# **STIMULUS**



Editor: D'Anne Pientka

Phoenix Writers Club Newsletter

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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, February 15, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \$10 fee for members, \$15 for guests.

RSVP to <a href="mailto:phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com">phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com</a>. Pay your meeting fee or your annual dues of \$40, if you haven't done so, with 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. You are also welcome to pay for several monthly meetings at one time in advance. If you already have a Zelle account and would like to pay this way, add new recipient phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com.

Questions? Email Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com

# February Speaker—Janna Lopez

Janna Lopez held the esteemed honor of being Santa Fe's 2023 Poet Laureate ambassador. She's a book coach, creative writing teacher with an MFA, and published author. She uses intuition to guide individuals in



transforming their lives through fearless writing, reimagining the power of poetry, and unlearning false beliefs about writing's purpose. Her next book about writing freedom strategies, *The Bypass to Brilliance*, is based on work with hundreds of clients. She leads writing retreats in Sedona. <a href="https://www.janna-lopez.com">www.janna-lopez.com</a>

Janna Lopez, MFA
<a href="https://www.poeticintelligence.org">www.poeticintelligence.org</a>
Founder, Presenter, Purveyor of Poetic Intelligence™
Ignite the hidden in-plain-sight super-power of poetry
Author, The Bypass to Brilliance
Revolutionary corporate trainings, keynotes, executive coaching
Teaching the art & lifelong love of writing in classrooms and communities!

## So You Think You Know English

Learn English with five jokes: Source: <a href="https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=so%20you%20think%20you%20know%20english%">https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=so%20you%20think%20you%20know%20english%</a>

20funny&mid=73F73A0DCFB94CB5D2C673F73A0DCFB94CB5D2C6&ajaxhist=0



## A Note from the PWC President



# 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.



# **January Meeting Minutes**

By Beth Johnson

Light breakfast provided by Beth Johnson (bagels), Sybil (coffee) and Cindi Reiss.

Officers in attendance: Cindi Reiss, President: Navissa Kaiser, treasurer: D'Anne Pientka, newsletter editor; Bernadette and Joe were out sick.

29 attendees plus speaker.

10:00 AM Members enjoyed social time.

10:48 AM Cindi Reiss, PWC President, convened PWC monthly meeting with welcomes, a call for a secretary, help with social media/ website, and centennial committee. She encouraged everyone to follow our Facebook posts and to submit your bio and picture for inclusion on our website. Also take advantage of our newsletter to promote your author events, book, blogs, etc.

11- 11:30 AM PWC members introduced themselves to the group.

11:26 PM Navissa Kaiser, Treasurer, explained submission requirement for 1926 writing contest. Poetry must be 19 – 26 lines in length. Essays must be 1926 words in length. Submittable wants \$5000 - \$7000/ year which is outside PWC's budget so an alternative is being researched. Theme: Formidable Women. Judges Christy White, Scottsdale Mustang Poets of Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS) and Stella Pope Duarte, multi-award-winning author and educator at University of Phoenix.

11:35 – 12:35 PM Guest speaker was Debe Branning, author of *Sleeping with Ghosts* and *The Graveyard Shift*, and nine other books about haunted places and people in Arizona. She has presented to PWC several times in the past. Her books are published through Arcadia – History Press. She's is a paranormal investigator and reminded the group that readers are always checking the facts of your writing so she provided several ways to research your stories.

- 1 Newspapers.com.
- 2 Obituary, Death Certificates
- 3 Find a Grave
- 4 Ancestry.com but it requires a subscription price.
- 5 Back to newspaper to verify day, month, year of death or accident etc.

To illustrate how she did research she made up a story about Martha Moore who haunted the Moore mansion. Remember, many spirits return to haunt the places they love. She suggested identifying the





character then use newspaper stories and apply the story to your imaginary character. For a more realistic story, correlate your characters with events that happened in that time in that setting. She mentioned the "cookie bandit" of Omana, NE.

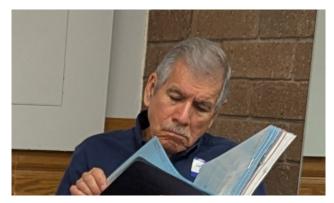
Debe is on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/debe.branning.1/ and https://www.facebook.com/DebeBranning/

Her books are available on Amazon. https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B001K7Y2LK/allbooks

Cindi adjourned the meeting at 12:30 PM.

# January PWC Pictures

Thank you, D'Anne and Sylvia, for the photos.















## Save the Date: Sunday, March 9

Event: the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Sunday-off-Central Block Party

Time: 10am-3pm

Sunday-Off-Central block party is sponsored each year by the MidTown Association. This is a FREE event featuring local vendors, food trucks, live music, and of course – community connections! It is also a wonderful opportunity to promote Phoenix Writers Club and for us, writers, to sell our books! The event takes place along Vernon Avenue between Central and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. We have a space reserved.

