

www.norcalpa.org

The Pen & Press

Sun-15 **May 2022 MEETING CANCELED**

CONFLICT OF EVENTS: President & VP each has a booth at:
Words & Music Book Faire & Concert: flyer with full info on page 3 – Still room to rent a space \$20
 Sun 15 May - 10:30am-5pm @ the Chicks in Crisis Ranch 9455 E Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove

*

Starting 12 June 2022 NEW NCPA meeting location:

BROOKFIELDS Restaurant * 4343 Madison Av * Sac 95842 * (916-332-0108)

(A little dicey to find the entrance – on the north side of Madison Av just west of I-80 exit.)

If you're coming from the east, you'll turn into the parking lot on the right just past the I-80 exit. If coming from the west, you'll need to flip a U turn at the signal AFTER the I-80 exit signal and go back to Brookfields.

(If this is confusing, use your GPS to find it ... but once you do, it's worth it!)

GET YOUR \$30 TICKETS NOW FOR THE 28TH BOOK AWARDS BANQUET SUN 5 JUN

12 JUNE Meeting * NCPA member * Chrissi VILLA

(Moved from May meeting) ** 1pm -3:30pm * in person & ZOOM

Guest Speaker NCPA member & Author Christine 'Chrissi' Villa, writes books for children plus more
Chrissi has an article in the MAY newsletter & was our Featured Journalist in the March newsletter

GUEST JOURNALIST for May 2022 newsletter is NCPA member & author Ron Javor

Sunday 5 JUNE – 28th BOOK AWARDS BANQUET (for books pub'd 1 Jan 2021-31 Dec 2021)

ALSO: Anthology Risk Takers Awards & ALL Holidays Vol 2 Book LAUNCH

5pm-9pm Sun 5 June 2022

Cherry Island Golf Course, Elverta, CA **GET YOUR \$30 TICKETS NOW --- norcalpa.org**

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!)

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

JULY 10 Meeting * We bring back an oldie, but a goodie! (The ever-popular NCPA BOOK EXCHANGE)

Previously held every Dec, until we started going to Black Angus for our Holiday Luncheon.

Everyone is welcome to attend but 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 Brookfields'. NO CHARGE, only for food or drink purchases. Be sure to bring change for your book sales & be prepared to network & Schmooze

DEC 11 Meeting * WILL BE OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON * 12NOON * BLACK ANGUS

Get Your \$30 TICKETS NOW for NCPA's 28th Book Awards Banquet 5-9pm Sun 5 Jun Norcalpa.org
Problem getting tickets? Contact normathornton@yahoo.com or Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER
TO ATTEND THE BANQUET



NCPA MEMBER & have EVER won an NCPA
book award? Bring your books to sell!

President's Message

I'm gonna tell you a story about the amazing writing community we have the privilege to be part of here in the Sacramento Valley. I'm a transplant from the Bay Area, and despite having spent the largest portion of my life here in the Valley, I still feel like I'm visiting sometimes. People are always saying, "Remember this or that place?" and I'm forced to shrug and look blank.

However, I've always been in awe of the writing community here. The authors and writers I've met are genuine and welcoming, and have never failed to help out in a moment's notice. And there are some mighty fine authors living in Northern California. There is a rich and fertile history of excellence among our group.

All of this preamble leads me to my story. I have had the privilege to co-manage the Authors Booth at the State Fair for a number of years. I enjoy the Fair and I especially enjoy the two weeks spent with my fellow authors, eating beignet, sipping an-end-of-Fair margarita, or just discussing craft during the down moments. It's a short break from my regular life to immerse myself in writing. However, two years ago, the unthinkable happened. The Fair was canceled due to the pandemic.

As silly as this sounds, that moment, the cancellation of the Fair, was the moment I realized the pandemic was not some aberrant blip on my otherwise normal life—that moment was when I realized it would be a long time before things were normal again.

