

www.norcalpa.org

The Pen & Press

SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2024**4pm - 6:30 pm****FLAMING GRILL**inside the old CCP Mall at Watt Av & El Camino Av
2380-Watt Avenue, Suite 150, Country Club Plaza (next to WinCo on Watt)**PLEASE RSVP BY 2pm Sat 9 March****reply YES, NO or MAYBE to**

normathornton@yahoo.com

916-804-7201 after 9am – before 10pm**Guest Speaker – NCPA member/author (& retired Teacher from CA Prisons)****Mary Lou Anderson w/a M.L. Edson****Promises to Present:**

a rip-roaring Q&A fun time with this overly snoozy-sounding topic of:

Vocabulary & Grammar to Make Characters & Stories More Exciting

Plus, she – and we – will touch on another exciting themed

Suggestions to Properly Submit to Anthologies

Join us in this tantalizing display of mysterious ways to change plain-old words into enticing, exciting, downright enjoyable, stories

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND ANY MEETING**GUESTS WELCOME – Regular Monthly Meetings are FREE****2024 NCPA Meeting & Speaker Calendar**

* **Sunday 14 April** * **BITSY KEMPER** - NCPA Member, Author, Mom, Really-Nice Gal - Part-Time Comedienne - & - NCPA Permanent Stand-by Emcee Presents: **AUTHOR PLATFORM** - & - *using social media to get followers, PLUS readers & buyers!*
Rescheduled from Feb meeting, so you didn't miss her!

* **.Sunday 5 May** **MOTHER'S DAY** on the 12th means **ANOTHER CHANGE IN DAYS: 1ST Sun instead of 2nd** - No Speaker: share your stuff & bring questions about NCPA, Writing, Publishing, Anthologies, Critique Groups, Book Awards, Genealogy, etc.

* **SUN 23 JUNE 2023 - 5pm-9pm - SPECIAL MEETING –30TH BOOK AWARDS BANQUET & Swag Bags**

Come join us at **Cherry Island Golf Course** in Elverta and see if your favorite author wins an award – Full Buffet Dinner \$30 –

we just need an RSVP by Thu 20 Jun, either Regular or Vegan Buffet – Chicken & Tri-Tip with all the fixin's: Rice, Beans,

VEGAN Pasta, Salad, Rolls, Special Cake, Coffee & Ice Tea included ** No-Host Bar available for beer, wine & sodas

NO MEETING IN July- See you at the Fair! In the Authors Booth --- FAIR TIME 12-28 July 2024

Sunday 11 Aug - TBA

Sunday 8 Sep - TBA

Sunday 13 Oct – Kathy Lynne “Kanika” Marshall - **Genealogy stuff – more to come next month**

Sunday 10 Nov – **BOOK DISPLAY**

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recently, I've become interested in my family's genealogy, and went on Ancestry.com to see what I could find. Unfortunately, a lot of the documents I wanted to look at are behind a paywall, and since I'm not a nonfiction writer, I'm struggling to justify spending the fees to see what that site can find. That doesn't lessen my interest. Before Covid, I had wanted to get together with my father's sisters to learn more about his side of the family. I have family photo albums, but often people didn't do a good job identifying who was in the pictures.

As a mystery writer, I think researching my family appeals to that part of my soul – it's like uncovering your own life mystery by making connections with the people who came before us. One of the documents I was allowed to access was a census from 1950 for my mother's side of the family. The census taker had terrible handwriting, so my uncle's name came out Gale instead of Dale, and he wrote my mother and her middle brother's last names as being Bean instead of Blair. The other census date I found was for my paternal grandfather from 1940. At the time, he and my grandmother only had two children out of their eventual twelve – my aunt Elaine who was six, and my dad who was two. The census was taken when they were living in Nogales, Arizona. I never knew he lived there.

Finding out your ancestry can bring to life people you may never have met in person. It's a way to give them a little immortality.

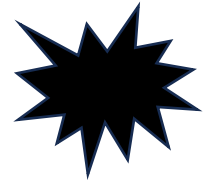
If you are interested in researching your roots, every month, Norma lists information in the newsletter for people to trace their ancestry and in October, we're honored to present the queen of ancestry research, Kathy Marshall, for a special speaking engagement. Mark your calendars for that event.

