Thursday * 14 NOVEMBER 2019 * 6:30pm–9pm

JENNIFER CHEN TRAN, Literary Agent, Bradford Agency
What an Agent looks for * AND *
Jen will take book pitches that night, so have your elevator pitch ready for her!

Denny’s (in the Private back room)
3520 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento (Auburn Blvd @ Watt Av & I-80)
No-host food &/or beverage
Friends, Family, non-members welcome ~ FREE MEETING FOR ALL

REMEMBER NEXT MONTH: 3rd Annual Holiday Luncheon & Book Launch for NCPA's 2nd Animal Anthology, More Birds of a Feather: Sun 1 Dec 2019 12Noon-??
Black Angus * Greenback @ Sunrise

Thursday * 12 December 2019 * 6:30pm–9pm

NO SPEAKER * It’s our ANNUAL BOOK DISPLAY
In addition to having your own books there to sell, someone – probably more than one -- will also have available, both of the 2019 NCPA Animal Anthologies:

Birds of a Feather, & More Birds of a Feather

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

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

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
Same Denny’s 12Noon ~ We'll also discuss NCPA’s 2020 Travel Anthology & 2019 Book Awards

NCPA’s 3rd Annual Holiday Luncheon * Sun 1 Dec 2019 * Black Angus
PLUS Anticipated Launch of NCPA’s 2nd Animal Anthology MORE Birds of a Feather

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 past year I did something I’ve never done before. My dear friend and fellow author, Dänna Wilberg, encouraged me to write a screenplay and submit it to Access Sacramento’s A Place Called Sacramento film festival. In fact, Dänna came to an NCPA meeting and talked to us about her experiences participating, more than eight times, in the film festival.

A year-ago this month, I sat down to write my first screenplay. I’d never done anything like this before and had no idea how to format it. Dänna gave me some tips, but I also used Scriptworthy, a program that does a great job of instructing you on formatting and the various terms used in scriptwriting.

Last January I turned in my ten-minute script and forgot about it. Then in April, I got a call from Gary Martin, the head of Access Sacramento, telling me I was one of ten scripts chosen to make a ten-minute movie for PCS’s twentieth anniversary. I definitely didn’t know what I was getting myself into, but I was smart enough to know my first call had to be to Dänna. She graciously agreed to meet with me and we went over the whole process. When I asked her to be my director, she agreed. Best decision I could have made.

For the next six months, we held auditions, found locations, secured crew members, and made a movie. It was exhausting. Don’t let anyone tell you otherwise; filmmakers work long hours in grueling conditions. There were some days we clocked over twelve hours and didn’t finish until well into the next day.

In all seriousness, I wondered many times if it was worth it. I was exhausted, frustrated and filled with artistic doubt. I knew our actors had done amazing performances, our crew had worked miracles and Dänna had pulled the most incredible effort from everyone, but we were up against a movie that hired a professional film staff and spent (I came to learn later) over $20,000 to produce their short. I remember telling my cast and crew I feared it would be like Funderland (us) competing against Disneyland (them).

For the premiere on October 5th, I invited people from work, my family and friends, all before I knew one of the films had professional actors from Hollywood starring in it. I felt sure we were going to be out-classed in every way possible. Everyone kept telling me to have faith in my script, the actors’ performances, and the talent of my incredible crew. And yet I doubted. I’d never done this before, I had nothing to base the experience against, and I was the greenest of producers.

The night of the premiere my stomach was in knots. I’d probably have run if my son and Dänna hadn’t been there to talk me off the cliff. The movies played in random order and as each one played, my confidence rose a little. Finally, our movie blazed across the screen. It looked breathtaking. Then the audience began to react. They laughed at all the right parts, gasped when appropriate, and when the final scene began, they started screaming. Hearing 900 people shout and applaud and cheer for something you’ve written is surreal. I’ve never experienced it before. I could feel my heart about to beat out of my chest as I turned to my brother and said, “Oh my God, do you hear them?” He could only laugh and nod back at me. What an experience!

For me that was enough. I felt such pride for the people who participated in our project and I couldn’t deny that hearing the audience’s reaction validated my own artistry, my vision, my dream. But the night wasn’t over.

During the awards part of the program, Empty Nest took home four juried awards: Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Best Actress and Best Editor (my son Kyler). For a movie I feared would be out-shone by budgets far bigger than my own, we took the most awards.

I was so lucky. I had the right director in Dänna, the right crew, the right cast and in his debut performance as an editor, the right editor. The vast majority of credit has to go to Dänna. Without her encouragement and guidance, none of this would have happened.

