
The Pen & Press

November – December 2011



What's Behind Us, and What's Ahead

By Barry Schoenborn, NCPA President

We had a nice summer. It's great to attend monthly meetings and hear about new books by members and their book launches. In particular, there's a new one from Cindy Sample, *Dying for a Date*. Plenty funny and not too gory.

Fall meetings continue to be good. On Saturday, October 8th, Frances Kakugawa gave an outstanding presentation, dealing largely with the relationship between author and editor.

Look for announcements about NCPA Awards 2012. Pamela Johnson is the Awards director, ably aided by Pam Suwinsky and Rosa Umbach. Also, Pam's worked hard to line up an array of excellent judges.

NCPA Awards is our premier event of the year. This has been true since we accepted the reality that an annual conference poses great economic risk to NCPA in this difficult economy. Plan on attending a wonderful dinner on the last Sunday in April, 2012. The dinner is not only an awards ceremony, but it's a time to thank the outgoing board and welcome the incoming board. The food should be good, and we plan on having a keynote speaker who is entertaining, edifying, or inspiring. (Maybe all three.) There may be high-class music during dinner, as well.

The December general meeting is a fun party at Merrill Gardens. No speaker. No nothing, EXCEPT a chance to sell your books. It's a great chance for you to donate a copy of your book to Cathy Reuter and the Merrill Gardens Library. They love the idea, and the residents will read your book. Yes, even children's books are a welcome contribution, as the residents have grand children and great grand children.

Barry Schoenborn
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Future Meetings

Planning of meeting speakers and topics is a work in progress, subject to change. But as of deadline for this issue of *The Pen & Press*, here is a look ahead for the rest of 2011.

- November 12, Pamela Johnson. Pamela was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, migrating to Berkeley, California, in 1966. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of UC Berkeley in anthropology, she went on to earn Master's Degrees in education and English. Actively involved in social and environmental issues, she views her writing as an extension of her politics. Married, she currently divides her time between a ranch in the Sierra foothills of California and Ocho Rios, Jamaica. She is the author of *Heart of a Pirate: A Novel of Anne Bonny* and the soon to be released, *A Nation of Mystics*. She is currently completing her next book, *Time Is a Road in Five Directions*. In addition to writing, she is an Associate Professor for Ashford University in the adjunct program teaching writing and literature, works as a writing and publishing consultant through Stone Harbour Press, manages a villa in Jamaica, and is this year's Awards Chair for NCPA. In response to the group's desire to hear more about individual members and their journey to publication, she will be speaking on her personal story: how she came to her topics, the process, the intention of her writing, and post-publication niche marketing
- December 10, no speaker. The meeting will mark the return, after a one-year hiatus, of the popular "Book Display Meeting." Members are invited to bring and display copies of their published books, and quietly to sell copies to other members. (Cannot sell to/solicit residents.) Remember that NCPA strongly encourages members to donate a copy of each of their published books to Merrill Gardens for use in the library it maintains for residents.

NCPA AWARDS 2012: Entry Details

By Pamela Johnson

To All NCPA Members:

Mark your calendars! It's time for you to enter your work in our annual competition, NCPA Awards 2012 (for books published in 2011). We are accepting submissions as of November 1st.

This year's competition features a new category — e-books.

Make sure you read the NCPA book award rules carefully. To access the contest details, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NCPA/>. Details are posted in the Files section, under NCPA Awards 2012.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. It's very important that you understand the rules and that you prepare the entry form properly.

All submissions must be postmarked no later than January 15th, 2012.

We wish you the best of luck in this year's competition.

Pamela Johnson
NCPA Awards Chair 2012
pmumj@aol.com

Reaping Rewards of Connections and Collaboration

by Margie Yee Webb

During my four years as president of the California Writers Club (CWC) Sacramento Branch from July 2007 through June 2011, I learned that making connections to promote the club and members, often through collaboration with public libraries, book stores and other businesses, were beneficial.

Alliances with librarians and public libraries have led to participation in events, such as with Julie Rinaldi and Regina Maduell of the Folsom Public Library for Local Author Fairs, Jamie Finley of the Roseville Public Library for the Northern California Storybook & Literature Festival, and Randi Kay Stephens and Janet Winger of the Sacramento Public Library at the Sacramento County Fair.

The bonds created with Community Relations Manager Michael Troyan at Barnes and Noble Birdcage, Art Luna at Luna's Café, and Tonna Boyette at The Market Place have led to recurring events at these venues.

My memberships in Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA) and Women's National Book Association-San Francisco Chapter (WNBA-SF) have also provided benefits.

