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## PWC Monthly Meetings

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

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Saturday, September 18, 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.



## September Speaker

*In September we welcome Russ Kazmierczak, Jr. : “Amazing Arizona Comics”*

Russ Kazmierczak, Jr. is the creator and self-publisher of "Amazing Arizona Comics," a minicomic series that satirizes local news and culture with superhero adventure.

His cartooning has been featured on "Good Morning, Arizona," channel 12 news, and other local media outlets. He was the Phoenix New Times 2018 Best Storyteller, and he has performed comedy and poetry all over the Valley.

Russ is also the biggest fan of The Monkees you'll ever meet...! His Instagram is [@amazingazcomics](https://www.instagram.com/amazingazcomics) .



## A Note from the PWC President

What a year it has been as we've Zoomed through our lives! I'm grateful for the technology that allowed us to be able to meet and see each other's smiling and computer-weary faces.

Thank you to all who turned in our survey a few months ago and it was almost evenly split between meeting in-person in October or after the first of the year. Also, a majority of you would like the option to continue by Zoom and/or have out-of-state speakers via Zoom.

To get us back in the groove, we are going to have a holiday party/meeting on our usual third Saturday in December and more details will be coming. Bernadette Inlan has graciously offered her home as our destination as she has a backyard that is conducive to welcoming us. This will be a time to mingle, eat, drink, be merry, share a poem, story, or other creative option, and be outside. This will be at no cost to our members. Please keep in mind that in this ever-changing era of COVID, plans could change. We will keep you updated.

In March, we are planning on once again meeting in person and will finalize the meeting place as we get closer.

As far as keeping the Zoom option once we are back in-person, this would require someone with the tech-savviness of monitoring a computer or device and keeping that part of the meeting in sync. I appeal to any of you with that talent or willingness to learn to please let me know.

Thank you all for your patience and humor in our monthly 'you're on mute', 'can you hear me' saga. It is the new 'are we there yet?'

And thank you to our board for hanging in and adjusting to the nuances of this new 'normal'.

Happy September! Write on.

*Cindi Reiss*



## Miss Out? Last Month's Meeting Minutes

### PWC August 2021 MEETING MINUTES

By Pam Coulter

On August 21, we again held our meeting by ZOOM. The meeting was opened by President Cindi Reiss, and a welcome was extended to all. Everyone gave a short bio on their writing efforts. We have one new member, Sue Fulton, who writes poetry and short prose. She also is an organizer with the Shut Up & Write!/Inkwell writing community.

We had 5 guests;

Mary McCormick, who is about ready to start a novel.

Meg Files, who writes poetry and fiction.

Grace Penny, who is a poet.

Mary Vraa, a published author.

Heather Graham, who writes non-fiction.

### BOARD NEWS

Cindi reminded everyone that there is no WOW meeting today, as the Board is meeting immediately after this gathering. The next critique group will meet on August 27, with moderator Bernadette Inclan. Cindi spoke about the contest being sponsored by Uta Behrens and reminded writers that there is a \$300 prize for a non-fiction book of a maximum of 3,000 pages, and a \$75 prize for a poem of at least 20 lines (rhyming please.) There will be more details in next month's Stimulus.

Ilsa Manning presented the slate of offices for the upcoming year; Cindi Reiss for President, Jenny Bilskie-Smith for Vice President, Navissa Kaiser for Treasurer, and Bernadette Inclan for Secretary. The membership will vote on these candidates next month.

### MEMBER NEWS

Bernadette Inclan has had an article accepted about a Covid experience.

Mary Vraa has released her book, POP-UP PURGE, Release Midlife Clutter, and Reclaim Inner Clarity.

Mark Walker has an article accepted by Review Magazine on Uncovering the Art of Francisco Goldman. He has also submitted an article on how the pandemic has affected what we write, to Solas Awards for Best Travel Writing.

Pam Coulter had received contest information from THE BEDFORD COMPETITION. There are some impressive prizes. If you are interested, please reach out to her e-mail [azcolt1@cox.net](mailto:azcolt1@cox.net), and she will forward the information.

*Meeting minutes, continued.*

## August Speaker



Susanne Brent introduced our speaker, Isabella Maldonado, by telling of a blockbuster update on her book, *THE CIPHER*. This book had just been optioned by Netflix, which plans to make a Feature Film starring Jennifer Lopez. That certainly got everyone's attention!

