

In this issue:

- December Holiday Salon
- PWC President Message
- Nov Meeting Minutes & Photos
- Scottsdale Society of Women Writers Speaker
- Member 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.
RSVP Required

Devonshire Senior Center, 2802 E Devonshire Ave (28th St., north of Indian School Rd. **Saturday, December 20**. This month there is no fee. The salon will run from 10:00 till 12:30. More details in the President's column.

RSVP to phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com.

If you haven't paid your annual dues yet, you can pay \$40 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



December Celebration

It's time for our annual holiday party and salon!

Join us on **Saturday, December 20th** at
 Devonshire Senior Center.

Each year, we eat together and then showcase our talents in Salon form. We'd like to invite you to share your talent. Each participant has up to five minutes.

You're welcome to share your writing or your favorite piece. It doesn't have to be writing. You can sing, dance, teach us to dance. Whatever!

If you'd like to participate, please **let Cindi know by December 16**. Email her with your name and the talent you'd like to share.

We hope you'll join us in the fun.

We send Holiday Cheer to our out-of-state members and look forward to seeing you next year!!

A Note from the PWC President

“Good morning, happy first day of December. Keep looking up. That’s the secret of life.” Charles M. Schulz

December can be joyful or stressful. Allow the child’s sense of wonder to release your creativity as the year wraps up.

We’ll celebrate our creativity at our annual salon and party on December 20th. You can read a poem or story—your own or one that’s meaningful to you—sing, play music, or share any other talent. To give everyone a chance, please keep your performance to five minutes or less. If you’d like to take part, email me at writeoncindi@gmail.com

We’re having a potluck, so showcase your cooking or baking, or, like me, pick something up from Costco. If you’d like to bring something, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080549ADA922A3FF2-60711024-pwcdecember#/>. Small portions are best, as we typically have plenty to share.

When you arrive, you’ll get a free raffle ticket. If you would like to donate a prize, you can bring a book (yours or someone else’s), something for writers like tea, coffee, mugs, jam, candles, etc., or that gift you received from Aunt Greta last year that isn’t quite your style. Please put your prize in a gift bag or add a bow. The more prizes we have, the more winners there will be!

There’s no meeting fee for members or guests this month. Feel free to bring a friend, family member, or another writer who might want to join us.

I’m excited to see everyone for a creative and joyful December gathering.



WHY ENGLISH IS HARD TO LEARN

We’ll begin with *box*; the plural is *boxes*,
But the plural of *ox* is *oxen*, not *oxes*.
One fowl is a *goose*, and two are called *geese*,
Yet the plural of *moose* is never called *meese*.

You may find a lone *mouse* or a house full of *mice*;
But the plural of *house* is *houses*, not *hice*.
The plural of *man* is always *men*,
But the plural of *pan* is never *pen*.

If I speak of a *foot*, and you show me two *feet*,
And I give you a *book*, would a pair be a *beek*?
If one is a *tooth* and a whole set are *teeth*,
Why shouldn’t two *booths* be called *beeth*?

If the singular’s *this* and the plural is *these*,
Should the plural of *kiss* be ever called *keese*?

We speak of a *brother* and also of *brethren*,
But though we say *mother*, we never say *methren*.
Then the masculine pronouns are *he*, *his*, and *him*;
But imagine the feminine . . . *she*, *shis*, and *shim*!

- ANONYMOUS

Write on,
Cindi Reiss

So You Think You Know English

Stupid Words that are Totally Real.

Stupid Words , by English with Ronnie (Youtube)

November Meeting Minutes

By *beth Johnson*

PWC Board: Prez-Cindi R, beth J-Secretary, Newsletter Editor-D’Anne P, Social Media-Eric M

Attendees: 30 + speaker

PWC President Cindi Reiss: Welcomed new member – 7 new members! Introduced PWC board members present.

- PWC Centennial planning: **Gala Chair needed!**
- All members welcome to attend PWC Zoom board meetings.
- Thanked Blue Guitar for great October festival.
- Future PWC speakers: If you know a potential speaker, contact Cindi. Small stipend.
- PWC Face Book Page: Please LIKE and comment on posts.
- Sat, Dec, 20, 2025 PWC Holiday / Salon: no charge, potluck, all guests receive a raffle ticket, bring a guest, members encouraged to read (3-5 mins) – poem/story. Email Cindi if you want to present, or if you have an item to raffle. Proceeds benefit PWC.

