

July 2019

www.norcalpa.org

The Pen & Press

Thursday * 8 August 2019 * 6:30pm–9pm

Amy Rogers

Working with Amazon ~ if time, Amy will also touch on Marketing in general

Friends, Family, non-members welcome ~ FREE MEETING FOR ALL

Denny's (in the Private back room)

3520 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento (Auburn Blvd @ Watt Av & I-80)

No-host food &/or beverage

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS ~*~ You might want to bring a light sweater

2019 GUEST SPEAKERS 2nd Thursday each month 6:30pm-9pm

- 11 Sep * **No Guest Speaker** * Birds of a Feather there hopefully * discuss 2nd Anthology * More chit chat
- 8 Aug * **Amy Rogers** ~ working w/Amazon & if time, touch on Marketing in general
- 12 Sep * **Frances Kakugawa** ~ Catching up with her wild & crazy ride to writing, publishing, speaking & more
- 10 Oct * **Al Gonzalez** ~ Working with YouTube & Make Videos to promote Authors
- 14 Nov * **Lit-Agent Jennifer Chen Tran** ~ What an Agent looks for; if time allows, a few pitches for books
- 12 Dec * **No Speaker** ~ **ANNUAL BOOK DISPLAY** * Bring your books to sell, barter, share or whatever

RSVP needed for each Wednesday norcalpa.org ~ Same Denny's ~ 12Noon - 2pm

Wednesday July * No July Wednesday Meeting * Fair-Time!

- Wed 15 Aug * No Speaker * just chit chat & other fun &/or informative, but mundane writing stuff
- Wed 18 Sep * No Speaker * just chit chat & other fun &/or informative, but mundane writing stuff
- Wed 16 Oct * No Speaker * just chit chat & other fun &/or informative, but mundane writing stuff
- Wed 20 Nov * No Speaker * just chit chat & other fun &/or informative, but mundane writing stuff
- Wed 18 Dec * No Speaker * just chit chat & other fun &/or informative, but mundane writing stuff

NCPA's 3rd Annual Holiday Luncheon * Sun 1 Dec 2019 * Black Angus

Sun 1 Dec 2019

3rd Annual NCPA Holiday Lunch 12Noon -?? ~ back at Black Angus again ~

Everything's the same as the previous 2 years: order what you want; purchase off the menu that day

No group bill for one of us to try to figure out what everyone owes:

You're given your own bill and you pay Black Angus as you normally would when going out to lunch.

* **SAVE THE DATE** * 12 Noon * Sun 1 Dec 2019 *

President's Message

This month marks a milestone in my tenure as NCPA president. We've finally published the third NCPA Anthology, this one focused on animal stories. We've learned so much about publishing an anthology, but what is most exciting is bringing so many different authors together in one book.

The stories are all diverse from true life adventures to fictional tales that spark the imagination. So are the voices. We have first person, third person and even stories told from the animal's point of view. I truly feel there's something for everyone in the pages of this book.

Our relationship with animals is complicated and diverse like the stories themselves. Not everyone may share his or her home with an animal companion, but we all have animal stories, tales about how animals have impacted our lives in some way.

Just as animals play an integral role in our lives, so does the act of storytelling. From the first time a wild wolf stepped into the firelight, we have shared stories with our fellow humans. We have communicated life lessons through the telling of tales. We have taught future generations to respect and honor this green ball we float about on.

I feel honored to be among so many other storytellers in this anthology, to have my words preserved for future generations to read. My story, in particular, is about my beloved Golden Retriever, Cricket. Cricket died a year ago and not a day goes by that I don't think of her, but now, through storytelling, Cricket's legacy has new life and can never be erased.

We are planning another anthology for later this year. I hope that all of you will take this opportunity to engrave your place in the annals of human expression and submit a story. Take this opportunity to become a part of the most human trait of all -- telling your story to future storytellers themselves.

Michelle Hamilton, President NCPA

#1 **REGARDING CRICKET** * (Short excerpt from President Michelle's story in the Anthology)

Karen and I have a good-natured rivalry about our dogs. It was present in obedience and it's present now. We each want our dogs to be the star, to outshine the other just that little amount. We tease each other about cheating and practicing behind the other's back. But now it just isn't fair. We both know who is master here.

Chance looks like an agility dog. He bounces between the weave poles with vigor and purpose. He tears through the tunnel and comes out, ready to take the next obstacle. And when he slams into that tire and sends it dancing on its chains, you feel the power in the pit of your stomach. He is out there to compete. He is out there to win. And each time he strings together the ridiculously complicated tasks, Karen turns to me and smirks.

Imagine Lance Armstrong racing a toddler on a tricycle. That is Cricket and I. Cricket takes the weave poles as if she's afraid she might chip her manicure. When she makes it to the other side, she pauses to look around and see if everyone is adoring her flowing golden coat. When she goes through the tunnel, she pops out and waits for someone to bring her her reward.

#2 **LIZARD LOVE** * (Short excerpt from VP Sharon Darrow's story in the Anthology)

My daughter is an addict. It hurts to admit that, but it's true. There's no cure for her addiction, no twelve-step program, and no medication that can wean her off her habit. That's right, this beautiful, intelligent woman has succumbed to the siren song of LLS, Lizard Love Syndrome. Many specialists insist that LLS is nothing but a gateway to the dreaded RCD, Reptile Collectors Disease.

