

www.norcalpa.org

The Pen & Press

Sun 13 March 2022 MEETING

Guest Speaker ELAINE FABER (NCPA member & Author)

You Don't Know What You Don't Know

1pm-3:30pm * in person & ZOOM

Change in meeting location: back to DENNY's Restaurant 3520 Auburn Blvd
(Auburn Blvd at Watt Av & I-80)

NEWS FLASH!!

BOOK AWARDS BANQUET MOVED TO SUNDAY 5 JUNE 2022

MARCH 13 Meeting * NCPA member * Elaine FABER

Guest Speaker, Cozy Mystery Author Elaine Faber, talks about her March presentation:

I think I'll do a little skill building called ... "You Don't Know What You Don't Know". I have a 50-point list of things I've compiled over years of paying 3 different writing instructors. Even after writing dozens of short stories and publishing a book (Editors note: SEVERAL BOOKS), there were things 'I didn't know that I didn't know'.

I'll provide handouts and we'll have somewhat of a group discussion about different aspects of writing, along with opportunity for questions about anything we need to elaborate on from the list. With all the experts in the room, and a bit of discussion, everyone, including myself, should go home having learned something that they 'didn't know that they didn't know.' (In person & ZOOM)

APRIL 10 Meeting * NCPA member * Cindy SAMPLE

NCPA Book Awards Winner Cindy Sample writes humorous mysteries (just finished her 9th)

Cindy presents: "Creative Marketing for Killer Sales"

MAY 15 Meeting * NCPA member * Chrissi VILLA

(NOTE: This is the 3rd Sunday, instead of 2nd Sunday, which is Mother's Day!)

Guest Speaker Christine 'Chrissi' Villa not only writes books for children, but does a lot more "stuff".

Chrissi is also our featured journalist in this, March 2022, newsletter. Read more about her inside!

Sunday 5 JUNE – 28th BOOK AWARDS BANQUET

(NOTE: NO other June meeting – instead it's our very special annual event ... & on the 1st Sun)

5pm-9pm Sun 5 June 2022

Cherry Island Golf Course, Elverta, CA

JULY 10 Meeting – (BOOK EXCHANGE * usually held in Dec, we bring back an oldie, but a goodie!)

Gone when we started having our Holiday Luncheon at the Black Angus, but not forgotten, we bring back the ever-popular Book Exchange / Network & Schmooze. All NCPA MEMBERS (only) who have published books, no matter when, bring them in to brag about, share, sell &/or barter, with others.

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

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

President's Message

I feel like so many of my messages to you begin with *I know this is a trying time*. This one can easily begin that way, considering the horrific situation in Ukraine. As I sat in front of the television the other day, watching the coverage, I just felt tired.

We're all tired.

The losses and the fear and the misery of the last few years have compounded to just utter disbelief at what happened this past week. Now I'm not suggesting that I even begin to understand the depth of the terror the people of Ukraine are feeling, because I can't. But the compounding of everything can make even the most stalwart human despair.

My friend asked me to go to the movies last night. I just couldn't. It didn't feel right. I went for a walk this morning, constantly aware of what the morning is bringing to others with the same dreams and hopes as I have just a half-world away. I don't pretend to understand how we got here, and every explanation I read or listen to seems to fall short of explaining how war is ever an option.

When I talked with Norma last night, she mentioned that when she is feeling overwhelmed and angry, or just uncertain, she writes. She puts her feelings on the paper and it has a cathartic effect. We all know this. We all do this to some extent. As writers, when the world is too big and scary, we grapple with it on the written page.

I read a poem from a Ukrainian poet the other day. Ukraine has a rich history in poetry and I'd like to share a few of them with you today:

<https://www.calvertjournal.com/articles/show/12137/contemporary-ukrainian-poems>

I particularly like the first one, and as with so much in literature or poetry, certain lines capture me and give me solace:

"Echoing, the singing of people who gather the harvest.

Echoing, the music of those who cart stones from the field.

Echoing, it doesn't stop."

~Serhiy Zhadan

Writing is immortality. It is the way we breathe life into the past for our children and grandchildren. I hope you take Norma's sage advice and spend a moment today writing down what you're feeling, what you're experiencing, because it does help to release it into the world. And it's what reminds me that while being human is fraught with so much misery, there is also profound beauty too.

