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The Pen & Press

REMEMBER

IT'S FAIR TIME ~ NO JULY MEETING ~ BUT ~

**AUG IN-PERSON MEETINGS ARE COMING BACK SAME day ~ NEW time ~ NEW location
NO GUEST SPEAKER in AUGUST – just chit-chat and get re-acquainted**

*NCPA ANTHOLOGIES: Beautiful World * & * ALL Holidays Vol 3: CONTINUE - DEADLINE 1 SEP 2023 (subject to change)

*NCPA's 5th 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 30th Book Awards in 2024! (19 May)

Exciting things coming for NCPA's 30th Annual Book Awards Banquet 19 May 2024 "PEARLS"

*Critique groups will restart sometime after the fair (State Fair 14 Jul – 30 Jul)- - crit group info coming in Aug newsletter

*NCPA ELECTION is over and no surprise, the BOD remains the same: Michell Prez, Sharon VP, Danita Secty, Amy Treas and Norma Jean Comm Dir & N/L Editor – SO:

*The newsletter will continue, hopefully with input from more NCPA members: We truly appreciate those members who have fairly-regularly attended our meetings in the past, and our hope is that the rest of you will get a bit more involved, allowing us to continue as a more cohesive group. What better way to know each other, than to communicate? My goal is for each member to volunteer for one month to be an NCPA Newsletter Guest Journalist starting in Sep and continuing. Not only will it give 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. And the biggest and best? We all get to know one another better!

- --- AND --- in anticipation of our 30th Book Awards Anniversary, we'll celebrate all year, starting with this July newsletter. Michelle tells me the 30th anniversary is PEARLS, so the theme of 2024 will be celebrated in each newsletter with a new column: PEARLS OF WISDOM (and other such worldly stuff). I'll start August off with help from MLK Jr and Andrea Pirlo, with some of our "Pearls; followed in Sep with "Pearls" from our BOD, plus regular members. Whomever wishes to impart some Pearls without being asked, THANK YOU, but each month I'm going alphabetically through our members and will list those names in each newsletter, with the hopes that at least a few names on that list wind up with their own "Pearl" in the following month's newsletter. That can be in the form of a saying, a poem about, or with, the word pearl, or a Short story of no more than 500 words (but if ya gotta really great story longer than 500 words, just send it to me and I'll decide. Maybe that one could take our guest journalist spot for the month).

TAG! The following 23 are IT FOR AUGUST ~ send your "Pearls of Wisdom" to normathornton@yahoo.com

Alcalde Marr * Arcado * Atherstone * Avanti * Barrett * Bize-Boutte * Boyd Fellure * Branco * Canterbury * Cassady * Cawley * Charles * Clark * Darrow * Davis * Diaz * Dorow * Dreizler * Faber * Fite * Fuller * Fulton * Garrett.

Those in this group of 23 who don't respond by 31 July, your name will also be included in the Sep group. A personal Email might be sent to those who don't respond. We're all writers, or at least wannabees, so let's write! If you're already published this should be a piece of cake, and if you aren't already published, now's your perfect time to do just that, with a measly poem, really short story, or a saying your mom, dad or grandma always said to you that irritated you to no end! Surely, we all have at least one of those to share! If there's a story that goes with that Pearl, you can include it, too, if you'd like.

*July 2023 NO Guest Journalist ~ Pearls, Anthology and Genealogy stuff instead

President's Message

The twenty-ninth annual NCPA Awards banquet is now over. Around forty of us gathered at Cherry Island to mingle, have a drink, eat, and swap stories from the past years. Norma chose not to have a Keynote Speaker, because she felt it might be nice for people to just visit. And she was right.

I enjoyed looking around the room and seeing so many different groups of people deep in conversation, as if they were greeting a long-lost friend after decades apart. As we've slowly emerged from our Covid bubbles and began to behave as the social animals we are once more, I can't help but wonder if we don't cherish moments like this just a little more because we know what it means to lose them.

In that same vein, I've been thinking a lot about my extended family. At one point, my cousin and I tried to trace our family lines, but we ran into a pay-wall and stopped. The other day, I sat down and wrote a story for the NCPA anthology about my uncle, who was a Vietnam War Vet. I'm trying to learn Spanish, so that brings to mind my aunt-by-marriage, who lives in Colorado now. She was an integral part of my childhood, and I feel nostalgic for vacations with her and my uncle in Twain Harte where we played Crazy 8's and my uncle scared us all with threats of the *cucuí living in a shack on the property. (* a mythical ghost-like monster)

Spanish also makes me think of my paternal grandmother, the very image of a grandmother, who baked cookies and read bedtime stories, but also mined gold with my grandfather in Mexico and spoke fluent Spanish. I'm even curious about my criminal maternal grandfather, who was a grifter, and served hard time for writing bad checks. He wrote a lot of bad checks and wound up in Atascadero. I have his Bible somewhere in my house where he scribbled pithy reflections on the passages he read to while away the time in a prison cell.

