UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

**March Meeting:** Thursday 8 March 2018

**Frances Fuller**
American Woman Publishing in a Foreign Land

**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

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

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 normathornton@yahoo.com if you plan to attend this month’s NOON meeting. Thank you. It’s either this, or stop the Wed meetings completely.

**2018 * 2ND Thursday Evening Regular Meetings * 6:30PM – 8:30PM**

12 April ~ NO SPEAKER: State of NCPA, Housekeeping & getting ready for Awards Banquet
10 May ~ Angelica Jackson: Setting up a Website with WIX
14 June ~ Rae James: Writing a Series, How to Plot a Mystery * Bouchercon 2020
12 July ~ NO SPEAKER: Schmooze-time and Catch-up
  9 Aug ~ Jennifer Grainger: Ghostwriting

**3RD Wednesday Lunchtime Meetings AT DENNY’S ~ NO GUEST SPEAKERS**

21 March
18 April
16 May
20 June
NO MEETING IN JULY * FAIR TIME!

Get your **BANQUET TICKETS NOW**
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ~ Kinda

March is when we hold the annual election for new officers. It has been both a privilege and a joy to serve as your President for three years, but I will not be able to run again. So, if you would like to put your personal stamp on this wonderful organization, this is your chance. If you have questions about what it entails, feel free to contact me. **Yes, it is a serious commitment; however, I can tell you I’ve gotten far more out of it than I’ve put in.**

Sharon Darrow, NCPA President  
NCPA Membership Chair  
NCPA Book Awards Coordinator  
916-803-1665 [sharon@sharonsdarrow.com](mailto:sharon@sharonsdarrow.com)

Sharon needs a reprieve from her message this month, so she can finish working on the Book Awards among many other things, so the above, taken from her most recent post from NCPA, at her request, is her message. I’ll take over from there.  

Norma Jean

Yesterday (Tue 20 Feb) Sharon went to the post office and was overwhelmed with the amount of mail she had from the mess made when her Fulton Av post office closed July 2017 (Google it if you want to know why), and all PO Boxes were relocated to another Branch.

All had gone well until mid-January 2018, when they were given conflicting instructions regarding new boxes and keys. Unfortunately, the correct information went to the new boxes, but people hadn’t received keys, so didn’t know they had boxes OR keys, and since some mail was coming through, there was no reason to suspect that the biggest bulk was going to a new box they didn’t know they had, for almost a month. Sharon was not alone in this fiasco.

Unfortunately, yet fortunately for 5 Book Award entrants, since it was after the deadline to receive books, she got them all yesterday, when she was given her key for the new box. There were checks for book entries, several checks for memberships, many personal checks for her business, and 20 books from those 5 new book entries, among other stuff in the new box.

The good news is we now have 29 entries … we broke our previous record of 28! YAY!

The bad news is Sharon has a lot of extra work to do, and the Judges are going to get a lot of books after the date they should have been received.

**And now, to the annual elections for new officers coming up in March. We need someone to run for President, at least.** Sharon will still be available for any help needed, and the rest of the Board will help out all they can. The Presidency can be whatever the President wants it to be … as laid back, or as intense, as he or she wants to make it. Sharon does a lot.

Sharon will still do Membership. Amy Rogers has agreed to continue on as Treasurer and Webmaster, Tom Kando will continue as Secretary, Andrea Roth will continue with the Library events and I’ll (Norma Jean) keep doing what I’ve been doing all along as Communications Director, Newsletter, scheduling Guest Speakers (if we continue with them), and other events.

Sharon, Amy and I will also continue to handle the Awards Banquet. That basically just leaves the running of the meetings to the new President (3 hours a month), in whatever way he or she wants. In addition, any changes of day, time, and location is entirely up to the new Prez.