ML Hamilton

authormlhamilton.net

Editor's Note: *Actually, Michelle left out the most important part of what I told her: I do write down a variety of things during those times, but rarely share them with anyone ... at least not in their original form. Before anyone but me sees any, many have to be tweaked ... a LOT and many times, to make them presentable. Even then most go nowhere except on my desktop to eventually be forgotten and lost ... but never thrown away, otherwise I feel it was wasted time. njt*

SPECIAL 10 JULY 2022 MEETING * ANOTHER NCPA PERK FOR MEMBERS ONLY

For our **10 July meeting**, we bring back the ever-popular **NCPA BOOK EXCHANGE**, previously held every December, until we started going to Black Angus for our Holiday Luncheon. Another NCPA perk, ***ONLY* CURRENT-PAID NCPA MEMBERS** are **welcome to bring your published books** to brag about, share, sell or barter with others. As many books as you want; set them on the tables at Denny's. **NO CHARGE**, only for food or drink purchases. Be sure to bring change for your book sales & be prepared to network & Schmoose

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

Permanent link for monthly ZOOM NCPA meetings:
Author ML Hamilton is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NCPA Monthly Meeting
Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime
(I'm not sure what this means: ask Michelle)

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 841 8541 6630

Passcode: 828631

One tap mobile

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

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

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

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

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 841 8541 6630

Passcode: 828631

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

Still accepting 2021 published books for the 28th NCPA Book Awards Competition
(Published between 1 Jan 2021 & 31 Dec 2021)

****NEW* 31 March 2022 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT & **NEW* Banquet date Sun 5 June**
5pm-9pm * Cherry Island Golf Course, Elverta

Thanks to Sisters in Crime for sharing the following:
DRAFT2DIGITAL TO ACQUIRE SMASHWORDS (8 Feb 2022)

<https://www.draft2digital.com/blog/draft2digital-has-acquired-smashwords/>

Smash words is no more, but combining the two allows more access to a bunch of stuff ... (& erotica authors, not to worry; you can continue distributing through Smashwords erotica policies) ... click above link for more on all

BOOK AWARDS BANQUET moved to AN EXTRA MONTH

NCPA's 28th PUBLISHED BOOK COMPETITION (for 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2021 Books)
28th Book Awards Banquet (**NEW DATE**) **Sun 5 JUNE 2022** Cherry Island Golf Course
MARCH 2022 is the FINAL MONTH TO ENTER YOUR PUBLISHED 2021 BOOK/s
if you want to enter them in the NCPA 28th Annual Book Awards for the 2022 Banquet
Scheduled (2021 Book) Awards Banquet Date Sunday **5 JUNE 2022 - ** NEW DATE**

That means a *NEW* DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: 31 MARCH 2022 get those books in to Sharon now!

Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com * or * 916-803-1665

Full information can be found on our website at norcalpa.org

Serious, but fun, piece from March Guest Speaker Elaine Faber proving the point of her presentation!

You don't know what you don't know

A Writer's Road to Rejection

Some years ago, I wrote the first draft of a cozy cat mystery novel and began to pursue publication. I typed and mailed multiple query letters to traditional publishers, including self-addressed return envelopes. Some were returned with form rejection letters, some actually with three to six handwritten words, e.g., *Sorry!* - *Not interested!* - *Perhaps another publisher!* - *Try again!* - *You've got to be kidding!* (That hurt!) Many didn't reply at all. Did they just steam the stamps off my self-addressed, return envelopes?

As time progressed, query by e-mail became preferable, allowing the publishing houses time-saving procedures. No more opening envelopes, steaming off stamps or licking envelopes to return snide rejection slips. It also saved me days and weeks of anticipation and frustration. Now, my auto-rejection notices came by return e-mail; one in a record-breaking fourteen minutes following submission. Efficiency at work!

Eventually, I was thrilled to find a couple of editors at small presses who requested the entire manuscript. In due time, one editor replied that it contained too much romance, another, not enough romance. One editor *loved the story*, and suggested if I remove all the exclamation points and fragmented sentences, she'd reconsider. Another suggested I have it professionally edited. After I made all the suggested changes, paid to have it professionally edited, and resubmitted the manuscripts, still none were interested. Yet another publishing house stated it was not a COZY mystery at all, but a *Fantasy-Paranormal-Romance-Adventure*. Where does that fit on a bookstore shelf?

As I traveled this Road to Rejection, all those rebuffs forced me to re-examine my goals, re-evaluate my skills, and devote more time, investment, and energy to improve my writing craft. Three different teachers taught me more about the craft of writing than I ever thought was possible to learn. Surprise! *You don't know what you don't know*. Which is to say, the early version of my novel probably wasn't worthy of print in the first place. I set about to revise, edit, re-edit, cut the story in half, and flesh out the characters and plot. Along the way, the cat, previously a minor character took on a life of his own and became a POV character, adding his wit, wisdom, and charm by narrating part of the story. (*Black Cat's Legacy*)

Looking back, I've come to believe that The Road to Rejection is not necessarily a pothole-riddled, mud-filled, weed-infested sticker-path intended to trip up and discourage new writers, (though it certainly does that). Rather, it is a road of lesson-learning, character building and knowledge-testing meant to wean out the weak and ill-equipped writers, (of which there are many).

