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PWC Monthly Meetings

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

For membership information, contact D'Anne Pientka, membership chair, at phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com.

A Note from the PWC President

We will not have our general meetings in July and August but you can still get your writing camaraderie by joining us as we plan our 2026 Centennial planning. Check out what's happening in our summary on page 6 and contact me if you would like to join in on the fun!

School's out for summer is a fun time with my grandkiddos and what better way to enjoy those lazy, hazy, crazy days than through the eyes of a child. Invite your favorite children's poet back into your life such as Shel Silverstein who sure captures what we're all feeling about now!

IT'S HOT by Shel Silverstein

It's hot!
 I can't get cool,
 I've drunk a quart of lemonade.
 I think I'll take my shoes off
 And sit around in the shade.
It's hot!
 My back is sticky.
 The sweat rolls down my chin.
 I think I'll take my clothes off
 And sit around in my skin.

It's hot!
 I've tried with 'lectric fans,
 And pools and ice cream cones.
 I think I'll take my skin off
 And sit around in my bones.
It's still hot!

Write on,
Cindi Reiss

PWC June 2024 Social Meeting

By Bernadette Inclan

PWC President, Cindi Reiss, opened the meeting at 12:44 pm and introduced the Board members as well as guest, Carol Rundell and new member Renae Ogle.

Member Spotlight

Martha Kent is beginning a writer's workshop at the Botanical Gardens beginning in the Fall.

Mark Prior began working with veterans at the VA.

Beth Johnson is hosting a journaling forum in Prescott.

Kixx Goldman is writing a book and realized she should have the book in first-person narrative. She talked about her Blog and an article she wrote about feeling her trauma of aging.

Ilsa Manning copy-edited a full manuscript which will be available soon.

Speaker

Bernadette Inclan introduced Louise Privette (see her website: louiseprivette.com), who gave an insightful presentation. She spoke to the group on how to write a captivating biography. Louise gave a brief presentation of her memoir with Tristan Peigné who overcame dyslexia, homelessness, poverty, and racism to become a business owner and instructor; training and competing in ballroom dance competitions. Tristan wanted Louise to write his memoir because of his history as well as to relay his struggles and motivation to success.

When writing a memoir, the first step is to choose a subject worth knowing. The subject should pass the “so what” test.

Why are you writing this memoir? Money, fame, loved ones, or for a family heirloom.

Find the hero in your subject and set the scene. Use historical events, fashion, the culture of the main character, time, place, and music titles. A word of caution, anything before 1929 is creative works not protected by copyright, trademark, or patent laws. Current work is protected by copyright and you must first seek permission if you use lyrics to songs in your memoir.

Do your research. If available, use diaries, photos, and interviews. There are many historical resources.

Create a timeline of the historical events and place your action in between the events.

Take the reader on an emotional roller coaster—the ecstasy and the agony.

When interviewing, give space, respect, and safety to the person telling the story. Pull back on questions that may be disturbing. Be gentle even if you have to re-interview.

Identify overarching themes such as character traits.



Exercise good judgment. Protect the privacy of individuals who may still be alive. While Louise is not an attorney, she does carry liability insurance. The statute of limitation in Arizona is one-year and the person suing must prove the writer wrote with malice. Louise holds a policy for which she pays \$347/year.

Place legal disclaimers in your acknowledgment or author's page. For example, in my opinion...

Write a satisfying ending. Your truth and the time it took to obtain it. Give the character's triumph, acceptance, society changes, and the message you want to convey along with concluding thoughts. Be diligent and captivating.

Finally, review, revise, and polish.

After questions and lively discussions from the audience, Cindi closed the meeting at 2:08 pm.

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 30th and a local Phoenix Writers Club member. If you are not a member and interested in joining, membership is \$40 a year. Email Membership Chair D'Anne Pientka at phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com for details.

Send your submissions to Uta Behrens, 4019 E. Campbell Ave., Phx. 85018.

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!