Since its opening in 1854, the Fair has only closed twice. Once during the years of 1917-18 and then during 2020-21. Although I can't confirm it in my research, the first closure coincides with the Spanish Influenza of 1918, and we know the cause of the recent closure.

In January, when we heard the Fair was making a return, I began calling and emailing to get the Authors Booth back on the list of attractions for this summer's Fair, but I kept getting vague answers and non-committals. This week I reached my frustration level with the lack of confirmation, so I wrote to the authors who have manned the booth in the past, explaining that I didn't know what more I could do.

The response was immediate. You all went to work, contacting people you knew associated with the Fair, offering me encouragement, or sending me information. By 2:00PM that afternoon, I had heard from the Fair, and by 9:00PM that night, I had signed a contract for our return.

I know this might seem like a minor thing when compared with everything that is happening in the world today, but for me, and I'm guessing for many of you, going to the Fair is one of the bellwethers that lets me know life is returning.

And more than that, I am in awe of our writing community. Being part of such a vibrant, welcoming group makes this San Francisco transplant feel like she's come home.

ML Hamilton

authormlhamilton.net

Editor's Note. Anyone besides me wonder why bellwether is missing an "a" in the "wether" part? I did a Google, just to be sure, and the reason is really interesting. You'll have to scroll to page 5 to find out why – either that, or Google it yourself. *njt*

WE'VE MOVED THE BOOK AWARDS BANQUET FORWARD to 5 JUNE 2022

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

SPECIAL Appears our **Holidays Anthology** books are expected to be there and will **LAUNCH** that night!

NEW DATE: Sun 5 JUNE 2022 * SAME TIME: 5-9pm * SAME PLACE: Cherry Island Golf Course

NCPA 28th Annual Book Awards * Anthology Risk Taker Awards * Banquet * Anthology Book Launch!

GET YOUR \$30 Buffet tickets NOW – by Credit on our website, Check in the mail, or Cash in person

(If you entered a BOOK, your buffet is included – If you have a story in the Anthology, the buffet is \$30)

RSVP DEADLINE: WED 1 JUNE – Full Chicken & Tri-Tip, OR Vegan, Buffet with all the trimmings

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

Why no May NCPA meeting – so go enjoy the day in Elk Grove, be entertained with words & music – if you have books to sell, rent a space for just \$20:

WORDS & MUSIC

A BOOK FAIRE & CONCERT

SUNDAY MAY 15, 2022
10:30 AM - 5:00 PM

at the
Chicks in Crisis Ranch
9455 E. Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove

Meet the entertainers:



Gary Mendoza
Blues and Boogie-Woogie
facebook.com/GMBBlues



Dinorah
Singer-Songwriter
dinorahmusic.com



Carly Rhoades
Country and Pop
carlyrhoades.com



Todd Morgan
Rock, Pop, Blues, Jazz
toddmorganmusic.com

-  Listen to an author's words, or find that perfect book
-  Be entertained by popular artists
-  Food and drinks available for purchase
-  Tickets are \$10 and go on sale March 15, 2022
-  Pay online at egweg.org/wm

Sponsored by:






Author registration starts March 15, 2022, at egweg.org/wm
 \$20 for table space. Bring your own table and chair(s). Share with a friend.
 The first few Authors signed up for a table can read during open mic sessions.
 If you have questions, email: Loyholder77@gmail.com or nannosecond@comcast.net

Another new section: YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW!

Brought about by **Elaine** Faber, our March Guest Speaker, who spoke on the subject, *You Don't Know What You Don't Know*, in Mar: **Send us something you just found out that you didn't know** – preferably writing, speaking or publishing-related, but other stuff ok also. Send it in and let me decide!

LOL - the **Ron Javor** list of ***"You Don't Know What You Don't Know"*** is on another page, and I love it!!

A second **UNPROOFED fun piece**, author unknown, shared by **GUEST JOURNALIST – Ron Javor**:

Most people could care less that people say **irregardless**. This misuse should have been nipped in the butt long ago. Maybe they are just escape goats for the broader problems of the decline of education, but even though I have been biting my time here, cringing at the next foe par while they get off scotch free, it's truly a mute point these days. Face it: it's a doggie dog world. I think I'll just go curl up in a feeble position. Ex cetera, ex cetera, ex cetera... (REMEMBER, this is an UNPROOFED fun piece, so yes, there are errors!)

