

www.norcalpa.org

The Pen & Press

SATURDAY 10 February 2024

4:30pm - 6:30 / 7:00 pm

NOTE DAY & TIME CHANGE

NEW

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 2pm 10 Feb

reply YES, NO or MAYBE to

normathornton@yahoo.com

916-804-7201 after 9am – before 10pm

Guest Speaker – BITSY KEMPER

NCPA Member, Author, Mom, Really-Nice Gal - Part-Time Comedienne - &
NCPA Permanent Stand-by Emcee (Yes, you'll also see her, with Kurtis, at the Banquet in June)

Presents:

AUTHOR PLATFORM: & using social media to get followers, PLUS readers & buyers!

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND --- GUESTS WELCOME

FYI

SPECIAL PRICES ON BOOK AWARD ENTRIES
EARLY BIRD PRICE EXTENDED THROUGH 1 MARCH 2024
PAGES 2 & 3 FOR PRICES & INSTRUCTIONS

FYI

FEB 2024 MEETING WILL BE 4:30pm SATURDAY 10 FEB because our normal day is SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

Sunday 10 March – NCPA member/author Mary Lou Anderson w/a M.L. Edson - retired Teacher from CA Prisons Presents:
Proper GRAMMAR & Proper Submitting to Anthologies

Sunday 14 April – search in progress for a Speaker

Sunday 5 May MOTHER'S DAY on the 12th means ANOTHER CHANGE IN DAYS: 1st Sun instead of 2nd - working on Speaker

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

NO MEETING IN July- FAIR TIME 12-28 July

Sunday 11 Aug - TBA

Sunday 8 Sep - TBA

Sunday 13 Oct - TBA

Sunday 10 Nov – BOOK DISPLAY

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We're one month into this new year, and so far, for me, it's been a mixed bag. January is not one of my favorite months. I dislike gloomy weather and after the frantic energy of the holidays, this month always seems like a letdown. Then there is all the worry about collecting tax documents, and thinking about filing taxes puts me in a cold sweat.

Of course, January also has me thinking about goal setting for the year. With one month already down, I can't help but feel panic that before I know it, half the year will be over and what will I have to show for it.

I'll never understand how time seems to move faster the older I get, but it does. Days slip into weeks, then into months, and pretty soon I'm putting up Christmas decorations again. This July, my granddaughter will turn two. How the heck did that happen?

In less than five months, the NCPA book awards banquet will be here. If you haven't turned in your books to be judged, remember, time is slipping away like sand through the hourglass. (Yep, a *Days of Our Lives* reference.) All the information on the book awards is on our NCPA website. Check it out if you haven't already, and if you are still planning to send in your books, do so quickly, so they can be judged timely.

Also of note, we've moved our meeting to Saturday, February 10th this month because of the Super Bowl on Sunday. Go Niners!! We hope to see everyone at the Flaming Grill at 4:30PM (30 minutes later than our normal time). If you plan to attend, be ready to share your writing goals for the year. I think it would be nice to hear them.

ML Hamilton

authormlhamilton.net

Editor's Note: Michelle wrote her President Message in January. I didn't change anything to reflect that.

SPECIAL PRICING CHANGE: NCPA 30TH BOOK AWARDS UPDATE**GOOD NEWS: To celebrate our 30th Anniversary: EARLY BIRD PRICES EXTENDED TO 1 MAR 2024**

NCPA Book Awards competition, Sunday 23 JUNE 2024, once more at Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta. If you have a book that was 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 late Fri 1 March 2024. Help make #30 our biggest competition yet! *(Member fees \$40/year).

Early Bird Special extended through Fri 1 March 2024 (\$65 member - \$95 non-member) *** Membership only \$40/year

SUBMISSION DATES & PRICE LIST FOR MEMBERS (\$65) NON-members (\$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

- ❖ ALL MEMBER books published in 2023 (1 Jan – 31 Dec 2023) \$65.00 (thru 1 Mar 2024) - \$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 also extends thru 1 Mar 2024 - \$95 regular categories

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: If this confuses you, you're not alone – I'm confused, too, so if you have questions just call Sharon (916-803-1665) OR me (Norma Jean 916-991-5751) and we'll walk you through the process.