You Think You Know English

Lately, *MSN.com* has gone crazy with English. View their various ‘You think you know English’ links.

- 20 overused words and what to say instead (msn.com) <https://tinyurl.com/mrnmcfm3>
- 21 Stubborn Grammatical Errors Americans Make All the Time (msn.com) <https://tinyurl.com/bdeue8ck>
- Words That Don’t Mean What You Think They Do (msn.com) <https://tinyurl.com/59k5dv5u>

And from Bernadette: How much do you know about relative pronouns? Test your knowledge with this quiz <https://tinyurl.com/4x9zverb>

D’Anne’s note: 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 Inclin at bsbincoin@aol.com for information.

Local Writing Clubs

PWC may be the longest running Arizona 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.
- Arizona Professional Writers - (formerly Arizona Press Women) <https://arizonaprofessionalwriters.org/>
- Poetry Center—<https://poetry.arizona.edu/> - a volunteer group focused on working with incarcerated writers throughout the country.

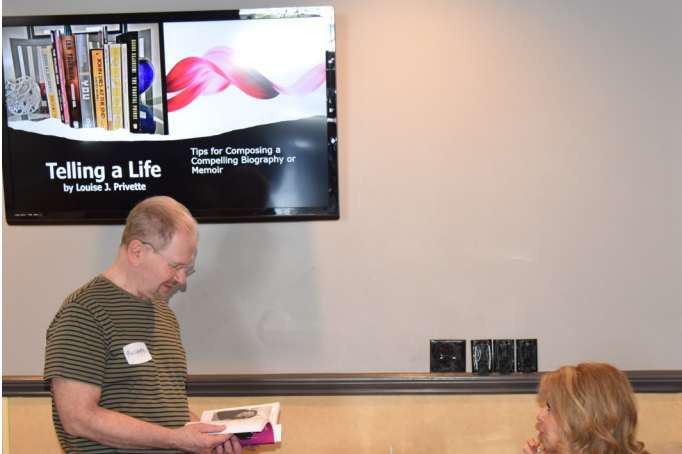
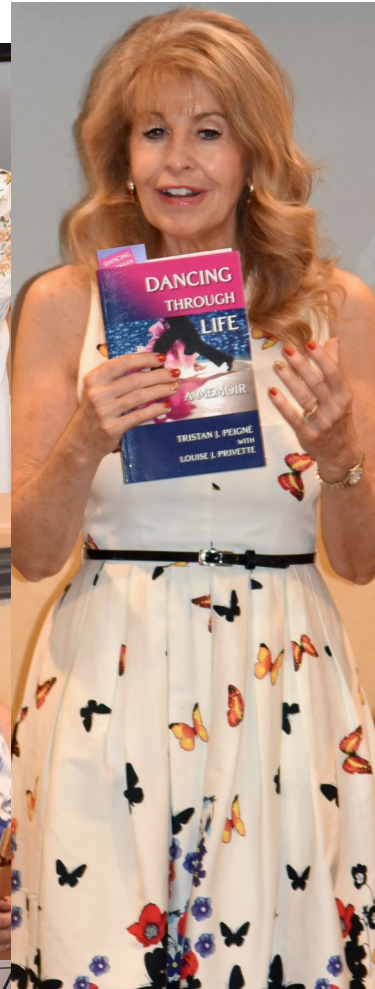
They are actively looking for additional mentors. If anyone is interested, fill out the form on the Poetry Center’s website: <https://poetry.arizona.edu/opportunities/get-involved/free-time-writers-inside-and-out> The page also has the group’s core values including their preference that anyone who joins will commit to participate for at least one year.

- SouthWest Writers (SWW)—<https://www.southwestwriters.com/>
- The Studio—Story Slams—<https://www.thestudiophx.org/sos>



June Gathering

Thank you to Joe M for taking the pictures.



PWC Centennial Planning



Summary of our first centennial meeting on Saturday, June 22nd. Thank you to Bernadette and Joe for hosting us.

We approved raising our annual dues to \$40 a year, such a deal!

