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PWC Monthly Meetings

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

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

Members: No fee.

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

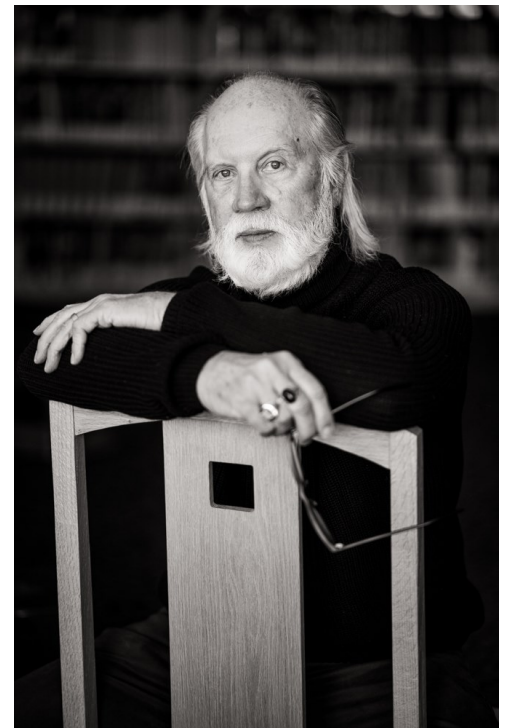
RSVP to Navissa Kaiser at navissak@hotmail.com, call or text (480) 200-5191.

March Speaker

In March, we welcome Jack Crocker !

What is your creative process? How do you gather ideas and see them through to your final piece of writing or artistic venture? Speaker Jack Crocker will lead us through this process as we explore what works best for us in our creative journey. Whatever genre you write in, discovering the steps that work best for you is essential to completing the story that you are ready to share.

Jack Crocker is provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, and professor of English, at Western New Mexico University. He has held various faculty and administrative positions, including at the University of South Florida and Florida Gulf Coast University, where he was founding Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Having attended college on basketball and baseball scholarships, he has a B.A. in English from Delta State University, an M.A. in English from Florida State University, and a Ph.D. in English from Texas Tech University. His poetry has been widely published in a variety of journals and anthologies. In 2009 the Texas Review Press published a collection—*The Last Resort*. His latest volume of poems, published by the Mimbres Press of Western New Mexico University, in September 2021, is *The Algorithm of I*. He lives in Silver City, New Mexico with his wife Jodi and two children, Jessi and William.



A Note from the PWC President

“March is the month of expectation, the things we do not know.”

EMILY DICKINSON

As writers we never know what creative surges will overtake us, what ideas will drift into our minds, what opportunity lurks around the corner. Having this gift is a treasure.



Our expectations for PWC are to continue to nurture writers of all genres with informative speakers, volunteer opportunities, and support for each other in our writing community. We have been grateful for Zoom as it has kept us going these past few years but we are also needing the socialness of our club that was started as a social club. Our board has been working tirelessly to secure a venue that can accommodate us in capacity and affordability and we thank all of you who have researched places for this so we once again can meet in-person with the capability to offer Zoom also, a hybrid model.

Here is our anticipated schedule for this year:

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Venue</u> | <u>Speaker</u> |
|----------------------|---|----------------|
| • March | Zoom | Jack Crocker |
| • April | Social gathering (See April Social Meeting) | |
| • May | Zoom | Speaker TBA |
| • June | Hybrids | Betty Webb |
| • July and August | Off for a break! | |
| • September—November | Hybrids | Speaker TBA |
| • December | Holiday gathering | |

The best laid plans can change but we are optimistic that we will find the best opportunities to keep Phoenix Writers Club on track to reach 100 in 2026!

Check out D’Anne’s challenge to you about writing a *Stimulus* article for the topic, “You think you know English.” Happy March and may your expectations be creatively fulfilled.

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 February 2023 Meeting Minutes

By Pamela Coulter

President Cindi Reiss opened the ZOOM meeting at 12:35, introducing herself and welcoming our Speaker and 22 attendees. There were five visitors; Mark Prior who writes creative non-fiction, Julie Casey, Tracy Skochil, Sandra Beres, and Veronica Hassenger.

Members: Ilsa Manning expressed her sincere appreciation to our club for the response she got on her Anthology (*Desert to Mountaintops*) participation. She told that the Anthology was # 1 in 13 different categories on Amazon, including #1 in the Self Help Division. She will host an Author Event at Changing Hands Book Store on Camelback, March 8, at 6:00 pm.

Membership: Navissa gave instructions on the process for becoming a member of PWC.

Meetings

Next month (March) we will continue with our ZOOM meetings and our speaker will be Jack Crocker. In April we will meet in person at the lovely home of Bernadette Inclan and Joseph Maguire. There will be no speaker; this will be more of a social gathering. Jenny Bilskie-Smith will send information for the no-speaker luncheon with a cost of \$15.00, to be electronically sent to her.

The month of May, we shall have a ZOOM meeting; the June meeting will be a hybrid. July and August we shall be on hiatus, resuming in September.

Writing Events

Ekphrastic Contest: D'Anne Pientka plans to carpool to Tucson February 25th, if anyone is interested in joining her. They will be touring the Desert Art Museum and submitting a poem based on a museum piece.

The Tucson Book Festival is March 4-5, <https://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org>. Anyone who has been says it is not to be missed; author events, readings, concerts, etc.

READ ACROSS AMERICA Day is March 2nd. We have participated with Mountain View Elementary School, K-6, and they are once again needing readers. Cindi emphasized that this is a good opportunity to share your love of reading and writing.

Cindi also spoke about our WOW group and our Critique group, inviting participation.