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**

***AS LONG AS SOMEONE IS AT THE BANQUET TO PICK UP THE REST**

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

More than one book to enter? Not a problem: Add \$35 more for each additional book

BOOK AWARDS: SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY FEES



30th Annual Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) Book AWARDS Competition
ENTRY DEADLINE CHANGED TO 1 March 2024

- ❖ Did you publish between 1 January 2023 and 31 Dec 2023, including books that came out under a new edition during the year? If so, we encourage you to submit online or contact Sharon Darrow & get 4copies of your book to her by 1 Mar 2024.
- ❖ Three copies will be for sale at the banquet, and you'll receive payment for books sold. **All unsold will be returned to author AS LONG AS YOU'RE AT THE BANQUET**, so you're actually donating only one book for the competition, if you're there. If you aren't, the books will be used elsewhere. Ask Sharon for more info
- ❖ Entry form and Registration information ready at <https://www.norcalpa.org/book-awards> or contact VP and Book Awards Chair Sharon Darrow at: sharon@sharonsdarrow.com 916-803-1665
 NCPA website: norcalpa.org * NCPA membership \$40, includes perks
- ❖ Tell your friends and other writers. You do NOT have to be a member to enter. It just costs more.
Early Bird Entry fee extended to the final submission date of 1 March 2024
\$65 members (through 1 March 2024)
\$95 non-members (through 1 March 2024)
- ❖ More info? Go to our NCPA website at norcalpa.org Questions? Norma Jean 916-991-5751
- ❖ **\$30.00 of each Entry Fee covers one dinner at the 2023-2024 NCPA Awards Banquet**
5pm Sunday 23 June 2024 * CHERRY ISLAND GOLF COURSE Elverta, CA

Categories:

- General Fiction
 - General Non-Fiction
 - Non-Fiction Memoir
 - Children's
 - Young Adult
 - Poetry
 - Collections / Anthologies (ask us more about this category)
 - Foreign Publisher
 - Adult Coloring Book
 - Cover/ Interior Design
- ❖ Winners receive an award certificate and supply of gold award winner stickers for book covers.
 - ❖ PR provided to local media, and more.
 - ❖ Panel of judges, winners announced at Book Awards Banquet 23 June 2023

ENTRY DEADLINE 1 March 2024

- Even if you don't have a book to submit, please consider attending the Awards Banquet on 23 June 2024.
- **Help NCPA celebrate 30th anniversary (Special bonus: Attractive swag to celebrate 30 years!)**
- Great all you can eat Tri-tip and chicken plus all the trimmings buffet (vegan dish also on the buffet)
 Buffet only \$30 if you don't have a book entry
- Good camaraderie with a like-minded crowd, come enjoy the dinner, and support your fellow authors.
 - **Emcee scheduled to be: Kurtis Ming, AKA "Call Kurtis" on KOVR, Channel 13 TV,**
 - **with our own Bitsy Kemper as permanent backup emcee!**

Hope to see y'all at the Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta **Sunday 23 June 2024**.

- More info? Go to our NCPA website at norcalpa.org Questions? Norma Jean 916-991-5751

NCPA member GARY McKINSEY: (formerly our IRS guy for guest speaker in years' past)

Mindfulness Practices for Enhancing Your Creative Output:
Your Key to Greater Creativity in 2024

As we step into 2024, authors, speakers, and creative professionals often face the challenge of producing innovative and engaging content under relentless pressure.

The fast-paced digital world can lead to mental clutter, stress, and creativity blocks. With a high demand for fresh ideas, the distractions and constant information overload can significantly hinder your ability to deliver.

The struggle extends beyond finding the next great idea; it involves maintaining the mental space and clarity essential for nurturing creativity.