(Continued on page 3)
November 2019

(President’s Message Continued from page 2)

So what is the point of all this? We often fear stepping outside our comfort zone to try new things, but sometimes when you do, you find yourself meeting a whole new group of people, experiencing things that you’ll never forget, and once in a while, once in a rare, beautiful moment, you get to hear the crowd roar for something you’ve done. It’s priceless.

Because NCPA is about encouraging each other to do new things, I’m so proud to announce that we will be adding an award to the Book Awards Program called the Risk-Taker Award. This first year we will be giving out two awards (one for each anthology), to the writer who has taken risks with his or her writing. The awards can be bestowed for any of the following reasons:

- a writer who wrote outside his or her usual genre,
- a writer who worked exceptionally hard to perfect his or her craft, or
- a writer who is publishing for the first time.

I’m so excited to announce this award and hope everyone who submitted stories to one, or both, of the anthologies, Birds of a Feather, and More Birds of a Feather, will attend the Book Awards Banquet, to see who wins, and who knows? You may be the one hearing the roar of the crowd when we announce your name.

Michelle Hamilton, President NCPA

---

UPCOMING Non-Library BOOK EVENTS * contact ANDREA

- **8 Dec 2019** "St. Nick’s Breakfast & Craft Fair" 4123 Robertson Avenue, Sacramento PENDING  
  School cafeteria of Our Lady of Presentation Church, (916) 481-7441 ~
  Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church Craft Fair

- **14 Dec 2019 10am - 4pm, "Christmas at the Castle" Preston Castle** Holiday Bazaar PENDING  

- **Sun 15 Dec 2019 8am-2pm** 25th Annual St. Nick’s Craft Fair 3100 Norris Av Sacto 916-482-0377  
  Questions and info for applications call Perminder Dhamrait 916-482-0351 RUSH items need to be submitted by 8 November or extra fee ~ sorry ~ that’s only a day away! Spaces are $25 TO $40 if received by 8 Nov. ~ Contact Andrea … 916-396-3414 * mydiabeticsoul@gmail.com * #buckroth
  **to sign up for any or all of the OTHER 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

**Vendor Application**  
15 Dec 2019 Blessed

---

PDF app for the 15 Dec event. Hopefully it works ~ I’ve never added one like this before.  
**MORE UPCOMING Non-Library BOOK EVENTS * Do NOT contact Andrea**

- **November 2019**, is available for your event announcement/s. NANOWRIMO TIME!
NOVEMBER SPEAKER, AGENT JENNIFER CHEN TRAN

Jennifer Chen Tran is an agent at Bradford Literary, joining in September 2017. She represents both fiction and non-fiction. Originally from New York, Jennifer is a lifelong reader and experienced member of the publishing industry. Prior to joining Bradford Literary, she was an Associate Agent at Fuse Literary and served as Counsel at The New Press. She obtained her Juris Doctor from Northeastern School of Law in Boston, MA, and a Bachelors of Arts in English Literature from Washington University in St. Louis.

Jennifer understands the importance of negotiation in securing rights on behalf of her authors. She counsels her clients on how to expand their platforms, improve on craft, and works collaboratively with her clients throughout the editorial and publication process. Her ultimate goal is to work in concert with authors to shape books that will have a positive social impact on the world—books that also inform and entertain.

Select titles that Jennifer has represented: I WILL LOVE YOU FOREVER by Cori Salchert (Barbour/ Shiloh Run Press); BREAKING UP & BOUNCING BACK by Samantha Burns (Dover/ Ixia Press); THE ART OF ESCAPING by Erin Callahan (Amberjack); MATCH MADE IN MANHATTAN by Amanda Stauffer (Skyhorse); A CROWDFUNDER’S STRATEGY GUIDE by Jamey Stegmaier (Berrett-Koehler).

Jennifer is very interested in diverse writers and #ownvoices from underrepresented/marginalized communities, strong and conflicted characters who are not afraid to take emotional risks, stories about multi-generational conflict, war and post-war fiction, and writing with a developed sense of place. In non-fiction, she loves books that broaden her world view or shed new light on ‘big ideas.’

