

www.norcalpa.org

The Pen & Press

IN-PERSON MEETINGS ARE BACK ~ SAME day ~ NEW time ~ NEW location

4-6:30PM * SUN * 10 SEP * FLAMING GRILL

NCPA Treasurer/Webmaster **AMY ROGERS** will (attempt to) teach us how to navigate NCPA's Club Express Website, help members discover the website business directory, and how to use the brand-new NCPA APP

The NCPA Board of Directors invites you to join us at our new monthly meeting location on Sun 10 Sep 2023
~ MUCH AWAITED IN-PERSON MEETINGS RETURNED IN AUGUST ~

Same Day Sun: 10 September * New Time (4-6:30pm) * New Location Flaming Grill Café

NCPA Treasurer/Webmaster Amy Rogers will be our speaker for 10 September meeting and will (attempt to) teach us how to navigate NCPA's Club Express Website, help members discover the website business directory and how to use the brand-new NCPA APP

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 * Sun 10 Sept 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](#)

MEETING IS FREE – & -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

PLEASE RSVP whether yes or no – reply YES, NO or MAYBE to normathornton@yahoo.com

As those of you who read the two Emails I sent out the day before the August meeting know, in addition to having a new time and location, we started something else that was different – asking for an RSVP - and it seemed to work magnificently! We not only knew in advance how many to expect, but also, for whatever reason, our attendance doubled. It was a nice change to have an almost full room, even though it was a bit warm ... but not as hot as it was outside! Food was good, parking plentiful.

We had no guest speaker in August – just chit-chat and get re-acquainted, plus met some new people and gained at least one new member --- WELCOME DENNIS DAHLIN! ...plus, we got to meet Sharon's new puppy: Great Dane, Freddie Melina Mercury

*****SEPTEMBER's Guest Journalist is Angelica Jackson*****

*8 October Guest Speaker will be Lisa Randolph on Merchandising - & MORE

*November will be the Annual "US": NCPA MEMBERS TAKING our own Books for Display to Exchange &/or Sell

*10 December Annual Holiday Luncheon combined with the Launch of at least one, hopefully both, Anthologies ~ NCPA's 5th Annual Holiday Luncheon * 12Noon Sun 10 Dec 2023 * Black Angus, in Citrus Heights, same day as anticipated Anthology Launch ~ Launch or not, there WILL be a Luncheon that day!

*NCPA ANTHOLOGIES: Beautiful World * & * ALL Holidays Vol 3 **NEW SUBMIT DEADLINE 1 OCT 2023 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)**

*GET THOSE 2023 BOOKS PUBLISHED & READY for our BIG 30th BOOK Awards (Banquet 23 June 2024) Details on page 2

WE START ACCEPTING BOOKS 1 OCTOBER 2023

(President's Message)

Labor Day marks the end of summer. I know summer doesn't technically end until the 23rd, but for so many of us, it's a time for the last summer barbecue, a final dip in the pool, or a weekend escape to the coast. Over the next few weekends, I'll start breaking down the outdoor furniture and moving it into the garage for storage.

I don't like the end of summer. If I had my way, it would be summer twelve months a year. I don't like the shorter daylight hours, the lack of sunlight, or pumpkin-spiced anything. Going into the grocery store last night, I was bowled over with the scent of pumpkin-spiced pinecones. I'll say it again – PINECONES. Why are we pumpkin-spicing our pinecones now? That seems a bit excessive.

Growing up in San Francisco, we had one season, called Fog.

On my birthday in March, I'd get a shorts-set. Every birthday growing up, I would know one of my presents would be shorts and a tank top. This outfit, when combined with whatever still fit from years past, would comprise my wardrobe for our summer vacation to some place that had the beautiful season of summer, and sunlight.

My grandmother lived with us and always went on these vacations, but she hated it because it was always hot and she didn't like any sort of discomfort whatsoever. Whenever we'd come back to the City and see the skyline appear on our horizon, she would say the same thing, "There's my natural-born air conditioner."

Much as I loved San Francisco, I dreaded seeing the fog lying over it like a wet, soggy blanket to dash my summer dreams.