After publishing Cat Mulan's *Mindful Musings: Insight and Inspiration for a Wonderful Life* this March, it was natural to promote my gift book through collaborative relationships with other authors. Most recently, I was grateful for successful collaborations with Kate Farrell (*Wisdom Has a Voice: Every Daughter's Memories of Mother*), Teresa LeYung Ryan (*Build Your Writer's Platform & Fanbase in 22 Days* and *Love Made of Heart*), Cindy Sample, *Dying for a Date* and *Dying for a Dance*, Brenda Novak, author of *In Close*, and Shari Fitzpatrick, author of *Berried in Chocolate*. I know these authors through the memberships listed above. These collaborations are successful through mutual promotion of each other and the events—pre and post—through personal contacts, our websites, facebook, and other tools.

What are effective ways to do post-event promotion? For the Sonoma County Book Festival venture, Teresa LeYung Ryan posted a blog on “What Happened at the Sonoma County Book Festival, <http://lovemadeofheart.com/blog/coach-teresa-what-happened-at-the-sonoma-county-book-festival-part-1/>; Kate Farrell posted a blog that was also linked to her Amazon.com author page, <http://wisdomhasavoice.com/sonoma-county-book-festival/>; and I am writing about this event for the NCPA newsletter. Additionally, Teresa produced YouTube videos during and after the festival and those can be found under our names or “Sonoma County Book Festival.”

These connections will no doubt lead to future collaborative events. I already have some events scheduled with Cindy Sample. On November 11th, Cindy and I will share a table for a “Girls Night Out” event at David Girard Vineyards in Placerville; and on November 26th, we will be at Placerville News Company for Merchants Open House.

How can you build rewarding ties? Get to know members in groups you join, attend meetings and events, get involved, and join other groups. Be courteous and respectful in all interactions and communication. As the saying goes “it's a small world after all” and building relationships takes mutual appreciation and time. Finally, convey your thanks and gratitude to those people who are helpful.

Successful collaborations are measured not only for the present event, but in continuing those collaborations for future events. Cheers for your success!

Barry Schoenborn Presents at Writers' Event

On Saturday, October 22, NCPA President Barry Schoenborn was a presenter at an author's event. That event was "Skip the Pitch," produced by Nora Profit of The Writer's Loft in Chico, California.

Barry was one of six publishers and agents who presented. First, each presenter gave a brief talk, identifying the two most important things authors need to do to get published. Then the presenters moved over to tables to talk with groups of eight authors (round robin style). For authors, that's a different experience than just giving a ninety-second canned elevator speech.

The event was two hours long, and took place at the Butte County Public Library in Chico.

Anthology Seeks Stories from Mature Women of Color

by Vicki Ward

Life's Spices From Seasoned Sistahs was published in 2005 and earned the *ForeWord Magazine* **Book of the Year Award**, the **Bronze Award** From the *Independent Publishers Association*, and **Best Anthology** by the *Los Angeles Black Book Expo*. It is a unique collection of stories and poems told by women of color that are inspirational to all women. The stories focus on issues of life that women endure; relationships, self esteem death, racism, sexism, faith, menopause and others.

The simple act of these women sharing stories of their life struggles, triumphs, and joy resonated in positive ways for readers of this collection. Women reported how stories reminded them of their life issues, they told of how they gained support from reading about other women surmounting obstacles similar to those they endured.

Life's Spices From Seasoned Sistahs has been the selected text in colleges in Washington and California, and most recently for 5 semesters in the "Psychology of Women" course at Diablo Valley College in Lafayette, Ca. Each semester the instructor has invited several contributing authors to join the class in their final weeks to read story excerpts and engage in question and answer with the students. These students understand women better through these stories, and re-affirm the belief that these stories represent universal themes for all women.

Volume II of this dynamic series *More of Life's Spices, Sistahs Keepin' It Real* will be published in 2012. The detailed Call for Submissions appears after the announcements section of this newsletter.

California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch Activities

CWC-Sacramento Branch, a Silver Sponsor of the 2010 NCPA conference, has overlapping membership and some shared interests with NCPA. Margie Yee Webb, an NCPA member who is immediate past president of the Sacramento Branch of CWC, and author/photographer of “Cat Mulan’s Mindful Musings: Insight and Inspiration for a Wonderful Life,” provided the following information for the newsletter.

The Sacramento Branch of the California Writers Club is one of 18 branches throughout California. The Sacramento Branch has monthly luncheon meetings, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., on the 3rd Saturday of every month except July, August, and December. **Another NEW Location:** Luncheon meetings are held at **Tokyo Buffet**, 7217 Greenback Lane (between San Juan Avenue and Fountain Square Drive), Citrus Heights, CA 95610. Meeting fee is \$12 for members and \$14 for non-members, and includes a buffet lunch. <http://www.cwcsacramentowriters.org/>

Upcoming California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch, Luncheon Meetings

November 19, 2011

Leigh Rubin, cartoonist and author of “The Wild and Twisted World of Rubes” on “Rubes” and meeting deadlines. <http://www.rubescartoons.com/>

December 11, 2011 (Sunday)

Holiday Social – You are invited to the 4th Annual Holiday Social at Romano’s Macaroni Grill in Folsom. 1-3 p.m. See details under Holiday Social announcement.

