

In this issue:

- February Club Meeting
- February Speaker
- A Note from the PWC President
- January Meeting Minutes
- Member Spotlight
- Non-Fiction Contest
- What's Happening Around Town

PWC Monthly Meetings

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

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, February 18 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. via Zoom.

Members: No fee.

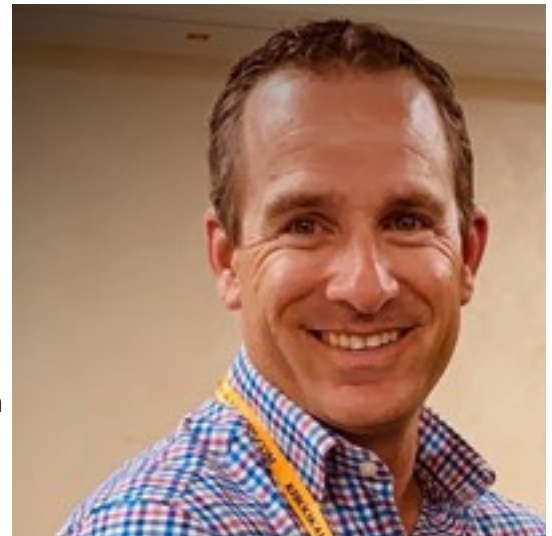
Guests: Two meetings free, then membership required for further attendance.

RSVP to Navissa Kaiser at navissak@hotmail.com, call or text (480) 200-5191.

February Speaker

In February, we welcome Jared Kuritz !

The publishing industry has never been more accessible. That is both good and bad news. With the floodgates open, the role of author, publisher, editor, agent, and publicist have become blurred. And we are inundated with conflicting information and challenges. But more books are being produced and consumed through more platforms than ever before. Join industry expert and Managing Director of Mimbres Press, Jared Kuritz, as he offers key insights on the state of the publishing industry, followed by an open Q&A session.



Jared Kuritz is the Managing Director of Mimbres Press of Western New Mexico University and also oversees book marketing efforts. For more than 20 years as a Managing Partner with STRATEGIES Public Relations, he has worked with domestic and international authors and publishers on literary and publishing development, business modeling, and public relations and marketing. Jared is also the Director of the La Jolla Writers Conference—an annual, three-day immersion that educates attendees about the art, craft, and business of writing and publishing. Jared is also the Founder and Director of the Kops-Fetherling Books Awards. A regular contributor to IBPA, BEA, Tucson Festival of Books, and more, Jared enjoys sharing his expertise with members of the writing and publishing community. Jared will share a bit about the state of the publishing industry, the publishing process, and Mimbres Press, with a Q&A to follow.

Website: <https://mimbrespress.wnmu.edu/>



A Note from the PWC President

February is a time for renewal for me; the winter holiday season is ending (though my decorations will remain up until April), many celebrations and events are happening around the Valley, and tourists are giving our economy a boost.

PWC is also celebrating another year of our writing lives with each other. We are grateful that we could Zoom along with each other but we miss seeing each other's smiling faces in person. In April we plan to meet in person, and we will fill you in at the February meeting as we continue to find a place where we can meet, eat, and socialize without breaking the bank. We writers don't make much from our talents!

We will be on Zoom in February and March with inspiring, informative speakers as always. But, we plan on getting together on our usual third Saturday in April for socializing and for some of us, meeting each other in person for the first time.

I'm also continuing our Member Sharing pieces by email so send me a story, poem, essay, blogpost, etc. and I will send it out to the club so we can discover what our fellow writers are up to. Please send them in a PDF document and include in the email a brief snippet about yourself.

It has been delightful meeting with many of you at our after-meeting group, Write On Writers (WOW). This has given us the means to chat with each other and get to know one another so please join us any time. It's a time to talk about our writing lives, ask questions, provide answers, and discuss writing topics informally.

Happy February!

Write on,
Cindi Reiss

PWC Critique Writing Group

Our critique workshop meets via Zoom every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, from 6:00-8:00. Email Bernadette Inclin at bsbincoin@aol.com for information.

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 January 2023 Meeting Minutes

By *Bernadette Inclan*

President Cindi Reiss opened the meeting at 12:40 p.m. after brief introductions from eighteen attendees. Cindi mentioned to the group the ongoing Uta Behrens book contest, which will open for submissions in September.

Member Announcement:

Ilsa Manning is published in an Anthology which will be available on Wednesday, January 25, through Amazon. Please get your copy for 99 cents and submit a review on Amazon, which will help the Anthology to get noticed. Info will be sent by email to participate.

