

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

# The Pen & Press

## SUNDAY 14 APRIL 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 Av)

### PLEASE RSVP BY 9pm Sat 13 APRIL

### Reply Yes, No, or Maybe, to

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

916-804-7201\* after 9am \* before 10pm

### Guest Speaker

**OUR VERY OWN NCPA PRESIDENT- & - MULTI-BOOK AUTHOR w/a M.L. Hamilton**

## Michelle Hamilton

### PRESENTS

## FREE WORKSHOP on Back to Basics with Back Cover Copy

Bring your own back cover copy from your title, so we can revise it.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER \* GUESTS WELCOME – Regular Monthly Meetings are FREE to ALL

### 2024 NCPA Meeting & Speaker Calendar

Sunday 14 April \* MICHELLE HAMILTON - NCPA President - & Author – Gives a FREE *Back to Basics with Back Cover Copy Workshop*. Bring your own back cover copy from your title, so we can revise it.

\*Saturday 11 May \* MOTHER'S DAY is on the 12<sup>th</sup>. & means ANOTHER CHANGE IN DAYS: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat instead of Sun – Speaker: author Joyce Buckland, Genealogy Instructor, Historian for the Rio Linda Elverta Historical Society & a Former Trustee of the California Museum for History, Women, & the Arts. Bring your questions about Genealogy, NCPA, Writing, Publishing, Anthologies, Critique Groups, the Book Awards Banquet, etc.

\* SUN 23 JUNE 2024 - 5pm-9pm - SPECIAL MEETING –30<sup>TH</sup> 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! 17 days in the Authors Booth --- FAIR TIME 12-28 July 2024

\*Sunday 11 Aug - Bitsy Kemper - *Author Platform* - & - *using social media to get followers, readers & buyers!*

\*Sunday 8 Sep – NCPA member/ author Dave Todd presents \* A-I-A-I-OH! The ever-changing world of AI!

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

\*Sunday 10 Nov – NCPA Annual MEMBER BOOK DISPLAY – Show, Share, Sell your books – FRIENDS & FAMILY WELCOME

\*Sunday 8 Dec 2024 – 8<sup>TH</sup> HOLIDAY LUNCHEON – BLACK ANGUS 12N – 2:30pm

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

One of the hardest parts about writing a novel is composing the back cover copy. What is back cover copy? It's the writing on the back of a book that summarizes your publication for others to peruse.

Why is this difficult? Well, for one, how does an author condense his or her entire 300-page novel into a few succinct sentences that will not only give readers a good idea what the book is about, but also be intriguing enough to have readers open their wallets and purchase it?

The bad news is I read a lot of back cover copy that not only would make me avoid purchasing the book, but it also works to put me off any other titles the author might have.

Considering you only have thirty seconds to a minute to close a sale, how do you avoid the back cover pitfall?

The good news is there's a formula for writing back cover copy that you can follow, and it is almost always better than just winging it. I know authors resist anything that seems formulaic, but over the centuries, readers have expected certain information to be included in the back cover copy, and if you are doing anything else, you may be turning them off.

I want you to think hard. Are you pleased with how readers are responding to your books? Do you wish more people would choose your book when they're looking for their next title? And in the most crass and honest evaluation, are your sales where you want them to be?

If you answered no to any of those, maybe your back cover copy is actually doing you harm. When you look at your back cover copy, try very hard to remove your ego from the equation. Certainly, you would purchase your own book, because you wrote it, but when you read your back cover copy with a critical eye, would it compel you to buy the book if you didn't know the author?

So, if you're honest with yourself and you know there's a problem with your copy, what do you do about it? Well, not to sound like a sale's pitch, but come to the next NCPA meeting with a copy of your back cover. I'm going to take you through a writing exercise to revamp your book's presentation, and hopefully, help you to write a back cover copy so sexy, so compelling that people will be lining up for the privilege of reading your masterpiece.

