

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

# The Pen & Press

## BREAKING NEWS!!! REMEMBER

1<sup>ST</sup>, IT'S BANQUET TIME ~ NO JUNE MEETING

THEN, IT'S FAIR TIME ~ NO JULY MEETING

YES ~ AUG IN-PERSON MEETINGS ARE COMING BACK SAME DAYS but new time & location

Tidbits from May NCPA Board meeting:

\*NCPA ANTHOLOGIES: Beautiful World \* & \* ALL Holidays Vol 3: CONTINUE, with the following changes: entry deadline for both is now 1 Sep 2023 (date subject to change) & Beautiful World will now include ALL parts of the world, including all of the Americas. That other was way too confusing for all of us. Tentative launch dates for both will be 12Noon at the Black Angus on Sun 10 Dec 2023. AND, big news for upcoming 2024 anthologies --- NEW STUFF IS IN THE AIR ~ plus 2 levels of writing in 2024: Which level will you be?

\*NCPA's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Luncheon continues \* 12Noon Sun 10 Dec 2023 \* Black Angus, in Citrus Heights, same day as our projected Anthology Launch. Launch or not, there WILL be a Luncheon!

\*START GETTING THOSE 2023 BOOKS PUBLISHED & READY for our BIG **30<sup>th</sup> Book Awards in 2024!**

**\*NCPA's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Awards BANQUET** (check the new date)

**Elverta Cherry Island Golf Course**

**Banquet Sunday 25 Jun 2023 ~ 5-9pm**

**GET SPECIAL PRICED \$30 dinner TICKETS NOW – [norcalpa.org](http://norcalpa.org)**

Costs have gone up but NCPA will absorb the difference for this year only – there will be a slight increase in 2024

**TICKET DEADLINE 20 June 2023 ~ [norcalpa.org](http://norcalpa.org)**

A separate, special newsletter edition of  
All-things Book Awards Banquet & Anthologies  
will follow in a few days

\*All three critique groups will continue: info on those will also be in the special edition to follow  
The newsletter will continue, hopefully with more input from NCPA members: We truly appreciate those members who fairly-regularly attended our meetings, and if any &/or all of you enjoy the meetings and would like them to continue, hopefully this will be a gentle wakeup call and encourage at least a few of you to take a little more interest in getting a bit involved in NCPA, allowing us to continue as a more cohesive group. What better way to know each other, than to communicate? What I'm asking now, is for one volunteer each month to be an NCPA Newsletter Guest Journalist for July through Dec. Not only will it give each of you a chance to write whatever you want to share with your peers, but also to promote yourself and your books &/or business to the 265+ Email recipients

\*NO June 2023 Guest Journalist ~ there's a bunch of miscellaneous stuff from a variety of members, instead

\*July Guest Journalist ---- YOU? Just send me your stuff (bio, pic, book info, story, etc.): [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)

### President's Message

On May 7th, Norma and I had the pleasure of attending Kiyo Sato's one-hundredth birthday celebration. Kiyo was one of over a hundred and twenty-seven thousand Japanese Americans interned during World War 2. She wrote about her experiences in her book, originally titled *Dandelion Through the Crack*, and republished in 2009 as *Kiyo's Story*.

In 2008, I met Kiyo for the first time rather improbably. My twin aunts started a book club, called the No Rules Book Club, more than twenty years ago. When the book club first began, the meetings were held at a member's house and the hostess would create elaborate meals based around a theme in the book. This particular book club, our hostess was the talented artist Judy Smith, who chose *Dandelion Through the Crack* as her book of the month. She told us she'd contacted the author and asked her to come to the meeting to give a talk about her book. Judy's neighbors, who were Japanese immigrants, would be making us an authentic dinner.

I was particularly excited to attend this dinner and meet an author. At the time I was aspiring to have my own book published and wanted to hear about her pathway to the golden ticket, as it were.

Kiyo showed up – a diminutive person of eighty-four years of age. I remember looking at this small, bespeckled woman and realizing that what she was about to tell us had so much more impact than my rather selfish obsession with my own writing goals. She held the room transfixed as she told us about the Japanese internment from her personal experience. She came equipped with graphs and photos and a reprint of the shameful Executive Order 9066.

The next time I met Kiyo was at the State Fair Authors Booth in 2013. She came to sell her book, and as she'd done at the book club, she spent most of her time at the fair educating fairgoers about the internment.