ML Hamilton

authormlhamilton.net

**CONDOLENCES**

To Michelle for the loss of her father 16 Feb 2024



Editor's Note: As for what Michelle mentioned regarding so much access to Ancestry.com being behind a firewall, and having to pay for it? **ALL access to Ancestry.com is FREE at any Sacramento County library – and unless they've just changed it, as long as you have a library card, you can also use the library's info to access all of it from your home, or wherever your cell phone or computer happens to be.** For more info on connecting to the library, check out page 8 in this newsletter – that info has also been in every newsletter for the past year or so – plus will be in all upcoming newsletters, either on that same page, or close-by.

Editor's Note: Coincidentally, while adding Michelle's President's Message about genealogy to the newsletter, I received an Email from Amy with a list of authors who had submitted their books to the Book Awards. One of those authors is the wife of my deceased husband's recently-found half-brother. Now living in Oregon, she had found her husband's connection to my deceased father-in-law from DNA through Ancestry.com a couple of years ago. One of my kids told me last year he heard that she had written a book, I looked it and her up and contacted her with an Email through her publishing company, she responded with a phone call, I gave her the info on our Book Awards competition, and here she is! She not only submitted her book, but also joined NCPA. Hopefully they'll make it down to the Banquet, so we can finally meet. Unfortunately, my husband never got to meet this brother.

While I'm on the subject, several years ago while hubby and I were hunting in Missouri and doing genealogy, since that's where my family is from, one of my older relatives gave me the phone number for the ex-husband (who lived in the next town over in Missouri), of my maternal grandmother's youngest sister, who we had never before heard of. He, in turn, gave me the phone number of his daughter --- with a 916 Area Code! She lived in Placerville, just 35 miles from me in California, and her mother, who was still living, was in Talent, Oregon and had been there for decades. If only my mother had known her aunt (who was just a few years older than mom) had been a mere 6-hour drive away, they could have had a relationship. They had lost contact while young children; when both of their mothers had died, mom's grandfather remarried and his wife wanted no part of his previous family. Had I only started doing genealogy before my mother died, I most likely would have found out about the aunt. This is why doing genealogy is important. If you have even the slightest inclination to find out anything about your family, there's no time like the present to do it, and if you're like most of us, that genealogy bug can bite really hard, and has a long-lasting effect. – and sometimes great surprises!

Northern California publishers & authors

We have 38 entries, and submissions are closed for the Book Awards! Now, it's on to the Awards Banquet!

30th Annual Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) Book AWARDS BANQUET

- ❖ Invite your family, friends and other writers. You do NOT have to be a member to attend – fun time to mingle with the authors
- ❖ More info? Go to our NCPA website at norcalpa.org Questions? Norma Jean 916-991-5751
 - ❖ **\$30.00 FULL BUFFET – REGULAR OR VEGAN**
 - ❖ **5pm Sunday 23 June 2024 * CHERRY ISLAND GOLF COURSE Elverta, CA**
- ❖ Book Award Winners announced at the Banquet
- We're hoping to also launch our 8th Anthology – *Beautiful World*, with one Risk-Taker's Award that night
- All you anthology authors, get yourselves on down to get your one FREE anthology book – and see if you won that award!
- Even if you don't have a book, or story, entered, why not consider attending the Awards Banquet on 23 June 2024

Help NCPA celebrate our 30th anniversary * Special bonus: Attractive swag to first 50 there to celebrate 30 years!

Great all you can eat Tri-Tip - Chicken - Vegan Pasta – Buffet, plus all the trimmings: Rice – Bean – Salad – Rolls - Desserts:
Special 30th Anniversary Cake - Cookies - Ice Cream – Coffee & Tea – plus - NO-HOST BAR (Sodas, Beer, Wines)
Buffet only \$30 - no book entry needed (Authors, remember - 1 Buffet included in full \$65 book entry fee)

On-site Book Store * Silent Auction * 50-50 Card Split * Proceeds to Friends of the Library & Book First Program for Kids

PLUS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE HAVE A GREAT SWAG BAG ... WITHOUT THE BAG!

