

In this issue:

- April Monthly Meeting
- PWC President Message
- March Meeting Minutes
- Member News
- PWC Centennial News
- Resources for Publishing
- What's Happening Around Town
- Contact Information

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, April 19**. Schedule: 10-10:30-social time; 10:30-11-business, intros; 11-12-speaker; 12-12:30 wrap up and social time.

\$10 fee for members, \$15 for guests.

RSVP to phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com. 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

April Speaker—Kathy Cano-Murillo

Kathy Cano-Murillo is a Phoenix Latina artist, author, and content creator. Known as The Crafty Chica, she is the founder of the award-winning site, CraftyChica.com. She is a former syndicated newspaper columnist and now a full-time creativepreneur and has authored a dozen books, including two novels and the best seller – *Forever Frida*. Crafty Chica designs have been sold on HSN, at Barnes & Noble, Michaels, and hundreds of pottery, craft, and fabric shops across the country. Kathy's mission is to promote positivity via creativity! Features include Forbes, The New York Times, Buzzfeed+ more. She is a third-gen Mexican-American.



Kathy's topics include creative motivation, entrepreneurship, writing/authoring books, branding, and multiple revenue streams as a working creative. We welcome her as she taps into our artistic writing ventures. <https://craftychica.com>

PWC Website

phoenixwritersclub.com and facebook link

Send Ilsa Manning or Eric Miller your photo and update your bio for the website—Send your news to Ilsa for a facebook update. This is free publicity for you, another benefit of being a PWC member.

A Note from the PWC President

April is National Poetry Month and one of my favorite months of the year. I turn to poetry in times of grief and illness to help me through sorrow. And I turn to poetry when I'm joyful to celebrate the goodness in my life. Even if you are not a reader of poetry, you may have a poem that stands out to you, whether it is a nursery rhyme, a verse from school days that your teacher made you recite or a poem that has spoken to you in some way.

Mine is from my childhood and is close to my heart, *The Swing* by Robert Louis Stevenson. I still feel bliss when I read it, as if seeing this piece of the world for the first time. Childlike wonder encompasses me as I feel the earth reaching out and allowing me the freedom to be a child. Writing and reading does that for us and as writers we are fortunate to have that kind of impact. May your writing touch someone's life, especially your own.

The Swing

By Robert Louis Stevenson

How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
Rivers and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside—

Till I look down on the garden green,
Down on the roof so brown—
Up in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!

Write on,
Cindi Reiss



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. If you would like to explore these options and find out more, please email Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com

March Meeting Minutes

By beth Johnson

Snacks provided by beth, Sybil, Cindi, D'Anne and Bobbie

Officers and auxiliary board in attendance: Cindi Reiss-President, beth Johnson-Secretary, D'Anne Pientka-Newsletter Editor, Eric Miller-Website

25 attendees.

10:00–1035 AM Members enjoyed social time.

10:35 AM Cindi Reiss, PWC President, convened monthly meeting with remarks.

Cindi introduced Board members and 3 guests who attended.

2026 is PWC Centennial. PWC seeks member volunteers for the committee planning Centennial events. Please contact Cindi if you can assist.

Mar 1–Apr 15, 2025, PWC Formidable Women Essay and Poetry Contest: Please promote contest to your networks. PWC is hosting the contest in honor of Women's History month. Open to all Arizona residents and all PWC members (including those who reside out of state.) Details at <https://phoenixwritersclub.com/contests/>

PWC Tribute Newsletter in Honor of Bernadette Inclan. By Apr 15, 2025, please submit your written contributions about Bernadette (story, memorial, poem – no longer than 1000 words) to D'Anne Pientka

Apr 29, 2025, 11 AM–1 PM, Celebrating Bernadette Inclan, PWC Vice President and Writers Critique Workshop Lead, who passed Feb 3, 2025. Devonshire Senior Center 2802 E. Devonshire Rd, outdoors on the grounds. PWC welcomes guests to read their tributes to Bernadette. Cindi will distribute flyer on email. Please RSVP to beth Johnson by 23 Apr, eljohnson707@gmail.com. When you RSVP, let beth know if you can bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert to share. Thank you!

