

November 2017

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

# The Pen & Press

Northern California  
publishers & authors

**Thursday 14 December 2017**

6:30pm-8:30pm Regular Meeting

**BOOK SHOW & SELL, MEMBER SCHMOOZE, NO Guest Speaker**  
**Bring your books and displays to Share/ SELL with/ to others**  
**REMEMBER, BOOKS MAKE EXCELLENT PRESENTS, AND STOCKING STUFFERS**

**Denny's** (in the Private back room)

3520 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento (Auburn Blvd @ Watt Av & I-80)

No-host food & beverage ... it's not mandatory to make a purchase

You might want to bring a light sweater

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

**2 December Holiday Luncheon ~ 11:30am-1:30-m**

**BLACK ANGUS, Citrus Heights**

**Order off the menu when you get there**

**Still taking reservations Please RSVP no later than 12 midnight Thu 30 November**

**Scheduled to attend:** June Azevedo \* Sharon & Stan Darrow \* Elaine Faber & Hubby \*  
Jennifer Grainger \* Robert "Pacho" Pacholik \* Judy Pierce \* Andrea Roth & Hubby \*  
Liam Smith \* Kristy Taylor \* Norma Jean Thornton

**IF FOR ANY REASON THOSE ON THIS LIST CAN'T MAKE IT, PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP**  
[normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)

**\*\*NEW\*\*** Starting August 2017 an Email will be sent a few days to a week prior to EACH **WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME** meeting, **asking for an RSVP if you plan to attend.** If we don't receive the minimum amount required another Email will be sent, notifying that the meeting has been canceled. **PLEASE SEND AN RSVP EMAIL to [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com) if you plan to attend this month's NOON meeting.** Thank you. It's either this, or stop the Wed meetings

**3<sup>RD</sup> Wednesday Lunchtime Meetings AT DENNY'S \***  
**Dec ~ NO MEETING ~ HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

November 2017

## MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hello everyone,

Those of you who missed December's Thursday meeting missed a very special one.

Plus, we gained two members that night. Anna Hourihan, a publisher and editor in addition to being an author, was a member a few years ago before she moved to Redding. Anna has come back to Sacramento and rejoined the group.

Jennifer Grainger, an editor and ghostwriter in addition to being an author, also became a member. As you can see from the attached [meeting agenda](#), we covered some interesting topics.

The highlight of the meeting was our outstanding speaker, Michelle Hamilton, a judge for our Book Awards Competition for two years. Michelle described the experience, and what she looked for when reviewing a book. She has also just started offering her services as an [editor](#) and brings a wealth of experience for anyone who is looking for one.

Michelle has been an English teacher at Elk Grove High School for over 20 years, and publishing books since 2010. I have personally read all but her last book and love them -- and to date she's written and [published 38 books](#), with more on the way.

Michelle spoke about character development, which is what I love most about her books. She has shared the sheet that was made available during the talk, via Power Point.

Our December meeting will be the traditional annual opportunity for NCPA members to bring their books for display and sale, so mark your calendar for December 14th. Bring your money too, since this is a perfect opportunity to buy signed books for readers on your Christmas list.

We have an extra event next month that also needs your attention. December 2nd, 11:30AM, we will be meeting for a purely social NCPA lunch at the [Black Angus Steakhouse](#) in Citrus Heights. Everybody will be buying from the [regular menu](#), with no other cost for attending.

Norma Jean Thornton needs to hear from you if you plan to attend, so be sure to let her know. Spouses and significant others are welcome -- in fact, this is the perfect opportunity for you to introduce them and show them off.

The NCPA is all about supporting our members with events, information, and networking. If you have a suggestion about how we can do that better or more effectively, please contact one of our Board Members and let us know. And if you're not sure, the Board Members are me (President), June Azevedo (Vice President), Tom Kando (Secretary), Amy Rogers (Treasurer), and Norma Jean Thornton (Communications Director).