Ms. Maldonado spent over two decades working in law enforcement and has been a great student of the human psyche. She says she draws upon her knowledge but does not want the burden of writing about real people. For instance, *CIPHER* was conceived after being in DC during the rampage of the Beltway Sniper. Seeing the explosion of fear, social media, and news coverage, she began to wonder if someone wanted to terrorize the whole country, what would that look like?

Her writing process is to make a loose outline of the beginning, middle, and end. She does not sequester herself to write, her husband and son can interrupt at any time. She said the most fortuitous thing she did was to attend a book festival called Thriller Fest. She had the opportunity to pitch her book and an editor loved it. She was offered a 3-book deal at the festival. She touted book festivals as invaluable but says it's best to have a completed product.

Our September speaker will be Russ Kazmierczak. At 2:00, Cindi Reiss adjourned the meeting.

## Board Election

At our September meeting we will be electing board members for the 2021-2022 term.

Our slate is:

President-Cindi Reiss; Cindi is the current President, has been past President, VP and Speaker Chair. Member since 2003. She writes poetry and flash memoir.

Vice President-Jenny Bilskie-Smith; Jenny writes memoir and has been working with the critique group with her book. Member since 2020.

Treasurer-Navissa Kaiser; Navissa has been Treasurer and Membership Chair for seven years. Member since 2013. She writes poetry, women's fiction, short stories, fantasy, and non-fiction.

Secretary-Bernadette Inclin; Bernadette is Critique Workshop Coordinator. Member since 2020. She writes memoir and is working on her book with the critique group.

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

## PWC Critique Workshop News

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

## Write On Writers (WOW) News

You are always welcome to join us at our Write on Writers (WOW) group after the general meeting and we will continue to meet at this time each month. This is open to all members and is a time to share writing interests and topics and occasional prompts. Let your imagination fly and join us for some writing cheer. Also, feel free to bring a topic or question about the writing life to discuss. Email Cindi Reiss at [writeoncindi@gmail.com](mailto:writeoncindi@gmail.com) for more info.

## Get Involved!

**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.

## New Members

We have welcomed several new members during the past year and have them join our PWC family.

We welcomed Sue Fulton this past month. Sue writes poetry and prose and is also an Event Organizer with the Phoenix area Shut Up & Write!, Inkwell community. This is another informative and inspiring group to check out. [Calendar | Shut Up & Write!® Phoenix / Scottsdale / Paradise Valley \(Phoenix, AZ\) | Meetup](#)

## 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, September 23, 2021, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Phoenix MST.**

“ANWA Writer’s Conference” September 9-11, 2021 at the Mesa Doubletree Hotel

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





## PWC Contact Info

President	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
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Secretary	Pamela Coulter	Azcolt1@cox.net
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Writers Critique Workshop	Bernadette Inclan	bsbincoin@aol.com
WOW! Coordinator	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
Historian	TBD	

## Member Spotlight



Throughout her professional career as an educational psychologist, and as a mother, Karen Shiffman Lateiner, M.Ed., has been an advocate for children at-risk for academic failure, bullying, and mental health challenges. Coming to terms with her own child's gender transition in the mid-1990s, and then her child's untimely death, motivated her to write her memoir as a vehicle for shedding light on issues facing transgender people.

***Timeless Dance: A Story of Change and Loss***, her debut book, is a compelling memoir about life, death, gender change, acceptance, advocacy, and coping within the family, the community, and the world. It is a well told story of generational challenges and reflections on life altering events; a skillfully woven mix of narrative, prose, poetry, and letters. A page turner by many accounts, ***Timeless Dance*** illuminates issues not often contemplated, especially those related to transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.

***Timeless Dance*** opened numerous doors for Karen to speak about ***Understanding Gender Diversity: LGBTQ+ and Beyond***. Over the past three years since publishing, she has given numerous presentations at a variety of venues throughout the country, both in-person and via Zoom. She can be reached at [kslateiner@gmail.com](mailto:kslateiner@gmail.com).

<https://www.amazon.com/Timeless-Dance-Story-Change-Loss/dp/171743794X/>

<https://bookshop.org/books/timeless-dance-a-story-of-change-and-loss/9781717437945>

