

www.norcalpa.org

The Pen & Press

Sunday 14 January 2024.

4pm - 6:30pm

FLAMING GRILL

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

PLEASE RSVP BY 13 Jan

reply YES, NO or MAYBE to

normathornton@yahoo.com

916-804-7201 after 9am – before 10pm

Guest Speaker

NCPA President, Michelle Hamilton - w/a M.L. Hamilton

Presents:

"Jack (Jane) of all Writing-Type Sessions with Michelle"

A little bit of this, a bit more of that – and –

then a tiny bit of everything else thrown in for good measure

(Plus lots of Q&A time, with all your writing questions)

FYI

**SPECIAL PRICES ON BOOK AWARD ENTRIES
EARLY BIRD PRICE EXTENDED THROUGH 1 MARCH 2024**

PAGE 3 FOR PRICES & INSTRUCTIONS

FYI

**DATES ONLY FOR 2024 MEETINGS --- Guest Speakers TBA in Feb Newsletter --- trying for the TAX GUY FORUM for Feb
FEB 2024 MEETING WILL BE 4:30pm SATURDAY 10 FEB because our normal day is SUPERBOWL SUNDAY**

Sunday 10 March

Sunday 14 April

Sunday 12 May

SUN 23 JUNE 2023 -- NO REGULAR MEETING – OUR 30TH BOOK AWARDS BANQUET

NO MEETING IN July- FAIR TIME 12-28 July

Sunday 11 Aug

Sunday 8 Sep

Sunday 13 Oct

Sunday 10 Nov – BOOK DISPLAY

Sunday 8 Dec 2024 – 8TH HOLIDAY LUNCHEON – BLACK ANGUS 12N – 2:30pm

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR CDTFA TAXES by 31 Jan 2024

PAY

CA Dept of Tax & Fee Admin (CDTFA, formerly SBOE)

[website](#) Log in prior to 31Jan 2024

Customer Service Center 1-800-400-7115

Customer Service Representatives Available M-F 7:30 a.m. to 5:00

Condolences to Sharon Darrow and family, for the loss of her mother, June, in December. Many of you may remember sweet little white-haired June, who was also an NCPA member, and until Covid shut us down, had attended almost every meeting with Sharon.

Services are scheduled closer to the end of the month, and Sharon will be sending out an Email regarding the date, time, and location, closer to the day.

On a happier note, NCPA photographer, social hostess and website aide, Christine L. "Chrissi" Villa married her longtime love, Lester Gallagher, 30 Dec --- then went on a 10-day honeymoon to Canada without him! Chrissi will tell us all about that - with lots of pictures - in an upcoming newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS CHRISSI & LESTER!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since a new year is about to commence, I thought I'd tackle predictions regarding trends in the publishing business for 2024. It's always a challenge to be on the cutting edge of what is hot in this market and what has faded, but hopefully the following tips might help guide your publication goals.

Obviously, AI is a big topic of conversation. Even in teaching, I've had the unfortunate issue of failing two of my honors students on an assignment for turning in essays 100% written by AI. Of course, they denied it, but when fifteen-year-olds use sentences like: "This attestation elucidates the formidable perspicacity that George faces when having to decide between affecting Lennie's liberation, or martyring him with a bullet from the misappropriated Luger," you have suspicions. Especially when said students can't tell you the difference between a noun and a verb. But I digress, or as ChatGPT might say, maunder.

According to ***Book Riot**, the hottest genre this year will be Romance, but when isn't it? However, subgenres are apparently where the excitement is. In particular, romance fantasy, cleverly called romantasy. Also, time-travel romance, and written rom-coms.

If you aren't a romance writer, cozy mysteries have been and will continue to be huge; as well as escapism reading like fantasy, science fiction, speculative fiction. If you're wondering what speculative fiction is, it's fiction set in some place other than the real world and might deal with hypothetical versions of history.

***Blockthrough** suggests that niche publications will become big. These are publications that cater to a specific interest of its readers. Think maybe travel blogs or print magazines, or publications based on a person's hobby. I understand pickleball is all the rage right now.

Designing content to be viewed on hand-held devices over desktop or laptops is big. Authors who tap into creating content that can be easily viewed on a phone might have a leg-up on the competition. And creating a complete user experience by adding shoppable links to your works or links to bonus video content might capture readers' interests.

However you approach your writing goals for 2024, I wish you a productive, rewarding start to the new year, and hope 2024 finds you healthy, happy, and pursuing your dreams.

ML Hamilton

authormlhamilton.net

Editor's Note: If you're unfamiliar with Book Riot &/or Blockthrough, as I am, easy links: [BOOK RIOT - Book Recommendations and Reviews](#) * [Blockthrough: Adblock Revenue Recovery](#) – (BTW: Michelle wrote this in Dec 2023, and I didn't change it any).

