

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

# 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 monthly meeting location on Sun 8 Oct 2023  
Same Day **SUN: 8 October** New Time (4-6:30pm) New Location **Flaming Grill Café**

## Flaming Grill Café

inside the CCP Mall at Watt Av & El Camino Av  
2380-Watt Avenue, Suite 150 Inside Country Club Plaza (next to WinCo on Watt)

**4pm-6:30pm \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of each month \* Sun 8 Oct 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](#)

MEETING IS FREE – & -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND --- GUESTS WELCOME!

PLEASE RSVP whether yes or no – reply YES, NO or MAYBE to [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)



**4-6:30PM \* SUN \* 8 OCT \* FLAMING GRILL**

NCPA member Lisa RANDOLPH will entertain with her travel adventures plus interesting people she hobnobbed with this past year on her writing journey, and in the process, will give a few marketing tips. Hopefully she'll wear her African safari ensemble that wowed at the State Fair Authors Booth this year

**Lisa might even bring her gorilla buddy!**

**Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) \* PO Box 214673 ~ Sac, CA 95821**

## **President's Message**

On September 23rd, I had the honor of meeting with attendees at the Elk Grove Guild Writers Conference. According to everyone who attended, it was a very successful event, and for my part, I enjoyed getting to talk to a number of people during our one-on-one sessions.

Two things came up over and over again when I met with my fellow writers: one, how to prioritize projects; and two, how to market their books so they can be found by readers. I started each session by asking the writers to tell me about themselves and their writing experiences, which was truly fascinating in every single case. We all come to the act of writing for so many different reasons, but the main thread is a desire to impart information or to share our stories, even if that story is telling about someone else's life.

After hearing their path to writing, I asked them what their publication goal was. I ask this question a lot when I work with writers, and I always preface it by saying any goal is a worthy goal. In fact, there is no wrong goal, no wrong answer to this. Imparting knowledge – excellent goal. Chronicling the lives of our ancestors – fantastic goal. Even earning money is a worthy goal, and one too often, I feel, writers are ashamed to admit.

But why? We don't ask doctors to exclude income from their desire to become a doctor. We definitely don't tell lawyers they shouldn't want to get paid. Why should writers, or artists, or musicians be any different? Because one has a passion for something, and because that passion brings pleasure to others, doesn't mean the creator shouldn't be compensated for it.

If you are struggling to prioritize your projects, ask yourself that question. What is my goal? Why do I want to do each of the things I want to do? If you do this, you might just find that you already know where your focus should be.

I'm a victim of this myself. I think up a story and I want to write it immediately, but then I reach the sticky middle or it doesn't flow as easily as I want, and another bright shining project draws my attention. I've learned to focus on only one project at a time until I complete it. Setting minor goals for yourself can help with this. I tell myself I need to be through chapter two by a certain date, then when I accomplish that, I set a new milestone.

The second frequent question I heard was how to get people to find and actually read your book. This one is so much harder. There are so many books out there and only so many readers, but finding your niche is essential. There's no one, single way to do this, but two things that I know stop readers from picking up a book – a poorly designed cover, and an unimaginative back cover copy.

I know that we're told never to judge a book by its cover, but we all know that's exactly what we do. I've never walked into a bookstore and been drawn to the most drab or busy cover there. I'm drawn to bright colors, bold text, and intriguing images.

Probably more important is the back cover copy. As I told people on Saturday, it needs to be a little sexy, a little titillating. It should definitely not read like a high school essay. Dear God, let me tell you, that is not appealing at all and I know. I am mired in "I'm going to tell you about..." "my essay will prove..." for ten months out of every year.

If you took the query you wrote to the umpteenth agent and used it for your back cover copy, you have a problem. The best way to solve this one is to read the back covers of books in your genre to see how they attract readers. If that doesn't work, I recommend working with an editor to hone your skills on this.

I'm not promising that making these two changes will make your book an instant best seller, but at least they will position it better in the market and help you stand out from the crowd. And knowing what your goal is, whatever it is, can help you reprioritize your purpose for undertaking this often-difficult artistic endeavor.

ML Hamilton

[authormlhamilton.net](http://authormlhamilton.net)

## **Scam Alert**

Norma asked me to share with you a scam that happened to me. I'll admit it set my heart to beating a little faster. I got a phone call, but couldn't take it. The person left a message. He stated he was Officer Matt Kim of the San Mateo Sheriff's department and I had been subpoenaed as a material witness for a case and had failed to appear, but I had apparently signed the subpoena. I'm not going to lie. I felt a little flash of panic, but logic prevailed, so I called the San Mateo Sheriff's Department, and the officer who answered told me they have received numerous calls about this and it is a scam.

Please be careful out there, and never let panic rule the day. Michelle

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**NCPA CONGRATULATES EGWG for an excellent Conference:** reported by NCPA member & attendee Elaine Faber  
(And – thank you, again Loy, et al, for the generous donation to both the 2022 & 2023 NCPA Book Awards Banquet's Silent Auctions)

If you weren't at the EGWG Writers Conference in Elk Grove on 09-23-23, you missed a great day of interesting speakers and information. This was, in my opinion, the best conference I've ever attended: Coffee, scones, muffins and croissants were available all day. An excellent lunch was also provided. The conference was graciously sponsored by the following entities:

- City of Elk Grove \* California Writers Club \* Gold Country Writers Club \* Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) \* City of Sacramento Arts + Culture \* California Writers Club Sacramento Branch \* Black Cat Editing \* Cornerstone Copy and Print \* Elk Grove Café \* (Apologies if I've missed the name of other sponsors.)

