

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

# The Pen & Press

Northern California  
publishers & authors

**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**

Get your  
BANQUET  
TICKETS  
**NOW**

An Email will be sent a few days to a week prior to EACH WEDNESDAY LUNCH 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](mailto: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 \* 2<sup>ND</sup> 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

### 3<sup>RD</sup> Wednesday Lunchtime Meetings AT DENNY'S ~ NO GUEST SPEAKERS

**21 March**

18 April

16 May

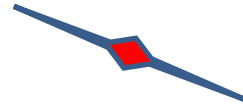
20 June

**NO MEETING IN JULY \* FAIR TIME!**

## 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.radioquestlist.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 **[talesofthebluwizard.com](http://talesofthebluwizard.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](http://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 + 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:mydiabeticsoul@pacbell.net)**

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

## Book Review

**NO BOOK REVIEWS THIS MONTH ... COME ON GUYS AND GALS ... WE'VE ALL READ A BOOK OR TWO IN OUR LIVES ... SURELY SOME ARE BY NCPA MEMBERS ... SEND IN THOSE REVIEWS!**

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

**COME MEET THE AUTHORS**

- **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**

### **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 Kiyoo 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**

[www.LeftCoastCrime.org/2018](http://www.LeftCoastCrime.org/2018)

“Crime on the Comstock” Left Coat Crime 2018

Reno, NV

**23-25 March 2018**

\*

[Bouchercon2020.org](http://Bouchercon2020.org)

World Mystery Convention Bouchercon is coming to Sacramento!

**15-18 October 2020**, NCPA's own Rae James is Chair of

**Bouchercon 2020** at the Sacramento Convention Center

**Registration now open**

[Humorwriters.org](http://Humorwriters.org)

Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop

**5-7 April 2018**

University of Dayton, Ohio

Erma's Alma Mater

[NCPA Publishing Seminar](http://NCPA Publishing Seminar)

**Wed 16 May 11am-3pm \* OR \***

**Thu 17 May 11am-3pm**

Denny's 3520 Auburn Blvd Sacto

Barry Schoenborn Past NCPA Prez

**NCPA**

**BOOK AWARDS**

**BANQUET**

**22 April 2018**

**SCBWI Conference**

[SCBWI 2018 Spring Spirit Conference](http://SCBWI 2018 Spring Spirit Conference)

[CANorthCentral@scbwi.org](mailto:CANorthCentral@scbwi.org)

**Saturday 7 April 2018**

Citrus Heights Community Center, C.H.

8am-4:30pm **More info in Dec 2017**

## **NCPA Celebrates 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & 24<sup>th</sup> Book Awards Banquet**

**5pm - 9pm Sunday 22 April 2018**

Cherry Island Golf Course

2360 Elverta Rd, Elverta CA

\$30 dinner tickets \* (One Dinner included with each Book Entry) now on sale at [norcalpa.org](http://norcalpa.org) or send your check to NCPA, PO Box 214673 ~ Sacramento, CA 95821 \* Be sure to mark if regular or Vegan

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

Actually, I do have a review ... for Sharon Darrow ... but the book hasn't been published yet; this is from my final critique last week, of the first volume of her Laura's Dash Trilogy, *She Survives*.

## **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

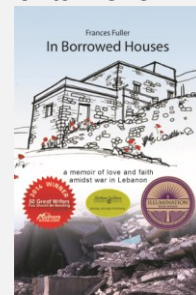
Frances Fuller, through her writing and occasional public speaking, shares the human face of the Middle East.

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 **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** of each month ~ 11am – 1pm  
\$15 members, \$20 non-members, includes lunch Rancho Cordova Cattlemen's
- Writers Network 9-11am 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

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**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 **3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

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**Sacramento Suburban Writers (SSW)**

- **Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

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**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

- **4<sup>th</sup> 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**

\*

**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**

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

### **President**

Sharon Darrow  
Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com  
800-462-2328

### **Secretary**

Tom Kando  
Kandotom@csus.edu  
916-852-0253

### **Communications Director**

Norma Jean Thornton normathornton@yahoo.com  
916-991-5751

### **Immediate Past President**

Dennis Potter  
dennispotter56@aol.com  
916-253-758

### **Membership Chair**

Sharon Darrow  
Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com  
800-462-2328

### **Awards Banquet Chair**

Norma Thornton  
[normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)  
916-991-5751

### **Newsletter Editor:**

Norma Thornton  
[normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)  
916-991-5751

### **Vice President**

June Azevedo  
june@azevedoprintanddesign.com

### **Treasurer**

Amy Rogers  
Amy@ScienceThrillersMedia.com  
916-469-7695

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

### **Book Events Coordinator**

Andrea Roth w/a A.K. Buckroth  
Mydiabeticsoul@pacbell.net  
916-396-3414

### **Speakers Bureau Chair**

### **Scholarship Director**

June Azevedo  
june@azevedoprintanddesign

### **Webmaster**

Amy Rogers  
Amy@ScienceThrillersMedia.com  
916-469-7695 ...

**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.**

Mailing Address

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA)

PO Box 214673 ~ Sacramento, CA 95821

Sharon Darrow, President ~ 916-803-1665

Norma Jean Thornton, Editor ~ 916-991-5751

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



February 2018

*The Pen & Press* is published by Northern California Publishers & Authors, a coalition of authors, small presses, and independent publishers. All newsletter content, unless otherwise attributed, is copyrighted by NCPA.

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

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

### **Other News, Announcements, and Comments**

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

### **A Note from the Editor**

Send your articles and announcements to [normathornton@yahoo.com](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**, 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.

**Deadline for 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.

... *Norma Jean Thornton*, editor *The Pen & Press*