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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, November 15**. 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

November Speaker—Penny Peyser

Penny Peyser is a writer / actress / documentary filmmaker living in Los Angeles. She is the author of two poetry collections: *Sonnets From Suburbia: More Candles Than Cake* and *Sonnets From Suburbia: Romance Dance*, both available on Amazon. As an actress she is best known for the films *All the President's Men*, *The In-Laws* and *The Frisco Kid* as well as the TV series *Rich Man, Poor Man II*, *The Tony Randall Show*, *Crazy Like a Fox* and *Knot Landing*.

Penny will speak about her journey as a writer as well as the challenges and rewards of self-publishing. She will share resources that are low-cost and/or free for the indie writer and discuss the value of community. Among the topics will be the value/necessity of building your author email list, cultivating the habit of submitting your work to literary journals to get published, Also the value of entering certain literary contests to use in your marketing endeavors. For any authors who desire to do public readings or performances, she will share tips on how to deal with nerves and connect with your audience. She will also discuss how her poetry led to her stage show, *Lady Penelope in Quarantine*. She will provide a handout with this info for anyone interested (see attached *The Three Pillars of Book Marketing*). Here's a link for all things Penny: <https://linktr.ee/penpeyser>



Chris Wheeler: 1975-2025

Shared by Navissa Kaiser

In the first week of October 2025, we lost PWC member Chris Wheeler without warning to natural causes. He turned 51 the week before and appeared to be in good health. Those of us who knew him are still in shock. Chris was a vital part of our writing community, stepping up to run the PWC critique group, from out of state, earlier this year when we lost another bright light, Bernadette Inclan. I considered Chris my writing partner and good friend. We talked and texted often, sending poems and stories to each other for scrutiny and encouragement. He was forever working on his eight-book fantasy series in the style of something like “The Lord of the Rings” and just as long! His unique characters and sweeping warrior battles were epic and well-thought-out. Chris's writing style had a dreamlike quality. His sister is working on a way to get it published. We were both military veterans who shared a similar sense of humor and love of writing & poetry, which made us fast friends. I will miss his friendship deeply every day. This is a Chris Wheeler original short poem sent to me years ago. I thought it fitting.



*Maybe one day
Maybe one day
We'll get more time
And maybe we won't.
Maybe we've used
All the time allotted us,
Laughing as it trickled
Through our fingers
Like ever-moving water.
Maybe one day
We'll laugh together again
And maybe we won't.
Maybe our us,
Is in the past
Memories buried
Under the blankets
Of yesterday.*

Shared by Cindi Reiss

Chris had a poetic soul. He wrote in several genres, but it was his poetry that I always connected to. When we were in the critique group, he always got into the heart of the poems I shared. He had a knack for feeling what the poem was expressing, and I appreciated his considerate feedback.

A Note from the PWC President

PWC has welcomed the fall with collaboration with our writing community and the continuation of writers helping writers. We were well represented at the *Desert Nights, Rising Stars* Conference at ASU by many of our members, as they welcomed attendees into our club. The workshops we attended were educational and energetic, and we met many friends, both old and new, in our community.

Meeting the keynote speaker, Sandra Cisneros, was a highlight for me as we shared our writing journeys. I first read her book, *The House on Mango Street*, when my kids were in high school, almost 30 years ago. I am currently immersed in another book of hers, *A House of My Own*, as well as many of her poetry collections. She is an author whom I highly recommend. (conference pictures on page 4)



And now we are preparing for the *Blue Guitar Festival*, a collaboration with the Arizona Consortium of the Arts charity and *Blue Guitar Magazine*. This event will take place on Sunday, November 2nd, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and we invite everyone to join us for a creative day celebrating the arts.

In this month of gathering around tables, I leave you with these excerpts from a poem by Joy Harjo, *Perhaps the World Ends Here*.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/49622/perhaps-the-world-ends-here>

Perhaps the World Ends Here

The world begins at a kitchen table. No matter what, we must eat to live.

The gifts of earth are brought and prepared, set on the table. So it has been since creation, and it will go on.

We chase chickens or dogs away from it. Babies teethe at the corners. They scrape their knees under it.

It is here that children are given instructions on what it means to be human. We make men at it, we make women.

...

Our dreams drink coffee with us as they put their arms around our children. They laugh with us at our poor falling-down selves and as we put ourselves back together once again at the table.

...

Perhaps the world will end at the kitchen table, while we are laughing and crying, eating of the last sweet bite.

Write on,
Cindi Reiss

You Think You Know English

What do you know about 'You Know?'

By *Everyday Grammar*

<https://tinyurl.com/4keaxn26>

Phrasal Verbs with "Do"

By English Teacher Claire

<https://tinyurl.com/54zxy6en>



PWC September Meeting Minutes

By *Sybil Yeaman*

Welcome and introduction of new members and visitors by President Cindi Reiss.

