Thursday * 9 January 2020 * 6:30pm–9pm

BITSY KEMPER

Writing Children's Books: Why it's Harder Than You Thought

Everyone has a great idea for a children's book. And with so few words, how hard can it be? That's why some publishers get 10,000 submissions a year and may only publish 6. Learn the challenges of kidlit along with the joys, and how to get your first work a step ahead of the crowd.

Denny’s (in the Private back room)

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

No-host food &/or beverage

Friends, Family, non-members welcome ~ FREE MEETING FOR ALL

Summary: Everyone has a great idea for a children's book. And with so few words, how hard can it be? That's why some publishers get 10,000 submissions a year and may only publish 6. Learn the challenges of kidlit along with the joys, and how to get your first work a step ahead of the crowd.

Bio: Bitsy Kemper is author of 21 children's books, from picture books to chapter books to YA. You may have seen her on CNN, heard her on CBS National Radio, or read her nationally-syndicated newspaper column (that also ran in the Bee). A recovering corporate marketing manager, she's spent the past decade writing and raising her three children (four if you count her husband). Find out more at www.BitsyKemper.com

9 JAN 2020 SPEAKER BITSY KEMPER
President’s Message

So here we stand on the precipice of a new decade. Someone reminded me the other day of the year 2000 when the entire world feared what a new century would bring, and Y2K became an obsession for so many people. We feared that none of the computers would be able to cope with the new century, we feared that our electrical grid would fail. My own mother envisioned a Mad Max dystopian universe with a lot of heavy-metal guitar. She forced us all to hunker down in her middle-class home to wait out the coming disaster. As I look back over the last twenty years, my life has deviated a lot from that Y2K panic.

I’ve always had a horrified fascination with apocalyptic literature. One of my favorite Stephen King books is *The Stand*, and yes, I’ve read the megalith thousand-page version he released after he became famous. I’m not sure what it is that fascinates people about apocalyptic tropes. Maybe it’s wondering how we ourselves would fare in a world gone mad. Not well, I suspect, on my part. I don’t even like camping, to be honest.

Wondering what the future holds can be so captivating. Will this be the Roaring Twenties of Gatsby-esque fedoras and champagne, or the horrors of 1984 with Big Brother watching over us? I suspect the only people who might have an idea are the science fiction writers. While reading *Fahrenheit 451* with my students in December, I remarked on the fact that Bradbury’s parlor walls have become reality in the form of our big screen television sets. And this month, as I teach *Frankenstein*, I’m reminded that genetic engineering is a brave new frontier of human development, a concept Mary Shelley envisioned more than two hundred years ago.

Incidentally, *Frankenstein* was published January 1, 1818, a sort of New Year’s resolution in and of itself.

Whatever this decade brings you, I hope it is adventure and insight, intrigue and daring. Of course, since you’re all writers, it’s bound to be all those things. Go forth, my colleagues, and predict the future. Happy New Year!

*Michelle Hamilton, President NCPA*

ANTHOLOGY RISK TAKER AWARD during the BOOK AWARDS BANQUET:

We often fear stepping outside our comfort zone to try new things, but sometimes when you do, you find yourself meeting a whole new group of people, experiencing things that you’ll never forget, and once in a while, once in a rare, beautiful moment, you get to hear the crowd roar for something you’ve done. It’s priceless.

Because NCPA is about encouraging each other to do new things, I’m so proud to announce that we will be adding an award to the Book Awards Program called the Risk-Taker Award. This first year we will be giving out two awards (one for each anthology), to the writer who has taken risks with his or her writing. The awards can be bestowed for any of the following reasons:

- a writer who wrote outside his or her usual genre,
- a writer who worked exceptionally hard to perfect his or her craft, or
- a writer who is publishing for the first time.

I’m so excited to announce this award and hope everyone who submitted stories to one, or both, of the anthologies, *Birds of a Feather*, and *More Birds of a Feather*, will attend the Book Awards Banquet, to see who wins, and who knows? You may be the one hearing the roar of the crowd when we announce your name.