Mark Walker will speak at the Ten America Event at Changing Hands, Camelback Road. They'll discuss freedom of the press, book banning, and reproductive rights. Mark feels that this is a good time for authors to get together and talk about how to combat it. Mark was also interviewed by Global Connections Television, which is on UNTV and universities worldwide and focused on his new book.

Bert Haagenstad has his children's book ready for publication. It will be available on Amazon.

Shut Up and Write is accepting submissions until the end of this month for their Anthology. For more information, visit <https://www.phoenixoasispress.com/>

AZ State Poetry Society's 2022 *Sandcutters* Anthology is out with the winners of the contest, which occurs annually. Cindi has a poem that is included. For more information, visit <https://azpoetry.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Sept2021.pdf>

Speaker: Cindi introduced Katie Sarah Zale, <https://moonstone-arts-center.square.site/product/zale-katie-sarah-explain-the-moon-to-me/366?cs=true&cst=custom>

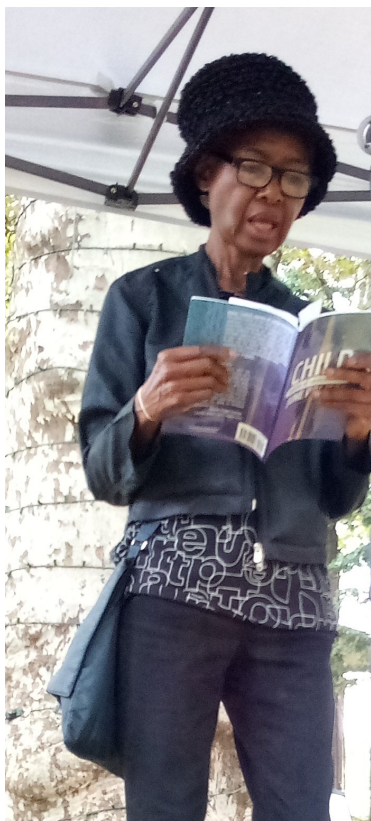
Katie is the president of the Arizona State Poetry Society; she teaches writing in Tucson and has published in many genres. She believes in the power of the arts to transform and heal us in the world. The link will take you to her most recent chapbook, *Explain the Moon to Me*, which is available for purchase.

Katie began the discussion by thanking Cindi for promoting Renku poetry. Katie then went on to discuss Renku and Haiku poems. She stated that she appreciates this form as it requires one to look at words. Every word counts. Renku starts with a three-line Haiku poem but after that, no more. The poet takes a word from the previous verse and uses it in a way that moves the story. It takes emotion to move you. The poet cares more about character development than the plot. How is it possible for writers to portray the whole of a character? The closest an author came to accomplishing this for Katie is Elizabeth Strout. Katie then read a number of her poems published in her chapbooks. Katie says to look for work that moves you; that says something that never made you think or feel that way before. She commented that critique groups are good because you're in tune with how your words bring forth the emotions and intentions that you want. The big question is—is it different? Is it powerful? Does it use the tools of our craft? Are words used uniquely and differently? Did it make me go, "Wow!" Did it knock my socks off?

Katie recommends we read everything in all genres and all that we can because that's where ideas come from. She collects words for future ideas. In closing, Katie recommended reading poetry to feel emotions.

After questions and comments, Cindi closed the meeting at 2.01 pm.

Member Spotlight—June Powers



June Powers may not have been visible often last year at PWC meetings; however, she made her presence known at multiple writing venues, events, and publishing across the world. In her words ...

Forwarded is a link to an article about my work by Dee Cohen - an amazing poet/photographer who writes a column for the FIVE SENSES Journal in Arizona. I am honored and grateful to have been chosen for this opportunity. Please check it out. www.deecohen.com

Last spring was full of online readings and new connections - the highlights being reading on the Words Out Loud platform in England, The Peregrine Bookstore Open Mic in Prescott, and participation in a group video for Earth Day created by Poet Dan Hess, who chairs the Fort Bragg Library Poetry Open Mic in CA, and a group poem sponsored by Phoenix Poet and Book Farmer/ Ryan Greene in which each person adds to the lines already there, and it all comes together in the end. Ryan is also the genius who patiently formatted all three of my books, during covid. www.fiikbooks.org/read

I attended the virtual portion of the AWP/Association of Writers and Writing Programs in March, immersing myself in new techniques and creative ways to present your work. I love conferences. The information can be almost overwhelming but I enjoyed every minute. I learned about reviews, all of the many categories a chapbook can be used for, using horror movies as a prompt for writing about trauma, and that many of us have similar struggles - we are not alone.

