MEETINGS CANCELED * Plus:

* CHANGES TO ALL REGULAR THURSDAY NIGHT MEETINGS - JUNE AND CONTINUING *

We’re changing to the 2nd Sun of each month from 3pm-5pm’ish. LOCATION UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME ~ we can’t schedule anywhere until after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. We’ll notify everyone as soon as we decide. SCHEDULED GUEST SPEAKERS MAY CHANGE

** WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON MEETINGS JUNE & CONTINUING will probably stay the same

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**2020 GUEST SPEAKERS 2nd Thursday each month 6:30pm-9pm**

May 14 * Catriona McPherson “Long Ago & Far Away: writing authentic time & place” to Reschedule
Jun 14 * Sigrid Bathen ~ Magazine Writing (DATE, TIME & LOCATION TO CHANGE)
Jul 12 * No GUEST SPEAKER * Housekeeping & State of NCPA *
Aug 9 * Stephanie Chandler ~ Internet Marketing & Content Marketing
Sep 13 * Jennifer Chen Tran (+maybe more?) ~ Bradford Lit Agency ~ taking your book pitches again
Oct 11 * Bitsy Kemper ~ Writing Children’s Books: Why it’s Harder than you Thought
Nov 8 * Karen Phillips ~ Book Cover Design
Dec 13 * No GUEST SPEAKER * Book Display & Sell Your Books Time

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**RSVP needed for each Wednesday norcalpa.org ~ Same Denny’s ~ 12Noon - 2pm**

Wed * Apr 2020 * No Speaker * just chit chat & other fun &/or informative, but mundane writing stuff CANCEL
Wed * May 2020 CANCELLED
Wed * 17 Jun 2020 * No Speaker * just chit chat & other fun &/or informative, but mundane writing stuff
Wed * 15 Jul 2020 CANCELLED * CA STATE FAIR TIME
Wed * 19 Aug 2020 CANCELLED * CA STATE FAIR TIME

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Come one, come all * NONmembers also WELCOME

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE AUTHOR’S PREMIER AFFAIR OF THE YEAR
ROARING 20s COSTUMED EVENT (costumes optional)

NCPA’s 26th Annual BOOK AWARDS &
1st Annual ANTHOLOGY RISK-TAKERS’ AWARDS BANQUET (Buffet)
5pm-9pm * Sunday 27 September 2020
Cherry Island Golf Course * 2360 Elverta Rd * Elverta, CA

Get your $30 tickets now * norcalpa.org (ticket deadline 13 September 2020)
President’s Message

So, Norma asked me for my president’s message before the end of March and I’ve struggled and struggled with what to write. So much has changed in the last month for the entire world. We have faced a challenge none of us has ever experienced before. We have no past to use for comfort and we can’t predict what the future will hold for us.

My father said it best the other day. His birthday is tomorrow and he’ll be 82 years old. He said to me, “I don’t have many years left. Is this what the end will be like for me, unable to see my family for one last time?” It made me feel such a gut-level punch of sadness because I honestly couldn’t reassure him that he wasn’t right. I don’t know what will happen in a year or a month, let alone tomorrow. Each day now feels like a decade, each month an eternity.

I had high hopes for 2020. I was excited to think of a new decade and the infinite possibilities open to us. I never dreamed that just three months later I’d be writing from isolation in my office, wondering if I’m going to go back to teaching in the fall or if I will still be connecting with my students over a virtual landscape. I feel so inadequate to deal with this. Everyone is suddenly an armchair quarterback, issuing out advice on how to cope with social distancing or lecturing on why it is necessary.

I fully know why it is necessary. I have done my part to comply with the orders, going out only for the direst of necessities. I don’t want to be responsible for the death of another. And yet, I can’t help but feel such sadness, such soul-deep loss for what we had. A dinner with a friend now seems like a lovely thing. Getting together for our monthly meetings is something I long to do again. A hug, once taken for granted, would be so sweet.