I read an article in the Times this morning that sparked my diatribe about our fading summer. It was also an ode to everything that makes summer magical – slower pace, sitting in the yard, having barbecues. The author suggested that we try to hang onto the lazy pace of summer just a little while longer. I'm down for that.

However, I know what many of you are thinking. "Heck no. Break out the sweaters and the beanies, and pumpkin-spice my everything."

To you people who adore having seasons, all I can say, lovingly, is – what's wrong with you?

I'm kidding...a little.

Wishing you all a productive fall! Go forth and write, my friends.

ML Hamilton

authormlhamilton.net

NCPA 30TH BOOK AWARDS UPDATE 2024 dates & prices: NO INCREASE IN PRICE

The big number 30 NCPA Book Awards competition **NEW DATE Sunday 23 JUNE 2024** once more at Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta, CA. If you have, or will have, a book published & available for sale any time, **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 make #30 our biggest competition yet:

SUBMISSION DATES & PRICE LIST FOR MEMBERS ONLY: ADD \$10 TO EACH IF NOT A MEMBER

- ❖ 1 Oct 2023 thru 30 Nov 2023 — \$65.00 for all regular categories (members only – **\$75 for non-members**)
- ❖ 1 Dec 2023 thru 31 Jan 2024 — \$75.00 for all regular categories (members only – **\$85 for non-members**)
- ❖ 1 Feb 2024 thru 1 March 2024 — \$85.00 for all regular categories (members only – **\$95 for non-members**)
- ❖ All books published in Dec 2023 (1– 31 Dec 2023) \$65.00 (thru 1 Mar 2024) - (**\$75 for non-members**)
- ❖ **\$15 plus 3 extra books to add Cover/interior design category (members only – \$25 for non-members)**

NCPA has 3 critique groups in varying stages of activity currently, but all should hopefully be up and fully running by Jan 2024.

Update on NCPA CRITIQUE GROUPS

MICHELLE's Fiction has been permanently handed over to Mary McShane Vaughn

SHARON's NF & Memoir is on hold until Jan 2024

NORMA JEAN's Basic Non-Genre-Specific, Touch-on-it-All-a-Little, & More, will restart once I get caught up with this newsletter and start on the anthologies, finish Jury Duty if they call me – **AND the Rio Linda Country Faire's over (Sat 16 Sep – I volunteer with it all year, too) – hopefully my next critique meeting will be in late Sep or mid-Oct, at the latest.**

Member News



CONGRATULATIONS, Carolyn RADMANOVICH



I am happy to announce that my stand-alone book, *The Mummy's Gift*, will be available for presale on Amazon on October 15. **Please save the dates for my exciting Zoom book launch and giveaway on Sunday, November 5, from 1-2:30 p.m., and the intimate in-person book launch on Sunday, November 5, from 1-3 p.m. at 2813 Fox Den Circle, Lincoln, Gate Code #8808.**

This is the third book in a series, *The Shape-Shifter's Wife*. Please contact me carolyn@carolynradmanovich.com to let me know which one you can attend.

Editor's note: Carolyn will be our **October Guest Journalist**, with further information about this book and the rest of *The Shape- Shifter's Wife* series, plus more, including pictures!

^A^A^A^A



CONGRATULATIONS, Danita MOON



My Journey Through the Looking Glass is a story of healing.

The book documents the author's journey of discovery as she navigates her way through her new normal. Living with a mental illness is challenging, but it's also a gift that the author has embraced. Moon hopes that by opening-up about the challenges, as well as the triumphs she encountered, it will help others on their own journey.

Hard to believe it's been almost two months since the release of my book "My Journey Through the Looking Glass-a story of healing". I'm getting ready to order more copies. If you'd like an autographed copy you can order directly from me at the following link <https://square.link/u/rwDfZpDN>.

I so love this cover. My friend and fellow author ML Hamilton designed it. Working on book 2 "Down the Rabbit Hole" tentative title.