BOOK AWARDS: SPECIAL FEES FOR 2023 PUBLISHED BOOKS

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

SPECIAL PRICING CHANGE: NCPA 30TH BOOK AWARDS UPDATE 2024 date

GOOD NEWS: EARLY BIRD PRICES EXTENDED TO 1 MARCH 2024

NCPA Book Awards competition, Sunday 23 JUNE 2024, once more at Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta. If you have, or will have, a book published & available to the public, 1 Jan 2023 through midnight 31 Dec 2023, enter NCPA's 30th Annual Book Awards Competition. You don't have to be a *member to submit a book, but it's cheaper, if you are. Submissions end Fri 1 March 2024. Help make #30 our biggest competition yet! *(Member fees \$40/year).

Early Bird Special: 1 Oct 2023 through 31 Dec 2023 (\$65 member - \$95 non-member) *** Membership only \$40/year

SUBMISSION DATES & PRICE LIST FOR MEMBERS (\$65 / \$95 each price includes one buffet - \$30 value)

If more than 1 book is entered, books #2 thru ?? entries are \$30 less each (\$35 member / \$65 non - each)

❖ **EARLY BIRD (members only) SPECIAL PRICE extended thru 1 March 2024 — \$65.00 for all regular categories**

❖ 1 Jan 2024 thru 31 Jan 2024 — \$75.00 for all regular categories 2ND 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) \$65 MEMBERS - \$95.00 NON-MEMBERS**

❖ **An extra \$15, plus 3 extra books to add Cover/Interior design category for each book entered (members only)**

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

Early Bird NON-member SPECIAL PRICE extends thru 1 Mar 2024 - \$95 regular categories

➤ ~~2ND LEVEL: \$105 by 31 Jan 2024 (1 Jan 2024– 31 Jan 2024)~~

➤ ~~STANDARD FINAL ENTRY DEADLINE: \$115 by 1 Mar 2024 (1 Feb– 1 Mar 2024)~~

➤ **An extra \$15 plus 3 extra books to add Cover/interior design category for each book entered (NON-members)**

INSTRUCTIONS:

❖ Book (for story judging only): 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 – (Sun 23 June 2024). All but one book will be returned to author.

❖ For more info: norcalpa.org or call Sharon 916-803-1665

❖ More than one book to enter? Not a problem: 1 book = \$65 member / \$95 non: 2 books = \$100 member / \$160 non

Compare NCPA Book Award Competitions to STORYMONSTERS.com Competitions

Children's Book Contests:

\$65 (early bird) to \$70, to \$75 FOR EACH BOOK ENTERED, PER CATEGORY! no discount for multiples like NCPA, & no buffet

1. Purple Dragonfly Book Award Entry * 2. Royal Dragonfly Book Award Entry * 3. Story Monsters Approved Entry

STORYMONSTERS BOOK Competition --- winners receive a **digital personalized certificate and award seal**, but they **have to buy their own physical awards & merch on top of the \$65 Entry for each category, per book, with no discount for multiples, like NCPA does. Their prices range from \$3 for a simple little .50 cent ribbon, to \$17 for Medals to \$29 or \$39 for Award "Seals" to \$45 for a winner's plaque. **NCPA also includes a buffet dinner with each full \$65 entry. The \$30 buffet price is dropped with multiple entries, unless the author wants extra buffets.****

Entries in StoryMonsters do, however, get entered in a drawing for a chance of (3) \$100 cash prizes for Approved Seal of Approval, and a chance at (1) Book of Year, which receives \$500 cash, 100 Approved Seals, plus more perks. **NCPA also gives 10 free golden award seals, as well as an actual, physical personalized framed certificate to all winners. Plus, all NCPA winners are honored that evening (Sun 23 June 2024) during a full buffet dinner, surrounded by other authors, friends and family, with an evening of fun and frivolity, plus a bookstore, card split, & Silent Auction, with proceeds going to Friends of the Library, Books 4 Kids**

