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PWC Monthly Meetings

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

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, April 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, call or text (480) 200-5191.

April Speaker

In April, we welcome Mary Vraa!

Mary Vraa is certified as both a Master Life Coach and a Senior Move Manager. She has guided women over 40 with releasing physical and emotional clutter so they can step into their future with confidence and clarity. All things “home beautiful” make her heart sing.

PopUpPurge™ Release Midlife Clutter & Reclaim Inner Clarity is her debut book which she self-published and released in 2020. It is available in both paperback and E-book formats with most major retailers, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Apple Books.



She can be found at her website, <https://www.shiftyourstories.com> where she blogs and also provides a free chapter to her book, along with a universal link to purchase her book. Mary also writes on the Medium platform at <https://www.medium.com/@marywmv>

A Note from the PWC President

April is National Poetry Month and one of my favorite months of the year. What better way to celebrate than recalling a favorite poem? Even if you are not a reader of poetry, I imagine you may have a poem that stands out to you, whether it is a nursery rhyme, a verse from school days that your teacher made you recite or a poem that has spoken to you in some way.

Mine is from my childhood and is close to my heart, *The Swing* by Robert Louis Stevenson. I still feel bliss when I read it, as if seeing this piece of the world for the first time. Childlike wonder encompasses me as I feel the earth reaching out and allowing me the freedom to be a child. Writing and reading does that for us and as writers we are fortunate to have that kind of impact. May your writing touch someone's life, especially your own.

Don't be surprised if I ask you to tell us of a poem that struck a chord with you at the April meeting!

Write on,
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? March 2022 Meeting Minutes

By Bernadette Inlan

Meeting

President Cindi Reiss called the Zoom meeting to order at 12:36 pm. Twenty participants attended.

- We had one guest, James Anderson, and, because of some technical issues, we were unable to chat with him, hope he felt welcomed.
- Cindi asked that those attending say something about March. Members mentioned birthdays, anniversaries, gardens, wildflowers, oranges, and orange/lemon blossoms. Also, Phoenix's beautiful weather, taking walks, photographs, and a ranch with spring's first flower. March for one member was the birthday of one brother and the anniversary of the death of another. However, she celebrated the beautiful weather and a gorgeous full moon. March was about tax returns for one member, while the storing of winter clothes and taking out summer clothes for another. When Chris thinks of March, he thinks of *Julius Caesar saying ouch under what*.
- The Phoenix Writers Club Critique Group will meet this Friday, March 25. The Zoom link opens at 5:45 pm for those attending. This week we have six manuscripts to critique and the ten participants will be divided into two groups. Contact Bernadette Inlan at bsbincoin@aol.com if you'd like to learn more.
- Jenny Bilskie-Smith spoke about the two upcoming writing contests for Phoenix Writers Club members only. Jenny put in a Call to Judges for the upcoming contests.
 1. Competition One: Non-fiction book. 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 margin
Award: \$300.00
 2. Competition Two: Poem
Jenny will update guidelines and get them to members
- Cindi encouraged members to use Facebook to post updates as well as events or blogs.
- Mary Cornelius sent her blog site to the chat: corneliusblogs.com.
- Don't forget to send member spotlights to D'Anne Pientka at azdanne@gmail.com.
- Continue to send bios and headshots for a page on our website to Ilsa at illsamanningwrites@gmail.com



Guest Speakers

Susanne Brent introduced our speakers, husband/wife team Brian and Marcia Freeman. Brian is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of more than two dozen psychological thrillers including the Jonathan Stride series and multiple popular standalone novels. He's won numerous awards and his books are also in audio. His breakthrough novel *Immoral* has been translated into many languages. Check out Brian's website for a complete list at <https://bfreemanbooks.com/about/>. Marcia, who is also in the book business, is Brian's editor, promoter, and marketer. Marcia thanked Susanne for reaching out and was grateful to be asked to present.

Brian began his presentation by telling us that he had a wonderful eighth-grade composition teacher who recognized his love of writing. She told him that when he came to her class to not worry so much about the lesson plan and to just sit and write his stories—which is what he did throughout most of her class. After that, he started on his first full-length novel that took 18 months to finish. He had the bug and discovered that that was what he wanted to do with his life—write books. He wrote five novels before his breakthrough novel. His work was rejected, and he took on a full-time job. After a couple of years, he wasn't writing and was miserable. He wasn't being true to himself and still felt that despite all the setbacks and the futility of writing books it was what he was supposed to be doing with his life. So, he gave it another chance and that's when the breakthrough novel finally broke. He looks back upon his life and he's happy that he didn't give up on himself and his dreams. He kept pushing forward, started on a new book, and hoped that things were going to be different.