Hope to see you soon,

Sharon Darrow, NCPA President  
NCPA Membership Chair ~ NCPA Book Awards Coordinator  
916-803-1665 [sharon@sharonsdarrow.com](mailto:sharon@sharonsdarrow.com)

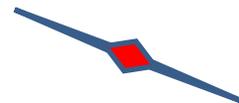
**Editor's Note:** I don't have Power Point access, so can't open what Sharon sent via Email, nor do I have any idea what she's talking about (remember, I'm pretty much computer illiterate!). The Email in its entirety is below, so you can hopefully figure it out for yourself. Good luck!

Norma,

Here's Michelle's [PowerPointPresentation](#). It opens up fine, but you have to have the Power Point program. So, our people can use it after they access it, IF they have that program.

It's now in the documents location, so in your newsletter/email, just select the paperclip up at the top labeled "File", and select it in the window that opens.

Sharon



## **MINUTES from Secretary Tom Kando for Nov 2017 meeting**

### Agenda:

1. Announcements
2. Introductions
3. Speaker: Michelle Hamilton, on "Making Your Characters Breathe."
4. Networking

Present: Azevedo, Byers, Darrow, Davis, Grainger, Hourihan, Kando, McGreevy, Ortega, Pacholik, Rigley, Thornton.

#### 1. Announcements: President Sharon Darrow made several announcements:

- We are now accepting applications for next year's Annual Book Award Competition. Seven entries have been received so far. Check the NCPA website: [www.https://www.norcalpa.org](https://www.norcalpa.org)
- November 30 is the deadline for applying for the IBPA PubU., which will be held in Austin Texas in April 2018. You can apply online at [www.publishinguniversity.org/scholarship](http://www.publishinguniversity.org/scholarship). The winner receives a \$500 scholarship to attend, and the IBPA picks up the \$200 attendance fee.
- Sharon offered to help members who are having difficulty updating their profiles on our website.
- Sharon's first audio book is now for sale on audible! It shows up on Audible first, then Amazon and iTunes.
- Our next month's meeting - December 14 - is the annual meeting where NCPA members can bring their books for display and sale.
- Norma Jean Thornton informed us that, this year, we are not awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to the winner of the competition among local high-school students who aspire to become writers. Instead, the money becomes a donation to 916 Ink, an organization which encourages and promotes youth literacy and writing.

#### 2. Introductions: There were several new members, including Anna Hourihan and Jennifer Grainger. Anna is an author, publisher and editor, Jennifer is an author, editor and ghostwriter.

#### 3. Speaker: Michelle Hamilton on "Making Your Characters Breathe," and also on what she is looking for when judging books:

Michelle was a judge for our Book Awards Competition for two years. She is a prolific author and editor. She has been an English teacher at Elk Grove High School for over 20 years. She began to write books in 2010, and has published 38 of them so far! At first, she went with agents, but now she operates independently. Her genres include Murder Mysteries, Cozy Mysteries, Epic Fantasies, Contemporary Fantasies, Contemporary Fiction and Recipe Books.

Michelle passed out a convenient hand-out summarizing her talk. First, she told us about some of the things she is looking for when judging books: Strong characters who feel like they are real people. Equally important is the quality of the writing. There has to be "good flow" and a good plot. Michelle also appreciates it when the author takes some chances, tries something new. Unfortunately, books are too often more of the same.

Audio books: First, Michelle didn't much like the idea. However, she does now. She has learned to appreciate the narrator's interpretation, which may differ from that of the author. In other words, it is not necessary for the author to always fully "control" the characters. The market for audio books is huge, and expanding. Many aging people's sight deteriorates, and there are many commuters. One third of Michelle's own sales are audio books.

Michelle's plots are character driven. First, you name your character. The name is essential. Michelle likes to use gender-neutral names. It is good to also use nicknames. In her Murder Mystery "Peyton Brooks" series, the main character's name Peyton Brooks is derived from that of Chicago football legend Walter Payton, who was a favorite of the character's father.

The father was a cop who died in the line of duty. Peyton is a tough detective. She is often under-estimated, so Michelle gave her a short stature.

You then specify the character's ethnicity, religion and family background. But you do this before describing her personality.

It's good to give your character(s) a pet. And never kill a pet!

Another central character in Michelle's novels is Marco D'Angelo. He is a police captain and Peyton Brooks' close friend. He is the strong, silent, intimidating type. He comes from a huge Italian family. He also has had an alcohol problem. It's useful to give your character(s) distinctive personality quirks. You can borrow character features from real people whom you know. It can be helpful to find a TV star as a model

For readers, the most important thing is consistency.