ML Hamilton

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



Author ML Hamilton

**Back to Basics with Back Cover Copy Workshop**

**NCPA Monthly Meeting**

**April 14, 2024**

**4:00PM at the Flaming Grill**

**Bring your own back cover copy from your titles,  
so we can revise it.**

**IT'S FREE! BRING YOUR FRIENDS**

**JUST RSVP by 9pm Sat 13 Apr**

**normathornton@yahoo.com**

So we'll know how many to prepare for

\*\*\* \* \*\* \* \*\*\*

**CONDOLENCES TO SHARON & Stan DARROW for the loss  
of their daughter who lived in Oregon, on 21 March.**

**Rio Linda Elverta Country Craft Faire \* 9am-3pm Saturday 27 April 2024**

**Rio Linda High School \* 10x10 Vendor Space \$40 \* Food Vendor \$100**

**Application Deadline Wednesday 10 April - Click Blue Box Link for Application**



RLE Craft Faire  
Vendor APP (3).pdf

I never called you stupid, but when I asked you to spell "orange"  
and you asked me the fruit or color, it kinda caught me off guard!

Dr told me my sugar was too high. So, I went home and moved it to a lower shelf.

If you watch, or have ever watched, Young Sheldon \* Bob Hearts Abishola \* Mom \* Two & a Half Men \* TBBT \* Mike & Molly \* Dharma & Greg \* Cybil \* or \* Grace Under Fire, you've undoubtedly seen the quick-scrolling vanity cards at the end of each, and probably haven't taken the time to pause it to read them. Here, all 1479 air dates (2009-2024) are in one neat little package to read to your heart's content, thanks to the author, below: **CHUCK LORRE:**

### CHUCK LORRE PRODUCTIONS, #682

I've been writing these vanity cards for 24 years.

Yeah, I'm amazed, too.

And yet, after all this time, people still ask me how to read them.

I usually say "press the pause button on your remote."

When this is met with a blank stare (boomers, God bless 'em), I offer up the address of my website, which has all the cards going back to Sep 24, 1997. [Chucklorre.com](http://Chucklorre.com)

There you will find, 682 cards, curated by a guy whose name is, believe it or not, Emery Emery.

There is nothing to buy. No one to chat with.

No opportunity to like, or not like.

Like me, it's not interactive.

### NCPA BOD Election-Time

Election of Officers for the NCPA Board (BOD) is coming up soon --- if you're interested in running for, or want to nominate someone to, an office please contact Sharon (916) 803-1665 or me (Norma) (916)804-7201 ASAP, so we can get the name/s on the ballot. Sharon will hopefully get ballots out before the end of April.



I don't know where this came from, but it fits me to a "T"!

### The Delightful Legend of the Pussy Willow

According to an old Polish legend, many springtimes ago a mother cat was crying at the bank of the river in which her kittens were drowning. The willows at the river's edge longed to help her, so they swept their long graceful branches into the waters to rescue the tiny kittens who had fallen into the river while chasing butterflies. The kittens gripped on tightly to their branches and were safely brought to shore. Each springtime since, goes the legend, the willow branches sprout tiny fur-like buds at their tips where the tiny kittens once clung.

Artist: Rose Mary Berlin

Snowwolf's Woodland Nook



Dad Jokes  
@Dadsaysjokes

My dad told me his password is:  
MickeyMinnieGoofyDonaldPlutoHuey  
LouieDeweyDublin.

Because he was told his password  
had to contain 8 characters and at  
least one Capital.

