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The Pen & Press

NCPA Board-Authors & Critique Group Moderators
ML (Michele) Hamilton (Prez) * Sharon Darrow (VP)
Norma Jean Thornton (Communications Director/ Newsletter Editor)

Roundtable discussion on the Importance of CRITIQUE GROUPS & WRITING ORGANIZATIONS

Meeting location for the rest of 2022 * Black Angus Restaurant
 7925 Greenback Ln, Citrus Heights, CA 95610
 Sun 9 October 1pm-3pm-(or ??) Meeting

Oct & NOV 2022 Guest Journalist for newsletter NCPA member & Author Barbara KLIDE
 Review of Henry Miller's Tropic of Cancer --- and more

Sun 9 Oct Mtg: **DISCUSSION** with ML (Michelle) Hamilton, Sharon Darrow & Norma Jean Thornton
The Importance of Critique Groups & More than You Ever Wanted to Know about Them
 NCPA Critique Group Sessions are for NCPA MEMBERS ONLY and are FREE, however, anyone may
 attend a couple of sessions of each, without being a member, to see if they want to join NCPA.
 Sharon's NF & Memoir ZOOM Group has already started, but one can jump in at any time
 Michelle's Fiction ZOOM Group will be starting sometime in October 2022 – jump in at any time
 Norma Jean's Non-Specific Genre for newbies, old-timers & wannabees will be **IN-PERSON-ONLY** &
 will start sometime after the first of the year, 2023. Location, time & days to be determined later.

Sunday 13 NOVEMBER meeting - Moved from July - (BOOK EXCHANGE * usually held in Dec)
 Gone when we started having our Holiday Luncheon at the Black Angus, but not forgotten, we bring
 back the ever-popular oldie, but goodie Book Exchange / Network & Schmooze. NCPA MEMBERS
 (only) who have published books, no matter when, bring them in to brag about, share, sell &/or barter.

Everyone is welcome to attend but ONLY NCPA MEMBERS may bring and sell their books

Guest Journalist for Dec NCPA newsletter will be Andrea Roth –
 a chatty letter all the way from the 'dismal swamp' in Chesapeake VA!

DEC 11 Meeting TIME CHANGE == 12Noon instead of 1pm * Holiday Luncheon * Black Angus

Guest Journalist for Jan 2023: Barbara Barrett –

A Rootin' Tootin' Wonder Woman, with Lots of Tales to Tell!

ZOOM MEETINGS: Instructions on how to ZOOM connect inside this newsletter, **top of Page 3**

NOTE: in-person attendees start getting there around 1pm but it takes a while to set up the Zoom process, so the actual meeting doesn't start until 1:15-1:30. If you're there early on Zoom, the screen will be blank.

Join our **NCPA FB PAGE** <https://www.facebook.com/NORCALPA>

President's MessageNana ML & 1st grandchild

See you 1pm at the 9 October meeting at Black Angus in Citrus Heights. Sharon Darrow, Norma Jean Thornton and I will have a round table on the Importance of Critique Groups with an invite for all to join in.

ML Hamilton authormlhamilton.net

Editor's Notes: Attention authors in all phases of writing! Even if you're already in a crit group, especially if you have a story in any of our anthologies, & have questions, comments or complaints about anything we've been doing regarding proofing &/or editing, we invite you to attend this meeting and make yourself heard ~ In addition, NCPA is in different phases of three critique groups at this time and we'll also discuss those. Please consider attending 1 or 2 of each of our 3 critique groups to either get help if you're a newbie, refresher if an "oldie", help others if you're more seasoned – or just to see what's going on in different critique groups.

Regarding our October Guest Journalist: This month and next will basically be an author's review of two of Henry Miller's books. **Barbara Klide** is our Guest Journalist for these two months, and what you'll be reading in both, is what she originally sent for an anthology story but it was too long and doesn't fit for that purpose – however, it is fitting for a newsletter to authors. Because there's so much of it, I've split her story into three parts – her fun story, itself, about a burned turkey because of Henry Miller, will be in our *Volume 3 ALL Holidays Anthology*. We haven't announced that one yet, but it's coming soon (hopefully), so get those Holiday stories ready, those of you who plan on entering one for that anthology.

The 2nd part is Barbara's review, with extras, of Miller's *Tropic of Cancer*. I've also broken it into segments, in order to give a little break between so many words, as I've done with all the other guest journalists. The 3rd part will be in Nov, with more on Henry Miller in Greece.

Another example of what a Guest Journalist can do when they take a month. let me know if you're interested in being one for a month - we're booked through Jan 2023.