We heard from the following speakers:

- \*Bernard Wozny stepped in for Gregory Randall, who, at the eleventh hour, was unable to attend. Bernard shared more than I ever wanted to know about how 'AI' could be beneficial to writers through tools, apps, and online technology, though where it could lead, good or bad, is still beyond my understanding.
- Kakwasi Somadhi shared how using backstory, flashbacks and half-scenes could move our story forward in various beneficial ways.
- Chris Hennesy spoke about using video, and other internet 'whiz-bang' devices to build our media platform, so necessary to promote the sale of our books, whether traditional or Indy published.
- Kristen Tate gave us the 'ins and outs' of the various types of editing services recommended before publication. Knowing just what we need and the costs involved helps make informed decisions.
- Joey Garcia shared vital and precise advice on how to prepare the back cover page to make it more attractive to buyers, what not to put into our biography, and the importance of taglines, fonts, etc. Excellent information!
- Judith Starkson used the magic Griffons from her novels to illustrate how using emotion can impact our stories in positive ways.
- Karen Phillips shared all the secrets to designing an appealing book cover; what's in, what's out.

I especially appreciated the variety of topics chosen by the speakers. Each provided us with something new and informative. The focus was on subjects of interest to the intermediate and advanced writer, not just to the beginning writer, which seems (to me) the focus of so many other writing conference speakers. Thank you all for sharing your secrets and advice to make us all better writers.

*Elaine Faber*

*Thank you Elaine*

Mindcandymysteries.com

## CONGRATULATIONS EGWG

### Member News



### CONGRATULATIONS, BARBARA YOUNG!

NCPA member **Barbara Young** published her first children's picture book, **Grandma Lost Cuddles!**, the first of five books in her social emotional learning series, "Adventures with Dementia," for ages 4-10. Barbara has received positive feedback, plus encouragement, in anticipation of the full series. Parents, teachers, social workers, nurses, and family members of those with dementia say this is a much-needed book for children on a topic difficult to discuss. **Grandma Lost Cuddles!** was awarded a second-place ribbon at the Harvest Fair at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in September.

Thanks so much for noting my audiobook listing in the Aug newsletter. The Audible/Amazon listing went live 19 Aug:

[https://www.amazon.com/Secret-Lives-Wild-CanadaGeese/dp/B0CG2CJ8NP/ref=tmm\\_aud\\_swatc\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1650146648&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Secret-Lives-Wild-CanadaGeese/dp/B0CG2CJ8NP/ref=tmm_aud_swatc_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1650146648&sr=8-1)

You can listen to my short narration sample at that location. I tossed about finding a professional narrator, but decided my voice is not too old-sounding, and no one would have the same enthusiasm or know the nuances like myself. So, I embarked on a new and challenging adventure in narration. **CONGRATULATIONS BARBARA KLIDE!**

## \*\*OCTOBER 2023 Guest Journalist is Carolyn RADMANOVICH\*\*

\*8 October Guest Speaker will be Lisa Randolph on Merchandising - & MORE

\*November Guest Journalist will be Kathy Lynne 'Kanika' Marshall

\*12 November will be the Annual NCPA MEMBERS TAKE OUR OWN BOOKS FOR DISPLAY to Exchange &/or Sell  
WE NEED A GUEST JOURNALIST FOR DEC --- how about YOU!? Email [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)

\*10 December Annual Holiday Luncheon combined with Launch of NCPA's 8<sup>th</sup> Anthology: *Beautiful World*  
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: **NEW SUBMIT DEADLINE** \* Sunday 8 October 2023 \* *Beautiful World*

\* **31 Dec 2023 DEADLINE** \* *ALL Holidays Vol 3* for 23 June 2024 Launch with NCP's 30<sup>th</sup> Book Awards Banquet

**MUST be an NCPA MEMBER to submit a STORY, and be in an NCPA ANTHOLOGY (\$40/year membership)**

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\*GET THOSE 2023 BOOKS PUBLISHED & READY for our BIG 30<sup>th</sup> BOOK Awards (Banquet 23 June 2024) Details on page 12

## WE'LL START ACCEPTING BOOKS Sunday 1 OCTOBER 2023

**You do NOT have to be a member to submit a BOOK to the NCPA AWARDS (but it's cheaper if you are)**

### More Pearls of Wisdom - Thank you Elaine

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 "*thunk up on yer own*" or found along the way;
  - will be added to upcoming newsletters from now until June 2024.
- *A rose by any other name is still a rose \*\* Two wrongs don't make a right \*\* No use crying over spilt/spilled milk \*\* If you want something done right, do it yourself.*
- *My granddaughter's favorite: It is what it is.*
- *And my late husband's favorite: No good deed ever goes unpunished.*
- ❖ *Pearls from: Elaine Faber: "You don't know what you don't know." (Another of my favorites!) \* And: "Try to do at least one favor/kindness for others every day. Once it's done, you can be wretched the rest of the day!"*

**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!**

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

### **Update on 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, & More'** (designed as a brush-up for experienced authors, and an easy beginner, get-your-feet-wet-kinda-group for the wannabees and those who have never belonged to a critique group, **RESTARTS 2PM WED 25 OCT, CCP - INSIDE, BY FLAMING GRILL**, maybe a little earlier for those with stories in one or both anthologies, who might need a bit of help. This can also be one-on-one, as a group, &/or both, for the occasional author who needs a little extra special attention to get their story ready for the anthologies. **MORE DETAILED INFO COMING BY EMAIL CLOSER TO THE TIME** [Normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:Normathornton@yahoo.com) or 916-991-5751 for questions.



