

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, October 18**. 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

October Speaker—A.G. Billig

Author | Self-Publishing Expert | Book Coach

Founder of *Self-Publishing Mastery*



A.G. Billig is a bestselling author, book coach, and founder of the award-winning *Self-Publishing Mastery* education platform. Recognized as a leading international expert in self-publishing, she's a sought-after speaker at writers' conferences and global summits.

With a master's degree in PR and Communications and over a decade of experience as a radio and TV host, magazine editor-in-chief, and branding strategist, A.G. brings a powerful mix of media savvy and publishing insight.

She helps authors gain clarity on their goals, build standout author brands, and publish and market their books with confidence and success. You can connect with her on [LinkedIn](http://www.linkedin.com/in/agbillig) (<http://www.linkedin.com/in/agbillig>), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/selfpublishing_mastery) (https://www.instagram.com/selfpublishing_mastery) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@self-publishingmastery6352) (<https://www.youtube.com/@self-publishingmastery6352>).

A Note from the PWC President

Happy October, my favorite month of the year!

I brought back from New Jersey the feeling of fall with the pumpkins on porches, scarecrows of every kind, and apple cider donuts. Even though our temperatures aren't quite in Fall mode, pumpkin spice is in the air, at least in coffee shops and craft stores.

PWC has many fall events coming up; being a sponsor at the Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writing Conference at ASU this month, partnering with the Blue Guitar Festival in November, and continuing our centennial planning for 2026.

There are many ways you can get involved, as you'll see in this newsletter. Enjoy this fall time of year and say 'Hello' to a scarecrow.



The Scarecrow

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

You Think You Know English

50 words you may not realize weren't invented until 50 years ago

By *Hannah Lang*

<https://tinyurl.com/4h9dmdtf>

PWC September Meeting Minutes

By Ilsa Manning

Cindi introduced the attending board members.

Guests and new members; some published, some unpublished, all looking for support and knowledge from their fellow writers:

- Loreda Miller (goes by Lori)
- James Davis
- Eileen Sauer
- Josh Scott
- Megan Keenan
- Kristen Hugins
- Michelle Winkler

Election

Ilsa read the slate for the board member elections and jumped the gun on the election (ha!)

- President-Cindi Reiss
- Vice-President-Diane Shotton
- Treasurer-Navissa Kaiser
- Secretary-beth Johnson.

Miscellaneous

- Call for volunteers for the PWC table at the Desert Nights, Rising Stars conference.
- Announcement about PWC bags for members.
- Information on Blue Guitar November event (more info in this newsletter).
- Opportunity for a writer to do an interview for a seventh grader's project – please contact Cindi if interested.
- Call for volunteers for the centennial celebration to help prepare historical documents

Member news:

- Bobbie Bennett's book recently published, "Widowhood: The Next Chapter: I'm Still Here - Now What?"
- Trudy Wells-Myer: read her recently published poem
- Diane Shotton: book released today! Sept 20, *The Dictograph Case*; first book, *Motty's Vow*

Thank you to those who brought refreshments.

{Meeting Minutes Cont}

Passed around info on opportunity at Acorn Publishing.

Speaker Introduced: Ann Narcisian Videan, at 11:01.

Editing Schmediting, who needs it?

Topics covered:

- How to choose an editor
- Prep your manuscript
- Know your tools
- Self-editing tips
- Edits for writing that compels

Ann kindly provided notes to her talk (see email attachment). At 12:00 p.m., Cindi announced that the meeting was officially over, but that we had the room until 1 p.m. and could keep posing questions to the speaker for a bit longer.

Questions were completed about 12:15, and Cindi adjourned the meeting.



Blue Guitar Festival

Mark your calendars now as PWC is partnering with Blue Guitar Festival-Sunday, Nov. 2nd, at Desert Ridge Marketplace. Our contest winners will be reading; we'll introduce our history and centennial news, and we'll have a booth and writing activities. The festival is from 11-3, and we will need people to help set up and take down, and staff the table. The morning features children's music, then readers from the most recent Blue Guitar Magazine, and then PWC will have the afternoon. You are also welcome to display your books, though per Desert Ridge policy, we are not allowed to sell. We will be sending a sign-up sheet soon.

More Information: <https://tinyurl.com/yb7c48c6>

Invite your family, friends, and everyone else to celebrate the creativity of our community!

To submit to Blue Guitar Magazine, check out this link <https://www.theblueguitarmagazine.org/3.html>

Fall 2025 Poetry Center Season Lineup

Events take place at the University of Arizona Poetry Center and will be livestreamed (<https://poetry.arizona.edu/readings/live>) at the time of the reading unless noted otherwise on the Poetry Center website. <https://poetry.arizona.edu/blog/fall-2025>

Membership Annual Dues

This is a friendly reminder that annual dues of \$40 are coming due in October. You may send Navissa a check or pay via Zelle, instructions listed on the first page.

Fall Speakers

- November-Writer/Actress/Documentary filmmaker Penny Peyser
- December-Annual Holiday Salon and Party!

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 Cindi 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

PWC Website

Website: phoenixwritersclub.com and

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/phxwritersclub/>

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 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 free benefits of being a PWC member. Email D'Anne Pientka at dannewriteson@gmail.com for more information (note the new email).

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

Phoenix Writers Club Centennial

Phoenix Writers Club was formed in 1926 when a group of formidable women was denied access to the all-male press club. This Centennial is in honor of them and all of the writers who have made PWC the long-lasting club that it is! We have been exploring our history as we approach our centennial in 2026. We have



notebooks of pictures, newsletters, articles, and more. We are working on a history page on our website, and our newsletter has published summaries of some of the decades and individuals in PWC history. Diane Shotton and Jeff Callan are combing through the albums to compile timelines and stories. We have 100 years of history to showcase. Your ideas and input are needed. Email Diane Shotton at deshotton1@gmail.com and see how you can be involved and become part of our history!

Our Centennial Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, October 15th, from 6-8 pm, on Zoom. If you would like to attend and become involved, and/or see what we're planning, email Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com

Desert Scribblers

Born from the Phoenix region for NaNoWriMo, this writing group has expanded their "First Draft Frenzy" Challenge to both October and November each year. Check it out—perhaps you'd like to participate.

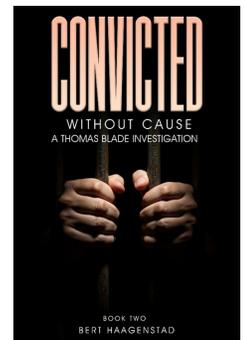
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/129741080414743>

Discord Channel: <https://discord.gg/dAQae8W3ng>

Contact Erin Lorandos if you have questions: erin@lorandos.com

Members New Publications

- **Bert Haagenstad**: *Convicted without Cause*. Book 2 in his series "A Detective Thomas Blade Investigation". Amazon Sept 4, 2025
- **Diane Wahn Shotton**: *The Dictograph Case* - <https://tinyurl.com/Dictograph-Case>
- **Bobbie Bennett**: *Widowhood: The Next Chapter* <https://www.amazon.com/Widowhood-Next-Chapter-Still-Here/dp/B0FLVTB7FM>.
- **Navissa Kaiser**: *American Cultural De-mammification*—published February 2025 by *Half and One*. <https://halfandone.com/american-cultural-de-mammification/>
- **Trudy Wells-Meyer**: *Alpenrosen . . . Roses of the Alps* — published in *Art By Attitude Summer 2025* by Rabbitt Ears Press, Steamboat Springs, CO. <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/4b0786c646.html#page/54>



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 October 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](#)
- Phoenix Writers Network: phoenixwritersnetwork.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/>

Writers Inspiration Group (WIG) meets on Zoom on the first and third Tuesday of the Month from 3-4:30 PM. The sessions include prompts that they write about and share with the group. Contact Cindi Reiss if interested, writeoncindi@gmail.com.



PWC Contacts

President	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
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Writers Critique Workshop	D’Anne Pientka	dannewriteson@gmail.com
PWC Centennial Chair	Open	
Phoenix Writers Club Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/phxwritersclub/	
Phoenix Writers Club website	phoenixwritersclub.com	

Member Links

If you have a blog or website you’d like included in the newsletter, please send D’Anne the link. 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!

Member	Type	Link
Bobbie Bennett	Website	www.bobbiebennett.com
Nick Bratcher	Podcast-Greenwood & Company	jamisongreenwoodpodcast.com
Patricia Brooks	Website	www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com
Mary Cornelius	Website	https://www.corneliusblogs.com/
Brad Graber	Blog	https://www.bradgraber.com/there-i-said-it/
Carolyn Golden	Website	www.aworkinprocess.us
Kixx Goldman	Blog	https://www.drkixxgoldman.com/blog/
Bernadette Inclan	Website	https://bernadetteinclan.com/
	Logan Crawford Interview	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvGjRbef2gM
Eric Miller	Substack	https://emillerphx.substack.com/
Louise J Privette	Website	https://louiseprivette.com/
Diane Shotton	Website	https://dianewahnshotton.com/
Mark D Walker	Substack	https://tinyurl.com/mrrrmz6j2
Trudy Wells-Meyer	Website	www.trudywells-meyer.com