On a personal Editor's note: I gave Michelle a break again this month, so no president's message in Oct because I'm still fighting ATT, Wi-Fi, the I-Net & no access to email from my computer. That makes it extremely difficult to write the newsletter, since most of what's included in it is saved in my email folders which I don't have access to on my computer with no I-net (although I do have access on my I-phone,... but...). That means a bunch of jiggling around trying to make it work, including a lot of retyping on my part then saving the newsletter to a thumb drive to take to Sharon's house for her to download and send out on the website (she has a Mac, I don't, so she has to take it from there). Same thing as last month.

We thought my problem was resolved with a new modem since the other one was 8 years old, but no dice; still no connection, even though son and I have been on the phone for hours through multiple phone calls, transfers from one automated voice to another and back again many multiple times more (son and I both hate A-I Emma right now), dropped calls, plus green lights...one constantly blinking green broadband light plus the solid green power light, but no light at all for the phone. This modem only has buttons for 3 lights. The old one had at least 7 – maybe 8, but those lights also flashed red and yellow. Mostly red. This green only gives false hope. Hopefully it will be resolved by Nov, before it totally drives me crazy!

Norma Jean Thornton, Editor



Permanent link for monthly ZOOM NCPA meetings:

Author ML Hamilton is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NCPA Monthly Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

(I'm not sure what this means: ask Michelle)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84185416630?pwd=aEJaTGlyakhBQ1pYWU5KS3FEanBTUT09>

Meeting ID: 841 8541 6630

Passcode: 828631

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,84185416630#,,,,*828631# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,84185416630#,,,,*828631# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C.)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 841 8541 6630

Passcode: 828631

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84185416630?pwd=aEJaTGlyakhBQ1pYWU5KS3FEanBTUT09>

NEW info for ZOOM – it takes a while to set up the computer for Zoom, so it won't be available until 30 minutes or so after the meeting time given; we're normally just schmoozing and chit-chatting then anyway, so if we show the meeting starts at 1pm that means ZOOM starts around 1:30pm.

Something to chuckle about – TWISTED LANGUAGE - how true it is

- Why do fat chance and slim chance mean the same thing?
- If you can't drink & drive, why need a driver's license to buy liquor, & why do bars have parking lots?
- If you're in a vehicle going the speed of light, what happens when you turn on the headlights?
 - Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad of the drive-up ATM?
 - Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways?
- Why isn't "palindrome" spelled the same way backwards as it is forward?

How did the months get their names?

<https://www.wordgenius.com/the-names-of-the-months/Xr0yWBPAJQAG8w9w>

Changed from the CANCELED July meeting to November meeting

SPECIAL 13 November 2022 MEETING * ANOTHER NCPA PERK FOR MEMBERS ONLY

For our **13 Nov meeting**, we bring back the ever-popular **NCPA BOOK EXCHANGE**, previously held every December, until we started going to Black Angus for our Holiday Luncheon. Another NCPA perk, ***ONLY* CURRENT-PAID NCPA MEMBERS** are **welcome to bring your published books** to brag about, share, sell or barter with others. As many books as you want; set them on the tables. **NO CHARGE**, only for food or drink purchases, if applies. Bring change for your book sales & be prepared to network & Schmooze. **Everyone is welcome to attend** but **ONLY NCPA MEMBERS** are welcome to bring their books.

Meet our NCPA OCTOBER 2022 GUEST JOURNALIST Barbara KLIDE

Barbara Klide was born in NYC. She is the author of the book trilogy, *Along Came Ryan...the Little Gosling King*, the true saga of a mated pair of elegant, sensitive and smart Canada geese and their offspring who nested three years in a row where she works. She donates book profits to various wildlife rescue groups.

She also has published short stories in the NCPA Anthology series of books.

Barbara graduated with an MBA from Golden Gate University, San Francisco, and a Certificate in Graphic Design from the University of California, Davis. She is the Director of Marketing for Quest Technology Management, California and a member of the NCPA. Her Canada goose compendium series has received much acclaim including from Dr. Lorin Lindner, PhD, *Wolves and Warriors*, as seen on Animal Planet and Bill Bianco, President, Audubon Society, Sacramento.

