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PWC Monthly Meeting

Phoenix Writers Club meets monthly on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

New Location—New Time—Pre-Payment & RSVP Required

Devonshire Senior Center, 2802 E Devonshire Ave (28th St., north of Indian School Rd.). Saturday, October 19, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. in person. \$10 members, \$15 guests. Details in the newsletter.

Questions? Email Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com

October Speaker

Sasha Hawkins is a writer from Laveen. She is the author of two chapbooks, *And His Banner Over Me Was Love* (Pansy Press, 2024) and *These Deals Won't Last Forever* (the operating system, 2019). She is also the author of the poetry collection *Batesian Prey of the American Southwest* (Schism Neuronics, 2023).

She is currently the Coordinator for Educational Programs at the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at ASU and she will speak on the many opportunities available to us through the center.

She will also show us how poetry teaches us that each word matters in all genres of writing, giving us the impact we need to bring our readers into our stories.

She is a part of the Desert Nights, Rising Stars conference, Oct 10-12.



Looking Ahead

- November Speaker—Podcasting Pioneer Danielle Hampson (AAA Member)
- December—Annual holiday salon/party

A Note from the PWC President

It was great seeing so many of you at our September meeting. The energy was electric as we began our fall season at our new location and time. Thank you for the positive feedback during these changes as we continue our writing journeys together. The RSVP info for the October meeting and lots of info about our club, writing events and more are included in our fabulous newsletter so read it all!

Enjoy this Halloween month with a scarecrow of your choice.

The Scarecrow
By Kahlil Gibran

Once I said to a scarecrow, “You must be tired of standing in this lonely field.”

And he said, “The joy of scaring is a deep and lasting one, and I never tire of it.”

Said I, after a minute of thought, “It is true; for I too have known that joy.”

Said he, “Only those who are stuffed with straw can know it.”

Then I left him, not knowing whether he had complimented or belittled me.

A year passed, during which the scarecrow turned philosopher.

And when I passed by him again I saw two crows building a nest under his hat.



Write on,
Cindi Reiss

A Winning Story Structure

(not to be confused with the story plot.) - Source: Reedsy Education, author unknown. Thank you, Bert Haagenstad, for sharing.

Think of the story structure as three separate parts:

Part One: Introduction of your characters. background, (where the story will take place, and time when it will take place.)

Part Two: The challenges the protagonist is up against. An emotional motivation, and an event that motivates beyond simple emotion.)

Part Three: The solution, the victory, or the conclusion.

September Meeting Minutes

By Bernadette Inclin

Cindi Reiss opened the meeting with twenty attendees at 10:35 AM and welcomed everyone to PWC's new format. Introductions with guests and new members included Marilyn Mayblum-Robinson, Jennifer Schouten, and Eric Miller. Marilyn is writing a memoir, but her background includes theatre and shows. Jennifer is writing a middle school fiction book. Eric is looking forward to honing his craft and adding to his stories.

Cindi introduced the Board, and seasoned members in the room introduced themselves to the first-time attendees. The new meeting place and time are a hit. Thank you, Beth Johnson, for the yummy bagels and Sylvia Yeaman for the wonderful Starbucks coffee. Joseph Maguire provided the water. It appears that the new move of place, time, and munchies was satisfying to all.

Centennial Committee:

Bernadette agreed to be Centennial Chair for PWC's 2026 Centennial Celebration. We plan on aggressive PR and need volunteers for the various upcoming events. The first is next month, October 10-12, at **ASU Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference**. ASU is providing PWC with a table set-up, free of charge, to advertise our club. Members who have books can help "man the table" and also sell their books. We need volunteers for shifts on Thursday, October 10, from 1:15-4:15 PM, and again on Friday, October 11, from 1:15-4:15 PM. Contact Bernadette at bsbincoin@aol.com. Please volunteer to man the table during this generous opportunity from ASU for free advertising.

Member Spotlight:

Cindi Reiss read us one of her three poems published by *The Blue Guitar*, https://www.theblueguitarmagazine.org/resources/UNSTRUNG+summer+2024_ENJOY.pdf

Martha Kent is the instructor for a writer's workshop series at the Desert Botanical Gardens, *Life Writing in the Garden* on October 9 & 23; and November 6 & 20. Here's a link to register for the class: <https://ticketing.dbg.org/dbg/events/01905758-e284-2ac2-6134-77f9160485db>. Please see the email attachment for more details.