Never heard of RCD? Just imagine a house filled with reptiles of every imaginable type, together with live insects and rodents for food. Then imagine life with every minute and every dime devoted to nothing but the reptiles. In its final stages, the RCD sufferer can often be found haunting street corners begging for greens, worms, or crickets.

We, her twin teenage sons and I, watch her like a hawk for signs that she's headed in that direction.

UPCOMING Non-Library BOOK EVENTS * contact ANDREA

- Aug 2019 Carmichael Founder's Day Celebration PENDING
- 8 December 2019 Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church Craft Fair PENDING
- 14 December 2019 "Christmas at the Castle" Preston Castle Holiday Bazaar PENDING

Contact Andrea ... **916-396-3414** * mydiabeticsoul@gmail.com * **#buckroth** ... to sign up for any or all of the above dates.
Some are space-sensitive, and all are on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Andrea K. Roth (aka: A. K. Buckroth) ~ NCPA Book Event Coordinator

MORE UPCOMING Non-Library BOOK EVENTS * Do NOT contact Andrea

- **Saturday 21 September 2019 8am-4pm** * 7th Annual Rio Linda/Elverta Country Faire
\$35 per 10'x10' booth. Contact Cheryl Cook rlvendors@yahoo.com
- **Saturday 12 October 2019 10 am-4 pm** * **Great Valley Bookfest** * The Promenade Shops at Orchard Valley, AKA: Bass Pro Center, Hwy. 120 at the Union Road Exit, 280 Lifestyle Road, Manteca, CA. "**Featured Author Applications**" available at www.greatvalleybooksfest.org.

#3 UNGLE EXPEDITION * (Short excerpt from Treasurer Amy Rogers' story in the Anthology)

*I knew I wasn't in Sacramento any more when the tarantula marched across the dining table.
Don't kid yourself—this wasn't because we don't have tarantulas in Northern California. We do. Never seen one? Head to the Sierra foothills in October and take a look around after dusk, when spider love is in the air. Male tarantulas in significant numbers emerge from their lairs in search of eight-legged beauties.
But I digress. With this tarantula, I knew I was far from home and among a different sort of people when my fellow diners squealed with delight.*

#4 THE RED FOX & THE GREAT HORNED OWL * (Short excerpt from Secretary Charlene Johnson's story in the Anthology)

*"I'm going to get you some help."
The owl responded by emitting another wavering cry.
Dex Brooks strode around the fallen tree and removed a pile of leaves away from the base of his tree to uncover a small duffle bag. He opened it and took out a tee shirt, a pair of jeans, socks and a pair of tennis shoes. He dressed quickly, picked up the duffle bag and returned to the owl. He took a tea towel he always carried with him and wrapped the wound as best as he could. When he was through, he gently picked her up and placed her in the bag, leaving it open for her to breathe. He cradled the bag in his arms, not wanting to jostle her around and risk hurting her further. He headed south through the forest to where he left his truck at a campground parking lot a mile away.*

Sacramento Music Circus is celebrating its **69th** year ~ Both **SHREK the Musical**, and **OKLAHOMA!** were outstanding productions ~ I've never heard of the next one, **The Drowsy Chaperone**, but looking forward to it.
916-557-1198 Or go to: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/tessitura-template/>

EASY WAY To RSVP discounted parking tickets (\$7.50 this year) go to: <https://reserve.sacpark.org/>

(Only takes about 5 minutes to RSVP your parking tickets for Music Circus this way)

The Drowsy Chaperone 9-14 July * GUYS & DOLLS 23-28 Jul * The WIZ 6-11 Aug * In the Heights 20-25 Aug

#5 SO CLOSE AND YET SO FAR * (Short excerpt from Newsletter Editor Norma Jean Thornton's story in the Anthology)

*The grinding, squeaky noises from our heavy black-wrought-iron gate as it creaked across my concrete driveway while sliding open, couldn't mask a pathetic meow coming from across the street. I stopped pushing the gate, and listened ...
There it was ... a soft "meow". ~*~*~* I meowed back.
An indignant "%\$\$%MEOW!!#@##\$" response. ~*~*~* I called "Severus!"
Suddenly multiple meows, each one more urgent: **Meow!MEow!!!MEOW!!!MEOW!!!!***

50th Anniversary Southern California Genealogy JAMBOREE
FREE Live & Streaming through 31 July 2019 ~ Check it out!
<http://genealogyjamboree.com/>

Genealogy Presentations at Central Library 2019
Please note: New time is 10:00 am – 11:30 am

- July 14: (Topic to be Announced) – Gena Philibert-Ortega
August 11: Southern States Research -- Kathryn Marshall, PhD
Sept 8: Picture This: Cataloging Digital Family Photographs -- Nancy Loe
October 6: What GEDmatch Can Do for the Genealogist's DNA Research – James Baker, PhD
November 3: Jewish Genealogy: How Is This Research Different from Other Research? – Janice Sellers
December 1: (Topic to be Announced) -- Deborah Sweeney

All lectures are on Sundays, 10:00 – 11:30 am, in the West Meeting Room on the 1st floor. Please note the new time! Since these programs are being held before the library is open, please enter the building through the Old Foyer (the door east of the main entrance on I Street). This entrance has steps, so contact bdaugherty@saclibrary.org if you need a more accessible entrance.

