Thursday * 12 March 2020 * 6:30pm–9pm

MEETING CANCELED

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

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

Apr 9 * No GUEST SPEAKER * IBPA Winner? * Anthology stuff * Book Awards Banquet Stuff, 26 Apr
May 14 * Catriona McPherson ~ “Long Ago and Far Away: writing authentic time and place”
Jun 11 * Sigrid Bathan ~ Magazine Writing
Jul 9 * No GUEST SPEAKER * Housekeeping & State of NCPA *
Aug 13 * Stephanie Chandler ~ Internet Marketing & Content Marketing
Sep 10 * Jennifer Chen Tran (+maybe more?) ~ Bradford Lit Agency ~ taking your book pitches again
Oct 8 * Bitsy Kemper ~ Writing Children’s Books: Why it’s Harder than you Thought
Nov 12 * Karen Phillips ~ Book Cover Design
Dec 10 * No GUEST SPEAKER * Book Display & Sell Your Books Time

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

Wed * 18 Mar 2020 * MEETING CANCELED
Wed * 15 Apr 2020 * * No Speaker * just chit chat & other fun &/or informative, but mundane writing stuff
Wed * 20 May 2020 * * No Speaker * just chit chat & other fun &/or informative, but mundane writing stuff
Wed * 17 Jun 2020 * * No Speaker * just chit chat & other fun &/or informative, but mundane writing stuff
Wed * 15 Jul 2020 * * CANCELED * CA STATE FAIR TIME
Wed * 19 Aug 2020 * * No Speaker * just chit chat & other fun &/or informative, but mundane writing stuff

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 26 April 2020

Cherry Island Golf Course * 2360 Elverta Rd * Elverta, CA

Get your $30 tickets now * norcalpa.org (ticket deadline 16 April 2020)
President’s Message

As March begins, we find ourselves in a tense and confusing period around the world. Coronavirus concerns have limited public gatherings, the stock market has taken a dive, and I’m certain that even the most rational among us feels a sense of anxiety.

That said, we understand if our members have concerns about going out in public and completely respect your decision to abstain if you so decide that is best for you. You will be kept updated on everything going on regarding meetings, the awards banquet and the anthology through email.

Being part of a community is essentially human. I know we will all have each other’s backs during this time. Taking a moment to spread kindness and compassion when everything seems negative will help all of us get through this unprecedented situation. By the way, I’m really beginning to hate the word “unprecedented”.

Now that the challenging part of this message is out of the way, I thought I’d share a little anecdote for our travel anthology to get everyone excited for our latest NCPA adventure. I’m going to tell you a story from my childhood. As many of you know, I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. My family lived in Pacifica, right on the coast, and my uncle and his family lived in San Bruno. We saw each other every week, went on vacations together, and had regular Sunday dinners.

Our family is not an outdoors family. I hate camping with a passion; however, at one point, when I was about twelve, my parents decided we needed to experience camping. We bought all of the requisite camping equipment, loaded up the car, and asked my uncle and his family to join us.

Because we had no idea what we were doing, we chose Memorial Park in Loma Mar, which is just outside of Half Moon Bay. This location was only a half hour from our house in Pacifica, so if it turned out badly, we’d be able to slink home and sleep in our warm beds.

We set up camp and went on a few hikes. Then we came back to camp and cooked dinner. Eating outside is something I truly enjoy. Just as we were settling down to eat, a large group of people pulled into the campsite next to ours in their *Vanagons. There had to be at least ten people.

The first thing these people did was set a small green table on top of the picnic table. I come by my mystery writing genes naturally because my mother and uncle were immediately intrigued and began making up stories as to why they had a green table on top of another table. It wasn’t until darkness fell that the real weirdness began.

The group lit an enormous fire in the firepit and gathered around the green table. Then, they began chanting. I’m not sure what they chanted. It wasn’t in English, but that set off my mother and uncle. They conjured up ghost stories about sacrifices happening on that table, that they were calling down Beelzebub to dance with them in the moonlight, that the green table was an offering to aliens who were going to beam the lot of them up. When something went crashing through the undergrowth, my cousin and I screamed, covering our faces, sure we were about to be made into shish kabobs.

Then they all started dancing, the sort of uninhibited dancing of people around a fire since the dawn of time--arms waving in the air, legs kicking up the dust. And singing. At this point, we all retreated to our tents and huddled in our sleeping bags.

I’m not sure how long the revelers carried on, but I finally fell into an anxiety ridden sleep, staring at the thin nylon of the tent walls, realizing I hated camping with a white-hot passion.

In the morning, the Vanagons, the green table, and the revelers were gone, and of course, my uncle had to wave his hands like a magician and declare they’d never actually been there; it had been a vision from the other side.