It wasn't until 2021, in the middle of the pandemic, that I had the opportunity to see Kiyo again. She was our keynote speaker at the NCPA Awards Banquet. Ninety-eight years old, she could still command a room, and she reflected on the lessons she'd learned about living well for nearly a century. I am honored that my path has crossed with Kiyo's the few times we've met, and attending her one-hundredth birthday party was especially precious.

Kiyo was eighty-four when she wrote her first book. She is now one-hundred and amazingly, she's writing her next one. Like Kiyo, so many of our members are doing new things in their sunset years. If we can't take inspiration from that, then perhaps we should take a good look at our own lives. It's never too late, or never too early to create art, to educate people, to touch lives.

On June 25th at our Awards Banquet, we'll have a new opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our fellow authors, and I hope you will all come to share in the beautiful memories such events create, and find your own spark of inspiration



Kiyo at NCPA Banquet



Michelle's twin aunts' No Rules Book Club with Kiyo

ML Hamilton  
[authormlhamilton.net](http://authormlhamilton.net)

## **\*\* BREAKING NCPA NEWS \*\***

**The NCPA Board of Directors invites you to join us at our new location on Sun 13 Aug 2023**

**~ MUCH AWAITED IN-PERSON MEETINGS RETURNING IN AUGUST ~**

**Same Day \* New Time \* New Location**

**No Guest Speaker in August – just a good-old-fashioned gab-fest about writing and more.  
Have a great time visiting, getting caught-up, and chatting about writing and anything else of interest.**

**Flaming Grill in the CCP Mall at Watt Av & El Camino Av  
4pm-6:30pm \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of each month, starting \* Sunday 13 Aug 2023**  
(Flaming Grill used to be on El Camino Av: also serves wild game, see specialty meats below)  
(Can also check out the menu – link below)

### **Flaming Grill Café**

2380 Watt Avenue, Suite 150 (Inside Country Club Plaza) Sacramento, CA 95825. (916) 696-6373

**CLOSED MONDAY \* NOON-8 PM TUES-THURS \* NOON-9PM FRI & SAT \* NOON-7PM SUN**

[flaming grill hours - Google Search](#) [Country Club Menu — Flaming Grill Cafe](#)

### **From Flaming Grill | Sacramento Burgers & Beer**

"Flaming Grill is your premier destination for the best burgers and beer that Sacramento has to offer. If you are looking for the best in Sacramento burgers and beer then this is what we have for you here at Flaming Grill. We are conveniently located inside the Country Club Plaza mall. You will need to come in and try all the best kinds of burgers and beer that we have available for you to enjoy as well as cool craft draft beer. We serve handcrafted burgers, salads, sandwiches, and much more, including vegetarian/ vegan. Not only can we be sure to offer you extravagant options, but you will never leave our Sacramento burger restaurant with an empty stomach. If you are in the mood for all the best burgers and beer in Sacramento, give us a call now for great food." The Flaming Grill Cafe serves buffalo, ostrich, sirloin, Wagyu, elk, venison, calamari, and more, prepared in many ways for your enjoyment. Our food is always made to order, served in large portions, and reasonably priced. "

**Specialty Meats: Pick from selection of wild meats including Wagyu, Elk, Gator, Wild Boar, Camel, Ostrich**

**Craft Beers: Large selection of beers on tap from local breweries.**

**Lighter Side: We have a large selection of salads and leaner meats for the calorie conscious. Try one of our salads with a specialty meat or choose from Tilapia, Grilled Chicken, or BBQ Chicken.**

Enter, go towards the back and immediately turn left, go all the way down the hall to the door on the right. The meeting room is back there. If you'd prefer to get there earlier, and eat in one of their two dining areas with a beer, or whatever, that'll work too. Then join us at 4pm, in the meeting room.

That mall has changed considerably, from one time having Weinstocks/Macy's and J.C. Penney's /Gottschalks as anchor stores, and a variety of clothing, stationery, jewelry, massage, Woolworth's, Waldenbooks, and other stores inside, plus a few quick little food places with candy, Orange Julius, Chinese, ice cream, pizza and more scattered throughout. CCP now houses a WinCo at the south end of the mall, that's closed off and can only be entered from the parking lot, and an empty store at the north end. There's also a small movie theatre, Cinema West; a Planet Fitness; a That's Cheap Home Accessories; and Rebounderz, a fun, active game place for kids, as well as adults. There are a few other minor businesses, as well as a couple of snack-type food places – plus the Sakura Grill & Buffet, a good Chinese Buffet outside the door you'll be entering to come into the mall/ Flaming Grill.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE FLAMING GRILL 4PM SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 2023**