Speaker

Cindi introduced our speaker, Jared Kuritz, Managing Director of Mimbres Press of Western New Mexico University, overseeing book marketing efforts. He said he agreed to take the position only if he could approach it from an “author advocacy perspective.” He said the Publishing Industry is a 150 billion dollar a year enterprise, which is 10 times as



much as the NFL. He presented a graph showing how many books were read over the last several years, peaking in times of economic turmoil, such as our current era. He said audio books far outpace other modes of delivery. He then listed the types of publishing; Traditional, Cooperative, Small Press, Self, and Vanity. He gave the pros and cons of each, with obvious leanings toward, Self-Publishing, where “you can own your own imprint.”

Jared invited the group to reach out to him, <http://.mimbrespress.wmu.edu/> with questions, or with manuscripts. He fielded many questions from our group.

At 2:05 Cindi closed the meeting.

Member Spotlight—Ilsa Manning



11 years ago Ilsa Manning took the frightening step and said out loud, "I am a writer." Now she can say she's a published author! Come support longtime PWC member/board member Ilsa Manning at her book talk: "In Conversation with Ilsa: An empowering evening in celebration of the strength of women" on Wednesday, March 8 at 6 p.m. at Changing Hands Phoenix. Follow this link <https://www.changinghands.com/event/march2023/ilsa-manning> for all details and to RSVP for this FREE event!

Deserts to Mountaintops is the inaugural anthology from Soul Speak Press. This anthology chronicles 24 women's voices and their unique journey from the desert of self-abandonment to the mountaintop of self-love. Each chapter focuses on one woman's specific story that recounts how she

has re-established a relationship with her intuition, reconnected with her truest self, and experienced the hard-won joy of reclaiming her VOICE.

This inspiring and empowering collection of essays includes Ilsa's story, *(re)Birth*. Follow her fragrant journey as it weaves from past to present, France to America, and from the desert of self-doubt to the mountaintop awakening of self-belief.

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 Inclan at bsbincoin@aol.com for information.

Member News

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

April Social Meeting

Hello PWC members! We're excited to gather in person for our April meeting.

Event Details

Date: April 15, 2023

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Location: The home of the Inclans – 2528 N. 19th Ave., Phoenix, AZ, 85009

Parking: *We will include parking information once we know how many people will be attending.*

Activities: This is a social gathering. We will eat together and catch up with one another. This event will have no speaker.

We need some information from you before the event. We will order food from Panera Bread. There will be a variety of food choices for different palates and dietary preferences.

The cost of the event will be \$15.00 each for the food.

Here's what we need from you.

1. Please RSVP to Jenny Bilskie-Smith at jenny12366577@gmail.com by **April 7, 2023**.
2. Please Venmo Jenny Bilskie-Smith \$15.00 by **April 7, 2023**

Venmo Instructions:

Venmo account: @Jenny-Bilskie-Smith.

Go to <https://account.venmo.com/u/Jenny-Bilskie-Smith> to pay.

In "What's it for?" Please write PWC + your full name.

Zelle Instructions:

Each bank does it differently, but all banks will ask for the phone number to which you are sending the money. Please send it to 602-380-1236 (Jenny's phone number)

Again, we look forward to seeing you all there.

Jenny Bilskie-Smith

You Think You Know English

D'Anne's challenge to you: Write a fun story about a word or phrase that catches your attention and submit it to the *Stimulus*.

Justifying 'Just'

By D'Anne Pientka

I just reread my short story for final edits, the story taking me just five days to write. Out of 846 words, 23 of the words are 'just'. That's just about 3%. Well, just what does the word 'just' mean and why do I use 'just' so frequently?

I research 'just' in *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary*, surely the appropriate source to justify my common use of the word. As an adverb, they just cite usage, not the exact definition for which I'm looking.

- ◆ exactly
- ◆ very recently, in the immediate past
- ◆ barely, by a little

So, by their definition, the adverb 'just' could be exactly or barely. Right, that just confuses me more. I go to the *Cambridge Dictionary*. *Cambridge Dictionary* defines 'just' as an adverb for:

- ◆ now
- ◆ very soon
- ◆ very recently

So, it's either present, future, or past. Humm.

Translating 'just' to another language just provides no clearness.

In Spanish:

ADVERB

- ◆ sólo
- ◆ simplemente

To me sólo means alone and simplemente simple. Perhaps this example just illustrates I'm monolingualistic.

Then I come across an article on 'Go Natural English' about comparing 'just' and 'only' - [The English Words "Just" and "Only" Have Several Uses and Meanings \(gonaturalenglish.com\)](http://gonaturalenglish.com).

The English words "just" and "only" may seem like they are both interchangeable. But the thing is, that's not always the case. You see, the word "only" can mean "just", but the word "just" does not always mean "only".

Frustrating. I'm only just searching for an elusive clarity on the word 'just'.

Just as I end this story, I then decide to research my next most commonly used word, 'then'.



PWC Contact Info

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| President | Cindi Reiss | writeoncindi@gmail.com |
| Ex-officio President | Uta Behrens | 602-441-3888 |
| Vice President | Jenny Bilskie-Smith | jenny12366577@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Bernadette Inclan | bsbincoin@aol.com |
| Treasurer & Membership | Navissa Kaiser | navissak@hotmail.com |
| Speakers | TBD | |
| 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. They have a few workshops scheduled for March. <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/az--phoenix/writing/>

Welcome to Flash! March 23, 5:00—6:30. \$20. Windy Lynn Harris. phoenixwritersnetwork.com

Tucson Festival of Books —March 4&5. <https://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/>. Besides the book selling, there will be entertainment and activities. Bernadette would like to organize a road trip to Tucson for one of those days. Please contact her if you’re interested. bsbincoin@aol.com

Tucson Art Poetry Series (TAPS) - Be sure to read the attached PDF for new monthly poetry reading.