The Road to Rejection forces the committed writer to polish her skills and sharpens the mettle of those willing to accept that *they don't know what they don't know*. This can be done through **critique groups, accepting critique and correction with a willing heart, studying with individual teachers and reading scores of books on writing.**

If you just published your first novel? Congratulations. You've traveled and vanquished the *Road to Rejection*. Now, convinced that the world is waiting with open arms to receive your words of wisdom, you can begin to promote and market your baby.

Oh, wait! You're at another crossroad. It's called ***The Road to Frustration!*** ...*Elaine Faber*

Elaine mentions critique groups above. If you don't have one check NCPA's critique group plans:

- **Sharon Darrow has started a non-fiction/memoir group on Zoom.** First meeting, for information and planning only, was held Tuesday, 1/11, at 6PM and turned out great! All upcoming meetings will be at 6pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. **The meeting ID is: 903 028 5813**, which will always be the same. **If asked for a passcode, it's GFB61r**
- **Michelle Hamilton is going to start a fiction group, which will also be on Zoom.** There is no beginning date as yet.
- **Norma Jean Thornton is planning to start a very basic, non-genre specific group, which will be in-person.** Again, no beginning date or meeting place as yet.

We're starting something NEW * FOCUS ON A MEMBER: Newsletter Guest Journalists

Each month the NCPA newsletter will feature a guest journalist: could be a guest speaker; any member or whomever is asked and they accept. Topics are journalist's choosing, including (at my request) information on that person, including a bio (short, or long – guest's choice) and self-promoting, including your books &/or your business/es; tell us what you're doing! Anything, writing or publishing related, including something short you've written: poetry, a story, a song, a contest – whatever you like, as long as it's family friendly, NON-religious and NON-political.

Editor has the option of accepting or rejecting anything submitted.

If you'd like to be a newsletter guest journalist for an upcoming month, please contact me
normathornton@yahoo.com

Guest Journalist this month (March 2022) is Christine "Chrissi" L. Villa, NCPA's Co-Webmaster, Photographer and Social Media Director * chrissivilla@gmail.com

Elaine Faber, our March Guest Speaker, and long-time NCPA member, also has an article in this month's newsletter, that complements her topic, *You Don't Know What You Don't Know*.

Elaine will be our Guest Journalist in the April newsletter.

2022 IBPA – PU Dates set not just two ways to attend this year, but two separate dates to attend!

Virtual Education 20-21 April * IN PERSON EDUCATION 29-30 April 2022

Click the link below for full info – and while you're there, notice the picture of the attendee on the right, with the mic! It's none other than our own NCPA Webmaster/ Photographer/ Banquet Decorator, **Chrissi Villa**, at a prior IBPA-PU

[IBPA Publishing University | Home](#)

Want to go? Apply for scholarship at IBPA & Let us know – NCPA has \$500 available each year, for one NCPA MEMBER winning a scholarship & attending.

OOPS! Missed the deadline for this year – Sorry! * TRY AGAIN IN 2023!

CHRISSI's 2019 IBPA Experience

Have you checked the IBPA's website lately? I just recently visited the site to find out where the next IBPA University conference will be, and lo and behold, I saw a huge picture of myself on their landing page. (<https://www.publishinguniversity.com>) It reminded me of how fortunate I was as an NCPA member to have the opportunity to apply for the scholarship in November 2018 and how much more blessed I was when I was awarded the IBPA scholarship, plus was given \$500 for traveling expenses by NCPA. [IBPA Publishing University | Home](#)



Attending the 2019 conference in Chicago was such an enriching experience. I was able to mingle with inspiring authors and publishers, select classes to attend, ask questions, attend the IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award Ceremony, and of course, enjoy a few sights while I was there! I came home energized and loaded with ideas.

· BENEFITS OF NCPA MEMBERSHIP

- * Informative [monthly meetings](#) to make you a better publisher and author
- Networking with knowledgeable peers
- Monthly [newsletter](#)
- Discounted entry in [NCPA book awards](#)
- Your [author/business information](#) on NCPA website
- Discounted membership in [Independent Book Publishers Association](#) (only \$99 with NCPA member discount) and [Association of Publishers for Special Sales](#)
- Eligible to win [IBPA affiliate scholarship](#) for free registration to [Publishing University](#) with an additional \$500 stipend provided by NCPA to cover some of your travel costs
- Member library of lecture CDs and MP3 files of all sessions at IBPA Publishing University
- Use of [NCPA logo](#) at your website
- Chance to have your work published FREE in NCPA [anthologies](#), plus make money selling the anthology to your customers.
- * NEW: Focus on a Member and use the newsletter as your own personal advertising space for one month – write whatever you want about yourself, your accomplishments, and your books &/or business/es.

