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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, May 17**. 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

May Speaker

Meeting information in the President's column.

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.

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

A Note from the PWC President

May is here and we are ready to plunge into the summer, writing and reading ourselves through the heat with our imagination cooling us off.

Our May meeting will offer several ways to strengthen the connections of our members.

At our December meeting/salon, we had the opportunity to share our writing with our peers. We discovered the many talents of our members with their heartfelt and entertaining pieces. **We are delighted to do this again for our May meeting and want to hear from you!** Read a poem, story, or whatever your writing talent encompasses. Please keep your presentation to 3 to 5 minutes and email me if you would like to read.

Many of us have questions, answers, and comments about writing resources that have worked for us or not. The best people to ask are your peers. Bring your questions and answers to the meeting, and we will share our knowledge. This will be an informal opportunity to ask what you need to know and get answers or resources from each other. You are welcome to send me topics of interest before the meeting and/or ask about them at the meeting.

Richard McMaster will help facilitate the Q&A as we continue to embrace our mission, *Writers Helping Writers since 1926*.

Our *Formidable Women* contest is in the judging phase. Thank you to all who entered and/or spread the word throughout your writing community. The winners will be announced at our June meeting and good luck to all!



March Meeting Minutes

By beth Johnson

Location: Devonshire Senior Center, Phoenix, AZ

Snacks provided by beth, D'Anne, Cindi, Ilsa, Bobbie.

Officers in attendance: Cindi Reiss-President, beth Johnson-Secretary, Navissa Kaiser-Treasurer, D'Anne Pientka-Newsletter Editor, Ilsa Manning-Social Media, Eric Miller-website

25 attendees.

10:00–10:37 AM Members enjoyed social time.

10:37 AM Cindi Reiss, PWC President, convened monthly meeting with remarks.

Cindi introduced Board members.

- **2026 is PWC Centennial.** PWC seeks member volunteers for the committee planning Centennial events. PWC also needs members to write Centennial stories from the PWC archives. Please contact Cindi if you can assist.
- **Mar 1–Apr 15, 2025, PWC Formidable Women Essay and Poetry Contest:** Contest ended with good turnout. Finalists will be notified and winners announced at June PWC meeting.
- **Tuesday, Apr 29, 2025, 11 AM–1 PM, Celebrating Bernadette Inclan, PWC Vice President & Writers Critique Workshop Leader,** 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.
- **Tuesday, May 6, 2025: 6:30 PM.** *Desert to Mountaintops III: The Pilgrimage of Motherhood* at Changing Hands bookstore. PWC Board Member and Soul Speak Press director of publishing Ilsa Manning will moderate a discussion including local contributing authors Jill Freret and Allison Garrett of personal narratives exploring experiences of motherhood. (<https://www.changinghands.com/event/may2025/ilsa-manning>)
- **Saturday, May 17, 2025:** Registration 8:30 AM. Conference 9:15 AM to 3 PM. Lunch included. Member Bobbie Bennett announced the Arizona Professional Writers Group Conference (<https://arizonaprofessionalwriters.org/>) at Paradise Valley Townhall, 6401 E. Lincoln, Paradise Valley, AZ. 3 speakers. Early bird \$50 til 5-2-25 / \$65 at door.
- **Sunday, Nov 2, 2025:** PWC will partner with Arizona Consortium for the Arts (<https://azarts.gov/>) and Blue Guitar Magazine (<https://www.theblueguitarmagazine.org/>) at a festival at Desert Ridge Marketplace. Writers will have opportunity to read their work.
- **PWC Website.** Members are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to submit their photo, short bio, and links to books or websites to Eric Miller at eric@millerphx.com for posting to Our Members Page.
- **PWC Newsletter:** D'Anne is editor. Goal is to publish newsletter by 1st of each month. Send submissions,

Minutes (cont)

links to your work, blogs, speaking events, book releases to azdanne@gmail.com.

10:58 AM – 11:55 AM: Our guest speaker was Kathy Cano-Murillo a Phoenix Latina artist, author, and content creator. She founded 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* (<https://www.amazon.com/Forever-Frida-Celebration-Loves-Words/dp/1507210116>.)

Highlights from Kathy's presentation: Kathy's mission is to promote positivity through creativity. Our members enjoyed Kathy's presentation, a woman of high energy, vibrant, funny, and hard-working who shared many tips on writing and publishing.

Kathy started at Arizona Republic as a shredder, then news assistant, then Features reporter. Wrote a Saturday craft column that ran in 130 papers, then authored the celebrity column. Started a blog, which led to Crafty Chica. Now working on her 3rd novel and several craft books.