*Michelle Hamilton, President NCPA*
Feb 2020 Speakers * “A Taxing Panel” * Gary McKinsey, representing the IRS *
*Alvaro Hernandez from the FTB * Chris Rice from CDTFA (formerly SBOE) *

**Gary McKinsey Business Success Coach**
Professional Speaker and Workshop Leader.
**Certified Guerrilla Marketing Coach.**
How to Increase your Customer Engagement Through Video
Working With You to Build Your Dream Business
Phone: 209-345-4230

**Alvaro E. Hernandez, FTB Education and Outreach Manager, Franchise Tax Board**
For more than 25 years, Alvaro E. Hernandez has worked for the Franchise Tax Board (FTB), and for most of those years he has provided education and outreach services to taxpayers, small business owners, and other stakeholders

**Chris Rice CDTFA Business Taxes Administrator**
Sacramento, California Area
**Business Taxes Administrator CDTFA**
Oct 2015 – Present4 years 3 months Sacramento, California
**Business Taxes Specialist California State Board of Equalization**
Jan 2014 – Oct 20151 year 10 months Sacramento, California
**Business Taxes Specialist Tax Auditor Board Of Equalization**
Jan 2007 – Jan 2014 - 7 years 1 month

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**2019/ 2020 NCPA 26th Annual Book Awards Banquet**
* 5pm-9pm * Sunday 26 April 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](mailto:norcalpa.org)

Contact Norma if you have questions: [NCPAAnthology2019@gmail.com](mailto:NCPAAnthology2019@gmail.com)

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**APR 2020**
**Update on BOOK AWARDS & Travel Anthology * PLUS * Speaker: Winner of NCPA’s entry * for IBPA Conference Scholarship * Angelica Jackson’s Report on the IBPA Conference**

**Sunday 26 APR 2020**
**BOOK AWARDS Banquet * plus * Birds of a Feather & More Birds of a Feather Anthology Risk-Taker Award**

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**MAR 2020**
**Speaker**
Naida West
**Topic TBD**
MAY 2020 Speaker * Catriona McPherson
“Long Ago and Far Away: writing authentic time and place”

Catriona McPherson is the national best-selling and multi-award-winning author of the Dandy Gilver series of preposterous detective stories, set in her native Scotland in the 1930s. She also writes darker contemporary standalone suspense and has recently begun the Last-Ditch trilogy, loosely based on her immigrant experience in a northern California college town.

Catriona is a proud lifetime member and former national president of Sisters in Crime, committed to advancing equity and inclusion for women, writers of colour, LGBTQ+writers and writers with disability in the mystery community. www.catrionamcpherson.com

JUNE 2020 *
Sigrid Bathen
Magazine Writing
Sigridbathen.com

July 2020 * No Speaker *
State of NCPA & Housekeeping

September 2020 SPEAKER, AGENT JENNIFER CHEN TRAN * Book Pitch
Jennifer Chen Tran is an agent at Bradford Literary joining in September 2017. She represents both fiction and non-fiction. Originally from New York, Jennifer is a lifelong reader and experienced member of the publishing industry. Prior to joining Bradford Literary, she was an Associate Agent at Fuse Literary and served as Counsel at The New Press. She obtained her Juris Doctor from Northeastern School of Law in Boston, MA, and a Bachelors of Arts in English Literature from Washington University in St. Louis.

Jennifer Chen Tran, Literary Agent, Bradford Literary
(516) 350-1653 * @jenchentran

October 2020 SPEAKER
Pending ~ Suggestions?
Contact me normathornton@yahoo.com

November 2020 SPEAKER, Karen Phillips
Book Cover Design phillipscovers.com

DECEMBER 2020
NO SPEAKER
*NCPA MEMBER BOOK DISPLAY
*NCPA MEMBER BOOK SALE

Your book cover receives experienced, expert design front, back and spine all designed myself. (If your book is hardcover, jacket flaps are included.) You are entitled to see three different cover concepts. You own all rights to the cover design. You have unlimited usage of the cover, in any form you wish, forever.
PREPARING TO ENTER A STORY in the NCPA 2020 Travel Anthology

To those who haven’t submitted a story yet, and those few who skipped some of the instructions for *More Birds of a Feather* (you know who you are :) I’m repeating those instructions, with the strong suggestion, that if you don’t have a critique group, you really should get involved in one … NOW.

Rather than have your story returned for the same thing that a regular publisher, editor or agent would reject, we have very strict guidelines, some of which are bulleted below, that you’ll hopefully follow:

When your story is complete, or during the process, have your critique group check it for you.