Suffice it to say, while I’ve been camping since, we never went with my uncle and his family again. As an adult, I have thought back on this experience often and it occurs to me, Memorial
Park is in the Santa Cruz mountains, notorious for hippy communes and pot growing. Our friends with the green table were likely just a bunch of hippies taking down on some good ganja and having a blast dancing to Janice Joplin, but I’m not gonna lie, I think my childhood imagination of crazy, sacrificing cults is a much better tale.

Stay healthy, my friends, and get to writing your own travel adventure.

Michelle Hamilton, President NCPA

Editor's Note: Re *Vanagons ~ I had been around cars (many) my entire childhood, since my Dad was a mechanic and owned a towing service, but I didn’t recall a Vanagon. I did take a wild guess at what it might be, but until doing a Google search, I really didn’t know for sure. I’m not telling what it is, except that I ran into a mystery about the year, doing that search: when the first Vanagon was made, varies from year-to-year, between 1970-1985. Depending on which year is correct, I was already either a divorced mom of two, or on my second marriage with six kids, so other cars were of little importance to me, but I still guessed right. Do your own Google search to find out what it is, if you don’t know … and if you find the correct year, let me know!

WE HAVE OUR TWO WINNERS!
ATTEND THE BOOK AWARDS & RISK-TAKER’S AWARDS BANQUET
26 APR 2020 to see who won!! (or another date, if necessary. See below)

$30 tickets on sale now

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

Contact Norma if you have questions: NCPAAAnthology2019@gmail.com

In light of the current Coronavirus concerns, NCPA is working close with our venue (Cherry Island Golf Course) for the scheduled Book & Risk-Taker’s Awards’ Banquet 26 Apr 2020. Be assured, we have a contingency plan, if it’s not perfectly safe for us to continue with that date. **IT WILL NOT BE CANCELED**

We’ll know by 15 April and I’ll send an Email advising as to whether it’s an as-is go, or if we have another date; go to norcalpa.org & purchase those $30 tickets!
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

AUG 2020 Speaker
Stephanie Chandler
Internet Marketing & Content Marketing

September 2020 SPEAKER, AGENT JENNIFER CHEN TRAN *

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 Bitsy Kemper
rescheduled from Jan 2020
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

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

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.
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 26 Apr 2020. If I can get a better copy later, will share it.

Sunday 26 April 2020
$30

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

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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 highjacked 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.
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!)

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

Our crazy Twisted English Language

Separate vs. Seperate

- Separate, as either an adjective or verb, is one of the most commonly misspelled words in the English language
- SepErate: a word with no meaning, and is simply a misspelling.

I must admit, I’m one who constantly has an issue with that particular word, because when you say it, it screams I need three of a kind (e’s) in there, not a couple of pairs of a’s and e’s. Maybe by saying it this way, now I’ll remember.

Emigrate vs Immigrate

- Emigrate means to leave one location, such as one’s native country or region, to live in another.
- Immigrate means to move into a non-native country or region to live.

They say an easy way to separate the two is to just remember what letter each begins with … Emigrate begins with an E, which begins EXIT, or move out! Easy-peasy? I doubt it!

Now, if I could just figure out how to make this darned computer format things the way I want them to, all the time, instead of doing what it does … like the example above with the difference in spacing. No matter what I do, I can’t get it to change. I’m sure it has something to do with coding and HTML, but that’s as far as my expertise goes … just enough to keep me from totally freaking out when the computer starts doing whatever it wants. Which means I just give up and go do something else.
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 26 APRIL 2020 at the Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta

SILENT AUCTION DONORS 2019 * THANK YOU SO MUCH *

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.golfrcherryisland.com * 916-991-6875
Walmart Supercenter Bakery * 5821 Antelope Rd.* Antelope 95843, CA * Bakery: 916-729-6217

“Holiday Placer Pops” Chorale & Orchestra 2019
Great present for everyone  *  www.placerpops.com
Harris Center in Folsom *** Sat 14 Dec * 2pm * & * 7:30pm *** Sun 15 Dec * 2pm *
Dietrich Theatre in Rocklin *** Thu 19 Dec * 7:30pm *** Fri 20 Dec * 7:30pm * *** Sat 21 Dec * 2pm *** Sun 22 Dec * 2pm

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
Reported RWA Problems Should be of Interest to all Writers/ Authors

Romance Writers of America (RWA), reportedly embroiled in a huge twitter-feud since Dec 2019 over ethics and other issues, has escalated to their RWA Board resigning, according to jamigold.com: “The RWA Implosion Matters to All Writers”

Claiming “The Romance Genre Leads the Industry”, they declare “… the support that RWA has given to the romance industry has helped writers all over, whether member or not, whatever the genre. So, with the threat of RWA collapsing under its own stupid, destructive decisions, the whole publishing world might lose an advocate.”