IRREGARDLESS IS A WORD (responding to bottom of page 3)

The thing is, irregardless is actually an accepted word in the Merriam-Webster dictionary, and is considered an unintentional portmanteau—or combination of two partial words. Click the link for an extremely interesting explanation on both that, and why and how words actually make it into the dictionary.

[Merriam-Webster Includes "Irregardless" in Dictionary—But Why? \(thegreatcoursesdaily.com\)](https://thegreatcoursesdaily.com/merriam-webster-includes-irregardless-in-dictionary-but-why/)

AND, now you've also learned a new word – portmanteau. (And it's also a large trunk or suitcase!) Plus, a big YAY for those of us who use the word irregardless on a regular basis. Yes, I'm one, but I had checked on it a long time ago, and knew it was a word. Now we all know.

WHAT NCPA HAS DONE FOR ME – GUEST SPEAKER CHRISSI VILLA

It was in 2017, while I was one of the authors at the California State Fair Authors Booth, when I was very fortunate to meet Norma Jean Thornton and Sharon Darrow. Both of them invited me to join NCPA and enter my picture book in NCPA's book award contest. Little did I know that meeting them would open a whole new world for me.

Being among a fantastic bunch of like-minded people, I've grown into a better author and publisher. I've accumulated knowledge from fellow members and guest speakers by regularly attending monthly meetings. Whenever I have questions or doubts about myself, there has always been someone ready to listen and give advice. I've always come home fueled by new ideas and inspired to improve my work.

That's true! I just didn't have big dreams. I turned into a person propelled to take action. I've not only written and self-published more books, but I've also done several things I had never experienced before—entering my books in NCPA book awards contests, applying for (and receiving) an IBPA scholarship; accepting an invitation to become a guest speaker; contributing stories to NCPA anthologies; selling side by side with NCPA authors at book fairs; acting as photographer, website and social media director, book awards table decorator of NCPA. These, which turned into unexpected successes, have given me validation, confidence to share my skills, and encouragement to push harder.

Nearly five years as a member, more doors have also opened. Aside from writing and publishing my own books, I've been conducting workshops and offering publishing services to other aspiring authors. I've also been a guest speaker for NCPA and twice for CWC.

I cannot imagine accomplishing all these things without NCPA by my side. This precious group will always be my companion, inspiration, ally, and cheerleader in my writing journey. I am so grateful to all of you. Thank you so much!

Some Nifty URLs for Authors

HOW CAN I GET PUBLISHED? | PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/articles/how-can-i-get-published/>

Free Ingram Spark Book Design Book-Building Tool:

<https://www.ingramspark.com/design-a-book>

More Medical Terms in the News

[recurrent ventricular tachycardia - Search \(bing.com\)](#) Gilbert Gottfried

[myotonic dystrophy type ii - Search \(bing.com\)](#) Gilbert Gottfried

*

[POLISH WORD diedepiction meaning - Search \(bing.com\)](#) Guide to Polish Curse Words!! From anthology

*

For all you cat lovers out there: 5 Reasons why Cats are the Best Pets

https://www.123greetings.com/events/pet_day/reasons_why_cats_are_the_best_pets.html

Why bellwether is missing an “A” (I told you that you could Google it yourself!)<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bellwether>**Bio From Ron Javor's Anthologies (Guest Journalist for May)***Ron's a regular with the NCPA Anthologies and has a story in each, plus a poem in the 1st ALL Holidays*More information is available on his books at ronaldjavorbooks.com

Ronald Javor lives in Sacramento and spent his legal career assisting people with low incomes, disabilities and homelessness to access safe and affordable housing. Since “retirement”, Ron volunteers his time continuing the same work as well as advocating for environmental justice. He also continues his writing interspersed with travel abroad and camping.

