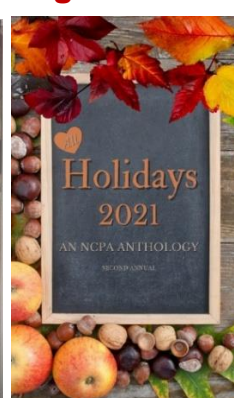
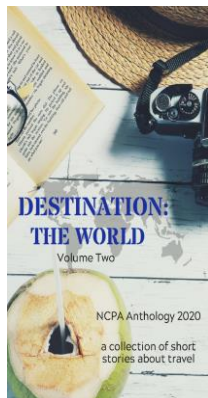
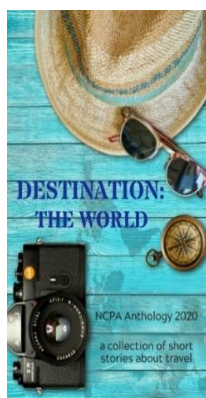


**BIRDS OF A FEATHER**  
An NCPA Anthology  
*A Collection of Short Stories about Animals*



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

## 2020 NCPA Anthologies



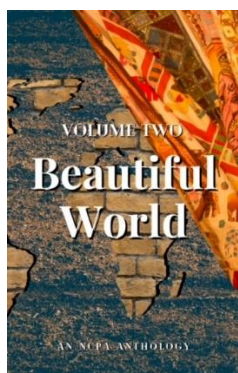
**ALL (seven) 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 ANTHOLOGY BOOKS (above) AVAILABLE PAPER COPIES @ Cost for Authors from Sharon Darrow: [Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com](mailto:Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com) or [NCPA Anthologies \(7 book series\) Ebook & Paperback Edition \(amazon.com\)](https://www.amazon.com/NCPA-Anthologies/)**

### Anthologies Coming Dec 2023

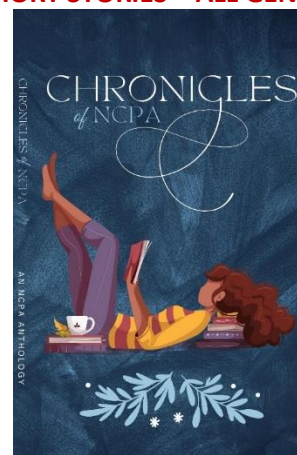
**Right's Right & Wrong's Wrong!**

### Anthology coming 2024

**SHORT STORIES – ALL GENRE**



\*\*\*\*\*



**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)**

**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@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 EvaluationsChrissi 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****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**Repeat Donors; this year and prior year/s****Elk Grove Writers' Group - Conference Ticket: Conference 23 Sep 2023****Sharif's Jewelers – Has donated a ring or necklace every year since 2009, when I started doing a Silent Auction****Capitol Crimes (Bouchercon bag) \* ML Hamilton (books) \* NCPA (3-year membership & more) \* Frances Kakugawa (books)****Elaine Faber (Basket, Books, Record Player & more) THANK YOU ALL!****Reading, Writing, Publishing Stuff in the News -- & Elsewhere**

- **From Erma Bombeck:** *Winning Writers* offers access to a database of free literary contests plus helps writers know which contests they might want to avoid. [The Best Free Literary Contests - Winning Writers](#)

**More from Erma Bombeck:** Writers considering self-publishing should read BookBaby's article on [spotting self-publishing scams](#). Be wary of service providers that make extravagant promises of profits or book sales; operate under several different business names; or inflate their price tag with unnecessary additional services instead of offering à la carte options

- **Writer Beware:** Publishing Scams [How Scammers Are Using Amazon and Amazon Trademarks to Rip Writers Off - Writer Beware](#) \* [Copyright, Contracts, and AI-Generated Material - Writer Beware](#) \* [Small Press Storm Warnings: Adelaide Books, Propertius Press, TouchPoint Press - Writer Beware](#)
- [Adobe Says It'll Cover Legal Bills for Its AI Tool \(futurism.com\)](#)
- [hays - Dictionary Checker - Scrabble Word Finder](#) <https://scrabblewordfinder.org/dictionary/hays>
- <https://www.familyhistorywritingstudio.com/story-starter-workbook-2/>

**It's not what you hear that matters ... it's what you actually LISTEN TO that counts ...****UPDATE ON STORY #3 in the July newsletter 3 Family Search Tales** I don't do FB, but in doing a Google for her name and book title, I found the publisher info, sent a message to the author (my husband's newly found half-bro & sis-in-law) through it and she responded with a positive, that she'd love to meet and submit her book to our 30<sup>th</sup> Book Awards! Now I just need to respond to her, since I was busy at the fair and other things, when her Email came through.**Have you, or someone you know, had a productive, funny, crazy, weird, or negative – family search tale? If so, let me know and we'll set up a new column for it**

## GENEALOGY STUFF FOR THOSE DOING FAMILY HISTORY THINGS

### SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### Genealogy Presentations from Sacramento Public Library – UPDATED FOR AUGUST – DEC 2023

- Free presentations online via Zoom one Saturday each month at 1 pm.
- Sign up through the Events Program Calendar at [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org).
- If you have any questions, please email [contact@saclibrary.org](mailto:contact@saclibrary.org).