In short, Jennifer is looking for:

- **Fiction:**
  - Women’s Fiction (Contemporary, Upmarket, Literary)
  - Select Young Adult (must have distinct voice)
  - Select Middle Grade
  - Graphic novels and visually-driven projects

- **Non-Fiction, particularly in the areas of:**
  - Narrative non-fiction (biography, current affairs, medical, investigative journalism, history, how-to, music, pop-culture, travel)
  - Cookbooks & culinary projects
  - Lifestyle (home, design, beauty, fashion)
  - Business Books (social entrepreneurship, female and/or minority-led businesses, and innovation)
  - Select memoir with an established platform
  - Parenting
  - Relationships and Psychology
  - Mind, body, spirit

Jennifer is NOT looking for:

- Children’s picture books
- Science Fiction, Fantasy, Urban Fantasy
- Westerns
- Erotica
- Poetry
- Screenplays

Jennifer Chen Tran, Literary Agent, Bradford Literary
(516) 350-1653 * @jenchentran
More Promos compliments of Charlene Johnson ~ I love these things! Thanks, so much Charlene.

Cindy Sample Launches 16 Nov
Face in a Book, El Dorado Hills

Out Now
Norma Jean Thornton
aka “noniedoodles”
Doodles, the Dorky Dragon

Frances Kakugawa
Echoes of Kapoho… arrives 6 Dec

MEMBERS CORNER * Pub’d Books & Launches * More on Cindy & Frances on page 14
2nd Animal Anthology

WHAT? I THOUGHT IT WAS PERFECT ~ until the edit:

One author’s experience with the editing process on NCPA’s Anthology, how it initially affected her, and what she went through to get to her final decision as to what to do with her story. Submit, or back out?

THE POWER OF ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

It is through the eyes of another that we discover there’s more in us. It’s where we find potential for excellence deep within our soul. If we dare to receive the opinion with open arms, then we will learn more resides in our abilities than ever before thought. This time, it was through the eyes of the editor of the 2nd NCPA Animal Anthology.

Northern California Publishers and Authors (NCPA) announced in June that submissions were being accepted for its next anthology More Birds of a Feather. Another pet theme storyline—my favorite topic! I was elated and couldn’t wait to submit my story about kids (baby goats, that is.) More Birds of a Feather will be my sixth anthology contribution overall (four with NCPA and two with Inspire Christian Writers.)

Anthologies are a benefit of membership well-worth their weight in gold. My goal in participating in each anthology is to learn and grow as a writer. Every editorial comment has done just that. Another major perk with published anthologies is free advertising. Why would anyone turn that down?

I submitted my story entitled Goat Mountain to the NCPA anthology committee and waited. Although I strive for perfection, I expected a correction would be needed here and there for grammar and punctuation, but what I received instead was this: "I believe this one could use a little stronger, more direct opening."

What? I need to redo the entire opening paragraph? How can the editor say that? He does not know my writing voice. The editor provided an alternate opening and though intriguing, was far from thoughts in my brain that I’d ever put into words.

What am I going to do? I hadn’t submitted Goat Mountain to the committee until I felt it was my very best work and now, I’m supposed to rewrite my opening paragraph?

It’s very important for me to have the reader know that what I write is always from my heart. The way I’ve come to craft my inspirational stories is my brand. I didn’t want my work to appear in a book if it wasn’t reflective of my authentic self. I didn’t have peace with the editor’s rendition of my opening paragraph, so there was no other alternative but to respectfully withdraw my story.

Lucky for me, the lady who manages submissions is my friend and someone I’ve known since becoming an NCPA member eleven years ago. Norma knows me, my voice, my heart. She wouldn’t let me bow down and respectfully withdraw because I saw no other alternative. Norma stuck with me. She said to take a few days to ponder, make changes, and then resubmit my piece.

I read through Goat Mountain yet again, this time through an editor’s lens. I began to see that my opening “hook” was quite factual and dry. There was little emotion or impact. Boring! I began analyzing my story. What descriptive words would allow the reader to feel they were about to embark on an exciting adventure at Goat Mountain? How could I captivate the reader in a way they didn’t expect?

When I finished my creative thinking session, I couldn’t get over how ideas on crafting the hook emerged. I couldn’t believe that what I ended up writing was actually in me. Huh. Who knew? Norma knew, that’s who.

Thank you, Norma, for not allowing me to sell myself short. Thank you for pushing me to write the powerful story you always knew I could. You caused me to dig deeper; to realize that I did have it in me.

And thank you, Mr. Editor. You helped me grow as a writer. If you hadn’t indicated that my story needed work, I would have thought I had topped out at my best.

Friends, always be willing to learn. Allow the critics to be your teachers in the classroom of life. They are just as important as your supporters. You can’t become who you are truly meant to be without the two.