There is no registration. For information, please contact Beth Daugherty, Librarian, at bdaugherty@saclibrary.org Sacramento Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, Phone: 916-264-2920. Website: <http://www.saclibrary.org>

#6 THE MEMORY TREE * (Short excerpt from Webmaster / Social Media Director Chrissi Villa's story in the Anthology)

This children's story was originally intended for a picture book...Since pictures are not allowed to be included here, please imagine the two main characters as squirrels.

The two friends huddled together as they pushed their way through the snow.

That night Susie sadly watched the snowflakes fall. She was worried that her treasure box was gone. When will the snowflakes stop falling? What if she never found her treasure box? Will she forget all her happy memories?

Susie poured out all her worries to Mom.

"Just close your eyes, Susie," Mom said. "Your treasure box is right inside your heart. You'll never forget the memories."

#7 SUNDAY SUNDAY * (Short excerpt from Book Events Coordinator Andrea w/a A.K. Buckroth's story in the Anthology)

*Finally, back at home and hurriedly placing the groceries inside the entryway, she could hear the birds screaming!
All of them!*

Standing in the garage doorway, her husband was turning around and around, comically, with a butterfly net in one hand trying to coax the white cockatiel off the garage door cables.

The bird cried loudly causing the others to participate. It haphazardly flew from one cable to the other, atop storage boxes, down to the floor, then up to a cable again

#8 FROM 1 TO 110 AS QUICK AS A BUNNY * (Short excerpt from Julie Byer's story in the Anthology)

One day I came home from work to find all twelve of Bob's rabbits out of their cages. A special needs boy in the neighborhood had released all of Bob's bunnies. I caught ten of the rabbits, recovered the body of one rabbit killed in a neighbor's yard by their dog, and searched fruitlessly for the 12th rabbit.

That night I called Bunny Bob to explain the situation and plan for the future of his rabbits. The missing rabbit was returned by neighbors a week later after news of the incident spread. So, let me tell you all you need to know about rabbit husbandry and quick bunnies. A month later, Bob's eleven remaining bunnies became 32 when all seven of his does gave birth.

#9 GREGORY (Guinea Pig) * (Short excerpt from Dorothy Rice's story in the Anthology)

Rose captured Gregory and held him close, his nose just beneath her chin. "It's okay, little one. I know you didn't mean it." She smoothed Gregory's fur until his frantic chattering became a guttural, trilling sound. When she returned him to the cage Gregory crossed to the fence that separated him from Harold. The two pigs sidled close to one another so that the lengths of their bodies touched through the wire mesh. Harold fluffed out his hair and cooed. Gregory responded with his throaty trill. "See, they love each other," she said, more to herself than to me. "Gregory just gets scared."

#10 OH, THAT STRAWBERRY ROAN * (Short excerpt from Judith Vaughan's story in the Anthology)

"A pink pony!" I said. I studied this creature that was unlike any horse I'd ever seen. Nothing on the ramshackle farm was as fine. "Yes," Daddy said. "This is Babe. She's a strawberry roan, a very rare color. If you can ride her, Sandy, I'll buy her for you." Babe glowed in the afternoon light. Daddy placed my hand on the horse as an introduction for both of us. She was warm and smelled of molasses. I stroked her shining purplish-pink shoulder. The little mare was just my size. I'd be able to saddle her myself. I traced the outline of the white blaze on her face. Her eyes were brown and calm. I curled my fingers into a mane as wavy as my hair. She lowered her head and rubbed it up and down my ribs. I held her neck to catch my balance. I laughed. She liked me

#11 A LITTLE SUGAR AND SOME TLC * (Short excerpt from Danna Wilberg's story in the Anthology)

Sugar is very smart. When she wants breakfast, she claws the carpet in the doorway to my bedroom. At exactly 7:00 PM, she appears out of nowhere, demanding her dinner. She will flop down at my feet, herd me through the house like a sheltie, or sit nearby and stare holes in my head. Lately, she's developed a new skill: Howling. She's decided that sleeping past 8:00 A.M. is no longer an option. Once she is fed, she scratches at the door to be let out for her morning drink. Evidently the water outside in the planters and the bird dish tastes much better than fresh water from the faucet. The only way she'll drink the water inside is if I put three ice cubes in her dish. If I put two cubes in her dish, she gets insulted and will sit beside her dish until I add the third. If I put four, she walks away. I can almost hear her mumble, "Stupid human, can't you count?"

#12 CAT MAN * (Short excerpt from Dev Berger's story in the Anthology)

Around ten at night, Cat Man walked into the bar and started meowing, ergo his name. "Hi, Alex," said a number of people in the bar, many of them college students like me. Alex looked my way then meowed, and I thought he was going to lick one of his paws but he didn't. His black glasses made his goofy smile seem less so. He walked over to the pool table to watch the game. Somebody bought him a beer and he meowed again and then sat and enjoyed himself. "Who the hell is that?" I asked Don the bartender, a rough-and-tumble social worker by day, who picked up extra cash at night serving impoverished college students and the local kooks living in the substandard housing in the area.