**CA STATE FAIR 2023****Home- State Fair - Cal Expo & State Fair ([calexpostatefair.com](http://calexpostatefair.com))****CA State FAIR 14 – 30 JULY 2023 \* AUTHORS BOOTH – ARTS & KITCHEN COMPETITION \***

\*In addition to the Authors Booth, Chrissi Villa & I are both involved in the State Fair (also in the Sacramento County Fair) in some competitions: Chrissi in the ARTS, I'm in the KITCHEN (since 2014) – both of us have won multiple ribbons and awards each year for our submissions (my winning candies, cakes, muffins, cupcakes, cookies, biscuits, breads, cornbread and jelly recipes are in my cookbooks) ... including some cash prizes. If you want to know more about entering either, or any, send me an Email. [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com) I'll forward the arts inquiries on to Chrissi.

**Looking for Guest Journalists July--Dec 2023.****Great chance to toot your own horn to more than 250. Never get a better chance!****Respond to this Email if interested – or Email [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)****An example of what a Guest Journalist could submit:**

**No Guest Journalist (GJ) this month,** because the Scripps National Spelling Bee just ended with a 14-year-old winner from Florida, with the word **psammophile**, and it brought back many emotional and embarrassing memories for me, as it always does each time I hear those words uttered. Because of that, I'm taking the GJ position for June ... as though I don't always do that every month, but bear with me – there's even something included regarding writing stories. So, for the next couple of pages, I share –

# Flashbacks, or **Déjà vu Once More?**

Is it flashbacks, or déjà vu once more? Whichever – it's the same thing that's happened to me for the past 70 years, each time I hear the words - *Scripps Spelling Bee* (**Homepage | Scripps National Spelling Bee**) uttered, and I'm transported right back there, into one of those chairs with the 57 other young boys and girls, all of us in TV applied makeup, under the hot lights blinding us: now, awkwardly trying to fit into that skinny 12 year old terribly nervous kid's body from 70 years ago while sitting in the KPIX Channel 5 TV studio in San Francisco, awaiting my turn to spell my first word for the 1953 Scripps National Spelling Bee State Competition.

Thankfully, I went down on that very first word - *faithful* - because I was so nervous my voice cracked and the "a" was just an unintelligible squeak so I repeated it after barely mouthing the "i" and was immediately disqualified. Even though I was embarrassed at being the first one down, I was also relieved, because it wasn't due to a misspelled word on my part, and I didn't have to suffer through my nerves further, plus I got to sit there and eat chocolates throughout the rest of the competition until they got to the winner of the State of California's spelling bee ... Bobby Frank ... from Contra Costa County, if I remember correctly.

I was in the 7th grade at East Lake Elementary School in Clearlake Oaks, CA, in 1953, when each of the Lake County Elementary Schools joined the Scripps Spelling Bee for the first time. I won for our school and went on to compete with the rest of the schools in our small county, where I also won the championship for Lake County.

The following year, 1954, I won at my school again, and once more competed for the County, but this time, with still-slightly-puffy-cheeks and neck, plus other side-effects in the process of recuperating from mumps, I did a too-quick double-think with another of those darned, simple little "F" words that were apparently my kryptonite.

This time, it was *fuel* - I had spelled the word correctly and passed the microphone to the next, not-so-nervous-contestant, then grabbed it back and respelled the word, this time, incorrectly – by reversing the vowels.

Had Mr. Denny, my principal, been there that would have been contested – but I was so glad he wasn't! Fortunately, for my nerves, he had another event he had to attend and our rival school's principal was supposed to look after me, as well as his own student, who coincidentally, was the kid I yanked the microphone back from. No matter; his student went down shortly after I did.

Last year I watched the taped semifinals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee Finals on TV - what a change from when I competed in 1953 & 1954. Some of those kids in the taping had a spelling coach and some had different language coaches for certain words. One kid had worked on his spelling 8-9 hours/day all summer and 5-6 hours/day every day of school, and completely wore out one huge dictionary - it was basically destroyed; almost tripled in size from wear, and the cover had fallen apart.

In 1953, most of the other kids had worked hard with dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other things ... except computers ...

*Continued on next page*



cramming and studying for months, but not me - mine was natural talent with extra practicing of very few words - I either knew it, sounded it out, or just guessed, plus my parents didn't push me at all, and left whatever I wanted to do to prepare for it, up to me.