Denise Lee Branco, Award-winning author - www.DeniseInspiresYou.com (Go to website and click on her blog for inspirational stories and more.)
PREPARING TO ENTER A STORY in the NCPA 2020 Travel Anthology

To those who haven’t submitted a story yet, and those few who skipped some of the instructions for More Birds of a Feather (you know who you are :) I’m repeating those instructions, with the strong suggestion, that if you don’t have a critique group, you really should get involved in one … NOW.

Rather than have your story returned for the same thing that a regular publisher, editor or agent would reject, we have very strict guidelines, some of which are bulleted below, that you’ll hopefully follow:

When your story is complete, or during the process, have your critique group check it for you.

1. If you don’t have a critique group, let us know. We can possibly help with that … after all, we want each of you to submit the best possible story you can.

2. Final thing before sending to NPCA, be sure to PROOFREAD your own story, for clarification, typos, grammatical errors, etc., (e.g. misspelled words, capitalization, punctuation, convoluted sentences, etc.) Stories with major issues will be returned to Author, without being thoroughly proofed or edited, for Author to fix and return, or send a different story.

3. Then, read it OUT LOUD prior to sending, to make sure it sounds like you want it to.

4. This is not a critique group, to catch major errors or mistakes. Authors are expected to do that prior to submitting. Again, if you don’t have a critique group, please let us know.

5. Stories received with multiple typos, grammatical, structural, or punctuation errors may be returned without being completely read, and without explicit corrections suggested.

6. Make sure your story is thoroughly critiqued, proofed, read, and ready to go, before sending to NCPAAnthology2019@gmail.com if not it WILL be returned to you un-proofed/ un-edited.

7. NCPA has the option to deny or refuse a story if it doesn’t meet our requirements, or standards, and unfortunately, have previously done so.

THE PUBLISHING PROCESS

I proof all stories. If major obvious stuff that should be caught by you, the author, prior to being sent in, like a lot of incorrect or wrong spelling, punctuation, missing words, extra words, incomplete sentences, typos, clarifications needed, etc., that story will be returned for the AUTHOR to correct and re-send.

Much of that can be corrected by the author prior to sending the first time, by looking closely at any auto-corrected areas identified with either squiggly blue or red lines under the offending words, etc.

Once proofing problems have been fully addressed by both, it will go to the 1st editor for review. (I’m a proof-reader, not an editor, although sometimes I can also catch some of that editor stuff.) From there, the story is either returned to the author for correction or changes, and once returned to me, complete, it’s on to Michelle for the final editing process to be put together as a book, then to Sharon for publishing.

• We want to encourage each of our members to submit a story, and to those writers who have yet to publish out of fear of rejection, don’t think your piece is good enough, etc., now’s your chance.

• However, this is a very time-consuming project, with very few of us working on it, and we don’t have time to do an intense critique on every story, so forgive me for being blunt in what I’m about to say.

• We’re all writers, and we all need to begin somewhere. The first place to begin, is to get a thick skin, because we all wind up needing it at one time or another, when our stories are critiqued negatively, or we think it’s negative. Join a critique group and find that out! So, “lizard-it-up”, and let’s get started!

• “If you don’t have a critique group, now’s the time to get one.” You’ve seen that mentioned several times in here, for very good reason. EVERYONE needs a critique group, even well-established authors, at least in the beginning. And again, if you don’t have one, or don’t know how to get one, ask us. Sharon and I have been discussing setting up a critique group specifically for NCPA members, especially for the Anthologies. If we get enough interest in it, we probably will, so let us know. We promise to not be too harsh on you :)

• Authors ~ Get started on Authors ~ Get started on, and send in those stories! You have until 30 June 2020 to work on this one!
More Birds of a Feather

**Book orders**

Books will be $6 for any author with a story in the anthology, and $10 for those not included in the anthology. **(One of the perks of having a story in an NCPA anthology!)**

**Anthology Authors:** Get your orders in now for any extra *More Birds of a Feather* books you want to purchase, beyond your FREE ONE. 50 are already spoken for, and it’s on a first-come, first-order basis. Contact Sharon to preorder your books (916-803-1665 or Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com) so she’ll know if she needs to order more prior to the launch date.

Perfect Holiday gifts for those hard-to-get-for, or stocking stuffers.

NCPA dedicated Email address, below, for anything Anthology-related: Contact me with questions, or ??

NCPAA anthol ogy2019@gmail.com

---

**3 NCPA ANTHOLOGY UPDATES ~~ November 2019**

We did both, and in the projected time frame! Now it’s up to Amazon. Both paperback and eBook format.