## CONFERENCES – CONTESTS – SUBMITS – MORE

- <https://www.cbsnews.com/sacramento/news/guy-fieri-food-network-best-bites-in-town-davis-farmers-market/>
- **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>**
- **Story Monsters: [StoryMonsters.com](http://StoryMonsters.com) [www.storymonstersbookawards.com/sma-awards](http://www.storymonstersbookawards.com/sma-awards)**
- **National Association of Memoir Writers <https://www.namw.org/>** – 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 \(publishedtodeath.blogspot.com\)](#)**
- **[FanStory Writing and Poetry Community](#)** - Enter hundreds of Writing Contests: We'd love to see you writing at We've got hundreds of contests you can enter. Get feedback for everything that you write. And a special offer: [Find out more Share Poetry and Stories Online \(fanstory.com\)](#)
- **Authors Publish Presents - [44 Themed Calls for Submissions](#)** (click on for info) 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](http://authorspublish.com) for more
- **[» 10 Anthologies Seeking Submissions \(authorspublish.com\)](#)**
- **[» 4 Anthologies Accepting Submissions \(authorspublish.com\)](#)**
- **Mystery writers & Cap Crime cross-overs, if you don't already have: [Spymuseum.org](http://Spymuseum.org) Virtual Spy Chat Programs & Events**
- **[30 Magazines Seeking Creative Nonfiction](#)**
- **[56 Literary Journals that Pay their Authors](#)**
- 

Just click LINKS for articles:

- **Parrot kicked out of Andrew Jackson Funeral - <https://historyfacts.com/famous-figures/fact/andrew-jacksons-parrot-was-kicked-out-of-his-funeral-for-swearing/>**
- **Internet info - [US Publishers File Brief Opposing Internet Archive's Appeal](#)**
- **Roman's Strange Bathroom Habits - [The strange bathroom habits of ancient Romans](#)**
- **Publisher lies - [It's Time for Publishers to Tell the Truth About Posthumously Published Books](#)**
- **Victorian women ate arsenic - [Why Victorian women ate arsenic \(on purpose\)](#)**
- **Amazon eBook Price Lawsuit - [Amazon must face narrowed lawsuit over eBook prices, US judge says](#)**
- **History of Easter Bunny - [The Strange History of the Easter Bunny — History Facts](#) \* [Where the Easter Bunny comes from](#)**
- **Amazon AI Scam books - [Authors push back on the growing number of AI 'scam' books on Amazon](#)**
- **Touchpoint Press & Adelaide Books Nonpayment - [Authors Report Nonpayment and Other Serious Concerns with TouchPoint Press and Adelaide Books](#)**
- **FYI: MYSTERY OR ROMANCE WRITERS: <https://historyfacts.com/world-history/fact/theres-a-2400-year-old-ship-at-the-bottom-of-the-sea-and-its-virtually-intact/>**
- **<https://historyfacts.com/world-history/fact/ireland-had-its-own-time-zone-for-36-years/>**
- **<https://historyfacts.com/arts-culture/article/why-there-are-so-many-french-words-in-english/>**

## TWISTED WORDS

**Con·tro·nym:** ['käntrə,nim]: a word with two opposite meanings, e.g. sanction (which can mean both 'a penalty for disobeying a law' and 'official permission or approval for an action')

**Biblioklept:** [bib-lee-uh-klept]: a person who steals books.

**Absquatulate:** Leave abruptly.

SAN JOAQUIN ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL 12 – 14 April 2024  
[sanjoaquinasparagusfestival.net](http://sanjoaquinasparagusfestival.net)

**Broadway At the Community Center**  
**Annie (16 Apr-21 Apr 2024)**

The NCPA Board of Directors invites you to join us at our monthly meeting Sunday 14 April 2024

~ IN-PERSON MEETING ~

GUEST SPEAKER, Michelle Hamilton presents a FREE WORKSHOP on *Back to Basics with Back Cover Copy*  
 BRING YOUR BOOKS – bring a friend – DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

Sun \* 14 April \* 4pm-6:30pm \* **Flaming Grill Café** – full info on page 1

### 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 280. Never get a better chance!

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

WATCH  
FOR  
AN "E"  
RSVP  
request

### OCTOBER is Family History Month – AKA – GENEALOGY

Because October is Family History Month, our guest speaker on Sun 13 Oct. will be NCPA's own Kathy Lynne "Kanika" Marshall. Kathy Lynne is a Black Ancestor Biographer who works as a Diversity and Inclusion specialist on behalf of our ancestors. She's written eight books that enhance the American historical record with well-researched, factual accounts of the lives of women, enslaved African Americans, and other groups.