- 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" from KOVR/ CBS 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

List of GENRE & AUTHORS with Books in AWARDS COMPETITION

ATHERSTONE, P – Children * **BLEVINS, A** – Poetry * **BRANCO, D** – NF * **CRENNELL, B** – Children * **CRUZ, C** – Fiction *
DOROW, T – Children * **DUMANIS, M** – Poetry * **FABER, E** – Fiction * **GRIFFIN, J** – NF * **HOFFMAN, C** – Poetry * **INCH-PARTRIDGE, R** – YA & Fiction * **KAKUGAWA, F** – Children & NF Memoir * **KANDO, T** – NF Memoir * **MOHABIR, R** – Poetry *
MOON, D – Memoir * **RADMANOVICH, C** – Fiction * **RIDOLFI, K** – Fiction * **ROWE, J** – Children * **SANTANA, C** – Poetry *
SELF, K – Fiction * **SIMMER, S** – Fiction * **STALEY, B** – Children * **VILLA, C** – Poetry * **VYAS, R** – Poetry * **YOUNG, B** – Children & NF
CONGRATULATIONS, & GOOD LUCK TO ALL!

Hawaii Island Adult Care Presents: – a lecture by author Frances Kakugawa "Caregiving: A World of Dignity & Compassion Through Poetry, Storytelling and Imagination"

Small, but potent – the event is in the past (She's due home in 3 days), and I'm out of space, so I'm adding the Flyer this way. You can increase the size if you'd like to see the entire thing.

(Frances writes): My Hilo trip is downloaded with events. Hilo is small so word got around that I would be there so invitations began to come in. Chose to do just a few: Book talk/signing with new book, two school visits, and one lecture. See flyer. Also, a film maker is flying in to do a documentary on my life and work. This is what happens when you get old and are still alive.

Will be gone from Feb 21- March 9th. Take care, Frances (more of Frances on page 4)



This is my new book that came out recently. I'll be in Hawaii in late February - early March for a series of appearances from schools to lectures. I wrote this thinking it would be my last book but who knows what tomorrow brings with the pen that never goes away.

CONGRATULATIONS on the Book & Your Life's Documentary Film!
NCPA member & Poet Laureate Frances Kakugawa
 (more of Frances on page 3)



Francesk.org

Since the pandemic, France walks for an hour inside the mall before the shops open for business. She calls them her mall rats, friends she has made at the mall. They greet each other, many without names, with a good morning or a thumbs up while she gives the shaka sign. There are those who, having introduced themselves, pause to chat. Mysteriously, she is now known as the poet laureate of the mall --- Frances (Obviously NCPA must share our poet laureate with Arden Fair).

Oslo, Sweden, at Arden Fair Mall

12-19-23

This morning at the end of my walk at the mall, Bob the Reader (I have named all the walkers) presented me with the Arden Fair Mall Poet Laureate medal. Receiving this from Bob the Reader who doesn't like poetry, was overwhelming. Walking out with the medal hanging over my sweatshirt, I thought of Oslo, Sweden where the Nobel Prize for Literature is presented.

Over 60 years ago, I visited Oslo with a group of travelers from the University of Hawaii. A large group of us stood before the building where the Nobel Prize for Literature is annually presented. A representative from the building stood before us, pointed at me and said, "You will receive the Nobel Prize for Literature today. I will take all of you through the process of how this award is presented." He gave me his arm and we walked up the steps to the entrance followed by the entourage of tourists. "Note the low steps," he explained. "They are low so the ladies won't step on their gowns." We entered the austere room and I was presented the imaginary award. Young and hopeful of becoming a writer someday, and being the chosen one for this role play, I couldn't stop from thinking perhaps this was an omen of things to come. Today at the mall, as Bob draped the medal over my head, I was back in Sweden, receiving a medal that represents a friendship more priceless than the \$135,000 plus Nobel Prize award, even if my name is spelled incorrectly with an i.

12-20-23

I was stopped by other walkers today, asking me if I had the medal. So it looks like my fellow mall walkers were on it and Bob the Reader just couldn't wait to present it to me with the group present. Tomorrow we are to meet at Bob's table before the shops open.