If you are interested in participating by selling books and/or greeting the public and talking about PWC, please contact Deborah Partington at **deborahpsyd@q.com or 602-334-8154** You do not have to be present for the entire time. Come for an hour. Bring your family. If you want to sell your books you will need to be present to handle payments. Come out and celebrate your writing life with us!

## **PWC Volunteers**

Phoenix Writers Club needs YOU! Our club runs on volunteers who give their time and donations. There is a place for anyone who would like to help in any way, especially with the planning of our centennial events and contests. We are also in need of a secretary to record the monthly meetings and someone to assist with publicity and social media/website. If you would like to explore these options and find out more, please email Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com

Our club thrives on camaraderie and having speakers from various genres each month. If you have a speaker that you feel is good for the club, please email me for the speaker guidelines. We all have different connections in the writing community, and our club depends on the involvement of our members. Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com

# Another Helpful Website

Thank you to Jeffrey Callan for providing this link.

https://www.sfwa.org/other-resources/for-authors/writer-beware/





## **POP February Events**

#### Event 1: Map Your Energy to do More Meaningful Work

Where: In person at The Studios in Mesa

When: Sat., Feb. 8 at 9am

Link to register: https://www.meetup.com/phoenix-oasis-press/events/304717390/

Supporting blog: https://www.phoenixoasispress.com/pop-blog/why-you-cant-write-all-the-time

Flyer attached!

#### Event 2: Creative Writing Workshop Celebrating Black Voices

Where: In person at Grassrootz Books in Phoenix

When: Sat., Feb. 8 at 2pm

Link to register: https://www.meetup.com/phoenix-oasis-press/events/305582529/

Flyer attached!

#### Our 2025 anthology call for submissions opens March 1.

https://www.phoenixoasispress.com/2025anthology

## Writing Tools—Alternates to Grammerly

#### I don't pay for Grammerly

Story by Parth Shah

Found this article I think you might like.

https://tinyurl.com/mup8rujb

## Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing

BUY ONE, GET ONE 50% OFF

Register for the first workshop and get an emailed code for 50% off the second workshop. For questions, or

if you already registered for one class, contact Sasha at shawki31@asu.edu

Four Tuesdays | March 4, 11, 18, and 25 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Piper House

#### Write the Memoir You're Afraid to Write

In person with Patricia L. Brooks Sign up: https://tinyurl.com/y7v8cuhb

For additional workshops, go to:

Home page | Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing





# **Desert Foothills Library**

Patricia L. Brooks to speak on Memoir Writing

WHO: Patricia L. Brooks, Memoir and Nonfiction Author

WHAT: RSVP: Desert Foothills Library https://www.dfla.org

WHEN: Wednesday February 19, 2025, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

WHERE: 38443 N. School House Road, Cave Creek, AZ 85331

WHY: Encourage you to write your memoir in 2025!

Patricia L. Brooks is an Award-winning Author of Non-fiction and Memoir.



We've experienced an unprecedented time in our history. Our lives changed in unforeseen ways. These happenings may be just enough for you to pursue writing your memoirs. Make the move now and RSVP for this event *Write the Memoir You're Afraid to Write,* Join us for an encouraging and insightful presentation. Capture your untold story through Patricia's highly regarded workshop of advice from her latest book of the same title. Produce your memoir by facing your fears and conquering your story's emotional essence.

With tips and techniques from her own daring memoirs (listed below), Patricia will inspire you to take the necessary steps to complete your manuscript, keep a writing journal, do the necessary research, write goals, and make no excuses about your writing.

Patricia is president/founder of Brooks Goldmann Publishing, LLC with her husband and business partner of over 20 years. Patricia is enthusiastic about storytelling in her award-winning memoirs. Her 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 this collection.

Patricia is also the founder and president of the phenomenally successful Scottsdale Society of Women Writers. She started the group in September of 2005 and has had a monthly speaker/dinner every month since that time.

For questions about her books, her presentation or anything writing related contact Patricia at patricia@plbrooks.com 480-250-5556 cell/text

More descriptions of her memoirs are on her website www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com

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# Tempe Public Library

Patricia L. Brooks to speak on Memoir Writing

WHO: Patricia L. Brooks, Memoir and Nonfiction Author

WHAT: RSVP: Tempe Public Library https://

www.tempepubliclibrary.org

WHEN: Saturday, February 8, 2025, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

**WHERE**: 3500 S. Rural Rd, Tempe, AZ 85282

WHY: Encourage you to write your memoir in 2025!

Patricia L. Brooks is an Award-winning Author of Non-fiction and

Memoir.



