
The Pen & Press

May - June 2015



THANK YOU, NCPA MEMBERSHIP



Thank you, NCPA, for the support you have given during my year as your president. Without your support it would have been impossible and I am sincerely thankful. To those who have faithfully attended our monthly meetings and braved my quirky openings; just remember who was buried in Grant's tomb.

The NCPA membership has been changing since its beginning and will continue to do so. The organization must change to meet the membership needs. Change can be frightening, but it can also be very exciting. I would implore you that if you are not happy about the direction that the leaders are moving in please don't drop out. Become more active in the NCPA, be a voice to be heard, let your concerns be known, and make the group stronger and more vibrant. The new officers are going to bring us a ton of energy. It will be a very interesting time to be in the NCPA.

I would like to thank Mr. Ted Witt for guiding me through this year. Of course he is the one who was very instrumental in putting me in the president position in the first place and I'm still not too sure if I want to thank him for that . . . but I will. Thank you, Ted.

And, by the way, what was the original duty of the best man? See? You should have been at the meeting.

Thanks again, everyone. I will now go back and sit quietly in the peanut gallery.

—Dennis Potter P.E.

Changing Of The Guard



Dennis Potter has handed over the “baton” and the 2015-2016 NCPA Board will be introduced to the membership at our May 9th meeting. We welcome new officers, President, Sharon Darrow (third on the right); Vice President, Amy Rogers (far left); along with Incumbents Tom Kando (not shown) as Secretary and Laurie Hoirup as Treasurer (second on the left).

President, Sharon Darrow served as membership chair for 2½ years and as Book Awards Chair this year. She would like to see NCPA grow in numbers, energy, enthusiasm and participation.

Vice-President, Amy Rogers firmly believes that NCPA members can help each other understand changes in the publishing world and together find the best ways to get our words in front of readers. Her goal as Vice-President is to assist NCPA members advance in professionalism and increase the value of being part of this group.

Incumbent Secretary, Tom Kando has held this position for four years. He returns for his fifth year because he has grown to really like this organization. He describes the members as friendly, congenial, professional, and creative, and the meetings as “highly interesting.”

Incumbent Treasurer, Laurie Hoirup continues into her third year. She enjoys holding the Treasurer position because it allows her interaction with members, and a close connection with the other officers. She likes being part of the action and the decision-making.

Upcoming NCPA Meetings. Mark Your Calendars!

- **SATURDAY, May 9, 2015 ~ NETWORKING ~** We will introduce the new NCPA Board, hold a brief annual business meeting, have short wrap-up discussion on the book awards banquet, and an overview by Amy Rogers of the IBPA Conference.

- **SATURDAY, June 13, 2015 – NONFICTION: WRITING IT RIGHT.**

A very special guest speaker for our June meeting, Connie Goldstein, is an award-winning author of more than 17 non-fiction books and counting, has published more than 200 magazine articles, is a columnist for *California Kids*, reviews children’s books, plus she’s an RN with a BS degree in nursing, and a Master of Public Administration in health care. She has three non-fiction books coming out in the fall of 2015, and two more for 2016.

Ms. Goldsmith (who will be a member of NCPA after our June 13th meeting and eligible to enter her books coming out in 2015 in our 2016 Book Awards) will present on:

Planning Your Proposal: Get paid before you write by scoring a contract through a well-developed book proposal.

An Inbox Full of Ideas: Make part of your research come to you.

Recycle Your Research: Write a magazine article based on the research you did for your book, or vice versa. Write on the same topic for noncompeting audiences.

Stay connected to Connie Goldsmith via Twitter: @conniegoldsmith, and on her websites: www.conniegoldsmith.com; www.bombsoverbikini.com

- **SATURDAY, July 11, 2015 -** Rose Cooper (topic pending . . . stay tuned)

Thanks go to Norma Jean Thornton for her energetic, creative, and effective recruitment of speakers and selection of topics for our meetings.

Norma Jean adds: If you have any suggestions for guest speakers, and/or topics, please let me know (normathornton@yahoo.com). I'll do what I can to make it happen.

Awards Dinner Success!

M.C. Bitsi Kemper

Nationally-syndicated author, actress, reporter, columnist, children's books author, marketing and PR manager, speaker, as well as the regional advisor for the Northern California Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) – Ms. Bitsy Kemper entertained us as the MC at the well-attended 2015 Awards Ceremony held on Sunday evening, April 26th.



Congratulations to NCPA Book Award Winners!

There were 28 entries into this year's book awards. Thanks to all who participated. The judges had a difficult time deciding winners given the quality of the books submitted.