NCPA Treasurer and Webmaster – also our September 2023 Guest Speaker, Amy Rogers, provides the following from her Sep. presentation for both those who were there, and those who missed the meeting. NOW AVAILABLE – for those who understand all this stuff (and directions for those of us who don't) - NCPA has an app! NorCalPA app!



### Now available: NorCalPA app!

The best part of being a member of NCPA is networking with other members. Now NCPA offers you ways to directly communicate with each other, using Chat, Direct Messaging, and Forums on our new app.

Download from Apple app store (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/nocal-publishers-and-authors/id6450963992>) or Google Play (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.clubexpress.norcalpa>)

### But how do I use it?

At our September in-person meeting, I presented everything you need to know about how to make the most of our club website and our new app. A step-by-step summary is attached to this email.

- Get up to 3 of your books listed in our online bookstore!
- Get your website and publishing- or writing-related services listed in our public Business Directory!
- Participate in Chats with other members!
- Start a Forum conversation about how to use KDP, where to find a cover design, or any in-depth topic of relevance to our organization

Questions or challenges?

Contact Amy Rogers [amy@amyrogers.com](mailto:amy@amyrogers.com)



[How to use NCPA app and website 2023](#)

### 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](#)

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**Thank you Carolyn, Angelica, and all the other GUEST JOURNALIST contributors this year**  
**Always looking for Guest Journalists ~~ how about YOU!??**  
**Choose your date: Dec 2023 ~ OR ~ Jan – Dec 2024**

### **Looking for Guest Journalist 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)

## October Guest Journalist, Carolyn RADMANOVICH



All Carolyn, for the next 4 pages  
 Pages 6 through 9



Carolyn RADMANOVICH

### **The Mummy Gift Launch**

I am excited to announce that my new novel, *The Mummy's Gift*, will be available for a pre-sale Amazon purchase. The presale starts on October 15, 2023

Please **save the dates** for the exciting Zoom book presentation and **book giveaway on Sunday, November 5, from 1-2:30 p.m., and the intimate in-person book launch on Sunday, November 12 (note date change from Sep newsletter), from 1-3 p.m.,** at 2813 Fox Den Circle, Lincoln, California. Please contact me to let me know which one you can attend, at the following: [carolyn@carolynradmanovich.com](mailto:carolyn@carolynradmanovich.com)

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### **Why these Stories**

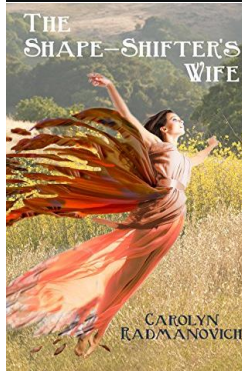
After a harrowing near-drowning incident on the Russian River, Carolyn Radmanovich felt compelled to write her debut work, *The Shape-Shifter's Wife*, which garnered the prestigious 2018 Independent Book Award for Visionary Fiction. The captivating sequel, *The Gypsy's Warning*, is her latest published novel and won the Pinnacle Book Achievement Award 2022 for Time Travel/Romance. Anticipation is now building for the forthcoming installment in the series, *The Mummy's Gift*, slated for publication in November 2023.

In addition to her award-winning novels, the author finds joy in crafting short stories, five of which are included in NCPA anthologies. The California Writers Club selected her evocative short story "Prod" for second place in the 2019 Memoir Contest.

Besides novels and short stories, Carolyn finds immense pleasure in the art of poetry. These poems often unveil themselves to her in moments of serenity while hiking, dreaming, in the tranquility of meditation, in tranquil yoga poses, or gazing out the window.

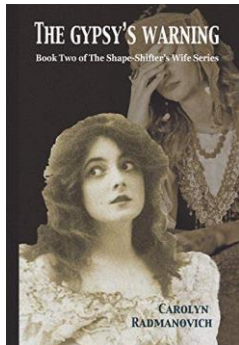
Carolyn is a dedicated walker, hiker, swimmer, and snowshoer, seizing every opportunity to venture into the mountains. Kayaking is another passion that courses through her veins. Living in an enclave blessed with numerous lakes and reservoirs is like a dream come true for her. Carolyn's home is in the scenic haven of Lincoln, California, where she shares her life with her loving husband and cherished feline companion.