Deadlines, social media notifications, and striving for work-life balance can turn your mind into an obstacle, leading to a cycle of stress and decreased productivity.

This not only impedes your professional growth but can also affect your personal well-being, leaving you feeling drained.

Breaking the Cycle with Mindfulness

The key to overcoming this cycle and unlocking your creative potential is embracing mindfulness practices.

Being fully present and engaged in the moment, mindfulness enhances focus, reduces stress, and fosters a creative mindset. Integrating mindfulness into your daily routine can revolutionize your creative output.

Here are five time-tested, proven mindfulness practices based on my clients' and my own experiences. Incorporating two or three of these into your daily routine can reduce stress and supercharge your creative energy:

1. **Mindful Mornings:** Start your day with a short mindfulness meditation. Just 10 minutes focusing on your breath can clear your mind and set a calm, focused tone for the day, reducing anxiety and creating a space where ideas can flourish.
2. **Scheduled Mindfulness Breaks:** Include short, 5-minute mindfulness exercises in your workday, like mindful breathing or conscious listening to music. These aren't just breaks; they're opportunities to reset your mind and boost creative thinking.
3. **Mindful Movement:** Engage in activities like yoga or short walks, focusing on the movement and sensations. This not only breaks the monotony of sitting but also aligns your mind and body, crucial for the flow of creative energy.
4. **Mindful Journaling:** Keep a journal for free-flowing reflection on your thoughts and experiences. This practice provides insights into your creative process and helps overcome mental blocks.
5. **Mindful Listening and Observation:** Practice active listening and observation in your daily interactions to enhance empathy, understand different perspectives, and spark ideas.

While I personally find the first three practices particularly effective, I encourage you to experiment and find what works best for you. Integrating these practices will lead to a noticeable shift in your creative output.

You'll find yourself more present, engaged, and capable of approaching challenges with fresh perspectives, turning them into opportunities for growth and innovation.

In 2024, let mindfulness be your secret weapon for creative success. By dedicating time to cultivate a mindful approach, you're not just enhancing your professional capabilities; you're investing in your overall well-being.

A clear, focused mind is a fertile ground for creativity. Embrace mindfulness and watch your creative potential reach new heights.

Gary McKinsey, EA
Gary McKinsey Business Success Coach
Sales and Marketing Coach
Executive Speech Coach
Phone: 209-345-4230

How to Increase Your Customer Engagement Through Video
Working with You to Build Your Dream Business

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: March – Dec 2024

Looking for Guest Journalists

If you already have been, 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

Special IN-PERSON (NOT Zoom) library program

Thursday 22 Feb

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Central Library's Galleria * 828 I Street * downtown Sacramento

The Sacramento Public Library hosts & presents an

author of special interest to all crime writers, genealogists, and wannabes:

Barbara Rae-Venter, genetic genealogist

Barbara is the genetic genealogist who worked with the FBI to help identify Joseph James DeAngelo as the Golden State Killer, and will be joined in conversation with two librarians from the Sacramento Public Library. They expect a large crowd for this event, so to register in advance simply click [here](#).

Capital Books on K St will be selling copies of Barbara's new book: *I Know Who You Are: How an Amateur DNA Sleuth Unmasked the Golden State Killer and Changed Crime Fighting Forever*

**Any questions about this program, please contact the library at contact@saclibrary.org.
 Info from: Beth Daugherty, Genealogy Volunteer, Sacramento Public Library bethd2073@gmail.com**

The NCPA Board of Directors invites you to join us at our new monthly meeting location Saturday 10 Feb 2024

~ IN-PERSON MEETINGS HAVE RETURNED ~

NEW Day THIS MONTH (Feb) * DIFFERENT Time THIS MONTH (Feb) * New Location

BITSY KEMPER GUEST SPEAKER --- AUTHOR PLATFORM & MORE (See page one for more details)

Flaming Grill Café

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

430pm-6:30pm * 1st Sun THIS MONTH (Feb) * Sun 10 Feb 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 ANNOUNCEMENT

CONGRATULATIONS
NCPA member CAROLYN RADMANOVICH

5 Feb 2024: I'm thrilled to share the exciting news that Carolyn Radmanovich's "The Mummy's Gift" has been honored as the recipient of the 2023 Pinnacle Book Achievement Award for Time Travel. This book takes you on an exhilarating journey through the untamed heart of California's Gold Rush era, the bustling early days of San Francisco, and deep into the mysterious jungles of Ecuador. Be ready to encounter a world where history intertwines with myth. Check out her newsletter at CarolynRadmanovich.com.