12-21-23

I was officially crowned without fanfare or speeches, the Arden Fair Mall Poet Laureate. Bob's home-baked Christmas cookies served on a paper plate were on the table. Each person took the medal to admire it and I knew I was among the dearest of friends who know nothing of me except that I write poetry.



Oslo, Sweden, at Arden Fair Mall

CONGRATULATIONS NCPA member Elaine FABER



Elaine Faber

Spirit Woman Legends and Lies

The sequel to *The Spirit Woman of Lockleer Mountain* is now available in paperback and e-book at Amazon

<https://tinyurl.com/ym2t37yy>

The Spirit Woman and her mountain lion companion are once again sighted in the hills near Lockleer Mountain.

Shortly after Joe and his brother, Cyrus, quarrel over the ownership of a winning million-dollar lottery ticket, Cyrus's mutilated body is found in the mountains, ravaged by the local wildlife. When stolen hospital drugs are found in the dead man's home, murder is suspected.

Lou Shoemaker, owner of the local sewer truck, the Pooper Scooper, befriends Rosita Ramirez, a transient with two children, who came to Lockleer Mountain to sell tamales. Soon, gossip erupts about Rosita and the local Baptist pastor. Deputy Nate and Sheriff Peabody must expose a killer and the perpetrator of the gossip, or the pastor will be forced to leave. How can the Spirit Woman and her companions resolve the troubles that plague the rural community?

More Pearls of Wisdom!

Practical Words from My Dad – and his reason for some:

Never allow your gas tank to sit on empty; always keep it at least a quarter of a tank full in case of an emergency * Always back into a parking space if parking on a hill * ALWAYS set your emergency brake when parked on a hill * You can't drive until you know how to check the water & oil and change a flat tire (yes, even us 3 girls ... and he made each of us do it before he'd let us get our license) * Keep the radio off so you can always listen to the noises your car makes that it's not supposed to * KEEP THE DAMNED SPEED DOWN * Always keep a "10" (dollar bill) in your purse, for an emergency * Don't do as I do, do as I say * You're no better than anyone else, and I don't want to catch you acting like you are; but likewise, nobody else is any better than you are, and I don't want to catch anyone else treating you like they are *

* We lived on a hill in Lake County, CA, and our parking spot was on our property across the street, on another hill * I grew up in the 50s, and cars were different then: Daddy always said that backing in to park saved both the transmission, and the brakes * He was a mechanic and his business was a gas station, garage and AAA towing service * Nothing made him madder than to have to quit working on a car in the shop, to go on a tow job and change a flat tire for somebody (even though he was getting paid for it) – especially an adult male, who was "too damned lazy to do it himself!" so Daddy made sure his 3 daughters knew how to change one. * Even though we knew how to change a tire, I don't think any of us ever did. I surely didn't ... but I certainly know how! * The sounds your car makes can sometimes give a clue as to what's wrong with it (at least it worked in the 50s and 60s – like when the tappets were tapping away and I ignored them and Daddy said I threw a rod and cracked the block in 1956, in my 49 Chevy Coupe while racing (and beating), the "hottest" guy in school in his souped-up red Mercury after school, on the way home and down the hill on Hwy 20 going into Clearlake Oaks), just like the noises a human makes can give a clue as to what's wrong with them – such as wheezing * (Of course he might have told me that to try to make me slow down since I had a lead foot, just like my mom, but I'll never know).

PLUS, from Ducky on NCIS: Experience is the ultimate teacher - & - When/ If you're going through hell ... keep going!
AND MORE: From Sylvester Stallone on the Family Stallone: When you're nervous, that means you care.