There are good things about this forced slowdown. I’m trying to focus on those. I filled the hummingbird feeder, something that seemed too time consumptive in my busy past life. I love to hear the beat of their wings in the yard. When I wake up in the morning, I’ve come to enjoy the cuddles of my two Golden Retrievers, just a moment to slowly enter the day without being jarred out of a deep sleep by a blaring alarm clock. I also enjoy spending an hour sitting in my backyard and absorbing the sunshine. I read a book.

But I miss my students. I miss getting in the car and going to see my dad just because. I miss going out to breakfast with my sons. I miss the basic social interactions that were such a part of the day before this--the smile, the touch of a hand, the conversation between classes while rushing to the restroom. Everything has just stopped. The world has hit the pause button. We wait.

What will be on the other side? Will we avoid hugging our friends when we see them? Will a sneeze create a pause of alarm? Will there be concerts and parties and parades again? I miss parades.

Or will it be different? Will we be more aware of how interconnected we all are? Will we realize the impact we have on the planet? Will we be more patient, more calm, more willing to accept that the pace of the world was too frenetic before? Will we appreciate the sun on a rosebush just a little more?

God, I hope so. I hope we can take this worldwide experience and be better humans. For today, I’m going to convince myself we will. For today, that’ll be enough. Be well, my fellow authors, and I’ll see you on the other side.

ML Hamilton

authormlhamilton.net
WE HAVE OUR TWO ANTHOLOGY RISK-TAKER WINNERS!
ATTEND THE BOOK AWARDS & RISK- TAKER’S AWARDS BANQUET
27 SEP 2020 to see who won!!
$30 tickets on sale now ~ DEADLINE SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

2019/ 2020 NCPA 26th Annual Book Awards Banquet
* 5pm-9pm * Sunday 27 September 2020 * Cherry Island Golf Course, Elverta *

Banquet tickets for attendees are $30 each for anyone who doesn’t have a book entered in the book awards competition. (Fee for each entry in the Book Awards competition includes one dinner.)

Menu: * Tri-Tip * Chicken Breast * Vegan Pasta * Rice * Beans * Salad * Rolls * Coffee or Tea * Special Cake, ½ Chocolate, ½ White. (No-Host Bar: Wine and Beer available)

Now, authors with a story in an anthology also have something to look forward to at the Book Awards! If you’ve never attended an NCPA Book Awards Banquet, you’ve missed a lot of fun ~ great camaraderie with other authors and wannabees … published or not … I guarantee, you’ll be bitten by the bug.

Sign up for the Banquet (GREAT GIFT FOR THE HARD-TO-GET-FOR) at norcalpa.org

Contact Norma if you have questions: NCPAAnthology2019@gmail.com

I haven’t contacted any speakers yet to advise of changes, but will send information out as soon as I do.

ABOVE SCHEDULED GUEST SPEAKERS MAY CHANGE SINCE MEETING DATES HAVE
NO JULY SPEAKER  (State of NCPA & Housekeeping)  * NO DEC SPEAKER  (Book Display & Sales)

RESCHEDULED
TO: Sunday 27 Sep 2020
BOOK AWARDS Banquet  * plus *
Birds of a Feather & More Birds of a Feather
Anthology Risk-Taker Award

Editor’s Ramblings: Surviving Coronavirus: one of many events the US has experienced:

Out comes the cheerleader in me - unfortunately I have absolutely no rhythm nor talent for actual cheerleading, but I can present one heck of an emotional semi-cheer. As an example, a bit of gallows humor, to start, in an excerpt from a story in my 2nd Vol of Wet Kitty Kisses, More Death & How to Deal with It.

My mother refused to go to the doctor, except to have three babies; the last one born in 1950. Her next visit was after a car wreck in 1993, where after doing a chest X-ray for injuries from the seat belt, they found she had stage-4 lung cancer That just reinforced what Mom always maintained: the only time she was sick or hurting was if she went to the doctor and they found something … ergo, had she not gone, it wouldn’t have been found and she would have been fine, even though she wasn’t fine when she went. Ironically, I totally understand what she means. I do go to the doctor, but feel that same way about a dentist. If you ignore it maybe it will just go away. That doesn’t work.

