

www.norcalpa.org

The Pen & Press

NO FEBRUARY 2022 MEETING

That's **Super Bowl** Sun *plus* **Valentine's Day** Weekend

So go enjoy! See y'all **1pm Sun 13 Mar 2022**

Location, ZOOM only, or hybrid, TBDL

NEWS FLASH!!

BOOK AWARDS BANQUET MOVED TO SUNDAY 5 JUNE 2022

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Notes from 9 Jan 2022 NCPA meeting, provided by January Speaker NCPA VP Sharon Darrow:

- Critique Groups (below)
- Online Editing Programs (on page 4)
- Book Competitions (on page 4)
- Critique Groups: What to Look For
 - **Experience**—A group composed solely of beginners/unpublished writers may have the best of intentions, but won't have the depth of knowledge needed to assist one another.
 - **Positivity**—The attitude and guiding principles of the group **MUST** be supportive, rather than critical. Always start with comments about the good points of the writing first. Suggestions about potential changes or errors need to be coached in language that is helpful. Everyone should leave the group meeting feeling energized and ready to improve their work. Nobody should ever feel like they've been attacked or like they should give up and not come back.
 - **Interaction**—Be prepared for your work to be critiqued by other members of the group. You also have to be prepared to do a thoughtful, careful critique of the work presented by the other members of the group.

NCPA critique group plans:

- **Sharon Darrow has started a non-fiction/memoir group on Zoom.** First meeting, for information and planning only, was held on Tuesday, 1/11, at 6PM. **The meeting ID is: 903 028 5813**, which will always be the same. **If you are asked for a passcode, it is GFB61r.**
- **Michelle Hamilton is going to start a fiction group, which will also be on Zoom.** There is no beginning date as yet.
- **Norma Jean Thornton is planning to start a very basic, non-genre specific group, which will be in-person.** Again, no beginning date or meeting place as yet.

ZOOM MEETINGS: still beyond my capabilities. As of yet, I haven't gotten involved in sending out the initial notice, but I do get it done in the newsletters. To benefit our out-of-area/state members, and lurkers, we plan on combining Zoom with our regular meetings once we can start having them again.

Instructions on how to ZOOM connect inside this newsletter, top of Page 3

Join our **NCPA FB PAGE** <https://www.facebook.com/NORCALPA>

President's Message

With elections for the NCPA board coming up in March, I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you how much I enjoy being a part of this organization and encourage more of you to think about taking on an active role in guiding its future.

To provide you with some background, I met Norma Thornton and Sharon Darrow through the Authors Booth at the California State Fair many years ago. That venue is perfect for networking with other authors and learning from them. One of the things that they both encouraged me to do was to join NCPA, or any writing organization. I owe them tremendously for that.

See, writing can be an isolating venture. For years I feared sharing my work with anyone else and frankly, I stagnated. Being at the State Fair and meeting other writers helped me advance in my writing career and allowed me to grow. The same is true for any writing group.

Sacramento is unique in the wealth of its writing community. We have many active groups in this area—something for every genre. To say that you can't find a group to meet your needs is really saying you haven't ventured out of your protected bubble.

That being said, an organization is only as strong as its members, and getting involved in leadership can be beneficial to your career. I have to admit that being president these past few years has probably benefited me more than NCPA because I have learned so much from all of you. However, I also recognize that to continue growing, new blood and new ideas have to be introduced.

If you've thought of taking on a more active leadership role in this organization, I urge you to give it a try. Each person on the board is willing to help guide you along your way. That said, I know that many of you are extremely busy and taking on more commitments is not an option right now.

That doesn't mean you can't impact in different ways. If you have ideas or suggestions for improving what we do in NCPA, I know every member of the board is willing to hear your suggestions and take them into consideration.

I am honored to continue serving as your president, but I am also willing to step down so that new ideas and new energy can guide NCPA into the future. Please consider becoming more involved with our organization, and help us preserve it for the future.

ML Hamilton
authormlhamilton.net

Editor's Note: *You'll be receiving voting information on the election, coming soon from Sharon. The openings we have, which are currently filled with officers willing to continue, if necessary, but also open for new candidates(please!), are the following:*

* **PRESIDENT** (Michelle Hamilton) * **VICE PRESIDENT** (Sharon Darrow)
* **SECRETARY** (Danita Moon) * **TREASURER** (Amy Rogers) * **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR/ NEWSLETTER EDITOR** (Norma Jean Thornton) * If you, or anyone you know, is interested in any of the above offices, PLEASE let us know – contact either Sharon Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com or myself NormaThornton@yahoo.com . (Tired of this unorthodox personal style newsletter? Surely someone can do it better, so prove it! Now's your time to do it the way you want ... just let us know now!) njt

Permanent link for monthly ZOOM NCPA meetings:
Author ML Hamilton is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NCPA Monthly Meeting
Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime
(I'm not sure what this means: ask Michelle)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84185416630?pwd=aEJaTGlyakhBQ1pYWU5KS3FEanBTUT09>

Meeting ID: 841 8541 6630

Passcode: 828631

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,84185416630#,,,,*828631# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,84185416630#,,,,*828631# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C.)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 841 8541 6630

Passcode: 828631

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84185416630?pwd=aEJaTGlyakhBQ1pYWU5KS3FEanBTUT09>

Now accepting 2021 published books for the 28th NCPA BOOK AWARDS COMPETITION
(Published between 1 Jan 2021 & 31 Dec 2021)

****NEW** DATE for 2022 Banquet is SUNDAY 1 JUNE**

28th Annual Book Awards Banquet will be Sun 5 June 2022 – Cherry Island Golf Course

Looking for classes to help guide you through examining the many forms of description?