Jeff Callan: PWC Historian. Explained how we are dividing the PWC history into decades, and volunteers will write about each decade: essay, poem, skit etc. Rely on PWC themes: Community, Connection and Celebration when writing about each decade. Starting with Dec 2025 PWC meeting, present a decade each month.

Eric Miller: Developing a PWC Substack literary magazine. Plan is to publish several pieces each month. Need to assemble an editorial board of volunteers to choose pieces. Ed board can submit but can’t vote on their pieces to be published. Contact him if you are interested (eric@millerphx.com). Pieces can be written, audio or visual art. Copyright is limited rights to magazine. Start date- maybe Dec 2025. 1st issue is posted and includes pieces from 2025 PWC contest winners. Working title: Desert Willow.

Rick McMaster: Publishing a memoir on healthcare, based on 36 years in field. He is moving out of state, noted that he appreciated his years as a member in PWC and thanked everyone. He cautioned all, Persistence is key. “Butt in seat.”

Penny Orloff: Introduced guest speaker. I’m in show business and a longtime friend with Penny Peyser from that world. Most of promotion is a circuit. Let audience fall in love with you and buy your book.

Guest Speaker Penny Peyser: My Self Publishing Journey – The Roadblocks and Solutions

Actor, Filmmaker, Writer

penpeyser@gmail.com

LadyP@sonnetsfromsuburbia.com

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





Inspirational to speak to such a robust writing club. She writes sonnets. Poetry should be fun. Loves free verse. Her alter ego is Lady Penelope. She began as an actress, NY off Broadway, 1976 to LA. Film debut All the President's Men. She shared a meager kiss with Harrison Ford on screen! After turning 40, 2 sons, fewer opportunities for her in Hollywood. 15 years ago she started writing sonnets after taking a class on Shakespeare. 1st book: *Sonnets from Suburbia*. Lots of rejection. Don't take it personally. Started a YOUTUBE as Lady Penelope. Has written 800+ sonnets.

"Novelists, I'd love to have a thought that long. My hat's off to those who can write all across the page."

SELF-PUBLISHING: Used to be known as "vanity" publishing, but no more. With a known publisher, your book will not be printed for 1-2 years, no help with marketing, No % of sales. She enrolled in a self-publishing School.

AUTHORS NEED AN EMAIL LIST. Social media great but doesn't belong to you. An email list allows you to develop a relationship with your readers and develop a trusted set of readers. Potential Beta readers. Solicit reviews. As a reader, do you read books with 3 star or 1 star reviews? I should have started my email list when I started writing. Remember, 40 million books on Amazon. Ask those on your email list to post SHORT reviews of your book.

READING YOUR WORK: Book lovers appreciate hearing authors read their work. Worthwhile experience. Speak your words with confidence. Take a deep breath before starting. Look at your audience. Look between two people.

SELF-VALIDATE: Hardest for authors to do. Find your community. She's spent 11 years in a writing class, prompts, not critiques, on a journey with other writers. Relax & Write.

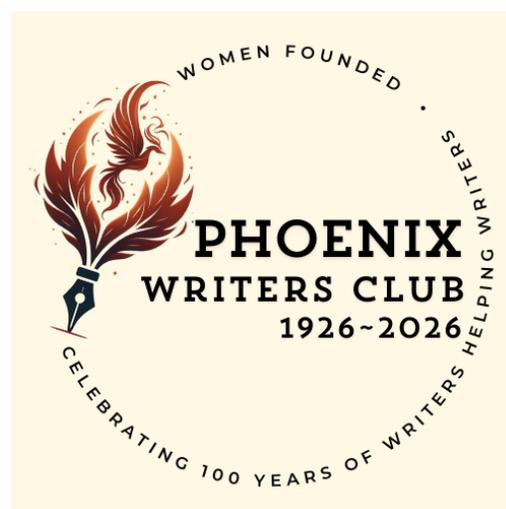
MOST PROFITABLE SOCIAL MEDIA? Facebook because of my age. Skews 40+, female centric. I wasted \$\$\$ on Facebook and Amazon ads. Don't do Amazon ads unless you have published at least 3 books. My personal Face book page gets most traction. Writing a series is profitable. Public loves a "series."

HOW TO DETERMINE A BOOK PRICE POINT? Go to Amazon and deep dive on top 100 books in your genre. Review their book covers, their prices, indy writer/publishers, \$4.99 is the sweet spot for an indy book.

Meeting ended 12:08 pm Happy Thanksgiving to all!

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 Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com.