Ron has written seven children's books on young people confronting and overcoming these barriers. Each book addresses negative stereotypes and shows that all children, despite their handicaps, have the same goals and desires. His recently-published Young Adult book, *Our Forever Home*, features Lonesome George, the extinct Galapagos tortoise, and Dodo, an extinct bird, exploring the past and present worlds of extinct animals now living in *Our Forever Home*, the effects of climate change, and what can be done about climate change to save today's animals, including humans.

8th Annual Rio Linda Elverta Country Faire Sat 17 SEP \$40 for 10x10 space**Deadline to sign up 9 September 2022**riolindaelvertacountryfaire.com for application & PayPal**UPCOMING Conference Updates**

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

Register online at conference.ngsgenealogy.org

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2022 SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE RESCHEDULEDSFWC Registration — San Francisco Writers Conference (sfwriters.org)

Same great conference * New Dates July 21-24 * 2022 Hyatt Regency San Francisco

*

Erma Bombeck WRITERS' WORKSHOP rescheduled to October 20-22 20222022 Workshop University of Dayton, Ohio (udayton.edu)

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**IN PERSON DEADLINE TO ENROLL: 10 May****Sun 5 JUNE 2022 * 5-9pm * Cherry Island Golf Course**

NCPA 28th Annual Book Awards * Anthology Risk Taker Awards * Banquet * Anthology Book Launch!
GET YOUR \$30 Buffet tickets NOW – by Credit on our website, Check in the mail, or Cash in person

(If you entered a BOOK, your buffet is included – If you have a story in the Anthology, the buffet is \$30)

RSVP DEADLINE: WED 1 JUNE – Full Chicken & Tri-Tip, OR Vegan, Buffet with all the trimmingsFull information can be found on our website at norcalpa.org

HOW TO WRITE GOOD (fun stuff)

Unknown Author, but shared by Ron Javor, our May Guest Journalist

1. Avoid Alliteration. Always
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. Avoid cliches like the plague. They're old hat
4. Comparisons are bad as cliches
5. Be more or less specific
6. One should never generalize
7. Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous
8. Who needs rhetorical questions?
9. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement

Note from Editor: By doing a Google, I found 50 Tips on How to Write Good (dailywritingtips.com) by Mark Nichol that includes all but one of the above 9 examples. Mark writes: *The contents of this post are an alphabetical arrangement of two lists that have been circulating among writers and editors for many years. In case you have missed out all this time, I'm sharing here the wit and wisdom of the late New York Times language maven William Safire & advertising executive & copywriter Frank LaPosta Visco.*

I pulled the following 10 more from that list, that pertained to anthologies and crit groups:

1. Always be sure to finish what
2. Don't never use no double negative.
3. Don't overuse exclamation marks!!
4. Don't repeat yourself, or say again what you have said before.
5. Don't use commas, that, are not, necessary.
6. If you reread your work, you can find on rereading a great deal of repetition can be avoided by rereading and editing.
7. No sentence fragments.
8. Poofread carefully to see if you any words out.
9. Use the apostrophe in it's proper place and omit it when its not needed.
10. Use youre spell chekker to avoid mispeling and to catch typograhpical errors.

BTW – you have no idea how hard it was to keep some of those typos in this piece. For once, spell-check/ auto-correct actually tried to do the job and make correct changes. Usually, it changes actual words to something I did NOT write, doesn't make sense, or is just plain gibberish!

NCPA APR N/L - NEW TOPIC Deja vu moment & trigger

We have another new topic: Deja Vu Moments & Triggers

My most recent one was 2 April, when I stepped out the door to let the dog out to go potty. I was instantly overwhelmed with a tantalizing smell of a weenie roast from the new neighbors across the street, and transported back to Austin Beach in the Highlands (Clearlake) the last week of May, 1958, to our "High School Senior Ditch Day ... and Weenie Roast".

