

www.norcalpa.org

# The Pen & Press

## Sun 10 April 2022 MEETING

Guest Speaker **CINDY SAMPLE** (long-time NCPA member & Author)

### "Creative Marketing for Killer Sales"

1pm-3:30pm \* in person & ZOOM

**Change in meeting location:** back to DENNY's Restaurant 3520 Auburn Blvd, Sacto  
(Auburn Blvd at Watt Av & I-80)

**NEWS FLASH!! BOOK AWARDS BANQUET MOVED TO SUNDAY 5 JUNE 2022**

### APRIL 10 Meeting \* NCPA member \* Cindy SAMPLE

NCPA Book Awards Winner Cindy Sample writes humorous mysteries (just finished her 9<sup>th</sup>)

Cindy presents: "Creative Marketing for Killer Sales" (In person & ZOOM)

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*GUEST JOURNALIST for this April 2022 newsletter, is Elaine Faber, who was Feb Guest Speaker. Read more about her on the pages inside.*

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### MAY 15 Meeting \* NCPA member \* Chrissi VILLA

(NOTE: This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, instead of 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, which is Mother's Day!)

Guest Speaker Christine 'Chrissi' Villa not only writes books for children, but does a lot more "stuff".

Chrissi was our featured journalist in the March 2022, newsletter. Read more about her there.

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*GUEST JOURNALIST for May 2022 newsletter will be NCPA member & author Ron Javor*

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### Sunday 5 JUNE – 28<sup>th</sup> BOOK AWARDS BANQUET

(NOTE: NO other June meeting – instead it's our very special annual event ... & on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sun)

5pm-9pm Sun 5 June 2022

Cherry Island Golf Course, Elverta, CA

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*GUEST JOURNALISTS for June 2022 newsletter will be NCPA member & author Roberta "Bert" Davis and her once-feral cat-turned co-author, Nacht (probably lots of cat pictures!)*

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JULY 10 Meeting – (BOOK EXCHANGE \* usually held in Dec, we bring back an oldie, but a goodie!)  
Gone when we started having our Holiday Luncheon at the Black Angus, but not forgotten, we bring back the ever-popular Book Exchange / Network & Schmooze. All NCPA MEMBERS (only) who have published books, no matter when, bring them in to brag about, share, sell &/or barter, with others.

Everyone is welcome to attend but ONLY NCPA MEMBERS may bring and sell their books

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**DEC 11 Meeting CHANGE IN TIME & LOCATION: Holiday Luncheon 12Noon Black Angus**

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

### President's Message

I turned fifty-five last week.

It was not one of my better birthdays. Not because of the number, although that's getting into an impressive range, but because of situations beyond my control with my family. I had an idea that by the time my sons neared thirty, they'd be pretty much able to manage their own lives. Unfortunately, it's not the first misconception I've had about parenthood. And now we're about to add a new layer of worry to my life—a granddaughter due in July.

I'm truly excited to be a grandmother and I know this little person will suddenly become vital to my existence, but I am a little daunted about having another person to fret and lie awake about at night. which brings me to my milestone birthday.

My oldest son gave me an iPad, stating, "Most people get to retire at 55, but maybe this will help." I love the gesture and the gift, but the idea of retirement scares me. At 55, I don't feel done. I don't feel like I've accomplished everything I want to accomplish. I'm not really ready to quietly and obediently walk out to pasture without looking back. I feel like I have a few more good years in me.

In fact, I think my first act of rebellion is to banish any further milestone birthdays. They've never been good anyway.

At thirteen, I went to play softball with my cousin and brother at the park. My cousin promptly hit a line drive that almost knocked me unconscious. I had a concussion, a broken cheekbone, and an eye that would never see right again. At eighteen, I was preoccupied with graduating from high school and moving away to college, so I drank way too much champagne and you can imagine the end result. At twenty-one, I decided to graduate from college early because my family couldn't afford to allow me to see out my four years. At thirty, I was suddenly facing divorce with three children all under five to raise by myself. At fifty, well, I received my AARP card. I don't dwell much on the advancing years, figuring another year is better than the alternative, but that one hit me hard. I tore that first card into pieces (a childish response to reality, I know). At fifty-five, I spent two and a half hours locked in bitter debate at a BJ's restaurant with my family. We're not allowed in BJ's anymore. (Only half kidding.)