I’m not sure if Mom actually believed that, psyched herself into it, or only told us that, “just because.” But here’s the kicker: the entire time I was growing up, Mom always told us to keep a positive attitude, and with that positive attitude, you could beat out anything negative.

Ya know what? It really did work, for a very long time. I could almost always will myself not to get sick. Even if I felt like I was going to upchuck, I’d just keep telling myself I wasn’t going to…. I was ok … take deep breaths and wash your face with cold water … breathe cold air … and all of those things would normally work; I had perfect attendance in school all but one year.

Except with those darned cherries … I was 8 years old and, Mom was very big and pregnant with my middle sister…. If you want to know what happened, Email me.

The moral of that story is, KEEP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE about this Coronavirus … push out the negative thoughts, look at the glass half-full instead of half-empty, and find new things to do … or better yet, revisit those things you did as a child, or with your children that you and they enjoyed: Like board games, telling ghost stories while making s’mores, camp in your backyard, jump rope, play hopscotch with your kids or grands, read a book, start, or get back to sewing, crocheting, quilting, gather all those family recipes and make a cookbook, go to ancestry.com and start working on your genealogy … write your life story for your kids and grands. Listen to music, bake, teach your kids or grands how to cook, make candy, or bake cookies, paint … etc.

Daddy was 13 and Mom 9, both living in Missouri, when the Great Depression hit. Mom told us her Dad had a decent livelihood, and suddenly had nothing, including money to buy food for their cows - farmers and neighbors survived by helping one-another – because they couldn’t afford to continue feeding them, they had to butcher all their hogs and cows, except one cow for milk. Since they had no freezer, only a cool creek and cave behind their house, butchered animals had to be eaten immediately, so they shared with neighbors who didn’t have animals.

Others raised chickens and eggs they shared, some had corn, grains and flour to share – her Mom made clothes from flour sacks, just one piece of hard candy was a luxury in the Christmas stocking, and they felt really lucky if they got a piece of fresh fruit – a banana, apple or orange in the stocking was a prize. FIND YOUR PIECE OF HARD CANDY, banana, apple or an orange!

I was 4½ when WWII ended, have been told some stories, but even at that young age, I have memories of certain things: gas rationing (my uncle used all of his to take me for a car ride each night to get me to go to sleep I’ve heard, over and over), nylon socks and food, ration books and stamps … even the punch boards (do a Google if you don’t know what they are.) Making that glob of white lard-looking oleomargarine into a palatable yellow by adding the orange-dye tablet and mixing … by hand … thoroughly to get that light golden yellow color we now know butter or margarine by. If ya didn’t, it looked like you were eating a chunk of extremely greasy beef fat! A roll of toilet paper looks more appetizing than that stuff did!

(If you want to read the rest, it’s continued on page 12)
This is part of the color scheme for the 26th Annual 2020 Book Awards Program, pictured below.

Unfortunately, my photo skills suck, and this is the best I could get. That blue border is completely wrong. Try to visualize it using this as the border color, which matches our poster ~ and will hopefully also match our cake at the Banquet Sun 27 Sep 2020.

If I can get a better copy later, will share it.

Sunday 27 September 2020
$30

BOOK Award & RISK-TAKER Awards for Birds of a Feather & More Birds of a Feather

Come one, come all * NONmembers also WELCOME

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NCPA Elections: Sharon will send Election info out ASAP

*LOOK FOR YOUR ELECTION BALLOTS SOMETIME SOON* If you want to volunteer for a position, they’re all open … just let one of us know & submit your name.

Stuck at home with the kids, from little ones, to 12 and under?