Info about Bernadette Inclan. <https://phoenixwritersclub.com/members/our-members/>

Her book *The Perils of Beginnings: A Cavazos Historical Memoir* https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/204516988-the-perils-of-beginnings?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=vh601R4Fw8&rank=1

Her website <https://bernadetteinclan.com/>

PWC Website. Eric Miller explained his efforts to modernize our website with dual purpose of notifying members of events and attracting new members. Key to websites is more content, more updates, more users. Most popular PWC pages are Monthly Meeting info, Membership, and Contests.

He added a new tab with links to PWC newsletters (2024–25). Members are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to submit their photo, short bio, and links to books or websites to him at eric@millerphx.com for posting to Our Members Page.

PWC Newsletter, Stimulus: D'Anne is editor. Goal is to publish newsletter by 1st of each month. Send submissions to azdanne@gmail.com.

11:03 – 12:13 PM A panel of three long-time PWC members and successful authors, Mark Walker, Kixx Goldman, and Richard McMaster discussed ins--and-outs of publishing and promotion they have done with their books.

Highlights from panel presentation:

Mark Walker. Wrote/published his 1st book, *Different Latitudes: My Life in the Peace Corps and Beyond*, in 2017. He noted that 3–4 million books are published annually, publishing involves contracts, and publishers are interested in selling services to authors in addition to publishing their books. He disputed the current trend that testimonials are not needed. Toughest thing for author is obtaining reviews. His approach is to review books of fellow authors, which leads to other writing and publishing opportunities. He stressed importance of securing interviews and mentioned Voyage Phoenix (<https://voyagephoenix.com/>) He tried Kickstart (<https://www.kickstartfund.com/>), which he uses as a publishing mechanism. He also recommended *The Authors Show* <https://wnbnetworkwest.com/>. He wrote *The Guatemalan Reader* as a way to tell stories and introduce readers to other cultures. (<https://www.amazon.com/Guatemala-Reader-Extraordinary-Amazing-Stories/dp/B0D38JVM4S>). Mark's profile on PWC <https://phoenixwritersclub.com/members/our-members/mark-d-walker/>

Dr. Kixx Goldman. Introduced two puppets she used at her book launch as a way to start communication. Her book *Speak from Your Heart* launched in 2020. She didn't necessarily know the outcome of her book when she started writing. Realized she was writing to herself. *Death of Expertise* by Tom Nichols (2017) influenced her writing. She advised writers to know their strengths and weaknesses and honor their own style. She recommended using a developmental editor, which she found helpful. She provided "Kixx's Manifesto with" 7 DON'Ts about writing and publishing. First was "Don't believe every bit of advice you get about writing." Kixx's profile on PWC <https://phoenixwritersclub.com/members/our-members/dr-kixx-goldman/>

Richard McMaster. Has published 5 novels and admitted that along the way he made all the mistakes, likely due to his impatience and his successful business career. Three ways to publish: traditional (typically only available to famous and celebrity); hybrid (publishers who gain revenue from book sales and fees charged to author to publish) and self-publish. He did better with self-publishing where he called all the shots (editing, covers, design, etc). Stick with AMAZON—they dominate the book market, publishing 80% of books online. Don't skip editing but know what you are paying for. He started with a story editor, then also used copy and developmental editing, and proofreader. Know the difference. Not all editors are good editors. Authors write autobiographically, even in fiction. I write what I know. Richard's profile on PWC <https://phoenixwritersclub.com/members/our-members/richard-mcmaster/>

Meeting ended at 12:13 PM



The poster features a background of pink and blue cosmos flowers. In the top left, there is a portrait of Bernadette Inclan, an older woman with short white hair, wearing a colorful patterned top. The text is arranged as follows:

We Invite You to Join Phoenix Writers Club in
Celebrating
Bernadette Inclan
Tuesday, April 29, 2025
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Devonshire Senior Center (on grounds)
2802 E. Devonshire Ave
(28th St north of Indian School Rd) Phoenix, AZ

**Outdoors Event -
dress accordingly
Bring a chair!**

**We welcome guests to read their tributes
to Bernadette.**
Bring appetizer, salad or dessert to share.
PWC will provide water, tea.
By Apr 23, 2025, RSVP beth Johnson
eljohnson707@gmail.com

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 Chris Wheeler at mrchris.wheeler@gmail.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. This list is not comprehensive.