Barbara and her longtime partner reside in Fair Oaks, California where they rescue, foster, and adopt out cats. Visit Barbara at: Barbaraklide.com (starts on page 5)



If you've read our NCPA Anthologies, you've seen Barbara's mostly fun stories (& one poem) in the following:

MORE Birds of a Feather: *Along Came Ryan...the Little Gosling King*

Destination the World Vol 1: *God Bless South West*

Destination the World Vol 2: *The Flight of the Clay Tiles*

ALL Holidays 2020: *A Christmas Coffee Cruise*

Beautiful Americas: *The Bermuda Triangle*

ALL Holidays Vol 2: *Purple Heart Day* * (+Poem: 3 Watts All Aglow)

WRITE FOR HARLEQUIN CARINA PRESS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

<http://carinapress.com/blog/submission-guidelines/> Carina Press accepts *both agented & unagented submits*

UPCOMING Conference DATES

Erma Bombeck WRITERS' WORKSHOP rescheduled to October 20-22 2022

2022 Workshop University of Dayton, Ohio (udayton.edu)

Elk Grove Writers Guild Presents * A HOLIDAY SEMINAR * 5 Nov 2022 12N-4:45pm * Registration \$45 Register NOW:
Egweg.org/holiday/ Questions? Egwg2020@egweg.org

CLASSES Sep-Nov 2022: EGWA Fall Writing Course

Story Genius: Novels & Memoirs * Gini Grossenbacher, M.Ed.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/2?ui=2&ik=522f49784c&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1742238125869331590&th=182dac583e957486&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=f_17afmvbh0

If the above link doesn't work, here's a quick summary:

Email: ginis.writers1@gmail.com * Website: www.ginigrossenbacher.com

Zoom Wed 6-8pm Sep 21-Nov16 2022 1st Class FREE Begins 21 Sep ends 16 Nov \$25/pay-as-you-go.

Henry Miller and the Burned Turkey

Barbara Klide

Part one in the three-part short story series: Henry Miller and the Burned Turkey

(Editor's Note: Parts of the following will be in Barbara's story in Vol 3 of the NCPA ALL Holidays anthology to be published in 2023)

It was 1964, the year the Supreme Court ruled that *Tropic of Cancer* was “not obscene”, having previously been banned, and that it now could be legally distributed throughout the U.S., the news of which was not lost on our local bookstore owner.

The book was conspicuously displayed at the store's entrance. It was on its own table with at least a couple of dozen copies stacked high. This 1934 classic and its author, Henry Miller, suffered a public roasting and was beset with litigation for years, so much so that news of it even made its way onto my teenage radar crowded with “the other” Supremes, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, James Brown, and James Bond.

The main issue was over various four-letter words used throughout the explicitly sexual, crude, often sordid, and highly introspective novel. I breezed past the book as I perceived that it was just too heady for my teenybopper brain. In retrospect, I had been singing along to songs that had the same primal undercurrent as Henry Miller's book though the songs were packaged with a decidedly teenybopper beat that I could dance to.

As sheer coincidence would have it, I am reading *Tropic of Cancer* as I write this story now, but I have not as yet realized the depth of the coincidence.

Barely into the book's introduction, I received a call from Norma of the Northern California Publishers and Authors association (NCPA). She asked me about edits to a poem I had submitted for one of NCPA's upcoming anthology book editions. After answering those concerns, I asked her for next year's book themes so I could get a jump start. Norma said she was sure there would at least be another holiday theme, and I whined that I had no more such stories to contribute, having previously submitted three holiday stories.

Not willing to let me worm out, Norma insisted that I must have more holiday stories to tell, so I casually mentioned that I burned a Thanksgiving turkey once. “Well, that's just perfect,” she said and added that the minimum word count is only 500—easy as pie. And then she launched into her own Thanksgiving story where her self-cleaning oven burst into flames due to an “incident”, but we'll leave that story for her to tell.

Following Norma's call, I started dredging up the two indelibly-linked sides of my Thanksgiving turkey-burning travesty. It felt like déjà vu, but, in fact, it was simply the process of following bread crumbs to the core memory...

“I'm in big trouble”, I thought to myself as I turned the key to the apartment door and stepped inside. With a direct line of sight into the kitchen, I could see smoke pouring from the oven while I was simultaneously racking my bird brain for excuses for my actions (for which there were none). I had to grow a backbone fast and own this. I turned off the oven, cracked its door, threw open all the windows and impatiently waited until it was safe to remove the sorry bird.

Let's talk turkey, shall we? I was an idiot...a teenage idiot...a jive turkey, your basic moron, and any one of those could easily have been the title of this short story. I didn't labor long over it though, choosing instead to be equally charitable with myself by anchoring my regretful turkey tale with the high esteem of a literary icon—to two accounts forever entwined like so much stuffing we all have in our memories to chew on, laugh at, or lament in years to come.

I happened to be working on re-publishing a book I'd previously written and was exploring famous quotes to replace those I had used. Some of them were not in the public domain, clearly an error in judgment on my part that demanded resolution in order to maintain credibility. Strangely enough, the very first quote I had included in my opening pages contained an insightful and inspiring quote by Henry Miller which resonated with me.