January 21, 2012

Mark Coker of Smashwords on ebook publishing and distribution. <http://www.smashwords.com/>

The CWC-Sacramento Branch Writers Network

The CWC-Sacramento Branch Writers Network, meets the first Friday morning of every month, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at IHOP, 2216 Sunrise Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA (west side of Sunrise, north of Zinfandel). Participants include book, newspaper, magazine, and trade journal writers. **Contact:** Bob Quinlan, bobquinlan1@comcast.net.

Upcoming Writers Network Meetings

November 4, 2011: Shirley Parenteau, “Bears on Chairs,” on children’s books. <http://www.shirleyparenteau.com/>

December 2, 2011: Margie Yee Webb, “Cat Mulan’s Mindful Musings: Insight and Inspiration for a Wonderful Life,” on creating and publishing a gift book. <http://www.catmulan.com/>

January 6, 2012: Cheryl Stapp on taxes for writers. <http://www.cheryllannestapp.com/>

Open Mic for Writers (“10 Minutes of Fame”)

Join the Sacramento branch of the California Writers Club on the second Friday of each month for opportunities to read your written work. Sign-up begins at 6:45 p.m. Listeners are also welcome. Location: Barnes & Noble, Birdcage, 6111 Sunrise Blvd., Citrus Heights (Sunrise just south of Greenback). **Contact:** Julie Bauer, joolieb@aol.com.

Upcoming dates: November 11, 2011; December 9, 2011; January 13, 2012

Holiday Social Announcement

California Writers Club Sacramento Branch presents

4th Annual Holiday Social at Romano's Macaroni Grill

Sunday, December 11, 2011

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Who: Open to everyone – bring a guest!

Where: Romano's Macaroni Grill

2739 East Bidwell Street

Folsom, CA 95630

(Broadstone Plaza Shopping Center)

RSVP: Margie Yee Webb – Margie@CatMulan.com or 916.213.0798

RSVP with selections by Friday, December 2, 2011

Cost: \$24 (includes tax and gratuity)

Menu: Includes salad, entrée, and beverage (coffee, iced tea or soda)

Choice of salad:

Caesar or Fresh Greens

Choice of entrée:

Pasta – Eggplant Quadratini, Penne Rustica, Pasta Milano, Fettuccine Alfredo with Chicken, Lasagna Bolognese

Pollo – Pollo Caprese, Chicken Scaloppine, Chicken Parmesan

Pesce – Shrimp Portofino, Grilled King Salmon

Happy Holidays!

Other News, Announcements, and Comments

Your editor invites submissions for this section of *The Pen & Press*. Short items about NCPA members or otherwise of interest to writers, editors, and publishers (and allied folks) are welcome here.

- ✓ Cindy Sample wants to remind everyone of the 22nd Annual Left Coast Crime Convention which will be held at the Sacramento Sheraton March 29 through April 1, 2012. The convention will feature panels of experts speaking about mysteries and thrillers, and the craft of writing. The low registration fee of \$210 includes a reception, 2 breakfasts and an awards banquet featuring a silent and live auction to benefit the Sacramento Library Adult Literacy foundation. Guests of Honor include John Lescroart and Jacqueline Winspear plus special guest James Rollins. Email Cindy@cindysamplebooks.com with any questions or check out the website www.leftcoastercrime.org/2012.
- ✓ Don't forget: Vicki Ward has extended the call for her second anthology, *More of Life's Spices: Sistahs Still Keepin' It Real*. Deadline is now December 31st. Her detailed flyer may be found below this announcements section.
- ✓ Margie Yee Webb announces her upcoming events with Cindy Sample and said, "Support local authors and start your holiday shopping early! Books make great gifts for the holidays or any occasion!" Margie adds, "Cindy and I are offering books with a humor theme. Cindy's theme is humor and homicide, and mine is humor and wisdom!"
 - **Friday, November 11, 2011: Cindy Sample**, author of "Dying for a Date" and "Dying for a Dance," and **Margie Yee Webb**, author of "Cat Mulan's Mindful Musings: Insight and Inspiration for a Wonderful Life" will be signing books from 6 to 9 p.m. during **Girl's Night Out at David Girard Vineyards**, 741 Cold Springs Road, Placerville, CA 95667. (530) 295-1833. Free and open to the public. <http://www.davidgirardvineyards.com/>
 - **Saturday, November 26, 2011: Cindy Sample**, author of "Dying for a Date" and "Dying for a Dance," and **Margie Yee Webb**, author of "Cat Mulan's Mindful Musings: Insight and Inspiration for a Wonderful Life" will be personalizing gifts from 12 noon to 6 p.m. at **Placerville News Company**, 409 Main Street, Placerville, CA 95667. (530) 622-4510. <http://www.pvillenews.com/>
- ✓ Searching for a special used book, or looking for bargains on reading? Check out 2010 NCPA Conference sponsor Time-Tested Books, 1114 21st Street, Sacramento, CA 95811. See <http://timetestedbooks.net/> for more information.
- ✓ Know someone who is looking for quality assisted living? Be sure to ask for a tour of our monthly meeting host, Merrill Gardens, Citrus Heights.
- ✓ **Your notice or announcement could go here!**