Bernadette Inclin's, *The Perils of Beginnings*, was picked up by AR Press who are marketing the book with ARPress Bookstore, Barnes and Noble, Amazon, and Walmart. Logan Crawford, Spotlight Network TV, contacted her for an interview to discuss her book.

On Aug 17th, Beth Johnson presented the class "Launch Your Light - Why Journal in the 21st Century" to 10 Veterans at Prescott VA.

Uta Behrens annual non-fiction (1) poetry (\$75 award) and (2) book contest (\$300 award). Today was the last day to enter submissions to Uta's contest. Poems are limited to one completed poem of at least 20 lines and must rhyme. If submitting a non-fiction book, this includes memoirs, books of essays, short stories, and books of poetry, published or finished manuscripts as of 2024 and at least 120 pages.

Speaker Sudha Balagopal

Bernadette introduced September's speaker, flash and micro fiction author, Sudha Balagopal, whose new book, *Nose Ornaments* has been released and published by AdHoc Fiction.



Bernadette Inclin and Sudha Balagopal

Sudha's delightful presentation and instructions included readings on *flash fiction*. Flash fiction is described as stories of 1000 words or less, dense with details.

A novella-in-flash is a longer work of fiction that consists of a string of flash fictions, linked to form a cohesive story.

The flash fictions that form the 'chapters,' can range from a few words to maximum of 1,000 words (that's about three pages) but what's really important in the case of a novella-in-flash is that the chapters should be able to function as stand-alone stories.

The benefit of flash is that it requires the writer to be super creative. Flash is a form, not a genre.

Sudha gave two prompts for attendees to exercise their creative muscles and the exercises were enthusiastically embraced by the attendees, many of whom read theirs out loud to the group.

Cindi adjourned the meeting at 11:53 AM.

Sudha's writing prompts and links

First, read novellas-in-flash—this will get your creative juices going and will help you visualize the shape your own work could take.

Studies on the form include:

- *My Very End of the Universe: Five Novellas-in-Flash and a Study of the Form*, by Chris Bower
- *Unlocking the Novella-in-Flash*, by Michael Loveday

Opportunities:

- The Bath Novella-in-Flash Award has been running since 2016 and publishes the winners and runners-up as individual books; word count 6,000 – 18,000 words
- National Flash Fiction Day, UK, launched their inaugural Novella-in-Flash competition in 2021; word count 6,000 to 12,000 words
- Fairlight Books accepts novellas-in-flash; word count 25,000-50,000 words

Publishers:

- Ad Hoc Fiction
- V. Press
- Alien Buddha Press
- above/ground Press
- WTAW Press
- Flash: the International Short-Short Story Press

Where to Publish: <https://michaelloveday.com/where-to-publish-novellas-novels-in-flash/>

Writing prompts:

1. Repeat a phrase at the beginning of each sentence. Examples:
 - Remember
 - Let's say . . .
2. Write a breathless paragraph or a one-sentence story.

Thank you, Sudha, for sharing.



Sudha Balagopal

September Monthly PWC Pictures

Thank you to Joe Maguire for the photos.



PWC Monthly Meetings

We look forward to our monthly meetings at **Devonshire Senior Center** <https://www.phoenix.gov/parks/recreation-and-community-centers/centers-d/devonshire>. Our meeting on October 19 will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The earlier time gives us the opportunity to meet with other members afterwards for lunch or nosh at a nearby restaurant, if desired. Our meeting will follow our usual format: 10:00–10:30 social time; 10:30–11:00 business, announcements; 11:00–12:00 speaker.

The club will provide coffee, water, and bagels/pastries. The cost to attend is \$10 members, \$15 guests, which covers the cost of the meeting location, food and beverage offerings, and monthly speaker.

With this new format, **members and guests must RSVP and pay before the meeting**. The official city requirement forbids fees to be collected at the center. We have several ways to accomplish fee collection. First, the old standby, mail a check payable to Phoenix Writers Club to our treasured treasurer, Navissa Kaiser, 5715 E. Alder, Mesa 85206; second, use Zelle (a secure online banking app), which goes into our club account; third, PayPal or Venmo.