Navissa presented the Women's History Month Essay and Poetry Contest which will begin in January 2025. She will find out with Submittable how we go about having an account to receive submissions and will continue to get this moving. She also suggested having a 1920's themed meeting/party in March when the contest winners are announced. Thank you Navissa for spearheading this.

Joe presented info about becoming a non-profit. We have talked about this for years and have never gathered information about it to make a decision. Thank you to Joe for looking into this so we can consider if this is something we want to pursue and which route to take if we do.

D'Anne and Beth will work on designing a flyer, card or bookmark and will present their ideas, drafts to us before we meet again in August so we can have one ready to go. If you have ideas, info on this please email either or both of them as this is an essential item to have to get the word out. It was also suggested to add to the logo "Founded by Women, open to all" or something in this vein. We also still have bookmarks to use as a promotion that we have had for many years and please continue to use them, (I have two boxes of them!)

Bernadette will continue to organize our history as she receives it into the fabulous notebooks that she has put together and had at the meeting. Please use these to guide you in our history and she is keeping track of who checks out which ones.

D'Anne is reaching out to former members to invite them back to the group. Cindi is contacting community writing groups and past speakers, etc. to get them interested in jumping on board with us. Bernadette and Joe have been attending writing events around the Valley and recruiting their involvement.

We need to determine a budget and get a handle of what expenses we will have. To begin we will need funds for flyers, signage, any other advertising items we decide on such as pens, pads, etc.; possibly submittable for the contest, Eventbrite if used for tickets. These things will be immediate, then we'll need to consider cost of venue, food, speakers, etc.

We will meet again on Saturday, August 3rd, at noon, and I will keep you posted as to where. Bernadette, Joe and I went to Devonshire Senior Center today. We may meet there; I'll keep you updated on all that we find out.

Planning a centennial celebration is a big deal and having all of you help with this is essential. Please let me know anything I have missed. And please let me know of your progress in areas such as the flyer, submittable, contacts, etc. so we can keep on a good, steady pace. I will continually update you and appreciate everyone. The emails may be long but read through and clarify anything that is needed so we keep this party movin'!!

Cindi *PWC Centennial Committee*



Member News

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

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

Bert Haagenstad: His books: https://www.amazon.com/First-Easter-Egg-Bert-Haagenstad-ebook/dp/B0CTFTDY6R/ref=sr_1_4?keywords=THE+FIRST+EASTER+EGG&qid=1707505430&sr=8-4

Bernadette Inclan: *The Perils of Beginnings*: <https://bernadetteinclan.com/>

Donna Rebadow: Would like advice on how to create an audio book for *Wednesdays With Sadie, The Miracle Dog*. If any of you can help, please contact D'Anne Pientka for her contact information.

Kixx Goldman: Blog—<https://www.drkixxgoldman.com/blog/>

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

Profiling Two Lifelong Goals

This is a thank you to the Phoenix Writers Club and members that contributed profiling two of my lifelong goals. At 63 years old at the time, I wondered if I could ever reach these goals. One becoming a published author. This was achieved by support and encouragement to keep writing, to follow my dreams, and by providing positive, and honest feedback on my submissions. I learned and improved my writing. I found the strength to publish my first book. At the same time I found friends among the other members and I that I actually felt I belonged there, which was my second lifelong goal. Moving from town to town so many times in my youth into my teens, nowhere felt like home, like I really belonged. The Phoenix Writers Club provided that for me. This means more to me than I can find words for.

Thank you to all the members that had my back and are always giving of themselves.

Bert Haagenstad

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.

Virginia G Piper Center

Writers Conference October 10-12



OCTOBER 10-12 2024

VIRGINIA G. PIPER CENTER FOR CREATIVE WRITING PRESENTS

Desert Nights Rising Stars

WRITERS CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
NICOLE SEALEY & JOHN MURILLO
PIPER.ASU.EDU/CONFERENCE

PWC is looking to rebuild former ties with Virginia G Piper Center. Please note the upcoming conference and registration.