- **Desert Nights, Rising Stars:** Overview of *Desert Nights, Rising Stars* writers conference. The PWC table was successful in attracting interested writers to the club.
- **Blue Guitar Festival :** PWC is participating in the annual *Blue Guitar Festival* at Desert Ridge Marketplace stage area on November 2nd. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up to work at the table from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Winners of the PWC annual writing contest will have an opportunity to do a reading. Books can be displayed on the table for marketing purposes, but sales are not permitted at Desert Ridge.
- **PWC Website:** Cindi reminded members to set up a page on PCW's website. Members can contact Eric Miller for assistance with posting a picture, biography, and associated links.
- **Arizona Authors Association:** PWC has an opportunity to attend an Arizona Authors Association meeting, featuring Mike Rothmiller, on October 25th.
- **Centennial Committee:** Diane Shotton discussed how the Centennial Committee is currently working on updating the historical files of PWC. The historical books will be organized by decade and will include more personal connections from members and PWC's contributions to our community. Jeffrey Callan and Diane Shotton encouraged members to contribute by writing about their personal experiences in the form of a short story, memoir, poem, or skit, as related to historical events or events significant to PWC.
- **Featured Speaker:** A.G. Billing was the featured speaker and discussed *The Three Pillars of Book Marketing*. A.G. Billing is a self-publishing expert and the founder of *Self-Publishing Mastery*. Members were encouraged to actively develop an author brand, build an online audience, and promote their books personally. Consistent marketing can elevate a self-published book from invisibility to recognition within a community of readers and followers. Cindi Reiss indicated a copy of A.G. Billing's outline would be sent to members (see attached *The Three Pillars of Book Marketing*).

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm .

Piper: Two Poetry Workshops

Dear Poetry Friends,

As autumn settles in, we're inviting you to return to the page with two beautiful new poetry workshops from the Piper Writers Studio — both taught by acclaimed CantoMundo Graduate Fellows, both nationally recognized poets. Whether you're drawn to lyrical self-portraiture or the music of the blues, these sessions promise inspiration, reflection, and community. Fair cost and fabulous!

Potential, Poetry & Portraits: Self-Portrait as Lyrical Exploration with Rosebud Ben-Oni



Wednesdays, November 5 & 12 | 5:30–7:30 pm (Phoenix Time) | Zoom

Explore how the act of self-portraiture can open new lyrical and emotional dimensions in your work. Attached: Lyrical expression

Blues Poetry & The Cento with María Fernanda



Tuesdays, November 4, 11, 18 & December 2 | 6:00–8:00 pm (Phoenix Time) | Zoom

Discover how the rhythm of blues and the collage form of the cento can spark fresh poetic possibilities. Attached: Blues poetry

Both workshops are hosted online, making it easy to reconnect with the Piper writing community from wherever you are. Click <https://piper.asu.edu/classes> to view details and register.

We'd love to write with you again this fall. Thanks so much for considering this and please don't hesitate to reach out with any thoughts or questions.

Acorn Publishing Debut Author Prize

Entry window Aug 15—Nov 15, 2025

Attached:

Acorn Publishing Debut Author Prize



ACORN PUBLISHING
DEBUT AUTHOR PRIZE

 ACORNPUBLISHING
Helping talented writers publish exceptional books

*A National Search for the Next
Breakout Voice in Fiction or Memoir*

Your story professionally published and nationally launched.
(valued at over \$11,000)

Visit www.acornpublishingllc.com
Entry Window: Aug 15–Nov 15, 2025

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

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SAN DIEGO

 CORONADO
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Blue Guitar Festival

Mark your calendars now as PWC is partnering with Blue Guitar Festival-Sunday, Nov. 2nd, at Desert Ridge Marketplace, 21001 N Tatum Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85050 . 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 live-streamed (<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>

Arizona Authors Association Awards Luncheon

The Arizona Authors Awards Luncheon will be held at the Moon Valley Country Club on Saturday, November 15, between 12:00 and 4:00 pm. The Awards Luncheon is an excellent opportunity to meet other authors, publishers, editors, and industry professionals, and to get to know one another and build valuable connections. Our association is subsidizing about 1/3 of the cost of the luncheon for guests, to keep it more affordable. We're opening the luncheon to all authors and related professionals around the state, so if any PWC members would like to come, tickets are available here:

https://www.arizonaauthors.org/_paylink/AZj256TO

Horizon Review

Horizon Review is dedicated to showcasing voices in literature and the arts, with particular attention to the greater Southwest, and is seeking pieces that show us a horizon: a meeting place, a fusion, a light, something looming, or a future. Check out their flyer (attached-Horizon Review Submission Poster1-2) for more information.