And the Winners Are



FICTION:

First Place, *The Money Run*, by Richard Steele

Second Place, *Justice & Closure*, by Daniel Pastre

Third Place, *Pianist In A Bordello*, by Mike Erickson



POETRY:

First Place, *Rumination*, by Matthias Mendezona

Honorable Mention, *I Am Somebody*, by Frances Kakugawa



NON-FICTION, MEMOIR:

First Place, *In Borrowed Houses*, by Frances Fuller

Second Place, *From Hindsight to Insight*, by Sharon Darrow

Third Place, *Faces of Rescue*, by Sharon Darrow

GENERAL NON-FICTION:

Honorable Mention, *Candy & More Sweet Stuff*, by Norma Jean Thornton

Honorable Mention, *Front Office Mastery*, by Karl Palachuk

Honorable Mention, *Employees and Internal Processes*, by Karl Palachuk

Honorable Mention, *Running the Service Department*, by Karl Palachuk

Honorable Mention, *Support and Service Delivery*, by Karl Palachuk

CHILDREN'S Category:

Honorable Mention, *Homer Finds A Home*, by Ronald Javor

COVER & DESIGN Category (this category is an **award for the Publisher**, rather than the author. If self-published, the author can submit):

First Place, *In Borrowed Houses*, by Frances Fuller

Second Place, *Rumination*, by Pretty Road Press

Third Place, *The Red Chair*, by Pretty Road Press
Honorable Mention, *Confetti*, by Pat Morin
Honorable Mention, *Front Office Mastery*, by Great Little Book Publishing
Honorable Mention, *Employees and Internal Processes*, by Great Little Book Publishing
Honorable Mention, *Running the Service Department*, by Great Little Book Publishing
Honorable Mention, *Support and Service Delivery*, by Great Little Book Publishing

Tia Jenkins 2015 Student Scholarship Winner



Congratulations to Tia Jenkins, from Casa Roble High School. Tia is the Northern California Publishers & Author’s 2015 \$1,000.00 Student Scholarship winner. The proceeds of the scholarship will be paid directly to the college of her choice once she’s enrolled and provides the college contact details. According to Tammy Andrews, NCPA Scholarship Chair, Ms. Jenkins’ “excellent skill and dedication to writing” made her the winner. It’s a privilege for the NCPA membership to help Ms. Jenkins follow her writing dreams. (Picture of Tia on the right, with her friend Nikki in the middle and Tammy Andrews, left).

NCPA 2015 Scholarship Silent Auction Huge Success, With a Few Surprises

Kudos to the generous donors to our 2015 NCPA Scholarship Silent Auction. And, thank you also to our very generous bidders, especially NCPA member, Karl Palachuk. Thank you, Karl!

As a special last-minute added attraction, NCPA member Danna Wilberg brought in a unique donation that we used as a surprise Live Auction event. What appeared to be a donation of six of her books, *The Red Chair* and *The Grey Door*, were instead six boxes of eight fancy chocolate-dipped strawberries dressed in her book-cover. Very classy Danna, and they were delicious as well as gorgeous. Thank you!

At the end of the evening, Daniel Pastre donated his evening book sales to the scholarship fund, making our GRAND TOTAL, \$710.00.

(Well-known author of more than 133 books, Self-Pub-Guru Dan Poynter also donated two books, but they didn't make it in time for the banquet. They will, however, be auctioned off at our May 2015 general meeting, with all proceeds going to the 2016 Scholarship fund).

We'd like to hit that \$1,000 mark again this year, so we're gladly accepting all suggestions and any monetary donations. Only \$290 to go!



Last year, Rosa & Ken Umbach were high bidders for one of our most popular Silent Auction donations, the KCRA 3 TV Station tour. They took that tour this year, on 24 March, and invited NCPA Treasurer Laurie Hoirup and three other friends to enjoy the event with them. (I tagged along, representing Call 3, which is no more.) Susan

McClintock, KCRA 3 Producer, gave us a special, extra-long tour that was enjoyed by all!

The picture above was taken in the newly remodeled News Room, and the oil-background is from local artist David Garibaldi, that fabulous painter who just throws paint around and it turns out actually looking like what he wants it to . . . in this case, a few of Sacramento's highlights: the State Capitol and Tower Bridge

Rosa was last year's NCPA Banquet coordinator and Ken has been our "Ken-of-all-NCPA-jobs" for several years. Unfortunately, they were unavailable to attend this year's event, and were sorely missed!