I found myself researching more of his quotes and had an affinity with several of them. I also found it incongruous that such a man having written such an explicit book could deliver to the world profound Buddha-like wisdom. An image of a lotus growing from a swamp comes to mind. These newly found quotes were also protected by copyright law, thus off limits to use in the manner I wished unless, of course, I were to contact the publisher or Miller's estate—the prospect of which was lengthy, so I sought alternative quotes.

In too deep now, I read the details of those obscenity charges surrounding said book chronicling the author's personal escapades in the eternally charming city of Paris, not in the least sufficient to conceal its seedy undercarriage. I was in the market for a new book to read anyhow, so curious, I ordered it on Amazon. So, here I sit with Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* which bypassed me so many years ago connected by a burned turkey—not to mention that Thanksgiving is less than two weeks away. Yes, I'd say this is an unusual concurrence of events. I don't yet understand its meaning, if there is any, but perhaps when I finish the book, the universe will reveal the secrets of this synchronicity, or maybe Henry Miller will.

(Continued on page 7)

The Non-Fiction & Memoir NCPA CRITIQUE GROUP:

I'm a firm believer in the value of critique groups, and enjoy facilitating one for NCPA members. I lead the group for writers of non-fiction and memoirs, from beginners to well-established authors. We meet via Zoom, and everyone benefits from having the other members of the group critique their work, as well as learning how to do the same for them. You do have to have a fairly tough skin—good practice for all writers—but all critiques are done from a supportive, positive point of view. The critique group has been going since January of this year, but new members are always welcome. And remember, you can join the group just to watch and listen at first, then submit when you are ready. Anyone interested should contact Sharon at sharonsdarrowcritiquegroup@gmail.com with questions, comments, or just more Zoom meeting information.

Sharon Darrow

Submissions to be sent to: sharonsdarrowcritiquegroup@gmail.com Maximum 15 pages, plus one for a brief synopsis of the work. Times, 12 pt font, double-spaced with 1" margins around. I will then email them out to the group (or subgroup) of people who will be critiquing the work.

Info to join SHARON's NCPA NF & Memoir Zoom Meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86187871725?pwd=QlZwN1hQVGVTfHNUzZTNHkNG1YzZ09>

Meeting ID: 861 8787 1725

Passcode: 221177

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,86187871725#,,, *221177# US (San Jose)

+16694449171,,86187871725#,,, *221177# US

Editor's Note:

MORE CRITIQUE GROUPS COMING SOON

Michelle Hamilton will start a Fiction critique group sometime in October 2022 – by Zoom most likely.

Norma Jean Thornton will be doing a non-specific genre critique group sometime early 2023 – LIVE & IN PERSON ONLY!

Local Writing Organization's Master Calendar

Cap Crimes * CWC * EGWG * Gold Country Writers * NCPA * San Joaquin CWC *

IF YOUR WRITING ORGANIZATION'S NOT ON THIS LIST, CONTACT US!

Loy Holder, President of the Elk Grove Writers Guild, made one of my long-standing dreams come true in July. She invited representatives from other local writers' groups to meet together and collaborate on a master calendar to include event dates for the different organizations. We can all finally go to one place, <https://egweg.org/calendar/> to check out what's happening locally and plan accordingly. This not only benefits each group so they can make plans without conflicting with others, but also helps individual writers take advantage of all that's available in the area. All of us that met in July to work this out and provide dates will meet again in 2023 to update event information and discuss other ways we can work together.

Sharon Darrow

Apologies to those who sent something for the newsletter and it's not here – unfortunately everything in my house that has any ties at all to AT&T: land-line, I-net, Direct TV, Computer and Cell phone, has been wonky off and on for months (actually years! Ever since I accepted U-Verse 14 Mar 2017!!), but has come to a head – again – this time building up to the major outage since 26 Aug with not only my home phone, cell phone and Direct TV, but also on my computer with my modem and DSL (I'm probably saying this wrong, but those are the things mentioned by those who know what they mean, and pass on to me, wrongly assuming I have even an inkling of what they're talking about). Whatever, I can't get on-line on the computer, which means I can't reach any Email through my computer to add things to the newsletter, nor send anything out. In addition, now my Email folders are unavailable on the computer, so everything I had saved is nowhere to be found. If it's not in a folder on my desktop I don't have access to it. **UPDATE: 4 Oct = new modem, still nothing's working to connect me to the I-net and beyond, so this newsletter, like last month's, will be put on a thumb-drive and taken to Sharon's Wed to send out. njt**

NEW NCPA MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION: BLACK ANGUS RESTAURANT – 7925 Greenback Ln Citrus Heights

Afterthoughts: Henry Miller in Paris

Barbara Klide

Part two in the three-part short story series: Henry Miller and the Burned Turkey

Background: *Tropic of Cancer* came to my attention as a teen, but did not catch my fancy at that time. Years later, when I was ready to learn what I had missed, it made its return.