Editor's note: NCPA Secretary, Danita, will be selling the speakers' books (and her own), during the Elk Grove Writers Conference on 23 Sep 2023, at District 56, 8230 Civic Center Dr in Elk Grove.

Not going to the Elk Grove Writers Conference? Register today at egweg.org/23conf

Email loyholder77@gmail.com with questions.

NCPA joins CWC and Gold Country Writers as proud sponsors of the EGWG conference.

September Guest Journalist, Angelica Jackson



ANGELICA R. JACKSON (& Finnbar)



The Convenience of POD for Self-Publishers

With Print on Demand, thankfully those of us who self-publish no longer have to stock our garages or car trunks with copies of our books. But did you know that POD for merchandise has recently gotten easier? POD sites like Zazzle (Zazzle.com) and Printify (Printify.com) have made it fairly simple to design products and offer them for sale. Zazzle has its own site, and Printify ties in to an existing storefront on your site (like Shopify, Wix, etc.), if you already sell your books that way. Each service has a library of videos to watch if you want to learn more about the process.

Zazzle has thousands of products to add your design to, and the Printify catalog is catching up. That means you can create illustrated journals to accompany your self-help book, offer postcards featuring your spooky fictional town, or shot glasses printed with the logo of your paranormal detective agency. If you have catchy quotes that stand out from your book, put them on a mug or baby onesie. Spiritual quotes are popular on wall art.

It's good to mention here that depending on the licensing purchased for the images making up your cover design, you may not have the rights to sell merchandise with that cover. Most standard licenses on a stock image will let you reproduce your cover on swag meant for marketing, such as bookmarks, magnets, a tote bag, etc. But if you want to actually sell any products that use the image, you need to pay for the more expensive licensing that allows use on merchandise. If in doubt, ask your cover designer what rights they purchased, or consult the licensing agreement if you sourced the images yourself.

Merchandise and tie-ins are not limited to your cover art, though. For example, crows figure heavily into my urban fantasy series, so I use my own painting, "The Murder at Midnight," for marketing, but also have it for sale on products in my Zazzle shop. Some people discover my books through my art on Zazzle, and vice versa.

Author Gail Carriger writes steampunk, a genre that combines alternate history and imaginative worldbuilding. Gail's branding is best described as comfort reads, *tea appreciation, whimsy, and romance. She has a store on Zazzle at <https://www.zazzle.com/store/gailcarriger> that features apparel, coffee mugs, and buttons with fun quotes and images from her books. Each time a fan buys from her storefront, Zazzle pays Gail a royalty, and they also handle the printing, production, and shipping.

Selling your unique products becomes a source of passive income, allowing you to concentrate more of your time on writing and selling your books.

There is a bit of a learning curve to set up your designs (try using royalty-free artwork and Canva to keep things simple) but it's easy to populate them on several products at once. I encourage you to give it a try!

Editor's note: *Tea appreciation. I'd never heard the term before, so naturally did a Google and found this interesting read: [How is tea appreciation related to professional development? \(linkedin.com\)](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-tea-appreciation-related-professional-development-angelica-jackson)

AAAAA

AngelicaRJackson@yahoo.com * www.AngelicaRJackson.com * <https://www.etsy.com/shop/CharmingCorbyJewelry>
www.AngelicaRJackson.photography * Twitter: @angelicarjaxon

Get the Faerie Crossed series in print, ebook, and audiobook now

Links: [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Goodreads](#) | [Charming Corby Jewelry on Etsy](#) | [Website](#)

(Continued on next 4 pages)

**ANGELICA R. JACKSON**

Angelica grew up in Southern California but wanted to experience seasons, so at 19 she packed up and headed to Oregon. She only made it as far as Sacramento before she found an enticing bookstore job, complete with a dark-haired guy who would later become her silver-haired husband. They bought their first house on the edge of the valley before moving up in elevation in search of even more seasons, but stopped at 1500 feet because an occasional dusting of snow in winter is easier to live with.

