

In this issue:

- Monthly Meeting Info
- This Month's Speaker
- A Note from the PWC President
- Non-Fiction Contest
- Member News
- 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, October 15 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.

October Speaker

In October, we welcome Debe Branning!

Debe Branning has been the director of the MVD Ghostchasers, a Mesa/Bisbee, Arizona–based paranormal team, since 1994. The team conducts investigations of haunted and historical locations throughout Arizona and has offered paranormal workshops/investigations since 2002. Debe has been a guest lecturer and speaker at several Arizona universities and community colleges, science fiction and paranormal conferences, historical societies and libraries.

Her television appearances include features on an episode of Streets of Fear (2009); an episode of Travel Channel's Ghost Stories about haunted Jerome, Arizona (2010), and on an episode of Ghost Adventures titled "Old Gila County Jail and Courthouse" (2018). As a paranormal journalist, she has investigated haunted locations, including castles, jails, ships, inns and cemeteries, and has taken walking ghost tours in the United States, England, Scotland, Ireland and Mexico. She has been the guest of the Historic Hotels of the Rockies and U.S. Tourism Departments in Carlsbad, Salem and Biloxi.

Books by Debe Branning

"Sleeping With Ghosts--A Ghost Hunter's Guide to AZ's Haunted Hotels and Inns"

"The Graveyard Shift--AZ's Historic & Haunted Cemeteries"

"Grand Canyon Ghost Stories"

"Dining With the Dead" AZ's Haunted Restaurants"

"Haunted Phoenix"

"Arizona's Haunted Route 66"

"Haunted Globe"

"Ghosts of Houston's Market Square Park"

"The Adventures of Chickolet Pigolet--3 part series"



A Note from the PWC President

October is Halloween unlimited time for me, my favorite holiday of the year! Making yourself into another character, if only for one night, is enchanting. After ‘retiring’ from performing for children as a clown, scarecrow, tooth fairy and damsel in distress, it was a natural progression to writing. I could continue embracing other characters in my stories and poems and explore the lives of the characters as well as my own life. How lucky we are as writers to have this ability and to share it with our readers. May all of your characters fly off the page this month and always.

The Scarecrow
BY KAHLIL GIBRAN

Once I said to a scarecrow, “You must be tired of standing in this lonely field.”

And he said, “The joy of scaring is a deep and lasting one, and I never tire of it.”

Said I, after a minute of thought, “It is true; for I too have known that joy.”

Said he, “Only those who are stuffed with straw can know it.”

Then I left him, not knowing whether he had complimented or belittled me.

A year passed, during which the scarecrow turned philosopher.

And when I passed by him again I saw two crows building a nest under his hat.

Happy October!

Write on,
Cindi Reiss



Uta Behrens Non-Fiction Contest

All of you non-fiction writers, get ready to submit!

Non-fiction includes memoir, books of essays, short stories or poetry, either published or manuscript ready. Books must have been published since 2021 and a minimum of 120 pages.

The deadline for submissions is September of 2023 so get writing!

For mailing address of where to send your entry, please call Uta at 602-441-3888.

Winner will receive \$300, and we thank Uta for sponsoring this contest.

PWC September 2022 Meeting Minutes

By Bernadette Inclan

President Cindi Reiss opened the meeting at 12:37 p.m. and welcomed sixteen members and one guest, Sybil Yeaman. The smaller group allowed each participant to introduce themselves and tell the group about their writing style.

Board Elections

Ilsa Manning is chairing board elections and presented the slate to be voted on in October: President-Cindi Reiss, Treasurer-Navissa Kaiser, Secretary-Bernadette Inclan, with an opening for Vice President. She also issued a call for volunteers—we can always use the help. You can decide what area best fits you, and we'll find a spot for you to help.

Non-Fiction Book Contest

Uta Behrens has extended the non-fiction book contest. The information is in this newsletter.

Membership Sharing

Members, continue sending in your member sharing stories to Cindi-writeoncindi@gmail.com

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!

Speaker Introduction

Cindi then introduced our speaker, Steve Krafft. Steve was a former newscaster in the field for thirty-four years. He has done all kinds of reporting, talk show hosting, and anchoring. He told the group that he'd covered everything and everybody. He retired to publish a children's book, which you can find on the link in both English and Spanish: https://www.amazon.com/Steve-Krafft/e/B09BBTP87P%3Fref=db_s_a_mng_rwt_scns_share

Steve began his professional career as an attorney. In his job as a junior counselor, he was assigned to write a brief to the Supreme Court on a pro bono assignment. The brief was accepted, but he wasn't the one who would present it. He found the mechanics of lawyering too dull and got a job as a television producer. There he covered everything from crime and politics to beauty pageants. It was the pictures that flashed on the screen that told the story. Storytelling is picturing.

