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PWC Monthly Meetings

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

NEXT Hybrid MEETING: Saturday, June 17 12:00 p.m. to 2 p.m. via in person and in Zoom.

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

June Speaker

In June, we welcome Betty Webb!

Join us on June 17th as we welcome Betty Webb, author of the best-selling Lena Jones mystery series (*Desert Redemption, Desert Wives*, etc.) and the humorous Gunn Zoo mysteries (*The Panda of Death, The Otter of Death*, etc.). *Lost in Paris*, the first book in her new mystery series, set in 1922 France, was released in April 2023. The second Paris mystery, *The Clock Struck Murder*, will be followed in Spring, 2024. Betty has worked as a graphic designer in Los Angeles and New York City, but eventually became a journalist. She spent 20 years as a reporter, interviewing everyone from U.S. presidents, astronauts who walked on the moon, Nobel Prize-winners, and polygamy runaways. In between her frequent trips to Paris, Betty lives in Scottsdale, Arizona, with her family.

As a professional writer for more than 40 years, Betty will share with us her writing “philosophy”, encompassing the many aspects of being a writer. In addition to her expertise as a journalist, novelist, and playwright, she has successfully navigated the ever-changing publishing world, including the ins and outs of working with agents and editors. She skillfully weaves historical facts with mystery that brings often difficult subjects to light.

We are delighted to welcome her to PWC’s first in-person meeting since the pandemic.

Betty Webb LOST IN PARIS (April 4, 2023)
www.bettywebb-mystery.com



A Note from the PWC President



Happy June and getting back to in-person meetings. We're offering a Zoom option also.

Finding a restaurant that can accommodate our needs has been quite a search and we thank Ilsa Manning who secured our new meeting place, Gallagher's. (info below)

PWC has seen its share of restaurants over the years and here's a trip down memory lane or as much as my memory will allow. These are some of the places that I recall.

When I joined PWC around 2003 we met at Beefeaters on West Camelback Road where Changing Hands is now. About a week before one of our monthly meetings, a member happened to drive past the location and saw it was closed! Let the scrambling begin.

We went to Black Angus on Camelback (our critique group also) and lo and behold we showed up one day and it was closed. A neighboring restaurant took us in that day but we were off to the races again to find another option.

We met at Central Grill which closed on us too but we returned when it opened as Calico Cow and you guessed it, closed.

We began a run at Fish Market which changed hands and became The Bluewater Grill where we met until the pandemic. It was demolished during that time and has moved to a new location.

We have made it through many venue changes including the "you're muted" Zoom boxes and we're still truckin'!



I look forward to seeing you all at our June meeting as we keep our writing doors open to infinite possibilities.

Write on,
Cindi Reiss

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.

Uta is also sponsoring her poetry contest again and news will be sent by email next week

PWC May 2023 Social Meeting

By Bernadette Inclan

President Cindi Reiss opened the meeting at 12:35 and asked that guests put their full names in the chat. She welcomed both Christie Cox, our speaker, and Inajo Cox, Christie's mother-in-law and guest Bonnie Andree who recently published her memoir. Cindi went around the Zoom room to allow for brief introductions of all attendees. The following Board members presented PWC news:

Bernadette Inclan, Secretary and PWC Critique Group (PWCCG) facilitator updated the group on PWCCG's bimonthly meetings on the second and fourth Friday of the month from 5:45 pm – 8 pm. June meetings are scheduled for the ninth and the twenty-third. For information on joining PWCCG, contact Bernadette at bsbincoin@aol.com

Cindi Reiss reminded everyone of Writer's Inspiration Group (WIG) now in its twenty-something year. WIG meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Beginning in April, the group began meeting at Panera Bread, 375 East Bell Road, Phoenix AZ, for face-to-face prompt writing, chats, and good eats. The WIG members usually determine when will be the next social, so email Cindi if want to join this fun group of prompt writers at writeoncindi@gmail.com. Cindi also issued a reminder that Uta Behrens contests for a book and another for a poem are in effect and instructions will be posted in the newsletter.

D'Anne Pientka, Newsletter Editor, asked members to send her the links to published works, honors received, Blogs, and websites to include in the Newsletter. She also asked for submissions to *You Think You Know English*. She previously posted *Justifying 'Just'* in the newsletter, and invited members to participate in this challenge.

Ilsa Manning, Social Media Director, talked about our Facebook following of around 300. She just held a book signing and encouraged members to approach Barnes and Noble, as well as Changing Hands bookstores for book signings for their published work. Our June PWC group will meet at Gallagher's on 16th Street. This will be our first hybrid meeting and we'll provide the Zoom link for those who cannot meet in person.