As to the setting, Michelle's stories take place mostly in San Francisco, which is the place she is most familiar with. She even looks up specific buildings, draws maps of neighborhoods, measures approximate distances, all so as to be as realistic as possible. The more detail, the better. For example, one of her characters specializes in crazy cocktails, so Michelle researched cocktails extensively on the Internet.

Nowadays, Cozy Mysteries have become a very popular genre. These are crime mysteries without the excessive violence and gore.

Michelle's leading characters are often women. However, they are not "men in drag," in other words they are not women who act as violently as men would.

\* \* \* \* \*

During questions and answers, Michelle went on to discuss book launchings, marketing etc.: Published authors should have a newsletter and a mailing list. Their website can feature a prequel to a new book, and a newsletter can be sent out just before a new book release. 5%-6% of her sales are through her newsletter. This is very important, because it helps you to get up in Amazon's top tier selling authors.

Pre-sales are very important, but a book must be totally ready to be sent out by Amazon before you start a pre-sale.

Never start a book without knowing how it will end. The most difficult part to write is the middle. Michelle always plots her novels ahead to the end before writing them. It takes her a couple of months to complete a book.

She no longer uses agents, as they are insufficiently responsive to an author's specific requirements. Although she first published the "traditional" way, through publishers, she now self-publishes. She made the mistake of giving the publisher the first right of refusal.

Fortunately, she got out of this.

The best marketing resource is [www.Kboards.com](http://www.Kboards.com). It is a community forum for Kindle users, with sites such as Writers' Café, where you can get/share all sorts of marketing tips. Having your niche as an author is fine. For example, if you specialize in military novels, you can sell your books at military bases, hospitals, etc. You can acquire a devout following. Michelle gave an excellent presentation. Her publishing record is impressive.

4. The evening ended with some networking.

November 9, 2017,

Tom Kando, Secretary



## Web Corner : Sites of Interest

Interested in your family history? Doing genealogy? Ever give a thought to checking out your family DNA? If so, now's the time if not for yourself, then for others.

Excellent Christmas present for the older &/or hard-to-get-for family member/s, friends or co-workers, especially if they have even the slightest interest in genealogy. Ancestry DNA test kits have a special price THROUGH MONDAY 27 NOV 2017 ... regular price \$99, special \$59 + shipping & handling (I just ordered 2 and it was \$14.90 so my guess is shipping & handling one would be \$7.45?) You'll receive the kit in 7-10 days.

It's a very simple, non-invasive test ... just spit in the little vial they provide, send it in, then wait for your results ... normally in a couple of months, or less.

For complete information, go to <https://www.ancestry.com/> and look for Black Friday Cyber Monday Ancestry DNA \$59.



Interested in taking a writing class from prolific author Judy BLUME? Starting early 2018, she'll be teaching a \$90 course on the online education platform MasterClass.

In the 15-lesson class, appropriately named "Judy Blume Teaches Writing," Blume will teach how to create memorable characters, write dialogue, and transform personal experiences into compelling narratives through unique exercises, like drafting a personal letter to yourself in someone else's voice. For more info go to:

<http://www.instyle.com/reviews-coverage/books/judy-blume-writing-class>



Due to the holidays, there will be NO WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME meeting in December. Instead, we'll have an actual Holiday Luncheon at the Black Angus in Citrus Heights from 11:30am-1:30pm on Sat 2 Dec, but we need an RSVP if you plan to attend, and to sit with the group. RSVP deadline Thursday 30 Nov. Order off the menu when you get there.