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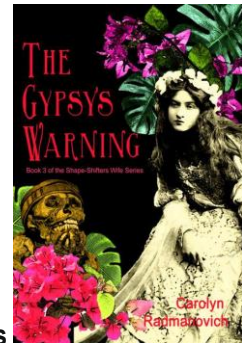
***The Shape-Shifter's Wife (Book 1)***

World-weary, despondent, and widowed, Angelica, an anthropology professor from the University of San Francisco, takes a trip in 1994 to heal her soul. While canoeing on the Russian River, she collides with a submerged tree, becomes pinned underwater, has a near-death experience, and is transported to California's Gold Rush era in 1848. A handsome Frenchman, Reynard, shackled with a family curse, saves her, then she learns from an Indian medicine man of her involvement in a prophecy and is compelled to reveal secrets that will change her life. Reynard has a run in with his cousin over the fact that he caused the curse by enslaving the local Native Americans. With Angelica's help, he must find a way to free them. As if time travel wasn't exciting enough, Angelica learns the power of shape-shifting from a shaman, and Reynard, which proves helpful in family catastrophes. Reynard goes gold mining near Placerville, and when he sends Angelica a message that he is in trouble, she dresses like a man and searches for him. Reynard and his best friend, White Owl, might be hung if she doesn't make it in time.

[https://www.amazon.com/ShapeShiftersWifeCarolynRadmanovichbook/dp/B075VG89WW/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?crid=15N6TJGAGFYIO&keywords=radmanovich&srefix=radmanovich%2Caps%2C145&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/ShapeShiftersWifeCarolynRadmanovichbook/dp/B075VG89WW/ref=sr_1_2?crid=15N6TJGAGFYIO&keywords=radmanovich&srefix=radmanovich%2Caps%2C145&sr=8-2)

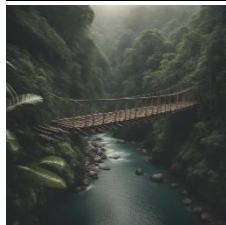


*The Shape-Shifter's Wife Series*  
Carolyn Radmanovich  
The Shape-Shifter's Wife: Book 1  
The Gypsy's Warning: Book 2  
The Mummy's Gift: Book 3

***The Gypsy's Warning: Book 2 of The Shape-Shifter's Wife Series***

Imagine the courage it would require to embark on a voluntary journey through time driven by the determination to reunite with your sister, only to discover the charred remnants of her home, evidence of a sinister arson. With her strong will, Heather embraces this daunting challenge. When searching for her sister in the fall of 1995, she ends up in the tumultuous heart of 1849 San Francisco, a city teeming with rowdiness. To help the dance hall girls she encounters while playing piano, she unwittingly becomes an enemy of the saloon owner. The friends she makes and the romance that blossoms are her saving grace. A twentieth century independent woman, Heather learns she must face situations unfamiliar to her as a nineteenth century woman. As Heather deals with harrowing circumstances that seem to embrace her, she is shocked when a Gypsy palm reader predicts that because her beloved, David, bought an ancient mummy's belt, it will cause a curse and an unforeseen journey fraught with impending danger.

[https://www.amazon.com/GypsiesWarningBookShapeShiftersWifebook/dp/B089HZGSGZ/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=radmanovich&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/GypsiesWarningBookShapeShiftersWifebook/dp/B089HZGSGZ/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=radmanovich&sr=8-1)

***The Mummy's Gift, Final Book 3 of the Shape-Shifter's Wife Series (placeholder cover picture)***

I'm thrilled to announce the third installment in The Shape-Shifter's Wife series, *The Mummy's Gift*, will be up for pre-order on Amazon October 15, 2023

This gripping tale is set in the California Gold Rush, a tumultuous period in the late 1840s. Two sisters, determined to reunite, embark on separate time travel journeys. Each encounters the spectrum from romance to danger and from mystical revelations to extraordinary abilities like shape-shifting and visions. Heather's life takes a perilous twist as she navigates the jungles of Ecuador and endeavors to return a sacred belt to a mummy perched atop a volcano, all in a desperate bid to break her lover's curse. Arsonists, grizzly bears, and a missing sister besiege Angelica. Both sisters must tackle a common enemy who is set for vengeance. Their interlinked destinies will test the limits of their courage and resolve.

## Words from the Author .... Carolyn Radmanovich

My love for writing has always found expression in short stories and poetry, but the turning point in my literary journey unfolded nearly three decades ago during a spring excursion with my husband on the scenic Russian River in Healdsburg, California.

As we navigated the river's gentle flow, we encountered a dramatic twist in our adventure—an immense tree had toppled into the water, forming a formidable obstacle. With all our might, we paddled furiously, determined to overcome this unexpected challenge, yet destiny had other plans, and we collided with the tree.

The canoe capsized, plunging me beneath the vessel, trapped beneath the tree's gnarled branches, my lungs aching for air. Desperately, I strained against the canoe, but to no avail. The dreadful realization that I was trapped and facing an impending watery grave overwhelmed me.

In hindsight, I reflected on my life filled with cherished moments, yet shorter than I had hoped. With the specter of death closing in, a profound acceptance washed over me. A strange sense of joy arose as I embraced the impending transition into the boundless spiritual realm and a grand adventure. With this profound serenity, I inhaled what I thought would be my last breath, and the world faded to black

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After searching the river, my husband attempted to dislodge the stubbornly trapped canoe, but the relentless suction of the powerful current held it captive. Finally, after beginning to panic, a surge of adrenaline coursed through his veins, and he gave a mighty push, breaking the canoe free. With that monumental effort, I surfaced.