CHRISSE: Writing in Dual Languages

I have published three picture books with an English and Filipino translation. One of these three books, *Zoobooloo*, also has an English and Spanish translation. Its bilingual version, *Zoololoco*, has been my most popular book on Amazon, selling at least 100 books in six months. My bilingual version of *Christmas Lantern* (English and Filipino translation) made unexpected sales last December on Amazon, much more than the total sales of any of my picture books in English. These successes have made me set a new goal for this year—to translate all my books into Spanish and Filipino.

I am happy to say that I have published two more picture books. One of them, entitled *Will You Still Love Me: A Puppy Haiku Story*, won silver awards in the Children's Book category and Cover and Layout category in the [NCPA Book Awards 2019](#). *The Magic Paintbrush* (2014) won second place in the Picture Book 6 and older category while *Zoobooloo* (2017) received honorable mentions for the Picture Book 6 and older category, and the Book Trailer category in the [Royal Dragonfly Book Awards 2021](#).

FROM Kim Komando: Komando.com

Since Microsoft's Windows 11 launch late last year, there's been multiple issues and flaws, the latest being the Start button mysteriously vanishing. If you can't find the Start menu after the latest Windows update, Kim shows how to get it back. (If the link doesn't work, go to Komando.com) [Tap or click here to fix the latest Windows glitch.](#) →

CHRISSE: Her Businesses * Purple Cotton Candy Arts Publishing – Editing, etc.

Since 2019, I have published several picture books written by other authors under my imprint **Purple Cotton Candy Arts**. Some authors have also sought my editing and formatting services and published under their own imprints. I have four picture books to be released soon and more projects coming up with the same authors who have worked with me. To learn more about my publishing services, please visit [Purple Cotton Candy Arts](#).

Poetry Journal: Frameless Sky & Velvet Dusk Publishing chapbooks & full-length books

I'm still editing and making videos for my poetry journal, [Frameless Sky](#), twice a year. It will be open for submissions from March 15 to May 31. [Velvet Dusk Publishing](#), the official imprint of Frameless Sky, is still publishing poetry chapbooks and full-length books.

CHRISSI: Mentoring Kids with Picture Books

Aside from writing and publishing, I enjoy mentoring. My eight-year-old goddaughter was able to write and illustrate her debut picture book, *The Problem in the Sea*, with some guidance from me. You can watch my interview with her [here](#). Out of curiosity, I bought her a book-making kit from Lulu Jr., which came with guidelines in writing a story, instructions, colored pens, papers, and a pre-paid envelope to return the pages for printing. The result of our project ended with a high-quality hardbound book, which we can order again if we want more copies, but her book isn't on sale on Lulu to earn royalties. This prompted me to reformat her book and publish it through Amazon. We are already working on a sequel because of the positive feedback on her first book.

Amid the writing and publishing process, I've asked myself, "Why don't I make my own book-making kit for kids?" Honestly, I am seriously thinking about it. (**Editor Note: Chrissi entered this book in the 2021 NCPA Book Awards Competition.**)

Workshops * Podcasts * Zoom * Poetry *

Videos of Book Readings & Reviews of other Author's Picture Books on YouTube *

In the meantime, I share my knowledge and writing experience by conducting workshops. **My workshop, "Essentials of Writing a Picture Book" will start again on April 1.** For more details, please check [here](#).

Last year, I guested on some podcasts and Zoom meetings for a special education class, writing groups, and poetry organizations. The latest one was when I was asked to be a speaker for CWC last December. Their wonderful review on my talk about what any aspiring picture book author should know makes me want to book more speaking engagements this year.

Lately, I've also posted videos of my book readings and reviews of other authors' picture books on YouTube. So far, I've recorded four, and all of them are done with glitzy makeup, colored hair extensions, and fancy headbands. I would love to do some more, so **if you have a picture book you would like me to consider, email me at chrissivilla@gmail.com**. Please support my YouTube channel - [Christine L. Villa](#).

What Chrissi does in her spare time! – CRAFTS & Sales

I hope to have remarkable sales at book fairs and craft shows (Chrissi also makes, and sells, a variety of crafts) again this year. Last year, my book sales increased tremendously, probably because people were on a shopping spree after the lockdown.