*If you have an Amazon account, Sharon will have an article soon on how to include these three Anthologies to your page.*

**Birds of a Feather (Animal Anthology)**

Sharon has ordered 300 books so far: only 81 are left. They’re still being purchased by authors with a story in the book, because they’re selling well. If you want more, contact Sharon ASAP (see box above for info), so she can order more, if necessary, for the holidays. The most sold reported by one Author, is 15, to date.

**More Birds of a Feather (Animal Anthology)**

If you want more than your free book, please let us know, so we can be sure to have the proper amount on hand. Sharon will be ordering the first 200 books in the next day or so, in time for our launch date, scheduled for 12 Noon - ?? Sunday, 1 December 2019, at the Black Angus Restaurant on Greenback @ Sunrise, Citrus Heights, in conjunction with our 4th Annual Holiday Luncheon (See Box Above, for information on how to order.)

**Destination: The World (Travel-themed Anthology)**

*Start writing now, for the 30 June 2020 soft DEADLINE*

First-come, first-serve, for 35 stories: we have 9 authors interested so far, so let us know if you’re planning to submit an entry. Send an Email to NCPAA anthol ogy2019@gmail.com to hold your pages. You don’t need a title, nor word count now, just let us know you’ll have a story.

Launch date scheduled for 12Noon - ?? Sunday 6 December 2020, at the Black Angus Restaurant on Greenback @ Sunrise, Citrus Heights, in conjunction with our 4th Annual Holiday Luncheon.

**COMING SOON**

32 Free Writing Contests: supposedly legitimate competitions, from a Google Search:

https://thewritelife.com/writing-contests/
DESTINATION: THE WORLD

How to submit a story  Soft Deadline 30 June 2020
Free for NCPA’s 2020 Travel Anthology, Destination: The World

Go to the NCPA website at norcalpa.org and follow instructions on the main page regarding submitting to the anthology (under the picture of the animals), or,

Click here for details.

There are five (5) attachments you need to submit:

1. Your signed agreement
2. Your signed application
3. Your story, in word ONLY, NO PDF * Will be returned unread if sent any other way.
   a. 500 to 3000 words *
   b. Garamond Font *
   c. 12 pt Font *
   d. Single Space *
4. Your bio:
   a. Italicize all book titles, please
5. Your picture:
   a. JPG or JPEG ONLY, or it won’t be accepted.
      (Yes, there’s a difference, if you use Mac) if you don’t know how to do a JPG/ JPEG, or have other questions, please contact me NCPAAnthology2019@gmail.com

Have you started your story yet for the 2020 NCPA Travel-themed Anthology, DESTINATION: THE WORLD? Submissions now being accepted. Only 35 entries, and 9 authors have already signed up. First-come, first-serve. Soft-Deadline 30 June, 2020. Before you ask, the answer is YES, if you have a story in Birds of a Feather, &/or More Birds of a Feather, you may still submit for Destination: The World. Reserve your pages … let me know now, that you’ll be submitting a travel story ~ NCPAAnthology2019@gmail.com ~ (any type travel, anywhere, all genre, even Sci-Fi. We don’t need a title or word count yet, just a commitment.)

- Author MUST be an NCPA member in good standing in order to submit a story
- If you’d like to join, membership is $40/year
- Costs NOTHING for your story to be included in the Anthology
- Perks: you receive one free book and option to purchase more at cost, to sell later for profit.
- The biggie? You’ll be a published author, if you aren’t already.
- If you’re already published, it’s a great marketing tool and an excellent way to make easy money
- We have an Email account especially for anthologies ONLY, so there won’t be the issue of Email from other places, for different topics conflicting with anthology stuff.
- The ONLY Email TO BE USED for the Anthology is NCPAAnthology2019@gmail.com
2020 NCPA Book Awards Competition
(for books published in 2019)

Submission Criteria

- Books must have been published for sale in the 2019 calendar year, that is, between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.
- New, updated editions are acceptable as long as update was published in 2019.
- To be considered “published,” copies of book in published form (not merely as galley or advanced reader copies) must have been on hand and available for sale to retail consumers on or before December 31, 2019 and not have been for sale earlier than January 1, 2019.
- If copyright year or Library of Congress year (if present) is not 2019, entrant must supply supporting evidence that book was “constructively” published in 2019.
- Book must be in printed form, unless entered in the e-book category.
- Submissions due no later than January 31, 2020. Please submit as early as possible, so judges have time to read all entries.

