

### In this issue:

- May Speaker
- A Note from the PWC President
- April Social Meeting
- Non-Fiction Contest
- Member News
- What's Happening Around Town

## PWC Monthly Meetings

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

**NEXT MEETING: Saturday, May 20 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.

## May Speaker

*In May, we welcome Christie Cox: Author, Advisor, and Advocate !*

Join us on May 20 when Christie Cox takes us through how her journey with her illness brought her to write, publish, and promote her book through self-publishing. We look forward to Christie telling us how one's book gets considered for the award process, and into the right hands. She will provide strategies to ease the self-publishing process and tips on how to market your book on a budget.

When Christie had enough of being told that there was no name nor treatment for her illness, she knew she had to take measures into her hands. For seventeen years she heard that it was "all in your head" or that her pain can't be real because she was too young and healthy to have a chronic disorder. It was in seeking a resolution to chronic pain that she experienced a transformation in her life that inspired her to embrace her true potential. Her motivation for self-healing led to her writing a book  *Holding It All Together When You're Hypermobile*  which provides the reader with Christie's journey navigating the complexities of chronic illness, hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS).



Due to the grassroots promotion of her book to an audience that desperately needs answers, it rose to the top of both Amazon categories as a best-seller within 48 hours after release. Christie's book website, <https://www.holdingitaltogether.com/>, has inspired an entire community of other people suffering from chronic illness especially EDS who are searching for help. She will take us through her journey of writing her book, how she researched and interviewed experts, as well as sharing stories that have helped both herself and others.

*Cont. next page*

Christie's book was awarded the Literary Titan's Gold Book Award for which she garnered a five-star review and received four out of four stars from Online Book Club.org. Because Christie has become the ambassador of hypermobility and has become a patient advocate for those newly diagnosed, she will provide insights on how to interview experts and obtain the latest research information. Last September, she was interviewed by the Hypermobility Happy Hour podcast <https://soundcloud.com/user-676536371/interview-with-christie-cox> and shares her book writing journey on the Chiari Champion podcast <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-chiari-champion/id1640056636?i=1000602271065>. You can hear her interview from Spoonies with Purpose at, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=6i\\_g\\_9NAIVA&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=6i_g_9NAIVA&feature=youtu.be)

## A Note from the PWC President



*"Writers live twice."*  
-Natalie Goldberg

What a gift we have, the ability to live again through our words, to change anything we want to change to create the stories we want to tell.

Being in those so-called "twilight years" of my life, I have found it freeing to tell my story without criticizing myself (at least not as much as I used to). I get to relive the highs and lows with grace and compassion, laughter and tears, accepting without judgment my narrative and those of others. May you continue to live and re-live your writing life each and every day.

**Phoenix Writers Club will celebrate 100 years of writing in 2026 and what a ride it has been. I would like to share a bit of PWC's history with a story-telling poem I wrote for our 86th birthday in 2012. (at end of newsletter) That was also Arizona's Centennial. PWC produced a play written by member Bette Lou Tobin and our members were actors, designers, and directors for our premiere. We will be sharing much more of our past as we continue our ride into 2026 and beyond.**

April's social and poetry readings brought us closer to the pre-COVID days of our monthly meetings. Thank you to Bernadette and Joe for hosting us once again.

We will meet in person on June 17th at Gallagher's, 7575 N 16th St, Phoenix, AZ 85020.

We will also offer Zoom access for our out-of-state members and others who can't attend in person. More information will be given at both our May Zoom meeting with Christie Cox and in our June newsletter as we welcome speaker Betty Webb to kick off this hybrid version of Phoenix Writers Club.

Happy May!

Write on,  
*Cindi Reiss*



## PWC April 2023 Social Meeting

By D'Anne Pientka

Thanks go to the PWC Board for organizing the April social gathering, headed by Jenny Bilskie-Smith. Bernadette and Joe graciously opened their lovely home for us, Joe setting up the video so that Cindi and Rick could join us via Zoom.

Seeing the faces in person and giving each other hugs, that human touch brought back the personalization that we miss in the Zoom meetings. Zoom isn't going away; however, seeing everyone face-to-face emphasized the need to gather in person during the year. For the remaining of the year, three additional in-person meetings are on the calendar: June, October, December.



Standing (left to right)

Ilsa, D'Anne, Bernadette, Beth, Jenny, Navissa, Mark

Seated: Kixx, Uta, Pam, Sue, Len

In homage to National Poetry Month, after we enjoyed our lunch, most members shared a poem either written by themselves or one that affected them. To the left and below is our peanut gallery.



Rick and Cindi

## Uta Behrens Non-Fiction Contest

All of you non-fiction writers, get ready to submit! The August submission date is approaching.