CONFERENCES – CONTESTS – SUBMITS – MORE

- [Writing & Publishing Your Family History | American Ancestors](#) : on-line Seminar 10 Feb 2024 *2pm -3:30pm * \$125
- [San Francisco Writers Conference 15-18 Feb 2024 – SFWriters.org](#)
- [Erma Bombeck Writers' workshop – 4-6 April 2024, Dayton OH - \\$524 fee 2024 Workshop : University of Dayton, Ohio \(udayton.edu\)](#)
- [StoryMonsters.com](#) (see page 4 for more info on this competition compared to NCPA prices & perks)
www.storymonstersbookawards.com/sma-awards
- <https://www.namw.org/> National Association of Memoir Writers - ,lots of virtual stuff: meetings, Panels, book clubs, workshops, courses – some stuff free, some not – [check it out if interested in writing memoirs.](#)
- [Possible Book Topics | Chicken Soup for the Soul](#)
- [Publishing ... and Other Forms of Insanity: Free Contests \(publishedtodeath.blogspot.com\)](#)
- Enter hundreds of Writing Contests: We'd love to see you writing at [FanStory](#)
- We've got hundreds of contests you can enter. Get feedback for everything that you write. And a special offer: [Find out more Writing and Poetry Community - Share Poetry and Stories Online \(fanstory.com\)](#)
- **Authors Publish Presents - 44 Themed Calls for Submissions** (click on for info) These are 44 outlets with themed calls and contests for fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Some of the calls are: rites of spring; solarpunk; underappreciated writers; classic fairy tales; marshland horror; the devil you know best; boundaries; old friends; poison; bigfoot country; and dragons. A few outlets have more than one call.... click on [authorspublish.com](#) for more
- [» 10 Anthologies Seeking Submissions \(authorspublish.com\)](#) [» 4 Anthologies Accepting Submissions \(authorspublish.com\)](#)

From Plot to Print

M.L. Hamilton

Are you stuck in the middle of writing your novel? Do you have an idea of what you want to write, but can't get started? Do you want to learn how to self-publish? This eighteen-week course might be the thing to get you going.

If you are interested in launching your writing career, or simply need something to keep you motivated, consider taking my From Plot to Print course starting in January and running through May, 2024. See the flier and calendar attached to this email for the contents of the course.

Please contact M.L. Hamilton at blackcatediting17@gmail.com if you are interested in signing up.



[From Plot to Print Flier](#)



[From Plot to Print Calendar](#)

Thank you Kanika, Cindy, Carolyn, Angelica, and all the other GUEST JOURNALIST contributors 2022 & 2023

--- and now that it's a new year, I'm ready for more ~~ how about YOU!!!??

Choose your date: Feb – Dec 2024

Looking for Guest Journalists

If you already have, and want to again, that's great! Just let me know

Send all your writing info, your bio, brag about your books and other successes, your dogs or 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 family-friendly. Great chance to toot your own horn to more than 250. Never get a better chance!

Email normathornton@yahoo.com

FUN WITH WORDS:

- I went to the paint store to get thinner. It didn't work.
- I've decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you're just too tired to bounce it.
- I was in a shoe store that sells only shoes, nothing else. A young salesperson walked over to me and asked "What brings you in today?" I responded "I'm interested in buying a refrigerator."
- When people see my cat's litter box, they always ask, "Have you got a cat?" So, I always answer "No, it's just for company!"
- Employment applications always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write: "An ambulance."
- The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.
- Have you ever noted: the Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.
- The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he knows when he's really in trouble.
- Did you ever notice that when you put the two words "The" and "IRS" together, it spells "Theirs"?
- Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it

Click: [50 Things to Declutter...Right Now! – It's Aimee Rebecca \(itsaimeerebecca.com\)](https://itsaimeerebecca.com)

This is a fun link to visit, but what works for one, doesn't necessarily work for another. She makes lots of decluttering suggestions that would never work for me, such as:

- ✓ **In the bedroom:** Shoes that feel like torture devices: to me, ALL shoes feel like torture devices, that's why I'm mostly barefoot ... that means no shoes left; ok with me. * Anything you own that you don't feel fabulous in: Whups! That means everything! My closets would be bare, and it's gonna get pretty darned cold out there, without both shoes and clothes!
- ✓ **In the bathroom:** I'm ahead of the game here --- the only things I have on that list are the hair ties, but they're in use, all on the floor for the cats to play with, and I never bought red lipstick, for that very reason. I knew I'd look like a clown!
- ✓ **The kitchen:** I do have lots of bizarre gadgets, but lately I've finally started using them, after 70+ years, and I'm still every once in a while, finding those missing plastic lids and containers ... in different drawers.
- ✓ **The study:** I'd have nothing left, which means I'd just have to go buy something else to fill the void!
- ✓ **Pesky junk drawer:** My dad always said to hold onto any key you had, because eventually it might be "the" missing one for something important, so all those keys are staying!
- ✓ **Handbag:** Those loose coins are there because they're what I've found every place I go. And I have no idea what Paracetamol packets are, so going down that Google rabbit hole right now, to find out what they are ... an hour later: Now, why didn't she just say for pain relief?

Norma Jean

SPYMUSEUM.ORG for mystery writers & Cap Crime cross-overs, if you don't already have: Virtual Spy Chat Programs & Events.

