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## PWC Monthly Meetings

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

**NEXT MEETING: Saturday, April 15 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. via Face to Face.**

For this month, you must RSVP. If you would like to eat, please provide \$15/meal before April 7. (Please see additional details in the "April Meeting Section" below). Guests are welcome **RSVP** to Jenny Bilskie-Smith [@jenny12366577@gmail.com](mailto:jenny12366577@gmail.com) or text 602-380-1236

## April Meeting

*April 15 we meet Face to Face at 12:30 p.m.!*

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

**Location:** The home of Inclan-Maguire – 2528 N. 19th Ave., Phoenix, AZ, 85009

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 by **April 7, 2023**.

1. Please RSVP Jenny Bilskie-Smith at [jenny12366577@gmail.com](mailto:jenny12366577@gmail.com) as soon as possible.
2. If you would like to eat, prepay for your food (\$15.00) via Venmo or Zelle to Jenny Bilskie-Smith or call her for her address to send a check.

### Venmo Instructions:

- a. Venmo account: @Jenny-Bilskie-Smith.
- b. Go to <https://account.venmo.com/u/Jenny-Bilskie-Smith>.
- c. In "What's it for?" please write **PWC + your full name**.

### Zelle Instructions (zellepay.com):

- a. Log into Zelle.
- b. 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).

## A Note from the PWC President



.April is National Poetry Month and what better way to celebrate spring than by reading poetry.

Poetry is many things to many people and I find it healing especially during challenging times. A few poems that are hanging in my office are my favorite childhood poem, *The Swing* by Robert Louis Stevenson and *The Journey* by Mary Oliver.

Discovering poets that I am unfamiliar with is delightful and I encourage you to read a poem, write a poem and let the emotions they invoke settle into your being.

Check out the piece written by Treasurer and Membership Chair, Navissa Kaiser, at the end of the newsletter about new forms of poems that she recently came across. So many forms to discover!

Since I am an April baby and so is Shakespeare, I leave you with this fun poem by Ogden Nash.

*Always Marry An April Girl*  
by Ogden Nash

Praise the spells and bless the charms,  
I found April in my arms.  
April golden, April cloudy,  
Gracious, cruel, tender, rowdy;  
April soft in flowered languor,  
April cold with sudden anger,  
Ever changing, ever true --  
I love April, I love you.

Here is our anticipated schedule for this year:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
April	Social gathering	
May	Zoom	Christie Cox
June	Hybrids	Betty Webb
July and August	Off for a break!	
September—November	Hybrids	TBA
December	Holiday gathering	

Check out D’Anne’s challenge to you about writing a *Stimulus* article for the topic, “You think you know English.” Happy April 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

# PWC March 2023 Meeting Minutes

By Bernadette Inclan

Jenny Bilskie-Smith, Vice President, opened the meeting at 12:33 pm. She asked members to introduce themselves and their writing genre and say where they would like to be now. We heard about places all over the world and in the States. Some members were happy with Phoenix and our current lovely Spring.

## Membership

Welcome new members Mark Prior and Sandra Beres (her second meeting).

## News

Susan Fulton, POP Administrator, spoke on Phoenix Oasis Press. The Anthology, *Beyond Boundaries: Tales of Transcendence*, will launch on May 31, 2023. POP accepts guest blog posts from Phoenix Metro Shut Up & Write and Phoenix Writers Club. Check out the website for information:

<https://www.phoenixoasispress.com/writer-community>

D'Anne Pientka, Newsletter Editor, presented a challenge to write something about *You Think You Know English*, to be included in *The Stimulus*. Also, if you have a website or a new book, send your information to D'Anne, [azdanne@gmail.com](mailto:azdanne@gmail.com).

In August, Ute Behren's contest will begin taking submissions for a non-fiction book that is either publish-ready or published within the last year. Jenny Bilskie-Smith will send more information with the details as August nears.

Next month's meeting is going to be in person. We'll send out an email with all of the information, but it's going to be at 12:30 on April 15, and we're going to have a variety of food from Panera Bread, so it's going to cost \$15 a person, and you'll need to pay that in advance. Please RSVP and pay in advance.

## Speaker

Jenny introduced our guest speaker, Jack Crocker, Ph.D., poet, songwriter, author, and whose works include *The Last Resort* (2009), *Range Finding* (1977) poetry, *An Annotated Bibliography of Current Tall Tales* (1965), available on Amazon. His presentation was on the creative process; how to gather ideas and see them through to a final piece of writing or artistic venture. For more information on Crocker, see his website <https://www.mswritersandmusicians.com/mississippi-writers/jack-crocker#websites>

No matter what you're writing, the creative process involves rewriting. Dr. Crocker started with all writing being a process and usually creative, but when noted in broader terms, like creativity, one is engaged very deeply in doing creative work. He read poems that showed the kind of process he followed. He has a friend who told him if you go back and mark through every other word, it really improves the book. So, rewriting is a process.