- 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.

Off-Central Block Party

D'Anne Pientka, Deborah Partington, and Diane Shotton met Sunday, March 9 and set up a booth to promote PWC. We enjoyed our time meeting numerous writers, friends of writers, pending writers, and readers. Deborah and Diane sold their books and we collected 26 emails from those interested in receiving the *Stimulus*. Hey hey—potential new members. Many took the PWC bookmarks and brochures that provided more information for them to review.

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! We believe that PWC ought to take advantage of other similar block parties. Many people were so



excited to see our sign—they never knew about the club. If you know of a block party in your area and believe we could participate, please send D'Anne its information. Even if the block party was already held, we'll build a list for next year.

You Think You Know English

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is 'UP'.

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP ? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP ? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report ?

We call UP our friends. And we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver; we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car. At other times, the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4th of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP! When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP. When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry UP.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so.....it is time to shut UP!

-- contributed by Mike Snyder



It will be another creative, inspiring time for everyone who attends. Many of us have attended in previous years and always leave energized and ready to go full steam ahead with our writing. Sandra Cisneros is the keynote and she is teaching a workshop! Sandra is the author of the acclaimed *The House on Mango Street* and many other books. <https://www.sandracisneros.com/>

Other featured writers are bestselling novelist Amanda Eyre Ward ("*The Jetsetters*") and poets like Kimberly Blaeser and Brian Turner who wrote the National Book Award-winning *Here, Bullet* about his service in Iraq.

There are several opportunities to participate in the conference and share your writing expertise. Apply to present at the conference through either [MFA Presents](#) or the [Community Writers program](#), which offers access to a reduced registration with applications open from March 1 to May 1.

In addition, applications are being accepted for the [Conference Teaching Fellowship program](#) which provides free conference registration in exchange for teaching a session at the conference.

And there are early bird and senior discounts available so register today!
<https://piper.asu.edu/conference/register>

Arizona Authors Literary Contest

Arizona Authors Association is offering us the member entry fee for their Arizona Authors Literary Contest as we continue to partner with them in our writing community. This would not make us members ... it's simply a way to save money on contest entries.

If any of our members would like to enter their contest (link below), click the "member" button instead of the "nonmember" button. The member button is a \$10 savings. The only thing you'll need to remember when submitting your entry form (or doc or pdf file) is to write PWC next to your name, or mention PWC in your email. That way they'll process the entry just as if it were coming from a member.

The contest runs until June 1st and accepts published and non-published entries in many categories. Enjoy the discount and keep writing!

Contest link: <https://www.arizonaauthors.org/contest-1>

Speakers

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. writeoncindi@gmail.com

And check out our website! Eric Miller has added our previous newsletters and more pages of our members. Get yours sent to him today!

Formidable Women Essay and Poetry Contest

We began accepting submissions for our **Formidable Women Essay and Poetry Contest** on March 1st. **Two weeks left to submit your entry, April 15.** <https://phoenixwritersclub.com/formidable-women-a-womens-history-month-essay-poetry-contest/>

Phoenix Writers Club was formed in 1926 when a group of formidable women were denied access to the all male press club so this is in honor of them and all of the formidable women we know!

Help us begin the celebration as we move closer to our centennial in 2026. Thank you for spreading the word in your writing community and getting your submissions ready to go.

We have been exploring our history as we approach our centennial in 2026. We have notebooks of pictures, newsletters, articles and more that were meticulously organized by Bernadette, one more thing that she did for PWC.



We are going to begin a history page on our website and our newsletter has contained summaries of some of the decades and features on individuals in PWC history. And we need more, we have 100 years of history to showcase. Your ideas and input are needed. Email me at writeoncindi@gmail.com and become part of our history!

When: Sunday, April 27, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: at the SEEDs for Autism campus,
3420 S. 7th St. Phoenix, AZ 85040

Free Books: The first 1,500 kids (17 years and younger) will receive a book!

Raffles: First 500 attendees get a stamp card for a FREE Raffle Ticket.

