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## Take Note — PWC Monthly Meetings

*Phoenix Writers Club meets every 3rd Saturday of the month.*

### NEXT MEETING:

**Saturday, August 21, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. via Zoom.**

**Members: No fee. Guests: Two meetings free, then membership required for further attendance.**

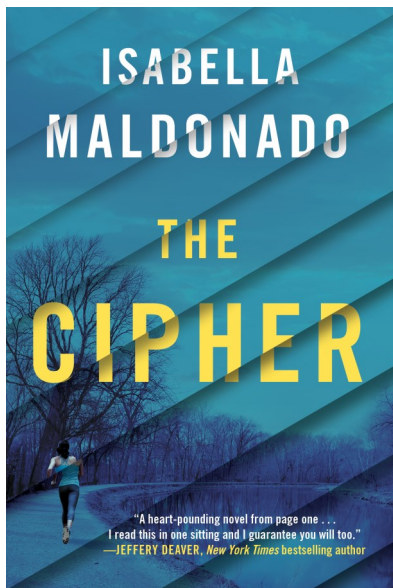
**RSVP** to Navissa Kaiser at [navissak@hotmail.com](mailto:navissak@hotmail.com), call or text (480) 200-5191.



## August Speaker

*In August we welcome Isabella Maldonado: “Writing Techniques and My Own Journey to Becoming a Writer”*

Award-winning author Isabella Maldonado wore a gun and badge in real life before turning to crime writing. The first Latina to attain the rank of captain in her police department, she retired as the Commander of Special Investigations and Forensics. During more than two decades on the force, her assignments included hostage negotiator, department spokesperson, and precinct commander. Selected to attend the FBI National Academy in Quantico, she uses her law enforcement background to bring a realistic edge to her writing.



She lives in the Phoenix area where her uniform now consists of tank tops and yoga pants. Instead of bad guys, she chases around her young son when she's not handcuffed to her computer.

THE CIPHER, the first book in her new series featuring FBI Special Agent Nina Guerrero, was published on November 1, 2020. For more information, visit. [www.isabellamaldonado.com](http://www.isabellamaldonado.com) .

## A Note from the PWC President



My favorite poem growing up was “The Swing” by Robert Louis Stevenson. It epitomizes summer and the freedom of being carefree and in the moment. The month of August is back-to-school time for many and the end of the dance of summer. Of course, we have summer weather all year here in Phoenix! May the poetic nature of writing guide you through this season as you take some time to find a swing and delight in a child’s perspective.

*Cindi Reiss*

The Swing  
BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

How do you like to go up in a swing,  
Up in the air so blue?  
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing  
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,  
Till I can see so wide,  
Rivers and trees and cattle and all  
Over the countryside—

Till I look down on the garden green,  
Down on the roof so brown—  
Up in the air I go flying again,  
Up in the air and down!



## Miss Out? Last Month's Meeting Minutes

### PWC July 2021 MEETING MINUTES

By Pam Coulter

On Saturday, July 17, President Cindi Reiss opened our Zoom meeting and welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves and gave a quick, interesting bio. We had one guest:

Sue Fulton, a retired teacher who writes poetry and belongs to many writing groups, including Inkwell and Shut Up & Write!.

### Board News

Cindi reminded us that everyone is invited to the WOW meeting immediately following this one.

The next critique workshop will be July 23, moderated by Bernadette Inclan.

### Writing Competition

Cindi spoke about an amazing opportunity Uta Behrens has offered our club. She is a published author and poet, and she is offering a **\$300 award for a nonfiction book**, published or ready to be published. She is also offering a **\$75 award for a poem** of at least 20 lines. Some decisions the board must make are these:

- What month we will take submissions ?
- How long a submission period ?
- Who will adjudicate the works ?

This is a very exciting opportunity for the group! Start writing!

### Nominating Committee

We also need people to serve on a nominating committee for our new fall elections to our board. Anyone interested in serving on this committee, or helping out with the contest, please contact Cindi.

### Meeting Venue

We are still looking for a venue to meet in person, so everyone stay alert. If we can find a place with ample room, we could possibly change from a lunch to a brunch, to keep costs down. Geri Rosato is still looking into what the Beatitudes can offer us. We need to stay somewhat centrally located. We are finding that so many places have closed, and the rest have dramatically raised their prices.

### Member News

- Mark Walker emailed a website on his hour-long presentation on "My Literary Journey". It goes far beyond his presentation from a year ago, so he is embarking on a new book.
- Sylvia Shippey is continuing work on her memoir.