My feet scraping against the riverbed's coarse gravel jolted me awake. I automatically stood, and the chilly water went up to my neck. Panic set in as I struggled to breathe, my throat constricting, and all that escaped were choking sounds. My husband stood many feet away and urged me to relax and attempt to breathe. After several agonizing attempts, I could draw air into my lungs. Once I reached the bank, I twirled in circles, saying over and over, "I'm alive."

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It was only later that I came to understand I had experienced a phenomenon known as "dry drowning." Sometimes, the airway is triggered when cold water starts to enter the throat, rendering a person unable to breathe and potentially leading to a fatal outcome.

About an hour before the incident, we had enjoyed a leisurely picnic on a gravel bar. We caught sight of a magnificent, dark, three-story house adorned with elegant turrets. I would have loved to walk there, but the vegetation was too thick.

In the following weeks, I was haunted by dreams and visions of that house, which filled my waking thoughts with an irresistible urge to return. My husband and I embarked on a quest to rediscover it, driving the charming river road in Healdsburg. Disappointed we didn't find the house; we contacted the local fire station for assistance.

A compassionate firefighter revealed she knew the house's location and kindly provided me with the owner's phone number. When I called, I told the woman my story. In a generous gesture, she gave me directions to a gate that would swing open automatically. The dirt road wound its way through picturesque vineyards.

Upon our arrival at the mysterious, turreted house, the owner was waiting in her weathered pickup. She beckoned us into the truck and drove us to where she thought we had picnicked at the gravel bar. When she let us out, she told us to take all the pictures we wanted and then return to the house.

After I took numerous photos, we walked up the vineyard-covered hillside to the home at the top of the hill. I knocked, and the owner invited me in. Not wanting to impose, I declined but did take a furtive peek inside, fueled by my curiosity. I shared with her my sense of indebtedness to God and the universe for allowing me to survive, which in turn made me desire to want to write a book. The owner expressed interest in receiving a copy when it was completed, and I readily agreed. When I turned toward our car, my husband reminded me of a detail I had previously mentioned from my dreams—an image of a dark pool behind the house. When I retraced my steps, to my astonishment, I discovered a sizable black-bottomed pool behind the house. My heart raced as I hurried back to tell the owner.

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Some years later, I called the owner and invited her to dinner. To my delight, she welcomed me into her home. As I stepped inside, a wave of astonishment washed over me. The interior of the house had a striking

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resemblance to the setting I had described in my book. We connected immediately with a shared understanding of the world of shamans and shape-shifting running through our conversation. She confided in me that she and her husband had recently journeyed to Peru, where they had the privilege of encountering a shaman. This connection deepened our bond, bridging the realms of fiction and reality in a remarkable way.

Upon finishing my initial novel, *The Shape-Shifter's Wife*, predominantly centered around the character Angelica, I felt there was more to write about the two sisters, so I completed *The Gypsy's Warning*, which is about Heather, the second sister. Another story I called *The Mummy's Gift* demanded to be told, a piece of the saga. It revolves around the two sisters' relentless quest to find each other, pushing the story into an intricate web of connection and intrigue. While I currently view the series as concluded, I remain open to the possibility of another novel should the characters continue to call out to me in the realm of my imagination.

For future projects, I'm eager to publish a book of poetry chosen from my collection of over 300 poems I've penned throughout my lifetime. I also drafted a manuscript centered on Bacchus, the exuberant deity of wine and revelry, who comes alive in this modern era and whose pleasure-seeking ways are refocused when he falls maddeningly in love for the first time.

My husband has encouraged me to write a book that delves into my spiritual life and profound meditational experiences. For example, when visiting China for my son's wedding, he took us to the White Cloud Taoist Temple. When I arrived, a profound sense of *Déjà vu* washed over me, giving me the conviction that I had walked these sacred grounds in a distant lifetime. Guided by a sense of knowing, I requested my family to follow me as I led them on an impromptu tour, confident in my connection to the temple and Taoism.

This remarkable experience is one of many in the tapestry of my spiritual journey, interwoven by numerous mystical encounters and profound revelations. These narratives will find a place in the pages of the book I'm creating.

AAAAA

To learn more or request Carolyn as website at

YouTube channel for an immersive trails, captivating book readings, Sprinkled throughout are delightful with animals. One standout gem young donkey mastering the art of vacation to Custer State Park, captivating viewers far and wide.



a speaker or guest at a book club, visit her [www.CarolynRadmanovich.com](http://www.CarolynRadmanovich.com). Visit her vibrant experience of her literary world, beloved hiking nature scenes, and invaluable writing insights. short clips that feature endearing encounters among her video collection features an adorable charming tourists for snacks, during her recent South Dakota. It's become an instant sensation, <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/0zte1FuWwgg>

Timeline below on how long it takes, how hard (**Carolyn feeding donkey**) it is to be a guest journalist, and how much Carolyn enjoyed doing it. Many of the Guest Journalists have told me they found it to be much easier than they expected.

