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PWC Monthly Meetings

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

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, September 17 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.

September Speaker

In September, we welcome Steve Krafft!

Steve is from Evanston, Illinois. He attended Brown University and majored in history. Steve worked summers for five years in a factory on the west side of Chicago making milkshake mix for McDonald's restaurants throughout Chicagoland. He then backpacked through Europe and eventually returned to Chicago and worked on the Kellogg's cereals account at Leo Burnett Advertising. Steve then went to Boston College Law School and became an attorney. He practiced corporate law in Chicago for a year and a half and then left the law firm he was working for to join the NBC television station in Chicago as a researcher.



Steve moved on to Phoenix and became a reporter for KSAZ-TV. He worked at the station for 34 years, serving as consumer reporter, investigative reporter, political reporter, talk show host and occasional anchor. He estimates he did over 8,000 stories. Highlights include a series of stories in Berlin when the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, coverage of several U.S. Supreme Court cases, and coverage of national political campaigns of Barack Obama, Donald Trump, John McCain, Mitt Romney and Hillary Clinton.

Steve was recognized as Arizona Broadcast Journalist of the Year and is an Emmy Award Winner. He retired in 2019 and so far has written two children's books: *Won't Somebody Play With Annabelle Kay* and *Nadie Quiere Jugar Con Anabella Del Mar* (Spanish- with Miguel Romá). He's married and has three children.

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.

A Note from the PWC President

September has always been my favorite month, filled with beginnings and endings blending in harmony with each other, much like Phoenix Writers Club. Poets, novelists, memoirists, short story writers, the list goes on. Together we form a group of committed writers sharing our starts and stops, encouraging and supporting each other on our journeys.

This is also the time of year that PWC prepares for board elections in October. PWC continues to rock-n-roll' with the commitment of a talented and dedicated board. We will celebrate our 100th year in 2026 so that is a lot of rock-n-rollin'!

I encourage you to engage with us in the running of our club. Ilsa Manning, Chair of the Nominating Committee Ilsamanningwrites@gmail.com is looking to fill the slate of board members for the 2022-23 year.

Also, you are welcome to attend our board meetings and group emails before taking on a position in the future to learn more about it. I am always willing to answer any questions.

As we merge our seasons (though it certainly doesn't feel like any season changes in our Valley of the Sun) consider merging your skills with ours and get us to our 100th year with zeal!

Happy September!

Write on,
Cindi Reiss

Board Elections in October

Phoenix Writers Club is the long-time club that it is because of the dedicated people who give generously of their time, thoughts, and ideas. I thank each one of our board members, past and present, who have given their generous time to keep us going. We'll be 100 in 2026!

We always welcome more member involvement. The descriptions of the positions are on the next two pages of this newsletter. Elections are held in October, but we accept help any time of the year! Two roles that are open right now are Vice-President and Historian, and other roles will be needed as the year progresses.

I know that we all have lives outside of our writing; jobs, family, other groups, etc. Please consider if you can devote some of your energy to keep PWC writing into the future. If you have questions, comments, etc. please reach out to me and I will do my best to answer them. Looking forward to many more writerly years together.

Thank you, Cindi

PWC Critique Writing Group

Our critique workshop meets via Zoom every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month (a recent change). The September workshops will be on September 9, 6-8 p.m. and September 23, 6-8 p.m. Email Bernadette Inclin at bsbincoin@aol.com for information.

PWC August 2022 Meeting Minutes

By Bernadette Inclan

President Cindi Reiss opened the meeting at 12:37 pm and welcomed twenty-five members and guests. The guests included the following: Susan Pohlman, Kathryn Piazza, Janice Kehler, Patti Meis, Veronica Hassenger, Farriz Mashudi, Pat Hoover and Steve Krafft.