So, I told my family that for my sixtieth, I'm getting out of Dodge. An African safari seems appropriate. Maybe I'll get eaten by lions and complete the epic adventures of my milestone birthdays. If not, I'll have some cool photos to look at as I head toward seventy.

To be honest, having a perfectly pleasant, uneventful milestone birthday would be a waste for a writer. I mean, at least I haven't moved to Cuba and taken up drinking, but isn't suffering sort of the whole trajectory for a successful author?

Anyway, here's to another notch on the age belt and a forced moment of self-reflection. And no, damn it, I have no plans to retire anytime soon.

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

\*\*\*\*

**Editor's Note:** It only gets worse, the older you get ... and the more kids you have, which means more grands to fret and lie awake nights over. And then come the greats!

No matter how good the kids are as parents (or think they are), we fret about the grands, lie awake over the greats, and those parents who soon become grands go through the same thing, each generation, and it's a vicious cycle. My favorite sayings for the kids are: "Karma sucks!" "Paybacks are Hell!" ... and "Don't you forget it!"

Age never meant much to me, until AARP card time – however, it wasn't when *my* card came, but rather when one for my oldest daughter came to my address for some reason. I was aghast – I had a kid who was a senior citizen!? How could that be? I didn't even feel like one myself! Still don't, even after 80 plus years, and retirement doesn't give you all the free time "they" think it does. I'm busier now than I ever was working full-time, even with 6 kids and a hubby. *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>

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### **SPECIAL 10 JULY 2022 MEETING \* ANOTHER NCPA PERK FOR MEMBERS ONLY**

For our **10 July meeting**, we bring back the ever-popular **NCPA BOOK EXCHANGE**, previously held every December, until we started going to Black Angus for our Holiday Luncheon. Another NCPA perk, **\*ONLY\* CURRENT-PAID NCPA MEMBERS** are **welcome to bring your published books** to brag about, share, sell or barter with others. As many books as you want; set them on the tables at Denny's. **NO CHARGE**, only for food or drink purchases. Be sure to bring change for your book sales & be prepared to network & Schmooze

**Everyone is welcome to attend but ONLY NCPA MEMBERS may bring and sell their books.**

### **Déjà vu words from TV shows (Canada, Australia and BBC)**

**CHESTERFIELD**: on Ovation Channel ... 247 on my Direct TV's *Murdoch's Mysteries*

It's been a long time since I've heard this word, and many of the others, but you young whippersnappers most likely have never heard any of the words included in this piece except sofa or couch. If your writing covers a different era, or location, these might come in handy ... plus, it's an interesting article.

[Sofa, Couch or Divan?, by Joseph Pubillones | Creators Syndicate](#)

Also includes chesterfield, settee, davenport, loveseat, sectional and more ... all basically the same thing.

### **In the News: Medical**

[trichotillomania definition - Search \(bing.com\)](#) Amy Schumer

[aphasia definition - Search \(bing.com\)](#) Bruce Willis

[alopecia definition - Search \(bing.com\)](#) Jada Pinkett Smith

## We've started another NEW thing \* FOCUS ON A MEMBER: Newsletter Guest Journalists

Each month the NCPA newsletter will feature a guest journalist: could be a guest speaker; any member, or whomever is asked and they accept. Topics are journalist's choosing, including (at my request) information on that person, including a bio (short, or long – guest's choice) and self-promoting, including your books &/or your business/es; tell us what you're doing! Anything, writing or publishing related, including something short you've written: poetry, a story, a song, a contest – whatever you like, as long as it's family friendly, NON-religious and NON-political.

Editor has the option of accepting or rejecting anything submitted.

**If you'd like to be a newsletter guest journalist for an upcoming month, please contact me**  
**[normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)**

Guest Journalist this month (April 2022) is **Elaine Faber**, long-time NCPA member and cozy mystery author <https://mindcandymysteries.com>

NCPA member **Ron Javor** has volunteered to be our Guest Journalist in the May 2022 newsletter. Ron writes books especially for the underserved children, to help them overcome barriers [ronaldjavorbooks.com](http://ronaldjavorbooks.com)

**Roberta "Bert" Davis and Nacht**, her reforming feral cat-turned co-author in our NCPA Anthologies, will take charge of the June 2022 newsletter. There will surely be pictures galore. Oh, yeah – Bert 's also a cat rescue person, writes Sci-Fi and has a new book recently published that we'll hear about.  
 " Facebook/Dragonscriber