**\*August 26, 2023** Court is in Session: Find Your Ancestors in the Law Library, by Pamela Bell Dallas Law libraries are not just for lawyers. Law libraries hold a treasure trove of information about our ancestors and collateral family. Learn what information is available and where to find it.

**\*September 23, 2023** Think Like an Archivist: Finding Genealogy Records in Library & Archives, by Nancy Loe. You'll learn about using archival records & repositories, finding aids for genealogists, finding genealogy records in archives, and requesting archival materials.

**\*October 28, 2023** Getting Social about Your Search for Ancestors, by Jacqi Stevens Genealogical pursuits may seem like the ideal solitary pursuit—with cup of hot coffee in hand, one can research the world over from the comfort of home—but in truth, the best way to play your genealogical hand is to consider it a team sport. There are others out there who have the answer to your research question, if only you knew how to connect. Social media has opened the way for researchers to share resources, and the avalanche of online forums can become overwhelming. Learn what's available on social media for family history and how you can connect and find answers to your research brick walls.

**\*November 18, 2023** Genealogy at the California History Room of the California State Library, by Elena Smith Learn how to research California ancestors via materials at the California History Room of the California State Library.

**\*December 16, 2023** Did Your Ancestor Attend Church? Researching in Religious Records, by Lisa S. Gorrell Church records can provide names, dates, and relationships about your ancestors. Many of the records from churches and religious organizations predate civil records which make these records a rich source of information about our families. Give these records a try, even if you think your ancestor did not attend church Questions? Contact [bethd2073@gmail.com](mailto:bethd2073@gmail.com) or Dave [contact@saclibrary.org](mailto:contact@saclibrary.org)

### LDS Family Search Center

Anyone can access genealogical records and receive personal assistance with their family history **FOR FREE at the Sacramento Latter Day Saints Family History Center at 2745 Eastern Av, Sacramento. (916-487-2090).** It's free, open to the public, and staffed by knowledgeable volunteers. Each facility offers both novices and experienced family historians the tools and resources to learn about their ancestors.

Although it's been years since I've been there, I have gone several times and have not only found a lot of information, but the volunteers are really helpful, and friendly. [LDS Family Search Center](#)

### INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY? Check out your local Library FREE Ancestry.com at home, thanks to the library & a library card

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 alone, are great and worth the time and trouble, even if you don't do anything else there.

- Simply go to [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org) Then click on \* Books & Media, then \* Special Collections: next \* Genealogy Collection:
- Have Questions? (at bottom of screen):
- "Learn More" under "Do you have other genealogy services available?" Or just click link as a shortcut <https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/History/Genealogy>

(Other Genealogy sites are 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.

**And an even easier way to get there, thanks to Barbara Barrett – but you still need your Library Card info**

<https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/Online-Learning/Online-Resources-Alphabetical> **as of tonight it's still available from home**

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, try [bethd2073@gmail.com](mailto:bethd2073@gmail.com))



## UPCOMING 2023 NCPA EVENTS -- & MORE

### 30th NCPA BOOK AWARDS BANQUET

5pm-9pm

**Sun 19 May 2024**

Cherry Island Golf Course

Elverta, CA

**COVID RULES WILL APPLY**

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

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

**DEADLINE to SUBMIT \* 1 Oct 2023**  
**BOTH NCPA ANTHOLOGIES:**  
*Beautiful World* \* & *ALL Holidays Vol 3*

Looking for NCPA Newsletter Guest Journalists Sep-Dec 2023 \*\* Great chance to toot your own horn to more than 250  
Respond to this Email if interested, or Email [norcalpa@yahoo.com](mailto:norcalpa@yahoo.com)

**In-person NCPA monthly meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of each month but at a later time**  
**4pm-6:30pm Sunday 10 Sep 2023**

**Good food, pleasant staff, reasonable price, plenty of parking & easy to find**

### FLAMING GRILL

in the old CCP Mall at the corner of Watt Av & El Camino Av

**RSVP & Reminder will be sent Fri or Sat before each meeting**

Speaker for SEPTEMBER meeting will be NCPA Treasurer Amy Rogers

Helping members discover the NCPA website business directory, NCPA APP, & more fun stuff!