Thank you. Carolyn Radmanovich radmanovich_2000@yahoo.com



Apologies if anyone else sent me an announcement and it's not here. Please resend.

With my electricity being off Sun -Tue it totally disrupted me for 3 days, and before I could finish the newsletter today, it went off again for over 2 hours. By that time, I had had enough and couldn't get my mind wrapped around newsletter.

PLACER COUNTY NEEDS POLL VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH ELECTION

Don't know if it's for pay or strictly voluntary, but they train. I worked all 4 days at the Sac Co polls in 2022 and will be there all 4 this March. My training was scheduled for yesterday but had to R/S because of my SMUD issues, so it's now scheduled for 17 Feb. They call it volunteering also, but Sac Co paid, even for the 3-hour training day. Great way to make a quick almost \$1K net, if you work all 4 days, and all the hours they're open, plus the training.

More Pearls of Wisdom! – Sound familiar?

Beauty is only skin deep * Beauty is as beauty does * An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure * A rolling stone gathers no moss * The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence * You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar * Just because your friend jumps off the bridge, would you? * Don't cut your nose off to spite your face * You can't judge a book by it's cover * You are what you eat * You can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time * A penny saved is a penny earned * Don't count your chickens before they're hatched * A fool and his money is soon parted * Things aren't always as they seem * A stitch in time saves 9 * Pretty is as pretty does * Anything that can go wrong WILL go wrong * One rotten apple will spoil the bunch * A watched pot never boils * You're judged by the company you keep * You've gotta kiss a lot of frogs to find a Prince * The way to a man's heart is through his stomach * A wolf in sheep's clothing * No good deed ever goes unpunished * Don't buy a pig in a poke * Like two peas in a pod * Look before you leap * Lock, stock and barrel * Time waits for no man * Beat around the bush * Saved by the bell * Just in the nick of time * Chewing the fat * Getting the short end of the stick * Don't burn your candle at both ends * Getting your goat * It never rains but what it pours * A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush * Do as I say, NOT as I do! * A picture is worth a thousand words * and finally: Last, but not least. ***** Don't know about you, but I've heard, and used every single one of those, some multiple times. Many of those I underlined were favorites of my mom &/or dad, and "No good deed" was uttered by my husband on a regular basis, whenever he did something that he knew he shouldn't. I use several regularly, but "The way to a man's heart..." worked for me.

NCPA has 3 critique groups in varying stages of activity currently, but all should hopefully be up and fully running by March 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 March 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-kinda-group for the wannabees and those who have never belonged to a critique group, **RESTARTS 2PM WED 28 Feb 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.

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](#) 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 \(authorspublish.com\)](#)
- **SPYMUSEUM.ORG** for mystery writers & Cap Crime cross-overs, if you don't already have: Virtual Spy Chat Programs & Events.

HISTORY FACTS:

Did Hans Christian Andersen ruin his friendship with Charles Dickens by overstaying his welcome?

<https://historyfacts.com/famous-figures/fact/hans-christian-andersen-ruined-his-friendship-with-charles-dickens-by-overstaying-his-welcome/>

ANTHOLOGY UPDATES & NEW DEADLINES

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 on page 7, on specs, and where/how to submit.

Submissions for *Beautiful World* have reopened, for 4 more stories, only until 15 Feb 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 for *Holidays V-3* 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 one of our two current work-in-progress-anthologies?

