UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

**Thursday 8 Dec 2016**
6:30pm-8:30pm Regular Meeting

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

NO SPEAKER ~ Annual “Book Display / Member Networking Schmooze” event.

MEMBERS : Bring your published books ~
Give others a chance to see the results of all NCPA members’ efforts. JUST IN TIME FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING! Plenty of table space, so bring your books to show off & sell…. We may even have some sweet things to munch on ~ and Denny’s has lots of hot & cold stuff to drink, plus food (for sale)

You might want to bring a light sweater

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**Wednesday 16 Nov ~ 12N–2pm ~ Lunchtime Meeting (No Speaker)**
Denny’s (in the Private back room)
3520 Auburn Blvd Sacramento (Auburn Blvd @ Watt Av & I-80)
AGENDA: Discussions and Q&A’s relating to all things writing & publishing

**2ND Thursday Evening Regular Meetings * 6:30PM – 8:30PM**
12 Jan 2017 ~ Speaker info pending
9 Feb ~ Speaker info pending
9 Mar ~ Speaker info pending
13 Apr ~ Speaker info pending

**3RD Wednesday Lunchtime Meetings AT DENNY’S * 12N-2PM**
*Wednesday 21 Dec 2016 ~ NO MEETING ~ HAPPY HOLIDAYS
18 Jan 2017 ~ NO SPEAKER
15 Feb ~ NO SPEAKER
15 Mar ~ NO SPEAKER
19 Apr ~ NO SPEAKER

**SUNDAY 23 APRIL 2017 ~ NCPA AWARDS BANQUET**
**CHERRY ISLAND GOLF COURSE**
Elverta, CA

Submit your books now for the 2016-2017 book awards.
Registration information ready at norcalpa.org
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Marketing and promotion is what authors say is the hardest task of all. Completing a book is an amazing accomplishment and getting it in print is enormously satisfying; however, getting it read is the big goal. Whatever we can do to help each other get our books out benefits everyone.

Norm Miller deserves huge congratulations for his recent "Meet the Authors" event at the Twelve Bridges Library in Lincoln the end of October. There were 30 authors with their books, and five different writers’ groups. Some authors sold lots of books, but this was a great event even for authors who didn’t sell a single book. I didn’t sell a single book, but was still thrilled with the results because of all the networking. I consider networking as planting seeds, because you never know what will come from a conversation with someone new.

Lots of authors are now interested in becoming NCPA members, and one gave me her membership application on the spot. Several more will be entering their books in the Book Awards Competition, and two writers gave me their books that day. Even the Library was so happy with the event that they would like to host it twice each year! Norm did a great job, and deserves thanks from all of us.

Another of our members, Reneau Peurifoy, has also shared excellent marketing and promotional advice. One of his best suggestions is a book, Your Super Sticky BUZZ Book Marketing Plan, by Polly Letofsky. It's a spiral-bound book that has a very specific step-by-step plan for marketing. It sells for $79.95 on the website, but if you click on the YouTube video at the bottom of the website homepage, you'll get a discount code of up to 50% off. Well worth both your time and money!

(And now Amy Rogers is scheduled to speak at the November evening meeting, Thursday, 11/10, on how to hold a successful Book Launch. After you've done your networking, then followed all the steps for a well-thought out marketing plan, you need to launch your book with a bang. Amy's information will help you do that, so don't miss this meeting! ) Editor's note: Hopefully you made the meeting.

This is what that extra Email I sent on 5 Nov was all about

And remember, we're not in competition with each other. If we view our fellow members as a special support group, we can all learn from one another. Do you have a tip that's worked well for you? Please share it!

Thanks for your support,

Sharon Darrow, NCPA President

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW ~ & ~ GET THOSE 2016 BOOKS PUBLISHED!!
BOOKS READY TO SELL BETWEEN 1 Jan-31 Dec 2016 are ELIGIBLE FOR 2017 BOOK AWARDS

2017 BOOK AWARDS BANQUET
SAME PLACE < SAME MENU > SAME PRICE (Great Birthday or Holiday Gift!)
*Sunday 23 April 2017 * 6 PM *
*CHERRY ISLAND GOLF COURSE ~ 2360 Elverta Rd ~ Elverta, CA 95626