Some of the other parents were horrible task-masters to their poor kids ... one boy was terrified because his parents hounded him so much in prep, he was afraid of what they'd do if he lost. He did, and the final results were: with the exception of Bobby, all of the others were either upset, crying, scared, or just plain mad. I was relieved and happy when it was all over.

The information given now ... 2023 ... regarding each word - definition, origin, roots, prefix, suffix, etymology and MORE - is so much more detailed than our experience was: but also, the words are much harder. I'm almost embarrassed to admit the easy words we had 70 years ago, especially in comparison to those ridiculous ones they now have ... but, that was then and this is now. Lots of things have changed. Nobody uses encyclopedias anymore, and the public in general only goes to Google to look up a word in the dictionary. This year they also have a section where they need to know the definition of a word: vocabulary. *This is a spelling bee not a definition test*, and is extremely unfair to spelling competitors. More kids went down on the definitions than on the spelling.

Most of those kids in the taped finals took their time spelling each word given them. Not me, way back when. I normally talk fast, but I spell, and always have, even faster, and their reasons for entering/ being involved were just as diverse as the kids were. I have no idea now ... or then ... what my reasons were, except possibly a confused masochist, because I certainly didn't enjoy the pain inflicted upon me by my doing that to myself each year, but I just couldn't help myself!

I'm glad vocabulary wasn't part of the program when I was there, even though we were used to that; it was nerve-wracking enough, as it was. My teacher, Mr. Denny, who was also the principal, taught us every week, in every month, of every school year, with a weekly spelling test of 10 words, and we worked on those words for an entire week until the final, 2nd spelling test on Friday. Monday, we spelled the words, and those who got 100% on the first go-round, got to skip Friday's lesson, which was spelling all 10 for the 2nd time. Tuesday, we defined them, Wednesday we used each word in a sentence, Thursday we had to write a story using all 10 words, and Friday was a day of rest for some, and the final spelling test for the rest. I always got 100% on Monday so never had to spell that 2nd time, and there weren't many who didn't get 100% by the second time around. That was a great way to teach.

The last year or so, I saw First Lady Jill Biden being interviewed on TV, by host Levar Burton. Mrs. Biden said she had won for her school in the 6th grade, but was so nervous, the day she was to compete in her second competition she told her mother she was sick and didn't go to school that day, so missed the 2nd phase of her competition. I can totally relate, and definitely empathize with FLOTUS, because I was so nervous in 1953, that when they asked me the two-pronged question: how old I was and my grade, I completely reversed them and said I was 7 in the 12th grade. Of course, everyone laughed, which of course, made things worse for my nerves, plus my physical complaints. (This year's winner was on TV, on the Kelli Ripa Show this morning, and said he was so nervous he didn't remember anything, and had no idea yet, what he was going to do with the "\$50 grand" he had also won.)

If he was like me, my stomach was in knots, my knees were wobbly, my mouth fluctuated between being dry or overly salivating, and my palms were sweaty each time I had to get up and spell for any of the competitions. And, the further in you get the more stressful it becomes - even when you've already been knocked out, and you're just sitting there eating chocolates watching your former competitors having to go through the agony of those words. Even as I watched those other kids competing in 1953, especially the emotional, terrified ones, I almost worked myself into a panic attack along with them.

And today, that fear those many years ago comes flooding back over me, and I feel as though I'm 12 again, going through that process myself, spelling - or attempting to - each word given. Lucky for me I didn't hear any "F" words this time! *NJT*

Since there's still a bit of room on this page, and I do have something else to say about "F" words, there is a positive, yet funny and embarrassing thing, also about spelling, that I coincidentally once more experienced on TV, but this time as an adult, married and very pregnant, due in 2 weeks. My first husband and I went to the taping of an Art Linkletter House Party in March of 1961 and I was asked to spell the word *fertile* - which I did, correctly, without anything negative happening - until they asked me to stand up. At that point, the irony of the word "fertile" was made abundantly clear, and the studio erupted in laughter. I did win a prize that time, though - a 4-piece set of American Tourister luggage, which I still have! And the funny thing is, I didn't even think about the coincidences of spelling, being on TV, and an "F" word for all three, until typing this.

Also, an addendum to the 1953 San Francisco fiasco (LOL - another "F" word). That was a 3-day event, with both parents invited for each kid, and we did receive great prizes from it - they "wined" us and "dined" us the entire time --- two nights at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, plus breakfasts, dinners at the Cliff House and a fancy Italian Restaurant I don't remember the name of, and lunches at the TV studio. We were given souvenirs, interviewed, pictures were taken, and everyone exchanged addresses with Bobby, who graciously sent a picture he had purchased for each of us, from the Smithsonian Museum while in D.C. for the National competition, to the rest of the 57 California County contestants. Unfortunately, I don't know what happened to mine.