- My opportunities in life happened because I didn't wait for perfection. All creativity comes from my place of passion.
- Your life – have fun with it!
- I dared to dream big.
- Just start writing.
- True magic in your day-to-day experiences. Write immediately to preserve details (which disappear quick in memory).
- Learn discipline and speed. Try writing 500 words a day for 30 days.
- Write a book review or movie review. How does the book or movie make you feel?
- My website: I posted samples of many different types of writing. All my contacts started thru my website.
- Take those adverbs out!
- Outline – start with an outline.
- Try writing the end of story first then write the rest of the story.
- Write every day. Don't overthink it. Set phone to 15 mins and write. Always delete the first paragraph, it's a warm up, like making the first pancake.
- Don't read. Don't edit. The story will change by the end. Characters MUST change/grow.
- Action – Conflict – Tension in every story.
- Every line or scene should move the story forward or be cut.
- When she started, there were 11 major publishers but now only 4 publishers. Very tough to get accepted.

Publishing: you can always issue a 2nd edition of a book if you want to change the story, the cover or

Minutes (cont)

have an anniversary release. Can request rights to your already published book for a re-release.

- Amazon publishing: series of 2 or 3 works well.
- Traditional publisher: author has no say on cover art and at mercy of marketing dept.
- YouTube: great for learning about barcodes, formats and self-publishing.
- Recommends authorpreneur - <https://www.authorpreneur.com/>
- Would not pay to publish.

Next PWC meeting May 17, 2025.

Meeting ended at 12:05 PM

Call for Authors

Phoenix Public Library has a call out for local authors. Submissions accepted April 1—May 11. To provide quality experiences for customers and local authors, the library will host an annual Call for Authors. For six weeks, beginning April 1, the library will invite local authors to submit their work and, if selected, be placed on an approved author list. Authors on this list will be invited to the Local Author Fair in November and may be invited to take part in additional programming throughout the year. Visit their website for more information: <https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/services/unique/local-authors>

You Think You Know English

18 Useless Words That Somehow Made It into Everyday Speech

By Rick Ellsworth

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/opinion/18-useless-words-that-somehow-made-it-into-everyday-speech/ss-AA1AHy9M>

Great Big List of Beautiful and Useless Words, Vol. 4

Merriam Webster Dictionary

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/wordplay/great-big-list-of-beautiful-and-useless-words-vol-4>



Bernadette Inclin's Tribute

April 29, 2025

For those who didn't know Bernadette or couldn't attend her tribute April 29th, I'm pleased and grateful to inform you that the multi-art clubs' tributes celebrated her and her contributions across multiple artistic groups at the Devonshire Senior Center. Her loss impacted many friends across different genres of art.



We shared our memories and laughs about Bernadette in an emotional gathering of love. In an unexpected but wished-for showing, Joe appeared. We hope our group love helps open a window for him to eventually heal and learn new joy.

Bernadette, you will always live in our hearts.

- The personal tributes to Bernadette may be found at <https://phoenixwritersclub.com/in-tribute/>
- 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://bernadetteinclin.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.



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 your member profile to him today!

Phoenix Writers Club Centennial

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



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 beginning a history page on our website, and our newsletter occasionally contains 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!

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.

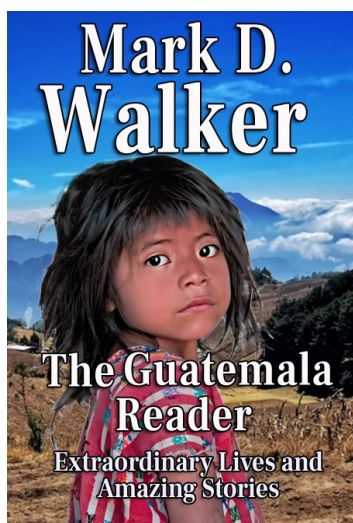
Member News

- **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 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:** *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

- **Mark Walker:** Will be guest speaker for Arizona Professional Writers (APW) May 26. His book, *The Guatemala Reader*, received a **Bookfest Award** for Non-Fiction Travel.



- **June Powers:** June 15th, June 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.

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- 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.
- 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.
- Author-preneurship: [From Pen to Profit: Meet Arizona's Thriving Author-preneurs - Blog](#)

Arizona Authors Association

The **Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest** is now in its 45th year, and we've got some great prizes, great odds, and a [special offer](#) for the members and associates of the Phoenix Writers Club.

If you enter the **Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest**, just let us know in the submission email that you are a member of the Phoenix Writers Club. You may then click on the "Member" price button on the contest page to pay for the entry. That's a \$10 savings over the nonmember price.

Last year, the odds of winning a cash prize were one in six. We have a variety of categories including the popular Oldie But Goldie. Did you publish a book after 1974 but before 2024? Enter it as an Oldie But Goldie and breathe new life into it! Our grand prize is \$500 and we have three first prizes of \$200 each, three second prizes of \$125 each, three third prizes of \$75 each, and three fourth prizes of \$50 each. In addition, we have eleven Best of Category prizes of \$25 each. Every winning entry will be published in the 2026 Arizona Authors Literary Magazine. You can find a copy of the 2025 Arizona Authors Literary Magazine [HERE](#). The deadline to enter is June 1 at 11:59 PM MST. Come take advantage of the member discount even if you are not a member of the Arizona Authors Association. We'll gladly welcome you into the contest and wish you best of luck. Kathleen Cook, President
Arizona Authors Association www.arizonaauthors.org

PWC Contacts

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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.