Brian listed his strategy: First, he builds out the story he creates. He begins researching only when he has the idea of the story. He likes spontaneity, letting the characters guide. He does a loose outline. Second, he writes in the afternoon. This is when he reworks the page. The characters come to life, and he massages and shapes the suspense. Third, with writing complete, he reads it out loud and tweaks it as he goes along. He now writes three books a year and has been writing long enough that he and Marcia have developed a process. Marcia told the group that she and Brian never talk about the book until it is finished and he's ready to turn it over to her. She uses Facebook to keep Brian's books in the spotlight. She also indicated that the scenes in Brian's book are places that they've visited. What stood out with Brian's presentation was that he has fun writing.

The PWC meeting ended at 2 pm and six members joined the WOW gathering.

Member Spotlight

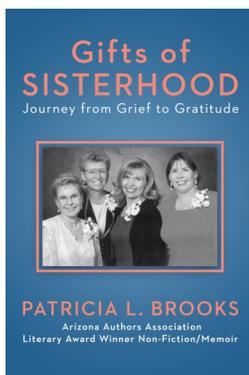
Patricia L. Brooks, MAOM
Award-winning Author
Speaker, Advocate, Publishing Consultant



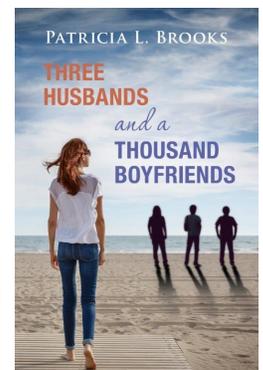
Patricia L. Brooks is enthusiastic about storytelling in her three memoirs. She is a sought after workshop and conference speaker.

Sick as My Secrets is a powerful, compassionate and moving memoir told by a strong and honest woman who overcame her desperate need for alcohol to manage stress in her young life. She is immensely proud of her 35-year recovery story and spiritual transformation and communicates her courage through writing memoir and speaking about her work.

Three Husbands and a Thousand Boyfriends is her poignant and moving story of a dangerous journey of love addiction, domestic violence and post-traumatic stress. Her raw reflections and conversations with God offer a glimpse into the heartbreaking chaos she survived. Patricia advocates for change in the domestic violence and recovery circles by promoting awareness to the community and the state legislature.



Her first memoir, *Gifts of Sisterhood - journey from grief to gratitude* is a tribute to her sister who died from lung cancer. Patricia earned a prestigious Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest Non-fiction award for this work. She facilitates a grief workshop with this memoir to honor her sister's courage.



Patricia is president and founder of Brooks Goldmann Publishing Company, LLC, serving as a publishing consultant to aspiring authors. She founded the company in 2005 with her husband Earl L. Goldmann. That same year, she created the phenomenally successful Scottsdale Society of Women Writers and continues to serve as its president. The mission of this group is to help other women share their truth and tell their stories. They meet monthly for a speaker and have been on a Zoom call for over two years. They hope to be an inhouse meeting again by early summer.

Patricia holds a Master of Arts Degree in Organizational Management (MAOM). She has a long history of public speaking and teaching at the university/community college level. She has owned three small businesses in Arizona, including her current business.

Originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan at the Straits of Mackinac, Patricia has been in Arizona 46 years in April. She resides in Old Town Scottsdale with her husband, Earl, who is also an author. She is working on her fourth book, a non-fiction work on writing memoir. She continues to advocate for her causes with her books.

Contact Patricia L. Brooks at: 480-250-5556 cell/
text



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Historian	TBD	

Local Writing Activities

MOTHERS WHO WRITE, Motherhood is the only experience necessary in this workshop for writers of all ages and levels of experience. At Changing Hands, 7-9PM THURSDAYS
5 SESSIONS: APRIL 7, 14, 21, AND 28 | MAY 5

Central Phoenix Writing Workshop – check their website—they have several workshops scheduled
https://www.meetup.com/CentralPhoenixWritingWorkshop/?_cookie-check=mzzcOalgDI-tuB9n

Write Here, Write Now, Virtual pop-up workshops each month, hosted online, co-presented by Phoenix College and ASU's Piper Center for Creative Writing . Go to Changing Hands to register. April 25, 6:30-8:00

FOR MOTHERS AND ANYONE WHO'S EVER HAD A MOTHER FIGURE IN THEIR LIFE, April 26, 5:00-6:30 . Poetry workshop. Register with Changing Hands.

Writing Workshops, <https://writingworkshops.com/>, lists all sorts of upcoming workshops for writers.

DailyOM, <https://www.dailyom.com/>, a year of writing (52 weeks) to uncover your authentic self.