Beautiful World (room for 4 more stories) NEW Deadline 15 Feb 2024. New anticipated launch date 23 June 2024 with 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 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 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](#)

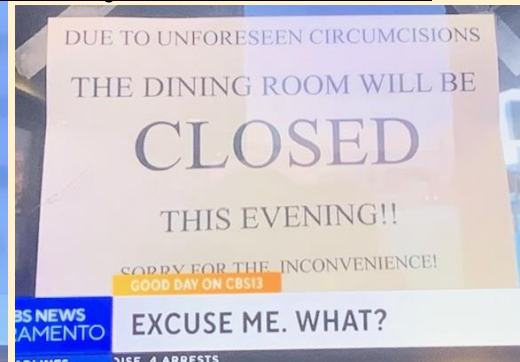


[NCPA Beautiful World](#)

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

AUTO-CORRECT AT WORK AGAIN!?

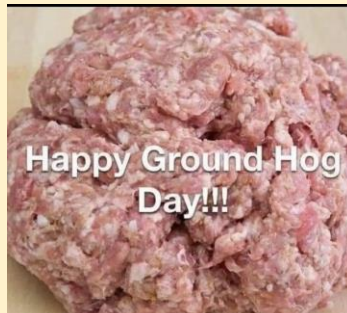
Look very closely at the words on the top line. You'll probably have to enlarge the middle one to read it all.



NO SMUD - & - (Late) GROUND HOG DAY PIX

Spring is coming early – Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow!

Can't come early enough for me; I just went through 39-40 hours with no SMUD. Was without power from 4:07pm Sun 4 Feb until between 7-8am today, Tue 6 Feb. I was in the car charging my phone when the electricity came back on. It went out right in the middle of my working on the newsletter. Had 3 pages finished when everything went dark. Fortunately, no spoilage of any food, except melted ice cream, which is ok. I'm beginning to think the newsletter is jinxed this year, because both months something has happened to prevent me from finishing it timely! Norma Jean



The Fair's not just for selling BOOKS IN THE AUTHORS BOOTH at the **State Fair!** – Interested in entering your sauces, jellies, candies, breads, cookies, or other baked specialties & more, in a little competition for those red, white & blue ribbons & possibly some \$\$\$? I've won some of each every year I've entered (2006-2022, minus Covid). I didn't enter last year, and haven't decided yet on this year, but the **California State Fair** is ramping up and getting ready for their annual **California Canning & Baking Competition at the Cal Expo & State Fair** again this year, so give it a shot! It's a fun thing to do – **12 Jul-28 Jul 2024** <https://calexpostatefair.com/competitions/california-canning-baking/>

The Sacramento County Fair has similar, in May, but I've not received anything from them on that yet, so probably won't do it this year, either --- my angel food cake wins top prize every year entered, at both Fairs.

Both Fairs also have Art and Photo competitions for ribbons and money prizes – I've also won both for my noniedoodles at the County Fair, but haven't entered those in the State Fair (the rules are too complicated) – that State Fair link should be coming soon. NCPA BOD member Chrissi Villa also enters this one, and has won several times, both ribbons and \$\$.

The State Fair is like homecoming to me – I worked there as a cashier from 1963-1984 ... 17 days straight from open (9 or 10am) to close (10 or 11pm) every day for those 17 days, with only one short 30-minutes out of the booth for combined lunch/dinner break each of those days. That was when the Fair started in the middle of Aug and ended 17 days later, on the celebrated Labor Day Mon every year. Sharon & I wish they'd go back to being open during those months ... we kinda miss it! *Norma Jean*

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.constantcontact.com/contacts/contacts/b1c837af-e492-4008-9b01-83f5160e99e5.pdf) ([constantcontact.com](https://www.constantcontact.com/))

GENEALOGY STUFF FOR THOSE DOING FAMILY HISTORY THINGS

INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY?

americanancestors.com – Sign up for their newsletter and heck out their upcoming events.