I don't write nonfiction. I've never had any interest in it, but I wonder if it's something that becomes more interesting as you age, just like history became more interesting after I left school. I am in awe of biography writers like our own Kathy Marshall or Sharon Darrow, who research their families to share with the world. Or "hard core" nonfiction writers, like Cheryl Stapp, who explain historical events to us, so we can understand them.

My son and I spent a morning on Zillow looking at the houses I lived in while growing up in Pacifica. The last house we owned there still has the kitchen my father built with his own hands, and the wet bar he added to the basement. While searching the street where our first house was, my son told me that his friends had recently bought the house across the street from ours.

That sent me down a memory trail where I remembered the woman who owned that house. She was six feet tall, with bottle-blond hair and an ink-black part. She and her husband had emigrated from Germany, and in nothing but a bikini, she would water the concrete patio before her house. The neighbors to our right had a feud going with the couple – I have no idea what it was about, but in a stunning display of bigotry, the husband named her VonHosen, because she was always hosing off the yard. I hadn't thought about her in years, but I remember she had three daughters who were around my age, all nearly twice as tall as I was, and once they asked me to come over to play. I went and the woman, who I would only ever know of as VonHosen, served me warm chocolate chip cookies and Kool-Aid, and as I sat in her kitchen, she made it clear to the ten-year-old me that she wasn't nearly as terrifying as she'd seemed from the miasma of our neighbor's misplaced hatred.

I wish I knew her real name now. I wish I could remember her daughters more clearly.

I can't help but think it's the things we forget that make up the tapestry of our lives. I remain in awe of those who search for those memories and weave them together like a shawl to draw around their shoulders for comfort. And as we age, it's the memories that keep us from fading into the ether.

ML Hamilton

authormlhamilton.net

Editors Note: Michelle talking about tracing family, telling the story about her uncle, discussing other family members and being in awe of those who search memories and write biographies, jogged my own memories when I was fairly-heavily into genealogy. One year in the 1990s while hunting with hubby in Missouri where my folks were both from, we visited some of my relatives, and not only found info about a great aunt and cousins who I was unaware of, but we even met them once we got home in CA. The aunt lived only 6 hours away in Talent, OR and the cousins lived in our zip code, less than an hour from here. We met them all, which led to more cousins we all found, and visited.

Those memories, plus receiving an Email full of genealogy info, means this month's newsletter is filled with lots of genealogy stuff. If you haven't already been bitten by that bug --- beware! – it's addictive! *Norma Jean*

NCPA 29TH BOOK AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners of the 29th Annual NCPA Book Awards competition and the 4th Annual NCPA Anthology Risk Takers competition. This was our 7th anthology in 4 years, with a total of 30 authors and 30 stories in the Risk Takers category for our Anthology *Beautiful Americas*, and we broke a record with 37 books / authors plus 11 books in the cover / interior design, for a total of 48 entries in the **Book Awards competition**.

The big number 30 Book Awards competition is tentatively scheduled for **Sunday 19 May 2024**, once more at the Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta, CA. If you have, or will have, a book published and available for sale any time **from 1 Jan 2023 through midnight, 31 Dec 2023**, why not enter it in our 30th Annual Book Awards Competition? You don't have to be a member to submit a book, but it's cheaper if you are (norcalpa.org for more info). Help us make #30 our biggest yet.

While you're at it, why not submit a story to one or both of our current anthologies, *Beautiful World* and *ALL Holidays Vol 3*? You might win a Risk Takers Award. It's **free to submit** a story, plus you receive **one free book**, but all authors in the anthologies **must be a member of NCPA** (\$40/year – norcalpa.org for more info on joining – or contact me: norcalpa@yahoo.com)

29th Annual NCPA BOOK AWARD WINNERS

CHILDREN

Christine L. "Chrissi" Villa * Carlito Pizarra's Hero of the Tarsiers—**Bronze**

YOUNG ADULT

Hayley Smelker * Atlantis Ascending—**Silver**

COLLECTIONS

Munashe Kaseke * Send Her Back—**Gold**

Edward Gunawan *The Way Back—**Silver**

COVER / INTERIOR DESIGN

Betty K. Staley * Africa, A Guide for Teachers and Families—**Gold**

Marilyn Reynolds * OVER 80, REFLECTIONS ON AGING—**Silver**

Berta Davis * Morphers and Mayhem, A Werewolf Tale—**Silver**

Lois Ann Abraham * Deborah's Gift—**Bronze**

FICTION

Dorothe D. Kress * THE RISK: Forbidden Love Behind The Iron Curtain—**Gold**

Lois Ann Abraham * Deborah's Gift—**Gold**

Bernard Wozny * Girl Electric: Twin Falls —**Silver**

Bernard Wozny * O.R.P. Orzel: The Spirit of Poland —**Silver**

Dana Dargos & Said Al Bizri * Einstein in the Attic—**Bronze**

MEMOIR

Peter Kupfer * The Glassmaker's Son: Looking for the World My Father Left Behind in Nazi Germany—**Gold**