*Meeting minutes, continued.*

- Brad Graber showed a copy of his beautiful new book, “Boca by Moonlight,” out in January
- Martha Kent is still writing academically but is enjoying the critique group.
- Rick McMaster is working with an agent on getting his last two novels published, while working on a new one.
- Scott Rosenthal is hoping to connect with someone to collaborate with on a folk opera.
- Bernadette Inclan is a new great-grandmother!
- Navissa Kaiser just returned from a big trip to the eastern United States, visiting family and gathering ideas for characters.
- Julia Fink is still working on her memoir.
- Candace Hughes is taking classes in essay writing.

**July Speaker**

At this point our trilogy of speakers, Zooming in from New Mexico, were introduced by Susanne Brent (see bio in July STIMULUS.) This group of published poets met at a writing conference and hatched the idea to collaborate on a poetry creation. One of the unique methods they used was to write from the perspective of another entity, which they said freed up their imaginations. Two of them used Greek mythology persona, while the third called herself “Immigrant Girl.”

They proceeded to write letters to each other on various topics, then the others would write a response back. This way, they kept a storyline going. The result was a very intellectual and ethereal work.

They placed good suggestions in the chat box for anyone wanting to start a collaboration. They carried this process through editing and publishing this work titled, “We Are Meant to Carry Water”. There was a vigorous Q & A session.

August speaker is Isabella Maldonado on “Writing Techniques and My Own Journey to Becoming a Writer”.

At 2 p.m. Cindi adjourned the meeting.

## PWC Critique Workshop News

Our critique workshop meets via Zoom every other Friday. The August workshops will be on August 13, 6-8 p.m. and August 27, 6-8 p.m. Email Bernadette Inlan at [bsbincoin@aol.com](mailto:bsbincoin@aol.com) for more information.

## Write On Writers (WOW) News

Our Write on Writers (WOW) group will not be meeting in August. We will be having a PWC board meeting right after the general meeting. You are welcome to join us and get involved in Phoenix Writers Club! Email Cindi Reiss at [writeoncindi@gmail.com](mailto:writeoncindi@gmail.com) for more info.

## Get Involved!

*Love PWC and want to be more involved? There are many ways from big to small and all are appreciated!*

→ **We're always looking for speakers!** Is there a topic you want to focus on? Is there a speaker you've heard about you think would be great? Let us know! Email Cindi at [writeoncindi@gmail.com](mailto:writeoncindi@gmail.com) and Susanne at [susannebrent53@gmail.com](mailto:susannebrent53@gmail.com) with the topic and/or speaker contact information.

## Free Writer's Tools

Check out the following writer's apps that you can download for free.

Writer's Diet - <https://writersdiet.com> - grades your paragraphs on common word usage, frequency of the verb "to be", plus more; provides free tutorials and online writing clinics. This resource is a go-to for both beginning and published writers.

Grammarly—<https://app.grammarly.com> - checks your grammar and spelling and provides alternate phrasing.

Both apps tie to Microsoft Word. Grammarly also checks your emails.



## PWC Contact Info

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## (SOME) ONLINE WRITING OPPORTUNITIES

### Upcoming Events

Write Here, Write Now—Writing: Memorable Monologues for Compelling Characters : Instructor Dennis Bush discusses "SOLO: Writing Memorable Monologues for Compelling Characters." This workshop is open to all. **Monday, August 23, 2021, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Phoenix MST.** [More details here.](#)

Writers Conferences 2021 and Beyond: 60 Events for Authors, Freelancers and Bloggers (thewritelife.com/writers-conferences) . As there are not many writers' events in August, here is a list of the upcoming Writers Conferences. [Writers Conferences 2021 and Beyond: 60 Events for Authors, Freelancers and Bloggers \(thewritelife.com\)](#)

### Newsletter Editor Transition

We thank Ilsa Manning for her dedication to editing/distributing the Stimulus Newsletter for all these many years. Taking on the role of newsletter editor is me, D'Anne Pientka. In the past, I volunteered as newsletter editor for numerous organizations. My degrees in Commercial Art and in Professional Writing trained me to graphically combine layout with writing. My Commercial Art training was prior to desktop publishing. I learned more about fonts than most PWC members will ever know. Please send me news about your work, blog, or website that you want included in the newsletter. My contact info is [azdanne@gmail.com](mailto:azdanne@gmail.com). I'd love to include your news.