**So ---- start writing your list of what to ask regarding the NCPA website & your information on it.**

### UPCOMING 2023 EVENT for other groups --- & MORE

- ❖ Elk Grove Writers Conference – **23 Sep 2023** - \$75 includes Continental Breakfast & Lunch:  
<http://eqweg.org/23conf/> GCW, NCPA, SJVW collaboratively sponsor this event.
- ❖ **Music Circus at the tent through 27 August \* ONLY 1 SHOW LEFT: Rent**
- ❖ Broadway At the Community Center COMING SOON – 19 Sep 2023 to 19 May 2024 \* Six \* Hades Town \*  
Les Miserables \* Ain't Too Proud \* Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas \* Annie
- ❖ NCPA In-person meeting Sun 10 Sep 4pm-6:30pm Flaming Grill --- more details elsewhere
- ❖ Rio Linda Elverta Country Faire – **Sat 16 Sep** – Depot Park, Rio Linda **\$40 Booth Deadline 3 Sep** –  
[rlevendors@yahoo.com](mailto:rlevendors@yahoo.com) – [riolindaelvertacountryfaire.com](http://riolindaelvertacountryfaire.com)
- ❖ Crawfish & Catfish Festival – Sacramento, CA ([craw-fest.com](http://craw-fest.com)) Crawfish & Catfish Festival 9 & 10 Sep 2023

- ❖ **THIS IS ABSOLUTELY HILARIOUS: Silly little flying squirrel**
- ❖ **IF YOU WANT A GOOD BELLY LAUGH, CLICK THE LINKS BELOW**


Pet flying squirrel plays dead with a broom - YouTube -- Flying squirrel faked its own death! 🐿️ #phillipberry  
#wow #bruh - Bing video Two-year old Bobo fakes his own death: knocks over the broom, but it fails to land in a convincing position, so he checks to see if anyone is watching, then stages a whole crime scene, and does a forward roll with the broom lying across his chest, his armed wings splayed. With his wings stretched out, Bobo looked like he had been flattened by a large pole, then kept adjusting the handle of the makeshift murder weapon before returning to his pose to appear unconscious. Watch to the very end. Such a drama queen!


**Enough's Enough!**



## 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)

### ➤ Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) [www.norcalpa.org](http://www.norcalpa.org)

In-person meetings to resume at **4pm on the 2nd Sun of each month 10 Sep 2023**

**New location: FLAMING GRILL** inside Country Club Plaza at corner of El Camino & Watt Avenues

**New time: 4pm** \$40/year membership includes eligibility to submit a story to NCPA anthologies

NCPA Anthologies can be viewed, and purchased on-line, through Amazon.com

### ➤ 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 info on all organizations may be outdated. Suggest you contact prior to attending any.

## NCPA Board of Directors

### **President**

Michelle Hamilton

[authormlhamilton@gmail.com](mailto:authormlhamilton@gmail.com)

916-837-6812

### **Secretary**

Danita Moon

[danita@danitamoon.com](mailto:danita@danitamoon.com)

(916) 980-037

### **Communications Director / Newsletter Editor**

Norma Jean Thornton

[normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)

916-991-5751

*I don't know why this darned thing won't let me put these back together, but I give up. I have no idea what happened. It was fine, and then it wasn't, so now I'm just trying to fill space so it's not so obvious there are a couple of blank spots on this page, because every time I try to fix it I delete both of the bottom sections and I'm afraid one of these times I'm not going to get them back and it will be even worse.*

### **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

### **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*

*The same with this side, and it's apparently got something to do with the "cells", whatever those little suckers are! I HATE computers at times, yet love them at others. Right now it's in the hate phase.*

### **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**

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)

## **Meetings now 4pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, starting Sunday 13 August 2023**

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA)

PO Box 214673 ~ Sac, CA 95821

Michelle Hamilton, President 916-837-6812 \* Norma Jean Thornton, Editor 916-991-5751

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

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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, and become property of NCPA. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS OF ANYTHING..

### **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 it out, whether it's the first day of the month or the last, or somewhere in-between.

The goal of the current editor is to publish one Pen & Press each month, and two in the Banquet month every year, to cover the Book Awards Banquet ... one prior to the event, and one after.

... Norma Jean Thornton, editor *The Pen & Press* 2016-2023