I generally don't even like hot dogs, yet this aroma permeated not only my olfactory senses, but my entire memory ... taste buds, vision, auditory, and I remembered the entire event: who was there, even my "cutest boy in the world" (at that time at least), our bathing suits, what everyone did, and those weenies, BBQ'd positively perfect. Oh, to be 17 again!

Another Something new: NCPA GUEST JOURNALIST

This idea came about because there were so many things in the February newsletter that were submitted by Sharon Darrow. Granted, they were from a variety of stuff that she's working on, and each of great importance (book awards, membership, critique groups, etc.), but still, I didn't want it to appear as though we had a clique going and only a few could be included.

The truth is, over the years we've all (editors) tried a variety of ways to have members send things for the newsletter, but it's like pulling teeth, and nobody wants to do it. So, instead of asking for just one thing, now I'm asking for a lot – but this time, it's actually working!

Most likely because I point-blank asked the following individuals to do a specific month: March was **Chrissi** Villa, **Elaine** Faber took April, now **Ron** Javor has done May. **Danita** Moon is doing June, and I'm working on **Bert** Davis and a couple of others for Jul, but I'd love to have a whole list ready and waiting to go for the rest of the year. Instead of calling out specific individuals, I'm going to ask **ANYONE WHOSE LAST NAME STARTS WITH AN "A" "B" "C" "D" "E" "F" or "G"** (such as: Anson, Barrett, Charles, Davis, Embree, Fuller, Gillam) – or anyone, no matter what your name starts with - to **please contact me ASAP** to write for an upcoming month. normathornton@yahoo.com

An example of how easy it can be, fun writing-related stuff like the above *How to Write Good* by May Guest Journalist, **Ron Javor**, will work. Also, if you've received rejections on any of your book submissions, let us know how you dealt with the rejection, and felt, and if you had feedback on a story submitted to one or more of our NCPA anthologies, I'd like honest feelings on that also, especially if we had you make changes. Honest feelings to include if you were upset with me, others, or the process on anything we went through in the proofing and editing portions, and if you have suggestions as to what might have been handled differently – for both our anthology process, or any book rejection process by publishers, editors, or what have you.

That will help those who have a book rejected, or issues with the proofing/ editing process in our anthologies, to let them know they aren't alone, and it's ok to be upset, frustrated, confused or mad. It's normal to experience one or all of those feelings ... probably more, and will give me a chance to respond and go further into it, at least for the anthology portion.

Just please remember, family-friendly and nothing heavily political, religious, nor illegal. (We can negotiate on that very last one). If you're in doubt, send it and let me decide.

Other GUIDELINES for what to send in as Guest Journalist for NCPA newsletters:

- No plagiarism - if you want to send something word-for-word from someone else, either get an ok from them and give credit, or rewrite it so it works as your own.
- Writing/ publishing-related jokes, links to articles you've read, or have helped you, please include the name of whomever you got it from, if it pertains.
- Mostly writing or publishing-related preferably, but other stuff might also work - submit it and I'll make the decision.
- Anything you think might be of interest, or might help other authors or publishers.
- Any questions you have regarding writing or publishing – I probably can't answer those questions, but we can certainly put it out there for others to respond to.
- A story or poetry it you want – or a gripe about something we can all relate to.
- Send as much and as many as you want. It doesn't have to be a lot, but can be.
- Each thing submitted can be as long or as short as you want (A single sentence to 5 pages will be ok - I'll break it into smaller segments and use it for multiple months if necessary).
- If you aren't sure, send it anyway and I'll try to make it work.
- And most importantly – TOOT YOUR OWN HORN – send something about yourself ... your writing/ publishing accomplishments, awards, launches, both good and bad, what you're working on, having problems with, etc.

I can't think of anything else, but hopefully you'll be our Guest Journalist for an upcoming month, and I look forward to getting a response from at least a few of our members.

Twisted &/or Fun WORD Puns!

From our anthologies [what is Epomops](#)
- [Search \(bing.com\)](#)

Pending Death: When it really sunk in that I had no control over something and it brought tears:

Mom: "I'm dying."