1. **If you don’t have a critique group, let us know.** We can possibly help with that … after all, we want each of you to submit the best possible story you can.
2. **Final thing before sending to NPCA, be sure to *PRINT IT OUT * PROOFREAD * your own story, for clarification, typos, grammatical errors, etc., (e.g. misspelled words, capitalization, punctuation, convoluted sentences, etc.)** Stories with major issues will be returned to Author, without being thoroughly proofed or edited, for Author to fix and return, or send a different story.
3. Then, **READ IT OUT LOUD** prior to sending, to make sure it sounds like you want it to.
4. This is not a critique group, to catch major errors or mistakes. Authors are expected to do that prior to submitting. Again, if you don’t have a critique group, please let us know.
5. **Stories received with multiple typos, grammatical, structural, or punctuation errors may be returned, without being completely read, and without explicit corrections suggested.**
6. Make sure your story is thoroughly critiqued, proofed, read, and ready to go, before sending to NCPAAnthology2019@gmail.com if not it WILL be returned to you un-proofed/ un-edited.
7. NCPA has the option to deny or refuse a story if it doesn’t meet our requirements, or standards, and unfortunately, have previously done so.

THE PUBLISHING PROCESS

I proof all stories. If major obvious stuff that should be caught by you, the author, prior to being sent in, like a lot of incorrect or wrong spelling, punctuation, missing words, extra words, incomplete sentences, typos, clarifications needed, etc., that story will be returned for the AUTHOR to correct and re-send.

Much of that can be corrected by the author prior to sending the first time, by looking closely at any auto-corrected areas identified with either squiggly blue or red lines under the offending words, etc. Once proofing problems have been fully addressed by both, it will go to the 1st editor for review. (I’m a proof-reader, **not** an editor, although sometimes I can also catch some of that editor stuff.) From there, the story is either returned to the author for correction or changes, and once returned to me, complete, it’s on to Michelle for the final editing process to be put together as a book, then to Sharon for publishing.

- We want to encourage each of our members to submit a story, and to those writers who have yet to publish out of fear of rejection, don’t think your piece is good enough, etc., now’s your chance.
- However, this is a very time-consuming project, with very few of us working on it, and we don’t have time to do an intense critique on every story, so forgive me for being blunt in what I’m about to say.
- We’re all writers, and we all need to begin somewhere. The first place to begin, is to get a thick skin, because we all wind up needing it at one time or another, when our stories are critiqued negatively, or we think it’s negative. Join a critique group and find that out! So, “lizard-it-up”, and let’s get started!
- “If you don’t have a critique group, now’s the time to get one.” You’ve seen that mentioned several times in here, for very good reason. EVERYONE needs a critique group, even well-established authors, at least in the beginning. And again, if you don’t have one, or don’t know how to get one, ask us. Sharon and I have been discussing setting up a critique group specifically for NCPA members, especially for the Anthologies. If we get enough interest in it, we probably will, so let us know. We promise to not be too harsh on you :)
- **Authors** ~ Get started, and send in those stories! You have until 30 June 2020 to work on this one!
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 Thursday 10 Dec meeting at Denny’s, bring all of your books to share, barter, trade, sell, or whatever. (You can’t say we didn’t give you plenty of warning!)

DESTINATION: THE WORLD

How to submit a story Soft Deadline 30 June 2020
Free for NCPA’s 2020 Travel Anthology, *Destination: The World*

Go to the NCPA website at [norcalpa.org](http://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:
   a. *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 JPG/ JPEG, or have other questions, please contact me NCPAAAnthology2019@gmail.com

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

**2020 SACRAMENTO COUNTY FAIR** Thu 21 May – Mon 25 May [Sacfair.com](http://Sacfair.com) for more info, including all competitions such as art, photography, crafts, cooking (competition booklet not ready yet; I'll try to remember to let everyone know when it is, for submission deadlines.)

**2020 CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR** Fri 17 July – Sun 2 August [CAstatefair.org](http://CAstatefair.org) for more info, including all competitions such as art, photography, crafts, cooking (competition booklet not ready yet; I’ll try to remember to let everyone know when it is, for submission deadlines.)

**2020 PLACER COUNTY FAIR** * June 25-28 * **2020 EL DORADO COUNTY FAIR** * June 18- 21 * I know nothing about these County Fairs or others … do a Google for more info on your County if it’s not one of these.
Have you started your story yet for the 2020 NCPA Travel-themed Anthology, DESTINATION: THE WORLD? Submissions now being accepted Soft-Deadline 30 June, 2020, but space is going fast for both Vol 1 & Vol 2. Before you ask, the answer is YES, if you have a story in Birds of a Feather, &/or More Birds of a Feather, you may still submit for Destination: The World. You may also submit one story for each volume of Destination. Reserve your pages … let me know now, that you’ll be submitting a travel story ~ NCPAAntology2019@gmail.com ~ (any type travel, anywhere, all genre, even Sci-Fi. We don’t need a title or word count yet, just a commitment.) **ALL STORIES MUST BE STAND-ALONE STORIES**