$25 Buffet includes all you can eat ~ NO HOST BAR
Silent Auction for 2018 Scholarship
3rd year for $1,000 Scholarship to local HS student college-bound for Pub or Writing
The 2016 on-site bookstore* went over so well, it will also be back * Must Be Present to Sell Books

BOOK AWARD COMPETITION

The NCPA Annual Book Awards Competition is under way, so, if you have a book that was -- or will be -- published during 2016, we’d love to have you enter. The process is very simple, the cost is reasonable, and we have a great panel of five judges. Winners will be announced at our next Book Awards Banquet, on April 23, 2017. Here are the basic guidelines:

- Books must have been published during 2016. This also includes books that have come out under a new edition during the year. Full regulations outlined here: 2017 NCPA Book Awards Competition (1).pdf
- The entry form is simple to complete, either online or with a mail-in form. The cost is $60 for members, and $90 for non-members. $25.00 of the entry fee covers dinner at the Banquet. You need to send in four copies of your book; however, three of those copies will be for sale at the banquet. You will receive payment for books sold, and unsold books will be returned. That means you are only actually donating one copy of your book for the competition. Entry form here: 2017 NCPA Book Award Entry Form.pdf
- We have expanded the categories for this year’s competition. You can enter your book in General Fiction, General Non-Fiction, Non-Fiction Memoir, Children's, Young Adult, Poetry, and Trade Publications.
- Award winners receive very nice plaques, a supply of gold award winner stickers for their book covers, lots of PR on the NCPA website and local media, plus congratulations and support at the Banquet.

Send your application soon, so the three judges that will be reading your book will have time to truly savor your work. Questions? Contact Sharon Darrow by phone or email and I'll help every way I can. There are so many, many talented writers in our group, plus locally, let's make sure your talent is recognized!

916-803-1665 sharon@sharonsdarrow.com

Sharon Darrow NCPA President, Membership Director, Book Awards Coordinator

Editor's Note: If you have problems clicking one of the links above, go to the Book Awards section on the NCPA website, norcalpa.org for the information.

BRENDA NOVAK’S FUNDRAISER FOR DIABETES RESEARCH

Local New York Times and USA TODAY best-selling author Brenda Novak’s Online Auction for Diabetes Research has raised a total of $2.5 million for research in the last 10 years, but this year she has stuff for sale, instead: "Love that! Brenda Novak’s every occasion cookbook" and a digital boxed set called "ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS" 14 romantic Christmas stories from Brenda and some of today's most popular authors, like Debbie Macomber. ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS” will only be available until 31 December 2016 then it will be gone for good. So grab your copy now for $9.99. Brenda's already raised $33,000 this year, hoping for a goal of $100,000. All the money from both of this year's efforts will go to Boston University to help Dr. Ed Damiano (who also has a son with Type 1) finish engineering the second-generation artificial pancreas. For more info go to Brendanovakforthecure.org

(Brenda is a prior NCPA guest speaker and one-time NCPA Awards Banquet M/C. She’s also a repeat gracious NCPA Silent Auction Scholarship donor, including this year, when she was our first donor for the 2017 Awards Banquet Scholarship. Thank you Brenda!)
HOW TO ENSURE YOUR PICTURE BOOK DOESN'T SUCK
A 13-POINT CHECKLIST

Compliments of Bitsy, & Adapted from a post by Bitsy Kemper that originated at www.BitsyKemper.com

Writing a picture book is easy.
Writing a GOOD picture book is hard.
It's not as easy as one might think: coming up with a fully-thought out story with believable and likable characters, who come upon a problem and solve it after two or three failed attempts before realizing the inevitable yet unexpected ending, in 800 words or less. Easy, right?
If only.
If you've written a children's book and think it's ready for prime time, you'll be surprised at how much work you still have in front of you.
Here's a checklist:

1. Before you think you're finished, take a step back. Do a little bit of research into what makes a good picture book, to make sure yours is on par. Actually, do a LOT of research. Think of it as an investment. You wouldn't start a business without first looking into all aspects of your competition, right? Read 100 picture books. Yes, 100. They're short, it won't take too long. Don't look at the classics; grab current ones within the past two years. That means you have to keep an eye on the publication date, not just the condition of the book cover.
   - What's common? What makes one irresistible? What are the price ranges? What's out there similar to yours? What shelf does it sit on (Sci-Fi, Mystery, Humor, etc)? Who publishes them? What are their Amazon ranking/sales? How is yours different/better? Why would a publisher take a chance on yours, and which publisher should that be?
   - You need to know where your book compares to what's already being sold. Why would someone buy yours when all of these already exist?
2. Does your manuscript tell a story with a true beginning, middle and an end? A descriptively beautiful sunset, lyrical wind chime, and colorful rainbow might make it in a wonderful poetry collection but it won't fit well in the children's book market. (I'm not saying that's good or bad, I'm telling you what sells. It's not worth the battle to try to change the industry, so in the case of poetic and symbolic usage of characters, you might consider a different channel/market.)
3. Speaking of beginning: Do you start off with a bang? Don't start off slow and grow. Kids today don't have time for that. (Who does?)
4. The middle: don't let it sag (Hmm, I hope we aren't talking about my middle! Leave me alone, I likes me my chocolate, okay?!). Tell me you know what a story arc is!! If you don’t, oh my. Google it! And then start over.
5. The end: Your story needs to have an inevitable, yet unexpected ending. If people can predict your ending, it's less memorable and less satisfying.
6. Do you have identifiable characters that kids can relate to and cheer for? The main character, even if it's in animal form, needs to be the age or slightly older than the reader. Otherwise kids don't engage. You want a main character kids cheer for.
7. Where does it happen? It has to be in a relatable environment like the first day of school or wanting a friend. Even if it's a foreign/alien environment, it needs to somehow seem instantly familiar or intriguing. (continued page 5)
8. Does the main character (you have a main character, right?) have a problem that needs solving, and does he or she try then fail, try then fail, try and succeed, on his or her own? He or she can have help along the way, but the solution has to come from within, as a result of what he or she learned from failing. (See earlier reference about a main character to cheer for!)

9. Word count and word choice: how closely have you looked at your words? Are they kid friendly? Are they fun? Are they there to impress the parent—or the kid? (Hint: impress the kid!) Most picture books today are 500 words or less. (500? Yes. Five hundred. Or less. You should have noticed that in your research. Ahem.) Cut out every single word that doesn’t need to be there. You’ll probably be fine with 600. Maaaybe 800. But 1600? No way.

10. Did you leave room for the illustrator to tell the other half of the story? Many times we feel the need to paint a picture with our words, and we do, but in picture books we need to be careful not to include so much detail that we leave the illustrator out of a job. Don’t say the girl is wearing a blue shirt, for example, unless that color comes into play later on. Leave those specifics for the artist. Trust that they’ll do what they do best (art), just like they trust that you do what you do best (write).

11. Read it out loud. How does it flow? Does it make you proud? Fix what doesn’t. Do any lines trip you up? They’ll trip up your reader, too. Go back and edit and re-edit and fix and fix until it’s perfect. Your readers deserve nothing less.

12. Find a critique group. There are lots of people that are going to be willing to read your story and give you feedback. Now, no offense, but their opinions might not be helping. Seek out people that do this for a living. Even if they’re online (as long as there is no fee and you can verify their credentials). Fellow writers love helping fellow writers, we really do. Now bear in mind I said HELP you, not rewrite it for you. Or magically get it published for you. There’s a difference. Don’t expect to hand it over to a published author for them to get it published for you (trust me, I’ve had that happen. A LOT). They should be able to give some tips on ways to make things a bit better, in ways you never thought of. You’re the one that will need to sort out how to implement the changes. It’s your story, so take their two cents and change things around as you see fit. You don’t have to do anything they say. But please do listen. If more than one person says the same thing, you should seriously consider what they are telling you. [As an aside, SCBWI has a monthly critique group called "Critique Carousel" that meets around the Sacramento area. It’s free to members, and the first meeting for nonmembers is free too. www.canorthcentral.scbwi.org ]

