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PWC Monthly Meeting

*Phoenix Writers Club meets monthly on the 3rd Saturday of the month.
Pre-Payment & RSVP Required*

Devonshire Senior Center, 2802 E Devonshire Ave (28th St., north of Indian School Rd.). Saturday, January 18, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The \$10 fee for members, \$15 for guests.

To RSVP and/or pay your annual dues of \$40, if you haven't done so, mail a check to our treasurer, Navissa Kaiser, payable to Phoenix Writers Club, 5715 E. Alder, Mesa 85206; or use Zelle which goes into our club account.

January Speaker—Debe Branning



Debe Branning has been the director of the MVD Ghostchasers--a Mesa/Bisbee, AZ based paranormal team since 1994. The team conducts investigations of haunted, historical locations throughout Arizona and has offered paranormal workshop/investigations since 2002.

She has appeared in an episode of TRAVEL CHANNEL'S "Ghost Stories" about haunted Jerome, Arizona in July 2010-- and "Ghost Adventures" about the haunted Old Gila County Jail in Globe. She has traveled, toured and investigated at haunted locations across the United States, England, Scotland, Ireland and Mexico. As a paranormal travel writer, Debe traveled to Europe to cover haunted castles, jails, ships, inns, cemeteries and ghost walking tours. She has been the guest of several US tourism departments such as Carlsbad, Historic Hotels of the Rockies, Salem, and Biloxi.

She is the author of several books including: of "Sleeping with Ghosts-A Ghost Hunter's Guide to AZ's Haunted Hotels and Inns" (2004), "Grand Canyon Ghost Stories" (2012), "The Graveyard Shift--Arizona's Historic and Haunted Cemeteries" (2012), "Dining With the Dead—A Guide to Arizona's Haunted Restaurants and Cafes" (2017), "Haunted Phoenix" (2019), "Ghosts of Houston's Market Square Park" (2020), "Arizona's Haunted Route 66" (2021), "Haunted Globe" 2022, "School Spirits—Final Lessons" (2024) and "Arizona's Haunted Tri-Cities—Mesa, Chandler, Tempe" (2024).

She will share her method of gathering facts and information about potential stories and their haunted locations. She will also focus on the spooky tales of the 1920's in celebration of our centennial in 2026! Be ready for some real haunted tales from a real-life paranormal investigator!

A Note from the PWC President

2025 and another year to reflect on the year leaving and think of the year ahead. What will we do differently, what goals do we want to reach, what projects do we want to start? What disappointments do we want to skip if we don't meet all we have set out to do? What if we take one day at a time and be present right where we are?

For me, basking in the magic and whimsy of letting creativity surround me allows me to see the world like a child, with fresh eyes. This invites my muse to stand beside me and spur on my imagination to new heights.

May 2025 bring you much creativity, vision, and imagination as you begin a new year that is just right for you.

We had a fabulous time at our December salon/party and were charmed by the stories, poems, and tales from fellow members.

Our longer time allowed us more time to socialize and learn more about the writing lives of our members. Our new schedule will be from 10-11 social time; 11-11:30-business; 11:30-12:30-speaker; we have the room until 1 which gives us time to mingle without being rushed out of the room. This schedule allows members flexibility as we share our writing lives.

We are another year closer to our centennial in 2026! Our committee is continually planning our festivities, and your input is welcome. We meet immediately after the general meeting for approximately an hour and communicate through email updates.

Email me for more info. writeoncindi@gmail.com

Happy New Year!

Write on,
Cindi Reiss

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.

So You Think You Know English

Em dash versus ellipsis: An **em dash** (long dash) indicates an abrupt interruption. In dialogue, an **ellipsis** falters in confusion or creates a pause. The **em dash** interrupts abruptly. **Ellipses** (singular = **ellipsis**) An **ellipsis** replaces word (s) left out of a sentence, either in dialogue or in a quotation.

Source: [ellipses vs em dash - Search](#)

December Salon Minutes

By Bernadette Inclan

Our holiday socializing began at 10, then Cindi Reiss, President, opened the meeting at 11:03 and presented the business at hand. She welcomed new members and guests and introduced the PWC Board which includes the following members:

- Bernadette Inclan Vice-President
- Replacement requested-Secretary spot open but Bernadette Inclan continues to submit the notes.
- Navissa Kaiser-Treasurer
- D’Anne Pientka-Newsletter Editor
- Ilsa Manning Website/Social Media – replacement requested

New Members and Guests: Abraham Kalavi, Jody Sharpe, Dave Moskowitz, Bobbie Bennett, Teal Battin, Penny Orloff

Writing Contest: Navissa spoke about the Writer’s Contest in honor of Women’s History Month for our Centennial Celebration in 2026. Details on submitting are to follow. Judges for Poetry submissions will be Christy White and Stella Pope Duarte for prose.

PWC Centennial: Cindi spoke about the 80th PWC celebration in 2006, that included a children’s book entitled *The Wall*. Nine individuals wrote one of the nine chapters. For the 86th anniversary in 2012, the club produced a play about the club’s history. She encouraged members to browse through the books of history on the tables, compiled by Bernadette Inclan.