—Norma Jean Thornton, 2015 NCPA Awards Banquet Co-Chair

Here is our list of donors:

- Amy Rogers, ScienceThrillers Media ~ (Website Package)
amy@ScienceThrillersMedia.com
(916) 712-3334
- Grand Oaks Inn B&B: One-night stay plus second night at half price
PO Box 518 (21941 Buena Vista Road
Clements, CA 95227
209 759-3453
grandoaks@inreach.com; grandoaksinn.com
- Lodi Wine Country, : Mollie Bjork: All-day tickets for two, Lodi Zinfest 2015
2045 W. Turner Rd ~ Lodi, CA 95242
209-367-4727
molly@lodiwine.com
www.zinfest.com
- Old Spaghetti Factory: Gift Certificate, Dinner for two up to \$25
731 Sunrise Ave
Roseville, CA
916-773-3950
- Roaring Camp Mining Company: BBQ Steak Dinner and all-day Gold Mining Tour
Pine Grove, CA
209-296-4100
www.roaringcampgold.com
roaringcamp@volcano.net
- Sharif Jewelers: Ladies' Amethyst & Diamond Cocktail Ring, \$400 value
1338 Howe Ave, Sacramento, CA 95825
They also have stores at 1001 K St Sacramento & 341 Iron Point Rd, Folsom
916-927-0542
Sharif@SharifJewelers.com
www.sharifjewelers.com

- Susan Spann: Basket of Japanese Teas and Sweets, plus first two books of her *Shinobi* mystery series
Author-Attorney
<http://www.susanspann.com/>
- Time Tested Books: Gift Certificate
1114 - 21st St
Sacramento, CA 95811
www.timetestedbooks.net
916-447-5696
- Naida West: Nature-history walk, led by author, and catered lunch
Author & NCPA member ~ 916-985-7411
www.BridgeHouseBooks.com
- Danna Wilberg, NCPA member and author of *The Red Chair* and *The Grey Door*:
Six boxes of eight fancy, chocolate-dipped strawberries
www.dannawilberg.com ~ LIVE AUCTION

NCPA Member Spotlight

Margie Yee Webb

Margie Yee Webb started attending NCPA meetings in 2008 and subsequently made the decision to join. She became a part of NCPA to learn from her peers and to network. When she finished her manuscript for her gift book, *Cat Mulan's Mindful Musings: Insight and Inspiration for a Wonderful Life*, in 2007, she had joined the California Writers Club. Among other things, she saw her active involvement with CWC as a way to let NCPA members know about local benefits for authors, writers and aspiring writers, which she is faithful in doing. Margie says, "Our organizations are each unique and we offer activities that complement each other."

Born and raised in San Francisco, Margie attended San Francisco State University where she received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. After a 35-year career with the State of California as a Personnel Analyst, she recently retired to do what she most enjoys: writing, promoting her books, and advocating to make a difference in the lives of cats and other companion animals.



Her active involvement in CWC earned her the *2011 Jack London Award* for outstanding service to the CWC. As a past volunteer for NCPA, she worked on the Speakers Committee for the 2010 NCPA Conference. Margie believes in giving back to the organizations she belongs to when she can. She shares, "Volunteering has enriched my

membership experiences and connected me with numerous people in the greater literary community.”

Margie is both an author and publisher. She is the author and photographer of *Cat Mulan’s Mindful Musings: Insight and Inspiration for a Wonderful Life* and the publisher with Laughing Cat Press.

She is also the co-creator of *Not Your Mother’s Book . . . On Cats*, an anthology of fun and hilarious “cat-approved stories written by their humans” and the ninth book in the NYMB series, published by Publishing Syndicate.

When asked about her passions, Margie says, “I enjoy connecting with people and helping people make connections. That is the reason I continue to serve the CWC, Sacramento Branch. I value the opportunity to support and promote the club and members as well as others in the writing community. It is exciting to greet authors, writers and aspiring writers at our monthly meetings. That is also the reason I volunteer and contribute to each organization I belong to when I can.

“I am thrilled when there are book festivals, writer’s conferences, California Bookstore Day parties, and other events that celebrate and support writers, authors, books, reading and literacy...I want to make a difference. That is why I got involved as one of several producers of FEMME: Women Healing the World, an inspiring documentary film, with Director Emmanuel Itier and Executive Producer Sharon Stone. I connected to the project through CWA member Celeste Yarnall who is interviewed in the film and also one of the producers.

“This is why I also created *Cat Mulan’s Mindful Musings: Insight and Inspiration for a Wonderful Life*. I want to make a difference and to advocate for people to make a difference in the lives of cats and other companion animals. It is exciting that authors have an opportunity to make a difference through their work with the themes in their books.”

Margie Yee Webb will appear at the California Bookstore Day celebration on Saturday, May 2, 2015, at Face in a Book Bookstore & Gifts in El Dorado Hills. Activities, authors and book giveaways are scheduled throughout the day, and Margie will be featured at 2 p.m. for a “*Talk on Writers and Writing*” and sign her gift book, *Cat Mulan’s Mindful Musings: Insight and Inspiration for a Wonderful Life*. See getyourfaceinabook.com.