Check out busytoddler.com * downloadable pdf on * playing preschool - 190 days of at-home-learning for the tiny ones, 2.5-5 years * 25+ Kindergarten Learning Activities * Activities for Kids ages 8-12 years* Math, Puzzles, plus lots more, all at very reasonable prices … and one FREE downloadable pdf, 35 Easy Activities to Break up the Day

LOL … I just looked at those. #12 is building towers using toilet paper … and pretend they’re snow forts. This must be what’s happening to a LOT of those packages of TP flying off the shelves! BTW: I ordered this for my 2½-year-old great-grandson, and he and his parents love it. Will order one for each of the other two great-grandsons when I talk to their parents (in Nebraska) to make sure they have access. Only 4 months between the 3 of them!

**FAIR DATES & INFO**  * SAC CO & STATE FAIRS STILL SCHEDULED TO GO* UPDATED 5 APRIL 2020

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN ENTERING COMPETITIONS AT THE FAIRS (cooking, art, needlework, etc.)


2020 CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR Fri 17 July – Sun 2 August for more info, including all competitions such as art, photography, crafts, cooking: CAstatefair.org ** COMPETITION HANDBOOK AVAILABLE 1 APR 2020**

2020 PLACER COUNTY FAIR * June 25-28 * 2020 EL DORADO COUNTY FAIR * June 18- 21 *

2020 YOLO CO FAIR * 19-23 Aug * 2020 NEVADA CO FAIR * 12-16 Aug * 2020 COLUSA CO * 11-14 Jun *

2020 YUBA-SUTTER FAIR * 30 Jul-2 Aug * 2020 SAN JOAQUIN CO FAIR * 18-21 June * I know nothing about these County Fairs or others, nor is there room for their web sites … Google for more info on your county

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ATTEND THE BOOK AWARDS & RISK-TAKER’S AWARDS BANQUET
27 SEP 2020 to see who won!!

$30 tickets on sale now

More of Our Confusing, Twisted English Language
STOP SWITCHING BACK and FORTH and SPELL THOSE WORDS ONE WAY!

Do any of you have double-words that you can’t make up your mind which spelling to use, when both are correct? Mine are all important ones to my writing, because they apply to two things I mainly write about: cooking and traveling in the RV.

Is it motor home, or motorhome? Cook books or cookbooks? Corn meal or cornmeal? Corn bread or cornbread? I catch myself switching back and forth numerous times, sometimes in the same paragraph!

I’ve finally hit upon a solution for the cooking stuff, that’s helped a little: If I need to watch the word count, depending on whether I need more or less words, dictates if I use cookbook, cornmeal & cornbread as one or two words. Usually one.

Hopefully I can remember to do that with motorhome, also. The editor caught me on that, while reading my story for the Travel Anthology. Maybe I’ll just stick with RV, which I also use intermittently, even when I speak!

If you have any words like that, let me know … I’ll include them in our Twist English Language section next time.
As promised, the updated specs on our 2020 Travel-themed Anthology, 

DESTINATION: The World – Vol 1 & Vol 2

At our recent Board meeting, we discussed the Travel Anthology and concluded we hadn’t been completely clear on what we’d like to see for this edition.

I’m going to try to clear up the oversight and if you have further questions, please feel free to email me and I will do my best to answer them. I’m keeping my fingers crossed that I’m not just going to muddy everything up. If I do, again, please let me know.

We’d like to receive stories that have not been previously published. However, if you have already sent in a story, or have one ready to send that has been previously published (unless there are other issues), it’s acceptable this time, since we didn’t notify everyone in advance this year. For those who this applies to, we’ll speak with each of you privately

✓ The theme is travel, but we still want a good story, meaning it should have a beginning, middle and end. We also need the who, why, what, when, where and how of each story…. In detail. Remember, we want the general public (not just authors) to read our anthology for entertainment purposes.

✓ Many of the stories we are receiving are about transportation, rather than travel. We aren’t looking so much for a story about the method of how you arrived at a place, but rather the experiences you had getting there. Did anything fun, exciting, or challenging happen? Be specific; give all details.