Gardening is better at 1500 feet too, and their current home features an acre of ornamental edibles and drought-tolerant lovelies. Angelica was once featured in the Sacramento Bee for the sweet potato she grew that was larger than her own head (and had more charisma). She shares her home with an adorable Miniature Pinscher mix, and if you need pictures there are approximately one billion of them on her Facebook and Instagram.

Angelica started writing for publication when she finished high school, but unfortunately the publications were not interested in the derivative science fiction stories she was producing at the time. She tackled her first novel some ten years later and published her debut, *Crow's Rest*, with a small press before later getting her rights back and re-releasing the book under her own Crow & Pitcher Press. She followed that up with the sequel, *Merlin's Stronghold*, and the final book in the series, *Spellmeet*.

Angelica also keeps busy with her Charming Corby Jewelry line and visual art, like the photographs collected in her book *Capturing the Castle: Images of Preston Castle (2006-2016)*. She previously served the SCBWI CA North/Central region as Illustrator Coordinator, Social Media Coordinator, and in various other volunteer positions at their Spring Spirit Conferences.



Like so many others, my creative well ran dry during the uncertain years of 2020-2022. Did I have a book—a series—I needed to finish? Absolutely. Did I also now have a partner working from home, disrupting my fragile routines for writing? Yes, again. Oh, and our offices at home share a wall, so I've since learned way too many jargon terms specific to his job from overhearing his phone meetings.

Then the universe threw some health issues into the mix and life really felt up in the air. For a long while, my anxious brain could only snatch small chunks of focused time out of each day. I fought it for a while, lived in denial even longer, and finally came to a point where I thought, "Okay, if novels are too taxing for my brain right now, what about short fiction?"

I started out writing short fiction as a teen, so it wasn't entirely unfamiliar territory. My first published piece was a YA historical short story called Hornworms, but I moved on to poetry and novels shortly after it printed. It wasn't until 2010 that I got back to writing and submitting short fiction, and my efforts earned me third place in a flash fiction contest for my story, Ebb Tide.

For the unanticipated "in-home writing retreat" of the last few years, I challenged myself to not only rediscover my love of short stories, but to concentrate on flash fiction. The guidelines for flash fiction can vary, but the maximum number of words can be as few as 50, or as many as a luxurious 1,000 words. My story, A Miner's Spirit, barely comes under the maximum of 1,000 words and it took some painful cuts to reach that length.

The flash fiction contests that WOW! Women on Writing run must be between 250 to 750 words, so that's where I targeted a piece I was working on. It was actually an excerpt from my current book project, *Stay, Girl*, but I thought with a few tweaks it might just work on its own as a short story. The judges recognized The Devil You Know as a Runner-Up, which validated that this was a story I needed to continue.

I'm currently working on *Stay, Girl*, with no particular deadline in mind for finishing. After putting pressure on myself to finish my young adult, urban fantasy series, which ended with the release of *Spellmeet: Faerie Crossed Book 3* in June 2022, I'm enjoying writing a book at a more leisurely pace. It allows me the freedom to add layers to characters, setting, and relationships—all the things that hopefully add up to a richly textured story.



Crow's Rest: Faerie Crossed Book 1 *1.

by [Angelica R. Jackson](#)

Avery Flynn arrives for a visit at her Uncle Tam's, eager to rekindle her summertime romance with her crush-next-door, Daniel.

But Daniel's not the sweet, neurotic guy she remembers, and she wonders if this is her Daniel at all. Or if someone—some thing—has taken his place.

Her quest to find the real Daniel, and get him back, plunges Avery into a world of Fae and changelings, where creatures swap bodies like humans change their socks, and magic lives much closer to home than she ever imagined.

Merlin's Stronghold: Faerie Crossed Book 2

by [Angelica R. Jackson](#)

Just when Avery Flynn thinks she's gaining some control over her magic, the Border between Faerie and the human world collapses in a catastrophic explosion. With waves of wild magic laying waste to Fae and human territories, the blame falls on Avery and her fiery temper.

Clearing her name will mean staying ahead of the grim Wild Huntsman on her trail, and convincing Merlin, the original embodiment of wild magic, to help before the devastation becomes permanent.