**Gini Grossenbacher will be teaching a very entertaining course * \$25/class * pay-as-you-go *
with Elk Grove Writers & Artists Jan -Mar 2022. Tuesday evenings, Zoom,
January 11-March 15, 2022**

For more info contact Gini: ginis.writers1@gmail.com www.ginigrossenbacher.com

Online Editing Programs

Sharon Darrow

There are two excellent programs—**Grammarly and ProWritingAid.com**. Both have free versions, as well as much more complete versions that you pay for. Both have pros and cons. Here is a link that makes direct and in-depth comparisons of the two programs to help you choose the one best suited for your needs.

<https://www.guru99.com/grammarly-vs-prowritingaid.html>

NCPA's 28th PUBLISHED BOOK COMPETITION (for 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2021 Books)

28th Book Awards Banquet (**NEW DATE**) **Sun 5 JUNE 2022** Cherry Island Golf Course

Now's the TIME TO FINISH WRITING, and PUBLISH YOUR 2021 BOOK/s

if you want to enter them in the NCPA 28th Annual Book Awards for the 2022 Banquet

Scheduled (2021 Book) Awards Banquet Date Sunday **5 JUNE 2022 - ** NEW DATE**



Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com * or * 916-803-1665

NEW DEADLINE TO SUBMIT **31 MARCH 2022** get those books in to Sharon Darrow now!

Full information can be found on our website at **norcalpa.org**

DUE TO A VARIETY OF REASONS, COVID ONE OF THEM (plus May only being 9 months since the 2021 Banquet), WE'VE EXTENDED THE BOOK AWARDS BANQUET FOR AN EXTRA MONTH, TO SUNDAY 5 JUNE 2022. That also means the deadline to submit your books will be later than in

Feb, as previously reported ***NEW DEADLINE TO SUBMIT BOOKS 31 March 2022*******

All other information will remain the same – Cherry Island Golf Course, Elverta, CA – 5pm-9pm

Book Competitions

Sharon Darrow

Why enter? Quick answer is to gain visibility and credibility through an award. But competitions are not equal, and you must do your homework. Our NCPA competition has stood the test of time and passes the key criteria for quality and integrity:

1. The cost is reasonable and does not enrich the people hosting the competition
2. The event is about recognizing and honoring talent
3. The awards are appropriate and commensurate with the entry fees collected.
4. You don't have to purchase your award or product from the competition
5. People who enter do not forfeit any key rights to their work.

How to compare competitions and assess their value? You can spend hours online trying to make comparisons, but there are some helpful sites. One is a direct comparison made by the Alli (Alliance of Independent Authors). That site is located at: <https://selfpublishingadvice.org/author-awards-contests-rated-reviewed/> All book award competitions aren't rated there, but a very large selection is—and you may be surprised at some of the ratings.

I found an interesting website, BookAwardPro.com, that uses an automated platform to search through more than 3500 competitions nationwide to find the very best matches for your book. You answer lots of questions about the book you sign up, as well as about yourself, since contests have a multitude of unusual criteria that might be a good match for you. Then they send you information on the competitions that their AI consider the best matches. During the first half of 2021, their authors won 327 awards from all over the world. I found nothing but good reviews online, so am giving it a shot for book 4 in my series, *Her Triumph*. I submitted the book on 12/16, and have received 14 active matches for awards. I'm trying several just to see how it does. The most complete review of the Book Award Pro site and service is on a site called [Weekend Publisher](http://WeekendPublisher.com). Here is the review they published: <https://www.weekendpublisher.com/book-award-pro-review/>

Lake Superior State University made this list of words to be left behind in 2021:

Banished words for 2022: * Wait, what? * No worries * At the end of the day * That being said *

* Asking for a friend * Circle back * New normal * You're on mute * Supply chain * Deep dive * Whaaaat? *

Three Tips to submit Stories for Anthologies & to Enter Published Book Competitions

Sharon S Darrow 916-803-1665

sharon@sharonsdarrow.com sharonsdarrow.com sharonsdarrow.com/samati-press

- 1) The importance of making sure your book or story is as perfect as you can make it: One of the best ways is through participating in a critique group. Each person not only receives fresh insights into their own material, but improves their ability to read with a more discerning eye. Critique groups vary, so finding one that is a good fit is invaluable, and may take some time.
- 2) Whether or not you participate in a critique group: we all are much too familiar with our own work to catch all the little grammatical, spelling, or style mistakes. There are two great programs to choose from: **Grammarly** and **ProWritingAid.com** that are worth considering as an addition to our writing regimen before submitting our work for publication anywhere.
- 3) Writing competitions and/or anthologies: not only showcase our material, but also have the potential of adding visibility and credibility. BUT, competitions and/or anthologies are not created equal! It is important that you thoroughly check out any you are considering, before sending in your work. Especially if it also means sending in money.