It might also be because of the book covers on my banner, and the sign that says, "*Featured in Good Day Sacramento and Balitang America.*" (Balitang America is a 30-minute nightly newscast in English with a nationwide scope airing on The Filipino Channel).

Possibly other times, it was because I greeted them with a smile and said, "Hi, I'm Chrissi! I'm a children's book author. Would you like to check out my books?"

Tina Macuha interviewed me on Good Day Sacramento for my book, *Will You Still Love Me . . .* Maybe, the magic words were "Tina Macuha," "Good Day Sacramento," or "I was featured in a Filipino-American channel."

For sure, being interviewed twice on TV last year made a lot of difference, but I think what was very helpful was that I always tried to engage my potential buyers in a conversation. When asked about my books, I focused on the highlights of each book and why kids should read it or how one can learn the Filipino language by reading my books. There's always somebody who has Filipino relatives or friends, so I made sure everyone knew who I was and what I was selling.

Election time is upon us * Sharon will send ballots soon:

If you'd like to be an officer, or know someone who would, please let us know.

The following is the list, and current holders:

Pres. Michelle Hamilton * VP Sharon Darrow * Secretary Danita Moon * Treasurer Amy Rogers * Communications Director/ Newsletter Editor Norma Jean Thornton * ALL OFFICES ARE OPEN

Danita Moon has volunteered to be NCPA Secretary. THANK YOU, Danita & welcome aboard!

UPCOMING Conference Updates

National Genealogical Society Family History Conference coming to SACTO

May 24-28 2022

[NGS-2022-ConfRegBroch-01102022-Final.pdf \(ngsgenealogy.org\)](#)

Discounted, early-bird conference registration runs from open registration through 18 March 2022.

Register online at conference.ngsgenealogy.org

2022 SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE RESCHEDULED

SFWC Registration — San Francisco Writers Conference (sfwriters.org)

Same great conference * New Dates **July 21-24** * 2022 Hyatt Regency San Francisco

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

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

AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY SEMINAR www.AAFHS.com

(Kathy Lynne sent this to the newsletter, but timing was off. Hopefully you saw it on CW31's GDS Fri. I did)
NCPA member Kathy Lynne Marshall, Author & Artist - & - Key Note Speaker & Family Historian Gina McVey

Sat 12 Mar 2022 * VIRTUAL SEMINAR * 8:30am-2:30pm * **REGISTER ON LINE: only \$22**

You do NOT have to be African American to attend. Seminars are always a learning experience for ALL.

"Our Life Stories: A Cross-Generational Writers' Conference"

"Our Life Stories: A Cross-Generational Writers' Conference"

Saturday, April 30, 2022, on Zoom

Sponsored by City of Sacramento's Hart Senior Center & Cosumnes River College,
with support from ACC Senior Services.

The focus of the annual event is the collection and writing of family stories and memoirs.
The conference features a variety of workshops led by experienced and nationally recognized writers.

Maeley Tom, author of *I'm Not Who You Think I Am: An Asian American Woman's Political Journey*, is this year's keynote speaker & Workshop presenters include Lisa Dominguez Abraham, Lora Connolly, Frederick K. Foote, Lesley Gale, Ginny McReynolds, (NCPA member) Kathy Lynne Marshall, Kakwasi Somadhi, Bob Stanley, and Kate Washington.

The virtual conference runs from 9AM to 3:15PM. The \$20 fee includes morning and afternoon workshops and a writing activity for all attendees to end the day.

All are welcome. Registration is required by Thursday, April 28.

To register, visit [Registration Link](#) or www.ourlifestories.org.

For questions call the Hart Center: 916-808-5462 or email: hartcwritersconference@yahoo.com

Contact: Janeen Thorpe or Linda Thao E-mail: hartcwritersconference@yahoo.com

Many thanks to NCPA member Loy Holder for providing this information



QUOTE OF THE CENTURY: From *Murdoch's Mysteries*: Breckinridge to Watts following the comment by Watts: "...but won't it make his parents suffer?"

Breckenridge: "They're parents. They live in a world of perpetual suffering!"

ODDS & ENDS, BITS & PIECES

Cap Crimes Killer Workshop Saturday 14 May * Virtual & In Person: Keynote: Gregg Hurwitz
 NYT #1 Internationally Bestselling Author of 23 thrillers * LOTS MORE GOOD STUFF *
 Check it out on their website: <https://www.capitolcrimes.org/Workshop>
 Early Bird Price until 31 Mar: \$65 members, \$80 nonmembers
 Price after 31 Mar: members \$75, nonmembers \$90

In the News: from Kim KOMANDO: Upgrading to Windows 11 is killing laptops.
Here's what to do: <https://www.komando.com/technology/windows-11-driver-glitch/828529/>

CASTLE fans: Entire 8 years (2009 – 2016) of the CASTLE series w/Nathan Fillion & Stana Katic BINGE RERUNS begin Mon 14 Mar on Direct TV Lifetime (252 on mine)
 - 1st ep, Season 1 (2009) "Flowers for Your Grave" starting @2pm.