*Norma Jean*

## GENEALOGY STUFF FOR THOSE DOING FAMILY HISTORY THINGS

**Upcoming: FREE & OPEN TO ALL \* GENEALOGY presentations from the Sac Library:** Newspapers are an excellent source of genealogical, social, and historical information about our families and their communities, and reveal what was happening in a time and place-something other records might not tell us. Newspapers can be found on both free sites and subscription sites.

**Lisa S. Gorrell, a Certified Genealogist**, has been researching both sides of her German, Irish, and southern US family more than 25 years and has also researched her husband's English, German and Swedish family tree. She volunteers at the Contra Costa County Historical Society's archives at the History Center in Martinez. Lisa writes about her family on two blogs "Mam-ma's Southern Family" at <http://mammassoutherfamily.blogspot.com/> and "My Trails into the Past" at <http://mytrailsintothepast.blogspot.com>

**Sac Library virtual Genealogy programs take place on Zoom. To register in advance for any meeting, click link:** <https://saclibrary.evanced.info/signup/Calendar> On that calendar screen, go to date and click on title of event. In description that pops up, click on link to register, and enter your name and e-mail address. After clicking the "register" button, you will receive a confirmation email containing an invitation to join the meeting on Zoom. You can also register on library homepage (<https://www.saclibrary.org/>) by clicking "Events" link towards top of screen. **The library's genealogy programs are free and open to all to attend. Please share this information with anyone you know who might be interested in attending.**

**Presentations are recorded and posted on the Genealogy Playlist of the library's YouTube channel for 30 days**, but it will possibly be a week or more after presentations for recordings to post on library's YouTube channel - If you need more information about availability of any recording, contact librarian Dave Munger:[contact@saclibrary.org](mailto:contact@saclibrary.org) There are other recordings of some past library genealogy presentations available to watch on the library's YouTube channel. **Library card not needed to view Library's Genealogy playlist link:** [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwtrWI\\_IBMJsRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6R](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwtrWI_IBMJsRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6R)

Questions? Contact [bethd2073@gmail.com](mailto:bethd2073@gmail.com) or Dave [contact@saclibrary.org](mailto:contact@saclibrary.org)

**Info on library's upcoming genealogy programs\*24 June 2023:** Introduction to Mexican Genealogy, speaker Lisa Medina.

**INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY?** During the shut-down, the library had generously made their access to Ancestry.com **FREE** from your own home to all who have a library card .....the census records are great, even if you don't do anything else

Go to [www.saclibrary.org](http://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>

2023 Genealogy Presentations at Sacramento Central Library

For information, please contact Beth Daugherty, Librarian, at [bdaugherty@saclibrary.org](mailto:bdaugherty@saclibrary.org) Sacramento Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, Phone: 916-264-2920. <http://www.saclibrary.org> (Possible old info, if so, try [bethd2073@gmail.com](mailto:bethd2073@gmail.com))

## A FEW NEW GENEALOGY SEARCH SITES & other things I'VE RUN ACROSS – SOME MIGHT BE DUPLICATES

NCPA and I know NOTHING about any of these. Go to and use at your own risk.

- ✓ Largest newspaper archive for Family History: <https://www.genealogybank.com/sign-up/family-history>
  - ✓ California Genealogical Society: [California Ancestors](#)
  - ✓ New England Historic Genealogical Society: [American Ancestors®](#)
- ✓ Daytime Group meets in Southern area of Sacramento: Also shows Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento, Root Cellar Genealogical Society in Citrus Heights, the Sacramento German Genealogy Society, Greater Sacramento African American Genealogy Society & MORE: [sacramento genealogical society - Google Search](#)
- ✓ Free Master List of German Record Websites: [Free Master List of German Record Websites \(accessinstantly.co\)](#)
- ✓ Ancestry Graphics & Printing: [Genealogy Chart Printing & Family Tree Printing Services \(ancestryprinting.com\)](#)
- ✓ My Heritage: [Free Family Tree, Genealogy, Family History, and DNA Testing \(myheritage.com\)](#)
- ✓ Story Starter Workbook <https://www.familyhistorywritingstudio.com/story-starter-workbook-2/>

**"Wordsworth the Haiku Teacher"**

Frances H. Kakugawa, illustrated by Scott Goto,  
\$14.95, Watermark Publishing, 2023