The NCPA Board of Directors invites you to join us at our new monthly meeting location on Sun 14 Jan 2024

~ IN-PERSON MEETINGS HAVE RETURNED ~

Same Day * New Time * New Location

Guest Speaker/s PENDING --- Working on return of our annual TAX GUYS PANEL for February. Will know soon

Flaming Grill Café

in the old CCP Mall at Watt Av & El Camino Av
(2380-Watt Avenue, Suite 150 Inside Country Club Plaza)

4pm-6:30pm * 2nd Sun each month * Sun 14 Jan 2024

(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](#)

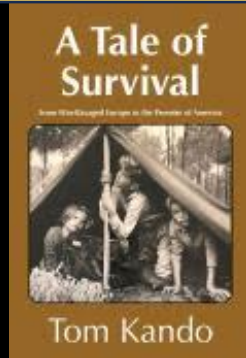
**WATCH
FOR
AN "E"
RSVP**



MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

NCPA member & Past NCPA long-time Secretary Tom Kando

Tale of
Survival



Tom
Kando

Published in 2023, *A Tale of Survival: From War-Ravaged Europe to the promise of America*, is a highly revised and improved version of Tom Kando's memoir/ autobiography – more than the tale of one man's life, this is a "...personalized story of the 20th Century, complete with all of its horror and all of its promise."

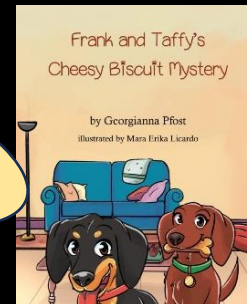
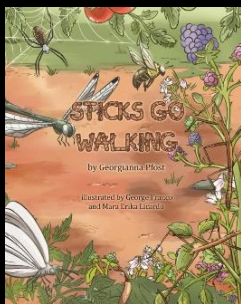
An NCPA book award winner, Tom has published a dozen books and many articles in local, national, and professional venues. Over the past fifteen years he and his sister Madeleine have published more than fifteen hundred short pieces on their blog: <http://european-americanblog.blogspot.com>

For more on Tom, see his web pages: <http://tomkando.com> OR www.tomkando.com and <http://csus.edu/indiv/k/kandot>

Also available on Amazon in paper or as a kindle e-book, by clicking on: *A Tale of Survival*
(<https://www.amazon.com/Tale-Survival-War-Ravaged-Promise-America-ebook/dp/B0CCC3RBHD/>)

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

NCPA member Georgianna Pfost



Georgianna Pfost's "*Sticks Go Walking*" won an Honorable Mention in the 2023 Royal Dragonfly Book Award (picture books 6 & older) joining her 2022 Honorable Mention for "*Frank & Taffy's Cheesy Biscuit Mystery*"

Sticks Go Walking: When Sue and Stu Bug move in with Tony, they are only expecting fresh food and a quiet break from the classroom. But when terrarium clean-up is interrupted by a basketball game, the Sticks suddenly find themselves on top of a compost pile, wondering how to get back to their summer home. On their subsequent trek across the garden, the Sticks meet several of their neighbors and learn about what they do, or do not do.

Frank and Taffy's Cheesy Biscuit Mystery: No dog likes to lose a good treat. So, when Taffy's very tasty homemade cheesy biscuit goes missing, she promptly recruits her fellow dachshund, Frank, to help find it. Follow the dogs as they sniff out clues around the house to solve this clever canine mystery. Then follow the bonus recipe to make your own cheesy biscuit!

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

Update on NCPA CRITIQUE GROUPS

- MICHELLE's Fiction has been permanently handed over to Mary McShane Vaughn (Thank you Mary!)
- SHARON's NF & Memoir is on hold until Jan or Feb 2024. Sharon will let everyone know when she's ready to resume.
- NORMA JEAN's 'Basic Non-Genre-Specific, Touch-on-it-All-a-Little, & More' (designed as a brush-up for experienced authors, plus an easy beginner, get-your-feet-wet-kind-a-group for the wannabees and those who have never belonged to a critique group, **RESTARTS 2PM WED 31 Jan 2024 CCP - INSIDE, BY FLAMING GRILL**, maybe a little earlier for those with stories in any NCPA 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 or 916-991-5751 for questions.

STUFF FROM TV & the NEWS

Nothing is Something & Zero Doesn't Exist

Thanks to Young Sheldon, It's Confirmed: Zero doesn't exist & Nothing is Something ... or is it?

Young Sheldon (pre-Big Bang Theory) - S-6, E-4 - had a confusing discussion, first while trying to help next-door-neighbor Billie with math, which sent Sheldon flying to Dr Sturgis for clarity. Dr Linkletter joined the conversation about ZERO being nothing; but is really something. The three of them came to the conclusion there's no such thing as zero - or nothing.