- Author MUST be an NCPA member in good standing in order to submit a story
- If you’d like to join, membership is $40/year
- Costs NOTHING for your story to be included in the Anthology
- Perks: you receive one free book and option to purchase more at cost, to sell later for profit.
- The biggie? You’ll be a published author, if you aren’t already.
- If you’re already published, it’s a great marketing tool and an excellent way to make easy money
- We have an Email account especially for anthologies ONLY, so there won’t be the issue of Email from other places, for different topics conflicting with anthology stuff.
- The ONLY Email TO BE USED for the Anthology is NCPAAntology2019@gmail.com

**Destination: The World (Travel-themed Anthology) VOL 1 & VOL 2!**

**Start writing now, for the 30 June 2020 soff DEADLINE**

First-come, first-serve, for **35 stories**: let us know if you’re planning to submit an entry. Send an Email to hold your page-space. You don’t need a title, nor word count now, just let us know you’ll have a story. **We already have 33 RSVPs and I’ve received 10 stories so far for Vol 1, and 11 RSVPs for Vol 2** (that one will be given a title during our Anthology Committee meeting in Jan 2020; interest has been so great, we wound up with a second one before we even had a chance to think about it, and they’ll publish at the same time.)

NCPA dedicated Email address, below, for anything Anthology-related: Contact me

NCPAAntology2019@gmail.com

Launch date for both DESTINATION anthologies is scheduled for 12Noon-?? Sunday 6 December 2020, at the Black Angus Restaurant on Greenback @ Sunrise, Citrus Heights, along with our 4th Annual Holiday Luncheon

2019 BOOK AWARDS * still ACCEPTING ENTRIES* (deadline 31 Jan)

As of today, 6 January, 2020, Sharon has received 26 book entries. If your book was published and available to the public PRIOR to 31 Oct 2019, YOU’VE MISSED THE EARLY BIRD price, and it will now cost you more.

**HOWEVER ~ if your book will publish between 1 November 2019 and 31 December 2019, the price will be the EARLY BIRD price of $65 (member) or $95 (non-member) until 30 November, then see above.**

New cut-off date is 31 January 2020, for Sharon to receive a book entry to the competition.

If any of the deadlines are confusing to you (they are me), contact Sharon for assistance: 916-803-1665 * or * Sharon@SharonSDarrow.com

Article on our very own Past President, Diedre Wolownick, as the Oldest, and a 9 year old as the Youngest women to climb El Capitan * https://www.mensjournal.com/adventure/the-youngest-and-oldest-women-to-climb-el-capitan-are-a-9-year-old-and-alex-honnolds-mom/ * ALSO a Video, live from Switzerland, on Diedre’s son Alex Honnold, Nobel Week Dialogue 2019 and his record FREE SOLO climb up El Capitan ~ Diedre is included in this video * https://www.facebook.com/nobelprize/videos/519787718610922/ * AND

**ALEX is Running Wild with Bear Grylls TONIGHT, 7 January 2020, on your National Geographic Station**
2020 NCPA Book Awards Competition (for books published in 2019)

Submission Criteria

• Books must have been published for sale in the 2019 calendar year, that is, between
January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.
• New, updated editions are acceptable as long as update was published in 2019.
• To be considered “published,” copies of book in published form (not merely as galley or
advanced reader copies) must have been on hand and available for sale to retail consumers on
or before December 31, 2019 and not have been for sale earlier than January 1, 2019.
• If copyright year or Library of Congress year (if present) is not 2019, entrant must supply
supporting evidence that book was “constructively” published in 2019.
• Book must be in printed form, unless entered in the e-book category.
• Submissions due no later than January 31, 2020. Please submit as early as possible, so
judges have time to read all entries.

Categories

Books will be accepted in the following categories:
• General Fiction
• General Non-Fiction
• Non-Fiction Memoir
• Children’s
• Young Adult
• Poetry
• Trade Publications

• e-Book NOTE CHANGES TO EBOOK ENTRY:
This year Ebooks must be submitted in MOBI format OR author must send 4 gift coupons
to Sharon Darrow for distribution to judges