## **BENEFITS OF NCPA MEMBERSHIP**

- \* Informative [monthly meetings](#) to make you a better publisher and author
- Networking with knowledgeable peers
- Monthly [newsletter](#)
- Discounted entry in [NCPA book awards](#)
- Your [author/business information](#) on NCPA website

Discounted membership in [Independent Book Publishers Association](#) (only \$99 with NCPA member discount) and [Association of Publishers for Special Sales](#)

- Eligible to win [IBPA affiliate scholarship](#) for free registration to [Publishing University](#) with an additional \$500 stipend provided by NCPA to cover some of your travel costs
- Member library of lecture CDs and MP3 files of all sessions at IBPA Publishing University
- Use of [NCPA logo](#) at your website

Chance to have your work published FREE in NCPA [anthologies](#), plus make money selling the anthology to your customers.

- \* NEW: Focus on a Member: Be our NCPA Guest Journalist and use the newsletter as your own personal advertising space for one month – write whatever you want about yourself, your accomplishments, and your books &/or business/es. **[Helps with your writing platform!](#)**

## **COMING SOON** (I hope! Thank you all for your patience!)

By last name only, for space, in alpha-order, the following 30 NCPA Authors have a story in the

### **HOLIDAYS Vol 2 anthology:**

Alcalde-Marr \* Branco \* Camargo \* Canterbury \* Charles \* Covington-Morgan \* Darrow \* Davis \* Embree \* Faber \* Fite \* Fuller \* Furst \* Garner \* Griess \* Hamilton \* Irelan \* Javor \* Johnson \* Klide \* Radmanovich \* Roth (Buckroth) \* Schmitt \* Simmer \* Sims \* Thornton \* Vaughan \* Villa \* Whalen \* Young

**ELAINE FABER:**From ELAINE FABER: ([mindcandymysteries.com](http://mindcandymysteries.com))

Check out her website for more fun items like the one below – and more!

### **The Funny Query Letter Contest**

Writers hoping to acquire an agent to represent us and sell our manuscripts to famous publishers, must send the agency a 'query' letter to introduce our work. The 'query' letter should contain the following information: The general plot, the desired audience, explain why it would sell well, show our knowledge of spelling and punctuation, indicate the word count, and tell a bit about our qualifications as the writer.

Several years ago, a popular agency held a contest among its followers to see who could write the funniest, worst, query letter. The letter had to include the required information.

**I submitted the following query letter to the contest and won their contest with my letter.**

Dear Ms. Writer's Agent:

Since I won the 3rd grade spelling be and a composition contest in 7th grade, that why I'm qualified to be a writer and giving you the honor to be my first query letter. My book is about these two fat ladies who go on vacation ...at Saint Lucus Mortuary and Day Spa.. "We fix your hair - coming and going." Kind of a mystery romance janrah, and therefore, lots of fat women will read this kind of book, so that's how I know it would be well- received all around the world. Your publish company was recommended to me by my good friend, Lize Snotwittle, (my referral) who wrote you a query letter last year. You sent her a nice letter but you didn't publish her book. So I know you are a reputable agency what wouldn't do anything wrong. My novel is 47,567 words long, up to page 102. I haven't counted the words any further yet. Are you suppose to count "a" as a word the same as "zillionaire," which is what one of my heroines is? Should I quit my job and be a fulltime writer?.

Sincerely, Elaine Faber

**Even though the agency did not decide to represent me, I have successfully published nine cozy mystery/adventure novels.** If you enjoy a good mystery with lots of laughs, I hope you will consider purchasing one of the following on Amazon eBooks:

Mrs. Odboddy Hometown Patriot <http://tinyurl.com/hdbvzsv>

Mrs. Odboddy Undercover Courier <http://tinyurl.com/jn5bzbw>

Mrs. Odboddy And then there was a Tiger <http://tinyurl.com/yx72fcpx>

Currently working on the fourth Mrs. Odboddy adventure, to be published very, very soon! Keep watching!

**Elaine** obviously knows the importance of a good critique group, but many others don't, and do submit things such as she wrote above, possibly because they **don't know what they don't know** to get a Critique Group.