NCPA website **norcalpa.org**

The following Reference books are valuable for all writers

- *Your Life as Story: Discovering the "New Autobiography" and Writing Memoir as Literature*, by Tristine Rainier
- *Writing a Book that makes a Difference*, by Philip Gerard.
- *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*, by Stephen King
- *The Emotion Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Character Expression (second edition)*, by Becca Puglisi and Angela Ackerman

UPCOMING Conference Updates

National Genealogical Society Family History Conference coming to **SACTO**
May 24-28 2022 [NGS-2022-ConfRegBroch-01102022-Final.pdf](https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/NGS-2022-ConfRegBroch-01102022-Final.pdf) (ngsgenealogy.org)

Discounted, early-bird conference registration runs from open registration through 18 March 2022.

Register online at conference.ngsgenealogy.org



2022 SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE RESCHEDULED

SFWC Registration — San Francisco Writers Conference (sfwriters.org)

New Dates, same great conference! Register for SFWC July 21-24, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco!

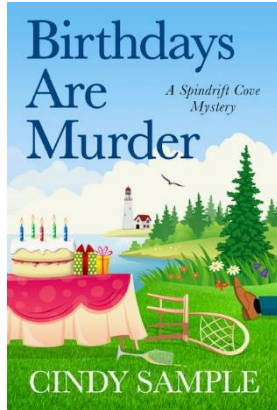
SF WRITERS CONFERENCE NOW July 21-24 2022



2022 Workshop : University of Dayton, Ohio (udayton.edu)

Erma Bombeck WRITERS' WORKSHOP rescheduled to October 20-22 2022





"There are characters that will stay with you long after you put the book down. Sierra is one of those who will leave a smile on your face. Cindy Sample has crafted characters and a storyline that brings both enjoyment and cozy mystery fun."

R. Franklin James, award-winning author of the Hollis Morgan Mystery Series

"5 stars to Cindy Sample's latest protagonist, Sierra Sullivan. Sleuth, performer, and all-around enterprising gal, she hits the cozy mystery scene in a fabulous new whodunit series. If you are a fan of Ms. Sample's work, you won't want to miss the first book in the Spindrift Cove Mystery Series. I loved it!"

Heather Haven, award-winning author of the Alvarez Family Murder Mysteries

Another Fun Read

From NCPA member Cindy Sample, national bestselling author and five-time finalist for the lefty award for best humorous mystery.

After Sierra Sullivan is furloughed from her cruise director position, she moves to Spindrift Cove, Washington, to be closer to her married daughter. She soon discovers that gigs for middle-aged entertainers are scarcer than good hair days in the Pacific Northwest. With her bank account sliding toward zero, she swallows the indignity of donning a ten-pound wig and elaborate costume to perform at a child's birthday party.

Little does Sierra know she'll soon be upstaged by a corpse and become the leading-lady suspect.

As the bodies pile up, the entertainer adlibs her own crime-solving gig, a performance putting her in the crosshairs of a killer, and a finale that truly may be final.

"Our Life Stories: A Cross-Generational Writers' Conference"

"Our Life Stories: A Cross-Generational Writers' Conference"

Saturday, April 30, 2022, on Zoom

Sponsored by City of Sacramento's Hart Senior Center & Cosumnes River College,
with support from ACC Senior Services.

The focus of the annual event is the collection and writing of family stories and memoirs. The conference features a variety of workshops led by experienced and nationally recognized writers.

Maeley Tom, author of *I'm Not Who You Think I Am: An Asian American Woman's Political Journey*, is this year's keynote speaker & Workshop presenters include Lisa Dominguez Abraham, Lora Connolly, Frederick K. Foote, Lesley Gale, Ginny McReynolds, (NCPA member) Kathy Lynne Marshall, Kakwasi Somadhi, Bob Stanley, and Kate Washington.

The virtual conference runs from 9AM to 3:15PM. The \$20 fee includes morning and afternoon workshops and a writing activity for all attendees to end the day.

All are welcome. Registration is required by Thursday, April 28.

To register, visit [Registration Link](#) or www.ourlifestories.org.