Another process is attaining knowledge. Part of that is the discovery, which he stated is more the scientific approach where something exists that we discover and invent. He places all humanities topics under invention. The human brain works through the creative process to invent stories or poems. Almost all history is one continuing literary tale and discovery, but they are not mutually exclusive.



Exclusive imagination is a third process. Like imagination, it is similar to invention. The method of imagination has no boundaries, whereas invention does, to some extent. Because we're working in given forms, we're working in *informs* handed out through knowledge, and that's what we follow. Often, these three are working together. Think about the process that you're going through. He would group all of these under creativity. Whatever creativity is, and a big question always comes up in teaching "creative" writing, can you teach creativity? He says that he teaches creative reading and not creative writing because one of the best ways to learn to write is to read; not so much you played your eyes, but you certainly see what is possible.

Dr. Crocker says having a room of your own where you have loneliness, the environment where you can function and create. The session ended with questions and comments.

Jenny closed the meeting at 2:09 pm, and a WOW session followed.

## Member Spotlight—Bert Haagenstad

My path to publishing was very long and troubled. Back when I was twelve years old, I started writing and the desire to be published soon followed. Over the years I reached out to various publishers. They all offered to publish anything if I wanted to pay a price way out of my reach. I kept writing, trying to improve myself. Several times I shared material with friends and received positive feedback.

Twice I had the misfortune of crashing computers and losing my material. I started from scratch each time. I guess I am a slow learner, but I do learn. Now, I use an external drive that saves my material. Recently, I searched and found the Phoenix Writers Club, a true God send for helpful feedback and writing support!

I found myself going into a genre that I had never considered: a religious children's picture book. I thought this book will be a fast write. I was right, but I needed illustrations. I went to my friend, who provided clever drawings.

Slowly, everything came together and my book, *The First Easter Egg*, is done and available soon for purchase! Please go to <https://thegiftsofwriting.com/>.



## 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 Inlan at [bsbincoin@aol.com](mailto:bsbincoin@aol.com) for information.

## National Poetry Month

**Haiku** 5-7-5 (17 syllables)

Have you become weary  
of creating through Haiku?  
Then this is for you!

### Poetry Shakeup!

By Navissa Kaiser

For me, a writer, poet, playwright, and crafter—poetry, above all, is the most cherished of art forms. Poetry is a daily part of life going back to childhood. I retain a poem book from my grade school days that in no way confirms talent but does, I feel, reveal the love of the rhyming word and the joy of expression that comes with writing poetry. Over the years, my love of poems and poetry deepened rather than waned. I collected antique poetry books in my thirties from greats who resonated with me like *Ella Wheeler Wilcox*, *Longfellow*, *Sir Walter Scott*, *Eliza Cook*, and of course, *Shakespeare*. There were modern additions in my forties, like *Silvia Plath*, *Amanda Lovelace*, and the very modern *Natalie Zina Walschots*, to name a scattering of my extensive collection. I even named my middle child after a poet. I think it's fair to say I am a poetry fan!

Now in my fabulous fifties, looking to improve my poetry knowledge and skill has begrudgingly led me away from books to explore the more immediate internet offerings. Today, with all the resources available online, poetry fans and novices like me can frequently bone up on the more structured forms of poetry instantaneously, without the time and hassle of taking an expensive class or struggling with which book contains which poem. I often explore just for the challenge of it, leading to surprising results.

Ten or so years ago while exploring sonnets, I wrote a five-page Shakespearian-style sonnet about sledding in New England, which, perhaps, went too far, as looking at it now appears to be the most boring piece of dribble ever written. Barring the sledding sonnet, other forms of poetry like prose or free verse can be rewarding to try, yet often feel confusing to discern for those of us that are grammatically challenged. That's when I retreat to the good ole Haiku. The 5-7-5 syllable format, for me, is as comforting as snuggling under a soft, warm blanket on a rainy day.

We were contented, Haiku and I, until last year while browsing the submission site *Submittable*, I came

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across two poetry contests in formats I had never heard of. After doing a bit of research, I tried out the new forms, and wouldn't you know it? After the first time, I found myself complacent and restless when turning back to Haiku. *Fibonacci*—so exciting and bright like flash fiction! I boldly thrust the words to paper. While *Tanka*, for me, required more reflection, and a depth I could never reach with Haiku. I couldn't stop. Or go back to the way things were...

Not to worry, Haiku and I are not parting ways... just becoming more polyamorous—strictly in a poetic sense. I have room for these new-to-me forms and probably more if I continue to explore. As we celebrate National Poetry Month, I encourage everyone to try a new form of this ancient human expression or at least learn about it, (Allowing an online AI algorithm to write it for you does not count!) as I have. Don't concern yourself with creating that perfect poem, or you may end up with a five-page sledding sonnet. Let me introduce you to my new structured poetic friends, then just write!