**If you don't have a Critique Group, check NCPA's critique group plans:**

- **Sharon Darrow has a non-fiction/memoir group on Zoom.** Meetings will be at 6pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. **Meeting ID is: 903 028 5813, If asked for a passcode, it's GFB61r**
- **Michelle Hamilton will start a fiction group later in the year, which will also be on Zoom.** There is no beginning date as yet.
- **Norma Jean Thornton waits until early 2023 to start a very basic, non-genre specific group, which will ONLY be in-person.**



## UPCOMING Conference Updates & OTHER EVENTS

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

**2022 SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE RESCHEDULED**  
 SFWC Registration — San Francisco Writers Conference ([sfwriters.org](https://sfwriters.org))  
 Same great conference \* New Dates **July 21-24** \* 2022 Hyatt Regency San Francisco

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**Erma Bombeck WRITERS' WORKSHOP rescheduled to October 20-22 2022**  
2022 Workshop University of Dayton, Ohio ([udayton.edu](https://udayton.edu))

### ***"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](https://www.ourlifestories.org).

For questions call the Hart Center: [916-808-5462](tel:916-808-5462) or email: [hartcwcwritersconference@yahoo.com](mailto:hartcwcwritersconference@yahoo.com)

Contact: Janeen Thorpe or Linda Thao E-mail: [hartcwcwritersconference@yahoo.com](mailto:hartcwcwritersconference@yahoo.com)

Many thanks to NCPA member Loy Holder for providing the above information.

**WORKING ON GENEALOGY? Doing family research? TRY;** California Genealogical Society in Oakland: click on: [California Ancestors](#)

### **GREAT THING FOR AUTHORS! I'D NEVER HEARD OF IT BEFORE!**

### **Sacramento Antiquarian Book Fair. (Mar) & Oct!**

Be sure to read it all, and click on the video from CSpan (March) - our own Cheryl Stapp is interviewed at the end, although it didn't cover the entire interview. Cheryl, why didn't you let me know this was coming up? This one (in March) was at the Scottish Rite Hall – **Oct probably will be, too – check on it and see**  
<http://www.sacbookfair.com/>

**Rio Linda CRAFT FAIR**  
**Sat 16 APRIL \* \$40 for 10x10 space**  
**Deadline to sign up 9 April 2022**  
[riolindaelvertacountryfaire.com](https://riolindaelvertacountryfaire.com)  
 for application & PayPal

**8th Annual Rio Linda Elverta Country Faire Sat 17 SEP**  
**\$40 for 10x10 space**  
**Deadline to sign up 9 September 2022**  
[riolindaelvertacountryfaire.com](https://riolindaelvertacountryfaire.com)  
 for application & PayPal

**Cap Crimes Killer Workshop Saturday 14 May** \* Virtual & In Person: Keynote: Gregg Hurwitz  
 NYT #1 Internationally Bestselling Author of 23 thrillers \* LOTS MORE GOOD STUFF \*  
<https://www.capitolcrimes.org/Workshop> \* members \$75, nonmembers \$90

## AUDIOBOOK COVERS USING CANVA

Sharon S. Darrow

Audiobooks are the fastest growing component of the industry, so when you finish publishing your paperback and ebook, don't stop until you've learned how to produce your audiobook and get it done. And remember, if your book is available through Amazon, you can get your audiobook done through [ACX](#). There is a pay-in-advance option, also a shared royalty option that doesn't cost a dime upfront.

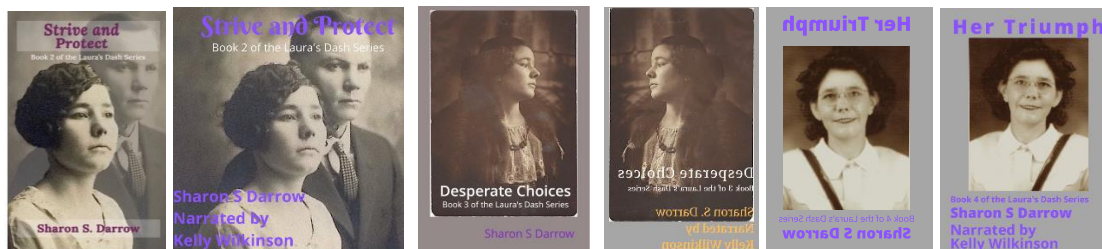
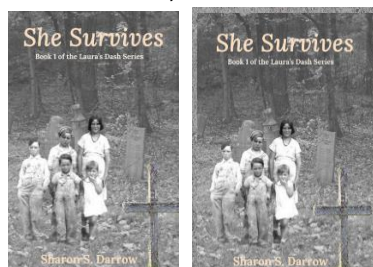
One of the challenges of doing your audiobook is that you have to create a new cover. You can't use the same one from your paperback or ebook, because the audiobook cover has to measure 12 inches X 12 inches, or 2400 pixels X 2400 pixels. And you can't cheat and just create a new background around your other cover because ACX won't accept it—in addition the audiobook cover has to feature the narrator's name as well as yours. You can pay a professional, or learn how to use a design program like [canva.com](#) to create your own artwork.

