

In this issue:

- Monthly Meeting Info
- This Month's Speaker
- A Note from the PWC President
- Miss Out? Last Month's Minutes
- PWC Critique Workshop News
- WOW and Other News
- What's Happening Around Town

PWC Monthly Meetings

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

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

May Speaker

In May, we welcome Jamie Figueroa!

Jamie Figueroa is Boricua (Afro-Taíno) by way of Ohio and long-time resident of northern New Mexico. Her writing has appeared in *McSweeney's*, *American Short Fiction*, *Agni* and *Emergence Magazine* among other journals.

Jamie received her MFA in Creative Writing from The Institute of American Indian Arts where she is now an assistant professor. Recipient of the Truman Capote award, and the Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Arts award, she was also chosen as a Bread Loaf, Rona Jaffe Scholar, and is a VONA alum. *Brother, Sister, Mother, Explorer* (Catapult) is her debut novel.



Call for new Board Officer

We have a need for a new Vice President board officer. If you or anyone you know might want to take on this role, please contact Cindi.

A Note from the PWC President

May Day, (May 1st) is the halfway point between spring and summer, not that there is a difference in our Valley of the Sun. Over the years there have been numerous interpretations and significance in celebrating the holiday.

As a third-grade student, I remember wrapping the Maypole, an event that was prized by many of us girls wearing ribbons in our hair to match the streamers that danced through the air. May Day baskets, filled with cookies and flowers, were dropped off on neighbor's stoops. It was a rite of spring, and the warmer weather was most welcome in New Jersey.

May has many admirers and has been a favorite topic of poets and writers through the ages. May your May be filled with spring flowers, baskets of cheer and much writing joy.



Write on,
Cindi Reiss



May And The Poets

By James Henry Leigh Hunt

There is May in books forever;
May will part from Spenser never;
May's in Milton, May's in Prior,
May's in Chaucer, Thomson, Dyer;
May's in all the Italian books:—
She has old and modern nooks,
Where she sleeps with nymphs and elves,
In happy places they call shelves,
And will rise and dress your rooms
With a drapery thick with blooms.
Come, ye rains, then if ye will,
May's at home, and with me still;
But come rather, thou, good weather,
And find us in the fields together.



Miss Out? April 2022 Meeting Minutes

By Bernadette Inlan

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

- Two guests attended: Beth Johnson and Diane (Frenchie) Goullard.
- In honor of Poetry Month, Cindi asked that when people introduced themselves to tell us their favorite poet. The list included Maya Angelou, Amanda Gorman, Robert Louis Stevenson, the Bible, Dr. Seuss, Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson, and Richard F. Wolf. One favorite poem is one from childhood in a country school, Hiawatha, *Allegro to Life* by Earl Vincent de Berge, and June Powers *Poems of Consciousness*.
- Jenny Bilskie-Smith reminded the group of the upcoming contests for PWC members. Information will be in the next newsletter. The non-fiction memoir contest will have a deadline in September 2022. The book may either be published already, or the manuscript must be ready for publication to submit to the contest.
- The poetry contest has a June 11th submission deadline, and the winner will be announced at the August 20th meeting. The poem must be at least 20 lines. One more judge is needed, and if you are not submitting a poem and are interested, please get in touch with jenny12366577@gmail.com.
- For new guests wanting to join PWC, contact Navissa Kaiser at navissak@hotmail.com.
- Members can submit biographies and headshot photos for the PWC website to ilsamanningwrites@gmail.com.

Member News (please send your news to azdanne@gmail.com for inclusion in the newsletter)

Brad Graber told the group that he'd be speaking at the Arizona Professional Writers (APW) group at the Scottsdale Museum on May 14th. The group is having its one-day annual convention. He'll be talking about stories we tell ourselves. His book *Boca by Moonlight* won first place at the APW and won the National Contest for National Federation of Press Women (NFPW). - announcement to be made June 25th. He said, " Not sure whether that is 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place. But I'm happy for any acknowledgment. "

Mark Walker announced that on May 7th, he, along with seven other speakers are performing, he with one of his essays, *The Bracelet*, at the Sanderson Center in Carefree. It's part of the storyteller program orchestrated by Nancy Guthrie.



Guest Speaker

Susanne Brent introduced our speaker, Mary Vraa.