PWC Centennial Year Founders Contest

Theme: Pioneering Spirit

To celebrate Women's History Month in March, we honor the founding women who formed the Phoenix Writers Club (PWC) 100 years ago after being denied entry to the press club due to their gender. These witty Western women peacefully found a way to promote creativity and camaraderie in the face of adversity, showing a tremendous pioneering spirit in establishing the Phoenix Writers Club.

Today, the legacy of the Phoenix Writers Club (PWC) is one of inclusion, which celebrates community connections. PWC is a social writing group that offers monthly lectures and luncheons supporting all writers regardless of gender, through our website, gatherings, and contests. Please come join us and see what we are all about! We also sponsor local charities and programs through donations and volunteering, encouraging the next generation's love of writing.

We invite all Arizona writers 18 years or older to enter their unpublished poem or essay into our contest and become a part of our rich history. Good luck and happy writing!

This year's theme is *Pioneering Spirit*.

Contest rules:

- Entrants must submit an essay or poem title, date of submission, author's legal name, age, telephone number, and email address in the bio area.
- Entries accepted January 1st. Deadline is February 1st, 2026.
- Essays should be no more than 1926 words, 12-point Times New Roman font.
- Longer essays will not be considered.
- Poems should be between 19-26 lines.
- Essays and poems must be in English, unpublished, and original work.
- The contest is open to writers 18 years old and older.
- Essays and poems should promote the theme given for the contest.
- Essays promoting extreme foul language, offensive topics such as sexism, racism, self-harm, or violence will not be considered serious entries. Also, identified AI-generated works will be disqualified.
- Winning essays (including honorable mentions) will become the property of PWC for the first-year printing and may be published electronically or in print thereafter by the author.

Additional details are available in the attached file PWC womens history month contest 26.doc.



Blue Guitar Pictures

November 2, 2025

PWC 2025 contest winners read their poem or short story.



Deborah Partington



Felicia Penza



Kixx Goldman



Colleen Picard



Diane Shotton read on behalf of Dot Sagis



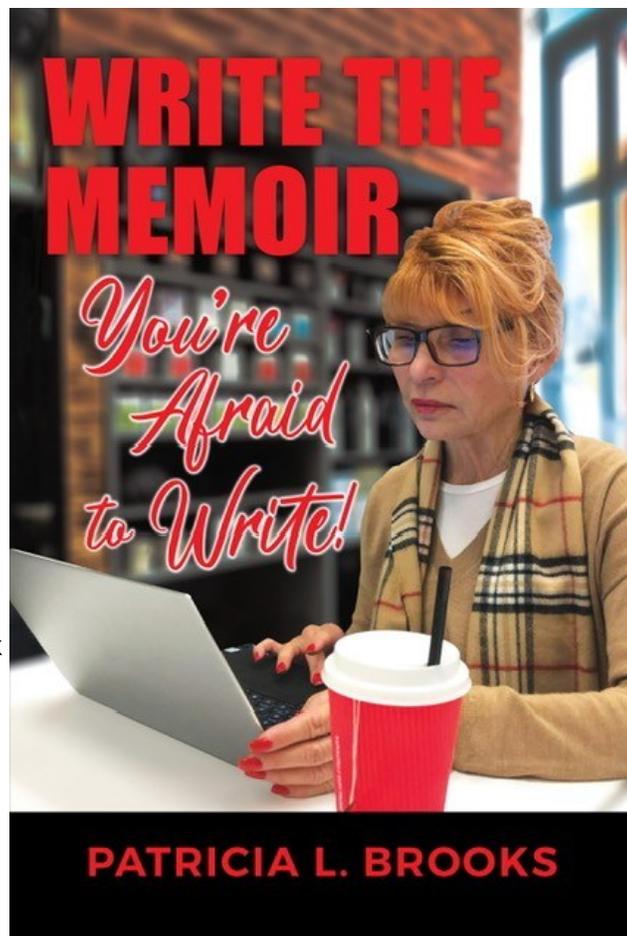
Announcements

WRITE THE MEMOIR YOU'RE AFRAID TO WRITE

Patricia L. Brooks certainly knows a thing or two about writing a memoir.

