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PWC Monthly Meetings

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

No December Zoom meeting—see information about the Salon Holiday Party below

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.



PWC Salon Holiday Party

Saturday, December 17, 2:00—6:00

It's not too late to RSVP and let Bernadette/Joe know if you can attend the Salon. Please contact them at 602.689.3399. A flyer is attached with this newsletter's email with more details. We'd love to see you there.

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.

2023 Annual ASPS Conference

January 13-15, 2023, the Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS) will hold its annual conference, featuring poetry readings, craft talks, workshops, etc. You may participate via Zoom or in person. Note that their vice-president will be our January guest speaker. Additional details are provided in the attached newsletter.

A Note from the PWC President

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our Holiday Salon and Party as we celebrate another year of our writing lives together. My December greetings to you!

In this month of December of goodwill and cheer
I wish you all joy in the faiths you hold dear.
Lighting Hanukkah candles, spinning dreidels of clay
May peace be upon you as you honor each day.
As you set your Nativity under the tree
May your hearts be blessed with joy, love and glee.
May the principles of Kwanzaa fill your abode
As you honor your culture and follow that road.
However you celebrate and for those who do not
May you smile at your neighbors in our large melting pot.
So send off your cheer in your writerly ways
I wish you much goodness for all of your days.

Write on,
Cindi Reiss

Speaker Chair

Thank you to Speaker Chair Susanne Brent, who is 'retiring' from this role. We are fortunate for her diligence and dedication in finding us speakers from around the country and topics that encompassed numerous genres and educational experiences. During this time of Zoom without PWC's in-person social time, speakers are an integral part of keeping our club intact.

We will be changing the process of reserving our speakers and giving each of you the opportunity to pitch in. More info will be forthcoming in the new year.

Our writing community is a continuing source of learning and support and we look forward to many more opportunities to cultivate our writing lives.



PWC November 2022 Meeting Minutes

By *Bernadette Inclan*

Cindi Reiss, President, opened the meeting at 12:36 pm with eighteen participants. She welcomed guests Ashlee Polarek and Rick Lindstrom, as well as our speaker, Connie Berry. Since the forum opened with a small group, each participant introduced themselves and stated what or why they were grateful for this Thanksgiving holiday.

Bert Haagenstad posts his writings on Facebook, or you can read his work on *Writer's Din-Blogger*.

Steve Brett Young has a book, *The Studio City Life Coach's Holiday Survival Guide*. He's bringing copies to sell at the Holiday Salon on December 17.

Martha Kent lost her husband. Remember her in your thoughts and prayers. This loss so close to the holidays is sure to bring heartfelt memories. May she gather strength from her husband's spirit.

PWC's Salon Holiday Party, Saturday, Dec. 17, from 2 pm to 6 pm, will be at the home of Bernadette and Joe. Joe will arrange the parking, but if you can carpool, it will help. Bring a favorite cookie or a traditional dessert to share. If you have published a book, bring copies to sell. Books make great gifts.

Financial Statement

Navissa Kaiser, the Treasurer, gave a summary of PWC's financial status:

- ◆ Expenditures over the last six months: \$633
- ◆ Membership fees collected thus far: \$805 (see Memberships below)
- ◆ Speaker fees: \$75 each month
- ◆ Zoom meetings: \$96 for six months

Memberships

We have 25 members in good standing, with five paid members new within the past 6 months. 14 members still need to pay their dues. Please send your check or money order to Navissa.

PWC Membership Advantages

PWC offers a free author webpage on our website where you can show your work and let interested readers learn how to find you.

The WOW group (writers on writing) allows members to chat about writing-related issues, ask questions, and get to know each other from the safety of home—and it's free.

The PWC Critique workshop allows members to share their writing in a safe environment and exchange observations about the writings. It's proven to be a wonderful training experience and strengthened the participants' writings.

Speaker

Susanne introduced our speaker, Connie Berry. You can learn everything about Connie on her fabulous website, www.connieberry.com. Connie spoke on setting, which she feels is often relegated to a minor role. She gave a slide presentation to see setting in a new way. Setting is underutilized and misunderstood

because plot, character, and setting are often considered separate entities. When the writer treats setting separately, it pulls the reader out of the narrative, jolting them away from the action.

Setting should anchor your reader. It can bring your story to life within a particular genre and serve to deepen your character development. Setting can reveal your characters' emotions and inner thoughts and elevate the action. It also can indicate a backstory without slowing things down and creating a subtext. Her example was one she learned from a class Connie took with writer Margie Lawson. According to Lawson, think of your setting or backstory as a big sheet of glass that breaks into tiny shards, which you can now slip those shards throughout the novel where they belong.

Setting is something you slip in as you go along allowing the reader to make sense of the story and connecting the account to the whole. Setting is where your story takes place. Every story answers the questions, who, what, when, where, why, and how? If your plot is *what* and *how*, your character is *who*, the setting is the *where*. When these all work together, nothing is expendable.

There are two broad categories of setting and fiction; backdrop that is vague and generic and backdrop that is woven into the plot and the characters' lives. In other words, the setting is the history of the place, the atmosphere, and the mood. Setting is the third point, that includes how the characters view their world and how they relate to their surroundings. Setting has a sensory and an emotional component. It's not just how the characters see—it's smell, taste, touch, a sixth sense, and how it evokes memories, fears, desires, and associations. Connie encourages the writer to think of setting like a map with a certain scale. If you zoom in, you see a lot of detail; zoom out, you see a broader context. Her examples included Jane Austen's intimate country settings versus the broader setting one would use in WWII.

Connie talked about the pitfalls of using a real place for a setting. For one, readers may have misconceptions and you'll have to change their minds. There is also the possibility of getting something wrong. If you use a real place and make a factual error, you will hear about it. You may make people angry. She recommends you fictionalize your place, and she gave examples of books with the fictionalized setting: Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*, Sue Grafton's town of Santa Teresa, and Connie's first book with a fictionalized island off the coast of South Carolina.

Connie closed the sessions by answering questions and telling us that every word is just as powerful or meaningful depending on visceral reactions. She provided the following guide of helpful resources.

Helpful Resources:

Writer's Guide to Active Setting by Mary Buckham

The Rural Setting Thesaurus & The Urban Setting Thesaurus by Angela Ackerman & Becca Puglisi

www.timeanddate.com

www.etymonline.com

<https://www.google.com/streetview>

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>

WOW followed the meeting. The meeting closed at 2.05 pm.



Phoenix Oasis Press, POP

Phoenix Oasis Press, POP, 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

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)



PWC Contact Info

President	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
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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. They have a few workshops scheduled for December. <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/az--phoenix/writing/>

PWC Critique Writing Group

Our critique workshop meets via Zoom every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. Due to the holidays, the one December workshop will be on December 9, 6-8 p.m. Email Bernadette Inclan at bsbincoin@aol.com for information.