One of WRITERS DIGEST 101 Best Websites for Writers:
FREE POETRY CONTEST * 1 Apr 2022 Deadline * \$3,500 in prizes
[Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest \(no fee\) - Winning Writers](#)

GENEALOGY ROADSHOW: Found this in my notes on cell phone - didn't check them all, but at least the detainees at Ellis Island opened. Might have some good info in some of the things, but I don't have time to check them out. Just passing along in case something might be of importance to at least one person. <https://www.pbs.org/show/genealogy-roadshow/>

Amazon is closing all brick & mortar BOOK STORES – to find a brick and mortar Amazon store near you click the link below. To read more on the closings, do a Google search.
<https://www.amazon.com/find-your-store/b/?node=17608448011>

Sacramento Bookstore Sells Local Authors Books
CRAWFORD'S BOOKS * 5301 Freeport Blvd., Suite 200
<https://crawfordbooks.net/pages/local-authors-sacramento-area>

Ancestry.com SPECIAL 40% OFF Ancestry DNA only \$59 - until 17 March

The importance of a correctly placed comma:

A panda walks into a bar, orders a sandwich, eats it, draws a gun and fires two shots in the air. "Why?" asks the confused waiter as the panda walks towards the exit. The panda produces a wildlife manual and tosses it over his shoulder. "I'm a panda. Look it up." The waiter turns to the relevant entry and finds an explanation. *Panda: Large black-and-white bear-like mammal native to China. Eats, shoots, and leaves.*

CafePress: Merchandise to express yourself
 Years ago, in my first Genealogy class, I was introduced to Café Press, but forgot about it. More expensive than I remembered, but you can even sell your designs there: <https://www.cafepress.com/>

Store Supply Warehouse 1-800-823-8887
 If you need bags, stickers, tags ... or displays, racks or signs ... and MORE, this place has it all, at really reasonable prices.
contactus@storesupply.com

2019 NCPA Anthologies



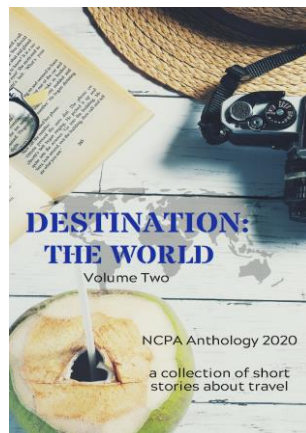
BIRDS OF A FEATHER
An NCPA Anthology
A Collection of Short Stories about Animals



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

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

2020 NCPA Anthologies



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

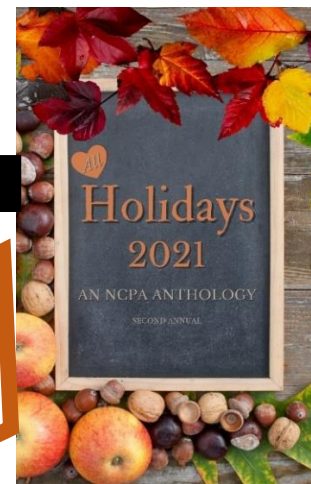
PAPER COPIES @ Cost for Authors) \$10 for others From Sharon Darrow:

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



COVERS FOR pending 2021 ANTHOLOGIES

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



NCPA 2021 Anthologies update - we'll start working on them again, soon.

Many apologies for neither being finished in 2021. No excuses, just a variety of reasons, mainly on my part, but also partially with others working this project, including authors. **The main thing to remember, however is that NONE OF US ARE COMPENSATED OR REIMBURSED FOR ANY OF THE TIME AND EFFORT SPENT ON ANY ANTHOLOGY.** There's no specific time these had to be out, just what we had hopefully projected, & had come through on with the other 5. njt

YOU TOO COULD ADVERTISE HERE for a whole year EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT A MEMBER

Just donate something of value to the Silent Auction held during our 2021 Book Awards Banquet in 2022
SUNDAY 5 June 2022 at the Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta

SILENT AUCTION DONORS 2019 * THANK YOU SO MUCH to our donors *

Cherry Island G.C. * Sharon Darrow * Jennifer T. Grainger * Grand Oaks Inn B&B * Dierdre Honnold * Frances Kakugawa * Placer Pops Chorale * Roaring Camp Mining Company * Amy Rogers: Science Thrillers Media * Sharif Jewelers * Antelope Walmart Bakery

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

Looking for a great decorated cake for ANY event, including that Banquet?