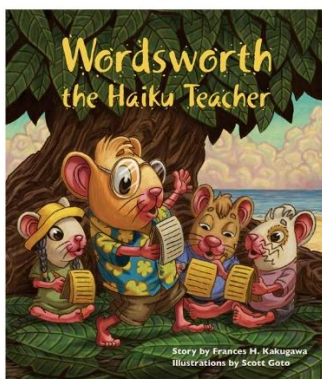
A little mouse known as Wordsworth the Poet needs help with his school assignment: teach haiku, the traditional Japanese form of poetry, to his classmates. In the fifth installment of a series, he enlists the help of the author, a former teacher and also his pen pal. Kakugawa explains to him the simple structure of haiku poetry — three lines of five, seven and five syllables each — and introduces writing concepts such as simile, metaphor and personification in easy-to-understand terms. Creating an image is an important way for others see, feel and taste what you are writing about, Wordsworth teaches.

**Wordsworth the Haiku Teacher**  
by Frances H. Kakugawa  
illustrated by Scott Goto

**Wordsworth Shares an Exciting New  
Way of Looking at the World**

In the fifth installment of educator Frances H. Kakugawa's award-winning children's series, Wordsworth the Poet needs help with his school assignment: teach the traditional art of haiku to his classmates! With beautiful illustrations by Scott Goto, *Wordsworth the Haiku Teacher* makes the art of haiku engaging and introduces writing concepts such as simile, metaphor and personification in easy-to-understand terms.

Covers Hawaii Content & Performance Standards  
Database III Content Area: Language Arts  
(LA.3.3.3 - Topic: Literary Elements; LA.4.3.4 -  
Topic: Literary Elements; LA.4.5.3 - Topic:  
Literary Elements; LA.CW.3.4 - Topic: Clarity;  
LA.WL.2.7 - Topic: Critical Stance).



**Wordsworth the Haiku Teacher**

\$14.95

Buy Now

## FRANCES KAKUGAWA

Award-Winning Author, Poet, Speaker & More, Plus  
NCPA POET LAUREATE

These scaled down articles are the reasons Frances Kakugawa, NCPA's Poet Laureate, won't be at the Book Awards Banquet this year – instead, she'll be in sunny Hawaii on a 3-week promotional tour with her 5<sup>th</sup> and most recent Wordsworth the Poet's book:

**Wordsworth the Haiku Teacher**

She's also scheduled to have two  
Talk Story & Book Signing  
Events

In addition to the two book  
signings, Frances will give two  
lectures on caregiving.

She writes that the Honolulu  
paper just added Wordsworth to  
their summer reading list, plus a  
review of the book is coming out  
this month in another Hawaii  
paper.



**Author Talk Story & Book Signing Events**

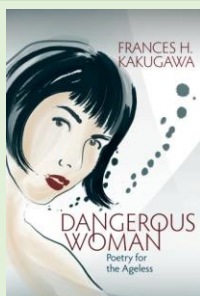
Frances will talk about the process of writing the Wordsworth children's book series and read from the newest release, *Wordsworth the Haiku Teacher*, at the following events on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu:

**Saturday, June 24, 2:00pm**

Basically Books, Hilo  
334 Kilauea Ave

**Saturday, July 8, 2:00pm**

Barnes & Noble, Ala Moana



Even though she can't be there in person, her words will be, as Frances has also provided two poems for the Banquet – a very short one in the program next to her picture, the other to be read before dinner by Michelle Brown, the Librarian who will also be accepting the proceeds from the silent auction, for Friends of the Library.

In addition, Frances has once more generously donated books to the Silent Auction at the Banquet --- look for both this new Wordsworth book and her Award-Winning book of poetry:

***Dangerous Woman, Poetry for the Ageless***



## UPCOMING 2023 NCPA EVENTS -- & others

### 29th NCPA BOOK AWARDS BANQUET

5pm-9pm

**Sun 25 June 2023**

Cherry Island Golf Course  
Elverta, CA

COVID RULES WILL APPLY

**NOTE:**

**NCPA DATE CHANGE**

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

**Sun 10 Dec 2023 ~ 12Noon-?**  
Citrus Heights' Black Angus on Greenback  
**NCPA's 6<sup>th</sup> Holiday Luncheon 2023**  
& 2 Anthology launches (anticipated)

DEADLINE to SUBMIT \* **1 SEP 2023**  
BOTH NCPA ANTHOLOGIES:  
Beautiful World & ALL Holidays Vol 3