But as allies and enemies alike try to force their own agendas on her, trust does not come easily to Avery. She'll need to set aside her doubts and accept that she can't do this alone—before it's too late for both worlds.

Spellmeet: Faerie Crossed Book 3

by [Angelica R. Jackson](#)

Faerie and the human world may have survived near-annihilation, but that doesn't mean everything is flowers and singalongs for the residents of the now-combined lands.

Humans are coming to terms with finding chunks of a realm they didn't know existed dumped into their neighborhoods, plus the Fae Court is a bloody battleground for wannabe ruling families.

Dropped in the middle of the chaos is Spellmeet, a Wild-West border town where refugees and opportunists try to make a living despite unstable magic and technology.

The only thing all the survivors agree on is that the fugitive Avery Flynn should pay for her part in the worlds' devastation—which will make it that much harder for Avery and Lonan to come out of hiding and find the next Sovereign, like they promised Queen Maeve.

Meanwhile, a Fae princess named Brynn flees an arranged marriage and discovers that the unique powers that got her shunned in Faerie make her a hot commodity in Spellmeet. Too bad her toxic family can't stand that she's leaving them behind...

Told in dual points-of-view, this conclusion to the Faerie Crossed series answers the question, "What if it's not all about Avery?"



Faerie Crossed (3 book series)

Kindle Edition

by [Angelica R. Jackson \(Author\)](#)

"A haunted castle, a clash between realities, changelings, fairies and teenage hormones make for a combustible tale that is just beginning. If you love fantasy and characters who continue through a series of books, you're going to enjoy Angelica R. Jackson's young adult fantasy adventure series, Faerie Crossed."--Mountain Democrat

"The story has a timeless quality about it, mixed with a connection to history, mythology, and fairy tales, and it includes themes of magic, romance, friendship, and family. Jackson has delightful and often flirty humor woven into a story of courage, adventure, love, secrets, and strength."--San Francisco Book Review



Faerie Crossed Series

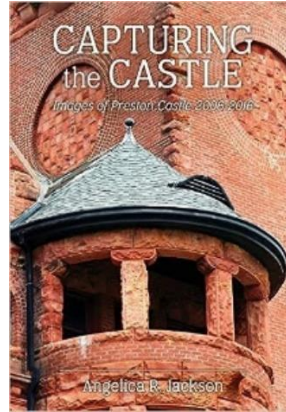
"Jackson has delightful and often flirty humor woven into a story of courage, adventure, love, secrets, and strength."--*San Francisco Book Review*

"This fast-paced and smooth-flowing story will have readers holding onto the edge of their seats throughout, with lots of thrilling suspense, wicked magic and witty dialogue. ."--*InD'tale Magazine*

"This is another well-written installment with interesting characters and colorful world making. An entertaining read that leaves you wanting more."—*MaD*

Original covers for Angelica's Faerie Crossed Series





Capturing the Castle: Images of Preston Castle (2006-2016)
by [Angelica R. Jackson](#) (Author, Photographer)

Winner of NCPA Book Competition award 2018

On a hilltop in Lone, California, there stands an unlikely castle with fanciful turrets and a soaring clock tower, looming over the town at its feet. This is Preston Castle, formerly known as the Preston School of Industry, which operated as a youth correctional facility from 1894 through 1960.

Fascinated by this unique building, I have photographed its interior over a ten-year period, and learned something of its history.

Meanwhile, the Preston Castle Foundation has been working to preserve and restore selected rooms, and many of these photos will take you back in time to their state of arrested decay.

"In "Capturing the Castle" Jackson's color & black and white photographs show both Preston's unique architecture & the types of living arrangements used for staff and wards. Ornately carved corbels and archways vie with the Spartan utility of the basement baths; ivy crawls up walls studded with hundreds of windows." *The Mountain Democrat*

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Angelica also has *Wild Things Belong in the Wild*, in NCPA's 2019 anthology, *Birds of a Feather*.