**\*\*I had asked if they went to all the place below on their trip, including about the Rocky Mt. Oysters that she mentioned.**

### **Wed, Sep 27 at 5:45 PM Carolyn's Email to me asking when it was due**

I've been traveling on a Cowboy trip (Nevada, Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota). Now that I'm unpacked, I read the NCPA newsletter and found that I'm the guest journalist for October. I rushed to write a piece and have it all drafted. I included a bio and why I wrote the series.

I found writing about myself fun, instead of grueling like I thought it would be. So much for ego. Wow, I get to write about myself. Yes.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity. *Carolyn Radmanovich*

### **Fri, Sep 29 at 11:37 AM Carolyn's Email when she finished and sent the stuff**

**\*\*We had a great time on our cowboy trip, wearing our cowboy hats almost every day. We stayed in Cody two nights and made it to the Irma Hotel and had a great dinner. I skipped the Rocky Mountain oysters since I had them another time. We went to the Cody Museum which is fabulous. We saw Mr. Rushmore, Cody State Park with its buffalo and donkeys, did Badlands on a previous trip, was at Bar No. 10 in Deadwood for the assassination of Wild Bill, and went to Crazy Horse Monument with its marvelous Indian head and finger pointing. We were told the thumb is 29 feet long. The museum was great and I bought a 3-day dream catcher.**

I am adding..., a picture of me feeding a donkey, and.....If you need anything else, let me know.

Thank you for this wonderful privilege of showing off my books. *Carolyn*

**Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) \* PO Box 214673 ~ Sac, CA 95821**

The NCPA Board of Directors invites you to join us at our new monthly meeting location on Sun 8 Oct 2023  
~ MUCH AWAITED IN-PERSON MEETINGS RETURNED IN AUGUST ~

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

NCPA member Lisa RANDOLPH will be our speaker for 8 October meeting and will entertain with her travel adventures, plus she'll hit a bit on marketing.

## Flaming Grill Café

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 8 Oct 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  
"E" RSVP

**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** NEW Deadline 8 Oct 2023 anticipated launch: during the NCPA Holiday Luncheon 10 Dec 2023 at Black Angus

**ALL Holidays Vol 3** NEW Deadline 31 Dec 2023 anticipated launch with the 30<sup>th</sup> NCPA Book Awards Banquet 23 June 2024

**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 [2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com](mailto:2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com) for a copy). **Also, for ALL correspondence re THESE TWO anthologies ONLY, including questions and help, contact me at: [2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com](mailto:2023NCPAAnthologies@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

## ANTHOLOGY UPDATE & NEW DEADLINES

**(Includes lists of names for stories received & committed to Beautiful World)**

Thank you so much to the member-authors who've joined us in our anthology journeys since 2019 (some have a story in all 7 of our completed works), and everyone included in the two we're currently working on: **Beautiful World**, \* & \* **ALL Holidays Vol 3**. If you've not yet joined our journey, please do so now with a story to our **Beautiful World** anthology. **Must be received by 8 OCT (next Sun), for our anticipated launch 10 Dec.** coinciding with NCPA's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Luncheon that day (12Noon) at Black Angus in Citrus Heights (on Sunrise and Greenback). **LIMITED SPACES LEFT, SO GET YOUR STORY IN NOW!**

**BUT, THERE'S STILL TIME TO SUBMIT TO [ALL Holidays Vol 3](#): Submission date has changed to 31 Dec 2023**, for an anticipated launch during NCPA's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual BOOK AWARDS BANQUET at Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta on Sun 23 June 2024.

**Beautiful WORLD** stories from the following member-authors have been received, proofed, and are going through the editing process now: \* BUCKROTH \* CANTERBURY \* DAVIS \* DIAZ \* FABER \* HAMILTON \* JAVOR \* KLIDE \* OSBORN \* RADMANOVICH \* \* SIMMER \* STALEY \* STAPP \* WARD \* **THE FOLLOWING member-authors have COMMITTED TO SUBMIT A STORY by 8 Oct:** \*Alcalde Marr \* Darrow \* Johnson \* Moon \* Patterson \* Schmitt \* Thornton \* Villa \* Villatore \* Young \* (WORK FAST!)

**If you've already submitted a story, or COMMITTED to submitting & your name's not on one of the above lists, please let me know & either send your completed story today, or finish, & send it to [2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com](mailto:2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com) by next Sun, 8 Oct.**

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

## 2019 NCPA Anthologies

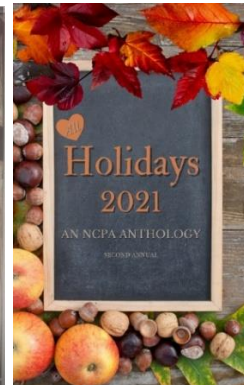
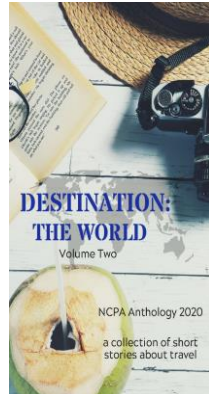
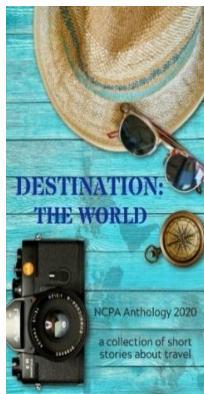