Looking for NCPA Newsletter Guest Journalists July--Dec 2023 \*\* Great chance to toot your own horn to more than 250  
Respond to this Email if interested, or Email [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)

**In-person NCPA monthly meetings will restart the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of each month in Aug, but a later time**  
**4pm-6:30pm Sunday 13 Aug 2023**

### FLAMING GRILL

in the old CCP Mall at the corner of Watt Av & El Camino Av  
Complete information on page 3 ... including a link to their menu

## UPCOMING 2023 EVENTS for other groups --- & MORE

- **ELK GROVE WRITERS CONFERENCE – 23 Sep 2023** - \$75 includes Continental Breakfast & Lunch: **TIME TO REGISTER NOW:** <http://egweg.org/23conf/> **SPONSORS:** **NCPA**, Gold Country Writers & San Joaquin Valley Writers collaboratively sponsor this event. for FLIER: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=522f49784c&attid=0.1.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1767803726011950258&th=1888801f618de4b2&view=att&disp=inline>
- **Elk Grove Writers Guild offers 3 Zoom Publishing Classes:** 6/10, 6/23, 7/6  
Non-Members Register: [egweg.org/publishing-clases/](http://egweg.org/publishing-clases/) ??? [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)



## Reading, Writing, Publishing Stuff in the News -- & Elsewhere

- Dolly Parton Imagination Library: California picks up tab  
[Dolly Parton Imagination Library: California picks up tab | abc10.com](https://abc10.com/story/news/local/california-picks-up-tab-for-dolly-parton-imagination-library/7048444002/)
- EDITORIAL: Will AI Replace Writers? It Already Is:  
[Will AI Replace Writers? It Already Is. – FoxPrint Editorial](https://www.foxprint.com/story/news/local/california-picks-up-tab-for-dolly-parton-imagination-library/7048444002/)
- **From Erma Bombeck:** *Winning Writers* offers access to a database of free literary contests plus helps writers know which contests they might want to avoid. [The Best Free Literary Contests - Winning Writers](https://www.foxprint.com/story/news/local/california-picks-up-tab-for-dolly-parton-imagination-library/7048444002/)
- **More from Erma Bombeck:** Writers considering self-publishing should read BookBaby's article on [spotting self-publishing scams](https://www.foxprint.com/story/news/local/california-picks-up-tab-for-dolly-parton-imagination-library/7048444002/). Be wary of service providers that make extravagant promises of profits or book sales; operate under several different business names; or inflate their price tag with unnecessary additional services instead of offering à la carte options.
- **Parents pay \$10K to get kids published:** [https://nypost.com/2023/05/24/parents-pay-10k-to-get-kids-published-for-college-apps/?utm\\_source=msn\\_lifestyle&utm\\_medium=fulltext&utm\\_campaign=partnerfeed](https://nypost.com/2023/05/24/parents-pay-10k-to-get-kids-published-for-college-apps/?utm_source=msn_lifestyle&utm_medium=fulltext&utm_campaign=partnerfeed)



## MAKING CONNECTIONS CORNER with our Local Sister Writing Organizations

### **California Writers Club (CWC) (Sacramento Branch)**

Monthly Meetings generally **3rd Saturday** of each month ~1pm-3pm (**NEW 2023 INFO**) Arden Dimick Library- 891 Watt Av  \* ALSO \* Writers Network 9-11am **1st Fri** monthly (**NEW 2023 INFO**) **CH Café & Grill** 6215 Sunrise, Citrus Heights 

Open to public, pay for your own breakfast (**NEW 2023 INFO**)

For information & prices on joining, go to: [www.cwcsacramentowriters.org](http://www.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](http://Capitolcrimes.org)

### ➤ **Elk Grove Writers Guild (EGWG) [Elk Grove Writers Guild \(egweg.org\)](http://ElkGroveWritersGuild.org)**

Meets the 1st Fri of each month in Elk Grove at the Round Table Pizza Restaurant, corner of Bruceville Rd. and Whitlock at 12:30 pm  (**NEW 2023 INFO**)

For more info, go to [egwg2020@egweg.org](mailto: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](mailto:mywebb@sbcglobal.net)

### ➤ **Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) [www.norcalpa.org](http://www.norcalpa.org)**

In-person meetings to resume at **4pm on the 2nd Sun of each month starting 13 Aug 2023**

**New location: FLAMING GRILL** inside Country Club Plaza at corner of El Camino & Watt Avenues

**New time: 4pm** \$40/year membership includes eligibility to submit a story to NCPA anthologies

NCPA Anthologies can be viewed, and purchased on-line, through Amazon.com

### ➤ **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](http://Sactowriters.org)

### ➤ ~~**Sacramento Valley Rose (SVR) Contact info REMOVED now. Will completely delete in July.**~~

~~(Sacramento Chapter of Romance Writers of America (RWA))~~

~~(Can't find anything on it any more - don't know what happened.)~~

~~(If you do, please let me know? normathornton@yahoo.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 on all organizations may be outdated. Suggest you contact prior to attending any.