Me: "I know mom and I'm so sorry, there's nothing I can do."

Just Because, and I like to share:

Two beautiful renditions of the same song – especially by Kelly. If you don't know the story of the song (I didn't; I just liked it), written by Don McLean, click here: [VINCENT \(STARRY STARRY NIGHT\) | Don McLean](#)

'Vincent' Starry Starry Night sung by Kelly Clarkson, then Josh Groban, click each below to listen to:

[Kelly Clarkson Covers 'Vincent' By Don McLean | Kellyoke - YouTube](#)

[Josh Groban - Bigger Than Us \(Live from Madison Square Garden\) - Bing video](#)

(My Reason for...) How I Started Writing Children's Books - Ron JAVOR – Guest Journalist

When I retired from full-time employment, I increased my efforts with homeless people and also became more of an advocate. When I went to meetings of organizations where members were seeking more information about homeless people and solutions, I usually brought a "fact sheet" I'd prepared. After the meetings, I generally was discouraged when I saw them left on tables. I also was discouraged often about the lack of desired responses.

A friend suggested I skip to younger people with a children's book about the travails of a family like any other except they were homeless. *Homer Finds a Home* was a small-scale hit and led to reading it in some grammar schools and other children's events. After that, other ideas seemed to rise from the depths, and I made the effort to learn the craft. With help from friends and organizations such as NCPA, I eventually wrote and published seven children's books all of which have mild sales.

Ideas Come from All Kinds of Places - Ron JAVOR – Guest Journalist

As COVID isolation started, an idea about extinctions and climate change which I tried to use for a short story but was rejected as "too serious" or "too preachy" continued to haunt me (this really was another type of story about homelessness).

With the new free time that social distancing required, I had time to research and write a full-length young adult book, *Our Forever Home*, about the place where the last of every animal species becoming extinct goes to live. Lonesome George, the now-extinct Galapagos Tortoise I met before he died when I visited the Galapagos, is given a tour of *Our Forever Home* to learn about what happened to the animals there, why they became extinct (usually directly or indirectly climate change), and what can be done as the sixth major extinction period has started on Earth as a result of human-caused climate change.

Editor's Note: I once told Ron one of his stories for an anthology was "too preachy" – could someone else have said it also? HMMMMMMMMMMMM.

Ron JAVOR – Guest Journalist

NOW ON AMAZON! "*Our Forever Home*". Join Lonesome George, the Galapagos Tortoise, and Dodo Bird as they meet other extinct animals including dinosaurs. They realize that humans are causing extinctions and climate change and try to figure out how to stop them.

NEW! "*Bailey's Path*" now is available from me and Amazon. Our seventh children's book, it's a story about a homeless dog and his partner dealing with adversity and finding "home".

Visit ronaldjavorbooks.com rjavor@earthlink.net

2019 NCPA Anthologies



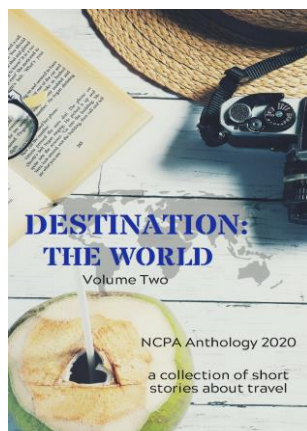
BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA Anthology
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals



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



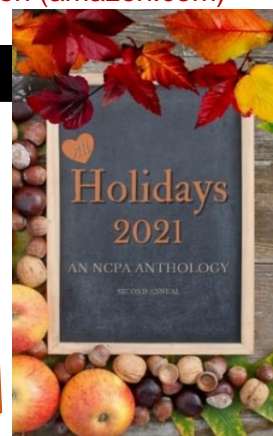
ALL (five) 2019 & 2020 ANTHOLOGY BOOKS (above) AVAILABLE

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)