For questions call the Hart Center: 916-808-5462 or email: hartcrcwritersconference@yahoo.com

Contact: Janeen Thorpe or Linda Thao E-mail: hartcrcwritersconference@yahoo.com

Many thanks to NCPA member Loy Holder for providing this information

2019 NCPA Anthologies



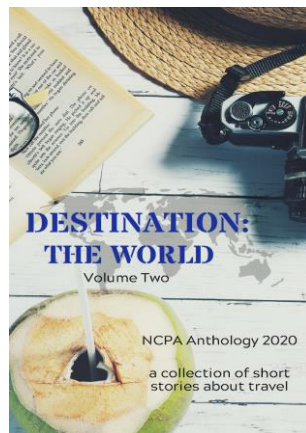
BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA Anthology
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals



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

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

2020 NCPA Anthologies



ALL (five) 2019 & 2020 ANTHOLOGY BOOKS (above) AVAILABLE

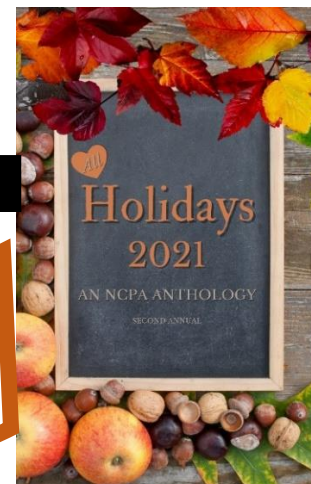
PAPER COPIES @ Cost for Authors) \$10 for others From Sharon Darrow:

Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com OR [NCPA Anthologies \(5 book series\) Ebook & Paperback Edition \(amazon.com\)](https://www.amazon.com)



COVERS FOR pending 2021 ANTHOLOGIES

ALL Holidays 2021 had a name change – it's now ALL Holidays Vol 2



NCPA 2021 Anthologies update - we'll start working on them again, soon.

Many apologies for neither being finished in 2021. No excuses, just a variety of reasons, mainly on my part, but also partially with others working this project, including authors. **The main thing to remember, however is that NONE OF US ARE COMPENSATED OR REIMBURSED FOR ANY OF THE TIME AND EFFORT SPENT ON ANY ANTHOLOGY.** There's no specific time these had to be out. just what we had hopefully projected. & had come through on with the other 5. nit

**The Negro Motorist Green Book
Traveling Exhibit from the Smithsonian
offers a look at Travel during Jim Crow era**

California Museum @ 1020 O St in Sacramento

Green Book Exhibit now thru 27 Feb 2022
of special interest for African-American blacks
doing Memoirs. Includes travel in Sacramento

[CaliforniaMuseum.org/green-book](https://www.californiamuseum.org/green-book)

Store Supply Warehouse 1-800-823-8887
contactus@storesupply.com

If you need bags, stickers, tags ... or displays,
racks or signs ... and MORE, this place has it
all, at really reasonable prices. So far, every
time I've done business with them (since 2015),
they've been great to work with. *Norma Jean*

CHECK OUT SHARON DARROW's updated website, SAMATI PRESS! Sharon has added 2 new pages
to her website you might be interested in: [About Our Authors](#) featuring **NCPA member Bert Davis'** new
book, **Morphers & Mayhem, a Werewolf Tale**. Coming soon, more of the same type information about
other authors Sharon has published. <https://www.samatipress.com/services>

AUTHORS, get your BARCODE for \$15 from Sharon, rather than \$25 to BOWKER: The second page
is a place for authors to get a barcode without buying special software or paying \$25 to Bowker. "They can
order them from me for \$15! That is now one of the services I offer on my new [Services](#) page." *Sharon*

- Interested in submitting to a Chicken Soup for the Soul Anthology? Click link for subjects:
<https://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/possible-book-topics>

***AUTHOR SCAMS & PUBLISHING COMPANIES TO AVOID:**
<https://blog.reedsy.com/scams-and-publishing-companies-to-avoid/>

***FREE online Greeting Cards, Ecards, Animated, etc., Click link:** <https://www.123greetings.com/>

Fun WORD Puns!

- *The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. His size was from too much pi
- *I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian
- *She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still
- *When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
- *A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption
- *The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work
- *No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery
- *A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering
- *A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart
- *The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large
- *The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran
- *In democracy, it's your vote that counts. In feudalism, it's your count that votes.
- *Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects * A backward poet writes inverse
- *A hole was found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
- *I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then, it hit me.
- *A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said, 'Keep off the Grass'
- *A small boy swallowed some coins. When asked how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.'
- *A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion * Atheism is a non-prophet organization
- *Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie. * Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana
- *Two hats were hanging on a hat rack. One hat said to the other, "You stay here; I'll go on a head."

RULES FOR NCPA CRITIQUE GROUPS

NON-NCPA members are welcome to fully participate in an NCPA Critique Group for 3 meetings. After the 3rd Zoom meeting, NON-members must join NCPA (\$40/year membership) in order to continue participating. At that point, a non-NCPA member may still attend Zoom meetings, but they will be muted and their work will no longer be critiqued.

Those Non-members attending in-person NCPA Critique Groups will not be invited to participate in any form of critiquing or being critiqued after three meetings, unless they become an NCPA member.