There is much discussion about Henry Miller's notorious book lauding it a "masterpiece" and him a literary god. In the part one, short story, I noted the coincidence of its dual presence in my life and stated that I would try to understand its reappearance. Its first arrival tied to a burned turkey made no sense, but the second one, figures large.

I'm not a literary scholar, but after recently reading the book, I'm confident in declaring that Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* should be read with an interest in the era in which it was written and for its historical significance paving the way for freedom to write openly after a Supreme Court decision in 1964.

Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* is a composite memoir and fiction and cannot be appreciated if one is critical of how its author chose to live. It's best to strip away bias, rising instead to a perspective of objectivity. It is the only way to see the depth of humankind through the muck of the story. Even if you would never live like he did, one has to accept and even respect Miller's journey leading him to a more enlightened life which was portended throughout the pages with sporadic whiffs of wisdom. To be clear, during this time, he was not a saint, not always nice, nor honest. And when Miller set aside some of his distasteful ways infusing more of his life with the discipline of writing, it ultimately helped him become the man who later produced inspiring quotes and other celebrated literature.

Let me get to the bottom line early on the *Tropic of Cancer*:

At times, I felt that I was slogging through the pages. A prime example is that Henry Miller immediately makes known his book's flavor with no care for the sensibilities of polite company. There's no hope of "having me at hello" when barely four sentences into page one you are greeted with lice. His style, however, grabbed me and drew me along.

I've learned to look at any art, including Miller's work, on distinct levels after a time judging photography. The subject, which as the name also suggests is subjective—you like it or you don't. Style, and composition, are the other two. The subject matter was questionable for me when I first dove in, but I became interested in the underbelly of Paris where Miller and his expat friends chose to live. His narrative style has been discussed in great detail and readily available by the simple act of Googling, but from my own perspective, outside of his vulgarities, Miller's intellect and knowledge shone through. His writing was frequently a rollercoaster ride where words and imagery flew by so fast that at times, I didn't always know what I had just read, often needing a moment to catch my breath and digest it to give it its due. I don't mind confessing to having to reread some. As to composition, it was clean and travelled along at a good clip. It simply worked. With writers of any worth, you can count on success with at least two of these three levels. Personally, I had to ding him for the tedium of the crude subject. Another person might reject the work altogether for its subject and if one does, this is a good place to stop.

Further on Henry Miller's writing:

There's a certain poetry in Henry Miller's run-on rambling, stream of consciousness sentences. With sparse words he paints hundreds of pictures leaving full fatty sentences out. As I was reading a particularly long-winded description of Paris streets where, poor and hungry, he had been strolling one Sunday morning, I thought the best artists are always the observers who manage to get to the soul of their subjects in stunningly emotional lyrics, dance, music, acting, design, imagery, or words—something Miller did well.

While Henry Miller's story is wildly off the charts, it is also a breath of fresh air in the sense that he shockingly recognizes and demystifies universal truths and the concerns of the day in early 1930's Paris. His observations flow unceasingly and in his own words, he is "a writing machine...pregnant..." his book has begun to "grow inside." He further states that he wished to be "rich enough to have a secretary to whom I could dictate as I walk, because my best thoughts always come when I am away from the machine." Imagine if today's dictation software had been available on a cell phone that he could have taken with him on walks rather than having to work on a typewriter of old.

I was sheepishly satisfied that Miller struggled over the titles for his own written work, and I think many writers suffer the same. Some titles just come to you and may be clever and work well, and some are simply stating "what is" with no pretense. At one time, Miller expressed a great fondness for someone else's book title stating that he was "furious" that he didn't think of it, instead coming up with a "fool" title like *"Crazy Cock"*—rather low brow. He mentally congratulated the other author for coming up with the title which was, *"A Man Cut in Slices"*—a clever edgy title, Miller apparently thought, suiting his desire to be both shocking and accurate.