13. Have you heard the term “dummy”? (Not the insult. The graphic art term.) It’s a mockup of what the picture book will end up looking like, with thumbnail placeholders for words and sketches. Think about how your paragraphs and sentences might split up into pages. Every picture book is printed in a variation of 8 pages; most total 32 pages. The text might be on 28 of the 32 pages. Author Tara Lazar has a great link where she details out how to create a dummy. REMEMBER, YOU ARE NOT CREATING ANY ILLUSTRATIONS. Don’t even try. You’re the writer, stick to writing. It’s the editor and publisher’s jobs to find the illustrator. The dummy helps pacing and word count. [This is for your eyes only; you won’t submit this to anyone or even mention it to an agent or editor. Think of it like the part of long division when the teacher says you don’t have to show your work…you still need to do the work to get the right answer.] Creating a dummy is helpful because it gets you to really think through the last step in “is my manuscript ready to be a book”? (continued page 6)
It’s a lengthy process, this “simple” picture book writing. Many beginning writers, including yours truly years ago, greatly underestimate the amount of time and care that goes into picture books. I mean it’s a children’s book, how hard can it be, right? HAH! IN YOUR FACE! Done right, it can take years to do it justice. If you’ve written a picture book in an afternoon, I can assure you, it’s not ready. It might be good, but it’s not ready. Once your manuscript can pass all thirteen items here, you just may be ready to go. Of course if you’re ready to go, that means you can start the How Do I Find an Editor or Agent? part of the process…which is an discussion all its own! So...if you're going to write a picture book, write a good one. Your readers deserve it. Happy writing!

Bitsy Kemper

www.BitsyKemper.com

Bitsy Kemper
Strategist, Writer, Really Nice Gal
Regional Advisor for SCBWI CA North/Central (36 counties!) Oh, and author of 15 children's books: PBs, chapter, & MG/YA
www.BitsyKemper.com

Editor’s Note: Bitsy’s an NCPA member, was our Awards Banquet Emcee in 2015 & 2016, and spoke to NCPA about Twitter a couple of years ago. ~ ~ * ~ ~ In addition Bitsy is the Regional Advisor for the local Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI), and coordinator for the 2016 & 2017 Annual SCBWI Spring Spirit Conference (1 April 2017). In past years, she’s been involved in a variety of positions with the SCBWI Conferences, including Instructor and providing professional critiques. She also donated a professional PB critique to the NCPA 2016 Scholarship Silent Auction. Thank you Bitsy!!

Short Spotlight on member Ray Blaine

Long-time pediatrician Raymond Blain has been a poet, blogger, actor, cartoon strip creator, champion orator, medical case presenter, and column editor. He served on the Sacramento CWC Branch Board in 2014-15 where he was known for his easy laugh.

Ray’s first book, There Is a Dragon in My Closet, is a fiction/fantasy adventure about overcoming bullying by helping others (Tate Publishing and Enterprises, 2013). The sequel Evil Comes to Dragonland addresses the value of working with others to overcome evils. This book was self-published on CreateSpace, 2015, as was Ray’s third book, the mystery The Birthright Murders, on science and its social and legal consequences.

Currently Ray is working on an historical novel on the American Industrial Revolution, centered in his birthplace Holyoke, Massachusetts, which serves as an example of industrialization and immigration. Ray is also an accomplished artist and painter in charcoal and acrylic on canvas. He has both organized and presented on writing, publishing, and marketing panels on teen and adult markets at libraries and bookstores.
Spotlight on a Member

FRANCES KAKUGAWA

Longtime NCPA member and prolific published author, Frances Kakugawa was born and raised on the Big Island of Hawaii in Kapoho, which was demolished by lava when she was 18 years old. She has taught for many years in the Michigan and Hawaii public school systems; conducted language arts workshops for teachers in Micronesia and in Hawaii; and was a curriculum writer and lecturer for the University of Hawaii.

In 2002, she was recognized in the "Living Legacy: Outstanding Women of the 20th Century in Hawai'i" book. Today, she continues to write, conducts writing support groups for caregivers, gives writing workshops for adults and children, and gives lectures on caregiving and writing throughout the U.S. These projects are being done in conjunction with organizations such as the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California, Del Oro Caregiver's Resource Center and similar groups.

Kakugawa is an award-winning author of over a dozen books. Her four children's books, "Wordsworth the Poet," "Wordsworth Dances the Waltz," "Wordsworth, Stop the Bulldozers!" and "It’s In Your Pocket, Wordsworth" have received Best Children’s Book of the Year awards from Hawai'i and California publishers’ associations. Three of her books, "Mosaic Moon," "Wordsworth Dances the Waltz" and "Breaking the Silence," address using poetry to bring dignity and compassion into caregiving.