Whether or not you write romance, as a writer/ author in general, this should still be of concern. For full article, including History of Issues, More Failed Policies, Conspiracies and Cover Ups? and more, go to https://jamigold.com/2020/01/why-does-the-rwa-implosion-matter-to-all-writers/ another article on the subject of the Board Members resigning, can be found below: https://www.rwa.org/Online/News/2020/RWA_Board_Resigns_Sets_Special_Election.asp

***

NONE OF THE BELOW HAVE BEEN VETTED BY ME. CHECK AT YOUR OWN RISK

USA Book Agents Looking for New Writers/ PB Lit Agents 2019-2020  

Albert Whitman & Company has been publishing award-winning children’s books since 1919  
Submit Guidelines for unrepresented-authors  
https://www.albertwhitman.com/submission-guidelines-for-unrepresented-authors/  
PB Mid-Grade YA Send to: Submissions@albertwhitman.com

A year of writing prompts ~ 365 to be exact! Add to March NL:  

Coming 6 Dec 2020
NCPA Board Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2020

Submitted by Charlene Johnson, NCPA Secretary, edited for space

In Attendance: Michelle Hamilton * Sharon Darrow * Charlene Johnson * Amy Rogers * Norma Jean Thornton * Bob Irelan

Travel Anthology: There has been some confusion as to the type of stories we want to include in the Travel anthology. It was decided to send out guidance to help authors planning to submit.

Actions: *Michelle will create guidance for current anthology and send to Norma. *Norma will distribute to group

Also discussed: Agreed from here forward, rules for future anthologies will be reviewed each time. * In the future, each submittal must be a new, never-published story * Final proof of story will be sent to author for review and sign off. * Reviewed two travel covers Michelle created. Both approved. * Author’s name will be added to table of contents with their story.

Anthology Risk Take Award for 2020 NCPA Awards Banquet: Discussion of candidates: *Birds of a Feather: Choice was between XXXXXXX X & XXXXX. Board agreed on XXXXXXX. *More Birds of a Feather: Choice was unanimous – XXXXXXX

2020 Book Awards Banquet: Thirty-seven books this year * Roaring Twenties Theme * Judges’ Lunch 11 a.m. -March 28 * Amy hosting * Reviewed awards program: Looks great.

Awards Banquet Actions: Sharon will send pictures of book covers to Michelle for program * Sharon will make Name Tags for entrants, with NCPA Logo and author names only * Amy will have Sticky Name Tags for all attendees * Chrissi - Table decorations * Charlene will provide Backdrop for photos (and backdrop stands); Will bring other decorations too for possible use, and her daughter, Danika will take photos * Amy: live bookstore again: needs book title and book price (price included on a piece of paper is preferred) * Check sound system at venue * Bring extra tables and table clothes in case needed * Need to ensure water on tables *

Awards Banquet Silent Auction Donations from Board of Directors: Proceeds from Silent Auction to Mustard Seed School
   1. Amy - Critique/Edit Service for Limited Word Count (same as last year)
   2. Michelle - Edit Service for Limited Word Count
   3. Charlene – Book Promo creation for selected book
   4. Chrissi – Book trailer service
   5. Ed – Wine basket
   6. Sharon – Website
   7. Norma ~ Kitchen Basket


NCPA Elections: Sharon will send Election info out in March

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

*
**YOU TOO COULD ADVERTISE HERE for a whole year EVEN IF YOU’RE NOT A MEMBER**
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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](tel:916-729-6217)

**“Holiday Placer Pops” Chorale & Orchestra 2019**
Great present for everyone * [www.placerpops.com](http://www.placerpops.com)
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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.
jenner@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](http://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](http://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
*Bouchercon2020.org* Registration now open

World Mystery Convention Bouchercon is coming to Sacto!

*15-18 October 2020*, NCPA's own Rae James is Chair of Bouchercon 2020 at the Sacramento Convention Center

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

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

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

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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

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*Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC) 2nd Mon ea/mo 7pm-9pm * Sactowriters.org
Crossroads Fellowship Christian Church, 5501 Dewey Dr, Fair Oaks.

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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
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

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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
MAKING CONNECTIONS CORNER with our Local Sister Writing Organizations

California Writers Club (CWC) (Sacramento Branch)
- Monthly Luncheon Meetings generally on the 3rd Saturday of each month ~ 11am – 1pm
  $15 members, $25 non-members, includes lunch at Rancho Cordova Cattlemen’s
- Writers Network 9-11am the 1st Fri monthly at 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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norcalpa.org

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Monthly Speaker Coordinator
Norma Jean Thornton

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.