(Continued on page 9)

2019 NCPA Anthologies



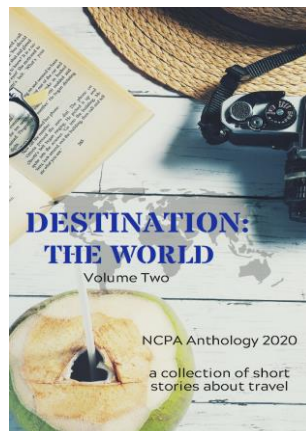
BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA Anthology
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals



MORE BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA ANTHOLOGY
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals and Other Things

\$40/ year to join
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2020 NCPA Anthologies



ALL (five) 2019 & 2020 ANTHOLOGY BOOKS (above) AVAILABLE

PAPER COPIES @ Cost for Authors) \$10 for others From Sharon Darrow:

Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com OR [NCPA Anthologies \(5 book series\) Ebook & Paperback Edition \(amazon.com\)](http://NCPA Anthologies (5 book series) Ebook & Paperback Edition (amazon.com))



COVER FOR Beautiful Americas Vol 1



ALL Holidays 2021 had a name change – it's now ALL Holidays Vol 2

*** COMING SOON * Beautiful Americas launch scheduled with Holiday Luncheon on 11 Dec 2022, Black Angus in Citrus Heights. * **SAVE THE DATE****

Get those thinking caps on and start writing now for two books in 2023:
* Beautiful World plus get your memories stirring for Our *3rd Volume of ALL Holidays
COMING SOON * A new dedicated Email address for these two

Henry Miller in Paris (Continued from page 7)

Swimming in sex, *Tropic of Cancer* is more pornography, matter of fact plain carnal sex rather than aesthetically sensual erotica though there was one instance of the latter in a famous quote from the book referencing a particular woman being in bed with him as a “miracle”. Even if considered pornography, one senses it was written without that intent. Indeed, Miller simply depicted the depths of depravity which abounded throughout the chapters. Overall, he lived as a bum plain and simple and recorded it all.

Henry Miller learned about the dark side of human nature experientially living in a way that’s excessive and selfish—a free spirit with no particular goal except writing. He was often penniless, doing what he needed to do like a human animal in order to survive and satisfy his base needs. At one point in the book, he exclaims that he will “live like a lean hungry hyena who will go forth and fatten himself.” And he was bursting at the seams to tell us all about it.

Miller, evidently, and luckily, had the strong resiliency of good genes, and he himself stated that he “lived out his melancholy youth” and “doesn’t care what’s behind him or what’s ahead of him, just that” he’s “healthy, thank you, really healthy...no sorrows, no regrets, no past, no future.” From that joyous pronouncement, he emerged realizing that the present is enough and you have to live for today and you only have today.

He spoke poorly about women but I cannot say that he was in any way a misogynist as much as he reflected a low life and maybe, ironically, a lazy way of expressing the contented state of bountiful sex with women, while both he and his buddies spoke of them in terms of their looks, if they were good in bed, or had any intelligence. Women sometimes even had names as opposed to constantly and immaturely being referred to with just the four-letter c-word throughout the book’s entirety—not a good look on an adult. Mostly, he was crude without considering and analyzing that aspect of his own speech, which he had plenty of time to do if he had wished. It reminded me of guys who thought they were so cool and needed to prove it with childish machismo references to women, often in the company of other males. In reality, Henry Miller’s book content is no worse than what you see on any of today’s amusing celebrity roasts which are often sexually crude and where jokes thrive “in the gutter”. All that said, I think Miller actually loved women and seemed to only want to be loved by them.

Although there was an honest curiosity about life, I sensed on top of his burning desire to write, there was the undercurrent of a boastful reason which was to parade around his and his pal’s free-wheeling lifestyle, and present oddball character studies along the way while showing off his ability to write a thought-provoking sentence. They were filled with intellectual references, philosophizing about every aspect of life, from individual pursuits, governments, civilization as a whole, and how out of whack our world was back then, and in later interviews, commenting how it still was. That insight may have sped up around the time that he had snagged a newspaper job in Paris correcting spelling and grammar for all the paper’s stories of the day. Those stories were no different in 1934 than any time in history including today’s politics, smut, technology advancements, wars, disasters and such. As they say, the names and dates may have changed, but there is nothing new under the sun.

MILLER

Miller no doubt had the good looks of youth and leanness from being hungry much of the time. He was not very tall, but photos show him to be sort of roguishly handsome with full lips though he stated in video that he thought of himself as ugly. My sense is that he may even have had an attractiveness of quiet intensity as a deep thinker. And he was evidently a virile man with matching ego. Though by my calculations he had to have been in his late 30s, early 40s at the time he wrote *Tropic of Cancer*.

In his early years, he had some college, but did not continue. Perhaps college bored him based on his apparent intellect, but that is sheer conjecture—he could have found his social life a more desirable way to spend his time. He was once a socialist and seemed to be a pacifist much of his life. In *Tropic of Cancer*, he said and made unkind observations about certain ethnicities when there was no such thing as political correctness. In either case he seems to have mellowed over time professing his like for everyone.

