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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, January 17, 10:00-10:30: socialize; 10:30-11:00: announcements, 11:00-12:00: speaker, 12:00-12:30-wrapup. \$10 fee for members, \$15 for guests.

To RSVP and/or pay your annual dues of \$40, if you haven't done so, mail 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

January Speaker—Connie Galeener

A native Phoenician, Connie Galeener is a lifelong learner. She is currently enrolled in the Storytelling Institute at South Mountain Community College and is the newest member of The Storytelling Fellows, an Honors Program at the Institute.

Connie has been a costumer since 1978, an actress since 1983, a puppeteer since 1998, a playwright, director and, theater teacher since 2016. "Stories are told in many, many ways. As with most creatives, we have more ideas than we have time to develop them," says Connie.



Connie looks forward to having more time soon, as she retires in April. Not one to be without a project, Connie has begun her retirement as a professional storyteller and has taken steps to launch a new business featuring giant puppets!

Connie will speak to the particulars of reading your pieces to an audience. Presenting yourself at readings, book fairs, and open mics is essential to both promoting your work and inviting your audience into your world. She will address topics such as microphone handling, vocal variations, reading the audience, and more.

A Note from the PWC President

Happy New Year!

Our December salon and party was a delightful time with good food, conversation, and performances from several members. We enjoyed poems, essays, book excerpts, short stories, and even a scene from a one-woman play. Thank you to everyone who took part.

It's 2026, and Phoenix Writers Club is turning 100! A century ago, a group of journalists started our club after being turned away from the all-male press club. These determined women created their own space, and that's how our club began.

Each month, we'll share a piece of our club's history. In December, I kicked things off with a poem I wrote (next page). Other members have written essays and skits about our past, and we'll present these throughout the year. If you'd like to write about a decade or an important event, let me know. We have history books you can look through for inspiration.

We're now accepting entries for our PWC Centennial Year Founders Contest. Help us celebrate by sending in your poem or essay by February 1.

<https://phoenixwritersclub.com/contests/pwc-centennial-year-founders-contest-pioneering-spirit-guidelines/>

We've welcomed many new members this year. As our club grows, so does our excitement to learn, share our writing, and enjoy the friendship of fellow writers. It's been wonderful to exchange experiences, advice, and tips along the way.

We encourage everyone to learn more about how the club works and to get involved, especially as we celebrate this special anniversary.

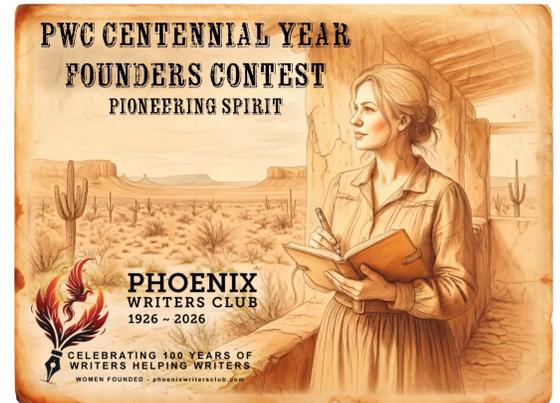
I wish you a creative, joyful, and magical 2026 as you continue your writing journey and the future you desire!

Write on,
Cindi Reiss



PWC Centennial Year Founders Contest: Pioneering Spirit

The Phoenix Writers Club (PWC) celebrates Women's History Month in March by honoring the founding women who formed PWC 100 years ago after being denied entry to the press club due to their gender. These witty Western women found a peaceful way to promote creativity and camaraderie in the face of adversity, demonstrating tremendous pioneering spirit in establishing a safe space for writers.



Today, the legacy of the Phoenix Writers Club (PWC) is one of inclusion and celebration of community connections. PWC is a social writing group that offers monthly lectures to support writers of all genders through our website, gatherings, and contests. Please join us and see what we are all about! We also support local charities and programs through donations and volunteer work, 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!

The contest guidelines are available on the PWC Website:

<https://phoenixwritersclub.com/contests/pwc-centennial-year-founders-contest-pioneering-spirit-guidelines/>

So You Think You Know English

See how many of these 50 terms you can actually identify.

<https://tinyurl.com/7nas2pm3>

Story by Andrew Lisa

Editor's note: This article includes interesting tidbits about the English language history.

Songs and Stories from a Not-Quite-Kosher Life

Penny Orloff's will present her One-Woman show, "Songs and Stories from a Not-Quite-Kosher Life", on January 10th at 7:30 pm at 16560 N. