

PWC Monthly Meetings

Phoenix Writers Club meets monthly on the 3rd Saturday

We are hybrid! Join us Saturday, March 16:

In-person: 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Arrive at Gallagher's (7575 N. 16th St. Phoenix, AZ 85020) by noon to place your lunch order (\$25 cash for members and \$30 for guests, includes lunch, drink, tax, and tip).

Virtual (Zoom): 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you are a guest and wish to join the meeting, send an email to phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com a week in advance.

Questions? Email Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com

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March 2024 Speaker

In March, we welcome Elena Thornton!

Award Winning Community Leader; Best Selling Author; Educator; Artist; Published Poet; Photographer
Founder/CEO, Arizona Consortium for the Arts Charity, Publisher: "The Blue Guitar", "The Blue Guitar Jr" and "UNSTRUNG" Literary and Arts Magazines.

Elena holds B. A. and M.A. degrees in Education from the University at Albany, NY and has more than 35 years in the education, business and the nonprofit sector. She also was a Director of Training for a Phoenix based company and traveled throughout the US and abroad. Elena's education and career experience combined with real-life experience makes her the successful organizational leader she is today. Currently, together with the Arizona Consortium for the Arts Board of Directors special projects volunteers, she is spearheading the efforts in developing relationships through networking and partnering with local community organizations that will bridge resources and forge collaborations with individuals, public, private, educational institutions and the business community to reach their goals, objectives and ultimately build and sustain a multicultural arts and performing arts center facility. The center will provide a home for all creative and innovative activities and will foster artistic growth for people of all ages through participation in the arts. Arizona Consortium for the Arts, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, an all-volunteer, community organization. Visit www.artizona.org



ELENA THORNTON

CEO / ARIZONA CONSORTIUM OF THE ARTS
"Advancing Community through Arts and Culture"

A Note from the PWC President

Happy March Everyone!

Thank you for your continuing patience as we work on refining the Zoom experience. There has been difficulty with echoes on Zoom, due to a conflict between the in-person microphone and Zoom microphone. If anyone has knowledge on how we can remedy this, please contact me. We want to continue having hybrid meetings for those who are out of state and/or cannot attend in-person that day.

March teases us in Phoenix, the in-between after many rainy cool days (50's and 60's!) and the warmer days ahead. Like the dog in this Dylan Thomas poem, let the spirit of mischief delight you in your writing life!

The Song of the Mischievous Dog by Dylan Thomas

There are many who say that a dog has its day,
And a cat has a number of lives;



There are others who think that a lobster is pink,
And that bees never work in their hives.

There are fewer, of course, who insist that a horse
Has a horn and two humps on its head,
And a fellow who jests that a mare can build nests
Is as rare as a donkey that's red.

Yet in spite of all this, I have moments of bliss,
For I cherish a passion for bones,
And though doubtful of biscuit, I'm willing to risk it,
And I love to chase rabbits and stones.

But my greatest delight is to take a good bite
At a calf that is plump and delicious;
And if I indulge in a bite at a bulge,
Let's hope you won't think me too vicious.

Write on,
Cindi Reiss



PWC February 2024 Meeting Minutes

By *Bernadette Inclan*

President Cindi Reiss opened the meeting at 12:30 pm. She announced Martha Kent as a new Board Member, introduced the Board, and welcomed members and guests, over twenty in attendance and five counting Zoom.

Guests

Norma Jean Coulter, Pat Gilbaugh, Margaret Gonzales, Diana Escobar, Deborah Miranda, Geri Williams, Mary Cruz Jacobson, Yolie Ramirez, and Adele Arrellano.

Member News

Mark Walker is a new Board Member of the Arizona Authors Association. He announced a Kickstarter or crowd-raising special edition with colored photos in *The Guatemala Reader*.

Ilsa Manning reading with Jessica Buchanan: *Deserts to Moutaintops: Choosing Our Healing Through Radical Self-Acceptance*, on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 - 6:30 pm In-Person, Changing Hands Phoenix Location. Free Event. Sign up: <https://www.changinghands.com/event/march2024/jessica-buchanan-and-ilsa-manning>

Speaker

Cindi then introduced our speaker, Stella Pope Duarte, a teacher, author, and long-time PWC friend who spoke about the characters in her book, *Women Who Live In Coffee Shops*. Stella spoke about how memories shape our lives—the good, the bad, and the ugly. The book's collection of short stories all take place on Van Buren Street North of Washington and Jefferson—the dividing line between the poor on the Southside and the rich on the Northside. Stella said the area was called Arizona Sunset Strip with its motels, bars, and streetwalkers. The area businesses competed with each other by periodically advertising upgrades such as carpeting, pools, electricity, and finally, air conditioning.

Stella spoke about this area in 1865 consisting of mainly mud huts and the rest was agriculture. She told the group about the First Lady of Phoenix, Trinidad Escalante Swilling, a Mexican woman who married Jack Swilling in Tucson in 1864 and four years later moved north to the town he founded—a settlement that became Phoenix.

Stella reminded that inside of us there is a whole universe. We can come to terms with our dark parts—we don't have to marry them. She gave us the example of her father coming to Stella in a dream that her path was to be in writing. "Stories are powerful. They tell you what to do." You can find more about Stella and her books at <https://stellapopeduarte.com/>.



Meeting adjourned at 2 pm.

February Gathering

Thank you Joe Maguire, our photographer.



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 for information.

So You Think You Know English

Merriam-Webster says you can end a sentence with a preposition. www.npr.org/2024/02/27/1233663125/grammar-preposition-sentence-rule-myth-merriam-webster-dictionary

For this month's topic, here's a question ... how often do you use the words, "you know"? I found an interesting article on its uses: english.stackexchange.com/questions/7297/how-to-use-you-know

Local Writing Clubs

PWC may be the longest running local 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. Updated calendar may be viewed here: <https://www.meetup.com/shutupandwritephoenixaz/events/calendar/>
- 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/>
- Phoenix Oasis Press (POP) - <https://www.phoenixoasispress.com/>
- Arizona Authors Association—Mark Walker recently brought my attention to this writers club. www.arizonaauthors.org. They are accepting submissions Jan 1—June 1 for their writing contest.
- Poetry Center—<https://poetry.arizona.edu/> - a volunteer group focused on the following:
 - ◆ Work with incarcerated writers throughout the country.
 - ◆ Support the literary work of these individuals, whether it be fiction, non-fiction or poetry.
 - ◆ Act as coaches for their writing
 - ◆ Educate themselves on the issues around criminal justice reform, bail reform or prison reform through guest speaker presentations at their monthly meetings
 - ◆ They are actively looking for additional mentors. If anyone is interested, fill out the form on the Poetry Center's website: <https://poetry.arizona.edu/opportunities/get-involved/free-time-writers-inside-and-out> The page also has the group's core values including their preference that anyone who joins will commit to participate for at least one year.
 - ◆ They will hold *a training session for new volunteers on Saturday, March 16 at 10am followed by their monthly Free Time meeting after it 11.*

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



PWC Contacts

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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 March.
<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