Sharon S. Darrow * From Hindsight to Insight, A Traditional to Metaphysical Memoir—**Silver**

Anthony Avano * Obviously Intoxicated, Stopping Drunks, Before They Drive—**Silver**

Marilyn Reynolds * Over 80: Reflections on Aging—**Silver**

Denise Lee Branco * Rabbit at The Sliding Door: Chloe's Story—**Bronze**

GENERAL NON-FICTION

Betty K. Staley * AFRICA, A Guide for Teachers and Families—**Gold**

Kathleen A. Cawley Navigating the Shock of Parenthood: Warty Truths and Modern Practicalities - From a Mom with Twins—**Gold**

Barbara Klide * Secret Lives of Wild Canada Geese—**Silver**

Norma Jean Thornton * Just What is a Critique Group? Do I Need One, or Not? —**Bronze**

POETRY

Antonio Casares * El Unicornio Blanco: The White Unicorn—**Gold**

4th Annual NCPA Anthology RISK TAKERS AWARD WINNER

Lorna Griess * her story: *My First Pet* * in the *Beautiful Americas* Anthology

PEARLS OF WISDOM: a new monthly column from now until 30 June 2024

- The 29th Book Awards may be behind us, but our work has just begun for the 30th! Exciting things are coming for Book Awards #30 tentatively scheduled for Sun 19 May 2024 at Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta. Since the 30th anniversary is “PEARLS” we’ll be celebrating *Pearls of Wisdom* from now until then:
 - Pearls of Wisdom can be: fun or serious, fact or fiction;
 - passed down from one or more relative (read Mom, trying to get you to do what she wants you to) or things you’ve either “*thunk up on yer own*” or found along the way;
 - will be added to upcoming newsletters from now until June 2024.
- There’ll also be a list of names from our membership each month, and I’m asking each of you on the monthly list to send me one or more “pearls of wisdom”.
 - The list for this month is in the box at the bottom of this piece, highlighted in purple
- Michelle is planning on putting them all together in a small pamphlet for the anniversary. We’ll start with two Pearls I found when doing a “Google” (that wound up being a “Bing”, where Microsoft sent me to. I don’t like Bing!), from MLK Jr:
 - Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.*
 - We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.* Martin Luther King, Jr.
- And, one according to Bing, attributed to Andrea Pirlo:
 - There are always lessons to be found in the darkest moments. It’s a moral obligation to dig deep and find that little glimmer of hope or pearl of wisdom.* (If you don’t know who Pirlo is, then look him up, b/c it’s too long to describe, but was too good to ignore – plus it states our theme).
- I just remembered one my mother always drummed into the head/s of my sisters and I:
 - Never leave home with dirty, torn, or a hole, in your undies, in case you have a wreck. (You don’t want to be embarrassed by anyone seeing your dirty, torn, holey undies!)
- And my own: When we participate in a group, we feel more invested, so participate: send me *your pearls*!

IF YOUR NAME IS LISTED BELOW, you’re among our first “Pearls” of Wisdom:
PLEASE SEND AT LEAST ONE PEARL OF YOUR WISDOM to
normathornton@yahoo.com – ASAP!

Alcalde Marr, Jackie * Arcado, Anthony * Atherstone, Pamela * Avanti, Michele * Barrett, Barbara * Bize-Boutte, Sheryl J. * Boyd Fellure, Kathy * Branco, Denise Lee * Canterbury, Patricia * Cassady, Cathy * Cawley, Kathleen A. * Charles, Scott * Clark, Penelope L. * Darrow, Sharon S. * Davis, Paula J. * Diaz, Loren R. * Dorow, Terri * Dreizler, Bob * Faber, Elaine * Fite, Barbara “Bobbie” * Fuller, Frances * Fulton, Kristin * Garrett, Barbara A.

What a great list of names from the first page of members! My guess is that at least 15 of you will reply with a pearl or two!

Are you an NCPA member? NCPA accepting stories for 2 current anthologies FREE to ENTER & receive one FREE BOOK

If you’ve not already sent one, how about a story for one or both of our current work-in-progress-anthologies? (*Beautiful World* * & *ALL Holidays Vol 3* **Deadline 1 Sep 2023**, anticipated launch: during the NCPA Holiday Luncheon 10 Dec 2023 at Black Angus

NOT A MEMBER? ONLY \$40 for one year membership.