FROM AMAZON WEBSITE: Angelica R. Jackson, in keeping with her scattered Gemini nature, has published articles on gardening, natural history, web design, travel, hiking, and local history. Other interests include pets, reading, green living, and cooking for food allergies (the latter not necessarily by choice, but she's come to terms with it). Ongoing projects include short fiction, poetry, novels, art photography, and children's picture books. In 2012, she started Pens for Paws Auction, which features critiques and swag from agents and authors to raise money for a no-kill, cage-free cat sanctuary called Fat Kitty City.

She's also been involved with capturing the restoration efforts for Preston Castle (formerly the Preston School of Industry) in photographs and can sometimes be found haunting its hallways.

An incurable joiner, Angelica is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) where she once served as Illustrator Coordinator for her local chapter, is an alumna of the group blog Operation Awesome, and debuted with the collection of authors known as The Fearless Fifteneers. She shares a home in California's Gold Country with a husband, two rescued Griffon Fauve de Bretagne sisters, and a reformed-feral tabby, and far too many books (if that's even possible).

End, Guest Journalist

Thank you Angelica, and all the other GUEST JOURNALIST contributors this year
Always looking for Guest Journalists ~~ how about YOU!!??
Choose your date: Nov--Dec 2023 ~ OR ~ Jan – Dec 2024

Send me (normathornton@yahoo.com) all your writing info, your bio, brag about your books and other successes, your dogs, your cats, your lizards or rats, your kids, significant other, or ??? - give me a story, an article, a poem, a picture, whatever strikes your fancy. Anything goes as long as family-friendly. If not suitable, you'll 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](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)

The NCPA Board of Directors invites you to join us at our new monthly meeting location on Sun 10 Sep 2023
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WATCH
FOR
AN "E"
RSVP

Are you an NCPA member?

NCPA's 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 Oct 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. *Norma Jean*

MUST BE A CURRENT MEMBER in good standing, to have a story in NCPA anthologies

**\$40/ year to join
www.norcalpa.org**

2019 NCPA Anthologies

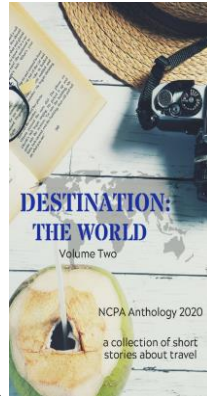
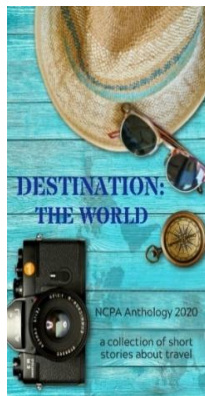


BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA Anthology
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals

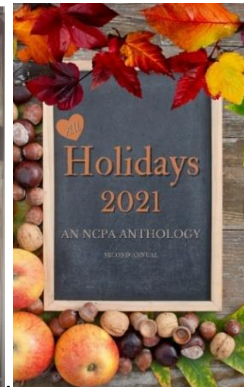


MORE BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA ANTHOLOGY
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals and Other Things

2020 NCPA Anthologies

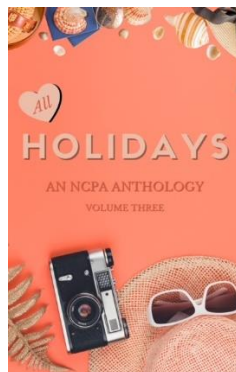
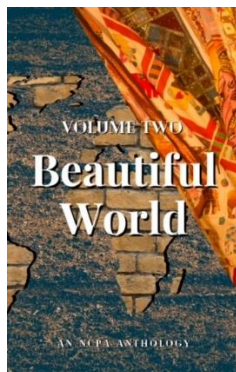


2021-22 Anthologies

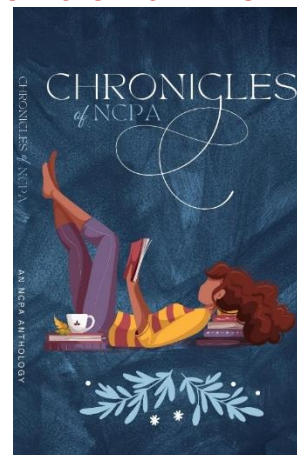


ALL (seven) 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 ANTHOLOGY BOOKS (above) AVAILABLE PAPER COPIES @ Cost for Authors from Sharon Darrow: Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com or [NCPA Anthologies \(7 book series\) Ebook & Paperback Edition \(amazon.com\)](https://www.amazon.com/NCPA-Anthologies)