Her memoir, "Kapoho: Memoir of a Modern Pompeii" was named Best Non-Fiction by NCPA and all but the first one of her Wordsworth children’s books have received NCPA awards (She wasn’t a member at the time of that book’s release.).

Frances’ poem, "The Enemy Wore My Face," was selected as the opening work for the Rising Sun portal of the World Peace Monument (www.peacemonument.org), she writes a “Dear Frances” Advice Column for Caregivers in the Hawai’i Herald, and also has a one year contract to appear as herself on a Hawai’i TV program called “I Age”, currently appearing in Hawai’i only, on Time Warner.

Works currently being readied for publication by Frances include an as-of-yet untitled collection of poems and talk-story spanning 50 years of writing.

More information on Frances can be found at her website: www.francesk.org

Frances had given me the following article way back in July, along with another one about the importance of blogging. Unfortunately this one wound up in the wrong folder so didn’t get included in the August newsletter as it should have, to be a continuation from her blogging article in the July newsletter. However, it worked out for the best, creating this spotlight.

Thankfully, I didn’t lose the piece completely, because it’s a perfect synopsis of my absolute favorite book ever, by anyone:

I always tell everyone every should be mandatory reading teacher, and anyone who has should be foremost in every desk as a mandatory go-to for to poignant and back, and

Blog #2 from Frances is continued on the next page:
BLOG #2 ~ Frances Kakugawa *Teacher You Look Like a Horse: Internationally published.*

The first chapter begins with: “My decision to become a teacher was based on the only other alternative I thought was available at the time --- becoming a prostitute…”

Will this entice you to read this book? *(Editor’s note: it did me!)*

The Chinese did. This book was selected from the publishers list of book titles, to be translated into Chinese and published in Beijing. Six hundred copies were immediately sold upon its release so I hope it was more than just that opening line.

*Teacher* focuses on how students best learn, and how teachers best teach. The Chinese are trying to humanize their educational system.

What’s in the book?

The following happened earlier this year; a former student emailed me about the journals he wrote in our third grade class. Journal writing is found in the *Teacher* book. More than 30 years later, the results are still coming in.

Former third grader Jake emailed to thank me for our year together. He also quoted a line I had written in one of his journal entries: *You are a fantastic human being.*

He is a dentist today, has a beautiful family, and joy and freedom emanates from each of their faces. He reads his journal even today.

Here is one of our exchanges:

**Jake’s entry:** This morning I cried in the bathroom and bedroom because I had a dream that my dad lived with me. When I got up, I realized he really didn’t live with me so I started to cry. And also when I see a child playing with their dad, it makes me sad. I just don’t feel happy inside. I wish my dad lived with me. Because if he did that would really really make me feel very very happy inside. Don’t you think so? I think so I really do. And when we talk on the phone we talk about all the problems and it makes my dad and me feel like we’re very close together talking. I really love my dad.

**My response to Jake:** I felt very sad reading this. If I had a magic wand, I would use it to make your dreams come true. But things are not always perfect in our lives. Can you be happy and satisfied in knowing that even if you and your dad are apart, you both love each other?

I can understand how painful it is to see other children with their dads. Think of your telephone calls at these times. Jake, I’m glad you’re brave enough to write these things in your journal. You are a fantastic human being. Miss K

Throughout my teaching career, from grades K - adult, we always began the day with our journals. Before the end of each day, they found my responses, sometimes written in poetic form. After morning recess, they went straight to their journals to read my responses. Some would give me a knowing nod or smile. It was here that we built our one-to-one relationship. It was here that I got to know each student as an individual. It was here that I checked if anything I “taught” was being understood and used in its most natural form. It was here I reinforced what I taught with my “Oh, oh, he must have left all his periods at home today.” Or “Hey, he brought all his punctuation marks with him today. Genius at work.” It was here that each knew he or she was my favorite.

There are two relationships in the classroom: a group and an individual. How joyless for both teacher and students to spend all those months in school with a group relationship where one’s personhood is lost in the group.

So yes, it was here that we wrote poems to each other, shared jokes and funny stories and spilled ourselves out in grief and sadness. It was here where each was heard and listened to. It was here I got to know all their individual traits so I could nurture and expand on them.