Here are the covers I created for my books, both kindle and audiobook, so you can see and compare. And I am obviously not a design expert. I paid professional cover designers to create my first two books, but did the last two because my designer moved out of state and bought an art store. I do own the photographs, though, so that made it easier.

ACX throws a few curves, like no vertical or horizontal lines that extend the whole length of the cover, and no text or vital picture components in the lower right hand corner triangle—they reserve that area of all covers for their promotional material. They do make submitting a cover pretty easy, and let you know if it is not acceptable and what you need to do to fix it.

I'm thrilled to announce that my historical fiction series, *Laura's Dash*, will soon be available in audiobooks. The first one, [She Survives](#), is finished and available through Amazon and Audible. The second one, [Strive and Protect](#) will be up within days. Books three and four, [Desperate Choices](#) and [Her Triumph](#), will be following shortly.

Book 1, She Survives



Book 2, Strive and Protect

Book 3, Desperate Choices

Book 4, Her Triumph

(Pictures may not be the exact size shown: edited to fit the space)

**Editor's note:** Elaine writes on the humorous side of things in her cozy mysteries. Come join her in the following humorous suggestion she's concocted for readers and authors who want to write cozies ... or other mystery stories. And for real help in writing mysteries – and others, if you've not done it yet, and missed the early bird price, sign-up now before it's too late, for:

**Cap Crimes Killer Workshop 14 May. Info below Elaine's story.**

**THE SURE-FIRE COZY MYSTERY TEMPLATE** (humor piece)

**Elaine Faber** [mindcandymysteries.com](http://mindcandymysteries.com)

Let's pretend for a minute, we're an author considering a new **cozy mystery series**. After careful analysis of numerous cozy mysteries, a certain template emerges.

Following this successful template, our story must begin with a **beautiful, blonde, female, sleuth**, about 30 years old, recently divorced with or without, a child. She must have a dog or a cat that doesn't solve crimes, but it helps. Her sweetheart, (who resists a committed relationship) is connected to **an inept police department**, which gives our sleuth access to official information usually withheld from the public. She must have a quirky friend, preferably of another race, gender, or combination there-of.

She also needs an unusual profession or hobby. The **best jobs or hobbies** have already been snagged by multiple other popular mystery series. These include book store owners, catering services, dog groomers, travel agents, writers, pet sitters, private detectives, cruise ship directors, bakeries, college professors, librarians, etc.

For any hope of a successful series, **she'll need a career that hasn't been done to death**, but gives her access to numerous murder victims and lots of suspects. In the end she must succumb to temptation, use terrible judgment to expose the killer, and at the last moment, be rescued by her boyfriend.

So, let's begin, using the cozy mystery template. Let's have our potential sleuth own a septic tank truck giving her access to plenty of overflowing back yards where she is able to spot various, nefarious 'going's-on'.

The lady septic tank pumper-outer and her quirky sidekick **find a body in the pump house**. Proceed to red herrings, misunderstandings, and dubious suspects. Sadly, all have alibis.

Toss in some plumbing trivia, stopped up toilets, (a humorous scene or two involving overflowing bathtubs, or embarrassing bathroom encounters) and move on to the climax where our heroine agrees to meet the local home and garden store plumbing salesman in a remote warehouse, but neglects to tell anyone where she's going. *This is a must-be-included situation.*

The killer/plumbing salesman strings her up to the rafters, because she's 'flushed him out.' Death is imminent. However, her dog (or cat, raccoon or gerbil), tracking her scent, leads her detective boyfriend to the warehouse, just in the nick of time, with a ring in his pocket, having finally realized his true commitment to her.

The **killer is apprehended**, every toilet is unstopped, and the heroine, her sweetheart, and the dog ride off into the sunset in her sewer truck.