As an instructor, Kathy leads workshops to guide others in writing the untold stories of historically excluded individuals. Her successful genealogy research and self-publishing strategies can help anyone realize their inner author.  
 AND

Since Mother's Day falls on our normal meeting day in May, we've changed our meeting that month ONLY, to the 2nd SATURDAY of the month. Mother's Day is a day for FAMILY, so what better speaker could we have than one on Family History? Genealogy information can be a great gift for our older family members, and since the holidays follow right behind October, we're getting you prepared for Genealogy/ Family History stuff, with both May and October speakers.

Our Sat 11 May guest speaker will be Joyce Buckland: Author, Genealogy Instructor, Historian for the Rio Linda Elverta Historical Society & a Former Trustee of the California Museum for History, women & the Arts.

Bring your questions about Genealogy, NCPA, Writing, Publishing, Anthologies, the Book Awards Banquet, Critique Groups, etc. Saturday 11 May

Just a few Genealogy sites to check out below: Lots more on page 7

When is Genealogy month in 2024 - Search (bing.com) \* National Genealogical Society  
<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/family-history-month>

Celebrate Family History Month - National Genealogical Society

**Free** - (Blank Genealogy forms to download) Just hover & click on: Charts and Forms | National Archives

Resources for Genealogists: Charts & Forms including Ancestral, Family Group Sheets (FGS), Tree, Census, Military, etc.



**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 30 April 2024 anticipated launch at the 30<sup>th</sup> 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 May ...

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

**NOT A MEMBER? NOT A PROBLEM: Join for 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](mailto:2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com) for a copy). Also, for **ALL correspondence re THIS ANTHOLOGY ONLY, including questions and help**, contact me at: [2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com](mailto: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 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 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 30 April 2024** for an anticipated launch, hopefully joining Beautiful World, during NCPA's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual BOOK AWARDS BANQUET at Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta on Sun 23 June 2024. **\* ONLY 8 SPACES LEFT \***

**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. If not, 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. **\* NO PDF files \***
- **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 published, remember: all publishers/ organizations may not have the same rules**

## GENEALOGY STUFF FOR THOSE DOING FAMILY HISTORY THINGS

### **FREE - 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 check 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](mailto:bdaugherty@saclibrary.org) Sacramento Central Library, 828 I St, 916-264-2920.

<http://www.saclibrary.org> - OR - [bethd2073@gmail.com](mailto:bethd2073@gmail.com) also, Dave [contact@saclibrary.org](mailto:contact@saclibrary.org)

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

### **SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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

Free presentations online: Zoom one Sat each month 1 pm. \* Sign up thru Events Program Calendar [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org).

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

- \*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\(Opens in a new window\)](#).

### **LIBRARY CARD PERKS with NEW THINGS AT THE LIBRARY**

#### **FREE PARK PASSES**

Spring is a beautiful time to get outside. You can check out a State Parks pass and explore the outdoors for free with your library card! Borrow a pass and visit 200+ state parks.

[Sacramento Public Library - California State Parks Passes \(saclibrary.org\)](#)

#### **FREE SEEDS from SEED LIBRARY**

It's gardening season & we can help you get growing! Stop by a Seed Library at select locations & pick up some free seeds.

[Sacramento Public Library - Seed Libraries: Grow a Local Garden \(saclibrary.org\)](#)

**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/>

Even our dogs can get in on the genealogy – if you're so inclined!

Discover your dog's DNA Story --- pet day \$79 sale ends 11 April 2024 then goes back up to \$99

[Dog DNA Test Kit | Know Your Pet DNA by Ancestry®](#)

& Cats as Spies in the CIA?

[The CIA spent millions training cats to be spies. — History Facts](#)

**AS REQUESTED by many in attendance during the March 2024 NCPA meeting**

NCPA's March guest speaker, Mary Lou Anderson w/a M.L. Edson's presentation

Anthology Submissions / Book Submissions (Query about Manuscripts)

Thank you, Mary Lou

### Anthology Submissions Book Submissions (Query About Manuscripts)

#### Submitting to an Anthology?

Be sure to read the rules carefully. Then BE SURE to follow those rules.