I've had that very same conversation with myself, and others, numerous times, both philosophically and scientifically, about no such thing as nothing, because no matter how you look at it, nothing will always be something - and now we also find from Sheldon, that zero doesn't exist! LOL

Per GOOGLE: "One of the earliest Western philosophers to consider nothing as a concept was Parmenides (5th century BC), who was a Greek philosopher of the monist school. He argued that "nothing" cannot exist by the following line of reasoning: 'To speak of a thing, one has to speak of a thing that exists.'" AND ... I found this interesting article by Sam Woolfe, describing What is Nothing? <https://www.samwoolfe.com/2013/07/what-is-nothing.html>

Steamboat Willie is FREE! Does this mean the Mickey Mouse Protection Act is now over? Read on to see ...

Did you know 1 Jan 2024 was Public Domain Day, or did it just pass you by? "Works from 1928 are open to all, as are sound recordings from 1923!" Check it out right here: [Public Domain Day 2024 | Duke University School of Law](#)

What does It's a Small World, Baby Shark, & Party in the USA, Have in Common?

While we're on the subject of Disney, that reminded me of Small World and ever since I read this article on Steamboat Willie, I've had an Earworm, better known in music terms, as an Involuntary Musical Imagery (INMI).

These are the kinds of things that take me down those Rabbit Holes when I have to check Google for something pertaining to the newsletter (and other things, but since I'm doing the newsletter, and I keep getting distracted with multiple things – some of which are those darned holes, where I wind up getting lost and it takes forever to get back to the newsletter, let's just go with them for now). If you've ever wondered, good article on this topic - [Why do some songs get stuck in you head? | KidsNews](#)

ANTHOLOGY UPDATES & NEW DEADLINE

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*. --- information in box above on specs, and where/how to submit.

Submissions for *Beautiful World* have reopened, for 5 more stories, only until 31 Jan 2024 so If you've not yet joined our journey, please do so now with a story **for *Beautiful World*, &/OR *ALL Holidays Vol 3* * Submission date has changed to 31 March 2024** for an anticipated launch for both during NCPA's 30th Annual BOOK AWARDS BANQUET at Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta on Sun 23 June 2024.

Are you an NCPA member? NCPA is accepting stories for 2 current anthologies -- FREE to ENTER & receive 1 FREE COPY

If you've not already sent one, how about a story for our current work-in-progress-anthologies?

Beautiful World (room for 5 more stories) NEW Deadline 31 Jan 2024. New anticipated launch date 23 June 2024 with NCPA Banquet
ALL Holidays Vol 3 NEW Deadline 31 March 2024 anticipated launch with the 30th NCPA Book Awards Banquet 23 June 2024

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

ALL INFORMATION in the link below – just click on it in this Email (it worked for me, but if not for you, Email me direct at the dedicated Email address 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com for a copy). Also, for ALL correspondence re the anthologies ONLY, including questions and help, contact me at: 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

(I attempted to contact the author of this informative piece (link below) to be allowed to copy and print the entire thing, but it just kept taking me back to the same page and I couldn't find the form to complete. I have little patience and no time for it, so I'm just providing the link, as well as a few highlights tweaked, in my words, below, with the following disclaimer from the author of the article: *I am not a lawyer. I am just a legally-minded Webmaster/Writer frustrated with the plague of plagiarism online and doing something about it.*)

<https://www.plagiarismtoday.com/2015/03/24/recipes-copyright-and-plagiarism/>

Cook Books, Recipes, Copyright & Plagiarism

It's reported to be even more difficult to prove plagiarism with recipes than with literature, photography or art. To show recipe plagiarism, the victim must prove the following: *the plagiarism is actually plagiarism; *the plagiarism isn't independently created; *the original is really an original.

There are only so many things you can do with a recipe, so unless you add your own special spice, herb, vegetable, or condiment – or -- leave out some flavor, additive or garlic, it's next to impossible to not be accused of plagiarism, and even then, you're on shaky ground. Pretty much your saving grace is the way you write the directions, but even then, there are only so many ways you can write instructions.

For example, a stew consists of meat and vegetables – and garlic - my change would ALWAYS be to leave out garlic (which I can't stand, and never cook with), and replace it with my own, *Nonie's House Flavors*, that I use in everything savory.

With the sweet stuff, using a different flavor, spice, fruit, or berry is about the only safe thing to do. That and the amounts used, plus maybe a different title, but again, that's pretty hard to do, also --- and yet again, for example, there are only so many names you can give biscuit or cornmeal muffin, an angel food cake, apple pie, chocolate chip cookie, or a piece of divinity, fudge, or rocky road.