I hope *Teacher* has been translated as I had written it in English. For all I know, they could have translated it according to Mao, but I’m grateful, for this gave me the claim “internationally published.” Blog #2
MEMBERS’ CORNER

Have something to share? Send it!
* If you want to join a critique group, let us know
* If you belong to a critique group & need members, let us know
* If you have anything to report about a local writing / publishing event, let us know

Anything to report about a local writing / publishing event? Let us know
Send an Email; we’ll add your info to the next newsletter normathornton@yahoo.com

Have a tip? *Tell us about your writing progress * your writer’s block * your accomplishments * what project are you currently working on * did you write that final chapter * recently published * have you won any awards * having a launch? Details * already had one? Details * how many books did you sell * what did you learn * selling at an upcoming venue? Details * attended any conferences? Details * Book Signing? * Book Releases * Special Awards * Etc *

Thanks to information from Cap Crimes newsletters:

Dual NCPA member Linda Joy Singleton is busy this year, with her YA futuristic mystery about a future society where memories are transferred into youths and no one ever dies by natural causes—only accidents and murder. After several rejections and rewrites, Memory Girl was contracted by CBAY Books, can be ordered from your favorite bookstore, and even has some Hollywood interest!

In addition, Linda Joy released #4 Secret of the Shadow Bandit, the 4th book in the CURIOUS CAT SPY CLUB (ages 8-12), is a tribute to vintage mysteries like Nancy Drew, with a missing jewel, a missing heir and a mysterious creature lurking in the trees.

If you guys and gals want your info passed on to our NCPA members in the future via our newsletter, you’re going to need to contact me direct with that info. I’ve been including things from both CWC and Cap Crimes newsletters on our dual members this year, but Dec 2016 will be the last month anything will be included in the NCPA newsletter about members who don’t let us know themselves.

NCPA Members’ Book Signings & Releases:

For those who missed her earlier launch-date, she’s having a book signing at:
1pm * Sunday, November 13 * Avid Reader * 1600 Broadway * Sacto
Pat invites everyone to stop by and pick up a Geahan replica.
Kindle version on-line at Amazon books * Editor’s note: Nice cover, Pat

NEW MEMBER Elaine Russell’s newest book, All About Thailand with Tuttle Publishing has a release date of 8 Nov, and can be found on Amazon.com. Elaine already has several children’s books under her belt, including the adventurous Martin McMillan middle-grade series, which looks especially interesting. Welcome, Elaine!
We are all writers nowadays, whether we do it professionally or not. I would have never predicted today's world where we communicate so much in writing (emails, social media, texting.)

In my article, Don’t Forget (to Write, Paint, Make Music for) You, I advocate the importance of writing just for yourself. There’s nothing like the insights and enlightenment that come from sorting your personal thoughts and desires on paper. It’s as easy as putting them onto the page and then reading “your favorite author.” Your perspective changes when you switch hats from writer to reader. With your reader hat comes more objectivity and the ability to notice things that aren’t drowned out by your own mind chatter.

Since I have so much to accomplish lately, I had to figure out some kind of system for managing my insights and personal follow-ups. Add an aging brain to the equation and it’s too easy for important ahas to go in one lobe and out the other, so to speak. Same goes for great ideas, writing-wise and otherwise.

I began to realize that this writing in tidbits is a trend that's trying to pick me up. (I feel like a hot commodity at a singles' bar.)

One of my “Sisters in Crime”, Robin Burcell, has encouraged me to start using Scrivener to write my next novel. Scrivener allows a writer to create fiction in scenes and move bits of it around like sticky-notes on a drawing board. This will allow me to capture scenes and pieces of them during this busy time before they evaporate in the Mist of Too Much to Do.

I’m already using my wonderful iPhone tape recorder app to catch snatches of dialogue or ideas about my novel, whether on my walking workout or in the grocery store. Long ago, I did the same thing with a small, hand held recorder. The idea hasn’t changed, just the technology.

One thing I learned from Natalie Goldberg in Writing Down the Bones, one of my favorite writing technique and encouragement books, is to write in different media and in different places. I also have a small paper notebook in my purse. I have written many a poem in it over coffee or lunch, as well as tallied my mounting grocery purchases when I’m just too tired to do it in my head.