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

I tried to delete the two outdated Feb dates in the green one above: *Writing & Pub Am Ancestors seminar 10 Feb & the SFWC 15-18 Feb, but gave up after over an hour of messing with it and it not allowing me to make any changes at all --- but it could, and did - somehow jump all around and move to places I didn't want, then a couple of times it completely disappeared and it took me forever to just get it to come back to the area where I needed it to be. Fortunately, I'm getting wise to this kind of nonsense, and save multiple copies of everything I do when I make changes, to prevent losing something completely, so I just went to one of my saved versions to copy and paste the entire page again. Hopefully I'll remember to just retype it prior to the Apr newsletter so I won't have to go through this again --- maybe! I was just trying to add the following contact for the **Book Passage Mystery Writers Conference 2024: 19 Jul – 21 Jul 2024 in Corte Madera, CA (across Golden Gate Bridge from SF) – <https://www.bookpassage.com/mystery>**

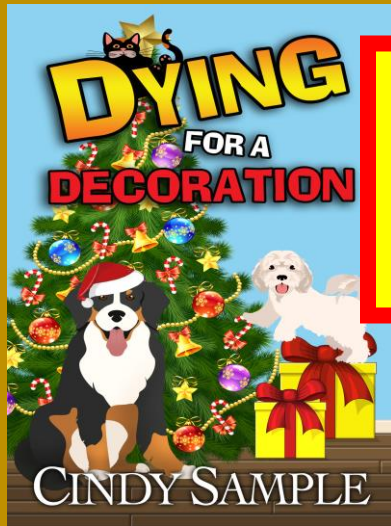
CONGRATULATIONS CHRISSI!

NCPA Web-guru, Banquet Decorator, & Photographer Chrissi, won an unusual writing award – for a designed T-Shirt!

Recently, Christine "Chrissi" L. Villa's haiku and artwork won in the **Wearable Art and Wearable Haiku** contests of the **Drifting Sands Haibun Journal**. As seen in the pictures below, her artwork is printed on the front of t-shirts and her haiku is printed on the back. These t-shirts, available in different colors and sizes, can be found online at:

<https://www.bonfire.com/store/drifting-sands-bazaar/>





Cindy Sample's **DYING FOR A DECORATION** is a **finalist** for the 2024 **LEFTY Award** for **Best Humorous Mystery**

CONGRATULATIONS NCPA member CINDY- & - GOOD LUCK

NCPA now accepting stories FROM NCPA MEMBERS 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?

***ALL Holidays Vol 3 NEW Deadline 31 March 2024 anticipated launch at the 30th NCPA Book Awards Banquet 23 June 2024.**

***Chronicles of NCPA:** Short Stories -- any and all genre --- whatever theme you want, as long as it's family friendly -- AND -- we've added more words to this one: 500 -- 4,000 wordcount! - More info on Chronicles coming in April ...

I'm working on a different Email address for Chronicles, so I don't want to confuse the issue here.

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

ALL INFORMATION below for All Holidays - just click the link 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 this anthology ONLY, including questions and help, contact me at: 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com



[NCPA All Holidays Vol 3 Word doc](#)

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 UPDATES & NEW DEADLINES

Beautiful World has just received story # 30. The Anthology is now full, with 3 new last minute authors.

Thank you 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: **ALL Holidays Vol 3**. --- information in box above, on page 7, on specs, and where/how to submit.

If you've not yet joined our journey, please do so now with a story for **ALL Holidays Vol 3** * **Submission date has changed to 31 March 2024** for an anticipated launch, hopefully joining **Beautiful World**, during NCPA's 30th Annual BOOK AWARDS BANQUET at Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta on Sun 23 June 2024.

GENEALOGY STUFF FOR THOSE DOING FAMILY HISTORY THINGS

BLANK GENEALOGY FORMS TO DOWNLOAD AND COMPLETE

click on! [Charts and Forms | National Archives](#) Just hover & click on! (Blank forms to download)
Resources for Genealogists – Charts & Forms including Ancestral, Family Group Sheets (FGS), Tree, Census, Military, etc.

[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](#) ([constantcontact.com](#))

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](#)

SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

- *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/>

Speaking of family – how about a family of eagles?

EAGLE NEST with 3 eggs - Friends of Big Bear Valley | Inspiring environmental awareness, appreciation and enjoyment
WATCH THEM HATCH under the watchful eye of both attentive parents.

Reportedly, they're about ready to hatch!