IF YOU SIGNED UP FOR THE 2 DECEMBER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AT CITRUS HEIGHTS BLACK ANGUS, AND FOR ANY REASON CAN'T MAKE IT, PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP SO WE CAN LET THE RESTAURANT KNOW ... [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)



## NCPA AUTHORS' MEMBER BOOK REVIEWS

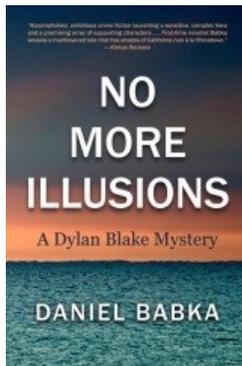
SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW NCPA AUTHORS BY CHOOSING YOUR FAVORITE NCPA MEMBER'S BOOK, AND SEND YOUR REVIEW FOR AN UPCOMING NEWSLETTER



## UPCOMING WRITER/ PUBLISHER/ BOOK SELLING EVENTS

**From NCPA member, DANIEL BABKA:** Attached, you'll find a recent review from the Portland Book Review:

"An excellent debut. Dylan Blake reads poetry, takes care of a surprising and refreshing lack of detective, with a nuance and missing from mystery & thoughtfully but doesn't drag, and goes with him on his twists or turns in the book; the to the characters. Overall this is a novel that mystery fans will



is not the normal detective. He hikes, himself...He also makes mistakes & has of paranoia about him for a police subtlety to his investigation oftentimes novels...The story itself unwinds slowly The reader gets the clues as Blake does investigation. There are no nonsensical secrets revealed feel genuine and true a highly satisfying book to read and a definitely enjoy."

— Portland Book Review

NCPA member Andrea Roth has coordinated with NCPA to set up a series of **FREE** Book-selling events she's titled "**Authors Showcase ~ Meet the Authors!**" and is working on more.

The following library dates and locations are scheduled

### **Scheduled Author Showcase events date & Library:**

- **Saturday 9 December 2017 ~ 2pm-5pm, No Highlands/ Antelope Library **FILLED****  
Babka \* Branco \* Buckroth (Roth) \* Cervinka \* Darrow \* McGreevy \* Pacholik \* Pierce \* Smith \* Thornton
- **Saturday 16 December 2017 ~ 2pm-5pm, Sylvan Oaks Library **FILLED****  
Branco\*Buckroth\*Cervinka\*Darrow\*Faber\*Grossenbacher\*McGreevy\*Pacholik\*Pierce\*Sample\*Thornton
- **Saturday 20 January 2018~ 12Noon-5:00pm, Yolo Library, Davis **ROOM FOR MORE****  
Buckroth \* Cervinka \* Darrow \* Pierce \* Rogers \* Thornton

If you have a library you'd like to suggest, please contact

**Andrea Roth (w/a Buckroth) at 916-396-3414**, or me: [normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)

Thank you Andrea, for taking on this huge task for all NCPA members

### **PARTICIPATE IN THE Women's Business Center's Marketplace "HOLIDAY POP-UP SHOP"**

(Great chance to get your books out there for sale for minimal cost, and you don't even have to be there!)

President Sharon has accepted an invitation to be a vendor on NCPA's behalf, to participate in the Women's Business Center's Marketplace "**Holiday Pop-Up Shop**" on **Thursday 7 December**.

NCPA will be doing this as a business and to promote NCPA, so we'd like as much variety of book genre as possible, **NCPA MEMBERS ONLY**. Since there won't be enough room for individual sellers, if you'd like to have books available for sale, your cost will be 5% of any sales, selling under Sharon's license.

**YOU MUST GET YOUR signed BOOKS (NO MORE THAN 3 copies of each title, but as many titles as you want), WITH A PRICE LIST, TO SHARON NO LATER THAN Sat 2 DEC** (Kill 2 birds with one stone; attend the NCPA luncheon at Black Angus, and take them along. Add a 3rd bird to that kill: TAKE 4 BOOKS, plus a check, for the **Awards Banquet**, also!)

Your leftover books (&/ or sales) will be available to you at the **regular NCPA Dec meeting Thursday 14 Dec**, during our **BOOK DISPLAY & SALES: 6:30pm** at Denny's on Auburn Blvd.

Sharon will be sending a separate Email regarding more complete information on this ... and will make any corrections as necessary to what I've included here.

**Repeat, but with more: Received from one of our local sister writing organizations (edited for length)**

**OPEN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

**Placer Gold Publishing (PGW)** is a boutique publisher located in California's Sierra Gold Country. Our recent release, "Through Button Eyes: A Collection of Short Fiction" under the Placer Gold Writers Ink imprint, was selected from approximately 5000 national and international entries as one of the five medal finalists in the Anthology Division of the 2017 Next Generation Indie Book Awards (NGIBA) and achieved top ten Best Seller status on Amazon/Fiction/US Short Stories for a week during its last paid promotion.

