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## PWC Monthly Meetings

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

**NEXT MEETING: Saturday, November 19 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.

## November Speaker

*On your mark, get Setting ... In November, we welcome Connie Berry!*

Every novel has a setting, but it's often relegated to a minor role in favor of the real stars of the show — character and plot. But can an author make setting work harder and accomplish more?

Connie Berry writes the Kate Hamilton Mystery series, set in the UK and featuring an American antiques dealer with a gift for solving crimes. Connie was raised by antiques dealers who instilled in her a passion for history, fine art, and travel. During college she attended St. Clare's College, Oxford, where she fell under the spell of the British Isles. Her debut novel, *A Dream of Death* won the IPPY Gold for Mystery and was a finalist for the Silver Falchion and Agatha Awards. The third in the series, *The Art of Betrayal*, is a finalist for the 2021 Daphne Award. Besides reading mysteries and writing them, Connie loves foreign travel, cute animals, and all things British. She lives in Ohio with her husband and adorable dog, Emmie. You can find her at [www.connieberry.com](http://www.connieberry.com).



## 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.

## A Note from the PWC President

This month of Thanksgiving gives us pause to reflect and remember all that we are grateful for. Life can often be difficult but hopefully, we can find a beacon of beauty in the world. And often that beauty is in words, whether we are writing them or reading them. Having the gift of writing brings solace to the soul and sharing our work with others is one of the benefits of writing groups. Phoenix Writers Club has helped me learn my craft, gain confidence and develop camaraderie with fellow writers. These past few years on Zoom have made that more challenging but I'm thankful we have this technology (and the patience to keep it going!) I am grateful for the friendships I have formed over my years in PWC and the ability to share writing ups and downs with fellow scribes.

I leave you with this poem that you may know as a song with some different wording but it didn't begin that way, who knew?!

*The New-England Boy's Song about Thanksgiving Day*  
By Lydia Maria Child

Over the river, and through the wood,  
To Grandfather's house we go;  
the horse knows the way to carry the sleigh  
through the white and drifted snow.

Over the river, and through the wood—  
and straight through the barnyard gate,  
We seem to go extremely slow,  
it is so hard to wait!

Over the river, and through the wood,  
to Grandfather's house away!  
We would not stop for doll or top,  
for 'tis Thanksgiving Day.

Over the river, and through the wood—  
When Grandmother sees us come,  
She will say, "O, dear, the children are here,  
bring a pie for everyone."

Over the river, and through the wood—  
oh, how the wind does blow!  
It stings the toes and bites the nose  
as over the ground we go.

Over the river, and through the wood—  
now Grandmother's cap I spy!  
Hurrah for the fun! Is the pudding done?  
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!

***HAPPY THANKSGIVING!***

Write on,  
*Cindi Reiss*



# PWC October 2022 Meeting Minutes

By Bernadette Inclan

Cindi Reiss, President, opened the meeting at 12:44 pm. She welcomed guest Ed Skinner and all members. The PWC monthly meetings will remain on Zoom until early next year, possibly until April 2023.

## Writing Opportunities

Cindi reminded the group of Uta Behrens's non-fiction contest next year. More details in this newsletter.

Writers Inspiration Group (WIG) is another opportunity to write and is based on the book by Natalie Goldberg, *Writing Down the Bones*. A facilitator for each session provides prompts, and you have 5-10 minutes to write anything that comes to mind. You have a choice to read or pass on your writing. They do not critique—they write just for fun. WIG has been meeting for at least sixteen years. They meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Send an email to Bernadette by the Tuesday morning of the meeting to be included on her Zoom link, [bsbincoin@aol.com](mailto:bsbincoin@aol.com)

## Membership Renewal

Navissa Kaiser, Treasurer, reminded the group that dues are now due. Please pay the yearly dues of \$35 by check or money order addressed to PWC and send them to Navissa Kaiser, 5715 E. Alder Ave. Mesa, AZ, 85206. Dues provide the funds to schedule excellent speakers.

Navissa made a motion to increase the speaker's honorarium to \$75 from \$50, Ilsa Manning seconded it and members voted unanimously to the increase, to take effect immediately.

## Newletter

D'Anne Pientka, Newsletter Editor, requested that members send her news about their writings to share in the newsletter. Send to [azdanne@gmail.com](mailto:azdanne@gmail.com)

## Board Voting Results

Ilsa Manning, Social Media Coordinator, put the Board candidates for President- Cindi Reiss, Secretary-Bernadette Inclan, and Treasurer- Navissa Kaiser, up for a vote. Members voted in favor of the ballot.

## PWC Holiday Party

Bernadette Inclan and her husband, Joseph Maguire, will host the PWC Holiday Salon Social and Feast Saturday, Dec. 17th, from 2 pm – 6 pm (see attached flyer). **Please RSVP by Dec. 3 rd to [azdanne@gmail.com](mailto:azdanne@gmail.com)** so we can adjust the amount of food to prepare. PWC will provide the buffet and non-alcoholic drinks, and you can BYOB. Bring your favorite holiday sweet to share. During the Salon, you'll have the opportunity to tell or read your favorite holiday story or poem, sing a song, play an instrument, etc., you get the idea. Books make the best Holiday gifts, so bring yours to sell during the social hour mingle and market.