Categories

Books will be accepted in the following categories:

- General Fiction
- General Non-Fiction
- Non-Fiction Memoir
- Children’s
- Young Adult
- Poetry
- Trade Publications
- e-Book **NOTE CHANGES TO EBOOK ENTRY:** This year Ebooks must be submitted in MOBI format **OR author must send four gift coupons** to Sharon Darrow for distribution to judges

(Book Awards Continued on next page 6)
Rules, Regulations, and Fee Schedule

- The window period of acceptance of entries is August 1, 2019, to January 31, 2019.
- Entries may be made by an author or by the publisher of the book.
- Complete the online entry form, found on the NCPA website at www.NorCalPA.org.
- Use the check boxes on the form to indicate categories in which you wish to have your book considered and complete all the necessary fields. Please note that if the judges feel you've chosen the wrong category, they will move your book to the category they feel is proper.
- You have the option of submitting forms and payments online or printing out the form and sending it with your books and entry fee to the address below:

Make payments online using credit card or PayPal account. OR submit check along with books.

- You may enter as many books as you choose, but each book must be entered in only one general category. A separate fee must be submitted with each title.
- Four copies of each book must be submitted.
- All books entered will be considered for Design awards, which will be awarded to the publisher. The artist or designer need not be a member of NCPA.
- Please follow instructions on the entry form. Your entry may be disqualified and money forfeited if information is missing or incorrect.
- A separate entry form is required for each title submitted.
- Entries must be received by January 31, 2020. One copy of each book is non-returnable. Three copies will be available for sale at the Awards Banquet, with money from sales, and unsold copies returned to the author.

**NOTE: CHANGES IN FEE STRUCTURE & DEADLINE DATES:**

- "Early Bird" entry time has the same prices as shown ($65 & $95), but entries must be received by October 31, 2019. ENDED: But if your book isn't published yet, still applies
- "2nd Level" entry time prices are increased by $10, and must be received by 31 Dec 2019. (for books published prior to 31 Oct 2019. After 31 Oct, Early Bird above will apply.)
- "Third Level" entry time prices are increased by another $10, and must be received by January 31, 2020.
- This means the $65/ $95 early bird price goes to $75/$105 for Second Level entries.
- Then to $85/$115 for Third Level entries.
- The only exception is for those who publish and submit their books during the Second Level period. (1 November through 31 December 2019.) They pay the Early Bird price of $65/ $95, since there was no way for them to enter earlier.
- Entry fees for NCPA members are $65/ $75/ $85 per book, $30 of which covers one dinner at the Awards Banquet.
- Entry fees for non-members are $95/$105/$115 per book, $30 of which covers one dinner at the Awards Banquet.

Please send books -- and, if applicable, fees and forms -- to following address:

Sharon Darrow
NCPA Book Awards Coordinator
P.O. Box 214673, Sacramento, CA 95821
Other Rules & Information

1. The "publisher" is defined as the person or company who owns the ISBN.
2. An author may enter his or her own book.
3. Judges are drawn from NCPA’s membership, the community, publishing professionals, and the media.
4. No judge may submit works for consideration.

Judging Criteria

1. Categories not having any entries will not be part of the year's awards.
2. Winners are determined at the sole discretion of the judges, based on NCPA policy, publishing merit, and literary merit.

Awards

1. First, second, and third place awards may be awarded in each general book category.
2. The judges may award "honorable mention" certificates at their discretion.

Winners

1. Winners will be announced at the awards celebration and annual NCPA banquet, scheduled for April 26, 2020 at Cherry Island Golf Course, Elverta, CA.
2. Winners will be announced in general press releases sent to Northern California media.
3. Winners will each receive a plaque/trophy.
4. Winners will receive labels they may use on their book covers. They will also receive, via email, a digital file of the award label artwork to incorporate into their book covers, should they wish to.
5. Winners may use supplied label art in their marketing/promotional materials. Past winners have successfully used their NCPA awards to obtain media interest and increase sales.
6. Winners will be featured on the NCPA website.

END of BOOK AWARDS info

2019 BOOK AWARDS UPDATE

As of today, 6 November 2019, Sharon has received 18 book entries. Mine is paid for, but she hasn’t received my paperwork or books yet, so hasn’t counted it; along with at least two others not submitted yet, so received my paperwork or books yet, so hasn’t counted it. A total of 21 so far.

If any of the deadlines are confusing to you, contact Sharon for assistance.

New cut-off date is 31 January 2020. For Sharon to receive a book entry to her competition, it must be the EARLY BIRD price or $65 (member) or $95 (non-member) until 30 November. Beyond that, see above.

If your book was published in print before or between 1 November 2019 and 31 December 2019, the price will be the EARLY BIRD price or $65 (member) or $95 (non-member).