**If we don’t get someone to step up to be President, there will need to be a restructuring done to NCPA,** but it will still “be”, so we can continue with the Book Awards & Banquet, since we’re the only local writing organization that has that particular event for authors and publishers. It just won’t “be” like it has been, with monthly meetings, etc. We’re working on that right now, in case it’s what we need to do, including changing the By-Laws. Hopefully, we don’t have to. One thing we can do is guarantee that a new Prez will NOT be overworked.
Web Corner: Sites of Interest: Donor Info

Thanks to Prez Sharon Darrow for the following:

**Onelook.com**: More than just a dictionary – in fact, it links to many different dictionaries and shows phrases or words that include whatever you’re looking up

**www.craftmasternews.com**: For local listed events where you might sell your books.

Thanks to Treasurer Amy Rogers for the following:

**HARO**: Help a Reporter Out (do a Google for all it does … I couldn’t find an URL) … also, [http://www.radioguestlist.com/radio-talk-show-guests.html](http://www.radioguestlist.com/radio-talk-show-guests.html)

Returning NCPA member Frank Barrera has been awarded the IBPA Pub-U Scholarship for the 6-7 April 2018 Conference, but is unsure if he’ll be able to attend. If he does, he will also receive a $500 stipend from NCPA for expenses to attend the Conference, and will report on his experience during the 12 April NCPA meeting.

In addition to being an author, Frankie is a sculptor and an artist/illustrator. He was honored at the Elk Grove Fine Arts Center with a reception 6 January, “Houses of Spirit & Shadow” Featuring the Art of Frank Barrera. The show ran through 24 January.

Check out his amazing award-winning accomplishments: Children’s Books, Comic Books & Tarot Cards, sculptures, paintings & illustrations, plus enjoy his heart-warming whimsical blog at [talesofthebluewizard.com](http://talesofthebluewizard.com) Just click on each link. His artwork is fantastic!

### NCPA BOOK AWARDS BANQUET

Sunday 22 April 2018 * 5pm-9pm

Cherry Island Golf Course * 2360 Elverta Rd, Elverta, CA

All you can eat Buffet: Chicken, Tri-Tip, Vegan Pasta, Rice, Beans, Salad, Rolls & Cake

* Silent Auction proceeds to 916Ink, in memory of Ken, Laurie & Pam * Card Split * Onsite Bookstore * Poetry Read by Frances Kakugawa, Author & NCPA Poet Laureate * Guest Speaker: Sam Shane, Author and former Anchor CBS 13 & KCRA 3 * Emcee Bitsy Kemper, Author & all-round Great Gal! * And of course, our BOOK AWARDS ~ RECORD 29 BOOKS ENTERED * Plus MORE! * NO HOST BAR

$30 tickets on sale now, at norcalpa.org or NCPA * PO Box 214673 * Sacramento, CA * 95821

Mark Regular or Vegan (FYI: One dinner ticket included in each Book Award entry)

**Silent Auction Donations so far**: GOLF package, Cherry Island Golf Course * 1 night stay Grand Oaks Inn B&B in Clements + 2nd & 3rd nights half-price * 3 year NCPA Membership * Amy Rogers: Custom Author Website through Wix.com * Special Reading by Sharon (if you missed her on KFBK, now’s the time to find out what it’s all about) * Something from KFBK TBA soon * Waiting on some, and working on more … if you have anything to donate, please let me know; normathornton@yahoo.com

**AUTHOR SHOWCASE @ LIBRARIES**: Andrea needs help getting more 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 her 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) Andrea: mydiabeticsoul@pacbell.net
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 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. NCPA members and potential members (one-time only). Please be sure to provide website address OR other address where your book(s) may be located, plus your Email address and phone number.

**Upcoming Author Showcase Events Date & Library so far:**

If you're interested in being one of the authors, would like to join us for any upcoming Library Events, or would like your local library to be included in upcoming events, please contact: Andrea Roth (w/a A.K. Buckroth) 916-396-3414 or normathornton@yahoo.com

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

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 FB.