## Susan Fulton, Shut Up & Write

[https://shutupwrite.com/?mc\\_cid=0ae32b5427&mc\\_eid=5edf339eee](https://shutupwrite.com/?mc_cid=0ae32b5427&mc_eid=5edf339eee)

An anthology with submissions opening is coming up early next year. The Anthology will include short fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry.

**WORKSHOP:** Transcendence is the theme of our 2023 anthology, a collection of original poetry, fiction, and non-fiction written by members of SU&W and Phoenix Writers Club. Join us for the final workshop and get a head start on your submission(s)! Registration and materials are free to participants, but space is limited, so RSVP early:  
Mon 11/14/22, 6-7 PM, on Zoom, Fearless Feedback

Shut Up & Write is also having a **Writers Retreat** on November 17th at one of our members homes. Space is limited to ten writers. Contact [cornelius.mary@gmail.com](mailto:cornelius.mary@gmail.com)

### Speaker

Susanne Brent introduced our speaker, Debe Branning, who has been the director of the MVD Ghostchasers since 1994. The Mesa/Bisbee-based team conducts investigations of haunted, historical locations throughout Arizona and offers paranormal workshops. Debe has been a guest lecturer and speaker at multiple universities, community colleges, and conferences in addition to her television appearances. As a paranormal journalist, she investigates haunted locations worldwide and is the author of multiple books for adults and children. For a complete listing of her books, check out <https://www.amazon.com/Debe-Branning/e/B001K7Y2LK>. Debe has been a writer for twenty years and had a speaker session with PWC when her first book came out. Debe's first book is still a bestseller, *Haunted Phoenix*. You can find the list of books she has since written on the link provided. Debe and a group of equal-minded paranormal journalists travel around the state and gather mystical information from the people, places, and restaurants they stay at and visit. The local stories and eyewitness reports are the basis for her books. From the Grand Canyon, Arizona's haunted hotels and inns, legendary stories of Route 66, directions, fun facts about Arizona's graveyards, and much more. She has several books on Arizona's spooky side to raise the hairs on the neck of any of her readers. Debe told the group that she does research using [newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com) and [Ancestry](http://ancestry.com) for the investigation to outline her book. She mentions in her publications the group members who contributed. She also stays connected with the people who send her stories. She co-wrote one book with another author but commented that this was a challenging endeavor and doesn't recommend it.

She uses two publishers; American Traveler Press <https://www.americantravelerpress.com/> and Riverbend Publishing Company <https://riverbendpublishing.com/>

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm. The PWC Board meeting followed.

## November—Happy National Novel Writing Month

National Novel Writing Month, also known as NaNoWriMo, is a month-long creative writing challenge that takes place every November. During the month participants from all over the world are challenged to write a 50,000 word first draft of a novel. For more information: <https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/national-novel-writing-month-2022-nanowrimo/>



## Member News

### Cindi Reiss

I was honored to be interviewed for *Writer's Life* with Mimbres Press of Western New Mexico University, having been recommended by Advisory Board Member Stella Pope Duarte, author, educator, and community activist.

*Writer's Life* features interviews with leaders in the writing community throughout the southwest and this was a considerable opportunity to support PWC and our Valley. Early next year several members from the press will be speaking to our club telling of the opportunities to submit your work and introduce you to some of their authors.

Our Phoenix area is a hub for writers of all genres and I'm delighted to share this news with you. Here are the YouTube and Facebook links, subscribe to keep the writing news coming!

YouTube link: [Writer's Life: Cindi Reiss \( Youtube\)](#)

Facebook post: [Writer's Life- Cindi Reiss \( Facebook\)](#)

### Ilsa Manning

Isla's first published chapter comes out in *Deserts to Mountaintops*, January 2023. She asks that we read and review her chapter, (re)Birth ([https://docs.google.com/documentd/1W7Dr7jyLRsgwGpDAYOC\\_aztdoeYtJqLHRexQjYB5haw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/documentd/1W7Dr7jyLRsgwGpDAYOC_aztdoeYtJqLHRexQjYB5haw/edit?usp=sharing)) before November 19. Send your review to Ilsa so she can show the publisher that she's doing her part to market the book. Congratulations, Ilsa.

**Mark Walker**—Apologies to Mark Walker for mistakes made in last month's *Stimulus*, the fault all on the editor. Here is the corrected information.

The presentation (not speech) for the **Arizona Professional Writers** was: **Consolidation of the Publishing Industry and Why American Writers and Bookstores Lose Out** and Mark will send a copy of the PowerPoint to anyone who is interested.

*Perception & Deception* is not his book, but his book review of that book was published in **Peace Corps Worldwide: Perception and Deception: Mind Opening Journey Across Cultures**.

<https://peacecorpsworldwide.org/review-perception-and-deception-by-joe-lurie-kenya/>

He is a contributing writer for *Wanderlust Journal*. They just published his essay: **"Expatriate Journeys in the Land of the Eternal Spring"** <https://wanderlust-journal.com/2022/09/09/expats/>

## 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](mailto:writeoncindi@gmail.com) for more info.



## 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](mailto: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 scandare, 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 11/14/22, Zoom, 6-7 PM Fearless Feedback



## PWC Contact Info

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

**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.

## PWC Critique Writing Group

Our critique workshop meets via Zoom every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. Due to the holidays, the one November workshop will be on November 11, 6-8 p.m. Email Bernadette Inclan at [bsbincoin@aol.com](mailto:bsbincoin@aol.com) for information.