## NCPA Board of Directors

### **President**

Michelle Hamilton

[authormlhamilton@gmail.com](mailto:authormlhamilton@gmail.com)

916-837-6812

### **Secretary**

Danita Moon

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(916) 980-037

### **Communications Director / Newsletter Editor**

Norma Jean Thornton

[normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)

916-991-5751

*I don't know why this darned thing won't let me put these back together, but I give up. I have no idea what happened. It was fine, and then it wasn't, so now I'm just trying to fill space so it's not so obvious there are a couple of blank spots on this page, because every time I try to fix it I delete both of the bottom sections and I'm afraid one of these times I'm not going to get them back and it will be even worse.*

### **Immediate Past President**

Sharon Darrow

### **Membership Chair**

Sharon Darrow

[Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com](mailto:Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com)

800-462-2328

### **Book Awards Chair**

Sharon Darrow

[Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com](mailto:Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com)

800-462-2328

### **Awards Banquet Chair/ Coordinator**

Norma Jean Thornton

### **Monthly Speaker Coordinator**

Norma Jean Thornton

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### **Webmaster & Photographer**

Chrissi Villa

[chrissivilla@gmail.com](mailto:chrissivilla@gmail.com)

## **norcalpa.org**

### **Vice President**

Sharon Darrow

[Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com](mailto:Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com)

800-462-2328

### **Treasurer**

Amy Rogers

[Amy@AmyRogers.com](mailto:Amy@AmyRogers.com)

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

*The same with this side, and it's apparently got something to do with the "cells", whatever those little suckers are! I HATE computers at times, yet love them at others. Right now it's in the hate phase.*

### **Social Media Director**

Chrissi Villa

[chrissivilla@gmail.com](mailto:chrissivilla@gmail.com)

### **FB & Promo Coordinator**

Charlene Johnson

[circleoftheredscorpion@gmail.com](mailto:circleoftheredscorpion@gmail.com)

### **Book Events Coordinator**

Danita Moon

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(916) 980-0375

### **Anthology 2019 - 2023**

Norma Jean Thornton: **Coordinator**

Michelle Hamilton: **Main Editor**

Bob Irelan: **Editor**

Norma Jean Thornton: **Proofreader**

Sharon Darrow: **Publisher**

[2021NCPAAnthology@gmail.com](mailto:2021NCPAAnthology@gmail.com)

### **Main Webmaster**

Amy Rogers

[Amy@ScienceThrillersMedia.com](mailto:Amy@ScienceThrillersMedia.com)

## **Meetings now 4pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, starting Sunday 13 August 2023**

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA)

PO Box 214673 ~ Sac, CA 95821

Michelle Hamilton, President 916-837-6812 \* Norma Jean Thornton, Editor 916-991-5751

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

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### **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, and become property of NCPA. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS OF ANYTHING..

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

Send your articles and announcements to [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)

Please type either **NCPA N/L** or **NCPA NEWSLETTER** as the email subject heading, to help me find newsletter submissions easier.

Please provide submissions in Microsoft Word (or compatible) format, or in plain text. **NO PDF**, 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](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com) or 916-991-5751

Any news of members' books, activities, marketing, speaking engagements, and/ or other accomplishments are greatly appreciated.

Also: any information on members' insights into the challenges and opportunities of writing and/or publishing, or information on regional resources for authors and publishers works well.

Cover illustrations and other photos are welcome in jpeg or other standard format. Please keep file sizes reasonable. When in doubt, call or email editor in advance.

**Submissions for each issue will be the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month, unless otherwise noted ~ and ~ if you have something after the 5<sup>th</sup> call me (916-991-5751), then send it anyway ~** I'm flexible, so we'll probably be able to work it in, since the monthly Pen & Press publishing date depends on time available for the editor to complete and send it out, whether it's the first day of the month or the last, or somewhere in-between.

The goal of the current editor is to publish one Pen & Press each month, and two in the Banquet month every year, to cover the Book Awards Banquet ... one prior to the event, and one after.

... Norma Jean Thornton, editor *The Pen & Press* 2016-2023