**Anthologies Coming Dec 2023
(hopefully)**



**Anthology coming 2024
SHORT STORIES – ALL GENRE**



**Get those thinking caps on and start writing now for NCPA's next two anthologies in 2023: *NEW DATE*
Submission deadline on both * Beautiful World * & * ALL Holidays Vol 3 * 1 OCT 2023
NEW dedicated Email address for both anthologies: 2023NCPAAnthologies@gmail.com**

ADVERTISING FOR MORE OF OUR DONORS, all NCPA members**Looking for a detailed critique and line edit?** Contact donor **Amy Rogers: Science Thrillers Media**

Amy Rogers, independent publisher, beta reader for James Rollins, and former judge for International Thriller Writers' Thriller Awards.
amy@AmyRogers.com Web: AmyRogers.com (916)-712-3334

Need a Manuscript Evaluation? Contact donor **Jennifer Grainger Schoenborn** **NEW INFO**

Jennifer says a manuscript evaluation is not editing. It is evaluating the quality of the writing so she will carefully and thoughtfully read your manuscript from beginning to end and provide very explicit feedback for you on what works, what could be better and how to fix the weaknesses.

jennifer@JenniferTheGhostwriter.com * <https://JenniferTheGhostwriter.com> 209-269-2210 * 209-327-5475  **NEW 2023 INFO**

Want your own Website? Sharon Darrow will build you one through Wix.Com

Hourly rate, with a four-hour minimum appointment. ~ in your home. (Will accept phone calls for help for 3 months after completion if you still need it. Anything further, price will be negotiable.) **916-803-1665** sharon@sharonsdarrow.com

Writing Picture Books for Kids? Chrissi Villa gives detailed Picture Book Evaluations

Chrissi also hosts PB Workshops, contact her chrissivilla@gmail.com * www.Christinevilla.com
www.purplecottoncandyarts.com/about.html * <https://www.velvetduskpublishing.com/about.html>
916-993-8798 h 916-500-3492 c

Looking for a great venue for your Banquet &/or more? How about a decorated Cake?

Both great for Writing Organizations, and Highly recommended by NCPA Book Awards Banquet Committee

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

Always thought about attending a writing conference, but just never got around to it?

Now's your year – before the price rises – only \$75 includes Continental Breakfast, and lunch, and it's THIS MONTH --
Elk Grove Writers Guild – 7am – 5pm Sat 23 Sep 2023: [Writers Conference 2023](http://WritersConference2023.com) | [Elk Grove Writers Guild \(egweg.org\)](http://ElkGroveWritersGuild.org) ,
 or Email LoyHolder77@gmail.com **Deadline to register 20 September 2023.**

Reading, Writing, Publishing Stuff in the News – All about Erma, this time!

- **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.
- **And more Erma:** [Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop : University of Dayton, Ohio \(udayton.edu\)](http://ErmaBombeckWritersWorkshop.com) – this one is a \$25 chance to win a 2 week Residency Program valued at \$5000, Submit 5 Sep through 5 Oct 2023 --- read all about it at: [The Erma Bombeck | Anna Lefler Humorist-in-Residence Program Submission Manager \(submittable.com\)](#)

More Pearls of Wisdom: - Thank you Andrea & Barbara

My favorite one, and one I try to aspire to every day: Any time I'd get mad and start spouting off stupid stuff, Mom would always tell me: *Remember, you catch more bees with honey, than you do with vinegar* --- in other words, being nice gets better results than being mean, rude, or nasty. It eventually sunk in, and it works! * And another: *No use / sense crying over spilt milk*

A.K. Buckroth (aka: Andrea K. Roth) *Be afraid of the living, not the dead.*

As Halloween became a yearly holiday at our house, younger siblings did not understand this celebration of death, of remembering loved ones that have passed on/died, and getting {candy} gifts because of it. Fearful of the unexpected tricking and treating scenario, my mother proclaimed "Be afraid of the living, not the dead." This statement has stuck in my head and I continue to share it.