We've experienced an unprecedented time in our history. Our lives changed in unforeseen ways. These happenings may be just enough for you to pursue writing your memoirs. Make the move now and RSVP for this event *Write the Memoir You're Afraid to Write*, Join us for an encouraging and insightful presentation. Capture your untold story through Patricia's highly regarded workshop of advice from her latest book of the same title. Produce your memoir by facing your fears and conquering your story's emotional essence.

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 $More\ descriptions\ of\ her\ memoirs\ are\ on\ her\ website\ www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com$ 

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# PHOENIX ON THE PROPERTY OF THE

## PWC Piece of History: Roosevelt's Rough Rider and the Phoenix Writers Club

By PWC Treasurer Navissa Kaiser

As we gear up for the 2025 dry-run of the Phoenix Writers Club Centennial and writing contest, a look back at an unlikely connection well before our 1926 beginnings speaks to the value and power writing and writers play in the unique history of PWC and the State of Arizona. One of the more famous, early resident writers was James Harvey McClintock (1864-1934). His history with Arizona started in 1879 when he arrived in Maricopa on one of the first passenger trains into the territory. He helped his brother Charles advance the publication of the first Phoenix newspaper, the *Salt River Herald*, and after his brother's untimely death, took over and published numerous papers and articles for newspapers across the state.

During the last campaign against Geronimo, McClintock worked for the Adjutant General's office at Fort Whipple in Prescott, developing a lifelong habit of photocopying his letters and meticulously archiving his correspondences. Both California and Arizona house extensive archives dedicated to McClintock's letters and writings for their historical value. McClintock was one of the first five graduates of Tempe Normal School, now known as Arizona State University. At the time James McClintock attended, he reported that well water was kept in an *olla*, a large-mouthed pot by the door if you were thirsty, and "almost everyone rode to and from school on horseback...many were the spirited races run on what is now known as Eighth Street," (Tempe High School, 1965).

In 1898 McClintock was appointed as a captain in the First United States Volunteer Cavalry known as Roosevelt's Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War. He was promoted to Major for his service in action and was seriously wounded in Cuba, returning to Arizona where he was made Colonel of the First Arizona Infantry in 1902. Col. McClintock served as the first Postmaster until 1914—a political, not civil post at the time, and was known as an expert in Arizona history. After losing his post when President Wilson was elected, McClintock kept to his avid newspaper writings and used his downtime in 1916 to write a commissioned three-volume history of Arizona covering prehistoric, aboriginal, pioneer, and modern aspects of the Grand Canyon State, 95 years before it claimed the nickname. He was reemployed as Postmaster General in 1928, (Tempe High School, 1965).

McClintock was appointed state historian in 1919 and continued alongside his wife Dorothy G. Bacon, a Stanford University graduate, to serve the public in Arizona. It's believed that through his wife's connections as a founder of the Woman's Club of Phoenix and the Arizona Federation of Women's Clubs, Col. McClintock was approached in 1930 to help judge a writing contest for the Phoenix Writers Club. The State of Arizona Research Library Arizona Memory Project holds copies of correspondence with Phoenix Writers Club member Odessa Davenport that are copyrighted so they are not included in their entirety in this article. Odessa later wrote *Scotsman in Buckskin* with fellow author Mae Reed Porter in 1963. The Tale





of a Scottish Immigrant living among Native American tribes in the early 1830s based on historical accounts is considered culturally important in exposing the hardships and experiences of Indigenous people of that turbulent time.



Col. James Harvey McClintock 1864-1934



Colonel James McClintock's house on Willetta St. Phoenix, built in 1911.

The letter to Col. McClintock from Odessa Davenport begins: "Dear Col. McClintock: Here are the manuscripts in the Phoenix Writers Club contest, which you so kindly consented to judge for us..." (azmemory.azlibrary.gov).

A week later, the colonel responded: "My dear Madam: Herewith I am returning the manuscripts, with desired memorandum concerning the order in which I have made my own estimate of the relative value..." (azmemory.azlibrary.gov).

Col. McClintock goes on to praise a piece as making a "good newspaper story" and calls out another story for historical inaccuracies. I found the effort and care put into reviewing these submissions surprisingly detailed for such an accomplished public figure and author. Through these letters and documents, we learn how the art of writing was thought out and well-crafted. Although, the Colonel's strictness when it comes to verbs may not play today. The following excerpt is from the reply to Miss Davenport:

"In general, my largest criticism is that decisiveness is lost by many writers in their failure to keep their verbs together. The verb is the action section of the sentence and to scatter it means loss of force. I am not a purest by any means, and I admit that the infinitive well might be split, but I believe my suggestion leads towards betterment of the average person's writing matter, or of his speech. It is bad enough to be careless in speech, as I am myself, but more deliberation can be had over the written word," (azmemory.azlibrary.gov).