However, if your book will publish between 1 November 2019 and 31 December 2019, the price will be the EARLY BIRD price of $65 (member) or $95 (non-member) until 30 November, then see above.

If any of the deadlines are confusing to you, contact Sharon for assistance.

END of BOOK AWARDS info
November 2019

**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](http://Capitolcrimes.org) for more info

CWC meeting 3rd Sat monthly 11am-1pm
[CWCSacramentowriters.org](http://CWCSacramentowriters.org)
$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

Gold Country Writers meetings (FREE)
3rd Wed 10am-12Noon each month
Goldcountrywriters.com for more information

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

SAVE THE DATE: SUN 1 Dec 2019 – 12N-??
Launch ~ *More Birds of a Feather* ~ Animal Anthology ~ to join 3rd Annual Holiday Luncheon

**FREE PR: SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT FOR YOU AUTHORS WHO ARE ALREADY PUB'D:**
The NCPA Anthology is a great **FREE, QUICK, EZ-MARKETING OPPORTUNITY**, with free advertising to expose a group of authors and others, to one of your stories, get a taste of your writing, and have your book titles plus contact info at hand, if they like your story ~ all it takes is a little of your time to write and submit a story about Travel; as little as 500, to as many as 3000 words. Then at our Annual Holiday Luncheon at Black Angus as well as our Dec meeting at Denny’s, bring all of your books to share, barter, trade, sell, or whatever

**NCPA MEMBER: Chrissi Villa took 1st place in a Tanka Prose Contest: “Where Tanka Prose Grows 2019”**

**DOING GENEALOGY? NOVEMBER is Native American Heritage Month**

**Resources for Native American Genealogy Research:**

Native American Genealogy: Reconnecting With Your American Indian Heritage
Tracing Native American Family Roots
FamilySearch Wiki - American Indian Genealogy
American Indian Records in the National Archives
Your Indian Ancestry

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

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](http://www.saclibrary.org)
November 2019

NCPA Monthly Meeting * MINUTES October 10, 2019 Meeting * submitted 29 Oct 2019

Introduction of members: Attendees: Michelle Hamilton, Sharon Darrow, Elva Anson, Bob Irelan, Anna Hourihan, Barbara Young, Scott Charles, Paul Zimmer, Lisa Randolph, Charlene Johnson, Al Gonzalez, Jennifer Grainger Schoenborn, Emma Clasberry, Ann Grant, Sadie Abdullah, Andrea Roth, Norma Jean Thornton

*Sharon Darrow – Annual Book Contest:* The competition is getting more notice and recognition.

There are twelve entries so far – 2 Children’s * 1 Poetry * 2 Non-fiction * 1 Memoir * 6 Fiction

Sharon talked about a blog to let writer know about scams. Writer Beware®: The Blog

https://accrispin.blogspot.com. Writer Beware shines a bright light into the dark corners of the shadow-world of scams, schemes, and pitfalls that prey on authors.

*Norma Jean Thornton – More Birds of a Feather Anthology Update:* Norma is working on it. So far, there are 32 stories for the anthology.

*Guest Speaker – Al Gonzalez:* His background: * Started his career in radio * Producer for 30 Years * Author & Screenwriter * Current project is a legal drama * You Tube & Making Videos

- You Tube is Google’s largest service & has 1.8 billion users per month.
- Authors must have a video presence on You Tube.
- 300 hrs. of video updated every minute.
- Videos are visual, books are not.
- People between the ages of 18 to 49 are the top users
- You can make your own videos. All you need is an HD camera, tripod or camera on your computer. * Average video length is one minute. * Keep video short and include a call to action – book links, phone or email.

*Resource – Access Sacramento:* you can learn the ins and outs of film producing and directing. https://www.accesssacramento.org

*Film Making Software –*


*AI showed good and bad examples of videos*.

You can use a focus group after a video to assess it. Music for videos – Use public domain music – * look up on the web * Use the You Tube Music Library

To contact AI – Office number: (916)444-4857 * Website: www.quadaircom.com

Oct NCPA minutes submitted by Secty. Charlene Johnson, edited for space by Editor NJ

---

*NCPA MEMBER NEWS*

Cindy Sample is having a launch party Sat 16 Nov 1-4pm for her latest, Dying for a Double, at the El Dorado Hills’ Face in a Book ~ a picture of her book on page 4

Chrissi Villa took 1st place in a Tanka Prose Contest: Where Tanka Prose Grows 2019