Walmart Supercenter Bakery * 5821 Antelope Rd. * Antelope 95843, CA * Bakery: [916-729-6217](tel:916-729-6217)

Placer Pops Chorale & Orchestra 2022

Great present for ALL * www.placerpops.com * Locations, DATES & TIMES COMING CLOSER to dates

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**

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

jennifer@JenniferTheEditor.org www.JenniferTheEditor.org 209-369-6188

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

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

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

Need a special gift ~ Or a donation to your non-profit event?

Check out the fine jewelry at Sharif's

Sharif Jewelers * 1338 Howe Ave, Sacramento, CA * www.sharifjewelers.com ~ 916-927-0542

There are three (3) locations, total ~ check out their website for the other ones.

How about an Outdoor event for the entire family

Roaring Camp Mining Company in Pine Grove, CA just 1-1 ½ hours south east of Sacramento ~ Roaring Camp has BBQ Cookouts, Guided Gold Mine & Gold Panning Tours & Dinners, All Day Adventure & Gold Panning Tours & more ~ Camping or Cabins available

www.roaringcampgold.com ~ 209-296-4100 ~ info@roaringcampgold.com

OR a romantic Indoor Stay for grandma & grandpa, or mom and dad ~ on the way to Roaring Camp

Grand Oaks Inn B & B ~ Joe & Ann Mehrten 21941 Buena Vista Road P.O. Box 518

Clements, CA 95227 grandoaksinn.com 209 759-3453 or 209-759-3713 grandoaks@inreach.com

Grand Oaks, Sharif & Roaring Camp Mining Co have all generously donated to NCPA for every Silent Auction we've had **since 2010**

More 2021 SILENT AUCTION DONORS

Many thanks to the generosity of Sacramento's Bouchercon 2020, for the donation of a case of Totes, some were used in our 2020 NCPA Book Awards, during the Silent Auction Sunday 29 August 2021. Thanks also to Rae James and M. Penny Manson from Capitol Crimes (Sacramento chapter of Sisters in Crime) for arranging for, and getting, the totes to me.

Special thanks also to Elaine Faber for the Vintage Thomas Round Wood Radio/ Cassette Player reproduction, Barbara Barrett for the pair of cut-glass Hurricane Lamp-shaped Candle Holders, Kathy "Kanika" Marshall for her Kanika creations, Bob Irelan and Michelle Hamilton for their great baskets, and the EGWG for the donation of one ticket to the October 2021 Elk Grove Writers Conference

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

Go to www.saclibrary.org and click on Books & Media – Special Collections – Genealogy Collection – Have Questions (at bottom of screen) – click on "Learn More" under "Do you have other genealogy services available?" (or just click on this link as a shortcut - <https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/History/Genealogy>). (Other Genealogy sites free also)

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

2021 Genealogy Presentations at Sacramento Central Library

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

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

FREE MEETINGS
3rd Sat monthly 1pm-3pm
Capitolcrimes.org for more info
ZOOM MEETING FREE

Gold Country Writers meetings (FREE)
3rd Wed 10am-12Noon each month
Goldcountrywriters.com **CONTACT** for more information

CWC meeting 3rd Sat monthly 11am-1pm
CWCSacramentowriters.org

\$20-member \$25 Non-member lunch included
ZOOM MEETINGS FREE

1st Fri each month Perko's 6215 Sunrise
3rd Sat each month at Cattleman's on Folsom

**28th NCPA
BOOK AWARDS
BANQUET**
5pm-9pm
Sun 5 JUNE 2022

***Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC) 2nd Mon ea/mo**
7pm-9pm * Sactowriters.org * ZOOM MEETINGS FREE
Crossroads Fellowship Christian Church, **5501 Dewey Dr**, Fair Oaks.

COVID RULES WILL APPLY

Sun 11 Dec 2022 ~ 12Noon-?
Citrus Heights' Black Angus on Greenback
NCPA's 5th Holiday Luncheon - 2022
Email me: NCPAAnthologyLuncheon@gmail.com

FREE MEETINGS 2nd Sat monthly 12Noon – 2:30 pm
San Joaquin Valley Writers CWC ZOOM Meetings
<https://junegillam.com> <https://www.sjvalleywriters.org>

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

MAKING CONNECTIONS CORNER with our Local Sister Writing Organizations

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

Monthly Luncheon Meetings generally **3rd Saturday** of each month ~ 11am – 1pm
 \$15 members, \$25 non-members, includes lunch **Rancho Cordova Cattlemen's**

Writers Network 9-11am 1st Fri monthly **Perko's 6215 Sunrise, Citrus Heights**

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

For information & prices on joining, go to: **cwcsacramentowriters.org**

➤ **Capitol Crimes (Cap Crimes) (Sacramento Chapter of Sisters in Crime)**

If you write anything crime-related, or want to, then check out Cap Crimes.

