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PWC Monthly Meetings

PWC is taking July and August meetings off. Enjoy your summer.

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

A Note from the PWC President

"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability."

- Sam Keen

The lazy, hazy days of summer are upon us. The perfect time of year to read, write, and lounge in whatever cool space that we can.

It was good to see so many of you at our first hybrid meeting in June. Though I'm grateful for having Zoom these past few years, meeting in person is what makes PWC the social club it is. Gallagher's Restaurant was perfect for the occasion and I thank Ilsa Manning for getting us set up there and Joe Maguire for keeping the Zoom intact. Our speaker, Betty Webb, made the transition to hybrid a delight for us. Thank you to all of those who Zoomed in as we work out the kinks to keep this going.

Though we won't have meetings in July or August, D'Anne, our diligent newsletter editor, has listed several groups to check out to keep you writing, as well as the info for Uta Behrens' non-fiction and poetry contests.

May your summer be filled with reflection, relaxation and rejuvenation.
See you in September.

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

Uta Behrens Annual Poetry Contest

Long-time member Uta Behrens is sponsoring her annual poetry contest again, and she's ready for submissions!

The rules are:

- Must be current in dues as of September 30th and a local Phoenix Writers Club member.
- If you are not a member and interested in joining, it is \$35 a year and email Treasurer Navissa Kaiser at navissak@hotmail.com for details.
- Deadline for submission: September 30, 2023
- Please submit one completed poem.
- Must rhyme
- Must be at least 20 lines

Award-\$75

Additional news will be sent by email next week.

For more submission information, please email Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com.

The winners of both the poetry and non-fiction book contests will be announced and presented their awards at the October 21, 2023 meeting.

Local Writing Clubs

PWC may be the longest running writing club; however, there are others in the area you might like.

- Shut up and Write—Shut Up & Write hosts free in-person and online writing events for writers all over the world
- Tempe Science Fiction Writing Meetup—Thursday Evening South Tempe. Come write and talk about writing craft with other local writers. All skill levels welcome
- Scottsdale Society of Women Writers—<https://brooksgoldmannpublishing.com/scottsdale-society-of-women-writers/>
- Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS) - azpoetry.net

Check the internet for others—some may be close to your area.

PWC June 2023 Social Meeting

By Bernadette Inclan

President Cindi Reiss opened the meeting at 12:38 and welcomed members on both Zoom and in person to the hybrid meeting at Gallagher's. Cindi thanked the Board members for their continued support and for helping to make PWC such a dynamic place for writers. Fifteen were in person, and seven members joined Zoom, including D'Anne Pientka, Newsletter editor, to help with the technological intricacies of hybrid.

Cindi reminded the group that we will not have meetings in July and August.

September will also be hybrid, and Cindi encouraged members to bring their published books to sell at our in-person meetings. She reminded members that the PWC website also has an author's page for any member to highlight their works.

Our September speaker, Sudha Balagopal, will speak on Flash Fiction and how she has found success and recognition. Be sure to read the Newsletter that will feature Sudha and her biography.

The Uta Behrens contest is open to members if you have a manuscript-ready or a published non-fiction book. She's also sponsoring a rhyming poetry contest of at least 20 lines. The deadline to submit is September 30. Uta will award the winner of the manuscript \$300, and the poetry winner will receive \$75. Thank you, Uta, for your generous incentive for our members. Email Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com for submission info.

Cindi went around the room and also the Zoom room for introductions. New members, Judith Van and Bonnie Andree were at the in-person meeting and guest Joe Gibbs attended via Zoom.

Member announcements:

Uta Behrens officially opened a new beer garden - the Uta Behrens Beer Garden - at Zum Treffpunkt in the presence of Stefan Schneider, Consul General of Germany in Los Angeles. 14325 N. 79th St., Ste. A (right next to the German Consulate). You can google Treffpunkt, Scottsdale, AZ

Beth Johnson has her manuscript published in an anthology *Sisters in Arms: Lessons We've Learned*, a collection of genuine stories told from the heart by female veterans. The book is available on Amazon https://www.amazon.com/Sisters-Arms-Lessons-Weve-Learned/dp/1939696852/ref=sr_1_2?crid=3U7PNEC2PMOFX&keywords=sisters+in+arms+book&qid=1687145471&s=books&prefix=Sisters+in+Arms%2Cstripbooks%2C139&sr=1-2 . Get your copy and don't forget to leave a review.