#13 IGUANA * (Short excerpt from Matthias Mendezona's story in the Anthology)

Approaching the *Pis-an* was cautious business. Well before I was within eyeshot of the water, I treaded lightly and moved in slow motion because I was already being watched. The iguana lived there. They were called *Ibid* by the locals. From the trees and half submerged stumps in the shadows the *ibid* watched. I learned not to jerk my body when the water splashed, as one iguana, and then another, abandoned their perches for the safety underwater where they could stay submerged interminably

#14 CATOPIAN DREAMS * (Short excerpt from Roberta L. Davis's story in the Anthology)

"Dangit, Schitzy-girl, what's wrong this time?" a Russian Blue hissed. Schitzy's ears twitched as she sat back down, wrapping her tail around herself. As with many cats in the charred zone, she had some damage to the edges of her delicate ears. Likewise, her whiskers had been scorched short from the flash of hell they'd lived through, and varying stages of burns or worn pads made their paws highly tender. "I think I was dreaming," she muttered.

#15 PIGARO, PIGARO, PIGARO * (Short excerpt from Duncan MacVean, DVM's story in the Anthology)

Petunia, a perky pot-bellied pig, lived with her "Dad" in an upstairs apartment in Sacramento near the California State Capitol building. Every morning Dad Tim put her in a harness with a dog leash: Every morning except on days he was on stage at the San Francisco Opera House booming forth his melodious baritone voice.

#16 BEAR IN OUR TENT. YIKES! * (Short excerpt from Elva Anson's story in the Anthology)

The bear slowly came in through the front door. Inside the tent, he smelled like a skunk. He settled down noisily in front of the food box while he consumed all of the bacon, eggs, and cinnamon rolls along with their plastic containers. He left nothing but the big empty cardboard box.

The big bear filled a third of the tent. Dan's whispered voice sounded worried. "We are in a sack with a stinky hungry bear, and there's no way to get out."

#17 A VERY SPECIAL DUCK * (Short excerpt from Everett Anson's story in the Anthology)

"Sometimes they'd go down to the lake together and swim. When Duke would get tired of swimming, he'd take the duck in his mouth and put him on the bank. The duck would pop to his feet and return to the water. This would go on until the duck had enough, too. Then back to the house they would come, Duke in the lead. The duck followed, not far behind with his neck stretched out, straining to keep up, as if he believed he was another dog.

"It didn't bother me any that my dog was taking up with a wild duck, because I knew as soon as the duck was old enough to fly, he would probably take off and join his wild cousins. Sure enough. The day came when the duck was gone. I figured he'd gone back to living in the wild."

CA State Fair 12 July through 28 July. Many of our NCPA members will be in the Authors Booth a few days with our books ~ if you're going to the Fair, and aren't in the Booth, stop by and say hi ~ see our NCPA posters for last year's Book Awards, and the *Birds of a Feather* Anthology, plus the Anthology. All 38 titles entered in last year's Book Awards are on display, as are the names of all 35 authors of the Anthology stories. See your name at the Fair, if you entered either.

#18 THE FRENCHMAN AND HIS WOLF * (Short excerpt from T.A. Brandon's story in the Anthology)

All of a sudden, a grizzly came roaring out of the thick brush beside the trail. The huge bear stood up on his hind legs and swiped its claws across the loaded pack on the mule, knocking the camp-gear onto the ground. The mule jerked his head back and forth as he twisted around, hee-hawing in panic. The raging bear tried to grab the mule's flank, but ended up ripping the furs from its pack instead. The mule's tether finally broke free and he raced off.

NCPA MEMBERS If you have a busy schedule you'd like to share in an upcoming newsletter, send it. If it fits, we'll include it ... as long as it's writing-relevant. normathornton@yahoo.com

#19 A GIFT FOR GRANDMA (70TH birthday) * (Short excerpt from Rachel Chu's story in the Anthology)

"It isn't that bad. And we didn't forget really. We still got a day." Haley widened her eyes.

Robin pursed her lips and made a barely audible groan. "That's what we're trying to avoid. We're such bad grandchildren."

As they continued to deliberate, they came to a stop sign where they waited for a pedestrian to cross the street.

"Hold up. Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" Haley grinned impishly.

"I'm thinking about getting her a box of fancy donuts." Robin pointed to the neighborhood donut shop that just opened.

"No, are you kidding?" Haley threw her head forward.

"What? You're being dramatic."

"A dog, Robin, a dog. We should get Grandma a dog." Haley pointed to the lady walking her dog across the street.

#20 CLARITY ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON * (Short excerpt from Kim Edwards' story in the Anthology)

Stampeding feet came behind. Then more. And more. My back pressed against the stone building. As the distressed leaned in, every one of my senses faded: no microphone voice, screams, dust, heat, scent of bananas or incense.