You can follow her on her website <https://shiftyourstories.com/about/>. She became inspired in helping people with making choices about what they need, what to keep, and what to throw away after reading this quote from a book that said the following:

When you hit 50, you have to start looking at what's around in the house and start to make decisions... You don't want to leave a big mess behind for people.

Ms. Vraa is certified as a Master Life Coach as well. She is also a Senior Move Manager, which means she has guided women over 40 by releasing physical and emotional clutter that allows them to step into their future with confidence and clarity. She spoke that you are expressing love by going through all your stuff, you validate where you've been, then move on by making some changes in your life.

Ms. Vraa self-published her book, *PopUpPurge Release Midlife Clutter & Reclaim Inner Clarity* but got professional help with engaging a professional book cover designer not only for a concept for the cover of the book but also on the interior with the formatting. The designer picked up the purple and the turquoise colors throughout the book with the chapter number and then the title. She finished by emphasizing that one will have improved focus and reduced anxiety once one uses the viewpoint of discarding unnecessary stuff. One might become less of a procrastinator because another definition of clutter is deferred decision making.

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

Poetry Contest

April was National Poetry Month!

To celebrate, we are now accepting submissions to the Uta Behrens Poetry Contest. The deadline to submit is June 11, 2022.

Here are the rules:

Phoenix Writers Club members only

If you're not a member, but you are interested in joining, membership is \$35 for one year.

Please email Navissa Kaiser at navissak@hotmail.com for details.

- Please submit one completed poem
- Must rhyme
- Must be at least 20 lines
- **Award:** \$75.00

Deadline for submission: June 11, 2022

Submit to Jenny Bilskie-Smith at 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.



The Award

The winner will be announced at the August 20, 2022, general meeting. All contestants will be contacted with the results.

Judges

Our judges are Uta Behrens and Cindi Reiss and we are looking for one more person to join them. Please inquire with Jenny Bilskie-Smith at jenny12366577@gmail.com if you are interested.

Member Spotlight

Bernadette Inclan

Bernadette Inclan began the challenge of writing to stimulate her creative side after 45 years as a medical laboratory professional. Born and raised in Galveston, Texas, she'd listen to her parents' accounts about conquistador ancestors. Appreciating these stories about real people, she writes to honor their lives.

Bernadette was born with a club-foot deformity affecting both feet. At sixteen, after reconstructive surgery, she wore non-orthopedic shoes for the first time. When she was twenty-six, a surgeon advised more surgery without which she'd be a crippled arthritic by thirty. She ignored the advice and instead bought a pair of canvas shoes for running. She runs four miles every day.

Bernadette attended Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, Texas, then completed a 12-month internship at the University of Texas Medical School for cytotechnology and is ASCP Board certified. When her two sons were in grade school, she earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas. She began a master's program at Southwest Texas University but was promoted to regional cytology manager before completion. The job took her first to San Diego, California, then to Phoenix, Arizona, where she lives with her husband, Joseph Maguire.



Write On Writers (WOW) News

You are always welcome to join us at our Write on Writers (WOW) group after the general meeting. This is a fun general meeting to ask questions about printing, finding an agent, and other questions that often arise with writers. Email Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com for more info.

PWC Critique Writing Group

Our critique workshop meets via Zoom every other Friday. The May workshops will be on May 6, 6-8 p.m. and May 20, 6-8 p.m. Email Bernadette Inclan at bsbincoin@aol.com for information.



PWC Contact Info

President	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
Ex-officio President	Uta Behrens	602-441-3888
Vice President	TBD	
Secretary	Bernadette Inclan	bsbincoin@aol.com
Treasurer & Membership	Navissa Kaiser	navissak@hotmail.com
Speakers	Susanne Brent	susannebrent53@gmail.com
Website/Social Media	Ilsa Manning	ilsamanningwrites@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	D'Anne Pientka	azdanne@gmail.com
Writers Critique Workshop	Bernadette Inclan	bsbincoin@aol.com
WOW! Coordinator	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
Historian	TBD	

Local Writing Activities

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. 6:30-8:00

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.

Shut Up and Write is holding a [Book Launch Celebration: Roots, Shoots, and Blooms: An Anthology](#); Several of our PWC members will be featured on Saturday, May 07, 2022 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Register for free at:
https://www.meetup.com/shutupandwritephoenixaz/events/285335890/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=braze_canvas&utm_campaign=mmrk_alleng_event_announcement_prod_v4_en&utm_term=promo&utm_content=lp_meetup