✓ In other words, did you try new food, did you see new sights, did you experience a cultural event that you’d never seen before? Did anything fun, exciting, or challenging happen? Be specific; give all details

✓ It doesn’t have to be a vacation, it could be something you experienced while traveling for a job, or any other reason: honeymoon, anniversary, doing research, book tour, conference or convention, visiting sick family member, graduation, death, etc.

✓ The main goal is to make our readers experience something new, vicariously. If your story is only about transportation, can you immerse us in that experience? Did anything fun, exciting, or challenging happen? Be specific; give all details, such as, did your train run away on the tracks? Was your bus hijacked then saved by a Sandra Bullock look-alike? Did your plane lose an engine; was your ship quarantined for coronavirus, etc.?

✓ Give us a tour with sensory details. What did you see, taste, hear? (Be specific in all details.) Where did you go, how did you get there, etc. (Be specific in all details.) What new people did you meet, could you speak the language, did you learn a new language, or did you mess up on the language, and how? Be specific; give all details.

I hope that gives more direction. Again, if you have questions (questions only) about the above, please don’t hesitate to shoot me an email (BUT DO NOT SEND YOUR STORY TO Michelle unless she specifically asks you to, or it might not make it to the Anthology. NJT)

ML Hamilton authormlhamilton.net

Editor’s Note: Your story and any follow-up revision or addition to it, must ONLY go to the dedicated email NCPAAnthology2019@gmail.com or it may not be in the Anthology. It’s too easy to be overlooked, or missed, if sent to the wrong Email address.
FREE PR: SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT FOR YOU AUTHORS WHO ARE ALREADY PUB’D:

The NCPA Anthology is a great FREE, QUICK, EZ-MARKETING OPPORTUNITY, with free advertising to expose a group of authors and others, to one of your stories, get a taste of your writing, and have your book titles plus contact info at hand, if they like your story ~ all it takes is a little of your time to write and submit a STAND-ALONE story about Travel; as little as 500, to as many as 3000 words. Then at our Annual Holiday Luncheon at Black Angus Sunday 6 Dec 2020, as well as our Sunday 13 Dec meeting LOCATION TBD, bring all of your books to share, barter, trade, sell, or whatever. (You can’t say we didn’t give you plenty of warning!)

DESIgn: THE WORLD
Vol 1 & Vol 2
Coming 6 Dec 2020

DESTINATION: THE WORLD
NCPA Anthology 2020
volume 1
a collection of short stories about travel

If you haven’t completed your 2020 Census yet, do it now! It’s really quick and easy. If you can’t find your paperwork, go to 2020census.gov - they’ll help you.

Music Circus Canceled first time in 70 years. For those who like musicals, I’ve found a few great songs on YouTube to take up some of your time while hibernating … plus one holiday surprise: (Click to skip ads).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IL6Swa1NJDC CRAWFORD & BRIGHTMAN from Phantom of the Opera
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IL6Swa1NJDC OSMOND Any Dream Will Do * Technicolor Dreamcoat
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-t-M8J86xtw SALONGA & CHASE * from Miss Saigon * Solo Saxophone
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-WtEPct3Ttw SALONGA & BOWMAN * Miss Saigon * Sun & Moon Mix
https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=sleigh+ride+mp3+Boston+Pops&docid=607988603611906163&mid=472BFD0D29EA91E17692472BFD0D29EA91E17692&view=detail&FORM=VIRE Surprise with Boston Pops

Go to the NCPA website at norcalpa.org and follow instructions on the main page regarding submitting to the anthology (under the picture of the animals), or, Click here for details. There are five (5) attachments you need to submit: each by separate attachment, please.