Terror took over me as I understood that the setback of buildings from an Indian village street meant no cushion against a surging mass. I was stuck, pinned to the building, in danger of being crushed. Regret clasped me and held me. I had three kids. A grandchild on the way. Would Frank know where I was? Would he ever find me? Why did he let me come? Time slowed. I remembered every warning he had every given me.

MORE BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Another NCPA Anthology



*Authors start your stories now for the 2nd Anthology "**MORE Birds of a Feather**"

*New word count amounts are:

MINIMUM ~ 500 words

MAXIMUM ~ 3000 words

*Plus, we now have a dedicated Email address just for the 2nd Anthology. If you have a story, questions, comments, suggestion, complaint, or anything else, please send to me at:

NCPAAnthology2019@gmail.com

Do NOT send your 2nd Anthology story or any other 2nd Anthology Email to any address except THIS ONE. You'll get NO response.

*You can start using that Gmail address NOW.

Birds of a Feather ~ ANTHOLOGY UPDATE 6 July 2019 ~ WE DID IT! 100 books are due to be received on Wed 10 July, just in time for the July meeting on Thu 11 July. Hopefully they're on time ~ and, Sharon just informed me that we only have one book not spoken for as of right now, so she just ordered another 100. Those authors with a story in the book will have first chance at purchasing them, and can then turn around and sell to anyone else who wants one (or more.) The price listed on the book is \$11.95, but who knows? You might get a deal from one of the authors there who has books to sell.

(Snippets below from Sharon's review of *Birds of a Feather* to the Anthology Committee)

*I think we should get a Kindle version made for sale through KDP for *Birds of a Feather*. The extra exposure would help all the authors as well as the group. (Michelle is going to work on that, after the Fair.)*

*Last but not least, **every author in the Anthology who has an Amazon Author page can have the Anthology added to their books.** They have to have the ISBN number, then call the number at the bottom of their Bookshelf in KDP. The person will verify their connection, then add the title to their Bookshelf. Not hard, but great to have an additional title to their credit. That's it for me. now it's time to breathe until they arrive ~~ Sharon*

#21 ***IN THE MIDDLE*** * (Short excerpt from Barbara Young's story in the Anthology)

Daddy scoops me up onto the swing. They both pet me and tell me I'm a "good Sunny Boy." I sit up straight and proud with their cheeks to mine until the motion makes me sleepy. I rest my muzzle on Mommy's lap. This time she gets the *thinkin'* end and Daddy gets the *stinkin'* end. I drift into sleep, comfy and in the middle.

#22 MY NAME IS JOHN PAUL (cat) * (Short excerpt from Denise Branco's story in the Anthology)

Three years later, I became frustrated for some unknown reason and lashed out at my Mama. I bit her arm much too deeply. The area got infected and not only did she need medical treatment, but the urgent care doctor reported my actions to the animal police. They came to my home and filled out paperwork about my actions. The stern, khaki-uniformed lady sentenced me to one week on house arrest. She found me and Mama completely healthy by week's-end and our case was closed.

#23 COYOTE POCKETS * (Short excerpt from Pat Canterbury's story in the Anthology)

"But Mother, I'm too excited to eat. It's only six weeks until the Ayers Elementary School's big field event and I want Coach to put me on the team."

"Honey, we've just moved here from Arizona. The coach hasn't had time to find out what sports you play."

"I know why he hasn't put me on the team. It's because I don't have pockets."

"Pockets, what are you talking about?"



MORE BIRDS OF A FEATHER

A Collection of More Short Stories about Animals ... and ???

If you missed the first one, *Birds of a Feather*, then get busy on your stories NOW for this one ~ only open to NCPA members in good standing. If you would like to submit a story to this Anthology, you're welcome to join NCPA if you aren't already a member.

Membership is \$40/year. No charge to enter a story ... instead, as a perk to being a member, you get one free book plus the chance to purchase more at cost. You may then sell them for whatever you want, although the price on the books will be more than what you pay. We won't know that price until we order the books, depending on the number of pages. AND you'll be a published author, if you aren't already!

No entry deadline as of yet, but anticipated publish date is in time for Christmas.

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF WORDS ~ MINIMUM now 500 * MAXIMUM now 3000

More information was sent by bulk Email to all members 6 July. Questions? Come to the **Meeting 6:30pm Thu 11 July 2019 OR Thu 8 August at Denny's * 3520 Auburn Blvd * Sacto (@ Watt & I-80)**

OR Email me at NCPAAnthology2019@gmail.com with anything pertaining to the 2nd Anthology.

Poster for our first Animal Anthology, *Birds of a Feather* showing names of all authors, plus 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 Book Award Entries Posters will hopefully be on display at the California State Fair Authors Booth during the State Fair, 12-28 July 2019.

#24 MOUSE DROPPINGS * (Short excerpt from Elaine Faber's story in the Anthology)

The car started up the driveway and turned onto the highway. She climbed into bed, her head buzzing, puzzling out what she had just seen. *Stop it! You've been watching too many TV murder mysteries*

It was probably a heavy rug he was taking to the cleaners. Yeah, right. At 11:30 at night?

Or, maybe he was bringing firewood to the Placerville Farmer's Market. That explains it.

