UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

**Thursday 11 JANUARY 2018**

**PANEL on the IMPORTANCE of CRITIQUE GROUPS**
Panel Members: Sharon Darrow, Amy Rogers & Norma Jean Thornton

**Denny’s** (in the Private back room)
3520 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento (Auburn Blvd @ Watt Av & I-80)
No-host food & beverage … it’s not mandatory to make a purchase

You might want to bring a light sweater

Get your book entries in NOW

**2018 Book Awards Banquet**
Sunday 22 April 2018
Cherry Island Golf Course, Elverta, CA

**2018 : 2ND Thursday Evening Regular Meetings * 6:30PM – 8:30PM**
8 February 2018 ~ Program Pending
12 April ~ Program Pending
10 May ~ Program Pending
14 June ~ Program Pending

**3RD Wednesday Lunchtime Meetings AT DENNY’S ~ NO GUEST SPEAKERS 12Noon-2pm**
17 January 2018
21 February
21 March
18 April
16 May
20 June

An Email will be sent a few days to a week prior to EACH WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME meeting, asking for an RSVP if you plan to attend. If we don’t receive the minimum amount required another Email will be sent, notifying that the meeting has been canceled. PLEASE SEND AN RSVP EMAIL to normatthornton@yahoo.com if you plan to attend this month’s NOON meeting. Thank you. It’s either this, or stop the Wed meetings completely.

Get your book entries in NOW
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Andrea Roth deserves all of our thanks for her work in setting up the library events. She arranged a total of five for this year, each one a Saturday. (Carmichael in August, Walnut Grove in Oct, Fair Oaks in Nov, No Highlands/Antelope and Sylvan in Dec.) One is scheduled in 2018 so far: Davis in January, thanks to the help of Vashek Cervinka

Everyone hopes that participation equals sales and great leads, but no one can make that guarantee. Success depends on turnout; however, we can improve the chances of success by doing our parts. Some of the things that can be done to make these library events more exciting and successful for everyone are:

1. We need a big NCPA poster and easel for display at events. This will be created in the next few weeks, so it should be available in January.
2. Andrea works directly with the libraries, but must work within their regulations and guidelines. We need to make sure she has whatever promotional materials she needs -- and that they will allow -- to promote each event to the max at each location.
3. Every single author who participates needs to do their best to get the word out to all their followers -- fans, friends, family, facebook friends, personal website followers, etc. -- prior to each event. If each writer could get at least two or three people out, that will make a huge difference. We all understand that marketing and self-promotion is key for all of us, and a huge challenge, but it is a necessity.

On December 7th the NCPA had a booth at the December Holiday Pop-Up event hosted by the California Capital Financial Development Corporation. Our booth was the only one featuring books among about 30 different vendors. We had three people manning the booth, but displayed books by about 20 different member writers. The sales were somewhat disappointing, but we were the back booth in the farthest room from the front. Location is always important, so we'll be more proactive on trying to make sure the location is better. However, we also met several authors interested in joining the group, as well as a couple who are interested in submitting books for our competition. That kind of outreach helps us all!

In the coming months we will continue with library events, but also want to set up other event opportunities at craft fairs, open air markets, local celebrations, etc. We will try to take part in as many as we can as long as we have members to man tables and/or booth and provide books for display. There are a couple of important points for participating in these types of events.

1. Anyone providing books for display has to limit the number of books to 3 per title, and limit the material to whatever can be tucked inside the books. There is no room for individual posters, flyers, cards etc., on the tables.
2. Anyone working the booth/table has to be knowledgeable about all the books and other writers, and a willingness to promote EVERYONE'S books, rather than just their own.
3. Anyone working the booth/table has to be ready to talk about the NCPA, and promote the benefits, meetings and events.

The goals for all of these events, both library and others, is to help our members with marketing and promotion of their books and our organization. We welcome suggestions and comments from all members about how we can do better.