1. Your signed agreement
2. Your signed application
3. Your story, in word ONLY, NO PDF  * Will be returned unread if sent any other way.
   a. 500 to 3000 words *
   b. Garamond Font *
   c. 12 pt Font *
   d. Single Space *
4. Your bio:  italicize all book titles, please
5. Your picture:
   a. JPG or JPEG ONLY, or it won’t be accepted. (Yes, there’s a difference, if you use Mac) if you don’t know how to do a JGP/ JPEG, or have other questions, please contact me NCPAAAnthology2019@gmail.com

$30 tickets on sale now for the 26th Annual Book Awards Banquet (& NEW RISK-TAKER’S AWARD: one for each volume of the 2019 NCPA Animal Anthology.)

Go to norcalpa.org for more information.
AND * Submit your Travel/ Vacation stories now for this year’s 2020 NCPA Anthology, win an award at next year’s 2021 Book Awards & Anthology Risk Taker’s Banquet! You never know unless you try! PLUS, IT’S FREE TO ENTER!
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 2019 Book Awards Banquet
SUNDAY 27 September 2020 at the Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta

SILENT AUCTION DONORS 2019 * THANK YOU SO MUCH to last year’s donors *

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

“Holiday Placer Pops” Chorale & Orchestra 2020
Great present for everyone * www.placerpops.com Harris Center in Folsom *** DATES & TIMES COMING SOON
Dietrich Theatre in Rocklin *** DATES & TIMES COMING SOON

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

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
**Registration now open**
*World Mystery Convention Bouchercon is coming to Sacto!*  
*Bouchercon2020.org*  
**15-18 October 2020**, NCPA's own Rae James is Chair of Bouchercon 2020 at the Sacramento Convention Center

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

**MEETING CANCELED FOR APRIL**

**CWC meeting**  
3rd Sat monthly 11am-1pm  
CWCSacramentowriters.org  
$20-member $25 Non-member lunch included  
**APRIL MEETINGS CANCELED**  
1st Fri each month Perko’s 6215 Sunrise  
New  
3rd Sat each month at Cattleman’s on Folsom

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

**26th NCPA BOOK AWARDS BANQUET**  
5pm-9pm  
Sun 27 Sept 2020

CWC’s new location Friday morning meetings * PERKO’s 6215 Sunrise, Citrus Heights APR CANCELED

**Sun 6 Dec 2020 ~ 12Noon-? Citrus Heights’ Black Angus on Greenback**  
NCPA’s 2020 Holiday Luncheon & Book Launch for DESTINATION: The World

**DOING GENEALOGY? 2020 Genealogy Presentations at Sacramento Central Library**

All lectures on Sundays, new time effective Jan 2020 1:00pm – 2:30pm West Meeting Room 1st Floor  
There is no registration. For information, please contact Beth Daugherty, Librarian, at bdaugherty@saclibrary.org Sacramento Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814,  
Phone: 916-264-2920. Website: http://www.saclibrary.org

**April 5:** Overcoming the Most Challenging DNA Problems  
James Baker, PhD  
**CANCEL CoronaV**

**May 3:** Topic TBD – Nancy Loe

**June 7:** Researching Gold Rush Era Ancestors – Melinda Kashuba, PhD

**July 12:** 25 Websites to Find U.S. Vital Records -- Gena Philibert-Ortega

**August 9:** Pivotal Events Impacting America’s Westward Migration -- Kathryn Marshall, PhD

**Sept 13:** But It Wasn’t a Foreign Language to Your Ancestors - Janice Sellers

**October 4:** An Introduction to DNA Painter – Stephanie K. West

**November 8:** Book Publishing Features in Pedigree Software and FamilySearch Affiliates  
– Kathryn Marshall, PhD

**December 6:** An Introduction to German Genealogy – Ingeborg Carpenter

Send us your writing/ publishing/ “the End" information * If it fits, we’ll include it … as long as it’s writing-relevant. 
normathornton@yahoo.com
Like many, I grew up during the Cold War crisis, but in a small resort town 100 miles or so north of San Francisco, which was expected to be bombed. Fallout from the bomb was capable of reaching us. Civil Defense shelters were started, we ducked and sheltered under our desks at school, and my dad was slightly involved with CD Meetings, so we knew more about it than most. I was terrified about the potential radiation fallout. Even at that, there were others around the whole world who had actually suffered, and were still suffering, their countries, towns and homes going through worse. And how about Pearl Harbor, for us?