ALL INFORMATION in the links below – just click on them in this Email (it worked for me, but if not for you, Email me direct at the dedicated Email address 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com for a copy). **Also for ALL correspondence re THESE TWO anthologies ONLY, including questions and help. 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com**



[NCPA All Holidays Vol 3 Word doc](#)



[NCPA Beautiful World](#)

Thank you for your interest in joining our Anthology projects - it’s a very simple, **FREE**, process, to get published, and a great start for those who have never published anything before. We’re happy with our regular authors, some of whom are in each volume, but we also like to have fresh blood, so to speak. We would also like to hear from a few of our members who have never published anything, anywhere, anytime, before. **MUST BE A MEMBER to have a story in NCPA anthologies** Norma Jean

Let's stick with writing stuff – once you've sent me your Pearl/s of Wisdom, and a story or two for our two anthologies, how about being a guest journalist in the newsletter for a month?

Looking for Guest Journalists Sep--Dec 2023.

Send all your writing info, your bio, brag about your books and other successes, your dogs, cats or other pets, your kids, significant other, or ??? - give me a story, an article, a poem, a picture, whatever strikes your fancy. Anything goes as long as it's family-friendly. If not suitable, I'll let you know.

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

The NCPA Board of Directors invites you to join us at our new monthly meeting 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 Café

in the CCP Mall at Watt Av & El Camino Av

(2380-Watt Avenue, Suite 150 Inside Country Club Plaza)

4pm-6:30pm * 2nd Sun of each month, starting * Sunday 13 Aug 2023

(Flaming Grill used to be on El Camino Av: also serves wild game

(Check out the menu – link below)

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

THANK YOU TO OUR SILENT AUCTION DONORS & ALL BIDDERS AT THE 2023 BANQUET

Donors, their donation, and winning bidders listed below.

- Our Venue [Cherry Island Golf Course](#): great Golf Package for 4 * & * high bidder [Michelle Brown](#)
- [SHARIF Jewelers](#): beautiful Yellow-Gold pendant with garnet, topaz, citrine, peridot & blue topaz * & * high bidder [Kim Kralowec](#)
- [Jennifer Grainger Schoenborn](#): very generous Manuscript Evaluation * & * high bidder [Elaine Faber](#)
- [Frances Kakugawa](#): her award-winning books, *Dangerous Woman: Poetry for the Ageless* * and * *Wordsworth, the Haiku Teacher* * & * high bidder [Marilyn Reynolds](#)
- [Elk Grove Writers Guild](#): Conference Ticket for EGWG Conference 23 Sep 2023 * & * high bidder [Elaine Faber](#)

***** [tickets still available through EGWG website - egweg.org/23conf](https://egweg.org/23conf) *****

- [Capitol Crimes, NCPA & M.L. Hamilton](#): Bouchercon Mystery Bag with pocket flashlight, NCPA pen and Mystery Book * & * high bidder [Danita Moon](#)
- [NCPA](#): 3-year-Membership * & * high bidder [Barbara Young](#)
- [Elaine Faber](#): Basket with 4 writing instruction books * & * high bidder [Danita Moon](#)

Sharon also had a 50/50 card split, and the winner of their 50% gave their winnings back so the entire amount of \$90 was also donated to the library from the card split. Unfortunately, I don't know who won and donated back, but many thanks to that generous person also! If / when I find out, I'll let everyone know.

Recap: 29th Book Awards Banquet

Our theme for 2023 was *Year of the Rabbit*, and Chrissi Villa, our social webmaster and table decorator, made some cute coasters with bunnies on them. NCPA president Michelle designed the program, plus bookmarks to follow the theme. Michelle also designed new flyers and matching generic NCPA business cards for all NCPA members (with space on the back for our name and contact info. Be sure to pick some up whenever you attend a meeting, see us at the fair, or in any NCPA event). Chrissi set out all 4 matching items, plus a coaster, at each table-setting and we were told by more than one, how professional the display was.

Thank you to the fabulous 54 who registered to attend the Banquet on Sun 25 June - not everyone made it, but most did, and it appeared all had a great time. We had a new chef – again – and as usual, the food was plentiful and plenty tasty. The chicken was especially good, and tender, and even though I'm not a big fan of spaghetti, I always take one brownie-bite, to make sure it tastes ok, and to me, it's all been good, but this was the best pasta (not only vegan, but also gluten-free) dish we've had since we've been going to Cherry Island – since 2016.

Danita Moon, our secretary, and with her employee discount, brought cookies she had made from the Bakery at Sprouts. To go with the rabbit theme, I picked up carrot cake and a chocolate cake. The cookies seemed to fit the bill the best, though, and that's what we'd have next year, if it wasn't our big 30th. We already have plans in the works for that one, and we'll have a cake, hopefully with the cover of the program decorated on top. --- *Pearls of Wisdom*.