**BIRDS OF A FEATHER**  
An NCPA Anthology  
*A Collection of Short Stories about Animals*



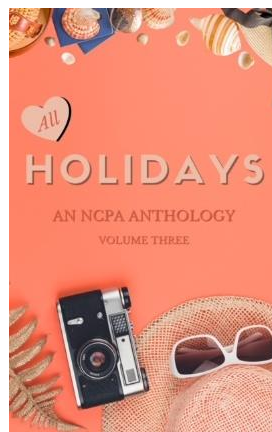
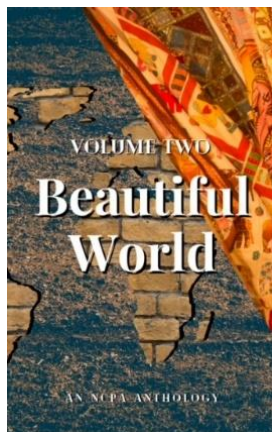
**MORE BIRDS OF A FEATHER**  
An NCPA ANTHOLOGY  
*A Collection of Short Stories about Animals and Other Things*

## 2020 NCPA Anthologies

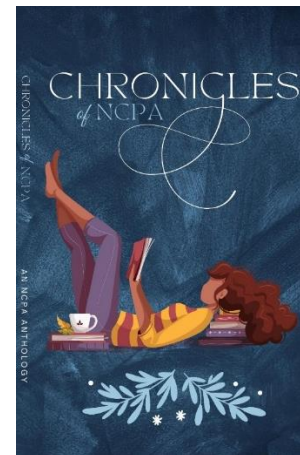


**ALL (seven) 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 ANTHOLOGY BOOKS (above) AVAILABLE PAPER COPIES @ Cost for Authors from Sharon Darrow: [Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com](mailto:Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com) or [NCPA Anthologies \(7 book series\) Ebook & Paperback Edition \(amazon.com\)](https://www.amazon.com/NCPA-Anthologies/7-book-series)**

## Anthologies Coming Dec 2023 & June 2024



## Anthology coming Dec 2024 SHORT STORIES – ALL GENRE



\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW Submission deadlines \* 8 Oct 2023 \* Beautiful World\* ----- \* 31 Dec 2023 \* ALL Holidays Vol 3 \***  
**NEW dedicated Email address for both anthologies: [2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com](mailto:2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com)**

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) \* PO Box 214673 ~ Sac, CA 95821



**MORE ANTHOLOGY SPECS**

- **Beautiful World** - any genre, about anything, anywhere in the world. **DEADLINE - 8 OCT 2023**
- **ALL Holidays Vol 3** - any genre, ANY holiday, even a made up one if you want (we've even accepted a class reunion and a family reunion in the past). Once you do a story in this one, you can also send poetry if you want, for Holidays ONLY. Ask me for more info on poems. **31 DEC 2023 deadline**
- **BOTH:** 500-3500 words \* Family friendly \* Your picture, jpg only \* your bio, 150-word max \* there are 3 forms: 1 is instructions, 2 need signatures, completed, signed & returned \* E-sign ok \* Forms on the [Norcalpa.org](http://Norcalpa.org) home (main) page, click on anthologies \* If you can't find it, let me know and I'll send you the forms later \*

**Please send anything anthology-related ONLY to dedicated anthology address: [2023NCPAnthologies@gmail.com](mailto:2023NCPAnthologies@gmail.com)**

- **PLEASE BE SURE TO PROOF YOUR STORY THOROUGHLY PRIOR TO SUBMITTING**, and have it edited, if possible, but don't pay for an editor. NCPA has 3 Critique Groups in varying stages right now, that can help with minor edits, if necessary. You'll also need to reciprocate with others in the groups.
- One-on-one sessions can be arranged with me for the basic-non-generic-all-stuff-included-whatever – these sessions are especially geared for help with writing anthology stories. I may ask an author to please meet with me for a one-on-one if that author has - or has had in prior anthologies– a pattern of issues that need to be brought to their attention, and worked on (such as overuse of the word “that” – one of my own pet issues that I must keep reminding myself about, that you'll notice I just used 4 times)!

**NCPA 30<sup>TH</sup> BOOK AWARDS UPDATE 2024 date & GOOD NEWS: NO PRICE INCREASE**

Our big # 30 NCPA Book Awards competition is **Sunday 23 JUNE 2024 (new date)** once more at Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta, CA. If you have, or will have, a book published & available to the public, **1 Jan 2023 through midnight 31 Dec 2023**, enter NCPA's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Awards Competition. You don't have to be a member to submit a book, but cheaper, if you are. **Submit date opens Sun 1 Oct 2023 & closes Fri 1 March 2024.** Help make #30 our biggest competition yet! The sooner you enter, the cheaper it is –

**Early Bird Special: 1 Oct 2023 through 30 Nov 2023 (\$65 member - \$95 non-member) \*\*\* Membership only \$40/year**

For more info on all: [norcalpa.org](http://norcalpa.org)

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual BOOK AWARD SUBMISSION DATES & PRICE LIST FOR MEMBERS**