Rules, Regulations, and Fee Schedule

• The window period of acceptance of entries is August 1, 2019, to January 31, 2019.
• Entries may be made by an author or by the publisher of the book.
• Complete the online entry form, found on the NCPA website at www.NorCalPA.org.
• Use the check boxes on the form to indicate categories in which you wish to have your
book considered and complete all the necessary fields. Please note that if the judges feel you’ve
chosen the wrong category, they will move your book to the category they feel is proper.
• You have the option of submitting forms and payments online or printing out the form
and sending it with your books and entry fee to the address below:
Make payments on line using credit card or PayPal account. OR submit check along with books.
• You may enter as many books as you choose, but each book must be entered in only
one general category. A separate fee must be submitted with each title.
• Four copies of each book must be submitted.
• All books entered will be considered for Design awards, which will be awarded to the
publisher. The artist or designer need not be a member of NCPA.
• Please follow instructions on the entry form. Your entry may be disqualified and money
forfeited if information is missing or incorrect.
• A separate entry form is required for each title submitted.
• Entries must be received by January 31, 2020 One copy of each book is non-returnable.
Three copies will be available for sale at the Awards Banquet, with money from sales, and
unsold copies returned to the author.

(Book Awards Continued on next page 9)
(Book Awards Continued from prior page 8

- **NOTE: CHANGES IN FEE STRUCTURE & DEADLINE DATES:**
  - "Early Bird" entry time has the same prices as shown ($65 & $95), but entries must be received by October 31, 2019. **ENDED: But if your book is published after, it still applies**
  - "2nd Level" entry time prices are increased by $10, and must be received by 31 Dec 2019. **ENDED: But if your book is published after, it still applies** (for books published prior to 31 Oct 2019. After 31 Oct, Early Bird above will apply.)
  - "Third Level" entry time prices are increased by another $10, and must be received by January 31, 2020.
  - This means the $65/ $95 early bird price goes to $75/$105 for Second Level entries,
    - Then to $85/$115 for Third Level entries.
  - The only exception is for those who publish and submit their books during the Second Level period. (1 November through 31 December 2019.) They pay the Early Bird price of $65/ $95, since there was no way for them to enter earlier.
  - Entry fees for NCPA members are $65/ $75/ $85 per book, $30 of which covers one dinner at the Awards Banquet
  - Entry fees for non-members are $95/$105/$115 per book, $30 of which covers one dinner at the Awards Banquet

Please send books -- and, if applicable, fees and forms -- to following address:
Sharon Darrow
NCPA Book Awards Coordinator
P.O. Box 214673, Sacramento, CA  95821

**Other Rules & Information**

1. The "publisher" is defined as the person or company who owns the ISBN.
2. An author may enter his or her own book.
3. Judges are drawn from NCPA’s membership, the community, publishing professionals, and the media.
4. No judge may submit works for consideration.

**Judging Criteria**

1. Categories not having any entries will not be part of the year’s awards.
2. Winners are determined at the sole discretion of the judges, based on NCPA policy, publishing merit, and literary merit.

**Awards**

1. First, second, and third place awards may be awarded in each general book category.
2. The judges may award “honorable mention” certificates at their discretion.

**Winners**

1. Winners will be announced at the awards celebration and annual NCPA banquet, scheduled for April 26, 2020 at Cherry Island Golf Course, Elverta, CA.
2. Winners will be announced in general press releases sent to Northern California media.
3. Winners will each receive a plaque/trophy.
4. Winners will receive labels they may use on their book covers. They will also receive, via email, a digital file of the award label artwork to incorporate into their book covers, if they wish
5. Winners may use supplied label art in their marketing/promotional materials. Past winners have successfully used their NCPA awards to obtain media interest and increase sales.
6. Winners will be featured on the NCPA website

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

CWC meeting 3rd Sat monthly 11am-1pm 
CWCsacramentowriters.org $20-member $25 Non-member lunch included 
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 
Goldcountrywriters.com for more information 

26th NCPA BOOK AWARDS BANQUET 5pm-9pm 
Sun 26 April 2020 
CWC’s new location for Friday morning meetings *PERKO’s 6215 Sunrise in Citrus Heights

SCBWI Annual SPRING SPIRIT CONFERENCE 2 May 2020 * new location, TBA * Signups in Jan or Feb

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

February 2: Finding African American Ancestors -- Craig Manson 
March 8: Courthouse Research – Glenda Gardner Lloyd 
April 5: Overcoming the Most Challenging DNA Problems – James Baker, PhD 
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 
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
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
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/

MAKING CONNECTIONS CORNER with our Local Sister Writing Organizations
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Note that the Executive committee consists of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and communications director, the five elected officers

Meeting Address
Northern California Publishers & Authors (NCPA)
PO Box 214673 ~ Sacramento, CA 95821
Michelle Hamilton, President ~ 916-837-6812

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.

Norma Jean Thornton, Editor ~ 916-991-5751
www.norcalpa.org

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

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

A Note from the Editor
Send your articles and announcements to normathornton@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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