General guidelines and ideas for NCPA Non-Fiction / Memoir Critique Group Moderated by NCPA VP Sharon Darrow

Time is everyone's most precious commodity, so the length of our Zoom meetings needs to be productive. If we set them for 6-7:30 PM, that would allow for 15 minutes of introduction each session (including updates and bragging rights), 15 minutes of general discussion at the end where everyone can share, and 15 minutes each for 4 people to present their critique comments of 3 people whose work they read and reviewed. If needed, beginning and ending sessions could be shortened if we find it necessary.

Remember that these are guidelines only, so we can start and end on time. Beginning and ending time will depend totally on what members have to share, with the most important time spent on actual critiques.

We need to keep subgroups small. If I receive more submissions than a single group can handle, subgroups will be created. The Zoom meeting will then split into breakout rooms for each subgroup, and rejoin together for the closing minutes. If breakout rooms are used, one person in each subgroup will be designated as the group leader.

Those who submit their work to be critiqued need to be willing to spend the same level of attention and energy to the work submitted to them by the others in their subgroup. Without that, the process won't work.

It is vitally important for members to adhere to the deadlines for submissions so others can have adequate time to review their work.

You can learn a lot from listening, even if you don't have a submission under review. For that reason, members who do not submit work for critiques won't be participating in the critique process for others (unless arranged ahead for a particular meeting), but can audit the critique process. That means they will be muted during the critiques, and will not be able to see any of the printed submissions or written critiques. They will be able to speak during the closing minutes when everyone is back together. I hope that by utilizing this method, people will gain understanding of how the critique group works and be confident enough to fully participate after attending a few meetings.

For those not able to join the group's first meeting in January, you missed a great meeting. The five of us introduced ourselves and our writing projects and talked about what we hoped to get out of the group and what we could contribute to it.

One suggestion on how to make the group work better for all, was not to require people to use *Word Mark-Up* for making critiques, since nobody likes it. Everyone can use whatever method they like, as long as it is clear to the writers who receive it. We also reviewed the specifics of submitting papers to be critiqued and the way the group would work.

This new email, sharonsdarrowcritiquegroup@gmail.com, is ONLY for communications from members of THIS group. I created it to make sure none of your emails or submissions get lost in the shuffle. Anytime you have a question, comment, or suggestion about the group, or information that you'd like to share with other members, please feel free to send them to me.

PERSONALIZED CUSTOMIZED OREO COOKIES * <https://www.oreo.com/>

YOU TOO COULD ADVERTISE HERE for a whole year EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT A MEMBER

Just donate something of value to the Silent Auction held during our 2021 Book Awards Banquet in 2022
SUNDAY 5 June 2022 at the Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta

SILENT AUCTION DONORS 2019 * THANK YOU SO MUCH to our donors *

Cherry Island G.C. * Sharon Darrow * Jennifer T. Grainger * Grand Oaks Inn B&B * Dierdre Honnold * Frances Kakugawa * Placer Pops Chorale * Roaring Camp Mining Company * Amy Rogers: Science Thrillers Media * Sharif Jewelers * Antelope Walmart Bakery

Looking for a great venue for your Banquet &/or more? How about a decorated Cake?

Both great for Writing Organizations, and Highly recommended by NCPA Book Awards Banquet Committee

Cherry Island Golf Course * 2360 Elverta Rd * Elverta, CA * www.golfcherryisland.com * 916-991-6875

Looking for a great decorated cake for ANY event, including that Banquet?

Walmart Supercenter Bakery * 5821 Antelope Rd. * Antelope 95843, CA * Bakery: [916-729-6217](tel:916-729-6217)

Placer Pops Chorale & Orchestra 2022

Great present for ALL * www.placerpops.com * Locations, DATES & TIMES COMING CLOSER to dates

ADVERTISING FOR MORE OF OUR DONORS, all NCPA members

Looking for a detailed critique and line edit? Contact donor **Amy Rogers: Science Thrillers Media**

Amy Rogers, independent publisher, beta reader for James Rollins, and former judge for International Thriller Writers' Thriller Awards. amy@AmyRogers.com Web: AmyRogers.com (916)-712-3334

Need a Manuscript Evaluation? Contact donor **Jennifer Grainger**

Jennifer says a manuscript evaluation is not editing. It is evaluating the quality of the writing so she will carefully and thoughtfully read your manuscript from beginning to end and provide very explicit feedback for you on what works, what could be better and how to fix the weaknesses.

jennifer@JenniferTheEditor.org www.JenniferTheEditor.org 209-369-6188

Want your own Website? **Sharon Darrow** will build you one **through Wix.Com**

Hourly rate, with a four-hour minimum appointment. ~ in your home. (Will accept phone calls for help for 3 months after completion if you still need it. Anything further, price will be negotiable.) **916-803-1665**

sharon@sharonsdarrow.com

Writing Picture Books for Kids? **Chrissi Villa** gives detailed Picture Book Evaluations

Chrissi also hosts PB Workshops. contact her chrissivilla@gmail.com * www.Christinevilla.com

www.purplecottoncandyarts.com/about.html * <https://www.velvetduskpublishing.com/about.html>

916-993-8798 h

916-500-3492 c

Need a special gift ~ Or a donation to your non-profit event?