If you have any interesting and useful ways you write on the run, do share. We live in a world that's on fast forward. We have to adapt to a new reality. I’m just now “getting” that long writing benders are things of the past in my foreseeable future. If I want to keep writing—and I do—I have to adapt to doing it in small doses.

What other ways have you adapted your writing to changing or overly busy times?
MAKING CONNECTIONS CORNER with our Local Sister Writing Organizations

California Writers Club (CWC) (Sacramento Branch)
- Monthly Luncheon Meetings generally 3rd Saturday of each month ~ 11am – 1pm
- $15 members, $20 non-members, includes lunch Rancho Cordova Cattlemen’s
- Writers Network 9-11am 1st Fri each month I Hop 2216 Sunrise Rancho Cordova Open to public, pay for your own breakfast
  - For information & prices on joining, go to: cwcsacramentowriters.org

Capitol Crimes (Cap Crimes) (Sacramento Chapter of Sisters in Crime)
- If you write anything crime-related, or want to, then check out Cap Crimes.
  - FREE monthly meetings, generally the 3rd Saturday of each month, generally with guest speakers, generally crime-related. They normally meet at 1pm at the Rancho Cordova Library 9845 Folsom Blvd in Rancho Cordova
  - No-Host lunch 11:30am prior to meetings usually at Perko’s 9647 Micron Av Must be a member of Sisters in Crime ($50) to join Cap Crimes ($20)
  - Capitolcrimes.org

Sacramento Suburban Writers (SSW)
- Meets 2nd Mon of each month 7pm- 9pm Crossroads Fellowship Christian Church, 5501 Dewey Dr, Fair Oaks, CA
- Meetings, generally with guest speakers, are FREE ~ ($40 membership fee)
  - Like with NCPA, you don’t have to be a member to attend
  - Sactowriters.org

Sacramento Valley Rose (SVR) (Sacramento Chapter of Romance Writers of America {RWA})
- If you write Romance, or want to, then check out SVR ~ they generally meet at 10am at the White Rock Community Clubhouse, 10488 White Rock Rd, Rancho Cordova
  - 3rd or 4th Saturday of each month $20 for members $30 for non-members
  - Contact: Deb at debjulienne@gmail.com for RSVP information & directions
    - Debbie Putnam, President: DebbiePutnam.SVR@gmail.com
    - Suggest you go to their site for their rules & stipulations
  - Must be a member of Romance Writers of America ($99+) before joining SVR ($30)
  - Sacramentovalleyrose.com

Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI) (California North/Central)
- If you’re interested in writing … or illustrating … for kids of any age, this is the premiere INTERNATIONAL organization to belong to! Your first year of SCBWI membership is $95, with an ongoing annual renewal fee of $80. No monthly meetings, but there are occasional Schmoozes, Workshops, Intensive-Events, Special Events, and Critique Groups, as well as a great Holiday Party in December, and a discounted Spring Spirit Conference … plus more … with our double-fun NCPA Emcee, (who’s also SCBWI’s Regional Advisor {RA}), Bitsy Kemper
- Go to the website for full information: https://canorthcentral.scbwi.org/
Nov 2016

Upcoming Writing Events

Conference:

*SCBWI SPRING SPIRIT 2017 CONFERENCE ~ (ALL WELCOME)
https://canorthcentral.scbwi.org/
*Saturday 1 April 2017 in Citrus Heights ~ Tickets go on sale December 2016

Book Awards Contest:

26th Year NCPA ~ (ALL WELCOME, member discount)
4 books (3 returned) + $60 (includes 1 dinner) per title
More info: 2017 NCPA Book Award Entry Form.pdf  * OR * norcalpa.org
Entry form: 2017 NCPA Book Award Entry Form.pdf
Enter NOW ~ Awards given Sun 23 Apr 2017 at Book Awards Banquet

Book Awards Banquet & Scholarship:

NCPA ~ all welcome
*Sun 23 April 2017 ~ Cherry Island Golf Course Elverta ~ $25 Tickets on sale NOW

Thank You for Submissions:

A huge thank you to New Member Elaine Russell, NCPA member/ SCBWI RA Bitsy Kemper, NCPA member/ CWC President Kimberly Edwards, NCPA members Pat Canterbury, Frances Kakugawa & Joyce Mason, plus Cap Crimes newsletter for providing us with their writing/ publishing information and articles for this month, also, donor Brenda Novak for info on her Diabetes Project.