There’s plenty written about Miller’s early life in NYC including one of his troubled and chaotic marriages when he lived in Greenwich Village, details of which he depicted in another of his books, the aforementioned *Crazy Cock*. He also had four additional marriages and three children.

There are many videos you can find where he is speaking his mind, in deep Brooklynese, and he was clearly at peace with himself in all of it. He also had an expressive outlet as a prolific watercolor painter. Henry Miller passed in 1980 at 88 and in his later years, he made one very appealing video where he warmly speaks about the people and memories from his life seen in numerous photos he had tacked up on his bathroom walls. He noted that guests in his home spent extra time in there because of their curiosity. In most of his videos, Miller continued to curse like a sailor into his last decade, so he was nothing less than consistent in that regard.

I find it fascinating that he teamed up with Warren Beatty for a Hollywood movie, *Reds*, an historic drama about the 1917 Russian Revolution, which covers the reversal of a corrosive Communist ideology. The movie also happens to have just celebrated its 40th anniversary. Henry Miller had much to say about sex and shared a realist perspective on ideology and politics in his short, *Reds* cameo, being his normal crude, but real self. He was by this time considered to have been the voice that preceded the counter culture, and even the earlier beat generation.

NCPA 29th ANNUAL BOOK AWARD COMPETITION UPDATED FORMS ARE READY AND ON THE WEBSITE NORCALPA.ORG

Now that the Book Award Banquet has faded into the background, it's time to get ready for the next competition. It is my honor to be the Competition Coordinator for the 9th year, in concert with Norma Jean Thornton, Michelle Hamilton, Chrissi Villa, and Amy Rogers. That means that anyone who has published, or will publish a book by December 31, 2022, should think about entering it in the competition.

Details such as prices and cut-off dates, in addition to application forms for the new competition was published on the NCPA website the end of September. We started accepting submissions on October 1st 2022, and the last date for receiving submissions is January 31st 2023. Submissions can be in paper, Mobi (format used for Amazon) or pdf formats, but must be the exact same as what the reader will download online. The date for the Awards Banquet is May 7, 2023, and each submission includes one ticket for the banquet.

This year we are excited to add a totally new category for entries: Collections.

- Anthologies, which include the work of multiple different writers still not accepted.
- Collections can include multiple stories, poems, and/or essays, by ONE PERSON ONLY

Now is the time to quit procrastinating: get those old short stories, novellas, poems, etc. you've written (and don't know what to do with) polished, published and entered in NCPA's 29th competition.

Norcalpa.org

Sharon Darrow

Fast forward and final thoughts on Tropic of Cancer: Henry Miller in Paris (Continued from page 9)

When I set sail reading *Tropic of Cancer*, it had questionable value to me, wondering if it would fall off the edge of the earth, but it redeemed itself. While my life was not anywhere as extreme as Henry Miller's, there was a parallel which I could identify with and which kept me engaged having myself lived in Europe for nearly two years floating around, making some money where I could as an extra in movies or babysitting actor's kids, sans the ugly stories of lice and bedbugs. In that sense, I understood a part of him as much as any reader could.

I knew many people on similar journeys at that time who desperately wanted to strip away cultural trappings and fabrications to find out who they really were to live instead their "raw" selves. Miller was the king of raw, however, he was also driven to memorialize his journey. So, anyone who had a more difficult time discovering who they really were and where they were going, perhaps without the benefit of thoughtful guidance, may, like me, appreciate what Henry Miller spoke to in his writing.

And that, I believe, is why *Tropic of Cancer* finally made its way back into my life. After finishing the book, it was Henry Miller who revealed the secrets of the strange synchronicity magnetizing his book to me. It is a means to self-reflect on the life I led through the eyes of someone who cut his path through life his own messy way as one human being often does, surviving and eventually thriving.

It is my contention that the Paris years of Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer*, with self and world-analysis, set him up for his eventual climb to a more rational self, where in the end, he matured into a realist, ultimately at peace, and forever true to himself.

From a rough childhood in Brooklyn to living hungry and poor in Paris, Henry Miller eventually made it to his final home on a hilltop in California and said, "It was here in Big Sur, where, I first learned to say *amen*."