Speaking of, here's another anonymous, good *Pearl of Wisdom*: **Your attitude determines your direction.**

As Michelle indicated in her presidents' message, I chose not to have a guest speaker this year, so we could just chill and visit with one another, which everyone did. The fact our Emcee, Bitsy Kemper, was on her fourth tour with us made it nice also, so she could comfortably join in with the rest since most of those in attendance already knew Bitsy, and she mingles well – and, because she's so much fun, I'm thinking about making her our permanent co-Emcee if it's ok with her. That way, if we have another person sharing the position Bitsy can also fill in as guest speaker and tell us another great story like she did this time about her hairdresser and the Pope.

Sorry, it's an inside joke, and you had to be there to enjoy it – ya snooze, ya lose! Be there next year – tentatively set as Sun 19 May 2024. Maybe she'll tell that story again next year?

Vice President Sharon Darrow sat surrounded by stacks of copies of all 7 of our anthologies and sold a few, while treasurer Amy Rogers, in addition to keeping track of, and registering all attendees, kept reign on all the extra competition books of the evening, plus other books brought in by members who had won an award on one or more books in the past, and were encouraged to bring up to three of their titles to sell in our on-site bookstore. Amy says more books were sold this year than ever before, and she's all set to do it again next year - as is Sharon, with hopefully 2 more titles, making 9 anthologies by that time.

In addition to overseeing the entire book awards and banquet component, I solicit donations for the silent auction. Unfortunately, I didn't start as soon, and wasn't as aggressive in gathering donations this year as normal, but hopefully next year I will be, and we'll have more items ... but a HUGE thanks to all our wonderful, generous donors for 2023 --- and to all the fantastic bidders, we have a check for the Friends of the Library for \$500.

Sharon will start working on the book portion – and searching for judges – soon, and I'll hopefully get an earlier start on requests for donations ... funds will go to the Friends of the Library again ... so put your thinking caps on and help us gather silent auction items for 2024, and our 30th Anniversary! If you have a service, or something you think might be of interest to others, why not donate? The past two years we've had baskets of writing books donated by authors. Each went for an excellent price for both bidder and the silent auction ... a win, win, win situation!

Remember to enter your books published this year, between 1 Jan 2023 and 31 Dec 2023 – you do NOT have to be an NCPA member to submit a book for the competition, and your banquet dinner is always included in the entry; also, we still need stories for two anthologies: *Beautiful World * & * ALL Holidays Vol 3* and will be giving one Risk Takers Award for each of the two. It's FREE to have a story in an anthology, plus you receive one FREE BOOK for entering. But you DO need to be an NCPA member to have a story in one of our anthologies --- Norcalpa.org for more info, and to submit. Deadline on the anthology stories is 1 Sep 2023, subject to change, but launch will be 10 Dec 2023 at NCPA's Holiday Luncheon at the Black Angus on Greenback.

Sharif Jewelers has donated to our silent auction yearly since 2009 and Cherry Island Golf Course has donated every year since 2016, with our first banquet there. Many, many thanks to both for their unending support.

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

- **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](#)
- **More from Erma Bombeck:** Writers considering self-publishing should read BookBaby's article on [spotting self-publishing scams](#). 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.
- **Writer Beware:** Publishing Scams [How Scammers Are Using Amazon and Amazon Trademarks to Rip Writers Off - Writer Beware](#) * [Copyright, Contracts, and AI-Generated Material - Writer Beware](#) * [Small Press Storm Warnings: Adelaide Books, Propertius Press, TouchPoint Press - Writer Beware](#)
- [Adobe Says It'll Cover Legal Bills for Its AI Tool \(futurism.com\)](#)
- [hays - Dictionary Checker - Scrabble Word Finder](#) <https://scrabblewordfinder.org/dictionary/hays>
- <https://www.familyhistorywritingstudio.com/story-starter-workbook-2/>

If the person who named Walkie Talkies named everything, we'd have:

- Stamps = Licky Stickies
- Defibrillators = Hearty Starties
- Bumble bees = Fuzzy Buzzies
- Bra = Breasty Nesty
- Pregnancy test = Maybe Baby
- Fork = Stabby Grabby
- Socks = Feety Heaty
- Hippo = Floaty Bloaty
- Nightmare = Screamy Dreamy

Another anonymous PEARL OF WISDOM: No person who can read is ever successful at cleaning out an attic.

FINDING A GREAT AUNT – and a missing ½ brother - WE WEREN'T AWARE OF EITHER ONE

Many times Michelle and I seem to be in-synch for the newsletter, with the subject in her Prez msg for the N/L (and a few other things as well), like one - or even both - is reading the other's mind, and our thoughts run parallel - or is it just that doo-do-doo stuff? (And not the poop-kind, that's just plain doo-doo)

I had recently received an Email filled with all kinds of interesting links for genealogists, or Geni-wannabes, and was contemplating how I could slip it all into one N/L, and just be done with it.

Not an hour before receiving Michelle's email I had finally decided I'd just fill this one with genealogy, and let that Email be the July "guest journalist", when here comes Michelle's message about that very same thing!

