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## PWC Monthly Meetings

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

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Saturday, October 16 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.



## October Speaker

*In October we welcome Meg Files*

Meg Files is the author of the novels *Meridian 144* and *The Third Law of Motion, Home Is the Hunter and Other Stories, The Love Hunter and Other Poems, Writing What You Know*, a book about taking risks with writing, and a poetry chapbook, *Lit Blue Sky Falling*. Her novella, *A Hollow, Muscular Organ*,

is forthcoming this year. She edited *Lasting: Poems on Aging*. Her stories and poems have appeared in publications including *Fiction, Writers' Forum, Oxford Magazine, The Tampa Review, Miramar*, and *Crazyhorse*. She has been a Bread Loaf fellow and the James Thurber Writer-in-Residence at The Ohio State University.

Meg has taught creative writing at colleges and universities, including Pima College, where she directed the Pima Writers' Workshop. She directs the Tucson Festival of Books Literary Awards and Masters Workshop.

## A Note from the PWC President

It has been a year of change all around and I'm grateful to all the people who have kept Phoenix Writers Club in motion.

I am honored to be your PWC President again this year.

Welcome to our new board members and thank you to all of those who have 'retired', ha!

Jenny Bilskie-Smith is our new Vice-President, and she is beginning this role as the coordinator of our writing competitions sponsored by Uta Behrens. Thank you to outgoing VP, Kixx Goldman.

Navissa Kaiser is continuing as Treasurer and Membership Chair, a role she has had for many years to which we are extremely grateful!

Bernadette Inclan is our new Secretary and has been leading the critique group and assisting with its expansion. Thank you to outgoing Secretary, Pam Coulter, who detailed each meeting for seven years!

Ilsa Manning is our Social Media and Website Coordinator, taking over from Lark Latroy, and is working on adding to and enhancing our site. She handed over Newsletter Editor to D'Anne Pientka, who is keeping us informed each month of PWC's ventures in creativity.

Speaker Chair Susanne Brent is booking our enthusiastic and informative speakers each month. Thank you to Doris Nehrbass, outgoing Speaker Chair, for her many roles in PWC's history.

Sharon Taylor is our former Historian and that role is now one we would like to fill and expand.

Thank you again to Uta Behrens, former President and sponsor of our writing competition, and her continuous support of PWC over many years.

I am appreciative for all of these diligent members and welcome anyone who would like to get involved in the 'inner workings' of PWC to please reach out.

Get ready to party in December as PWC holds its Holiday Salon Party, in person! Thank you to Bernadette Inclan and Joe Maguire, who have graciously offered us their home for this event. We will be meeting on our usual third Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, from 12:30 to 4:00 for fun, food, and sharing of our diverse creative talents. There will be no charge and you are welcome to bring a guest. More info will be forthcoming at our October meeting, and we would like to get an estimate of how many will be attending. RSVPs will be needed in November so we can plan accordingly. Bernadette and Joe can provide any visual aids, etc. to assist with a poem, song, dance, story that you would like to present. And we are working on being able to Zoom this to anyone who cannot make it in person. We are looking forward to getting together for the first time in over a year, BUT please know that plans have been known to shift in this ever-changing climate.



Happy October and Fall! Write on.

*Cindi Reiss*

## Miss Out? Last Month's Meeting Minutes

### PWC August 2021 MEETING MINUTES

By Pam Coulter

On Saturday, the 18<sup>th</sup> we once again held our meeting by ZOOM. The meeting was opened at 12:35 by President, Cindi Reiss, with a welcome to all. We had one new member, Chris Wheeler, who writes fiction in all genres. We also had one guest, Mary Cornelius, who invited everyone to read her blogs; we are not the Waltons.com, fitenoughforlife.com, and restlessretirement.com.

#### *Board News*

Ilsa Manning, Website and Social Media Coordinator, presented the slate of new officers:

- ◆ President, Cindi Reiss
- ◆ Vice President, Jenny Bilskie-Smith
- ◆ Treasurer, Navissa Kaiser
- ◆ Secretary, Bernadette Inclan

Ilsa asked for a show of hands to accept these nominees. They were unanimously approved.

Cindi reminded everyone that the WOW group meets immediately following this gathering. She also spoke about resuming in-person meetings. Bernadette Inclan graciously volunteered her home for a December “get together,” which would be our first time meeting in person. Details on this function will be in the next Stimulus. It will be held on the third Saturday per usual, starting at 12:30—4:00. There will be an opportunity for members to present some type of “show and tell,” so everyone should start thinking about what you might share. Next year we will try some in-person meetings, perhaps at THE BEAUTITUDES. We would need a volunteer to set up our ZOOM capabilities.

#### *Critique Workgroup*

Bernadette Inclan spoke on the Critique Group. She said Navissa, Jenny and she are working on some new guidelines for the group. They believe it is time to start a second group, with Chris Wheeler as facilitator. They need a couple of more people to commit to participating in this group.

#### *Uta Behrens Writing Contests*

Jenny spoke about the Uta Behrens writing contests, which she is heading up. The first contest is a NOVEL, published or ready to publish. This is to be a non-fiction work of about 120 pages (she's checking with Uta on this.) This contest will pay the winner **\$300**.

The second contest is a rhyming POEM of approximately 20 lines. This contest pays **\$75**. The

*Meeting minutes, continued.*

deadline for submitting is 9/16/2022, and they want **no submissions before August of that year**. More details will be given in the *Stimulus*, and you can E-mail questions to jenny12366577@gmail.com. She put out a call for three judges for each category, and Scott Norman immediately volunteered to judge the Poetry Division.