<https://www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org/>

2019 NCPA Anthologies

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



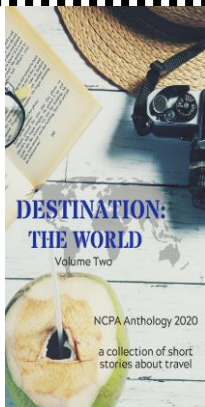
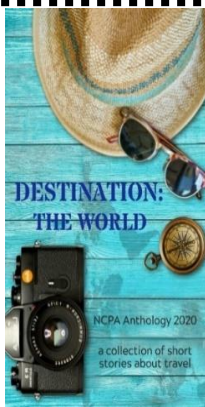
BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA Anthology
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals



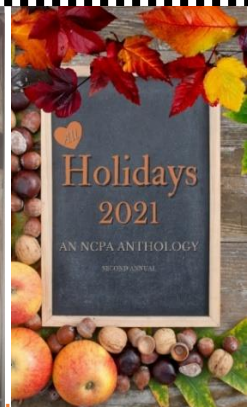
MORE BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA ANTHOLOGY
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals and Other Things

2020 NCPA Anthologies

2021-22 Anthologies



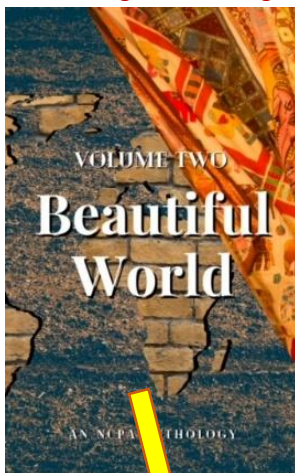
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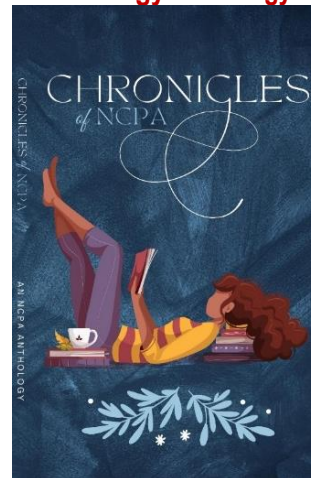
ALL (seven) 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 ANTHOLOGY BOOKS (above) AVAILABLE PAPER COPIES @ Cost for Authors from Sharon Darrow: Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com or NCPA Anthologies (7 book series) Ebook & Paperback Edition (amazon.com)

Anthologies Coming June 2024 OR Dec 2024

Chronology Anthology coming Dec 2024 or June 2025



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SHORT STORIES – ALL GENRE

NEW Submission deadline: * 31 March 2024 for ALL Holidays Vol 3 *

NEW dedicated Email address for anthologies: 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com

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 APPLYJoin 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 Anthology: Submission Date changed
ALL Holidays Vol 3 * Deadline to Submit * 31 Mar 2024****Looking for NCPA Newsletter Guest Journalists April 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:****4pm-6:30pm****(Except MAY 2024 * BAB in JUNE * & * 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 - * Annie (16 Apr-21 Apr 2024) ***
- ❖ **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. 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 \(bookemon.com\)](#)**

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 expected to start this month (March). 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, **2PM WED 27 March 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. MORE DETAILED INFO COMING BY EMAIL CLOSER TO THE TIME Normathornton@yahoo.com or 916-991-5751 for questions.

With all the flooding, power outages & cyber-Hacking, a couple of helpful hints 4 next time:

✓ Sacramento Flood Info & Maps [Sacflood.org](https://www.sacflooding.org/)

✓ How to fix your iPhone to still make calls when AT&T is down: per Kurt the Cyber Guy [cyberguy.com](https://www.cyberguy.com) --- using the "WIFI calling" feature

✓ On phone, tap "settings"

✓ In Settings, tap "Cellular"

✓ Turn on "Wi-Fi Calling" to use nearby Wi-Fi to carry calls

✓ I have no idea if this works, since my iPhone wasn't affected, even though I have AT&T