**Placer Gold Writers Ink (PGWI)** is in search of exceptionally written **Speculative Fiction short stories**, for publication in our second anthology "Miner Detours". To be released in both quality paperback and all major e-book formats mid-2018.

- **SUBMIT by 15 Dec 2017– selection by 31 Dec 2017**
- **WORD COUNT:** 2000 - 8000 words
- **GENRE:** Speculative Fiction (for brief description go to website)
- **REQUIREMENTS:** Anthologies always follow a theme or common thread. This time\* Location must be set in CA's "Gold Country" -- in the past, present or future.
- **Use word/ concept of "gold" as minor or major plot point.** Note: "gold" doesn't have to refer to precious metal!
- **For INFO ON PLACER GOLD PUBLISHING, go to website [www.PlacerGoldWritersINK.com](http://www.PlacerGoldWritersINK.com)**
- Contact: [submission@PlacerGoldWritersINK.com](mailto:submission@PlacerGoldWritersINK.com)
- For more detailed information.Patrick Witz & David Loofbourrow \* Editors, Placer Gold Writers Ink \* PO. Box 580 \* Meadow Vista, CA 95722 \* [editors@placergoldwritersink.com](mailto:editors@placergoldwritersink.com) \*

**MORE INFORMATION from PGWI on Speculative Fiction Genre :**

*"Speculative fiction is an umbrella genre encompassing narrative fiction with supernatural or futuristic elements. This includes the genres science fiction, fantasy, horror and supernatural fiction, as well as their combinations."* -Wikipedia

PGWI encourages the creative use and blending of genres. Action/adventure, romance, mystery, etc., are all acceptable in this project so long as your story fits into speculative fiction:

- Fantasy & anything magic including Modern or Ancient Myths, Tall Tales & Folk Tales;
- Science Fiction, Technopunk, Steampunk, Urbanpunk, Superhero & any advanced technology;
- Horror, Zombies, Shape-Shifters, and other Monsters;
- Alternate History, Utopia, Dystopia, Apocalyptic and Post-apocalyptic;
- Paranormal, exceptional or supernatural abilities, Psychic Phenomenon, Gods & Angels.

**Citrus Heights BLACK ANGUS 11:30am Sat 2 Dec 2017 Holiday Lunch**

**Still accepting reservations until 12Midnight 30 Nov ~ Order off the menu when you get there**

**Scheduled to attend:** June Azevedo \* Sharon & Stan Darrow \* Elaine Faber & Hubby \*  
Jennifer Grainger \* Robert "Pacho" Pacholik \* Judy Pierce \* Andrea Roth & Hubby \*  
Liam Smith \* Kristy Taylor \* Norma Jean Thornton

**IF FOR ANY REASON ANYONE ON THIS LIST CAN'T MAKE IT, PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP**  
[normathornton@yahoo.com](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)

**Norcalpa.org Book Awards Banquet**

**NCPA Annual Book Awards Banquet Sunday 22 April 2018** Cherry Island Golf Course, Elverta CA  
Any book published and in the marketplace between 1 Jan 2017 and 31 Dec 2017 is eligible for our 2018 Awards Banquet. More info in upcoming newsletters. Is your book published and ready to go? Contact Sharon Darrow.