Your annual dues of \$40, which are due by October 30, can be paid using any of those means. If you want to use your Zelle account, add new recipient phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com.

If you have Venmo or PayPal, send to Navissa Kaiser and a receipt will be sent to your email. On Venmo it will appear as @Navissa-Kaiser.

Life Writing in the Garden

<https://ticketing.dbg.org/dbg/events/01905758-e284-2ac2-6134-77f9160485db>
Martha Kent leads these workshops at the Desert Botanical Gardens. Please see the attached for details. They sound like a lot of fun.



PWC Board Member Elections

Elections for board members take place at the October meeting. This slate of nominations was presented in September: President-Cindi Reiss; Vice-president-Bernadette Inlan; Treasurer-Navissa Kaiser, Secretary-open. If you would like to run for a position, please contact Ilsa Manning at ilsamanningwrites@gmail.com.

PWC and AAA

PWC is collaborating with the Arizona Authors Association (AAA) to host former PWC member Danielle Hampson to speak about media book marketing for our November meeting. Danielle is the founder of The Authors Show which has produced audio interviews for over 6,000 authors around the world. She'll also present her "Give a Book Get a Smile" program. You can bring a book if you want to participate in this new initiative to donate books to underprivileged people, children and adults. This reflects another effort for our club to collaborate with other Phoenix writing clubs, making us stronger.



PWC Centennial 2026

We continue the planning stages of our centennial in 2026! You are welcome to join our committee and our next meeting is immediately after the general meeting on October 19th. We have lots in store as we explore and present our history. If you would like to get involved in our club in any way, please contact Bernadette Iclan, Centennial Committee Chair, at bsbincoin@aol.com, or Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com.

Open—PWC Social Media Coordinator

Would you like to get involved with PWC and put your technology savviness to work? Our Social Media Coordinator, Ilsa Manning, is looking to move on from this role as her business is expanding and taking much of her time. We thank her for the years she’s devoted to developing the website and facebook pages. and wish her the best of luck.

This is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge and to promote our club. Ilsa says, “I spend about 1-2 hours on this a month, but they could use maybe 3-4 hours a month to make them more vibrant.”

Ilsa posts events, member’s news, and inspiring items to motivate us writing! Keep our Facebook page moving; comment, share, and support your fellow writers. To add your own writing news on Facebook, go to the 'mentions' tab and post your news.

Please contact Ilsa at ilsamanningwrites@gmail.com or Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com
Follow us on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/phxwritersclub/>



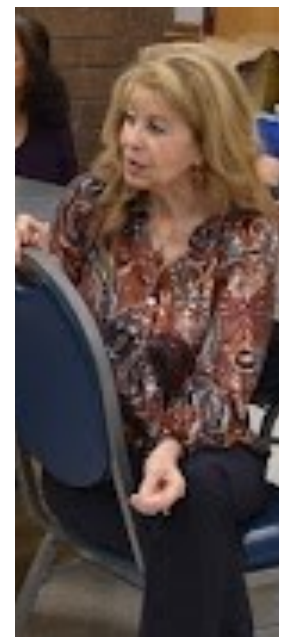
Uta Behrens Non-Fiction Contest Winner



Louise J. Privette won the Uta Behrens Non-Fiction contest for 2024 for her book *Dancing Through Life*. She faced some unique challenges while crafting the life story of her ballroom dance instructor that she shared with PWC as our June speaker of this year.

Louise J. Privette 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*.

Thank You to Uta Behrens for holding this contest.



PWC Critique Writing Group

Our critique workshop meets via Zoom every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, from 6:00-8:00. Enjoy one of the great benefits of being a PWC member. Email Bernadette Inlan 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 enjoy.

- 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/>. **Check out their website this month. They have several fun writing activities planned.**
- 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>
- Medium—<https://medium.com/> - a website with tools and advice for writers. 20% off membership fee for a limited time—\$40 a year. Heard about this from another writer who raves about the value of the site.