The Writers Salon in San Francisco became my go-to forum for monthly meet-ups, prompts and a way to share with all levels of other writers. The instructors are good at drawing things out of you and the readings are inspiring.

The month of June brought my mother's 96th birthday and the completion of a family history album just in time. This was a project I had wanted to finish for a long time. June also gave me the opportunity to be the featured poet with the Forever Seven online platform out of L.A. and to contribute a poem to their newsletter. I read for an hour and the format was open mic so others were able to participate as well. It was truly a special night.

In July, I shared the mic with Poet Namu of Australia as featured artists on the Word is Write platform. The evening was sponsored by Marissa Prada who is the founder of Read or Green Books in New Mexico. Marissa is currently publishing an anthology to call attention to gun violence. The book is called "American Graveyard, calls to end gun violence; Volume 1."

Member Spotlight—continued

I have contributed a poem called Lightening to the "American Graveyard, calls to end gun violence; Volume 1." anthology, and I am so proud to be part of this project. The poem is posted on Instagram. Anthologies are an important part of our culture and give a wide variety of voices a chance to be heard. The release date will be late January 2023 (about). www.readorgreenbooks.com.

September was huge - a very special and very busy month. I read live at the NYC Poetry Festival on Governors Island. After several years, I finally got to visit my Mom in Philadelphia. We had a great visit. Later in the month, I attended the concert of and met Ms. Grace Jones in L.A. - My goodness what a magical night. She is now the owner of HEART/poems of love.

Some of you know I was working on a project called Clouds and Laundry, which was to be a continuation of SOUTH/poems of passing through. I may take the book in another direction so I am letting the words sit and talk to each other for a while - slow down the pace.

Fingers crossed for a website this year.

In between these activities, I have been working in merchandising and battling some endocrine health issues which finally seem to be doing much better.

I have learned that the world as I knew it no longer exists, and it's up to me to make a new world and find a new way. I am so grateful that you are a part of my journey. Thank you so much for your support and good vibes sent my way. I wish you magic, sparkles, and wild dreams that inspire you throughout the coming year.

◆ *June Powers*

Member News

As noted in the meeting minutes:

Congratulations to Ilsa Manning—her short story was published January 25th, 2023 in the new anthology "Deserts to Mountaintops: Our Collective Journey to (re) Claiming Our Voice"

Mark Walker will speak at the Ten America Event at Changing Hands, Camelback Road. Mark was also interviewed by Global Connections Television, which is on UNTV and universities worldwide and focused on his new book.

Bert Haagenstad's children's book is ready for publication. It will be available on Amazon.

Editor's Note: If you have publishing's, events or something you'd like to share with the group, please send your information to azdanne@gmail.com

Phoenix Oasis Press, POP

Phoenix Oasis Press, POP, extended an invitation to submit for their anthology. They opened 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

Submissions are closed (January 31)

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)

Patricia L Brooks and Earl L Goldman

FEB 4 Sat 9:00-2:00 2023

WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM with Women Authors at Desert Breeze Community Church, 17600 N. Black Canyon Hwy Patricia L. Brooks will be part of the symposium and an author discussing her books in a breakout session and offering them for sale. The event is \$15 per person. Please RSVP and register at Eventbrite, or for questions: Priscilla 602-908-7023. The event is from 1:00 – 4:00 pm, with a Keynote speaker and other authors joining Ms. Brooks. The venue is located south of Union Hills Road, and East of the I-17 frontage road.

FEB 20 TO APRIL 10

Patricia L. Brooks will facilitate Write the Memoir to Remember, a private eight week class for the Senior Living Center/Mirabella at Arizona State University. Part of the programs associated with the Virginia G. Piper Writing Center at ASU, Tempe, AZ. This program is not open to the public.

Tucson Arts Poetry Series (TAPS)

Katie Zale, our January speaker, sent us a flyer about the Tucson Arts Poetry Series—the Ekphrastic Contest. This sounds like a fun writing contest—To begin the series, you will tour paintings and other artifacts on Feb. 25 (no charge). You will choose one that inspires you to write a poem in response. Read the attached PDF for more information.



PWC Contact Info

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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. They have a few workshops scheduled for February.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/d/az--phoenix/writing/>

SHORT NOTICE ...

This month is ***National Haiku Writing Month***

Arizona Matsuri —<https://azmatsuri.org/>

Haiku Contest—Deadline Submitted **ONLINE by midnight Feb 12th, 2023**

Festival Date: Saturday and Sunday, February 25-26, 2023

See the attached PDF for more details.

KJZZ Haiku Contest— <https://kjzz.org/haiku>

Entry deadline **Feb 24, 2023**