Margie Yee Webb (judge and mentor) and Teresa LeYung-Ryan (sponsor/judge for “Immigrant Experience Writing Contest” and mentor) will join California Writers Club colleagues on Saturday, June 6, 2015, for “Writing Contest Awards Ceremony” and “Writers Helping Writers through Mentoring.”

On Saturday, June 13, 2015, Teresa (*Build Your Writer’s Platform & Fanbase In 22 Days*) and Margie (*Cat Mulan’s Mindful Musings*) will join in for “Authors Day.”

These events are part of The Literary Stage, Fine Arts Galleria, at the San Mateo County Fair. For more information check out:

- cwc-peninsula.org/fair.html and
- sanmateocountyfair.com/pdf/2015/departments/literary_arts_15.pdf

Upcoming Book Events!

California Bookstore Day/Independent Bookstore Day

May 2, 2015

Over 400 bookstores are joining in with 16 exclusive books and art pieces offered for sale. Is your favorite indie bookstore participating? Find out by visiting indiemap.bookweb.org. For more information, visit cabookstoreday.com and indiebookstoreday.com.

Book Festival In Berkeley

Bay Area Book Festival

June 6-7, 2015

Berkeley

www.baybookfest.org/

Literary Events at the San Mateo County Fair

The Literary Stage

San Mateo County Fair

June 6, 7, 9 and 13, 2015

San Mateo

http://sanmateocountyfair.com/pdf/2015/departments/literary_arts_15.pdf

California Authors Invited For Merced County Fair

California Authors

Merced County Fair

June 10-14, 2015

Merced

www.mercedcountyfair.com/pages/fair/authors_15.html

www.mercedcountyfair.com/pdf/author_application_15.pdf

NEWS from CWC

May 2015

May 1, 2015, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch: Writers Network – Kate Asche on “Place: What It Is, Why Every Genre Needs It, and One Simple Way To Create It.” IHOP, 2216 Sunrise Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. www.cwcsacramentowriters.org

May 8, 2015, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch: Open Mic, Enjoy 10 minutes of fame! Readers and Listeners Welcome. Barnes & Noble, Birdcage Center, 6111 Sunrise Blvd., Citrus Heights, CA 95610. www.cwcsacramentowriters.org

May 16, 2015, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch: Luncheon Meeting – Joshua Mohr, novelist, on “Paracterization, a strategy that will help any writer to build character and plot.” Cattlemens Restaurant, 12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Meeting fee (includes lunch). www.cwcsacramentowriters.org

June 2015

June 5, 2015, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch: Writers Network – Janna Marlies Maron. IHOP, 2216 Sunrise Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. www.cwcsacramentowriters.org

June 12, 2015, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch: Open Mic, Enjoy 10 minutes of fame! Readers and Listeners Welcome. Barnes & Noble, Birdcage Center, 6111 Sunrise Blvd., Citrus Heights, CA 95610. www.cwcsacramentowriters.org

June 20, 2015, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch: Luncheon Meeting – Scott D. Roberts, author of *Vengeance is Now*; and writer, producer and co-director of award-winning documentary *Gas Hole*. Cattlemens Restaurant, 12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Meeting fee (includes lunch). www.cwcsacramentowriters.org

Other Notices

- ✓ Know someone who is looking for quality assisted living? Be sure to ask for a tour of our monthly meeting host, Emeritus at Citrus Gardens (formerly Merrill Gardens).
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Your notice or announcement could go here!

A Note from the Editor

Send your articles and announcements for the newsletter to Linda Bello-Ruiz at lbello Ruiz@gmail.com.



Use “NCPA NEWSLETTER” as the email subject heading!



Please provide submissions in Microsoft Word (or compatible) format or in plain text (preferably not in pdf and definitely not in jpeg or other image format for text). 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.

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 close of business, Friday, June 26, 2015. Please submit material, especially anything longer than a brief notice, well before the deadline. 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 Linda Bello-Ruiz.

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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.

—Linda Bello-Ruiz, editor

SUMMER IS UPON US. ENJOY!



Board of Directors of NCPA

President Sharon Darrow Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com 800-462-2328	Vice President Amy Rogers Amy@ScienceThrillersMedia.com 916-712-3334
Secretary Tom Kando Kandotom@csus.edu 916-852-0253	Treasurer Laurie Hoirup Laurie@LauriesLegacy.com 916-469-7695
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Speakers Bureau Chair Jo Chandler Jochandler3@yahoo.com	Awards Dinner Coordinators To be appointed by the Board.
Membership Chair To be appointed by the Board Conference Chair To be appointed by the Board.	Immediate Past President Dennis Potter dennispotter56@aol.com 916-208-8334 (work) 916-253-758 (home)

Meetings are on the second Saturday of each month, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Brookdale (formerly called 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.

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