**(Apologies – the wrong amounts for NON-members were reported in the September newsletter)**

- ❖ 1 Oct 2023 thru 30 Nov 2023 — \$65.00 for all regular categories **EARLY BIRD** (members only)
- ❖ 1 Dec 2023 thru 31 Jan 2024 — \$75.00 for all regular categories **2<sup>ND</sup> LEVEL** (members only)
- ❖ 1 Feb 2024 thru 1 March 2024 — \$85.00 for all regular categories **FINAL ENTRY** (members only)
- ❖ **All books published in Dec 2023 (1– 31 Dec 2023) \$65.00 (thru 1 Mar 2024)** (Proof of Dec publish with copyright date)
- ❖ **\$15 plus 3 extra books to add Cover/interior design category for each book entered** (members only)

**PRICES FOR NON-MEMBERS** (\$30 more each than for members) (same submission dates as members)

- **EARLY BIRD: \$95 by 30 Nov 2023 (1 Oct-30 Nov)**
- **2<sup>ND</sup> LEVEL: \$105 by 31 Jan 2024 (1 Dec 2023- 31 Jan 2024)**
- **STANDARD FINAL ENTRY DEADLINE: \$115 by 1 Mar 2024 (1 Feb – 1 Mar 2024)**
- **All books published in Dec 2023 (1– 31 Dec 2023) \$95.00 (thru 1 Mar 2024)** (Proof of Dec publish with copyright date)
- **\$45 plus 3 extra books to add Cover/interior design category for each book entered** (non-members)
- ❖ **Books (for story judging only, on both member & non-member): SUBMIT 4 books** \* Info how to submit eBooks is on the NCPA website & the submission forms. Current, updated regs for books published in 2023 (1 Jan 2023 - 31 Dec 2023), should be online by the time you read this. Books published in 2023 are judged and awarded in 2024. All but one book will be returned to author. For more info: [norcalpa.org](http://norcalpa.org) \* for questions &/or detailed info, call Sharon 916-803-1665

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## GENEALOGY STUFF FOR THOSE DOING FAMILY HISTORY THINGS

### **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))

### **SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

#### **Genealogy Presentations from Sacramento Public Library – UPDATED FOR OCTOBER – 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).

**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**

<https://www.familyhistorywritingstudio.com/story-starter-workbook-2/>

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## UPCOMING 2023 NCPA EVENTS -- & MORE

### 30th NCPA BOOK AWARDS BANQUET

5pm-9pm

Sun 23 June 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**

Plus *Beautiful World* Anthology launch

### 2023 Anthologies: Submission Dates

*Beautiful World* \* **NEW** Deadline to Submit \* **8 Oct 2023**

*ALL Holidays Vol 3* \* Deadline to Submit \* **31 Dec 2023**

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

**In-person NCPA monthly meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of each month, with a later time:**  
4pm-6:30pm Sunday 8 Oct 2023 / Sun 11 Nov 2023 / Sun 10 Dec (Holiday Special 12 N-??pm Black Angus)

**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, next to WinCo on Watt Av

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

Speaker for October meeting \* NCPA member Lisa Randolph will touch on marketing tips and entertain with her travel adventures and the interesting people she hobnobbed with this past year on her worldwide writing journey.

### 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**

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

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**

Looking for a great venue for your Banquet &/or more?

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

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## 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 Arden Dimick Library- 891 Watt Av \* ALSO \* Writers Network 9-11am **1st Fri** monthly **CH Café & Grill** 6215 Sunrise, Citrus Heights Open to the public, pay for your own breakfast  
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 \* (\$20) Cap Crimes **Capitolcrimes.org**

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

Meets the 1st Fri of each month in Elk Grove at the Round Table Pizza Restaurant, corner of Bruceville Rd. and Whitlock at 12:30 pm  
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 **4pm on the 2nd Sun of each month 8 Oct / 11Nov / 10 Dec 2023**

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

**New time: 4pm-6:30pm** \$40/year membership includes eligibility to submit a story to NCPA anthology  
Call Sharon 916-804-1665 for extra NCPA Anthologies – they can also 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**

### ➤ 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.

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

**Social Media Director**

Chrissi Villa

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Charlene Johnson

[circleoftheredscorpion@gmail.com](mailto:circleoftheredscorpion@gmail.com)**Book Events Coordinator**

Danita Moon

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

(916) 980-0375

**Anthologies 2019 - 2024**Norma Jean Thornton: **Coordinator**Michelle Hamilton: **Main Editor**Bob Irelan: **Editor**Elaine Faber: **Editor**Andrea Patterson: **Editor**Norma Jean Thornton: **Proofreader**Sharon Darrow: **Publisher**[2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com](mailto:2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com)

**Meetings now 4pm - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, FLAMING GRILL (inside CCP Mall) on Watt Av started Sunday 13 August 2023 – corner of Watt Av & El Camino Av next to WinCo**

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Michelle (ML) Hamilton, President 916-837-6812 \* Norma Jean Thornton, Editor 916-991-5751 [www.norcalpa.org](http://www.norcalpa.org)**Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) \* PO Box 214673 ~ Sac, CA 95821**



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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 must retype anything sent by pdf to make it fit – and it makes me grouchy!

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