Timely? Submitted by due date?

Do they give you a font to use? Use it.

Font size? Do it.

Word count? Too long / too short - Length important. Follow the rules.

Genre / Subject / theme

Lack of a hook

Proofreading — grammar / spelling / punctuation errors

Sentence & paragraph structure

Overuse of adverbs

No plot or an "every-day" plot / nothing happens

No growth or change of characters

Talking heads.

Faulty research (cities spelled wrong, distances & times not accurate)

Sequencing off – timelines don't fit

Story actually starts too far into the story.

Too much description / touristy info

Relying on luck for solution to story

Characters are "unrelatable." Unrealistic. Too many. Likeable / hateable?

Lack of anything happening.

Ending not true to the story.

The reader / reviewer has had a bad day.

Sometimes, it's the "luck of the draw."

Someone else submitted something too similar to your story.

Scoring sheet: 10 points each

Composition

Content

Characters

Plot

Sentence structure

Setting

Punctuation

Grammar

Vocabulary

Overall story

Setup

Presentation

Word count

Followed directions



## 2019 NCPA Anthologies

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

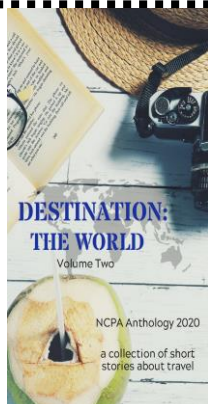
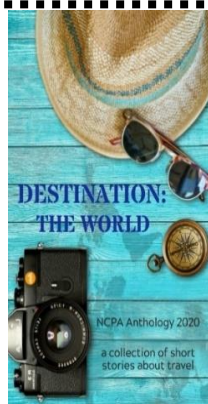


**BIRDS OF A FEATHER**  
An NCPA Anthology  
*A Collection of Short Stories about Animals*



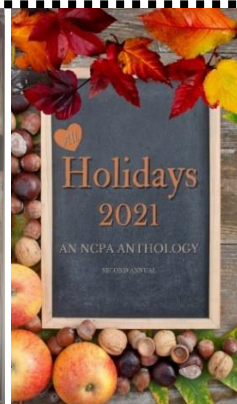
**MORE BIRDS OF A FEATHER**  
An NCPA ANTHOLOGY  
*A Collection of Short Stories about Animals and Other Things*

## 2020 NCPA Anthologies



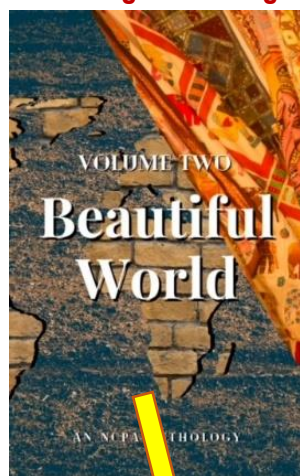
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## 2021-22 Anthologies



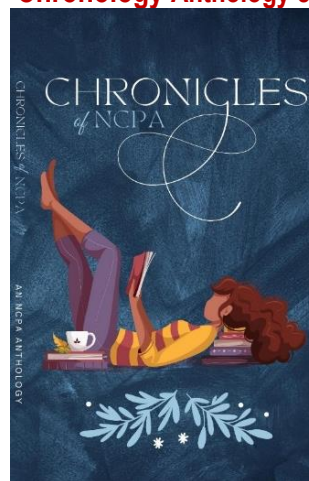
**ALL (seven) 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 ANTHOLOGY BOOKS (above) AVAILABLE PAPER COPIES @ Cost for Authors from Sharon Darrow: Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com or NCPA Anthologies (7 book series) Ebook & Paperback Edition (amazon.com)**

## Anthologies Coming June 2024 OR Dec 2024



\*\*

## Chronology Anthology coming Dec 2024 or June 2025



**SHORT STORIES – ALL GENRE**

**NEW Submission deadline: \* 30 April 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 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 8<sup>th</sup> Holiday Luncheon 2024**