Sue Fulton facilitates Shut Up and Write and published the 2023 POP Anthology with Phoenix Oasis Press with its contributing writers.

Members who have their work or activities accessible online:

Brad Graber

Kixx Goldman

Rick McMaster

New book: *The Habit's Code*

Bernadette introduced Christie Cox and gave the members a brief biography, then turned it over to Christie who provided the group with a PowerPoint presentation. Since she was self-published, she began with Amazon and how to put your book into a category(s) to get the best exposure. She

recommended using the software she used for her book, Publisher Rocket <https://publisherrocket.com/> The presentation followed a plan of action for publishing your book:

- Use each other as well as critique groups, beta readers, advanced reader copies, and a professional editor for the edit process of the book.
- Find a good editor as another set of eyes to catch every typo, misspelled word, etc.
- Cover design is more important than people realize. It gives the reader a first impression. It's crucial to grab attention and she recommended hiring a designer.
- A sales pitch you put on Amazon, as in a killer book description. Answer the question your target reader wants to ask; why should they invest in reading this book, and spend their time and money?
- Create a one-page document you send and share with bookstores or other writing clubs. Include the synopsis, your title, the ISBN number, and your website. Doing this exercise helps identify your target audience. If you're going to self-publish, a marketing strategy is crucial.
- These steps have you look as professional as if you hired a professional publisher.
- Get familiar with the different publishing platforms. There are vanity publishers where you pay them to publish your book. The average book from a non-professional, non-publisher-backed author makes one to two dollars in profit. Amazon takes 50-60% right off the top. Find online forums and friends to help. Keep copies of your book in your car. Always be ready for marketing.
- Use an organizing tool to keep your book in publish-ready order. She recommended Scrivener (\$60) <https://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener/overview>

Christie feels strongly about hiring a professional editor. Try the editors association to find one that fits your needs. Christie interviewed multiple editors and chose one she wanted to work with and negotiated a rate. Christie ran online and Facebook contests from her target audience for her title and book cover. She investigated both Amazon and Ingram Sparks, <https://www.ingramspark.com/> before choosing Amazon as her publisher. A key thing in setting up with Amazon and a good resource to have is Author's Central <https://author.amazon.com/>. This is a profile page with a picture, the cover of the book, and the description. This Author's Central is where you send people to learn about your book or books. This page will show you how many stars you have and allows you to run promotions, upload videos, and do anything that helps promote your book. Marketing your book is constant; engaging in a book launch event, social media postings, sharing news about being ranked as a best seller, or book awards. She recommends maintaining marketing through your website, a Blog, and podcast videos. A good and inexpensive way to maintain promotion is with a Facebook or Instagram following. This way, you can do affordable ads for around thirty dollars that reach a thousand people. And don't forget to keep a pile of your books in your car. After questions and comments, the meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

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Did you enjoy last month's speaker presentation? If so, and if you would like Christie's presentation as a resource, it's all yours! You can download her presentation here.

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SibXMwgOxso8Agnuzmnipo5fwYnayFVH/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=111033025133245547806&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SibXMwgOxso8Agnuzmnipo5fwYnayFVH/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=111033025133245547806&rtpof=true&sd=true)

## June Hybrid Meeting—June 17

We are excited to announce our first hybrid meeting! Please join us in-person or virtually on June 17 for speaker Betty Webb!

If you choose to attend **in-person**:

Join us at **12 p.m.** at **Gallagher's Sports Grill** at 7575 N 16th St, Phoenix, AZ 85020

Members: \$25 CASH ONLY for lunch, which includes an entree, non-alcoholic beverage, tax and tip.

Guests: \$30 CASH ONLY for lunch, which includes an entree, non-alcoholic beverage, tax and tip.

If you choose to attend **virtually**:

Please log-in to our virtual Zoom meeting space at **12:30 p.m.** when we will begin our club and member announcements.

The speaker will begin at 1 p.m. and our hybrid meeting will adjourn at 2 p.m.

We will have someone monitoring Zoom so that anyone who attends virtually will be able to share any announcements, comments or ask the speaker questions.

We look forward to our first hybrid meeting and are grateful for your grace and understanding as we attempt this new meeting format!

## You Think You Know English

### *continuous vs. continual*

Rick Lindstrom, Contributor

Often confused and used in error, they mean *almost*, but not quite, the same thing.

- Continuous – A condition which never ends, is constant, is uninterrupted, over time. Think of the sound of water being allowed to run from a faucet. The sound is continuous.
- Continual – A condition which is repeated or is recurring over time. Think of a hammer pounding. Each stroke of the hammer is interrupted by silence. The sound of the hammer is continual.