Besides the correspondence Col. McClintock diligently kept copies of, we have very few early ties to the Phoenix Writers Club that demonstrate the importance of writing, critiquing, and striving to improve as writers by way of contests that showcase the best of what PWC has to offer. I imagine those early women forming the Phoenix Writers Club saw securing Col. McClintock as a judge for their contest as a coup. After





being denied entry to the press club, garnering the cooperation of a prolific newspaperman, writer, historian, public figure, and Roughrider Col. McClintock must have seemed like a feather in their cap and a justification of their combined talents. PWC thinks of those early pioneering women in our Formidable Women essay and poetry contest to coincide with Women's History Month in hopes that we encourage creative writing for all as well as they did.

#### References:

azmemory.azlibrary.gov. State of Arizona Research Library Arizona Memory Project. <u>Colonel James H.</u> McClintock | Arizona Memory Project

James H. McClintock. (2023, December 16) In *Wikipedia*. <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/</a> James H. McClintock

Tempe High School, (1965). *Tempe High School Library Newsletter,* February 1, 1965, <u>Bio James Harvey</u> McClintock of Arizona

### 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 Inclan, Centennial Committee Chair, at <a href="mailto:bsbincoin@aol.com">bsbincoin@aol.com</a>, or Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com.

# **Looking Ahead**

In March, we will feature a panel of several members who have traveled the road to publication and promotion. They will share the ins and outs of their experiences and answer questions about what worked or didn't work during this process.

## **PWC Volunteers**

Phoenix Writers Club needs YOU! Our club runs on volunteers who give their time and donations. There is a place for anyone who would like to help in any way, especially with the planning of our centennial events and contests. We are also in need of a secretary to record the monthly meetings and someone to assist with publicity and social media/website. If you would like to explore these options and find out more, please email Cindi Reiss at <a href="writeoncindi@gmail.com">writeoncindi@gmail.com</a>

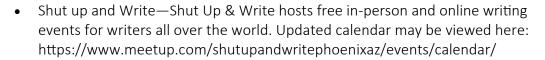


## **PWC Critique Writing Group**

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 Inclan 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.





Bernadette Inclan, X2

- 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: <a href="https://poetry.arizona.edu/opportunities/get-involved/free-time-writers-inside-and-out">https://poetry.arizona.edu/opportunities/get-involved/free-time-writers-inside-and-out</a> 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. Heard about this from another writer who raves about the value of the site.

## **PWC** Website

phoenixwritersclub.com

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



## **Member News**

- **Penny Orloff**: Interview with **The Authors Show** on her book *Jewish Thighs on Broadway*. https://wnbnetworkwest.com/featured-author/Penny%20Orloff
- **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/ 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
- New—Nick Bratcher: podcast— Greenwood & Company, jamisongreenwoodpodcast.com
- New—Eric Miller: https://emillerphx.substack.com/

If you have a blog or website you'd like included in the newsletter, please send D"Anne the link. Announcements about new publishings shall be removed after two months to allow room for new news.

## **Next Generation Indie Book Awards**

The Next Generation Indie Book Awards, the most exciting and rewarding book awards program open to independent publishers and authors worldwide, is NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES written in English and released in 2023, 2024 or 2025 or with a 2023, 2024 or 2025 copyright date.

This awards program is open to all indie book authors and publishers including independent publishers (small, medium or otherwise), university presses, self-published authors, e-book authors, seasoned authors and even first-time authors in the U.S., Canada, or internationally who have a book, a manuscript, or a galley proof written in English.

Enter now to take advantage of this exciting opportunity to have your book considered for cash prizes, awards, exposure, possible representation by a leading literary agent, and recognition as one of the top independently published books of the year.

The final entry deadline date for the 2025 awards program is February 14, 2025.

All Finalists and Winners will be notified by late May 2025.

We wish you much success with your book.

Next Generation Indie Book Awards

Independent Book Publishing Professionals Group

http://www.IndieBookAwards.com

Prefer short stories? See <a href="https://shortstoryawards.com">https://shortstoryawards.com</a> for our short story awards program.

## **PWC Contacts**



President Cindi Reiss writeoncindi@gmail.com

Vice President Bernadette Inclan bsbincoin@aol.com

Secretary Open

Treasurer Navissa Kaiser navissak@hotmail.com

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Membership Chair Cindi Reiss writeoncindi@gmail.com

Writers Critique Workshop Bernadette Inclan bsbincoin@aol.com

Photographer Joe Maguire sdmagj@aol.com

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

Phoenix Writers Network: phoenixwritersnetwork.com

The **Tucson Arts Poetry Series** (**TAPS**) 4<sup>th</sup> 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 they write about and share with the group. Contact Bernadette if interested.