Frances Kakugawa is spending the month of November in Hawaii, speaking at author events:

twice in Maui, three days on the Big Island. Frances also has a new book due out early Dec,

Echoes of Kapoho, a Memoir ~ a picture of her book on page 4

Norma Jean Thornton just finished her Doodles the Dorky Dragon, In the Dorky Land of Noniedoodles, in time for the 2019 Book Awards. ~ a picture of her book on page 4
FROM MARCH 2019 Newsletter: IMPORTANCE OF A WEBSITE … AND WHAT ONE NEEDS

5-page WEBSITE DONATION from SHARON DARROW for Silent Auction at Book Awards 26 April 2020

Marketing seems to be the bane of every writer's existence. Suggestions come from all sides, but virtually all experts agree on one thing: authors who are serious about their craft need a website.

You can pay thousands of dollars for an expert to design it, then lots more to keep it maintained, or, choose a simple platform with multiple templates to choose from and create your own. I created my website a long time ago, but each time I worked on updating some of the pages I've left others for a later day.

That later day came in March 2019, when I updated every single page of my site! That's right, for the first time ever the whole darned thing was current. I'm bragging about this only as a reminder for all of you, that if I can do it, you can too! I used wix.com because I found it the easiest one to use and very reasonable for the upgraded version, but there are several other choices available.

My site, https://www.sharonsdarrow.com, has more pages than many author's websites because I write in multiple genres and have several published books. I also have my publishing company, blog, and speaker page set up as separate page tabs on the site. No one has to follow my model and put everything in one place, but it seemed the most convenient for me.

Your author page should include five basic pages.

1) Your HOME page should be uniquely you, but leave specific biographical material for your BIO page. This page is for information about who you are as a writer and the books you have written and/or published. This is your page to reveal your motivation, philosophy, etc.

2) Your BIO page -- sometimes the tab might say something like ABOUT ME -- is for your biographical material. Your readers want to know about you and will enjoy finding out if you have things in common. This is a good place for family stories, pictures, and information about hobbies and special interests. One caution, be careful about what you reveal. There are nuts out there, and you don't want personal pictures or private information misused!

3) Your BOOKS page should showcase your published works, including pictures of your covers, book descriptions and/or reviews, and where they are available. Always remember to have buttons or links for instant purchases. You've got them on your site and interested in your work, don't make them buy later! This is also a good place to tell them about books that are coming out in the future.

4) Your NEWS AND EVENTS page is where you provide information on where you're going to be. If you will be at a meeting, taking part in a book-signing event, or teaching a class, be sure to give information so your fans can come to see you. This tab may have a different title (upcoming events, calendar, etc.) but is one you need on your site.

5) Your CONTACT page provides information on how your readers and fans can reach you. Their comments, suggestions and feedback are important. Don't forget that every single page should have a place for your readers to sign up for your newsletters, emails, etc. This is how you collect emails for marketing, so don't neglect it.

I hope this information will help you with your website, no matter how it looks today. I’d love to hear from you about ideas of other ways to set up a website or other information you think it should include. I'd also appreciate your feedback on mine -- now that it's been pretty much kept current since I did the major overhaul, going on two years now.

CSV $500 ~ AT YOUR HOME< YOUR COMPUTER< YOU DO THE WORK < SHARON WILL BE THERE SUPERVISING AND GUIDING YOU THROUGH EACH STEP.

For more information, See the next to the last box towards the bottom of page 16
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 *

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
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

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

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

**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/*
NCPA Board of Directors
norcalpa.org

President
Michelle Hamilton
authormlhamilton@gmail.com
916-837-6812

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

Secretary
Charlene Johnson
circleoftheredscorpion@gmail.com
408-205-6472

Treasurer
Amy Rogers
Amy@ScienceThrillersMedia.com

Communications Director / Newsletter Editor
Norma Jean Thornton
normathornton@yahoo.com
916-991-5751

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

Immediate Past President
Sharon Darrow
Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com

Webmaster
Chrissi Villa
chrissivilla@gmail.com

Social Media Director
Chrissi Villa
chrissivilla@gmail.com

Book Awards Chair
Sharon Darrow
Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com
800-462-2328

Photographer
Chrissi Villa
chrissivilla@gmail.com

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

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

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

Monthly Speaker Coordinator
Norma Jean Thornton
normathornton@yahoo.com
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)
PO Box 214673 ~ Sacramento, CA 95821
Michelle Hamilton, President ~ 916-837-6812
Norma Jean Thornton, Editor ~ 916-991-5751
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.

Material from the newsletter may not be reproduced in any way without written consent of the copyright holder.

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