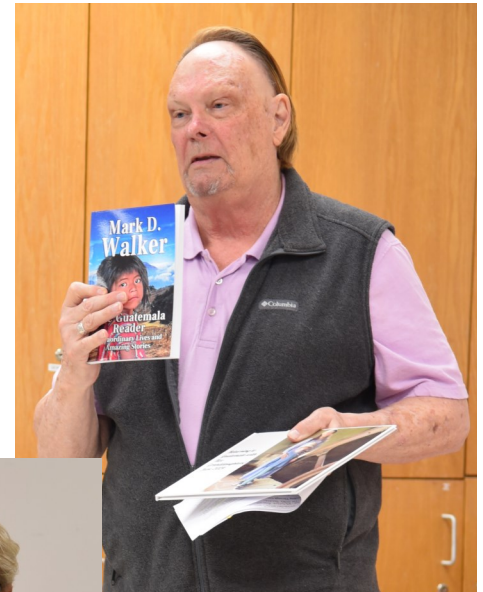
Salon: An enjoyable presentation of PWC artists’ talents included the following:

- D’Anne Pientka read humorous short stories *Grumpy Computer* and *Grumpy Reindeer*.
- Mark Walker-Christmas Presentation on traveling with granddaughters through Guatemala.
- Kixx Goldman-Read from her book *Reading, Writing and Rebirth* and from Alice Monroe’s short story, *Inspiration* from her work, *Vicious, never Violent*.
- Marilyn Mayblum-Robinson- *Shayna-Eyes of a Puppy*.
- Eric Miller-short story- *The Standoff*
- Bobbie Bennett- script-stand-up from Mesa. Presented Fifteen Minutes on COVID, Casita, Universal Studios, Senior Citizens, and Need to Stop.
- Beth Johnson read her poem *Not My First Monsoon*, recently published in the *Blue Guitar* magazine.
- Penny Orloff, who performed her one-woman plays in Florida and at Broadway Best Dinner Theater, performed an excerpt from *Misadventures of a Little Troupier*.
- Cindi Reiss read a poem, *The Night Before Deadlines*.

The meeting ended at 12:21 and the Christmas festivities continued.

December Salon PWC Pictures

Thank you, Joe Maguire, for the photos.





PWC Piece of History: 2000-2010

By Sybil Yeaman

The Phoenix Writers Club (PWC) continued to be very active throughout the decade, inviting local women to join the small and vibrant group. The leadership understood, “writers need writers,” and sponsored monthly meetings. These meetings offered members opportunities for fellowship, hear educational speakers, and do networking.

PWC also offered at least one annual writing contest for unpublished works, to encourage women to submit their manuscripts. A key component of each contest included winning submissions being published by the organization.

During this decade, PWC celebrated its 75th and 80th anniversaries with enthusiasm and creativity. Celebrations offered special speakers, dressing in outfits reflecting the 30’s – 60’s, and publication awards. The Constitution and By-Laws were revised to stay up to date in encouraging creative and journalistic writing, as well as fellowship among members. From year to year, membership remained a small supportive group, vacillating between forty and sixty members.

Always seeking opportunities to encourage writers and journalists, PWC members often interacted and attended other local writing group seminars. These included Pima Writers Workshops, Sisters in Crime Murder Mystery Seminars, and the Society of Southwest Writers workshops, to name a few. It was also during this decade, PWC began to support women actors and entertainers. They then expanded into supporting local teen writers. Charity events were also held by members to support such organizations as Hospice of the Valley, and holiday donations to the Department of Health for their mental health patients.

New writing challenges and contests were developed, such as writing a story in fifty-five words or less. The results were amazingly varied and creative. This contest was so popular, it soon became an annual event for many years, with the top three winners being published in the PWC Newsletter. Although many members self-published their work, several members were notable published novelists.

Members of PWC came from varied backgrounds and walks of life. Members were housewives and reporters, executives and teachers, radio personalities, and software developers. This long tradition of inclusion and comradery continues to be reflected in the vibrant and active membership today.

PWC Centennial 2026

We continue the planning stages of our centennial in 2026! You are welcome to join our committee. 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 Inlan, Centennial Committee Chair, at bsbincoin@aol.com, or Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead

February Speaker—Janna Lopez—Author, Teacher, Poet, Coach

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.

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.



Bernadette Inlan, X2

Member News

- **Penny Orloff:** Interview with **The Authors Show** on her book *Jewish Thighs on Broadway*. <https://wnbnetworkwest.com/featured-author/Penny%20Orloff>
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- **Beth Liechti Johnson:** *The Blue Guitar* chose one of her poems, *side by side on the trail*. Check it out at https://www.theblueguitarmagazine.org/resources/Blue+Guitar+Fall+2025_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:** Bernadette was interviewed on for her book, *The Perils of Beginnings*: <https://bernadetteinclan.com/> was just picked up by the publisher AR Press. Check out her interview with Logan Crawford: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvGjRbef2gM>
- **Kixx Goldman:** Blog—<https://www.drkixxgoldman.com/blog/>
- **Louise J Privette:** website—<https://louiseprivette.com/>
- **Cindi Reiss:** Was recently published in *The Blue Guitar Jr.* magazine. https://www.theblueguitarmagazine.org/resources/Blue+Guitar+Jr.+2025_ENJOY.pdf

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

Studio Open Storytelling Slam

Stories bring us together. Storytelling is a dynamic art form that brings people together through shared experiences, emotions, and ideas. When we open our souls through storytelling, we transcend both time and culture to broaden our understanding of what it means to be human.

thestudio@thestudiophx.org. Saturday nights at 7:30. Thank you, Bernadette, for this information.

ASU: Author-preneurship

Start another inspiring year of Author-preneurship, where we bring together more speakers and experts from the writing industry to you. This January, we're jumping into the new year with fun and purposeful activities to jumpstart your 2025 writing journey. Join us on January 15th, from 10 AM to 12 PM.

Registration required.

<https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=823242&>



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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 January. <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.