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

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

NEW

SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Genealogy Presentations from Sacramento Public Library – UPDATED FOR February – 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.:

- *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

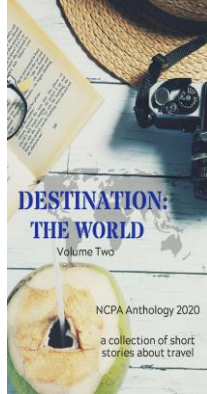
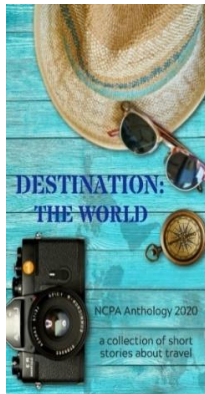


BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA Anthology
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals

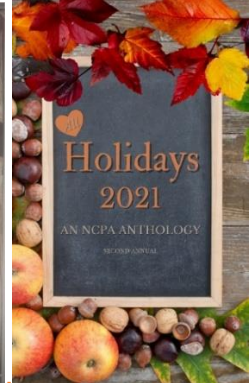


MORE BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA ANTHOLOGY
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals and Other Things

2020 NCPA Anthologies

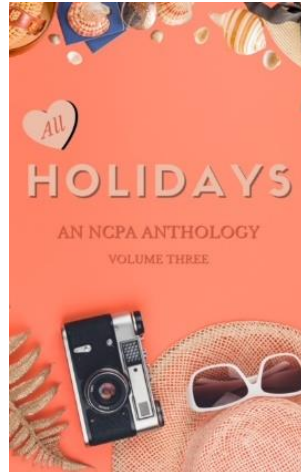
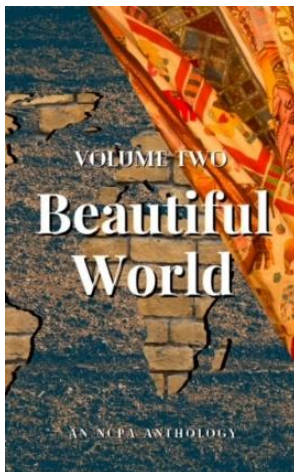


2021-22 Anthologies

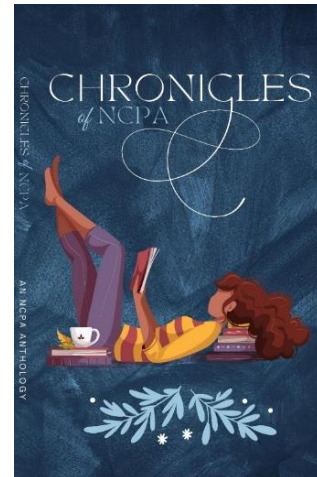


ALL (seven) 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 ANTHOLOGY BOOKS (above) AVAILABLE PAPER COPIES @ Cost for Authors from Sharon Darrow: Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com or [NCPA Anthologies \(7 book series\) Ebook & Paperback Edition \(amazon.com\)](https://www.amazon.com/NCPAAnthologies)

Anthologies Coming June OR Dec2024



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



NEW Submission deadlines: 15 Feb 2024 Beautiful World * & * 31 March 2024 ALL Holidays Vol 3 *
NEW dedicated Email address for anthologies: 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com

UPDATED INFO FOR FEB 2024

***Beautiful World Anthology* CHANGES * NEW SUBMISSION DATE * 15 Feb 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. 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, so get yours in now!

In addition, other unforeseen problems have occurred, causing another submission date extension, so y'all now have until 15 February 2024 to submit your *Beautiful World* stories. **WE NEED 4 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 & Poetry 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 launch date, as of yet ... and NO POETRY.

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's 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 15 Feb 2024**

Looking for NCPA Newsletter Guest Journalists March 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 Sat 10 FEBRUARY 2024 & the Holiday Luncheon, Sun 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 --- because I have oodles of doodles plus many cookbooks and other delightful reading stuff on it --- my sites there are :
(My main one) <https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/nonie> & <https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/TheGrannysWritings> (just 3 books here)

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://junejillam.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/>*

**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.**

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

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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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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