*D'Anne's note:* Thank you, Rick. I look forward to future contributions from all of you.

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

## Member News

**Richard Masterson:** [www.richardmasterson.com](http://www.richardmasterson.com)

“A World of Literacy—Revolutionizing the Author’s Industry”

<https://hudsonweekly.com/a-world-of-literacy-revolutionizing-the-authors-industry-by-richard-mcmaster/>

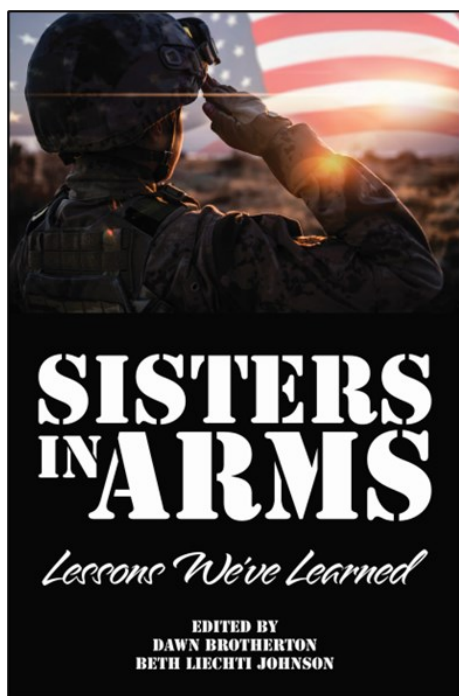
**Mark D Walker:** Contributing writer to *Wanderlust Journal*: book review *Facing the Congo*

<https://wanderlust-journal.com/2023/04/16/book-review-facing-the-congo-by-jeffrey-taylor>.

*Westerner Magazine*: “50 Years on the Road: A Journey from Peace Corps Volunteer to Author.”

[https://issuu.com/westerncoloradouniversityalumni/docs/westerner\\_spring\\_2023\\_issuu/42](https://issuu.com/westerncoloradouniversityalumni/docs/westerner_spring_2023_issuu/42)

Million Mile Walker Dispatch <https://mailchi.mp/0cb2f8c4f34c/a-gift-for-you-different-latitudes-20259037?e=296bb77cec>



**\$12.99 (pre-release \$10)**

**RELEASE 12 June 2023**

“When my turn came, I knew, despite my fear, I had to jump.”  
– April Brown, USMCR

“You don’t stay down. You find a way to get up. You don’t let anyone keep you down.”  
– Mary Baker, USAF

“If you’re gonna be rough, you better be tough.” – Taryn Pike

For a copy,  
contact beth Johnson  
[eljohnson707@gmail.com](mailto:eljohnson707@gmail.com)

**Beth Johnson:** *Sisters in Arms*, her new book to be released in June. See ad on the left.

## Resources for Publishing

Source: Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC)

The Writers’ Hour ([writershour.com](http://writershour.com)): a virtual, hour-long writing sprint held each weekday. Free.

[https://www.pw.org/literary\\_magazines](https://www.pw.org/literary_magazines)

<https://westtradereview.submittable.com/submit>

### HOW & WHERE TO GET CREATIVE WORK PUBLISHED

- NewPages: alphabetical list of literary journals with link to journal website to find out submission information, calls for submission and themed work, and also includes a system that lists calls for submissions, which you can filter through genre, deadline, fee...
- Submittable: management system that provides a listing (by deadline and/or genre) of calls for submissions for literary journals, including small independent presses, contests, and grants. Often the literary journal, etc. will have you submit through Submittable.
- Poets & Writers: for conference and residency database, to apply for grants for readings/workshops
- AWP Bookfair to find discover small independent presses and meet the people behind the page

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Next issue will include editing and formatting tools compiled by the Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS).



PWC Contact Info

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| President | Cindi Reiss | writeoncindi@gmail.com |
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| 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 | |
| Phoenix Writers Club website | 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

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

Phoenix Writers Network: phoenixwritersnetwork.com

The **Tucson Arts Poetry Series (TAPS)** was started Feb. 2023 by Katie Sarah Zale, Bonnie Wehle, and Janet Rives. Each 4th Saturday of the month, at 3:30 pm, two Arizona poets are highlighted reading published work. The event takes place in 25,000 square feet of breathtaking art and artifacts. TAPS is sponsored, in part, by the **Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS)**. This reading is supported by a grant from **Poets & Writers**, made possible by **Tucson Poetry Society (TPS)**

LOCATION: Tucson Desert Art [Museum](#), 7000 E. Tanque Verde Rd and Sabino Canyon