Writers Events

Mark your calendar to attend or participate in the following writers' events:

Brad Graber – Speaker for Scottsdale Society of Women Writers, “How to Add Humor to Your Author Toolkit.” Aug. 31, at 6 p.m., For more info, send a note to brad@bradgraber.com

Mark Walker – Speaker for the Arizona Professional Writers Group, on September 10th at 10 am. The focus is on the consolidation of the publishing industry and how he avoided the challenges with his new book, *My Saddest Pleasures: 50 Years on the Road*. Contact Mark for more info at: Mark@MillionMileWalker.com

Sue Fulton: ANTHOLOGY 2023 – SU&W is authoring another book. Transcendence is the theme of the 2023 Anthology, a collection of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction written by members of SU&W and Phoenix Writers Club. Offering workshops to help develop, draft, edit, and polish a manuscript (or 2). Registration and materials are free, but space is limited, so early sign-up is recommended:

- Mon 09/12/22, 6-7 PM Genre Specifics (fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry)
- Mon 10/14/22, 6-7 PM Finding Flow
- Mon 11/14/22, 6-7 PM Fearless Feedback

Membership Dues

Reminder: Annual membership dues for October are \$35. Please send a check or money order addressed to PWC via snail mail to: Navissa Kaiser, 5715 E. Alder Ave. Mesa, AZ 85206. If you are a new member, please include a note with your physical address, phone number, email, and genre.

We do not share info outside the club! Thank you!

2023 Board Nominations

Ilsa Manning, our Social Media Coordinator, has agreed to chair the nominating committee for elections in October. Please consider volunteering to assist Ilsa with this important assignment to fill PWC Board positions for 2023. Email Ilsa at ilsamanningwrites@gmail.com

Speaker Chair

Speaker Chair, Susanne Brent introduced Tim Storm, a freelance writer, editor, writing instructor, and the owner of Storm Writing School, who began his talk, *Tension Taxonomy*. Storm examined what aspects of the story affected an audience emotionally to keep them engaged; how do we engage readers, draw them in and keep them hooked? Creating tension is one of the main ways.

Storm also introduced writers into his presentation, such as George Saunders, *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain: In Which Four Russians Give a Master Class on Writing, Reading, and Life*, which he highly recommended, as a point of view of a short story writer. He listed boosters for readers that included the following:

- *Delight*-includes wordplay, truth, vicarious experience, and transports. We may not always find joy in reading but love the writing.
- *Tension*-the anxiety that results from a lack of resolution, such as intrigue tension, which confronts the reader with incomplete information or strange information. We must resolve the anxiety for the reader to continue.
- *Mystery*-the fastest way to create tension. Engages intellectually, not emotionally. Provokes curiosity, but not a concern, and may be rooted in a limited view. For an example, see author Benjamin Percy <https://benjaminpercy.com/other-works/short-stories/>
- *Drama*-not all action is full of tension. Conflict can be dramatic tension, what happens next? It provokes a more emotional response in the reader as in concern versus emotional tension. The reader wants a conflict that matters, a true threat to survival (physical, psychological, spiritual); if it speaks to the character's history, his motivation becomes more compelling.

Examples from the following authors: Lisa Cron <http://wiredforstory.com/wired-for-story/> and Billy Collins https://www.amazon.com/BillyCollins/e/B001LHV6DQ?ref=sr_ntt_srch_innk_1&qid=1661050528&sr=8-1

Anticipatory tension revolves around potentials: Potential revelation, potential threat, potential solution, potential enlightenment, potential union. Tim Storm ended the presentation that tension is rooted in provoking a question that can reverberate, may be urgent, and some are long and loud.

Questions were presented.

Cindi adjourned the meeting session at 2:07 pm.

Uta Behrens Poetry Contest

Jenny Bilskie-Smith, Contest Coordinator

The poetry contest sponsored by Uta Behrens drew several talented submissions. The Phoenix Writers Club genuinely thanks all who participated. We congratulate Dot Sagnis, the contest winner who wrote *Bus to Nowhere*.

Please take a moment to enjoy Dot's piece (next page), where she cleverly creates the rhythm of riding on a bus with her words. I can't help but sway to the tempo Dot sets in this brilliant piece that seems to be about humanity's journey and not its destination.