Which definitely energized me for a genealogy month --- and I really went far down that Google rabbit hole to find even more links than the one Email had provided: three days later, below are three pages filled with geni-stuff. ENJOY! If you aren't already interested in your family history, hopefully this will encourage you to give it a try. Just opening and going to some of the links on the next pages should keep you entertained – and give you something to do indoors on these upcoming HOT SUMMER DAYS AHEAD!

On the bottom of the third and final page of genealogy stuff I have a short story about accidentally finding one missing great aunt and her family – who we didn't even know we had to miss –how sad it was we didn't find her just 4 years sooner, plus finding my grandfather's death cert. And, following that, is another sad story how a previously unknown ½ brother of my husband's finally found who he belonged to – after his dad had passed.

It's important to find, or at least know about, missing family members--- and it's like pulling teeth sometimes, in attempting to talk with most of your elders while you still can to find all they know about your history ... because it all just dies with them ... and that's a shame.

GENEALOGY STUFF FOR THOSE DOING FAMILY HISTORY THINGS

Use at your own risk. I'm not familiar with all links: NCPA cannot be held responsible for any of them.

- California Genealogical Society: [California Ancestors](#). --- or -- [CaliforniaAncestors.org](#)
- [Oakland California FamilySearch Center/Classes and Workshops • FamilySearch](#)
- [Wednesday "Tips & Talk" at Oakland FamilySearch Center Registration, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)
- [Category:California FamilySearch Centers • FamilySearch](#)
- [2023 Salt Lake City Research Trip | California Genealogical Society \(californiaancestors.org\)](#)
- [RootsMagic Special Interest Group Registration, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)
- [Special Interest Groups | California Genealogical Society \(californiaancestors.org\)](#)
- [Eastern European Special Interest Group Registration, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)
- [Southern California Genealogical Society: Official Web Site \(scgsgenealogy.com\)](#)
- [Sign up - SCGS \(scgsgenealogy.com\)](#) Lots of benefits to join \$40/year - one benefit: 24/7 Remote Access to MyHeritage Library Edition
- [Getting Started With Church Records \(americanancestors.org\)](#)
- <https://www.uncommongenealogist.com/blog/why-we-need-to-rethink-genealogy>
- <https://www.shipindex.org/> - A vessel research database. Where did your family come from?
- <https://www.ncgenealogy.org/awards/> - North Carolina Genealogical Society
- <https://hubs.americanancestors.org/census-records> - Getting Started with U.S. Census
- <https://hubs.americanancestors.org/tools-to-organize>
- <https://www.mygenealogybooks.com/> - Books & Things: Traveling genealogy bookstore
- <https://www.amazon.com/Secret-Genealogy-IV-Native-Americans/dp/1500756105#immersive-view> 1688933597885 - GUIDE TO FINDING Native Americans hidden in our family trees paperback
- https://www.testimonye.com/products/family-tree-notebook-memories-of-ancestors-2?utm_campaign=23855406132920430&utm_content=23855406156630430&utm_medium=Facebook_Mobile_Feed&utm_source=fb&utm_term=23855406134400430 - Keep track of genealogy organizer journal.
- <https://www.genealogybank.com/sign-up/family-history> - Newspapers from 1690 - Today
- <https://www.theoccasionalgenealogist.com/2022/04/genealogy-research-plan-secret-solution.html> - How to create a genealogy research plan:
- https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02MsfCqxCUyvrTBX8a4yjADigthvkqpcVTZTdeUBpygCnJTzYtAA6QyVxXwNX5tyel&id=25596854450 - Getting started in Family History with American Ancestors by New England Historic Genealogical Society
- https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02CRRzmTBa4pEkzsPyNxk5o2m5FdyngXF5N5RtE8XmZNbeRJhHD22Gsmrew4QgwMCI&id=204629506263438 - Largest newspaper archive for family history research - (may be a duplicate)
- <https://www.ancestryprinting.com/> - Genealogy Chart Printing - Family Tree Printing - \$\$\$
- <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09K27ZKMB> - My genealogy \$\$ - appears to be blank forms for 14 generations with 265 detailed sheets up to 8th generation, 255 to 9th generation, 165 extension sheets to describe 100 places, 200 others, indicates migrations of ancestors and more
- https://goramblessip.com/products/family-tree?utm_source=fb&utm_medium=Facebook_Mobile_Feed&utm_campaign=23854253086570193&utm_term=23854253087350193&utm_content=23854253087620193 Blank Family Tree Charts for sale - \$\$
- <https://accessinstantly.co/free-master-list-of-german-records> Search German ancestors
- [Free Online Family Tree Maker: Design a Custom Family Tree - Canva](#) - \$\$
- <https://dallasgenealogy.org/meetings-events/seminars/2023-summer-seminar/> **22 July in-person & ZOOM**
- <https://cyndislist.com/> - **Cyndi has been around for more than 25 years - this one is a treasure trove of information. I've used it before and highly recommend her.**

SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Genealogy Presentations from Sacramento Public Library – UPDATED FOR JULY – DEC 2023

- Free presentations online via Zoom one Saturday each month at 1 pm.
- Sign up through the Events Program Calendar at www.saclibrary.org.
- If you have any questions, please email contact@saclibrary.org.
- **July 22, 2023** Overview of the Major DNA Testing Company Tools, by Mark McLaren A walk through each of the four major DNA testing companies, their pros and cons and how to use the tools provided by each.
- **August 26, 2023** Court is in Session: Find Your Ancestors in the Law Library, by Pamela Bell Dallas Law libraries are not just for lawyers. Law libraries hold a treasure trove of information about our ancestors and collateral family. Learn what information is available and where to find it.
- **September 23, 2023** Think Like an Archivist: Finding Genealogy Records in Library & Archives, by Nancy Loe. You'll learn about using archival records & repositories, finding aids for genealogists, finding genealogy records in archives, and requesting archival materials.
- **October 28, 2023** Getting Social about Your Search for Ancestors, by Jacqi Stevens Genealogical pursuits may seem like the ideal solitary pursuit—with cup of hot coffee in hand, one can research the world over from the comfort of home—but in truth, the best way to play your genealogical hand is to consider it a team sport. There are others out there who have the answer to your research question, if only you knew how to connect. Social media has opened the way for researchers to share resources, and the avalanche of online forums can become overwhelming. Learn what's available on social media for family history and how you can connect and find answers to your research brick walls.
- **November 18, 2023** Genealogy at the California History Room of the California State Library, by Elena Smith Learn how to research California ancestors via materials at the California History Room of the California State Library.
- **December 16, 2023** Did Your Ancestor Attend Church? Researching in Religious Records, by Lisa S. Gorrell Church records can provide names, dates, and relationships about your ancestors. Many of the records from churches and religious organizations predate civil records which make these records a rich source of information about our families. Give these records a try, even if you think your ancestor did not attend church

Questions? Contact bethd2073@gmail.com or Dave contact@saclibrary.org

INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY? Check out your local Library FREE Ancestry.com at home, thanks to the library & a library card

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 cardthe census records alone, are great and worth the time and trouble, even if you don't do anything else there.

- Simply go to www.saclibrary.org Then click on:
- Books & Media:
- Special Collections:
- Genealogy Collection:
- Have Questions? (at bottom of screen):
- "Learn More" under "Do you have other genealogy services available?" Or just click link as a shortcut <https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/History/Genealogy>

(Other Genealogy sites are 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.

And an even easier way to get there, thanks to Barbara Barrett – but you still need your Library Card info

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

I don't know how much longer this will be available from home, but as of tonight it still is.

2023 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> (Possible old info, if so, try 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/>

LDS Family Search Center

Anyone can access genealogical records and receive personal assistance with their family history **FOR FREE at the Sacramento Latter Day Saints Family History Center at 2745 Eastern Av, Sacramento. (916-487-2090).** It's free, open to the public, and staffed by knowledgeable volunteers. Each facility offers both novices and experienced family historians the tools and resources to learn about their ancestors.

Although it's been years since I've been there, I have gone several times and have not only found a lot of information, but the volunteers are really helpful, and friendly.

THREE FAMILY SEARCH TALES --- and there are lots more! - don't wait too long

1st: In the early 1990s, Hubby and I were hunting in MO, birthplace of both my parents, where a bit of family still lived. I had just started with genealogy, so asked a few questions. A cousin mentioned "Great Aunt Opal", my grandmothers' youngest sis, who I'd never heard of, and the phone number of her ex-husband. I called him (in MO); he gave me his daughter, Peggy's, number – with a 916-area code – same as mine, in CA! I called Peggy (in Placerville); was told Opal was alive and well in Talent, OR, a mere 6-hour drive from Sacramento. My mother had died just 2 years prior, without ever knowing her aunt lived so close. Once home, youngest sis and I immediately went to visit Aunt Opal, and later got together with Peggy and more family we found near Sacto, during that MO trip.

2nd: Middle sis and I were searching records at the LDS Family Search Center on Howe Av, and she found our paternal grandfather's death information! Daddy thought his dad just took off again (he was a grifter and had done time for bad checks, just like Michelle's maternal grandfather had), since the last time he was around, in 1945, gramps came by to borrow money ... again. Needless to say, there were bad / hurt feelings. Daddy died in 1993 and never found out his father had died the following year, 1946, in TN. He hadn't abandoned the family, after all.