Doesn't this sound like a sure-fire red-hot New York best seller cozy mystery? I actually started to write this story and got as far as the lady and the sewer truck. That's when an owl, a mountain lion, and a Native American Spirit Woman high-jacked the novel. But that's another story. ... Elaine Faber

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**Cap Crimes Killer Workshop Saturday 14 May** \* Virtual & In Person: Keynote: Gregg Hurwitz  
NYT #1 Internationally Bestselling Author of 23 thrillers \* LOTS MORE GOOD STUFF \*  
Check it out: <https://www.capitolcrimes.org/Workshop> \* members \$75, nonmembers \$90



**NCPA's 28<sup>th</sup> Book Awards Competition ended Thursday – 31 March 2022,**  
**with a very last, last-minute surprise of 7 Poetry Books from Four Way Books.**  
**Four Way Books** is an American nonprofit literary press located in New York City, New York,  
 which publishes poetry and short fiction by emerging and established writers.

We also have a first-time author we're very excited about, because she's only eight (8)!!

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NCPA's Christine L."Chrissi" Villa, guest speaker in May, will discuss how she worked with her eight-year-old goddaughter Katherine to write, illustrate, and publish her book.

\*\*\*

[how many words should be in a Picture book - Search \(bing.com\)](#) [lots of urls here, just click!](#)

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We wound up with an amazing number of entries,  
 considering we did very little promoting of the event this year.

### **Book Entries NCPA's 28<sup>th</sup> Book Awards Competition**

1. Rachel Sarah *Girl Warriors, how 25 Young Activists Are Saving the Earth* YA
2. Clark Casey *The Ruins of Rough and Ready* Fiction, General
3. Thomas Piekarski *Aurora California* Poetry
4. Yang Huang *My Good Son* Fiction, General
5. Barbara A. Barrett *Tomboy Fun* YA
6. Barbara A. Barrett *Tomboy Fun* Cover/Interior Design
7. Joan Merriam *A Cruel Oblivion*—Fiction, General-eBook
8. Sharon Darrow *Her Triumph* Fiction, Historical/Visionary
9. Carolyn Lee Arnold *Fifty First Dates After Fifty: A Memoir*-EBOOK NF, Memoir
10. Carolyn Lee Arnold *Fifty First Dates After Fifty: A Memoir* Non-Fiction, Memoir
11. Kimberly Reed Edwards *Sacramento Motorcycling, A Capital City Tradition* NF Gen
12. Kimberly Reed Edwards *Sacramento Motorcycling, A Capital City Tradition* Cov/Int
13. Donna Sager Cowan *With the Passion of a Pig* Children
14. Donna Sager Cowan *With the Passion of a Pig* Cover/Interior
15. Barbara Young *The Heart That Rocks Health Care* Non-Fiction
16. Barbara Young *The Heart That Rocks Health Care* Cover/Interior
17. Susan D. Powers *Special Shoes for My Little Feet* Children
18. Susan D. Powers *Special Shoes for My Little Feet* Cover/Interior
19. Shelle Renae *Reading Is Dumb* Children
20. Shelle Renae *Iggy & Izzy In the Garden* Children
21. Katherine Colleen Quisumbing *The Problem in the Sea* PB written by an 8-y-o
22. Marion Hughes (M.K. Hughes) *Government Cheese: A Memoir* EBOOK Memoir
23. Robert D. Kirvel *I Water and Other Convictions* Non-Fiction
24. Betsy Schwarzentraub *Tossed in Time, Steering by the Christian Seasons* NF
25. Betsy Schwarzentraub *Tossed in Time, Steering by the Christian Seasons* Cov/Int
26. Terry Tierney *Lucky Ride* Fiction, Historical
27. Abigail Wender *Reliquary* Poetry
28. Carlie Hoffman *This Alaska* Poetry
29. Rodney Terich Leonard *Sweetgum & Lightning* Poetry
30. Antonio de Jesus Lopez *Gentefication* Poetry
31. Rajiv Mohabir *Cutlish* Poetry
32. C. Dale Young *Promoteo* Poetry
33. Reginald Gibbons *Renditions* Poetry

**BOOK AWARDS BANQUET moved to **JUNE \*** Full information on our website: [norcalpa.org](http://norcalpa.org)**

**NCPA's 28<sup>th</sup> BOOK COMPETITION (for 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2021 Books)**

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

**More from ELAINE FABER. Guest Journalist for April 2022. on Pages 5. 8 & 10**

**Editor's Note: I added this from Elaine's Blog – she had a hard time talking about herself in here**

**Interview with Mildred Haggenbottom, Mrs. Odboddy's Best Friend**

Elaine's novel, **Mrs. Odboddy-Hometown Patriot**, a hysterical WWII fiction novel of suspicion and spies. Agnes fights WWII from the home front, while seeing conspiracies and Nazi spies around every corner. When Mrs. Roosevelt unexpectedly comes to town to attend a funeral, Agnes is called upon to prove she is, indeed, a hometown patriot. (Elaine Faber)



**Interview begins:**

I'm Mildred Haggenbottom, Agnes's best friend, and share the adventures with Agnes in **Elaine Faber's** first WWII novel, **Mrs. Odboddy-Hometown Patriot**.