FREE monthly meetings, generally the **3rd Saturday** of each month, generally with guest speakers, generally crime-related. They normally meet at **1pm** at the

Rancho Cordova Library 9845 Folsom Blvd in Rancho Cordova

No-Host lunch 11:30am prior to meetings usually at Perko's 9647 Micron Av

Must be a member of Sisters in Crime (\$50) to join Cap Crimes (\$20) **Capitolcrimes.org**

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

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

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

* Email **egwg2020@egweg.org**

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

3rd Wed Monthly Speaker Programs ~ 10am-12Noon: FREE & open to Public

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1279 High St, Auburn, CA 95603

"Writers Working Together to Promote and Improve their Work" Questions contact Margie

Yee Webb **mywebb@sbcglobal.net**

➤ **Sacramento Suburban Writers (SSW)**

Meets 2nd Mon of each month 7pm- 9pm

Crossroads Fellowship Christian Church, 5501 Dewey Dr, Fair Oaks, CA

Meetings, generally with guest speakers, are **FREE** ~ (\$40 membership fee)

Like with NCPA, you don't have to be a member to attend **Sactowriters.org**

➤ **Sacramento Valley Rose (SVR)**

(Sacramento Chapter of Romance Writers of America {RWA})

If you write Romance, or want to, then check out SVR ~ they generally meet at 10am at the

White Rock Community Clubhouse, 10488 White Rock Rd, Rancho Cordova

4th Saturday of each month \$20 for members \$30 for non-members

Contact: Deb at **debjulienne@gmail.com** for RSVP information & directions

Debbie Putnam, President: **DebbiePutnam.SVR@gmail.com**

Suggest you go to their site for their rules & stipulations Must be a member of Romance Writers of America (\$99+) before joining SVR (\$30) **Sacramentovalleyrose.com**

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

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

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

If you're interested in writing ... or illustrating ... for kids of any age, this is the premiere INTERNATIONAL organization to belong to! **Your first year of SCBWI membership is \$95, with an ongoing annual renewal fee of \$80.** No monthly meetings, but there are occasional Schmoozes, Workshops, Intensive-Events, Special Events, and Critique Groups, as well as a great Holiday Party in December, and a discounted Spring Spirit Conference ... plus more ... Go to their website for full information: **<https://canorthcentral.scbwi.org/>**

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

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916-396-3414

Anthology 2019, 2020 & 2021

Norma Jean Thornton: **Coordinator**

Michelle Hamilton: **Editor**

Bob Irelan: **Editor**

Norma Jean Thornton: **Proofreader**

Sharon Darrow: **Publisher**

2021NCPAAnthology@gmail.com

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

In Person 1pm-??? * Denny's 3520 Auburn Blvd

No purchase necessary but at least a soda would be appreciated * By ZOOM 1pm- ???

Daytime meetings with NO guest speakers are the 3rd Wednesday of each month

ON HOLD 12 Noon to 2pm Denny's 3520 Auburn Blvd RSVP's REQUIRED COVID

Meetings are always FREE ~ Visitors are always welcome.

www.norcalpa.org

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA)

PO Box 214673 ~ Sacramento, CA 95821

Michelle Hamilton, President ~ 916-837-6812 * Norma Jean Thornton, Editor ~ 916-991-5751
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The editor reserves the right to accept or reject submissions and to edit submissions for length, clarity, or style.

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

Other News, Announcements, and Comments

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

A Note from the Editor

Send your articles and announcements to normathornton@yahoo.com

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

Please provide submissions in Microsoft Word (or compatible) format, or in plain text. **NO PDF**, please, since I have to retype anything sent by pdf to make it fit.

If you have any suggestions, an article idea or any other questions or comments about the newsletter, feel free to email or phone ... normathornton@yahoo.com or 916-991-5751

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

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

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

Submissions for each issue will be the 5th of each month, unless otherwise noted ~ and ~ **if you have something after the 5th call me (916-991-5751), then send it anyway** ~ I'm flexible, so we'll probably be able to work it in, since the monthly Pen & Press publishing date depends on time available for the editor to complete and send out; sometime after the monthly meeting, held on the 2nd Thursday of each month, and as late as the last day of each month.

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

... Norma Jean Thornton, editor *The Pen & Press* 2016-2020