*Club Dues Due*

Navissa Kaiser said it's time to pay our club dues of \$35. Navissa's address for checks or money orders is 5715 E. Adler Ave., Mesa, AZ 85206, and her E-mail is navissak@hotmail.com.

She spoke of the many ways our club puts this money to good use: setting up our ZOOM meetings, paying our speakers, supporting reading programs at schools, and donating to Helen's Hope Chest. Another way to support Helen's is to go to Fry's Food Community Rewards and establish that your shopping rewards go to that charity. Helen's NPO # is US972.

Speaking of donating, Navissa will be in the Total Wine parking lot on Camelback on Saturday October 23, from 12:00-2:00 to collect new or gently used donations for Helen's Hope Chest. Our club has always been most generous.

*Member News*

Susanne Brent, Speaker Chair, said that she had a short story published by a literary publication, and she credits the Critique Group for helping with this.

Brad Graber is excited about his book coming out in November, BOCA BY MOONLIGHT, and he showed us his beautiful book cover.

Karen Lateiner said she appreciated being featured in the *Stimulus*. She continues speaking on her book, TIMELESS DANCE, and is starting to have book discussions following her presentations. She has also written a children's book and asked for suggestions on getting it published. She is ready to start up her WRITE AND HIKE group again, signup at [kslateiner@gmail.com](mailto:kslateiner@gmail.com), or call 973-997-7204.

Kixx Goldman reminded everyone that you can find her podcast, A Special Blue Heart Session with Dr.Kixx Goldman, the end of September.

D'Anne Pientka's "Traveling with 85 Year Olds" will be published January 2022 by *Change Seven Magazine*.

*August Speaker*

Susanne Brent introduced our speaker, Russ Kazmierczak, Jr., a comic aficionado, poet on demand, and in 2018, The Best Storyteller in Arizona, per the Phoenix New Times. He was so impressed with all the "Zines" on ASU's Mill Avenue in his youth, he knew that was what he wanted to do. In fact that is still one of the ways he creates, and he even has his own printing press.

He correlated the story of Batman (gathering all his skills before becoming Batman) with what writers need to do to become good writers. But he had a different take on jump-starting your writing, he said write about what you don't know and/or what you don't feel. Or write the opposite of how you feel about something. He said that will get your creative juices flowing. You must continually flex your creative muscle and build your own tribe of like-minded creators. He doesn't make much differentiation between the creator and the creation, it's all about leaving something for the

*Meeting minutes, continued.*

community. There was a spirited questions and answers session, and yes, he has a “day job.”

Next month’s speaker will be Meg Files, author, poet, teacher and Director of the Tucson Festival of Books, Literary Awards and Masters Workshops.

Cindi adjourned the meeting at 2:00.

## Uta Behrens Competition

Uta Behrens, a fellow writer and long-time Phoenix Writers Club member, is sponsoring two competitions. The winners will receive recognition and a monetary award.

### Interested in submitting?

#### 1. Competition One: Non-fiction book

##### Phoenix Writers Club members only

Please submit an entire non-fiction book:

- Memoirs are welcome
- Published works: Must have been published within the last year
- Unpublished works: Must be finished and ready for publishing
- Length: At least 120 pages, 12-point font, single space, 1-inch margins
- **Award:** \$300.00

#### 2. Competition Two: Poem

##### Phoenix Writers Club members only

Please submit one completed poem:

- Must rhyme
- Must be at least 20 lines
- **Award:** \$75.00

**Deadline** for submissions: September 16, 2022

Please **do not** submit before **August 16, 2022**

Submit to: Jenny Bilskie-Smith at [jenny12366577@gmail.com](mailto:jenny12366577@gmail.com)

Subject line: PWC Fall 2022 competition

Please attach the piece to the email rather than pasting it in the body of the email

*Not submitting? We need your help!*

We need **judges for both contests**, three each, for a total of six. Judges must be current or past Phoenix Writers Club members. Please let Jenny know which competition you are interested in judging. Once the panel of judges is selected, specific rules will be discussed and agreed upon. You will read the entire work and vote on which piece receives the award.

Please email, call, or text Jenny Bilskie-Smith if you would like to be a judge.

Phone: 602-380-1236

Email: [jenny12366577@gmail.com](mailto:jenny12366577@gmail.com)



## PWC Contact Info

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President	Cindi Reiss	<a href="mailto:writeoncindi@gmail.com">writeoncindi@gmail.com</a>
Ex-officio President	Uta Behrens	602-441-3888
Vice President	Jenny Bilskie-Smith	<a href="mailto:jenny12366577@gmail.com">jenny12366577@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Bernadette Inclan	<a href="mailto:bsbincoin@aol.com">bsbincoin@aol.com</a>
Treasurer & Membership	Navissa Kaiser	<a href="mailto:navissak@hotmail.com">navissak@hotmail.com</a>
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Writers Critique Workshop	Bernadette Inclan	<a href="mailto:bsbincoin@aol.com">bsbincoin@aol.com</a>
WOW! Coordinator	Cindi Reiss	<a href="mailto:writeoncindi@gmail.com">writeoncindi@gmail.com</a>
Historian	TBD	

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## PWC Critique Workshop News

Our critique workshop meets via Zoom every other Friday. The October workshops will be on October 13, 6-8 p.m. and October 27, 6-8 p.m. Email Bernadette Inclan 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.

## Marketing Strategies for Authors

Patricia L. Brooks, author, consultant, advocate will be speaking on Saturday, October 2 at 10:30 am MST on a virtual Zoom call to the Denver Writers Club on marketing strategies for authors. Her talk is entitled Marketing Plans Made Magical. For more information contact Patricia by email [patricia@plbrooks.com](mailto:patricia@plbrooks.com) or text 480-250-5556. Her three memoirs and other talks are featured on her website [www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com](http://www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com)