And for the writer in us:

Barbara Klide: *Good writing is rewriting.* Truman Capote, American novelist * *Draft, then craft.* Sam Horn, American book consultant

* *Best advice on writing I've ever received: Finish.* Peter Mayle, British author

LOOKING FOR YOUR PRODUCTIVE FAMILY RESEARCH / ANTHOLOGY STORIES

Have you, or someone you know, had a funny, crazy, weird, or negative – family search tale? If so, let me know and we'll set up a new column for it -- OR -- Do you have genealogy questions, want to start a search, or??? See below

GENEALOGY STUFF FOR THOSE DOING FAMILY HISTORY THINGS

SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Genealogy Presentations from Sacramento Public Library – UPDATED FOR SEP – 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.

***September 23, 2023** Think Like an Archivist: Finding Genealogy Records in Library & Archives, by Nancy Loe. Learn how to use archival records & repositories, find aids for genealogists, find 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

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 (LDS) 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. [LDS Family Search Center](#)

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 card ... the 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, then * Special Collections: next * 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> **as of tonight it's still available from home**

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)

UPCOMING 2023 NCPA EVENTS -- & MORE

30th NCPA BOOK AWARDS BANQUET

5pm-9pm

Sun 23 June 2024

Cherry Island Golf Course

Elverta, CA

COVID RULES WILL APPLY

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 Oct 2023
BOTH NCPA ANTHOLOGIES:
Beautiful World * & *ALL Holidays Vol 3*

Looking for NCPA Newsletter Guest Journalists Nov--Dec 2023 ** Great chance to toot your own horn to more than 250
Respond to this Email if interested, or Email normathornton@yahoo.com

In-person NCPA monthly meetings the 2nd Sun of each month but at a later time
4pm-6:30pm Sunday 10 Sep 2023

Good food, pleasant staff, reasonable price, plenty of parking & easy to find

FLAMING GRILL

in the old CCP Mall at the corner of Watt Av & El Camino Av

RSVP & Reminder will be sent Fri or Sat before each meeting

Speaker for SEPTEMBER meeting will be NCPA Treasurer Amy Rogers

Helping members discover the NCPA website business directory, NCPA APP, & 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.
- ❖ **Broadway At the Community Center COMING SOON – 19 Sep 2023 to 19 May 2024 * Six * Hades Town ***
Les Misérables * *Ain't Too Proud* * *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* * *Annie*
- ❖ **NCPA In-person meeting Sun 10 Sep 4pm-6:30pm Flaming Grill --- more details elsewhere**
- ❖ **Rio Linda Elverta Country Faire – Sat 16 Sep – Depot Park, Rio Linda rlevendors@yahoo.com –**
riolindaelvertacountryfaire.com
- ❖ **Crawfish & Catfish Festival – Sacramento, CA (craw-fest.com)** Crawfish & Catfish Festival **9 & 10 Sep 2023**

LONGTIME DOWNTOWN BOOKSTORE- BEERS - HAS MOVED – REOPENING THIS MONTH


BEERS bookstore, previously on "S" St, is now located at 712 R St., in a building slightly bigger than its previous location and had a soft opening Aug. 26, 2023. Beers is planning on a more "grand" opening this month, and as always, hours will be 11-7 every day ~ for more info click on their [Instagram](#)

Looking for Guest Journalists Nov--Dec 2023 & Jan – Dec 2024

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

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)

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 10 Sep 2023**

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

New time: 4pm-6:30pm \$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

President

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916-837-6812

Secretary

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(916) 980-037

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

Sharon Darrow

Membership Chair

Sharon Darrow

Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com

800-462-2328

Book Awards Chair

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800-462-2328

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

Chrissi Villa

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-6:30pm the 2nd Sunday of each month, starting 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

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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