Membership Annual Dues

This is a friendly reminder that annual dues of \$40 are due. 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 you believe would be a good fit for the club, please email me for the speaker guidelines. We all have different connections within the writing community, and our club relies on the involvement of its members. Cindi Reiss at 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. Nov and Dec, we will meet only on the 2nd Friday. For workshop guidelines, check out <https://tinyurl.com/mr3m8jyj> on our PWC website. Email D'Anne Pientka at dannewriteson@gmail.com for more information.

PWC Volunteers

Phoenix Writers Club needs YOU! Our club relies on volunteers who generously give their time and make 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

PWC Centennial Timeline - 100 years of Community, Connection, and Celebration, by Diane Shotton

We have decades of facts stored in binders and in our memories. The opportunity is to bring our history to life in a digestible way that attracts and retains members.

Jeff Callan and I have been working on the best approach to this and are moving forward to create a meaningful timeline. Here are the highlights, followed by a request for help.

1. Divide the century into decades: 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, etc.
2. Members research (using our binders and other historical material) and prepare a presentation about the decade, including historical context. Jeff prepared an outline (attached) as a framework for structure.
3. The presentation can take any form: short story, essay, poem, skit, etc.
4. At monthly meetings, members make their presentations. We have the entire year 2026 to share the information within the current structure of our meetings.

By the end of 2026, we'll have bite-sized chunks of history that can be added to our website and shared with the public.

These presentations will give us compelling stories to share when recruiting and strengthen current members' connection to PWC's legacy.

As of this writing, we have several volunteers who will create a "Time Capsule" for each decade:

- Diane Shotton - 1926-29
- Jeffrey Callan - 1930s
- Leslie Cox - 1940s
- Tamara Santley - 1970s
- Martha Kent and Bobbie Bennett - TBD

Still available: 1950s, 1960s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, 2010s-2020s. Claim your decade today!

This can be done as a single member or a team. The idea is to have some fun ferreting out the history of the group and share your findings with the Club in any creative way you prefer!

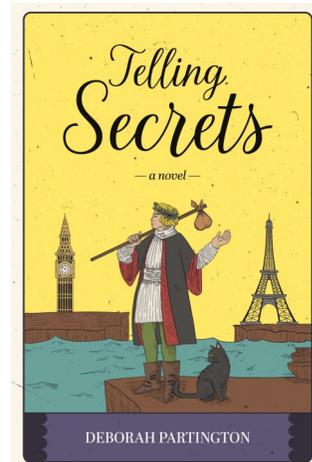
If interested in participating, please email Diane Shotton at deshotton1@gmail.com.

I look forward to sharing our great history with the world! I've attached a one-page outline to help you with a 'time capsule'. (see attached, Outline for a PWC decades piece)



Members New Publications

- **Deborah Partington:** *Telling Secrets* profoundly illuminates the transformative power of confronting hidden truths and the continuous journey of self-discovery that unfolds when "secrets emerge" and one's "understanding of identity" shifts.
- **Bert HaagenstadL** *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



- **Bobbie Bennett:** *Widowhood: The Next Chapter* <https://www.amazon.com/Widowhood-Next-Chapter-Still-Here/dp/BOFLVTB7FM>.
- **Trudy Wells-Meyer:** *Alpenrosen . . . Roses of the Alps* — published in *Art With Attitude Summer 2025* by Rabbitt Ears Press, Steamboat Springs, CO. <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/4b0786c646.html#page/54>

Lady Penelope in Quarantine

Penny Peyser (our guest speaker), attached: REVISED Lady Penelope Nov 15 flyer

November 15, 2025, 7:30 pm

16560 N Dysart Rd, Surprise, AZ

Tickets: \$20 at Eventbrite.com (promo code PWC), \$25 at meeting, \$30 at the door



The Haunted Line

Brendan Constantine

November 9, 2025, 12:00-2:00

Tickets: ASPS Members: \$20, Non-members: \$25

Register at azpoetry.net. Attached flyer, The Haunted Line

Winter in America

Your Blues ain't like Mine

November 16, 2025, 12:00-2:00 PDT

Use the QR code on the attached flyer, Nov16 flyer workshop.

Next Generation Short Story Awards

October 2025—February 26, 2026

Entries being accepted—30 categories.

<https://www.shortstoryawards.com/>



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 November 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	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
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 more member pages. Get your member profile and links to him today!

Member	Type	Link
Bobbie Bennett	Website	www.bobbiebennett.com
Nick Bratcher	Podcast-Greenwood & Co	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	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/mrrmz6j2
Trudy Wells-Meyer	Website	www.trudywells-meyer.com