Extended Call For Submission

(December 31, 2011)

**PUB: ANTHOLOGY SEEKING STORIES FROM MATURE WOMEN
OF COLOR**

“More of Life’s Spices, Sistahs Still Keepin’ It Real”

Calling on mature women of color from **40 to 80**. Publication of ***More of Life’s Spices, Sistahs Still Keepin’ It Real*** the second volume of this series will again be a celebration of mature women’s years of seasoning; focusing on life-changing, eye opening, woman affirming, and healing experiences to share with other women. The book is popular with readers and as a text in college courses. Readers have asked for more stories from the Seasoned Sistahs, so we’re publishing volume II, ***More of Life’s Spices, Sistahs Still Keepin’ It Real***.

For ***More of Life’s Spices, Sistahs Still Keepin’ It Real***, you may choose to describe an experience about living, loving, supporting, and nurturing in dynamic, bold language that touches hearts. Write so our readers feel the emotions you experienced. Describe life-changing events, those that taught you life lessons about love, forgiveness, friendship, life goals, values, and more. **EACH STORY SHOULD VIVIDLY DESCRIBE A LIFE AFFIRMING EVENT!**

Your story should be in the following categories:

- family
- surviving obstacles
- hope
- life lessons
- maturing
- teaching
- love
- forgiveness
- overcoming trauma
- triumphs
- faith
- mothers
- fathers

Submission Guidelines: Send your best writing by the **extended deadline Dec. 31, 2011**. Stories must be true, told in no more than 2000 words. Short poetry is also welcome. You may submit in more than one category. ***More of Life’s Spices, Sistahs Still Keepin’ It Real*** will be published in 2012. All submissions must include short bio, full contact information including Name, Address, Email, Phone Number including website if applicable. Authors retain rights to their story. Editorial committee will make final decision on selections for publication, and authors will be notified. Authors of stories selected will be listed in contributing author section, receive a copy of ***More of Life’s Spices, Sistahs Still Keepin’ It Real*** upon publication, and offered discounts on additional copies ordered. **Do not** send attachments. Submit on website at www.nubianimagespublishing.com, or

Copy and paste manuscript into an email and send to:

submission@nubianimagespublishing.com, or wardvl@yahoo.com Subject line: Sistahs Keepin’ It Real.

A Note from the Editor

Send your articles and announcements to Jessi Graustein, editors@foldedword.com.

Use **NCPA NEWSLETTER** (exactly and only that) as the email subject heading. That helps in finding newsletter submissions in the avalanche of incoming email.

Please provide submissions in Microsoft Word (or compatible) format or in plain text (preferably *not* in pdf). If you would like to discuss an article idea or have any other questions or comments about the newsletter, feel free to email or phone 916.624.4988.

What fits best into *The Pen & Press* is news of members' books, activities, marketing, speaking engagements, and accomplishments. Also of value: members' insights into the challenges and opportunities of writing and publishing and information on regional resources for authors and publishers. Cover illustrations and other photos are welcome in jpeg or other standard format. Please keep file sizes and illustration dimensions reasonable. When in doubt, call or email me in advance.

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is 11:59 p.m., Thursday, December 22, 2011. If you do not want your article or announcement to be lost in hundreds of accumulated email messages, use **NCPA NEWSLETTER** (exactly and only that) as your email subject heading. Send to editors@foldedword.com.

— Jessi Graustein, editor

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Readers are of course 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.

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Board of Directors of NCPA

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Note: NCPA's executive committee includes president, VP, secretary, treasurer, and communications director.

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Awards

Position is open!

Speakers Bureau

Position is open!

Annual Conference

Position is open!

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Merrill Gardens Retirement Community, 7418 Stock Ranch Road (just west of Sylvan Road about a quarter mile north of Greenback Lane), Citrus Heights
Visitors are welcome.