The Bus to Nowhere
by Dot Sagnis

This bus is lackluster, life-scarred, and blue
Like lyrics of a bad country western song
Busy doors hiss like umpteen snakes all a-dither
Gears groan and moan like romance gone all wrong



The bus driver's broad, barrel-bodied - a Buddha
He sits silent and stoic and strong as a stone
His gaze take the measure of oncoming traffic
An omnipotent king on his orange plastic throne

Today's first boarder is old-as-dirt Dan
Tottering, fidgeting, poking slow up the stair
Reluctantly, arthritically, his fingers unfurl
To drop his coin in the box with deliberate care

Then a mother and toddler, rumped blanky in tow
Toddle and mother aboard as they should
She's weary and dreary, he's diapered and drooling
He straddles her hip, she says, Now child, be good

The next kiosk uploads three vagabond teens
Grinning and glaring, they're nobody's fool
Simpering, primping, and owning the world
Playing at grown-up, playing hooky from school

A red-coated, blue-haired, gray-faced woman in back
Holds an apple and penknife down in her lap
She pares bites and nibbles like this meal is her last
Then, closing her eyes, retreats into a nap

Tourists embark now with cameras and tote bags
Wrong maps and wrong change, pursuing some quest
Gathered like lemmings, gabbing like locusts
Overloaded, overwhelmed, overawed, overdressed

From office and factory, lunch counter and lab
To home and the bar, movie theater and mall
Sojourners, seekers, lost souls, and survivors
Peddlers and pilgrims, and who knows who all

Workers and wanderers, travelers, day-trippers
Clamber to seats and clog up the aisles
They watch the scenery, like their lives, passing by
This bus belches exhaust fumes and spits out the miles.



Phoenix Oasis Press, POP

Phoenix Oasis Press, POP, is offering the workshops listed below and extends an invitation to submit for their anthology. They are opening participation to PWC members. This is a valuable learning experience for all writers. Several of our members are part of this group (formerly Inkwell), and PWC welcomes this opportunity. For any further information, please contact Sue Fulton at suefulton@icloud.com

2023 ANTHOLOGY PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Workshops/Writing (Aug – Nov)
Retreat Option (early Jan)
Submissions Open (Jan 1-31st)
Editors' Review (Feb)
Manuscript Formatting (March)
Manuscript Submission (April)
Publication Date (May)
Launch Event (May)

THEME: Transcendence

Transcendence comes from the Latin prefix trans-, meaning “beyond” and the word scandere, meaning “to climb”. When you achieve transcendence, you have gone beyond ordinary limitations. The word is often used to describe a spiritual or religious state, or a condition of moving beyond physical needs and realities. (dictionary.com)

WRITING FOCUS

Originality
Quality of Writing
Related (in some way) to transcendence

GENRES / WORD COUNTS

Creative Non-Fiction: up to 3,500 words
Fiction: up to 3,500 words
Poetry: up to 40 lines

MAXIMUM SUBMISSIONS PER WRITER

2 (in different genres)

WRITING PREP WORKSHOPS

We're offering three free workshops to help you develop, draft, edit, and polish a manuscript (or 2) for our 2023 anthology. Details and workshop registration here:

Mon 09/12/22, Zoom, 6-7 PM Genre Specifics (fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry)

Mon 10/14/22, Zoom, 6-7 PM Finding Flow

Mon 11/14/22, Zoom, 6-7 PM Fearless Feedback



PWC Contact Info

President	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
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Vice President	TBD	
Secretary	Bernadette Inclan	bsbincoin@aol.com
Treasurer & Membership	Navissa Kaiser	navissak@hotmail.com
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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. <https://www.changinghands.com/upcoming-events>

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

Book Pre-Launch Success Masterclass: Get Paid To Publish — Online or Deer Valley, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-pre-launch-success-masterclass-get-paid-to-publish-deer-valley-tickets-371190008307>

Eventbrite: Use the link below and add the filter “writing”. The upcoming events appear. <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/az--phoenix/writing/>

Art Therapy: Found Poetry: Transform written pages into your own poem. Friday September 19th 7:30pm- 9pm. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/art-therapy-found-poetry-tickets-389552280357>

Phoenix Writers Network: <https://www.phoenixwritersnetwork.com/> ... Matthew Goodman – Sept. 22— Matthew Goodman is a *New York Times*-bestselling author of four books of nonfiction: *The City Game: Triumph, Scandal, and a Legendary Basketball Team* (Ballantine Books, 2019); *Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland’s History-Making Race Around the World* (Ballantine Books, 2013); *The Sun and the Moon: Hoaxers, Showmen, Dueling Journalists, and Lunar Man-Bats in Nineteenth-Century New York* (Basic Books, 2008). For more information/signup, please follow the link. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/phoenix-writers-network-an-evening-with-matthew-goodman-tickets-394113452947>