COVERS FOR pending 2021 ANTHOLOGIES

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

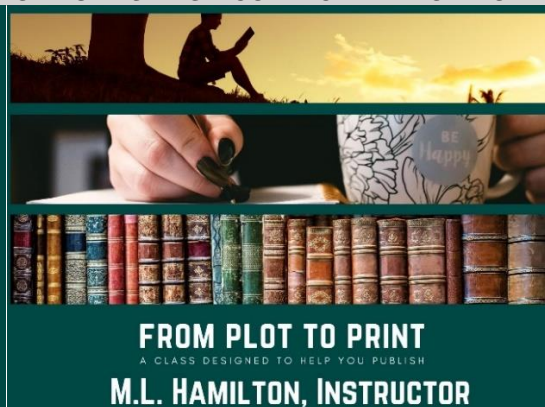


NCPA 2021 Anthologies update – ALL Holidays V-2 is now in the hands of Amazon and whichever mailing system they use! We've been quoted 16 May as the delivery date, so we can include an Anthology Launch during the 5 June 2022 Book Awards & Anthology Risk Takers Awards Banquet! (TICKETS \$30) We have a few spaces left for *Beautiful Americas*: If you haven't sent your story yet, please do so NOW. We'd love to have it ready in time for our Dec Holiday Luncheon. Please remember, NONE OF US ARE COMPENSATED OR REIMBURSED FOR ANY TIME &/or EFFORT SPENT ON ANY ANTHOLOGY, and there's no specific time set to publish any of them. njt

PUBLISH YOUR OWN BOOKS * FROM PLOT TO PRINT *
MICHELLE HAMILTON WILL START A CLASS SOON ON PUBLISHING – CONTACT HER FOR MORE INFO

WANT HELP FROM PLANNING TO PUBLISHING? THIS IS THE CLASS FOR YOU.

Contact ML Hamilton for more information.
 authormlhamilton@gmail.com
 authormlhamilton.net
 P.O. Box 2556
 Elk Grove, CA 95759



CONGRATULATIONS TO NCPA MEMBERS Chrissi Villa & Frankie Barerra:
Christine "Chrissi" L. Villa won 1st place in the Tanka Section (Linda Jeannette Ward Tanka Award)
 of The British Haiku Society Awards 2021 [BHS-Awards-2021-Results.pdf](#) (britishhaikusociety.org.uk)

F.M. BARERRA & CHRISTINE "Chrissi" L. VILLA WON AWARDS IN THE STORY MONSTERS APPROVED BOOK CONTEST:

program recognizes and honors authors in the field of children's literature whose books inspire, inform, teach, or entertain. Every book submitted is judged on its own merit and each book competes only with itself. Since kids assist industry experts in judging submissions, when a book earns the Story Monsters Seal of Approval, it means that children are recommending the book for other children to read, too!



Frankie's three books won in 2 categories: Cultural diversity and Environmental Issues. "Humo the Tortilla making Dragon" and "Mama Cheva and the Dragon's Egg" (a prequel to Humo) are bilingual but "Papalote the Butterfly Goddess" is more of a Spanglish mix with both languages intermixed. Available on Amazon under author F.M. Barrera. "A program showcasing 'books worth devouring. ---"

Chrissi is one of the winners in the Picture Book (ages 3-8) Fiction category Story. Her 8-year-old goddaughter, whose picture book was published under Chrissi's Purple Cotton Candy Arts, is also one of the winners, in the First-Time Authors category.

WHAT DID YOU DO? RON JAVOR – Guest Journalist

When I attend our NCPA events (or used to pre-COVID), my seatmate often asks what I did (I look old enough to be retired) and I answer: *“I spent over 45 years as an attorney writing and reviewing complex financial documents for affordable housing development.”*

That explanation is invariably followed by the question, “How is it that you are able to write such [good/interesting/motivational/etc.] children’s books and anthology short stories?”