To be on the safe side, if you're using a recipe you've gotten from a cookbook, off the internet, or anyone else, an easy disclaimer would be to just change the wording, rearrange the order of the ingredients and rewrite the way they're written (like just using shortcut amounts such as C, t or tsp, T or Tbs, instead of spelling each out – cup, teaspoon or Tablespoon, drop the extra words like "the" in front of each thing, like found in most cookbooks), and definitely rewrite the instructions ... and then ALWAYS mention – by name, if possible – and give thanks to, the person or persons each specific original recipe comes from.

Click the link and read the article – it pertains to plagiarism in general, but especially pertinent if you ever intend to write a cookbook. Then, write on, cook away, be sure to give an attribution to wherever you got a recipe from – and share your recipes with the world!

(BBG) *Nonie ... with my tweaked title*

One way to get a private, special recipe – read the words in the picture in the box on the next page:

Backside of mom's gravestone.
Everytime someone asked for her cook
recipe, she said, "Over my dead body!"



Not mine: copied from unknown FB

Justin Cox, The Writing Cooperative, Eat Your Words, **This Week in Writing** – I'm not sure which is what, but I had intended to comment on something he wrote in This Week in Writing 2 Jan 2024, about the TV show "LOST" in his article titled: "Opening the Mystery Box" – but unfortunately, from the time I received that Email in my personal address, forwarded it to the Email I use for items for the newsletter, and am now sitting here trying to do something with it, I have NO IDEA what I had initially planned, nor what my cryptic note to myself about my own story in Hawaii about "LOST" could possibly mean. I did just find, however, in a couple of places, what he writes about **making the internet personal again**, and it kinda hits home about the way I do the NCPA newsletter. Justin writes in part, about summarizing a set of recommendations for 2024 * Start a newsletter * Have fun, experiment, code -- and further up, he writes something about different experiences that should be weird, and original, with funky colors and styles! That's me, here, in a nutshell. So, no apologies about the way I do the newsletter. For those with issues about my funky style, sorry ... not sorry (;>)

California Ancestors for meetings, classes & more info on: Soc of CA Mayflower Descendants, Family Tree Maker., DNA Skills, RootsMagic, Eastern European Genealogy, Intro to Genealogy, Field Trips to SF & N Oakland Family Search Center
Flyer for upcoming classes & other events: [b1c837af-e492-4008-9b01-83f5160e99e5.pdf](https://www.b1c837af-e492-4008-9b01-83f5160e99e5.pdf) (constantcontact.com)

GENEALOGY STUFF FOR THOSE DOING FAMILY HISTORY THINGS

INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY?

Check out your local Library for FREE Ancestry.com at home, thanks to the library & a library card

<https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/History/Genealogy> Other Genealogy sites are free also info

<https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/Online-Learning/Online-Resources-Alphabetical>

For information contact Beth Daugherty, Librarian: bdaugherty@saclibrary.org Sacramento Central Library, 828 I St, 916-264-2920.
<http://www.saclibrary.org> - OR - bethd2073@gmail.com also, Dave contact@saclibrary.org

NEW

FOR NEWSPAPERS: [Sacramento, California Newspaper Archive](#) | [GenealogyBank](#)

SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Genealogy Presentations from Sacramento Public Library – **UPDATED FOR January – June 2024**

Free presentations online: Zoom one Sat each month 1 pm. * Sign up thru Events Program Calendar www.saclibrary.org.

The following virtual genealogy presentations take place via Zoom on Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.:

- *January 27: [Mexican Civil Registration: A Deep Dive\(Opens in a new window\)](#), with speaker Lisa Medina
- *February 24: [Online Maps, Atlases, and Gazetteers for Genealogy\(Opens in a new window\)](#), with speaker James M. Baker
- *March 23: [Genealogical Resources at the Center for Sacramento History\(Opens in a new window\)](#), with speaker Kim Hayden
- *April 27: [Shakin' Out the Smiths: Researching Common Surnames\(Opens in a new window\)](#), with speaker Nancy Calhoun
- *May 18: [30 Records that Document Female Ancestors\(Opens in a new window\)](#), with speaker Gena Philibert-Ortega
- *June 22: [Sacramento FamilySearch Center: Fun, Easy, & Free\(Opens in a new window\)](#), with speaker Philip Walton Horner
- *View past genealogy presentations on our [YouTube channel\(Opens in a new window\)](#).