Patricia L. Brooks, MAOM, Award-winning Author of three memoirs and her new release on writing memoir, is slated as presenter for a two-hour Zoom call January 17th, 2026, for the AZ Authors Association. The workshop is FREE to the public. For information on her books/memoirs or to RSVP for the workshop *Write the Memoir You're Afraid to Write* contact her at info@brooksgoldmannpublishing.com or text 480-250-5556. All books are on www.amazon.com and her website www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com

Arizona State University's Piper Writing Center again WELCOMES PATRICIA L. BROOKS, MAOM, Award-winning Author, Workshop Presenter, Publishing Consultant and Advocate with her three memoirs and non-fiction how-to book for writing memoirs. She is presenting her 8-hour workshop *Write Memoir and Non-fiction* at the campus at the end of February through the first of March, Saturday mornings 10 am to 12 noon. Please contact her to be added to the RSVP list – the link and ID/PC to be sent later. www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com text 480-250-5556 or patricia@plbrooks.com



Scottsdale Society of Women Writers

Welcomes Holly Parsons, Poet, Author, Editor

December 17th, CHOMPIE'S at 9301 E. Shea Blvd., at the corner of 92nd St. and Shea, Scottsdale, Check-in 5:15. Speaker: 6:00 pm.

Holly Parsons has been writing and reading poetry for over 15 years. Holly Parsons will present her new book *Labyrinth: A Quest for light to SSWW*. She will share her writing journey and give us tips on how her poetry has evolved.

More details attached to the email.



After Dinner Conversation

After Dinner Conversation magazine is looking for volunteer submission readers.

Why you should try it!

- The magazine is based in Tempe, AZ (woohoo to local!)
- Reading other people's work makes you a stronger writer
- They're easy to work with
- They've won a ton of awards and kudos, including:

"Most Popular Fiction Magazine 2024" by Chill Subs

"Top 10 LitMag of 2023, 2024" by Chill Subs

#1 "The Very Best Literary Magazine" by Ranker

Top 50 "Fiction" on Substack

How much time you invest is totally up to you. If you can read 1-2 stories a week, awesome. If you can read 1-2 stories a month, also awesome.

About *After Dinner Conversation* magazine:

Delight in intriguing, thought-provoking conversations about ethics, philosophy, and social issues! *After Dinner Conversation*® is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that publishes a monthly short fiction literary magazine. (ISSN 2693-8359). Each issue features both established writers and up-and-coming authors who contribute fascinating philosophical insights on controversial topics like marriage equality, assisted suicide, the meaning of death, animal rights and defining your "purpose." It's time to go deep in search of truth! These imaginative short stories on hot topics make your brain think deeply but also have you laughing out loud.

Interested? Email their EIC!

Kolby Granville | editor@afterdinnerconversation.com

Member News

- **Cindi Reiss:** Arizona State Poetry Society's Annual Contest—Issa Award for Haiku First Place and Honorable Mention
- **Bert Haagenstad** *By the Grace of God*. Book 3 in his series "A Detective Thomas Blade Investigation". People around Chicago are being found strangled, leaning up against headstones in cemeteries around the city. Detective Blade investigates and finds more than he expected. Amazon link <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0G2D2QB2Z>
- **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.
- **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>.



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 D'Anne Pientka for more information, dannewriteson@gmail.com. Guidelines are available on the PWC website: <https://phoenixwritersclub.com/pwc-critique-workshop-guidelines/>

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 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/>
- 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/>

PWC Website

<https://phoenixwritersclub.com>

Visit the website to find information about past and future meetings, contest information and winners, tributes to past members, and "Author Pages." Don't forget, as a member, you get a free "Author Page." To learn more, visit the new About page for Author Pages: <https://phoenixwritersclub.com/members/about-pwc-author-pages/>

PWC Substack

<https://phoenixwritersclub.substack.com/>

Being a PWC member just got more exciting. Eric Miller is developing a PWC Substack literary magazine, *Desert Willow*, for our members. You can then list your published piece in your biography. He's asking for volunteers to serve on an editorial board to develop the guidelines, then start choosing submitted pieces. Contact him if you are interested. Pieces can be written, audio, or visual art. Copyright is limited rights to magazine. Start date- maybe Dec 2025. 1st issue is posted and includes pieces from 2025 PWC contest winners. (eric@millerphx.com)

PWC Contacts

President	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
Vice President	Diane Shotton	deshotton1@gmail.com
Secretary	beth Liechti Johnson	eljohnson707@gmail.com
Treasurer	Navissa Kaiser	navissak@hotmail.com
Website/Social Media/Substack	Ilsa Manning	ilsamanningwrites@gmail.com
	Eric Miller	eric@millerphx.com
Newsletter Editor	D'Anne Pientka	dannewriteson@gmail.com
Membership Chair	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
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	https://phoenixwritersclub.com	
PWC Desert Willow Substack	https://phoenixwritersclub.substack.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 Inlan	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