My initial temptation is to offer the following sentence and ask whether the seatmate would feel fulfilled or even interested reading and writing the following sentence all day: *“Lessee warrants and represents to financing entity that, to the best of Lessee’s knowledge, Lessee’s leasehold interest in the Property is free and clear of all liens, encumbrances, covenants, easements, licenses, judgments, or other matters of record except those shown as affecting the leasehold interest as shown in the Report; Lessee has not required or permitted and has no knowledge of any other matters of record to be recorded that are not contained in the Report.”*

Instead, I explain that my job—although I’m fully dedicated to the mission—is only part of my life’s work I grew up in the 1960s exposed to and sensitive to the inequities plaguing many of those around me. While I marched and yelled (sometimes more), I also realized, pre-Internet, that communicating with words was a more effective means of expressing dismay and proposing viable options to what I saw around me.

In high school, I was the co-editor of the school newspaper (my “co” wrote the fluff stuff). At UCLA from 1963-68, I was a “student leader” and also wrote for the UCLA daily newspaper.

It bothered me that societal ills were not being addressed by our leaders, so I went to law school and learned to think, advocate, and write like a lawyer. Since 1977, I’ve advocated for “underdogs” and provided legal services to improve their lives. I even had a case that went to the U.S. Supreme Court and argued another case before the California Supreme Court.

Working with individual human beings and trying to resolve their issues remained important so I also volunteered all those years with organizations assisting homeless persons, many with various disabilities.

For my own sanity, I began keeping a diary which morphed into short stories about the narrow world around me. Not surprisingly, these stories were not well-written since I had no writing experience or training other than newspaper writing and almost universally dystopian extensions of what I saw around me.

“Creative” writing generally was limited to making the best legal arguments I could on behalf of losing causes or writing grant funding proposals to start or continue valuable programs. A friend suggested maybe it was time to forget about my generation and that of the Boomers and skip to younger people with a children’s book about the travails of a family like any other except they were homeless, so I wrote *Homer Finds a Home*. After that, other ideas seemed to rise from the depths, and I made the effort to learn the craft. With help from friends and organizations such as NCPA, so far, I’ve written and published seven children’s books, all of which have mild sales.

RON JAVOR – Guest Journalist

During the last several years, our NCPA leadership has challenged all of us to write and submit short stories for our anthologies. While I was originally skeptical that I could translate either my legal or children’s writing to that form, I made the effort. The “editing” by Norma Jean and Michelle went beyond mere corrections and were an education in and of themselves, helping me to improve my subsequent efforts. Their support and assistance were a primary reason for my receipt last year of the NCPA “Risk Taker Award.” I jokingly said that being “most improved” started with a very low bar, given my past writing experience, but their input and encouragement allowed me to take these risks with following stories as well. I encourage everyone to give it a try if you haven’t already!

I know the editors’ intentions for the anthologies are to seek and publish “feel-good” stories and dead bodies belong in the Capitol Crimes anthology. But popular movies and novels are coming out regularly with dystopian characters and plots. Would anyone else like to reach back to their earlier nightmares and do a dystopian anthology?

Editor’s Note: If you would be interested in submitting a story for a dystopian theme, please let us know. If enough interest, we’ll most definitely consider it for 2023 or 2024.

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

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

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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 & 3rd
Anthology Risk Taker
Awards BANQUET
5pm-9pm
Sun 5 JUNE 2022
Book Launch, also
ALL Holidays Vol 2
COVID RULES WILL APPLY**

***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.

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

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

**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**

➤ **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.

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Anthology 2019, 2020 & 2021

Norma Jean Thornton: **Coordinator**

Michelle Hamilton: **Editor**

Bob Irelan: **Editor**

Elaine Faber: **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-??? * NEW * BROOKFIELDS Restaurant 4343 Madison Av Sacramento, CA**

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)

PO Box 214673 ~ Sacramento, CA 95821

Michelle Hamilton, President ~ 916-837-6812 * Norma Jean Thornton, Editor ~ 916-991-5751
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Readers are free to print copies for noncommercial personal use, and NCPA members are welcome to print copies of the newsletter to share with friends, colleagues, and prospective members.

Other News, Announcements, and Comments

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

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