The Fibonacci poem is commonly referred to as a Fib but it's no lie I've enjoyed experimenting with the twenty-syllable poem format since stumbling upon it. Fibs are said to be a merging of art and science as they are based on the mathematical principles of a spiral, like the shell of a snail. Fibs show up throughout history, but until recently, appear not to have received the same level of notoriety as their rockstar cousin of the numbered verse: Haiku. That changed (Clark.Poetryfoundation.org) in 2007 when L.A. writer Gregory K. Pincus posted a Fib on his blog to commemorate National Poetry Month. Within a week, the Fibonacci experienced a well-deserved resurgence, with over 30,000 poetry and math fans viewing the Pincus post. I find it more satisfying and challenging to write within this format. I've written examples below. Why not give it a whirl?

**Fibonacci (Fib)** 1-1-2-3-5-8 (20 syllables)

Kimchi & Kombucha

You

hiss

open

for my eyes.

Sharp remnants dissolve

in effervescence of desire.

Tanka is another form of poetry, an ancient one, stemming from the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Originally, Tanka was written as an unbroken line as a form of waka—Japanese song verse, according to Poetry.org. This

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format works well when you write that Haiku and feel you need just fourteen more syllables to make it shine! That's right, you may have guessed that the first part of Tanka is the origin of the Haiku! The first three parts known as the upper poem are called kami-no-ku. The final two parts, the lower poem is called the shimo-no-ku. Sometimes the two sections are separated, but it is not required.

**Tanka** 5-7-5 7-7 (31 syllables)

### Three Loves

I still love Haiku,

but now have found old Tanka

and Fibonacci.

I tell Fibs more than Haiku,

yet love all three, equally.

For more information about poetry formats, go to [Poetry.org - Resource site for poetry and poets](#), or [Poetry Foundation](#). Why not enter a contest or two? [Submittable Sign In](#) will get you there. Submittable, first introduced to me by Phoenix Writers Club (PWC) member and former board member Susanne Holly-Brent, is a stress-free submission site that lists hundreds of literary magazine contests, art, and other creative opportunities for you to browse at your leisure for free.

Once you set up your preferences in Submittable, the simple-to-navigate site makes it easy to click on the contest or opportunity, and one-click to the magazine website to see if your style gels with theirs. I've learned so much and improved my writing exponentially by entering contests and reading quality work and examples by seasoned writers and poets. There are so many literary magazines out there! I was also introduced to the 10-minute play format through a college contest on Submittable. I started writing plays last year and have happily emersed myself in that art form ever since. A personal hint: If a clicked-on magazine website does not allow me to freely browse its content, I usually move on. And if there is a large contest fee, or upgrades to receive additional editing or feedback, then I pass on that too. Now start writing poetry!

### References:

Clark, D., (2007). *1,1,2,3,5,8, Fun... What is a Fib? Math plus poetry*. Essay. Poetryfoundation.org. [1](#), [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [5](#), [8](#), Fun... by Deborah Haar Clark | Poetry Foundation

[Home - Submittable Discover | Discover Your Next Opportunity](#)

## You Think You Know English

Newsletter Editor's challenge to you: Write a fun story about a word or phrase that catches your attention and submit it to the *Stimulus* at [azdanne@gmail.com](mailto:azdanne@gmail.com)

### *Historic vs Historical*

By D'Anne Pientka

One weekend when driving near Cottonwood, AZ, I came upon a brass state road sign that identified a "historic" site nearby. I wondered, *why 'historic' and not 'historical'?*

Back to the online *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* I go ...

At their core, 'historic' and 'historical' are simply variants of the same word. However, over 400+ years of use, they've mostly settled into distinct roles.

Historic and historical are both adjectives that mean "from history", but they have different usage.

Historic describes significant or important moments, figures, or objects in history.

Historical describes anything from the past or relating to history, regardless of its significance or importance. Anything historic can be considered historical but not everything historical can be recognized as historic.

I decide to follow a rather masochist(ic) urge to compare 'hysteric' with 'hysterical'.

As adjectives the difference between hysteric and hysterical is that hysteric is hysterical while hysterical is of, or arising from, hysteria.

As a noun hysteric is a hysterical person.

I'm feeling shades of "only just." If you don't get the reference, go to last month's newsletter on "Justify Just."

## Member News

Congratulations to **June Powers** and **Pat Hoover**. Their poems were selected in the Tucson Arts Poetry Series (TAPS) Ekphrastic Poetry competition. Printmaking students at Pima Community College will reimagine their poems as frameable art. At the April 22 (3:30) gathering, each selected poem will be displayed next to the painting or artifact that inspired it. The art students will explain their process, and the winning poets will read their poems.





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

**Arizona Writing Workshop**: [arizonawritingworkshop.com](http://arizonawritingworkshop.com)

**Poets & Writers**: Writing Contests, Grants & Awards, <https://www.pw.org/grants>