So You Think You Know English

Found a YouTube site with funny English memes. Enjoy

[25 Hilarious Memes That Prove English Is The Funniest Language - Funny \(chameleonmemes.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



Bernadette Inlan, X2



Member News

- **Cindi Reiss:** Three of Cindi's poems were selected for *The Blue Guitar*. Check it out at https://www.theblueguitarmagazine.org/resources/UNSTRUNG+summer+2024_ENJOY.pdf
- **Brad Graber:** Blog—<https://www.bradgraber.com/there-i-said-it/>
- **Mark D Walker:** Blog—<https://millionmilewalker.com/blog/>. His interview with Voyage Phoenix Magazine recently came out [Life & Work with Mark Walker of Scottsdale - VoyagePhoenix - Phoenix](#)
- **Bert Haagenstad:** His books are available at 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:** Her book, *The Perils of Beginnings*: <https://bernadetteinclan.com/> was just picked up by the publisher AR Press. Congratulations, Bernadette!!
- **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/>
- **Louise J Privette:** website—<https://louiseprivette.com/>

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

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.

PWC Website

phoenixwritersclub.com

Be sure to send Ilsa Manning your photo and update your bio—this is free publicity for you, another benefit of being a PWC member.

Virginia G Piper Center

Writers Conference October 10-12



NEW: We have an exhibit table from which you may sell your books. Contact Cindi if you wish to participate. The limited bookfair hours will run Thursday, October 10 and Friday, October 11 from 1:15 - 5:15pm in the MU. Ballroom.

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.

PWC is rebuilding 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>



Book Festival

DESERT FOOTHILLS BOOK FESTIVAL WELCOMES SCOTTSDALE HUSBAND AND WIFE AUTHOR TEAM

WHO: Patricia L. Brooks and her husband Earl L. Goldmann, Authors of Memoir and Nonfiction

WHAT: 3rd Annual Desert Foothills Book Festival

WHEN: Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

WHERE: Holland Center, 34250 N. 60th St., Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ

WHY: Books Make Great Holiday Gifts! !

Author Bio: Patricia L. Brooks, an Award-winning Author of Non-fiction and Memoir, and her husband Earl L. Goldmann, Memoir Author will participate in the 3rd annual Desert Foothills Book Festival Saturday, October 19, from 10:00 to 3:00 pm at the Holland Center, 34250 N. 60th St., Scottsdale, AZ

Patricia is president/founder of Brooks Goldmann Publishing, LLC with her husband and business partner of over 20 years. Patricia and Earl are enthusiastic about storytelling in their award-winning memoirs. Their successful writing life, and marriage, centers around writing, publishing, and promoting their books.

Patricia's books include *Sick as My Secrets*, a powerful memoir told by a strong woman who overcame her desperate need for alcohol. *Three Husbands and a Thousand Boyfriends* is her poignant story of surviving and thriving after decades of love addiction. *Gifts of Sisterhood-journey from grief to gratitude* is her tribute to her youngest sister who passed away from lung cancer. Her nonfiction book *Write the Memoir You're Afraid to Write* is her newest addition to their collection.

Earl's first book *Bounce Back* is vignettes of his life in Oregon, playing sports at Oregon State and losing it all with a horrific care accident. *Intestinal Fortitude* is his second set of vignettes with more in-depth stories of his life with depression, alcohol, coaching success, and inspiration. He is currently authoring stories for his third book.

They will be at the festival to display and sell their books and answer any questions you may have about writing or publishing. Patricia is also the founder and president of the phenomenally successful Scottsdale Society of Women Writers.

For questions about their books or the festival contact Patricia at patricia@plbrooks.com 480-250-5556 cell/text

More description of their memoirs is on their website www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com





PWC Contacts

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PWC Centennial Chair	Bernadette Inclan	bsbincoin@aol.com
Phoenix Writers Club 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=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 October.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/d/az--phoenix/writing/>

Phoenix Writers Network: phoenixwritersnetwork.com

The **Tucson Arts Poetry Series (TAPS)** 4th Saturday of the month, at 3:30 pm, two Arizona poets are highlighted reading published work. **Poets & Writers**, made possible by **Tucson Poetry Society (TPS)**
LOCATION: Tucson Desert Art **Museum**, 7000 E. Tanque Verde Rd and Sabino Canyon

Writers Inspiration Group (WIG) meets on Zoom on the first and third Tuesday of the Month from 3-4:40 PM. The sessions include prompts that we write about and share with the group. Contact Bernadette if interested.