Meet the Authors recap

The highly anticipated Meet the Authors event at the 12 Bridges Library in Lincoln on 29 October was a huge success, thanks to the diligent efforts by coordinator and NCPA member, Norm Miller.

Several buyers / lookers wandered up and down the aisles asking questions, turning pages and enjoying our books in the spacious, very inviting indoor room.

Norm reports 33 authors were there, including from numerous writing organizations, and sold anywhere from 0 to 15 books each, everything from set-up to take-down ran smoothly, and the Library was so pleased with the turnout that they’d like to make this a bi-annual event.

I sat between one zero (Sharon), and one 15 (Tommie) author. Both were extremely satisfied, for different reasons. I sold 4, and was pleased. Sharon (Prez), June (VP) and I were there representing NCPA in addition to selling our books, and we wound up with a few new members, plus some interested in the book awards, including one who signed up on the spot.

In addition, I made a few contacts for potential donors and guest speakers for NCPA, and I’ll be signing up for the next event Norm sets up, whether at 12 Bridges Library, or elsewhere. I was extremely impressed with the level of expertise Norm provided.

Thanks Norm … Great Job!! ….. from another “Norm”; editor Norma Jean
Tid Bits & Odds & Ends

- Are you involved in NaNoWriMo this month? If so, let us know how it turned out.
- Rumor has it a new Barnes & Noble will be opening (eventually) in Folsom ~ and will be serving wine and beer!
- NCPA has added back our Yahoo Group Email … an easy way to communicate with one-another like we used to do, when one of us has a question or tip. Not using it yet? Contact me if you need more info … or better yet, attend one of our monthly meetings (2nd Thu 6:30pm or 3rd Wed 12Noon) for the “full-skinny”!

**GENEROUS DONORS to 2017 SCHOLARSHIP SILENT AUCTION**

**YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS COULD ALSO GO HERE — IF YOU DONATE!**

★ New York Times, USA TODAY Best-Selling Award Winning Romantic Suspense Author Brenda Novak has kicked off our 2017 Scholarship Silent Auction (SA) donation-gathering with a bang! Brenda has donated her signature classy mini-tote, plus the entire 10-book-set of her *Whiskey Creek Series* ~ $100 Value  www.brendanovak.com

★ For the 2nd year, the Antelope Marketplace **Tugboat Fish & Chips** has donated a gift card. This is my very favorite Tugboat location … clean, friendly, and always excellent food! … including their tasty little chicken lumpia!

★ Also for the 2nd year, our host venue, **Cherry Island Golf Course**, has donated one day of golf for 4, golf-cart included, $212 Value  www.golfcherryisland.com (916-991-6875)

★ NCPA member, guest speaker, and Author-Literary Attorney Susan Spann will be donating a basket of goodies from her trip to Japan when she returns.

All 3 have donated in prior years. THANK YOU AGAIN Brenda, Susan & Tugboat Fish & Chips!

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR VERY GRACIOUS & GENEROUS SPONSORS & DONORS!

THANK YOU TO ALL DONORS, SPONSORS AND BIDDERS

Advertising for generous SILENT AUCTION DONORS & SPONSORS
 starts when donations received and goes through October 2017

**DONOR CONTACT INFORMATION 2017 SCHOLARSHIP SILENT AUCTION**

Brenda Novak, Author  www.brendanovak.com

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

Susan Spann, Author & Literary Attorney  www.susanspann.com

Tugboat Fish & Chips “Antelope Marketplace”  7909 Walerga Rd, Ste 111, Antelope, CA
 (Elverta Rd & Walerga Rd Across from WinCo)  * 916-729-4243
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**Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month, 6:30pm to 8:30pm**

Denny’s (in the Private back room)  
3520 Auburn Blvd Sacramento (Watt Av & Auburn Blvd)  
Meetings are always FREE ~ Visitors are always welcome.

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**Note from the Editor**  
Send your articles and announcements to normathornton@yahoo.com  
Please type **NCPA N/L** as the email subject (easier to find.)  
NO DEADLINE for NEWSLETTER submissions ~ JUST SEND IT … or call me  
Thanks, Norma Jean

*(Last page snipped)*