Speaker

Cindi introduced our speaker, Betty Webb. Check out her website <https://www.bettywebb-mystery.com/> for a complete biography, which is as hilarious as she was at the meeting. It also includes a listing of her books and much more. She also has a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/bettywebb.writer>, and <https://www.bettywebb-zoomystery.com/>. Her email address is webbscottsdale@aol.com

Betty is a delightful and entertaining speaker who kept the audience laughing at her antics with travel, spouse, children, and book writing. She's a prolific and successful writer and has run a critique group in her home for at least 35 years. What did she learn in forty years of writing? Betty called herself a "seat by the pants" writer and doesn't do outlines. She reminded the audience to love that you write, and not simply to get published. She recommended that the writer specialize in a particular genre. Then, read at least three books of that genre. She doesn't believe in writer's block, but you must write every day to keep in practice and exercise your writing muscles. Good prompts are in the Dear Abby columns but don't read Abby's response. This is a good way to find an answer to a plot when you're stuck. Forget long sentences and long paragraphs. Your character is more important than the plot—

fiction for the Market, it moves too fast and by the time you're ready to publish another trend has taken place. Look to Literary Marketplace for Writers to find an Editor.

Cindi closed the discussion at 2:05 pm. Navissa Kaiser, the Treasurer, sold raffle tickets, and the winner received a copy of the Anthology *Beyond Boundaries: Tales of Transcendence*, plus 50% of the ticket sales. Bernadette Inclan was the winner.

You Think You Know English

Fewer vs. Less

Deborah Partington, Contributor

Even though I now weep FEWER tears when I hear English used incorrectly, this does not mean my annoyance is any LESS.

Fewer vs Less—what is the difference? The opposite of both words is “more” so that makes them interchangeable, right? Wrong. Siblings maybe, but definitely not identical twins.

Fewer means “not as many” and modifies a noun that you can count—as in these sentences:

1. On cloudy nights I see fewer stars in the sky.
Explanation: I can count the number of stars in the sky should I be so motivated to do so.
2. After a bout of retail therapy, I have fewer dollars in my checking account.
Explanation: I can count the number of dollars in my checking account.

Less, on the other hand, means “not as much,” hence modifies nouns that are measured—as in these sentences:

1. After driving 50 miles, I now have less gas in my car.
Explanation: gas is one entity that is measured, but not counted.
2. After a bout of retail therapy, I have less money in the bank.
Explanation: Money is measured not counted.

Here's a helpful hint: Plural nouns are typically modified by fewer: fewer tears, fewer stars, fewer dollars

Singular nouns are more likely to be modified by less: less annoyance, less, gas, less money

D'Anne's note: Thank you, Deborah. 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 for information.

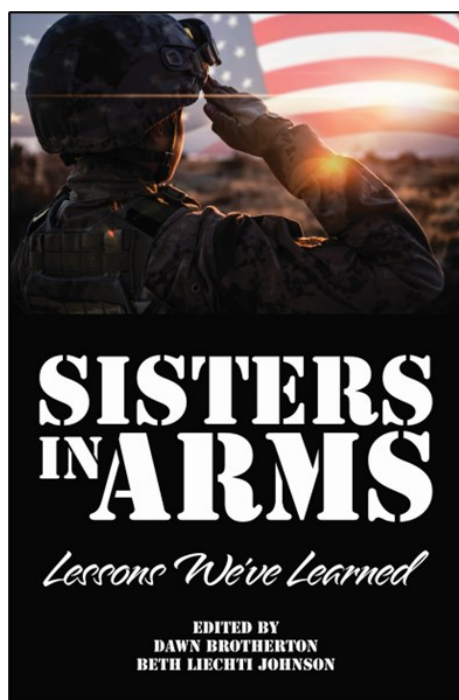
Member News

Mary Cornelius: published her book, *Shared Space: A Practical Guide for Multi-Family Living*
https://www.amazon.com/Shared-Space-Practical-Multi-Family-Living/dp/B0C7T5N3T7/ref=sr_1_2?crid=204W4X1THO8N6&keywords=shared+space+a+practical+guide&qid=1687037904&prefix=%2Caps%2C162&sr=8-2

Brad Graber: Blog—<https://www.bradgraber.com/there-i-said-it/>

Mark D Walker: Blog—<https://millionmilewalker.com/blog/>

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



\$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

If you have a blog you’d like included in the newsletter, please send the editor the link.

Resources for Publishing

Source: Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC)

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

https://www.pw.org/literary_magazines

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

EDITING AND FORMATTING TOOLS

Compiled by Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS).

- **Grammarly:** A free online grammar and spell-checking tool that can help you catch errors in your writing.
- **Hemingway Editor:** A writing app that analyzes your text and highlights areas that are difficult to read, sentences that are too long, and words that can be simplified.
- **Reedsy:** A marketplace for authors that connects you with professional editors, designers, and formatters who can help you prepare your book for self-publishing.
- **Scrivener:** A writing software that allows you to organize and structure your writing, making it easier to format and prepare your book for self-publishing.
- **Kindle Create:** A free formatting tool offered by Amazon that allows you to format your manuscript for Kindle e-readers and tablets.
- **Vellum:** A premium formatting software that allows you to create professional-looking eBooks and print books with ease.
- **Canva:** A free design tool that allows you to create book covers, promotional graphics, and other design elements for your self-published book.



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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 July. <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