Oh...oh, I know. It was a bundle of old clothes for the Salvation Army-uh huh. Let's face it. You know what he was doing.

The guy's wife had a stroke and he doesn't want to take care of her. He didn't even bother with a divorce. He just killed her and threw her in the trunk. "He'll probably bury her in the woods and they'll never find her body. Most likely, he strangled her little dog, too!" Her voice echoed in the darkness.

#25 SACRAMENTO CITY KITTY COMMITTEE * (Short excerpt from Jan Haag's story in the Anthology)

I called the campus maintenance people, asking them to check. "We can't find anything," they told me. I called again. "Really smelly," I said, raising my voice a bit. "Smells like something died under there." The voice on the other end promised to dispatch someone to look. I got a call: "Still nothing," someone said.

#26 **JOCKO A CAT FOR ALL SEASONS** * (Short excerpt from Bob Irelan's story in the Anthology)

Jocko quickly became an investment/cost center as well as a welcomed physical presence. A week after his no-cost adoption, we took him to the vet for his annual booster shots. During the course of an examination, the vet determined Jocko had a badly abscessed tooth.

"It's got to come out," he said. "And the rest need a good cleaning." A couple of days later – post dental surgery and cleaning – we owned a \$990.33 kitty. Thank God he didn't need orthodontics.

#27 **WILD THINGS BELONG IN THE WILD (quail)** * (Short excerpt from Angelica Jackson's story in the Anthology)

At my approach, those in the birdbath redoubled their efforts to get out of the water, peeping louder all the while, but it was not enough to earn their escape. Slowly, I knelt beside the birdbath and scooped out the first chick. Even when wet, it couldn't have weighed more than a dime.

Tiny claws scabbled against my palm, and its wings fluttered against my cupped fingers. Its legs were churning before they touched the ground, the momentum carrying it in a stumble to its waiting parent and siblings.

The next chick, and the next, behaved much the same, but the last one had faced a few more moments of panic. Wetter and weaker, this last chick struggled feebly in my hand before heaving a sigh and settling into the curve of my fingers.

#28 **THE CAT IS ALWAYS RIGHT** * (Short excerpt from Ellen Osborn's story in the Anthology)

The nice lady picked me up so gently and put me on the floor. Why did she do that? Was she mad at me for kicking sister? Now she picked up my brother. Really? She wanted to hold him, not me? Didn't she know I had chosen her? She stood up and carried him around the room on her shoulder. That had to stop!

Again, I did the first thing that came to mind – I threw myself down in front of the lady's feet. The plan, if you could call it that, was to trip her so she would drop my brother and pick me up to see if I had been hurt. Then I would purr in her ear and she would never put me down. I had to try this again and again, because she didn't trip and didn't drop my brother, who was looking all too happy on her shoulder.

NCPA MEMBERS, send us your new releases, so we can acknowledge them and share with others.

#29 **BALTHAZAR THE MALLARD AND OTHER STORIES BY...** * (Short excerpt from Steve Pastis' story in the Anthology)

"I embrace the two of you," said the spider that was the source of the high-pitched voice.

"Embrace us?" asked my wife, apparently not concerned that she was having a conversation with a spider.

"I mean that I support your discussion and his writing efforts," explained the spider. "I enjoyed all three of the stories he read, even though there were no spiders in them. In fact, if I may be so bold as to suggest, you really should consider including spiders in your stories. We are an eclectic bunch, well suited to being literary characters.

#30 **A DOG WITH A BLOG** * (Short excerpt from Nancy J. Miller's story in the Anthology)

My Person tells me that I am getting all of the attention—so true—so she started a blog for me to record all the sights and smells she notices walking with a dog (me!).

I know she started the blog to get attention for her coaching and writing business, even though she says it's all about me. I happen to like her quite a lot, but I don't see people oohing and aahing over her.

31 **SAVING COY** * (Short excerpt from L.D. Markham's story in the Anthology)

She moved over the outcropping of rocks with caution to get a closer look. "Hey there, what are you doing here?" she asked as if the seal would respond.

Looking around, she saw no one else on the beach, as it was early April and still cool. That was a good sign, no one had been around to take selfies or bother the little guy. No other seals were in the area and no mother seal was nearby. Savannah thought the seal was old enough to have been weaned, but was still young.

As she approached, the creature's big, round, sad-eyes looked her way. "Are you hurt?" she asked in a soft comforting voice. As if to answer, the seal issued another plaintive moan.

***Bouchercon2020.org Registration now open**

World Mystery Convention Bouchercon is coming to Sacto!
***15-18 October 2020**, NCPA's own Rae James is Chair of
Bouchercon 2020 at the Sacramento Convention Center

FREE MEETINGS

Cap Crimes on summer hiatus
Capitolcrimes.org for more info

Gold Country Writers meetings (FREE)

3rd Wed 10am-12Noon each month
Goldcountrywriters.com for more information

NCPA member **Frances Kakugawa** will speak to
Gold Country Writers * Wed 17 July 2019 10am-12noon
Bethlehem Lutheran Church * 1279 High St * Auburn, CA
(enter and park in the back)
MEETING IS **FREE**

CWC meeting Sat 20 July 11am-1pm
CWCSacramentowriters.org

For more info; I couldn't find any this early
\$20-member \$25 Non-member lunch included

1st Friday each month at Coco's on Sunrise
3rd Sat each month at Cattleman's on Folsom

**26th NCPA
BOOK AWARDS
BANQUET
5pm-9pm
Sun 26 April 2020**

SAVE THE DATE: Sun 1 Dec 2019
3rd Annual NCPA Holiday Lunch 12Noon -??

***Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC) 2nd Mon ea/mo**
7pm-9pm ~ 2nd Mon each month 2019 Sactowriters.org
Crossroads Fellowship Christian Church, 5501 Dewey Dr, Fair Oaks.



CAP CRIMES: Summertime Writing * FREE

Sat 20 July & Sat 17 Aug 1pm-3pm

Rancho Cordova Library

Spend Quality Time with other writers and work on your WIP

#32 TEX'S DREAM * (Short excerpt from Carolyn Radmanovich's story in the Anthology)

Life was good until the day Turk arrived at our house. It was hate at first sight. He was bumbling and drooly, and most of all he was a d-d-d-dog. I hate dogs. Always have. Mother Cat told me, "Tex, watch out for those hairy beasts for they may chew you up for breakfast." Not only did Turk bark at me, but he nipped at my legs when I ran. Each day that went by, I was sure he had grown a couple of inches and his teeth grew with him into nightmarish, long fang-like teeth

#33 LETTERS TO MY FIRST LOVES, IF HORSES COULD READ * (Short excerpt from Deborah Meltvedt's story in the Anthology)

I called you Toby after my first crush, the teenage boy who worked the Mobil gas station. I was only three or four, but I knew enough about love and beauty to name a horse after the cutest boy who offered inflated tires and security, as my mother pulled into the station. But while Toby asked if he could "fill 'er up" my gaze went from his eyes to the sight of the flying horse emblem that gleamed in the night as my mother, my sisters and I sat waiting.

#34 WILD REGRET (Poem) * (Short excerpt from Laura Garfinkle's POEM in the Anthology)

Afterwards as I walked alone
along the river parkway I thought
of how we had traded places and how
I walked among the trees that had belonged to you.

13 June 2019 MINUTES SPLIT INTO 2 SECTIONS: General Meeting Conversation & Guest Speaker, next page

MINUTES for the General Meeting Conversation Thu `2 June 2019

NCPA 2020 Book Awards

There are a lot of major changes for next year's book competition. If you have books ready, use the old application.

- The major change NCPA is going to join the other national competitions in how we do awards. We won't do first, second third and honorable mention anymore. We'll have gold and silver. Gold will be first place. There could be more than one silver award given if multiple works are considered noteworthy.
- The application fee schedules will differ depending on when the book is submitted. The purpose is to encourage authors to submit their books as early as they can so the judges don't get a lot of books near the end of the submission period, overloading the judges.
 - \$65 for members, \$95 for non-members through the end of October
 - \$75 for members, \$105 for non-members November 1 thru Dec 31 unless your book was published during that period
 - \$85 for members, \$115 for non-members January 1 thru 31, 2020.
- The book submittals will have to be in by Feb 1, 2020.
- E-book submittals – will not be a separate category. You must submit a Mobi file unless you had it created through KDP (Kindle Direct Publishing). If you used KDP, you'll have to buy copies and gift them. Sharon will need the codes to give to the judges so they can get copies to review.
 - If you submit an e-book, it will not be entered in the cover and interior competition because the book spine and back are things that are judged too.
- If you send in books to be sold during the awards dinner and do not come to the event, you'll receive the money for the books sold but will not get the books shipped back to you. It takes money from NCPA funds to ship them back. The author can make arrangements with Sharon to get the books back.
- Last year 38 books were submitted.
- We have some judges in place already, and Sharon is looking for judges who are very specific. The judges will be focused on their genre. **More information on changes to 2019 BOOK AWARDS will be by separate Email from Sharon once she has them written. No space in this newsletter.**

Birds of a Feather Anthology Discussion

- For the next anthology, minimum and maximum word count will be less restrictive.
- When you finish your story:
 - Have a critique group read it
 - Proof your own story
 - Read it out loud, and listen to it
- *MORE Birds of a Feather* will be released by Christmas, if possible
- The first book, *Birds of a Feather*, should be ready by the State Fair in July.
 - Anthology will be in Amazon, Barnes and Noble and many more places. The contributing authors will be able to add the book to their bibliography.
- Sharon is ordering 100 books initially, with the first 35 going to contributing authors, at no charge to the author.
- Anthology Authors purchase as many books as they want, at printing cost; everyone else purchases from them.
- We're considering having the books converted to Kindle.

Member Introductions

#35 WOLF SONG * (Short excerpt from Kathy Lynne Marshall's story in the Anthology)

My mother was petrified of all animals—massive dogs and slinky cats, especially, but also soft bunnies and roly-poly hamsters. If a snake slithered across her path in the garden or the tiniest mouse peered out from a kitchen cabinet, she would shriek and jump onto the tallest piece of furniture within her reach. Consequently, my younger brother, sister and I never experienced the joy of having a pet during our formative years.