**SCBWI 2018 Spring Spirit Conference**

**CANorthCentral@scbwi.org**

**Saturday 7 April 2018**

Citrus Heights Community Center, C.H.  
8am-4:30pm **More info in Dec 2017**

**Humorwriters.org**

Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop

**5-7 April 2018**

University of Dayton, Ohio  
Erma's Alma Mater



**www.LeftCoastCrime.org/2018**

**"Crime on the Comstock" Left Coast Crime 2018**

Reno, NV

**23-25 March 2018**

\*

**World Mystery Convention Bouchercon**

**coming to Sacto! 15-18 October 2020**

**Sacramento Convention Center**

NCPA's own Rae James is Chair of Bouchercon 2020

**Registration now open**

**Register by 31**

**Dec 2017 & Save \$25 - \$50**

**Bouchercon2020.org**

**SAVE THE DATES ~ Mark Your Calendar Now ~ 2018 NCPA Meetings**

**6:30pm Thursday 11 January 2018**

**6:30pm Thursday 8 February 2018**

**SPEAKER INFO to come later**

**NIGHT FLARES Author Featured Speaker at RENAISSANCE SOCIETY**

11/15/17

**Robert M. Pacholik, prize-winning author of military history fiction books,** rounds out this week with his second appearance as a featured speaker at The RENAISSANCE SOCIETY, in Sacramento. Pacholik, who graduated from CSU Sacramento with degrees in Journalism/English, and a Masters degree in International Affairs, returns to his alma mater to discuss "India as Advocate: The Role of a Non-aligned State in the Settlement of the Korean War."

The former combat-photographer and print newsman will discuss India's Role in the Korean War Armistice negotiations (1951-1953), his MA thesis, as part of the RENAISSANCE SOCIETY's, 12 week-long class entitled "The Korean War: Then and Now." <SNIP\*>

Both Korea's fate and that of Vietnam were left in the diplomatic wreckage of the 1954 Geneva Conference that did not unify both countries. Sixty four years later, Korea is still divided," Pacholik concluded.

The RENAISSANCE SOCIETY is an innovative lifelong-learning project that offers more than 200 classes on Fridays (Fall and Spring terms) to retired and non-retired adults who want to learn more about the world around them. With no tests, finals, or grades, The RENAISSANCE SOCIETY is a surefire way to stay sharp, stay informed, and socialize with other smart people. (Contact the RENAISSANCE SOCIETY at [www.csus.edu/org/rensoc](http://www.csus.edu/org/rensoc)). (\*Edited For Space)

**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, \$20 non-members, includes lunch **Rancho Cordova Cattleman's**
- Writers Network 9-11am 1st Fri monthly **Coco's** 7887 Madison Av @ 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**

\*

**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](mailto:debjulienne@gmail.com) for RSVP information & directions
  - Debbie Putnam, President: [DebbiePutnam.SVR@gmail.com](mailto: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**

\*

**Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI)  
(California 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 ... with our double-fun NCPA Emcee, (who's also SCBWI's Regional Advisor {RA}), Bitsy Kemper

Go to the website for full information:

<https://canorthcentral.scbwi.org/>\*

## **NCPA Board of Directors**

**norcalpa.org**

### **President**

Sharon Darrow  
Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com  
800-462-2328

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Kandotom@csus.edu  
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916-991-5751

### **Immediate Past President**

Dennis Potter  
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916-253-758

### **Membership Chair**

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800-462-2328

### **Awards Banquet Chair**

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916-991-5751

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june@azevedoprintanddesign.com

### **Treasurer**

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916-469-7695

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

### **Book Events Coordinator**

Andrea Roth w/a A.K. Buckroth  
Mydiabeticsoul@pacbell.net  
916-396-3414

### **Speakers Bureau Chair**

### **Scholarship Director**

June Azevedo  
june@azevedoprintanddesign

### **Webmaster**

Amy Rogers  
Amy@ScienceThrillersMedia.com  
916-469-7695 ...

**Evening meetings with guest speakers are the 2nd Thursday of each month**

**6:30pm to 8:30pm Denny's 3520 Auburn Blvd**

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

**6:30pm to 8:30pm Denny's 3520 Auburn Blvd**

**Meetings are always FREE ~ Visitors are always welcome.**

Mailing Address

Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA)

PO Box 214673 ~ Sacramento, CA 95821

Sharon Darrow, President ~ 916-803-1665

Norma Jean Thornton, Editor ~ 916-991-5751

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

November 2017

*The Pen & Press* is published by Northern California Publishers & Authors, a coalition of authors, small presses, and independent publishers. All newsletter content, unless otherwise attributed, is copyrighted by NCPA.

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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](mailto:normathornton@yahoo.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Deadline for submissions for each issue will be the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month, unless otherwise noted** ~ and ~ **if you have something after the 5<sup>th</sup> call me (916-991-5751), then send it anyway** ~ I'm flexible, so we'll probably be able to work it in.

... *Norma Jean Thornton*, editor *The Pen & Press*