Check out the fine jewelry at Sharif's

Sharif Jewelers * 1338 Howe Ave, Sacramento, CA * www.sharifjewelers.com ~ 916-927-0542

There are three (3) locations, total ~ check out their website for the other ones.

How about an Outdoor event for the entire family

Roaring Camp Mining Company in Pine Grove, CA just 1-1 ½ hours south east of Sacramento ~ Roaring Camp has BBQ Cookouts, Guided Gold Mine & Gold Panning Tours & Dinners, All Day Adventure & Gold Panning Tours & more ~ Camping or Cabins available

www.roaringcampgold.com ~ 209-296-4100 ~ info@roaringcampgold.com

OR a romantic Indoor Stay for grandma & grandpa, or mom and dad ~ on the way to Roaring Camp

Grand Oaks Inn B & B ~ Joe & Ann Mehrten 21941 Buena Vista Road P.O. Box 518

Clements, CA 95227 grandoaksinn.com 209 759-3453 or 209-759-3713 grandoaks@inreach.com

Grand Oaks, Sharif & Roaring Camp Mining Co have all generously donated to NCPA for every Silent Auction we've had **since 2010**

More 2021 SILENT AUCTION DONORS

Many thanks to the generosity of Sacramento's Bouchercon 2020, for the donation of a case of Totes, some were used in our 2020 NCPA Book Awards, during the Silent Auction Sunday 29 August 2021. Thanks also to Rae James and M. Penny Manson from Capitol Crimes (Sacramento chapter of Sisters in Crime) for arranging for, and getting, the totes to me.

Special thanks also to Elaine Faber for the Vintage Thomas Round Wood Radio/ Cassette Player reproduction, Barbara Barrett for the pair of cut-glass Hurricane Lamp-shaped Candle Holders, Kathy "Kanika" Marshall for her Kanika creations, Bob Irelan and Michelle Hamilton for their great baskets, and the EGWG for the donation of one ticket to the October 2021 Elk Grove Writers Conference

INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY? During the shut-down, the Library has generously made their access to Ancestry.com FREE from your own home to ALL WHO HAVE A LIBRARY CARDTHE CENSUS RECORDS ARE GREAT, EVEN IF YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING ELSE

Go to www.saclibrary.org and click on Books & Media – Special Collections – Genealogy Collection – Have Questions (at bottom of screen) – click on "Learn More" under "Do you have other genealogy services available?" (or just click on this link as a shortcut - <https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/History/Genealogy>). (Other Genealogy sites free also)

Once there, you'll see the links to the websites in green. Once you click on the website, you'll be asked to enter your library card and PIN. If you don't know your PIN, click on Reset My PIN in blue and enter a new PIN. **THIS MAY NOT WORK NOW THAT LIBRARIES ARE OPENING**

2021 Genealogy Presentations at Sacramento Central Library

For information, please contact Beth Daugherty, Librarian, at bdaugherty@saclibrary.org Sacramento Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, Phone: 916-264-2920. <http://www.saclibrary.org>

Check out all organizations for ZOOM meetings ~ contact info for each is on following page

FREE MEETINGS
3rd Sat monthly 1pm-3pm
Capitolcrimes.org for more info
ZOOM MEETING FREE

Gold Country Writers meetings (FREE)
3rd Wed 10am-12Noon each month
Goldcountrywriters.com **CONTACT** for more information

CWC meeting 3rd Sat monthly 11am-1pm
CWCSacramentowriters.org

\$20-member \$25 Non-member lunch included
ZOOM MEETINGS FREE

1st Fri each month Perko's 6215 Sunrise
3rd Sat each month at Cattleman's on Folsom

**28th NCPA
BOOK AWARDS
BANQUET**
5pm-9pm
Sun 5 JUNE 2022

***Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC) 2nd Mon ea/mo**
7pm-9pm * Sactowriters.org * ZOOM MEETINGS FREE
Crossroads Fellowship Christian Church, **5501 Dewey Dr**, Fair Oaks.

COVID RULES WILL APPLY

Sun 11 Dec 2022 ~ 12Noon-?
Citrus Heights' Black Angus on Greenback
NCPA's 5th Holiday Luncheon - 2022
Email me: NCPAAnthologyLuncheon@gmail.com

FREE MEETINGS 2nd Sat monthly 12Noon – 2:30 pm
San Joaquin Valley Writers CWC ZOOM Meetings
<https://junegillam.com> <https://www.sjvalleywriters.org>

YOUR Writing Club/ Organization INFO
CAN GO HERE – JUST LET US KNOW

Adding New Sister Writing Organization Info on CWC-SJV Branch**California Writers Club (CWC) (San Joaquin Valley Writers Branch)**

Free Monthly Speaker Meetings, 2nd Saturday of each month ~ 12 noon – 2:30 pm

Zoom meetings until return to in-person meetings at UOP in Stockton.