<https://piper.asu.edu/conference/>

They also want to promote some scholarships - both an open scholarship and a scholarship specifically for Arizona educators. Both applications are available on their website at <https://piper.asu.edu/conference/scholarships-and-fellowships>

Applications close on August 1.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
Nicole Sealey & John Murillo

FEATURED FACULTY
Camille Acker • Jacqueline Balderrama • Sally Ball • Sherwin Bitsui • Kimberly Blaeser • Regina Brooks • Elena Karina Byrne • Hayan Charara • Jonathan Danielson • Debra Magpie Earling • Tami Haaland • Jenny Irish • Tara Ison • Lois P. Jones • Caroline Kim • Melissa Kwasny • Patricia Murphy • Dean Newlund • Diana Khoi Nguyen • Susan Nguyen • Cindy Juyoung Ok • Justin Petropoulos • Gianni Ponce • Ramona Reeves • Alberto Ríos • Deborah Taffa • TC Tolbert • Alexandra van de Kamp • Sarah Viren • Phillip B. Williams

TEACHING FELLOWS
Stephanie Austin • Ariana Benson • Brandon Blue • Amy E. Casey • Larry Chavis • Aaliyah C. Daniels • Ayling Zulema Dominguez • CD Eskilson • Zoe Flavin • Laura Gaddis • Inbal Gilboa • Estella González • Andrew Hudson • Chloe L. Jensen • Tarah Knaresboro • Rebecca Loggia • Tamara MC • Daniel Mills • Kristine Morgan • Ames O'Neill • Karen Odden • Shawnte Orion • Brooke Sahni • Cecilia Savala • Ben Shahan • Christian Teresi • Pamela Uschuk • Joni Wallace • Sarah Yaron

PANELISTS AND GUESTS
Brent Ameneyro • Francisco Aragón • Anushah Jiwani • Kundiman SW • Letras Latinas • Susan Nguyen • Aria Pahari • Richard Siken • Edie Tsong • Laura Villareal

MFA PRESENTS
April Bannister • Brandon Blue • Frankie Concepcion • Patrick De Lean • David Dell'oso • Ayling Zulema Dominguez • Kinsale Drake • Matt Ferraz • Jack Galati • Emad Jabini • Siobhan Jean-Charles • Chloe L. Jensen • Russ Kazmierczak • Tarah Knaresboro • Zack Lesmeister • Polly Llewellyn • Amanda Machado • M. McDonough • Mona Morsy • Ames O'Neill • Destiny Pinder-Buckley • Timothy Provenzano • Hana Saad • Winslow Schmelling • Jacob Simmons

COMMUNITY WRITERS
Daisy Atterbury • Angie Dell • Maria Esquinca • David Foster • Wendy J. Fox • Catherine Garbinsky • Anna Abraham Gasaway • Hanna Uf Ghabhain • Michelle Gurule • Saúl Hernández • Jane Kalu • Saba Keramati • Cindy Kibbe • Charissa Lucille • Jj Peña • Devin Pope • Juan Carlos Reyes • Karen Rigby • Vic Saturnhex • Cecilia Savala • Marisa Tirado • Denise Tolan • Judith van Praag • Lorraine Wheat

We're looking at the possibility of purchasing an exhibit table. The limited hours bookfair will run Thursday, October 10 and Friday, October 11 from 1:15 - 5:15pm in the MU. Ballroom.

Please find attached flyers about the speakers.

Register soon as the conference fills quickly! If you do not qualify for any of the discounts offered, (such as being a senior!) please email Cindi for a discount that ICP may offer to our members. writeoncindi@gmail.com

They'd love to have folks from Phoenix Writers Club take part in whatever way works for us and are very grateful for any promotion of the conference we can offer. As they said, "It is great to see our organizations begin to work together this way." We agree.



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Photographer	Joe Maguire	bsbincoin@aol.com

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

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=mzccOalgDI-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. 2024 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