PLUS A TOSHIBA LAPTOP BATTERY RECALL WARNING

https://www.google.com/search?q=toshiba+laptop+battery+recall&client=safari&sca_esv=1ab4e8d13c9bf0bc&channel=ipad_bm&sxsrf=ACQVn0_wqrRK6uAA2WPIdSDt3H8BW5tm1A%3A1708867986573&source=hp&ei=kkHbZbPLIP2kkPIP-9GS6Ag&oq=toshiba+laptop+recall&gs_lp=EhFtb2JpbGUtZ3dzLXdpel1ocCIVdG9zaGliYSBsYXB0b3AgcmVjYWxsKgIIAjlGEAAyFhg_eMqUQIRigATIGEAAyFhg_eMqYQABqWGB4yCxAAGIAEGloFGIYDMgsQABiABBiKBRiGAzILEAAyAQYiqUYhgMyBRAhGJ8FSNC_AAVC4CFixXHABeACQAQCYAaYBoAGIFqoBBDAuMjG4AQHIAQD4AQGYAhaqArMXqAIPwqIHECMY6qIYJ8ICBBAjGCfCAqoQlxiA_BBikBRgnwqIOEC4YgAQYsQMYxwEY0QPCAgsQABiABBiXAXiDacICERAUgIAEGLEDGIMBGMcBGNEDwqILEC4YgAQYsQMYgw_HCAq4QABiABBiKBRiXAXiDacICBRAAGIAEWglFEC4YgATCAgqQLhiABBiXAXi8CCxAuGIAEGLEDGNQCwqIMELkBGIAEGLEDGO8E_wglOEC4YgAQYiqUYsQMYgwHCAq8QuQEYgAQYsQMYgwEY7wTCAgkQuQEYgAQY7wTCAgqQABiABBiXAXi5gDBpIHBDuMjE&sc_lent=mobile-gws-wiz-hp

The NCPA Board of Directors invites you to join us at our monthly meeting Sunday 10 March 2024

~ IN-PERSON MEETING ~

Our GUEST SPEAKER, Mary Lou Anderson w/a M.L. Edson, promises to present a rip-roaring Q&A fun time with the overly snoozy-sounding topic of *"Vocabulary and Grammar to Make Characters & Stories More Exciting"*

Plus, she – and we – will touch on another exciting themed: *"Properly Submitting Your Story to Anthologies"* (specifically, NCPA anthologies, this time)

So - grab your pens, papers and stories and come join us in this tantalizing display of mysterious usage of changing just plain-old words into enticing, exciting, and downright enjoyable, stories – and/or books!

Sun * 10 March * 4pm-6:30pm * Flaming Grill Café – full info on page 1

4 SUBMISSION TIPS to Submit/ Enter/ Send a Story &/or Book to any Publisher (even anthologies):

- * THOROUGHLY & CAREFULLY READ ANY & ALL INSTRUCTIONS, even those you think are stupid, or you think you already know, or you might miss one of the most important things - such as:
- * An E-or electronic Signature. is your typed name sent by email, acceptable in place of your actual signature.
- * Be sure to sign ALL places where required & submit ALL things requested, such as your bio & a picture.
- * Proofread, edit, & submit in the best condition you can, as though ready to print once your story is received, then we proof & edit stories to be sure everything's there. If we have questions or concerns, we'll contact you. If you've never published anything, you'll undoubtedly have questions, and your story might need to be worked on, or tweaked a little. That's normal, so don't let that keep you from submitting for the first time. If you've already been published, just remember, all companies/organizations, may not have the same rules.

Looking for Guest Journalists

If you already have been, and would like to do it 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

WATCH
FOR
AN "E"
RSVP
request

MAKING CONNECTIONS CORNER with our Local Sister Writing Organizations

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.

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 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 (\$30) Capitolcrimes.org

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

Meets 12:30 pm the 1st Fri of each month in Elk Grove at the Round Table Pizza Restaurant, corner of Bruceville Rd. & Whitlock. 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 [Marjie Yee Webb mywebb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MarjieYeeWebb@sbcglobal.net)

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

In-person meetings resumed at 4pm 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 www.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

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Anthologies 2019 - 2024

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Michelle Hamilton: Main Editor
Bob Ireland: Editor
Elaine Faber: Editor
Andrea Patterson: Editor
Norma Jean Thornton: Proofreader
Sharon Darrow: Publisher
2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com

(Unless there's a conflict with our Sunday meeting day, regular meetings will be):
4pm-6:30pm - 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

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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 around 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