*** #35 ~ FINAL ANTHOLOGY EXCERPT ***

If you enjoyed these excerpts, and would like more, you may purchase *Birds of a Feather* from your favorite author.

13 June 2019 Meeting ~ Guest Speaker: Robert Pimm is a lawyer, Chief Learning Officer and Director of Legal Services for California Lawyers for the Arts. Robert *manages CLA's State Bar Certified Lawyer Referral Service, CLA's Modest Means Incubator Program and CLA's Clinical and Educational Programs*, as well as other duties.

Some Facts: (For more information and a copy of his presentation, email Robert at: Bob@rg.pimm.com)

- 7 mil books in print
- 25K books published a month
- Independent books stores doing well
- Amazon is the 5th largest book store chain in the U.S.
- Print books are doing better than e-books
- 60% of self-published books go through Amazon
- Readers decide if they like a book in the first 100 pages

Publishing is a team effort and you must have agreements in place for the various associated disciplines.

Discussion on copyrights and negotiating tips.

Some **HIGHLIGHTS** that Robert discussed regarding **WRITTEN AGREEMENTS**.

- Independent Contract Agreement should cover:
 - Payment schedule
 - Delivery date
 - Early termination
- Literary Agent Agreement – not favorable to the author
 - Rights covered
 - Territory covered
 - Who will represent you
 - Terms of representation
 - Payment scheme
 - Early termination mechanism
- Traditional Publisher Agreements
 - Grant of right and territory
 - Subsidiary rights
 - E-book rights
 - Advance against royalties
 - Royalty rates
 - Royalty statements/payment dates
 - Agency clause – make sure the agents don't receive more rights
 - Options
 - Warranty & indemnity
 - Permissions
 - Terminations

Self-Publishing Problems –

- Imbalanced contract
- Hidden add-on costs
- Overprinting
- Copyright ownership lost
- Controlling the price
- Distribution issue
- Marketing budget commitments
- Untimely distribution of sales proceeds
- Untimely statement details

NCPA MEMBERS If you have a busy schedule that you'd like to share in an upcoming newsletter, send it to me. If it fits, we'll include it ... as long as it's writing-relevant. normathornton@yahoo.com

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 2019 Book Awards Banquet
SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2020 at the Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta

SILENT AUCTION DONORS 2019 * THANK YOU SO MUCH *

Cherry Island G.C. * Sharon Darrow * Jennifer T. Grainger * Grand Oaks Inn B&B * Dierdre Honnold * Frances Kakugawa * Placer Pops Chorale * Roaring Camp Mining Company * Amy Rogers: Science Thrillers Media * Sharif Jewelers * Antelope Walmart Bakery

ADVERTISING FOR MORE OF OUR DONORS, all NCPA members

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

Amy Rogers, independent publisher, beta reader for James Rollins, and former judge for International Thriller Writers' Thriller Awards.
amy@AmyRogers.com Web: AmyRogers.com (916)-712-3334

Need a Manuscript Evaluation? Contact donor **Jennifer Grainger**

Jennifer says a manuscript evaluation is not editing. It is evaluating the quality of the writing so she will carefully and thoughtfully read your manuscript from beginning to end and provide very explicit feedback for you on what works, what could be better and how to fix the weaknesses.
jennifer@JenniferTheEditor.org www.JenniferTheEditor.org 209-369-6188

Want your own Website? **Sharon Darrow** will build you one through **Wix.Com**

Hourly rate, with a four-hour minimum appointment. ~ in your home. (Will accept phone calls for help for 3 months after completion if you still need it. Anything further, price will be negotiable.) 916-803-1665 sharon@sharonsdarrow.com

Looking for a great venue for your Banquet &/or more? How about a decorated Cake?

Both great for Writing Organizations, and Highly recommended by NCPA Book Awards Banquet Committee

Cherry Island Golf Course * 2360 Elverta Rd * Elverta, CA * www.golfcherryisland.com * 916-991-6875

Looking for a great decorated cake for ANY event, including that Banquet?

Walmart Supercenter Bakery * 5821 Antelope Rd.* Antelope 95843, CA * Bakery: **916-729-6217**

"Holiday Placer Pops" Chorale & Orchestra 2019

Great present for everyone * www.placerpops.com

Harris Center in Folsom *** Sat 14 Dec * 2pm * & * 7:30pm *** Sun 15 Dec * 2pm *

Dietrich Theatre in Rocklin *** Thu 19 Dec * 7:30pm *** Fri 20 Dec * 7:30pm * *** Sat 21 Dec * 2pm *** Sun 22 Dec * 2pm

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

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 **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**

*

Gold Country Writers (GCW)

- **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" <http://goldcountrywriters.com/>
Questions contact Margie Yee Webb mywebb@sbcglobal.net

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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 ...

Go to their website for full information: <https://canorthcentral.scbwi.org/>*

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norcalpa.org

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916-991-5751

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)

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Michelle Hamilton, President ~ 916-837-6812

Norma Jean Thornton, Editor ~ 916-991-5751

July 2019

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**, 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* 2016-2019