Free Tote Bags: Every adult in attendance gets a free tote bag from Half Price Books, the official festival bookstore. (And Half Price Books is donating 20% of its festival book sales to SEEDs for Autism, so you'll want to fill that tote!)



For more information: <https://azauthorbookfestival.com>

Arizona Authors: More than 30 authors from throughout Arizona, published in a variety of genres for all ages.

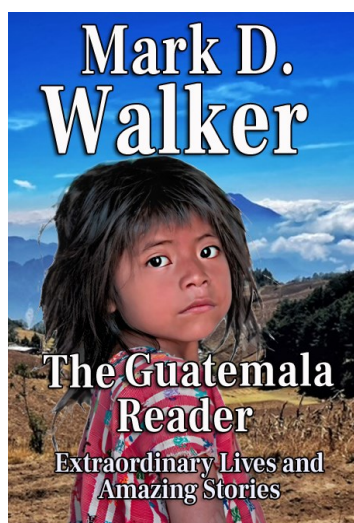
Member News

- **Penny Orloff:** Interview with **The Authors Show** on her book *Jewish Thighs on Broadway*.
<https://wnbnetworkwest.com/featured-author/Penny%20Orloff>
- **beth Liechti Johnson:** poem *Beyond Welcome Home* published Jan 13, 2025 by **Line of Advance**
<https://www.lineofadvance.org/blog/2025/1/13/beyond-welcome-home>
- **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/> . 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
- **Nick Bratcher:** podcast— Greenwood & Company, jamisongreenwoodpodcast.com
- **Eric Miller:** <https://emillerphx.substack.com/>
- **Carolyn Golden:** website-www.aworkinprocess.us
- **Trudy Wells-Meyer:** website—www.trudywells-meyer.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.

PWC Members Are Busy

- **Bert Haagenstad:** Just published his third book, *Dream Walker*, a mystery thriller about a detective searching for a killer who leaves no physical evidence. Find your copy on Amazon.



- **Mark Walker:** Will be guest speaker for Arizona Professional Writers (APW) April 26. His book, *The Guatemala Reader*, received a **Bookfest Award** for Non-Fiction Travel.
- **June Powers:** Though a former member, we still support her and hope her busy schedule will allow her to return to PWC. Meanwhile, June 15th, she will be the featured poet at **Esso Coffee House** in Phoenix. An open mic starts at 5:00, then the feature follows. July 11th she'll be the featured poet at **Changing Hands** in Tempe, from 6:00-8:00. She'll start everyone off at 6:00.



PWC Members Are Busy (cont)

Phoenix Ghost Tour

Debe Branning spoke to PWC in January about some of her ghost hunting adventures and mentioned a local tour she runs with her friend, Marshall Shore. Some of us grew intrigued and decided to check this out.



After lunch at the Cornish Pasty, Marshall (the beard) and Debe (black hat) took us around downtown Phoenix and highlighted the reportedly haunted hotels and businesses. From PWC were D'Anne (and her partner), Navissa (and her son), Deborah, Cindi (and her friend Lita), Susanne (a former member), and Mary C (and her husband).

Outside the YMCA, our group showed their dance talent; though, I think Cindi looks more like an 'S' than a 'C'. We had fun.



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 for 2026 contest, written in English and released in 2024, 2025 or 2026 or with a 2024, 2025 or 2026 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 2026 awards program is **February 12, 2026**.

All Finalists and Winners will be notified by late May 2026. 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 <https://shortstoryawards.com> for our short story awards program.

PWC Contacts

President	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
Vice President	Open	
Secretary	beth Liechti Johnson	eljohnson707@gmail.com
Treasurer	Navissa Kaiser	navissak@hotmail.com
Website/Social Media	Ilsa Manning Eric Miller	ilsamanningwrites@gmail.com eric@millerphx.com
Newsletter Editor	D'Anne Pientka	azdanne@gmail.com
Membership Chair	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
Writers Critique Workshop	Chris Wheeler	mrchris.wheeler@gmail.com
PWC Centennial Chair	Open	
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)** 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 they write about and share with the group. Contact Cindi Reiss if interested, writeoncindi@gmail.com.