2023/24 Anthology: **Submission Date changed**  
**ALL Holidays Vol 3 \* Deadline to Submit \* 30 Apr 2024**

Looking for NCPA Newsletter Guest Journalists May 2024 \*\* Great chance to toot your own horn to more than 280  
Email editor, normathornton@yahoo.com

**In-person NCPA monthly meetings** the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of each month:

4pm-6:30pm

(Except \* 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 \* 42<sup>nd</sup> 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 now

### 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 soon: 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, **2PM WED 24 April 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](mailto:Normathornton@yahoo.com) or 916-991-5751 for questions.

**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](http://www.cwcsacramentowriters.org)

**Capitol Crimes (Cap Crimes) (Sacramento Chapter of Sisters in Crime)**

If you write anything crime-related, or want to, then check out Cap Crimes. --- FREE monthly meetings, generally the 3rd Saturday of each month, generally with guest speakers, generally crime-related. They normally meet at 1pm at the Rancho Cordova Library 9845 Folsom Blvd in Rancho Cordova -- No-Host lunch 11:30am prior to meetings usually at Perko's 9647 Micron Av -- Must also be a member of Sisters in Crime (\$50) to join Cap Crimes (\$30) [Capitolcrimes.org](http://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](mailto:egwg2020@egweg.org)

**Gold Country Writers (GCW) <http://goldcountrywriters.com/>**

3rd Wed Monthly Speaker Programs ~ 10am-12Noon: FREE & open to Public -- Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1279 High St, Auburn, CA 95603 "Writers Working Together to Promote and Improve their Work" Questions contact [Marjie Yee Webb mywebb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MarjieYeeWebb@sbcglobal.net)

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

**San Joaquin Valley Writers (SJVW Branch CWC)**

FREE Monthly Meetings generally 2nd Saturday of each month 12Noon-2:30pm UOP in Stockton - Questions? June Gillam President SJVW-CWC <https://junegillam.com> Dues Info unknown at this time

**Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI) (CA North/Central)**

If you're interested in writing ... or illustrating ... for kids of any age, this is the premiere INTERNATIONAL organization to belong to! Your first year of SCBWI membership is \$95, with an ongoing annual renewal fee of \$80. No monthly meetings, but there are occasional Schmoozes, Workshops, Intensive-Events, Special Events, and Critique Groups, as well as a great Holiday Party in December, and a discounted Spring Spirit Conference ... plus more ... Go to their website for full information: <https://canorthcentral.scbwi.org/>

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



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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](mailto:2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com)

(Unless there's a conflict with our Sunday meeting day, regular meetings will be):  
4pm-6:30pm - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, FLAMING GRILL (inside CCP Mall) on Watt Av  
started Sunday 13 August 2023 – corner of Watt Av & El Camino Av next to WinCo

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### **Other News, Announcements, and Comments**

All submissions for this section of *The Pen & Press* including short items about NCPA members, or otherwise of interest to writers, editors, publishers and allied folks, are welcome, and become property of NCPA. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS OF ANYTHING.

### **A Note from the Editor**

Send your articles and announcements to [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)

Please type either NCPA N/L or NCPA NEWSLETTER as the email subject heading, to help me find newsletter submissions easier.

Please provide submissions in Microsoft Word (or compatible) format, or in plain text. NO PDF, please, since I must retype anything sent by pdf to make it fit – and it makes me grouchy!

If you have any suggestions, an article idea or any other questions or comments about the newsletter, feel free to email or phone ... [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com) or 916-991-5751

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

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

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

Submissions for each issue will be the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month, unless otherwise noted ~ and ~ if you have something after the 5<sup>th</sup> call me (916-991-5751), then send it anyway ~ I'm flexible, so we'll probably be able to work it in, since the monthly Pen & Press publishing date depends on time available for the editor to complete and send it out, whether it's the first day of the month or the last, or somewhere in-between.

The goal of the current editor is to publish one Pen & Press each month, and two 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*