He used the example of the police as first responders and a reporter as the second responder. Steve learned to knock on doors to extract the first-hand story of a victim. He realized that some of the skills he learned in television were transferable to children's picture books. Images dominate television, and Steve believes that illustrated children's books should be dominated by images, with the words accompanying them. Words tie the images together, but words don't tell the story alone. It's a visual medium, like television, that makes illustrations unique. In law, he learned to use, say, one-hundred words when ten words were sufficient. In children's books, you have the story controlled by the image and use few words because the image tells the story. The image gives a very subtle concept, and Steve had to unlearn being too verbal and write fewer words.

Steve's story began as ideas he jotted down with little poems he recited to his children at bedtime. He started to tell the story of a lonely little girl and made a couple of pictures to go with the poem in the hopes that someday he would write a book. It wasn't until he retired that he found his works and imported them into his computer. His son, newly graduated from ASU, helped with the graphics. A professor from Boston Latin School reimaged the story in Spanish and provided the translation.

Steve is a believer in children's books because of their universal theme. You don't have to say too much about the image. The reader can see, and the words bring the reader along for the body now writing in rhyme. You don't want to say too much about it. Think simple as a beautiful blessing.

Steve then showed the group how he turned eighteen pictures into a twenty-six-page book. He made an image bigger on one page while on another, shrinking, altered the pictures using the same illustration, stretched, and cut, which changed one view for use in three to four pages, invisible to the reader. The pictures came first, then the story.

Steve gave the group hints on marketing. Write about your book to a newspaper, where newscasters get their stories and could lead to a television feature of you and your book. Also, Barnes and Noble in Scottsdale have a local author's corner featuring writers from the Valley. These are links to recent interviews he did for his book.

- Interview on Good Morning Arizona <https://youtu.be/zc-WNRn2zrQ>
- Article in Ahwatukee Foothills News <https://bit.ly/2WGk2a>

After Steve answered questions from the group, Cindi adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

Member News

Mark Walker—Recently gave a speech to the AZ Professional Writers Group. His presentation may be found at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/11/opinion/penguin-simon-schuster-publishing.html?searchResultPosition=2>

His latest book, *Perception and Deception*, was published by Peace Corps Worldwide.

He is a contributing writer to Wanderlust, sharing an inspirational lifetime of wandering the globe.

Things to do

Melanie Hershorn – Nov. 17 <https://www.phoenixwritersnetwork.com/>

Melanie Hershorn wants to make your book and brand sparkle online. As a content marketing strategist for coaches and speakers worldwide, she's on a mission to support and empower her clients to create clear messaging and content that shines a light on their individual experience, skillset, and books.

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 10/14/22, 6-7 PM Finding Flow
- Mon 11/14/22, 6-7 PM Fearless Feedback

Brooks Goldman Publishing

Patricia L. Brooks, and her husband, Earl Goldmann will be featuring their five memoirs at the Thumb Butte book festival in Prescott on Saturday, November 5 from 10 AM to 4 PM on the third floor of the Elks building located across from Hassayampa Inn.

This is the third annual book festival. Brooks and Goldmann will be joined by 50 other authors and sponsored by the Prescott Arts and Humanities Council.

For more information you can contact Patricia via text 480-250-5556 or by email patricia@plbrooks.com. Their books can be previewed on the website www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com



Writing Tips & Tricks

Word Usage & Frequency—Curious to know how frequently you use the same word in your writing? The internet provides access to several tools. Gregory K. Maxey offers a word template that he built. Note that the template is offered for free; however, a donation is requested, reasonable considering he put the work into developing the template. You can find the templates and instructions here: [Word Usage & Frequency Report \(gregmaxey.com\)](http://gregmaxey.com)

Please share with me your tips and tricks to include in *Stimulus*. azdanne@gmail.com



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 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
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. <https://www.changinghands.com/upcoming-events>

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

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 October 19th 7:30pm- 9pm. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/art-therapy-found-poetry-tickets-389552280357>

Halloween Poetry—What haunts you? Oct 15, 1:00—3:30 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/halloween-poetry-workshop-what-haunts-you-tickets-414983756587?aff=erelexpmlt>

PWC Critique Writing Group

Our critique workshop meets via Zoom every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month (a recent change). The October workshops will be on October 14, 6-8 p.m. and October 28, 6-8 p.m. Email Bernadette Inclan at bsbincoin@aol.com for information.