Barbara's review on HENRY MILLER IN GREECE continues in November newsletter

end

Great location for Writing Organizations and other events:
Highly recommended by NCPA Book Awards Banquet Committee – every year since 2016

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

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Sharif's, Roaring Camp & Grand Oaks Inn B&B have been generous NCPA donors every year since 2014

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SUNDAY 7 May 2023 at the Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta

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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

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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**

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Want your name and info advertised here? It's really simple:

Just donate something to the Silent Auction during one or more of NCPA's Annual Book Awards Banquets. Beneficiary of amounts received during the 2022 (published) Book Awards Banquet Sun 7 May 2023 will once more be Friends of the Library * Contact Norma - 2021NCPAAnthology@gmail.com

INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY? During the shut-down, the Library generously made their access to Ancestry.com FREE from your own home to ALL WHO HAVE A LIBRARY CARDTHE CENSUS RECORDS ARE GREAT, EVEN IF YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING ELSE

Go to www.saclibrary.org and click on Books & Media – Special Collections – Genealogy Collection – Have Questions (at bottom of screen) – click on “Learn More” under “Do you have other genealogy services available?” (or just click on this link as a shortcut -

<https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/History/Genealogy>). (Other Genealogy sites free also)

Once there, you'll see the links to the websites in green. Once you click on the website, you'll be asked to enter your library card and PIN. If you don't know your PIN, click on Reset My PIN in blue and enter a new PIN. **THIS MAY NOT WORK NOW THAT LIBRARIES ARE OPEN: Try this one: thanks to**

Barbara Barrett: <https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/Online-Learning/Online-Resources-Alphabetical>

2022 Genealogy Presentations at Sacramento Central Library

For information, please contact Beth Daugherty, Librarian, at bdaugherty@saclibrary.org Sacramento Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, Phone: 916-264-2920. <http://www.saclibrary.org>

Check out all organizations for ZOOM meetings ~ contact info for each is on following page

FREE MEETINGS

3rd Sat monthly 1pm-3pm

Capitolcrimes.org for more info

ZOOM MEETING FREE

Gold Country Writers meetings (FREE)

3rd Wed 10am-12Noon each month

Goldcountrywriters.com **CONTACT** for more information

CWC meeting 3rd Sat monthly 11am-1pm

CWCSacramentowriters.org

\$20-member \$25 Non-member lunch included

ZOOM MEETINGS FREE

1st Fri each month Perko's 6215 Sunrise

3rd Sat each month at Cattleman's on Folsom

**29th NCPA
BOOK AWARDS
BANQUET
5pm-9pm
Sun 7 May 2023**

*Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC) 2nd Mon ea/mo

7pm-9pm * Sactowriters.org * ZOOM MEETINGS FREE

Crossroads Fellowship Christian Church, **5501 Dewey Dr**, Fair Oaks.

COVID RULES WILL APPLY

FREE MEETINGS 2nd Sat monthly 12Noon – 2:30 pm

San Joaquin Valley Writers CWC ZOOM Meetings

<https://junegillam.com> <https://www.sjvalleywriters.org>

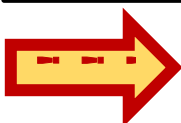
Sun 11 Dec 2022 ~ 12Noon-?

Citrus Heights' Black Angus on Greenback

NCPA's 5th Holiday Luncheon - 2022

Email me: NCPAAnthologyLuncheon@gmail.com

**YOUR Writing Club/ Organization INFO
CAN GO HERE – JUST LET US KNOW**



All info may be outdated. Suggest you contact prior to attending any.

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 **Perko's 6215 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**

➤ **Elk Grove Writers Guild (EGWG) Elk Grove Writers Guild (egweg.org)**

Meets the 1st Fri of each month in Elk Grove - **BY ZOOM RIGHT NOW**

No further info, but go to the following for more:

* Email **egwg2020@egweg.org**

➤ **Gold Country Writers (GCW) http://goldcountrywriters.com/**

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"

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**

➤ **San Joaquin Valley Writers (SJVW Branch CWC) **FREE** Monthly Meetings generally 2nd Saturday of each month 12Noon-2:30pm UOP in Stockton - Questions? June Gillam**

President SJVW-CWC **https://junegillam.com** Dues Info unknown at this time

➤ **Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI) (CA 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/***

All info may be outdated. Suggest you contact prior to attending any.

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Amy Rogers

Amy@ScienceThrillersMedia.com

Sunday afternoon meetings with or without guest speakers 1pm 2nd Sun of each month

In Person 1pm & Zoom 1:30pm TEMPORARY Location through Dec 2022 at least:

Black Angus Restaurant @ Greenback & Sunrise, Citrus Heights

(on Greenback, across from Sunrise Mall)

No purchase necessary but at least a soda/drink would be appreciated *

Meetings always FREE ~ Visitors always welcome.

Daytime Wed meetings with NO guest speakers **Currently ON COVID HOLD**

www.norcalpa.org

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA)

PO Box 214673 ~ Sacramento, CA 95821

Michelle Hamilton, President ~ 916-837-6812 * Norma Jean Thornton, Editor ~ 916-804-7201

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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 2016-2022