Thank you all.
Sharon Darrow, NCPA President
NCPA Membership Chair ~ NCPA Book Awards Coordinator
916-803-1665 sharonsdarrow.com

norcalpa.org Vol XII ~ December 2017
Thursday 11 January NCPA meeting PANEL ON IMPORTANCE OF CRITIQUE GROUPS

There are numerous types Critique Groups around:

- from the simplest to the most complex
- once or twice a month to once a week or more
- from an hour or two, to all day
- from 2 or 3 members to a dozen or more
- meet in person or strictly online
- complete critique during the meeting or take home and return critiques the following meeting
- serious, to ready for publishing, or just for fun, and something to do

MUCH MORE:

- If you don’t belong to a critique group, for whatever reason, then this is the meeting for you ~
- If you do you belong to a critique group, this is still the meeting for you ~ you can assist and:
- Give comments, suggestions & encourage those who think they don’t need one, to join one!
- There’s always something new to learn ~ COME JOIN US 6:30pm 11 Jan SHARE, & LEARN MORE

Web Corner: Sites of Interest: Updates

Thanks to SCBWI, and dual NCPA member, Angelica Jackson for information on artwork:

Have you created your artwork in traditional/physical media and need it scanned? These stores have scanners that can convert your image to a file for your disc or flash drive.

- Walgreens http://photo.walgreens.com/store/welcome
- Costco https://www.costcophotocenter.com/Home

Interested in taking a writing class from prolific author Judy BLUME? Starting early 2018, she’ll be teaching a $90 course on the online education platform MasterClass.

In the 15-lesson class, appropriately named "Judy Blume Teaches Writing," Blume will teach how to create memorable characters, write dialogue, and transform personal experiences into compelling narratives through unique exercises, like drafting a personal letter to yourself in someone else’s voice. For more info go to:

http://www.instyle.com/reviews-coverage/books/judy-blume-writing-class

NCPA 4 hour Publishing Seminar UPDATE

NCPA 4 hour Publishing Seminar ~ Saturdays and Sundays are unavailable at Denny’s, and we’ve run into issues with other venues. We can, however, extend the hours and take over our scheduled 3rd Wednesday daytime meeting in May, June or Aug for the 4 hour Publishing Seminar.

Choice of hours would be 10am -2pm, 11am-3pm, 12N-4pm OR 1pm-5pm

Purchasing food or drink will not be necessary, but always appreciated by Denny’s.

If you’re interested in attending one of those weekday seminars please contact Sharon or me.

Former NCPA President, long-time owner of Willow Valley Press and Publisher for Kiyo Sato’s Saroyan Award-Winning book, Dandelion through the Crack, Barry Schoenborn, will teach the seminar.

Price pending, but will be between $10-$20. There will be great handouts.
BOOK REVIEW

NCPA AUTHORS’ MEMBER BOOK REVIEWS

THE HAN AGENT, Amy Rogers

NCPA Treasurer, and Webmaster, Amy Rogers wrote and published her 3rd science thriller novel, THE HAN AGENT, this fall and got two glowing reviews in the trade journals.

FOREWORD REVIEWS: "In the gripping thriller The Han Agent by Amy Rogers, World War II-era history, ultranationalism, and biological genocide intertwine…Rogers’s book is written with a sharp pen and a clear eye toward correct science. There is a lot to learn from it as a result…The Han Agent is a surefire genre hit, fast-paced and full of elements of mystery and adventure. Science fiction hounds in particular will dig the information about DNA sequencing, virus detection, and how plagues can spread."

MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW, Small Press Bookwatch: "A deftly crafted and truly riveting read from cover to cover, The Han Agent is a thrill ride of a novel that showcases author Amy Rogers' genuine literary flair for originality. Very highly recommended."

And from NCPA MEMBER RON JAVOR ronaldjavorbooks.com: Thanksgiving weekend, recovering from satiation and sitting in front of a warm fire. What a great time to read “The Han Agent”, the latest book by member Amy Rogers! It’s another techno-thriller, with science (well-explained), geopolitical intrigue in Japan, and a realistic threat of a world-wide pandemic. Amy’s characters are intelligent and depicted well, with another female protagonist, of course, and her descriptions of life inside and outside of laboratories enhance the plot. I couldn’t put it down once I started, except to add logs to the fire! Looking forward to the next one!

Book Review FROM Amy:
IN BORROWED HOUSES, Frances Fuller

Last year at the NCPA Book Awards banquet I bought some previous award winners from our on-site bookstore, among them member Frances Fuller’s IN BORROWED HOUSES: A true story of love and faith amidst war in Lebanon. Fuller’s book blew me away. It’s a beautifully written memoir of her life as a Christian publisher working in Lebanon during the civil war years of the 1980s. There is so much truth here. By viewing Lebanon and the war through Fuller’s eyes, readers will see the present-day Middle East wars in a new, more compassionate light. Real people with real families live through these wars. Fuller, having been one of them, describes the day-to-day complications of snipers and air raids. But bullets aren’t the focus of her book. The story here is community, connection, family, love, and grace. Fuller and her husband stayed, even when they had every reason to return to the US. Why? Read this book and you will understand—and admire this courageous, big-hearted woman. Amy Rogers

2 Book Reviews from Andrea Roth (w/a A.K. Buckroth)
THE GARDENER’S TALE, Catherine McGreevy,

“This book is wonderful! An absolutely delightful read. A page turner. Couldn’t wait to get home to read more! I look forward to reading other of Catherine McGreevy’s books. Awesome.