LDS Family Search Center - Sacramento Latter Day Saints Family History Center 2745 Eastern Av, Sac. (916-487-2090

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

2019 NCPA Anthologies

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

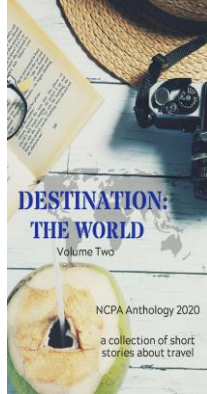
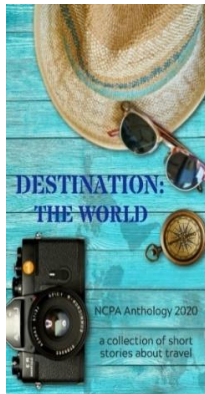


BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA Anthology
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals

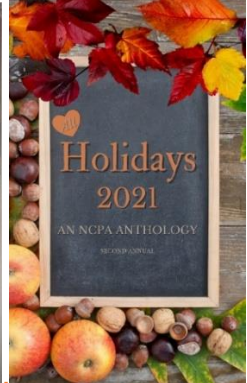


MORE BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA ANTHOLOGY
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals and Other Things

2020 NCPA Anthologies

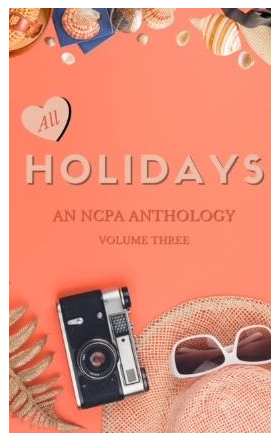
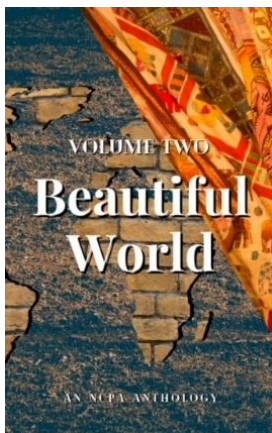


2021-22 Anthologies

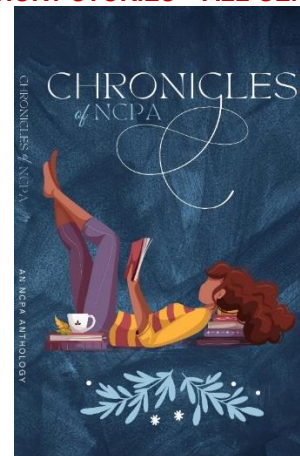


ALL (seven) 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 ANTHOLOGY BOOKS (above) AVAILABLE PAPER COPIES @ Cost for Authors from Sharon Darrow: Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com or [NCPA Anthologies \(7 book series\) Ebook & Paperback Edition \(amazon.com\)](https://www.amazon.com/NCPA-Anthologies)

Anthologies Coming June 2024



**Anthology coming Dec 2024
SHORT STORIES – ALL GENRE**



NEW Submission deadlines: 31 Jan 2024 Beautiful World * & * 31 March 2024 ALL Holidays Vol 3 *
NEW dedicated Email address for anthologies: 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com

UPDATED INFO FOR JAN 2024

***Beautiful World* Anthology CHANGES** **NEW SUBMISSION DATE * 31 Jan 2024 * New Launch Date * 23 Jun 2024**

Unfortunately, as previously reported, we had to reject three of the stories submitted to *Beautiful World*, because they were beyond repair, even after many hours, and much work was spent by the authors and proofreader/ editors.

Those authors have all been notified, and we've discussed the issues, so if you've not heard from us yet regarding your submission, don't worry, you're in the book, it just took too much time working with those stories, to finish the rest timely.

The problem is, that leaves us with not enough stories to fill the anthology and publish, thus the need for more. (We already had enough space for a couple more stories before rejecting those three, so since we're opening it up again, we may as well add those two spaces). SO, if you have just one more *Beautiful World* story in you, and you didn't have time to submit before, now's your chance! This will be our last anthology on specific destination-themes of any kind.

In addition, other unforeseen problems have occurred, causing another submission date extension, so y'all now have until 31 January 2024 to submit your *Beautiful World* stories. **WE NEED 5 MORE STORIES FOR BEAUTIFUL WORLD.**

NO, we won't be using two (2) STORIES from anyone, in any of our anthologies, so if you've already sent your story for *Beautiful World*, please don't send another --- however --- we're also still accepting stories for *ALL Holidays Vol 3* so if you've not submitted to that one yet, and would like to, please do so (that deadline has also been changed -- to 31 March 2024).