Many of you went through what I’ve described, many of you worse … we have several members who come from war-torn countries in Europe and elsewhere, some are Americans who lived in those countries during war-time, because of jobs. Yes, this Coronavirus is something different, but the fear, sadness, and unsureness is still there. Look on the bright side. Once this is over, at least most if not all of our homes and buildings, our towns, cities and states will still be standing, a bit different perhaps, but still there.

So we have to stay inside for a while … enjoy it! At least we have electricity, freezers, heat, air conditioning, TV, different kinds of CDs than during the Cold War, cable stations to help spread drama and scare us even more, video games, cell phones, iPads, mp3s, computers and more. And actual already golden yellow butter and oleo! Other countries have less, and they’re going through the same health scare and restrictions we are … but theirs are even worse.

Until the late 40s, early 50s, the only electronic and techie things we had growing up, was a radio to listen to, records and home movies of the family, then came TV. We made up things to do when cooped-in due to storms and snow. There’s no reason why we can’t do that now. Just look around you … find something to do that you’ve always wanted to try but haven’t. Try a new recipe. There’s much one can do. WRITE A TRAVEL STORY FOR THE 2020 ANTHOLOGY!

Ever lived in a 36’ motor home for 6 weeks with hubby and 3 cats? I have. You adjust quick. Basically, you’re all learning what it’s like to suddenly be retired … what many of you have been looking forward to your whole lives … but without the means of transportation to go anywhere. Take advantage of this time. Enjoy the peace and quiet while you can. This too shall pass, and will be over soon, getting everyone back to the hustle-bustle of everyday life.

Hopefully the federal government has things in hand to help those unfortunates whose jobs have been hit hard, or have been laid off, and it won’t be long before that financial worry will be decreased and eventually resolved.

One thing that can’t be forgotten, is how our TV news-media has dealt with it. And I’m not about to say what you think I am … this is not political. Since the shelter-in-place and 6’ social distancing has gone into effect, TV news, and other hosts no longer have hair and makeup done, and are doing their own. Even the guys apply their own makeup, and need haircuts. The gals look completely different because they don’t know how to apply their own makeup, or do their own hair. One gal said she never wears makeup, so had none. The TV station sent her home with a makeup kit. She had to face-time a fellow host to get help on how to apply it; she didn’t know what to do with the eyelashes, and kept gluing her eyelids together. True hair colors are beginning to show …. And these home versions of talk shows are crazy!

Finally, to those in my life who have complained, commented, razzed or attempted to shame me over my excess buying of multiples on foodstuffs on sale … or not … now who’s the smart one!? I counted - I have 14 bags of dried beans, 22 packages of a variety of pastas, 12 cans of Tomatoes - IT or MX-flavored - 2 small & 6 med cans of tom sauce, 30 cans of a variety of cream-of soups to use like seasonings in other things I cook, plenty of all types meat in the freezer; potatoes, dried stuff, all the staples, flour, sugar, cornmeal, salt, catsup, baking powder, baking soda, maple flavor, syrup, stuff for candy … even enough egg whites in the freezer to make two angel food cakes, plus a turkey and ham … enough food for a year, basically. All but extra TP. I didn’t want to be one of “them” so passed it by when it was my normal time to buy it!
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 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

Gold Country Writers (GCW)
- 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”
  http://goldcountrywriters.com/ 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

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 …
  Go to their website for full information: https://canorthcentral.scbwi.org/

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

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**Monthly Speaker Coordinator**
Norma Jean Thornton

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**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
12 Noon to 2pm Denny's 3520 Auburn Blvd **RSVP's REQUIRED**

Meetings are always FREE ~ Visitors are always welcome.

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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

www.norcalpa.org