

## PWC Monthly Meeting

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### *Phoenix Writers Club meets monthly on the 3rd Saturday*

Join us Saturday, June 15, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in person. We are no longer hybrid due to technical difficulties!

New Location— **Scott's Generations**, 742 E Glendale Ave #142, Phoenix, AZ 85020. Cost: \$25/member, \$30/guests, CASH includes meal, non-alcoholic beverage, tax, tip & speaker fee.

**RSVP Questions?** Email Cindi Reiss at [writeoncindi@gmail.com](mailto:writeoncindi@gmail.com)

## June 2024 Speaker

*In June, we welcome Louise J. Privette.*



Louise J. Privette is an author who served as the Executive Editor of *Inkslingers: Many Worlds Many Stories* published in 2021. In the November issue of *Writers in the Storm* she wrote a blog, *Telling a Life: Tips for Composing a Compelling Biography or Memoir*.

According to Privette, people read biographies/memoirs to learn more about people they admire or better understand the motivations of those they despise. A great biographer offers a glimpse into the lives of noteworthy individuals. Readers share the individual's journey, experience their triumphs and failures, and gain insights into their own lives.

Louise Privette is the author of *Dancing Through Life: A Memoir*. She faced some unique challenges while crafting the life story of her ballroom dance instructor. During this presentation, Louise will share some lessons learned and tips for writing a captivating biography or memoir.



## 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.

## A Note from the PWC President

Happy June!

Summertime is here! Of course, in Phoenix it's been here for a while.

We had just gotten the kinks out of meeting at Gallagher's and surprise, they had to close their doors. We are saddened to see them go. We've dealt with restaurants closing on us in the past and we carry on though it does take some doing to find a place that fits our needs.

Luckily Ilsa Manning has quickly found us a new place to meet and we thank her for her diligence in putting this together on short notice.

June will be our last meeting until September as we take off for July and August. That doesn't mean the board will be taking off and anyone else who wants to help in the planning of our centennial celebration. We encourage your involvement with this venture. Bernadette Inclan has been compiling our history into folders by decade and we have pictures, newsletters, clippings, etc. going back to the 1930's! Thank you, Bernadette, for undertaking this project. The detailed compilation is impressive. Now we need ideas on a fundraising plan, venue (Joe Maguire is working on this one), contests, publicity, news announcements, etc. If you have a talent in any of these areas or want to develop that talent, please contact me. We need each of you to keep PWC in action.

The people who have volunteered their time and skills over the many years that PWC has been in action are treasured. Unfortunately, several long-time clubs in the Valley have had to fold over the past few years due to no one being able to take over the reins and we don't want to be one of them.

We are working on building our membership back to pre-pandemic numbers and our website has been growing. Please take advantage of getting your page on it and using it as a tool. We can only do this with everyone's assistance. Send your info to Ilsa Manning at [ilsamanningwrites@gmail.com](mailto:ilsamanningwrites@gmail.com)

May you begin your summer with something to cool your palate while you write and read the summer away.

*This Is Just To Say*

I have eaten  
the plums  
that were in  
the icebox

and which  
you were probably  
saving  
for breakfast

Forgive me  
they were delicious  
so sweet  
and so cold

William Carlos Williams

Write on,  
*Cindi Reiss*



# PWC May 2024 Meeting Minutes

*By Bernadette Inclan*

President Cindi Reiss opened the meeting at 12:46 P.M. Fifteen members and guests were in attendance including the speaker's parents.

## Centennial Celebration

Cindi asked for input for our centennial celebration in 2026. Ideas and connections are needed. Mark Walker will work on getting AAA (Arizona Authors Association) in a joint venture with PWC. We need ideas on a fundraising plan, venue (Joe Maguire is working on this one), contests, publicity, news announcements, etc. If you have a talent behind any of these, please contact a PWC Board member until we have a centennial coordinator.

## Member Spotlight and Contests:

Uta Behrens reminded the members of her annual PWC Uta Behrens nonfiction contest for books (\$300 prize) and poetry (\$75 prize). The contest opened in September and a winner will be picked in September 2024. Please send your finished book or poem to Uta Behrens 4019 E. Campbell Ave., Phx. 85018 Thank you, Uta, for your support of writers and poets.

Mark Walker's Kickstarter was a tremendous success. This venture doubled the initial goal for *The Guatemala Reader*. Mark's post: *Your support allows us to expand the audience interested in learning more about Guatemala, immigration challenges, and how to support projects in Guatemala and leaders who will make a difference.* Congratulations, Mark!

Bert Haagenstad's books may be found on his website: <https://thestoryteller62.com/>

Remember that June 1 is the deadline to submit your writing to the Arizona Authors Association contests. You can also request a critique on your work. For more information <https://www.arizonaauthors.org/contest-1>

On Saturday, May 25, from 3-5 P.M., Reporters and the Pen will host Arizona Journalists who Became Authors for this free event hosted by The Poisoned Pen Bookstore, 4014 N. Goldwater BLVD., Scottsdale.

## Speaker

Member Beth Johnson introduced the speaker, Randy Brown, aka Charlie Sherpa, (for following on Facebook). Randy spoke on writing about military experiences and encourages those who served or are serving in the military to write. He encourages first time participants to submit to ISSUED: Stories of Service (more info in events). He has a number of books and anthologies that feature the military voices of veterans and has published works of his own.

Randy distributed a sheet of poetry which he wrote and read to the group. His wit and sensitivity was acknowledged and appreciated by the attendees. He also gave the audience a hand-out entitled, "How to Craft Effective Bio-Burbs" that provided examples of biographical statements



an author should have on hand for self and book promotions. He described his biographical statements “They’re like poems” or “personal mission-statements.” He recommended that one always start with their first and last name. Then in fifty words or less, give the “5 Ws and an H, with a little personality thrown in.” In other words, craft a bio-blurb as a “call to action.”

- *Where to buy your book(s)*
- *Where somebody can read your stuff, in print or on-line.*
- *Where to find out more about you and your work.*

Find his books, blogs, and audios here:

- [www.middlewestpress.com](http://www.middlewestpress.com)
- <http://linktr.ee/randysherpabrown>

After a lively discussion with questions and answers, Cindi adjourned the meeting at 2:10 P.M.



## Uta Behren’s Writing Contests

Get your submissions in for the annual Uta Behrens Writing Contests

**Poetry-** Please submit one completed poem.

Rules:

- Must rhyme
- Must be at least 20 lines

Award: \$75

### Non-Fiction Books

Rules: Non-fiction includes memoirs, books of essays, short stories, and books of poetry, published or finished manuscripts as of 2024 and at least 120 pages

Award: \$300

Deadline for submissions: **September 21, 2024.**

Must be current in dues as of September 30<sup>th</sup> and a local Phoenix Writers Club member. If you are not a member and interested in joining, membership is \$35 a year. Email Membership Chair D’Anne Pientka at [azdanne@gmail.com](mailto:azdanne@gmail.com) for details.

Send your submissions to the meetings. The winners of both the poetry and non-fiction book contests will be announced at the October, 2024 meeting.

Thank you Uta and get writing everyone!



# May Gathering

Thank you Joe Maguire, our photographer.



## So You Think You Know English

Why is “Ain’t” controversial? Thanks, Bernadette, for this link.  
<https://www.thesaurus.com/e/grammar/aint-amnt-haint-baint/>

Listened to NPR’s TED Hour and heard Anne Curzan’s speech I’d like to share—the topic, “They/Them and the Evolution of English”. First question, is ‘They’ singular? Do you think you know?  
<https://www.npr.org/2024/05/24/g-s1-426/they-them-and-the-evolution-of-english>

## 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— [www.arizonaauthors.org](http://www.arizonaauthors.org). They are accepting submissions Jan 1—June 1 for their writing contest.
- Arizona Professional Writers - (formerly Arizona Press Women) <https://arizonaprofessionalwriters.org/>
- 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.
- SouthWest Writers (SWW)—<https://www.southwestwriters.com/> Short Story and Poetry contest June 1—July 7
- The Studio—Story Slams—<https://www.thestudiophx.org/sos>

On a different note, with sadness we announce the closure of The Society of Southwestern Authors (SSA). The reason given was **lack of volunteers**. We at PWC are grateful for our volunteers and are always looking for fresh faces and ideas. If you’d like to volunteer, please contact one of the board members. Reminder: We’re looking for volunteers for the PWC Centennial celebration in 2026.

## The Aiming Circle

Author: Randy “Sherpa” Brown

At “The Aiming Circle” ([www.aimingcircle.com](http://www.aimingcircle.com)), May 2024 guest speaker Randy “Sherpa” Brown administers a patron-supported virtual “Community of Practice” for writers of military themes and topics. This is an excerpt of an Aiming Circle list of literary journals and magazines—markets that regularly feature short fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, and often visual arts such as photography. Please note: These markets are open to ALL writers—not just military veterans or family members!

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*ISSUED*: Stories of Service

Frequency: Annual

Accepts: Fiction and non-fiction (less than 1,000 words), poetry, visual art, reviews

Simultaneous submissions? Yes

Previously published materials? Yes

Limited to military service members, veterans, and/or families? No—open to all

Submissions link: <https://issuedjournal.com/submissions/>

Website: <https://issuedjournal.com/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OVMAEASU>

Launched in May 2023 at Arizona State University with sponsorship from the Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement (<https://vetengagement.asu.edu/>), “*ISSUED* is a journal for all active-duty military, veterans, and family members, a platform to share military experiences through poetry, prose, and visual art. We especially value stories about gender and sexuality, BIPOC experiences, physical and mental health, combat, enlisting and separating, family and relationships, and returning to civilian life. *ISSUED* also features profiles of veterans who are doing extraordinary work in their communities, whether it be through the arts, education, or advocacy.”

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*AS YOU WERE*

Deadline: Various; usually January-February and July-August

Frequency: Twice annual

Accepts: Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, visual art

Simultaneous submissions: No

Previously published materials: No

Limited to military service members, veterans, and/or families? No, but preferred

Submissions link: <https://mea.submittable.com/submit/31482>

Website: <http://militaryexperience.org/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/militaryexperienceandthearts/>

Published twice a year by the non-profit Military Experience & the Arts, the editors of *As You Were* seek to provide a welcoming workshop-like environment for both experienced and aspiring writers. The established submissions process allows for writers to work with editors on revisions as needed prior to publication.

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### *COLLATERAL JOURNAL*

Deadline: On-going

Frequency: Twice annual (summer and winter issues)

Accepts: Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, visual art

Simultaneous submissions? Yes

Previously published materials? Requests first serial Internet rights

Limited to military service members, veterans, and/or families? No—open to all

Submissions link: <https://www.collateraljournal.com/submit>

Website: <http://collateraljournal.com/>

The editors write: "*Collateral* explores the perspectives of those whose lives are touched indirectly by the realities of military service. Numerous journals already showcase war literature, but we provide a creative platform that highlights the experiences of those who exist in the space around military personnel and the combat experience.

"We feel these voices sometimes go unheard, and this journal captures the 'collateral' impact of military service, whether it is from the perspective of the partner or child; the parent or sibling; the friend or co-worker; or the elderly veteran, the refugee, or the protester. In any issue, you might find the haiku of a seven-year old girl whose father is in Afghanistan alongside the short story of an award-winning fiction writer. Or the first-person essay of a military spouse alongside the critical essay of an academic."





## Writing Event

### Arizona Authors Association (AAA) Welcomes Patricia L. Brooks

Award-winning Memoir Author with her workshop

*Write the Memoir You're Afraid to Write*

- WHO:** All Aspiring Writers and Authors
- WHAT:** ZOOM Workshop – requires RSVP—\$200 for eight hours of instruction
- WHEN:** All four Saturdays in JULY 2024, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon PST
- WHERE:** Please RSVP for the Zoom meeting details, the PC and ID [patricia@plbrooks.com](mailto:patricia@plbrooks.com) or text 480-250-5556
- WHY:** To take your memoir to fruition!
- SPEAKER:** Patricia L. Brooks, MAOM Award-winning Author, Publishing Consultant, Advocate and Educator



**Presentation Description:** In an encouraging and insightful presentation, Patricia will help you capture the essence of your untold story, share with you how to produce a memoir to your own satisfaction, face your fears and conquer the story's emotional beats. With techniques from writing her own daring memoirs, and those she has helped others write, Patricia will inspire you to learn the necessary steps to bring your work to fruition. The workshop includes a question-and-answer session and an activity following the presentation. Her memoirs are for sale on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**Author Bio:** Patricia is president/founder of Brooks Goldmann Publishing Company, LLC, and Scottsdale Society of Women Writers. She has managed both since 2005. Patricia is a sought-after workshop/keynote speaker while authoring a non-fiction book on writing memoirs and teaching memoir writing at ASU's Piper Writing Center.

Patricia L. Brooks is enthusiastic about storytelling in her award-winning memoirs. *Sick as My Secrets* is powerful memoir told by a strong woman who overcame her desperate need for alcohol to handle stress in her young life. *Three Husbands and a Thousand Boyfriends* is her poignant story of a dangerous journey through love addiction and domestic violence. Her first memoir, *Gifts of Sisterhood - journey from grief to gratitude* is a tribute to her sister who died from lung cancer. All three memoirs and other information is available at [www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com](http://www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com)

## PWC Contacts

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**Phoenix Facebook**      <https://www.facebook.com/phxwritersclub/>

**Phoenix Writers Club website**      [phoenixwritersclub.com](http://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 June.

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

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

The **Tucson Arts Poetry Series (TAPS)** was started Feb. 2023 by Katie Sarah Zale, Bonnie Wehle, and Janet Rives. Each 4<sup>th</sup> 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