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. The winner will receive \$300, and we thank Uta for sponsoring this contest.

## 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.

## Member News

### ***POP Anthology: Beyond Boundaries: Tales of Transcendence***

Congratulations to the following PWC members whose submissions were accepted for this year's Anthology, to be published May 31st via Amazon.

Jenny Bilskie-Smith	D'Anne Pientka
Susanne Brent	Mark Prior
Mary Cornelius	Cindi Reiss
Sue Fulton	



Pat Hoover

### ***TAPS Ekphrastic Poetry Event***

June Powers and Pat Hoover's poems were selected in TAPS Ekphrastic Poetry contest. They and D'Anne drove back to Tucson April 22 for the presentations with the print artists and readings. June wishes to share her experience.

~~~~

D'Anne invited Pat H and me to join her at the TAPS Ekphrastic Poetry Event and what turned out to be a wonderful road trip. I had written a few ekphrastic poems in the past and wanted to do more. This event presented an extremely educational opportunity. It was held at the Tucson Desert Art Museum- A beautiful space with a fascinating mix of works of the Southwest or by Southwestern artists as well as national traveling exhibits. The rooms invite speculation and appreciation for artistic courage and the bravery that many of the artists depict and exemplify.

Ekphrastic poetry is specifically about works of art. The modern definition has been expanded from painting and sculpture to include photography, film, crafts, and music. If you are interested, two excellent books to reference are *Side by Side* and *Heart to Heart*, both curated by Jan Greenberg.

I was quite drawn to a photograph by Russell Lee taken in the 1940s in Arizona, of the wife of a migrant worker doing laundry. She seemed to be surrounded by the hanging fabrics that to me created a courtyard for her own thoughts and presence. She is squinting from bright light but does not appear to be upset – just getting on with things. I love the way the photographer uses the bright light of the day in what could have been a very mundane depiction. The photograph also gives us a chance to glimpse what it must have been like for women during the depression. Many women did laundry as a method of income.

TAPS is chaired by Poet Katie Sarah Zale who gave a beautiful presentation to PWC in January. I enjoyed hearing her poetry very much and was happy to participate in something she sponsored. Katie and everyone involved with the project were so kind and generous with their time and talents. I will remember this event fondly, for many years to come.

June Powers



June Powers with her artist

## Phoenix Writers Club

*By Cindi Reiss*

Way back in 1926, some newspaper gals with gumption  
said "Let's join the Phoenix Press Club."; the nerve of their assumption!  
The men gazed at them with smiles and smirks but said they were not allowed,  
"We're all professional journalists here so you dames are in the wrong crowd."  
Those feisty ladies were not dismayed, they knew their talents were great,  
So they formed their own little writing club and men were not on the slate.  
As Earhart flew across the Atlantic and Disney was lauding a mouse,  
Edna Eaton was elected president of this soon-to-be powerhouse.  
The women were readers of prose of all kinds, bringing characters to life in skits,  
They'd dress up in costumes to entertain and inform, all the while using their wits.  
During war years the women held a silver tea to raise funds for British Relief  
And later helped veterans with writing classes to help them live with their grief.  
National Poetry Day was signed into being in October of '55  
Governor McFarland had Marguerite Graper to thank for this coming to life.  
In the 60's we offered workshops to members and the public for free  
And continued to publish our own works in another anthology.  
Our newsletter began in the 70's and is very well read till today,  
It's informative, witty and telling as our editors do not go half-way.  
In the 90's a barrier was broken as the club first admitted men,  
As women we understood that discrimination should never happen again.  
In 2001 a celebration was held at our library-Burton Barr,  
Then five years later for our 80th gala, a children's book was the star.  
Several members wrote of a nine-year-old girl who goes on a fantastical trip,  
It debuted at our party as we dressed by decade and Trimble spoke with much zip.  
Now our Centennial has arrived in our state, 100 years in the making,  
and Phoenix Writers Club is still going strong, for our talents cannot be mistaken.



## 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>               | Jenny Bilskie-Smith    | jenny12366577@gmail.com     |
| <b>Secretary</b>                    | Bernadette Inclan      | bsbincoin@aol.com           |
| <b>Treasurer &amp; Membership</b>   | Navissa Kaiser         | navissak@hotmail.com        |
| <b>Speakers</b>                     | TBD                    |                             |
| <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                    |                             |
| <b>Phoenix Writers Club website</b> | phoenixwritersclub.com |                             |

## 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 May.  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/d/az--phoenix/writing/>

**Phoenix Writers Network**: [phoenixwritersnetwork.com](http://phoenixwritersnetwork.com)