<https://www.sivalleywriters.org>

Open to all genres and levels ~ get published in Great Valley Stories Anthology, Vol. 1.

Subscribe for zoom links & newsletter: <https://sivalleywriters.us10.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=899132e01f7a84cc55e31563e&id=7acdb2b23f>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SanJoaquinValleyWriters>

Questions? Contact June Gillam, PhD, Author
Hillary Broome Crime Novels
San Joaquin Valley Writers, President
<https://junegillam.com>

Local Sister WRITING ORGANIZATIONS included in NCPA newsletters

Many writing groups affiliate with a central organization such as those we include in each NCPA newsletter on our *Making Connections Corner with our Local Sister Writing Organizations* page: CWC-Sac Branch, Cap Crimes-Sac Chapter, SVR-Sac Chapter and SCBWI-CA No/Central Chapter (more info about each on *Connections'* page) ... and our newest inclusion, SJVW Chapter-CWC. Those affiliates must abide by their own rules, regulations and bylaws, as well as those set by their main chapter... sometimes rather rigid ones.

Others are stand-alone, such as NCPA and the following, on the *Making Connections* page: EGWG, GCW, SSW. The only accountings the stand-alone organizations must follow, are those set by their own board and members, in the group's bylaws. Their rules might not be as rigid nor strict as those affiliated with others.

I spent way too long searching Google for something ... anything ... in order to write this piece, but found nothing, so if any of you have comments, answers (especially answers!) or questions pertaining to this, please fire away ... normathornton@yahoo.com ... or just click reply to this newsletter.

Tidbits re The Difference Between an Organization and a Club ... for NCPA purposes, at least

FYI: The reason NCPA is considered an organization and not a club, is because Ken Umbach told me it was, and kept repeating it! He was so insistent I'd almost become paranoid if I'd slip and utter the horrible "club" word. After 13 years of it being so ingrained in my brain about Organization, I occasionally hear Ken's words slipping from my mouth: "NCPA is an ORGANIZATION, NOT A CLUB!"

For those who don't know, Ken was NCPA's longtime Robert's Rules Guy (I don't know if he had the official title of Parliamentarian. I never saw it anywhere, if he did, but he worked it, that's for sure), as well as Communications Director and Newsletter Editor. He also assisted his wife Rosa in at least one NCPA Book Awards Banquet, and NCPA's final Conference. Unfortunately, we lost Ken in December, 2016, but his memory remains with me, every single time I do a newsletter (he'd be pulling his hair out, the way I do them, but fortunately, being a stand-alone organization, we don't have a strict guideline, so unless someone else volunteers to do this newsletter, y'all are stuck with me, and this way). At least I still say ORGANIZATION Ken!

MAKING CONNECTIONS CORNER with our Local Sister Writing Organizations

➤ **California Writers Club (CWC) (Sacramento Branch)**

Monthly Luncheon Meetings generally **3rd Saturday** of each month ~ 11am – 1pm
\$15 members, \$25 non-members, includes lunch **Rancho Cordova Cattlemen's**

Writers Network 9-11am 1st Fri monthly **Perko's 6215 Sunrise, Citrus Heights**

Open to public, pay for your own breakfast (**NEW LOCATION**)

For information & prices on joining, go to: **cwcsacramentowriters.org**

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

If you write anything crime-related, or want to, then check out Cap Crimes.

FREE monthly meetings, generally the **3rd Saturday** of each month, generally with guest speakers, generally crime-related. They normally meet at **1pm** at the

Rancho Cordova Library 9845 Folsom Blvd in Rancho Cordova

No-Host lunch 11:30am prior to meetings usually at Perko's 9647 Micron Av

Must be a member of Sisters in Crime (\$50) to join Cap Crimes (\$20) **Capitolcrimes.org**

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

Meets the 1st Fri of each month in Elk Grove - **BY ZOOM RIGHT NOW**

No further info, but go to the following for more:

* Email **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**

➤ **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**

➤ **Sacramento Valley Rose (SVR)**

(Sacramento Chapter of Romance Writers of America {RWA})

If you write Romance, or want to, then check out SVR ~ they generally meet at 10am at the

White Rock Community Clubhouse, 10488 White Rock Rd, Rancho Cordova

4th Saturday of each month \$20 for members \$30 for non-members

Contact: Deb at **debjulienne@gmail.com** for RSVP information & directions

Debbie Putnam, President: **DebbiePutnam.SVR@gmail.com**

Suggest you go to their site for their rules & stipulations Must be a member of Romance Writers of America (\$99+) before joining SVR (\$30) **Sacramentovalleyrose.com**

➤ **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 may be outdated. Suggest you contact prior to attending any.