Remember, **500-3500 words in both anthologies --- plus Holidays, ONLY, also accepts poetry, once a full story has been accepted. (NO poetry in *Beautiful World*)**

After the *ALL-Holidays Vol 3* anthology is completed, there will only be one more *ALL Holidays* (Vol 4, to finalize a cover for all four seasons), then it's on to other themes, such as the one already mentioned earlier: *Chronicles of NCPA* -- all short stories of any genre. We'll also accept those stories right now, still 500-3500 words, but with no submission deadline, nor anticipated

UPCOMING 2024 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 8 Dec 2024~ 12Noon-2:30pm
Citrus Heights' Black Angus on Greenback

NCPA's 8th Holiday Luncheon 2024

2023/24 Anthologies: Submission Dates changed
***ALL Holidays Vol 3* * Deadline to Submit * 31 Mar 2024**
***Beautiful World* * DEADLINE to submit CHANGED to 31 Jan 2024**

Looking for NCPA Newsletter Guest Journalists Feb 2024 ** Great chance to toot your own horn to more than 250
Email editor, normathornton@yahoo.com

In-person NCPA monthly meetings the 2nd Sun of each month with a later time:
4pm-6:30pm

(Except the Holiday Luncheon, 8 Dec 2024: 12Noon -2:30pm)

Sun 8 Dec 2024 (Holiday Luncheon 12 N-2:30pm Black Angus)

RSVP Yes, NO or Maybe to 2022NCPAHolidayLuncheon@gmail.com by 7 December 2024

- ❖ **Broadway At the Community Center - * Six (31 Jan- 11 Feb 2024) * Annie (16 Apr-21 Apr) 2024) ***
- ❖ **UNEXTINCT at the Sacramento ZOO * weekends in Feb 2024 * <https://unextinctlive.com> * Feb 2 * 3 * 9 * 10 * 18**
- ❖ **Music Circus at the Tent - 2024 Tickets on sale NOW * 42nd St, 11 Jun-16 Jun * SpongeBob Musical, 25 Jun-30 Jun * Fiddler on the Roof, 9 Jul-14 Jul * Sunset Blvd, 23 Jul-28 Jul * Waitress, 5 Aug-11 Aug * Jersey Boys, 20 Aug -1 Sep ***

LIST OF DIFFERENT PLACES TO SELF-PUBLISH --- I don't know about the others, but LULU is what I've been using since 2004, found it very reasonably priced, extremely easy to use, and liked everything about it – until they made changes in too many things just prior to Covid, and I've not been able to figure it out since – but I'll work on it when I have the time, because I hope to continue using lulu.com --- my sites there:

(My main one) <https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/nonie> & <https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/TheGrannysWritings> (just 3 books)

A few self-publishing links

LULU: [Create & Custom Print a Book Online | Lulu](#) OR <https://www.lulu.com/create/print-books>

Book Baby: [Single Book Printing: Custom Order | BookBaby](#)

Shutterfly: [Custom Photo Books | Photo Book Styles | Shutterfly](#)

Ingram Spark: [Design Your Book for Free: Book-Building Tool | IngramSpark](#)

mPix: [Quality Photo Books & Albums | Handcrafted in the USA \(mpix.com\)](#)

Bookemon: [Create Book Online FREE|Make a Book from PDF|Design from template \(bookemon.com\)](#)

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 = For information & prices on joining: 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 also be a member of Sisters in Crime (\$50) to join Cap Crimes (\$20) Capitolcrimes.org

Elk Grove Writers Guild (EGWG) Elk Grove Writers Guild (egweg.org)

Meets the 1st Fri of each month in Elk Grove at the Round Table Pizza Restaurant, corner of Bruceville Rd. and Whitlock at 12:30 pm For more info, go to 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

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) www.norcalpa.org

In-person meetings resumed at 4pm on the 2nd Sun of each month 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

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) I

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.

If you belong to, or know of a writing organization not listed here, please forward the info to me so it can be added
Also, if you belong to one of the above and have more current information, please let me know.

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

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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

Meetings now 4pm -2nd 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

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA)

PO Box 214673 ~ Sac, CA 95821

Michelle (ML) Hamilton, President 916-837-6812 * Norma Jean Thornton, Editor 916-991-5751 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

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 or 916-991-5751

Any news of members' books, activities, marketing, speaking engagements, and/ or other accomplishments are greatly appreciated.

Also: any information on members' insights into the challenges and opportunities of writing and/or publishing, or information on regional resources for authors and publishers works well.

Cover illustrations and other photos are welcome in jpeg or other standard format. Please keep file sizes reasonable. When in doubt, call or email editor in advance.

Submissions for each issue will be the 5th of each month, unless otherwise noted ~ and ~ if you have something after the 5th call me (916-991-5751), then send it anyway ~ I'm flexible, so we'll probably be able to work it in, since the monthly Pen & Press publishing date depends on time available for the editor to complete and send 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 2016-2024