The Pen & Press, Northern California Publishers & Authors norcalpa.org Vol XII ~ December 2017
THE JEWELRY CASE, Catherine McGreevy

“Oh hohoho . Most enjoyable. I not only enjoyed the suspense and intrigue, but the kindness visualized in an old, vacant house, the thoughtful remembrance of a dead woman, the use of active teenagers, and don’t forget the shyness of two adults that is overcome. Highly recommended.” Andrea Roth (w/a A.K. Buckroth)

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW NCPA AUTHORS BY CHOOSING YOUR FAVORITE NCPA MEMBER’S BOOK, AND SEND YOUR REVIEW FOR AN UPCOMING NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING WRITER/ PUBLISHER/ BOOK SELLING EVENTS

NCPA member Andrea Roth has coordinated with NCPA to set up a series of FREE Book-selling events she’s titled “Authors Showcase ~ Meet the Authors!” and is working on more. The following library dates and locations are scheduled, but the logistics are still being worked out. Once Andrea knows how many authors there will be room for, she’ll let us know and we’ll start confirming your requests. Remember, it’s on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please be sure to provide your website address OR other address where your book(s) may be located, plus your Email address & phone number.

Scheduled Author Showcase events date & Library so far:

- **Saturday 20 January 2018 ~ 1pm-5:00pm ~ Stephens-Davis Branch, Yolo Library ~** 315 East 14th St, Davis, 95616
  Scheduled so far * Denise Lee Branco * A.K. Buckroth (Andrea Roth) * Vashek Cervinka * Sharon Darrow * * Elaine Faber * Robert Javor * Tom Kando * Catherine McGreevy * Judy Pierce * Norma Jean Thornton *

  - **Saturday 28 April 12Noon-2pm, Rancho Cordova**
  - **Saturday 12 May 2018 Elk Grove**

MORE TO COME as she gets more info ~ in the meantime, if you’re interested in being one of the authors, and/or would like your local library to be included in upcoming events, please contact: Andrea Roth (w/a Buckroth) 916-396-3414, or me: normathornton@yahoo.com

Andrea advertises with press releases to the Rio Vista Beacon * Sacmag.com * American Messenger * Around Here Magazine (includes readers through the Carmichael Times and Arden Arcade newspapers), and contacts * Nextdoor Neighbor * American Towns * plus adding to Facebook. .

**Reinforcing the mantra that we have to promote ourselves**, Andrea encourages everyone to do the same with their area media outlets, and suggests if an outlet requests a picture, use the poster/flyers that she will send you.

Thank you Andrea, for taking on this huge task for all NCPA members

AUTHOR SHOWCASE @ LIBRARIES ~ Andrea needs help getting Libraries

If you live close to one of the following libraries, or any that aren’t mentioned below, Andrea would appreciate if you’d make the initial contact about Saturday openings for booking our NCPA Authors Showcase, and give the information to Andrea to follow-up on: Arcade * Arden-Dimick * Belle Cooledge * Colonial Heights * Martin Luther King * North Natomas * Pocket Greenhaven * Rio Linda * South Natomas * Southgate * Valley Hi-North Laguna *

(We’ve already scheduled, or been to: Carmichael * Elk Grove * Fair Oaks * No Highlands-Antelope * Rancho Cordova * Sylvan Oaks * Walnut Grove * Yolo Library in Davis)
Norcalpa.org  Book Awards Banquet

NCPA Annual Book Awards Banquet Sunday 22 April 2018  Cherry Island Golf Course, Elverta CA

SAVE THE DATE  ~ MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

2018 Meetings 2nd Thu 6:30pm
11 Jan ~ PANEL ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CRITIQUE GROUPS
Sharon, Amy & Norma Jean
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SPEAKER INFO to come later on the following:
8 Feb
8 Mar
12 Apr

Sunday 22 Apr ~ BOOK AWARDS BANQUET ~ CHERRY ISLAND Golf Course
10 May
14 Jun
12 July
9 Aug
13 Sep
11 Oct
8 Nov
13 Dec

SCBW1 2018 Spring Spirit Conference
CANorthCentral@scbwi.org
Saturday 7 April 2018
Citrus Heights Community Center, C.H.
8am-4:30pm More info in Jan 2018