3rd: Just 2 years ago, at my deceased husband, Wayne's, final aunt's funeral, his younger siblings found that they all had a half-brother, Randy, who was just a few months younger than the youngest brother, and the only person besides "Dad", who knew about him, was Dad's sister Dot, who had just passed. Randy's wife had gotten him a DNA kit for Christmas, and he found out who his dad was with it. They all had lived just a mile or so from each other in Ceres growing up. The youngest boys went to the same school and both played baseball ... on the same team. Dad had gone to those games and seen both his sons play, but only one knew their father was there. I love my fa-in-law, but that really upsets me. What a shame for poor Randy – but at least he was at the funeral and did meet all his living siblings, and cousins. Ironically, I just found out yesterday, that Randy's wife wrote and published her first book this year. I read the first few pages on Amazon, and am impressed! I'm hoping she'll enter it in NCPA's 30th Book Awards competition in 2024.

I just wish I'd started doing genealogy years earlier, when more elders were around ... and those who were, would answer questions! If mom had said something about Opal, we might have found her earlier, when mom was alive. We might even have found info on my grandfather before Daddy died. And maybe Randy could have seen his dad.

UPCOMING 2023 NCPA EVENTS -- & MORE

30th NCPA BOOK AWARDS BANQUET

5pm-9pm
Sun 19 May 2024

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 6th 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 Sep-Dec 2023 ** Great chance to toot your own horn to more than 250
Respond to this Email if interested, or Email norcalpa@yahoo.com

In-person NCPA monthly meetings will restart the 2nd Sun in Aug, but at a later time
4pm-6:30pm Sunday 13 Aug 2023

NO AUGUST GUEST SPEAKER --- JUST THOSE OF US THERE DISCUSSING WRITING, PUBLISHING & LIFE IN GENERAL
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

Speaker for SEPTEMBER meeting will be NCPA Treasurer Amy Rogers

Helping members discover the NCPA website business directory & more fun stuff!



So ---- start writing your list of what to ask regarding the NCPA website & your information on it.

UPCOMING 2023 EVENTS for other groups --- & MORE

- ❖ Elk Grove Writers Conference – 23 Sep 2023 - \$75 includes Continental Breakfast & Lunch:
<http://eqweg.org/23conf/> GCW, NCPA, SJVW collaboratively sponsor this event.
- ❖ CA State Fair 14 July – 30 July 2023 * www.cbsnews.com/sacramento/news/california-state-fair-what-to-expect-cal-expo/
- ❖ Music Circus at the tent through 27 August (Music Man * Addams Family * Ragtime * Rent)
- ❖ Broadway At the Community Center COMING SOON – 19 Sep 2023 to 19 May 2024 * Six * Hades Town * Les Miserables * Ain't Too Proud * Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas * Annie
- ❖ Rio Linda Elverta Country Faire – Sat 16 Sep – Depot Park, Rio Linda \$40 Booth Deadline 3 Sep – rlvendors@yahoo.com – riolindaelvertacountryfaire.com
- ❖ Gold Country Writers Short Story Contest \$15 ENTRY DEADLINE 26 July - 3 top winners \$50, \$75, \$100 - for original, unpublished fiction of any length up to 1,500 words. Open to all writers in the counties of Yuba, El Dorado, Nevada, Sutter & Sacramento. For more info & submit: www.goldcountrywriters.com
- ❖ Black Women Write presents 2nd Annual Literary Happy Hour 14 Jul 7pm click link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-women-write-2023-summer-literary-happy-hour-tickets-653617636947?aff=ebdssbdestsearch> - Celebrates African American writers living in the Sacramento area. Twelve local artists will present works of all genres: poetry, fiction, essays, history, fantasy, romance, and other examples of local creativity.
- ❖ Manzanita Writers Press: Poetry & Journaling Calaveras Big Trees State Park 15 Jul manzapress.com
- ❖ Banana Festival 19 & 20 Aug 2023 – VENDORS WANTED HOME | BANANA FESTIVAL SACRAMENTO
- ❖ Crawfish & Catfish Festival – Sacramento, CA (craw-fest.com) Crawfish & Catfish Festival 9 & 10 Sep 2023

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

➤ **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 \(egweg.org\)](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

➤ **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

➤ **Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) 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

➤ **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

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Communications Director / Newsletter Editor

Norma Jean Thornton

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

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Sharon Darrow

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800-462-2328

Book Awards Chair

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Treasurer

Amy Rogers

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

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chrissivilla@gmail.com

FB & Promo Coordinator

Charlene Johnson

circleoftheredscorpion@gmail.com

Book Events Coordinator

Danita Moon

danita@danitamoon.com

(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

Main Webmaster

Amy Rogers

Amy@ScienceThrillersMedia.com

Meetings now 4pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month, starting Sunday 13 August 2023

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA)

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www.norcalpa.org

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The editor reserves the right to accept or reject submissions and to edit submissions for length, clarity, or style.

Readers are free to print copies for noncommercial personal use, and NCPA members are welcome to print copies of the newsletter to share with friends, colleagues, and prospective members.

Other News, Announcements, and Comments

All submissions for this section of *The Pen & Press* including short items about NCPA members or otherwise of interest to writers, editors, publishers and allied folks, are welcome, 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

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 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