Many thanks to NCPA member Dorothy Rice for the following information

Stories on Stage Sacramento presents authors Jess Walter & Naomi William
for an evening of live literary performance at the CLARA Auditorium

After two years of virtual performances, award-winning literary performance series Stories on Stage Sacramento will return to the live stage on **February 25 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) at the CLARA Auditorium for an evening of performances by professional actors and conversation with the authors and actors.** The evening, featuring best-selling author Jess Walter and local-favorite Naomi Williams, represents a concerned, careful and hopeful re-entry to public performances for this Sacramento literary staple.

Author Jess Walter is a National Book Award finalist, a *New York Times* #1 Bestseller, and winner of the Edgar Allen Poe Award. He has published seven novels, including *The Cold Millions* and *Beautiful Ruins*. His fiction has been selected three times for Best American Short Stories as well as the Pushcart Prize and Best American Nonrequired Reading.

Naomi J. Williams is the author of *Landfalls*, long-listed for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize. She was educated at Princeton, Stanford and UC Davis, lives in Sacramento, and teaches with the MFA program at Ashland University in Ohio.

Jess Walter's short story, "Before you Blow" and Naomi Williams's short story "After the Operation" will be read aloud by professional actors Julie Anchor and Kellie Raines. Julie Anchor has been an actor in the Sacramento area for over 30 years. She is a stage actor and company member of Main Street Theater Works in Jackson. Kellie Raines is a local actor, director, writer, and visual artist.

Stories on Stage Sacramento will be joining dozens of other local arts organizations in complying with the CDC's mega-event protocols for COVID-19. Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test in the last 72 hours is required. Masks are required at all times. Seating will be socially distanced to keep our audience as safe as possible as we gather for this live event.

Stories on Stage Sacramento events take place the fourth Friday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Auditorium at CLARA, 1425 24th Street, Sac, CA 95816. Doors open 6:30pm

About Stories on Stage Sacramento

Stories on Stage Sacramento is an award-winning, nonprofit, 501(c)3 literary performance series featuring electrifying prose and crackling theater—the work of today's best authors performed with theatrical flair. Designated by Sactown Magazine as Best of the City in 2019 and Best Virtual Music or Entertainment Experience of 2021 by Sacramento Magazine. Past authors include Tommy Orange, Vanessa Hua, Janet Fitch, Tobias Wolff, Ann Packer, Karen Bender, Tod Goldberg, Anita Felicelli, Adam Johnson, Alia Volz, David Heska Wanbli Weiden, Natasha Deon, and many others. For more information, including our full 2022 season,

visit www.storiesonstagesacramento.org and find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Shelley Blanton-Stroud & (NCPA member) **Dorothy Rice** Co-Directors,

Stories on Stage Sacramento (916) 548-3212

storiesonstage916@gmail.com [See what's coming up](#) [Find us on Facebook](#)

WONDERING WHY "SNAIL MAIL" IS REALLY BECOMING THAT?

This article originally came out on 28 Sep 2021, but I didn't see it then – and for some reason, it's showing up again in the Google search area, giving the false impression it's something new. Important to know, especially if you were caught off-guard with the length of time it's taking your books ... and other things ...to get to you! Give it a click to find out why: [USPS Is Making This Permanent Change Starting Friday — Best Life \(bestlifeonline.com\)](https://bestlifeonline.com/USPS-Is-Making-This-Permanent-Change-Starting-Friday/)

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Anthology 2019, 2020 & 2021Norma Jean Thornton: **Coordinator**Michelle Hamilton: **Editor**Bob Irelan: **Editor**Norma Jean Thornton: **Proofreader**Sharon Darrow: **Publisher**2021NCPAAnthology@gmail.com

Sunday afternoon meetings with or without guest speakers now 2nd Sun of each month

In Person 1pm-??? * Round Table Pizza * 3327 Watt Av Sacramento **changing**

No purchase necessary but at least a soda would be appreciated * By ZOOM 1pm- ???

Daytime meetings with NO guest speakers are the 3rd Wednesday of each month

ON HOLD 12 Noon to 2pm Denny's 3520 Auburn Blvd **RSVP's REQUIRED COVID**

Meetings are always FREE ~ Visitors are always welcome.

www.norcalpa.org

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA)

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The editor reserves the right to accept or reject submissions and to edit submissions for length, clarity, or style.

Readers are free to print copies for noncommercial personal use, and NCPA members are welcome to print copies of the newsletter to share with friends, colleagues, and prospective members.

Other News, Announcements, and Comments

All submissions for this section of *The Pen & Press* including short items about NCPA members or otherwise of interest to writers, editors, publishers and allied folks, are welcome.

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 have to retype anything sent by pdf to make it fit.

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 out; sometime after the monthly meeting, held on the 2nd Thursday of each month, and as late as the last day of each month.

The goal of the current editor is to publish one Pen & Press each month, with two in April every year in order to cover the Book Awards Banquet ... one prior to the event, and one after.

... Norma Jean Thornton, editor The Pen & Press 2016-2020