Humorwriters.org
Erma Bombeck Writers’ Workshop
5-7 April 2018
University of Dayton, Ohio
Erma’s Alma Mater

www.LeftCoastCrime.org/2018
“Crime on the Comstock” Left Coat Crime 2018
Reno, NV
23-25 March 2018
*

Bouchercon2020.org
World Mystery Convention Bouchercon is coming to Sacramento!
15-18 October 2020, and NCPA’s own Rae James is Chair of Bouchercon 2020 at the Sacramento Convention Center
Registration now open … Register by 31 Dec 2017 & Save $25 - $50

www.LeftCoastCrime.org/2018
“The Pen & Press, Northern California Publishers & Authors
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Received From one of our local sister writing organizations

UPDATE

OPEN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Placer Gold Writers Ink (PGWI) has released a Call for Submissions in search of exceptionally written Speculative Fiction short stories, for publication in our second anthology “Miner Detours”. These previously unpublished stories will be released in both quality paperback and all major e-book formats mid-2018.

Please visit Current Projects on website for more information www.PlacerGoldWritersINK.com

- **DATES:** NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINE 30 January 2018
- **GENRE:** Speculative Fiction (see brief description below)
- **REQUIREMENTS:** Our anthologies always follow a theme or common thread. This time:
  - Location must be set in California’s “Gold Country” -- in the past, present or future.
  - Use the word/concept of “gold” as some minor or major plot point.
    Note: “gold” does not have to refer to the precious metal!
- **WORD COUNT:** 2000 - 8000 words
- **ROYALTY:** $20 - $30 sliding scale – exclusive first English-language world publication rights for 1-year.

*SPECULATIVE FICTION*

“Speculative fiction is an umbrella genre encompassing narrative fiction with supernatural or futuristic elements. This includes the genres science fiction, fantasy, horror and supernatural fiction, as well as their combinations.” -Wikipedia

PGWI encourages the creative use and blending of genres. Action/adventure, romance, mystery, etc., are all acceptable in this project so long as your story fits into speculative fiction:

- Fantasy and anything magic including Modern or Ancient Myths, Tall Tales, and Folk Tales;
- Science Fiction, Technopunk, Steampunk, Urbanpunk, Superhero, and any advanced technology;
- Horror, Zombies, Shape-Shifters, and other Monsters;
- Alternate History, Utopia, Dystopia, Apocalyptic and Post-apocalyptic;
- Paranormal, exceptional or supernatural abilities, Psychic Phenomenon, Gods and Angels.

ABOUT PLACER GOLD PUBLISHING

Placer Gold Publishing is a boutique publisher located in California’s Sierra Gold Country. Our recent release, “Through Button Eyes: A Collection of Short Fiction” under the Placer Gold Writers Ink imprint, was selected from approximately 5000 national and international entries as one of the five medal finalists in the Anthology Division of the 2017 Next Generation Indie Book Awards (NGIBA) and achieved top ten Best Seller status on Amazon/Fiction/US Short Stories for a week during it's last paid promotion.

Contact: submission@PlacerGoldWritersINK.com for more detailed information.

Patrick Witz
David Loofbourrow
Editors, Placer Gold Writers Ink

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The Pen & Press, Northern California Publishers & Authors

V ol X II ~ December 2017

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, $20 non-members, includes lunch Rancho Cordova Cattlemen’s
- Writers Network 9-11am 1st Fri monthly Coco’s 7887 Madison Av @ Sunrise, Citrus Heights
  - Open to public, pay for your own breakfast  
  - 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

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

Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI)  
(California 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 … with our double-fun NCPA Emcee, (who’s also SCBWI’s Regional Advisor {RA}), Bitsy Kemper
  - Go to the website for full information:  
  - https://canorthcentral.scbwi.org/*
NCPA Board of Directors

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

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Evening meetings with guest speakers are the 2nd Thursday of each month
6:30pm to 8:30pm Denny’s 3520 Auburn Blvd

Daytime meetings with NO guest speakers are the 3rd Wednesday of each month
12Noon-2pm Denny’s 3520 Auburn Blvd

Meetings are always FREE ~ Visitors are always welcome.

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

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

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

A Note from the Editor
Send your articles and announcements to normathornton@yahoo.com

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

Please provide submissions in Microsoft Word (or compatible) format, or in plain text. NO PDF, 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.

**Deadline for 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.**

… Norma Jean Thornton, editor The Pen & Press