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**

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**Norcalpa.org Publishing Seminar UPDATE**

**NCPA 4 hour Publishing Seminar:** _YOUR CHOICE:_ 11am-3pm Wednesday 16 May 2018 or 11am-3pm Thursday 17 May 2018

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

We’ll start taking reservations sometime in March ~ We’re working on the Awards Banquet now

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, and is donating his services: proceeds go to the NCPA PROJECTS FUND

$10 Student * $20 Member * $30 Non-member
BOOK REVIEW

Recently, Sharon Darrow was being interviewed by local TV host, Pat Walsh on KFBK 1530am, on a totally unrelated subject, when he stated that he was mesmerized and hypnotized by her voice.

Sharon’s voice as an author is just as mesmerizing and hypnotizing, and it’s most evident in this First Volume, *She Survives*, in the Trilogy of *Laura’s Dash*.

Being a fellow author, and one of Sharon’s critique partners, I can guarantee that the two following volumes will be just as exciting and emotional as *She Survives*.

Even though I had been exposed to this story numerous times in its manuscript stages while critiquing, I thoroughly relished reading it in its entirety for the first time when she gave it to me for one final read.

I couldn’t put it down! Even though I pretty much knew what was coming next, it still grabbed me, and I’m never ceased to be amazed at how well Sharon puts her words together into such an emotional story that tugs at your heartstrings, makes you want to reach into the story and help poor Laura and her sisters and mother … and take her father and brother to the woodshed!
March Speaker
Frances Fuller: American Woman Publishing in a Foreign Land

Frances Fuller, through her writing and occasional public speaking, shares the human face of the Middle East.

For thirty years she lived in Jordan and Lebanon and traveled throughout the region as director of a Christian publishing program. Through her writing and occasional publish-speaking she usually tells stories, sharing the human face of the Middle East.

At the NCPA meeting on March 8 she will emphasize how being a woman affected her role as leader of an international institution in the Arab world in a time of war.

Frances is the author of *In Borrowed Houses, a true story of love and faith amidst war in Lebanon*, a memoir which has won numerous prizes.

She was married for 63 years to Wayne Fuller, who passed away in the month of June. She is the mother of two daughters and three sons, who grew up in the Middle East. At the end of her talk she will welcome questions.  

[www.inborrowedhouseslebanon.com](http://www.inborrowedhouseslebanon.com/)

12 April ~ NO SPEAKER: State of NCPA, Housekeeping & getting ready for Awards Banquet

- Sun 22 Apr ~ BOOK AWARDS BANQUET ~ CHERRY ISLAND Golf Course

  - 10 May: Angelica Jackson: Setting up a Website
  - **Wed 16 May ~ 11am-3pm** NCPA 4-hour PUBLISHING SEMINAR: Barry Schoenborn, Past Pres
    - OR
  - **Thu 17 May ~ 11am-3pm** NCPA 4-hour PUBLISHING SEMINAR: Barry Schoenborn, Past Pres
    (Seating will be limited to 10 each day. 1st come, 1st serve. Save your date today! We’ll start taking reservations in March, but you can send in a request now, if you’d like, to hold a spot)

  - 14 June ~ Rae James: Writing a Series, How to Plot a Mystery, & Bouchercon 2020
    - 12 July ~ NO SPEAKER: Schmooze-time and Catch-up
      - 9 Aug ~ Jennifer Grainger: Ghostwriting
  - 13 Sep ~ Sherry Joyce: What One Learns After Publishing 1st Book
  - 11 Oct ~ Eleanor Russell: Bringing Other Countries & Cultures to Life & Research Surprises
    - 8 Nov ~ Danna Wilberg:
  - SUNDAY 1 or 8 Dec 2nd Annual Holiday Luncheon, Black Angus : TENTATIVE dates
    - 13 Dec ~ NO Speaker: BOOK DISPLAY, Sell, Share & Schmooze
  - **19 Dec Wed Lunchtime meeting ** NEW** ~ NO Speaker, BOOK DISPLAY, Sell, Share & Schmooze during Wed meeting, also, but you must RSVP for this one.**
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 (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

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 their 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
12 Noon to 2pm Denny’s 3520 Auburn Blvd RSVP’s REQUIRED
Meetings are always FREE ~ Visitors are always welcome.

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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