Agnes and I have been friends for over twenty-five years. She's the cat's meow...as the young people say. How we met...? Let me see.

It was in 1918, during WWI. Agnes and I were United States' undercover agents, assigned a top-secret operation in Paris. We spent three days hiding in a bombed-out building with our handler, Godfrey Baumgarten. Believe me, after 72 hours in a life-or-death situation, you end up either hating someone's guts or friends for life. Godfrey and Agnes got quite close...too close, if you ask me... Missing from our lives for 25 years, he showed up in Newbury last week, looking for a million dollars in missing Hawaiian money and wanting to reignite his 'friendship' with Agnes. I don't think she's trying very hard to keep him at arm's length, if you know what I mean.

For the rest of the interview, **Go to Elaine's Blog** [mindcandymysteries.com](http://mindcandymysteries.com)

While you're there, read more of the fun stuff Elaine has written, as well as other things, and check out all of **Elaine's books** on Amazon: (below)

- **Black Cat's Legacy** Thumper pursues a cold case murder. <http://tinyurl.com/lrvevgm>
- **Black Cat and the Lethal Lawyer** Thumper goes to Texas and confronts an embezzling attorney. <http://tinyurl.com/q3qrgyu>
- **Black Cat and the Accidental Angel** Black Cat and his companion are left behind following an MVA... <http://tinyurl.com/y6vhncq>
- **Mrs. Odboddy-Hometown Patriot** Eccentric Mrs. Odboddy encounters Nazi spies and conspiracies on every hand. <http://tinyurl.com/hdbvzsv>
- **Mrs. Odboddy-Undercover Courier** Mr. O carries 'secret documents' by train to President Roosevelt. <http://tinyurl.com/jn5bzwb>
- **Mrs. Odboddy-And Then There was a Tiger** Falsely accused, Agnes seeks the missing war bond money. <https://tinyurl.com/v96qhuv>
- **All Things Cat** Twenty-one short stories about cats. <http://tinyurl.com/y9p9htaj>
- **The Spirit Woman of Lockleer Mountain** <http://tinyurl.com/y7rp7f3x>  
Is the woman seen in the woods the young woman missing following her motor vehicle accident, or is she the legendary Native American Spirit Woman sent to help the community?

\*\*\*\*\*

**YOU TOO CAN HAVE YOUR INFORMATION IN THE NEWSLETTER**  
Just sign up to be a Guest Journalist for a month – [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)

## 2019 NCPA Anthologies



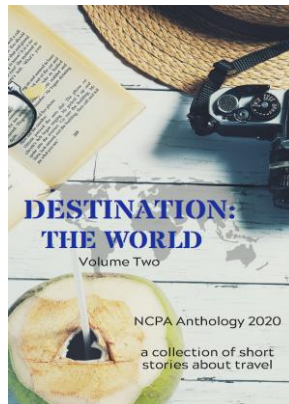
**BIRDS OF A FEATHER**  
An NCPA Anthology  
*A Collection of Short Stories about Animals*



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

## 2020 NCPA Anthologies

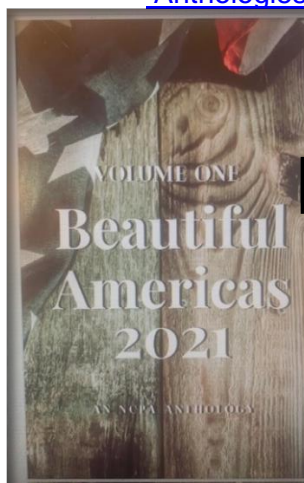


**ALL (five) 2019 & 2020 ANTHOLOGY BOOKS (above) AVAILABLE PAPER COPIES @ Cost for Authors) \$10 for others From Sharon Darrow:**

**Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com OR**

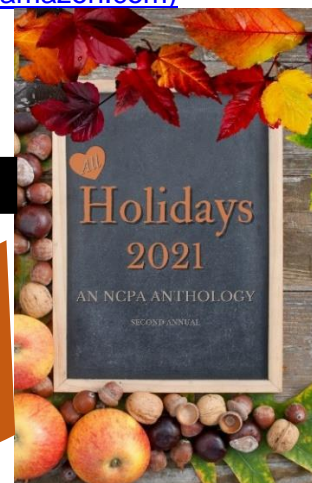
**NCPA Anthologies (5 book series) Ebook & Paperback**

**[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:** Michelle has the first 10 stories and all 14 poems that she's working on formatting for the ALL Holidays Vol 2 anthology. As soon as this newsletter is finished, I'll be starting the next group of 5 stories (there are 20 to go) to get them ready for Michelle to format. Hopefully in this stage of publishing, these next 20 don't give me any more problems than the first 10, plus the poems. **The main thing to remember, is 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. 5 out of 7's not bad! njt



**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:amy@AmyRogers.com) Web: [AmyRogers.com](http://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](mailto:jennifer@JenniferTheEditor.org) [www.JenniferTheEditor.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:chrissivilla@gmail.com) \* [www.Christinevilla.com](http://www.Christinevilla.com)

[www.purplecottoncandyarts.com/about.html](http://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](http://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](http://www.roaringcampgold.com) ~ 209-296-4100 ~ [info@roaringcampgold.com](mailto: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](http://grandoaksinn.com) 209 759-3453 or 209-759-3713 [grandoaks@inreach.com](mailto: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 CARD .....THE CENSUS RECORDS ARE GREAT, EVEN IF YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING ELSE

Go to [www.saclibrary.org](http://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](mailto: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**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sat monthly 1pm-3pm  
**Capitolcrimes.org** for more info  
**ZOOM MEETING FREE**

**Gold Country Writers meetings (FREE)**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wed 10am-12Noon each month  
[Goldcountrywriters.com](http://Goldcountrywriters.com) **CONTACT** for more information

**CWC meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat monthly 11am-1pm**  
**CWCSacramentowriters.org**

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

1<sup>st</sup> Fri each month Perko's 6215 Sunrise  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Holiday Luncheon - 2022**  
Email me: [NCPAAnthologyLuncheon@gmail.com](mailto:NCPAAnthologyLuncheon@gmail.com)

**FREE MEETINGS** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**



## 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](http://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](http://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](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 Margie

Yee Webb **[mywebb@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:debjulienne@gmail.com)** for RSVP information & directions

Debbie Putnam, President: **[DebbiePutnam.SVR@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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.**

## NCPA Board of Directors

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[authormlhamilton@gmail.com](mailto:authormlhamilton@gmail.com)

916-837-6812

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(916) 490-9850.

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916-991-5751

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Sharon Darrow

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### **Monthly Speaker Coordinator**

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

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### **Webmaster & Photographer**

Chrissi Villa

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<https://www.facebook.com/NORCALPA>

## norcalpa.org

### **Vice President**

Sharon Darrow

[Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com](mailto:Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com)

800-462-2328

### **Treasurer**

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

### **Social Media Director**

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[chrissivilla@gmail.com](mailto:chrissivilla@gmail.com)

### **FB & Promo Coordinator**

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### **Book Events Coordinator**

Andrea Roth w/a A.K. Buckroth

[Mydiabeticsoul@pacbell.net](mailto:Mydiabeticsoul@pacbell.net)

916-396-3414

### **Anthology 2019, 2020 & 2021**

Norma Jean Thornton: **Coordinator**

Michelle Hamilton: **Editor**

Bob Irelan: **Editor**

Norma Jean Thornton: **Proofreader**

Sharon Darrow: **Publisher**

[2021NCPAAnthology@gmail.com](mailto:2021NCPAAnthology@gmail.com)

### **Join our NCPA FB PAGE**

<https://www.facebook.com/NORCALPA>

**Sunday afternoon meetings with or without guest speakers now 2nd Sun of each month  
In Person 1pm-??? \* Denny's 3520 Auburn Blvd**

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

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA)

PO Box 214673 ~ Sacramento, CA 95821

Michelle Hamilton, President ~ 916-837-6812 \* Norma Jean Thornton, Editor ~ 916-991-5751  
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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](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 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](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 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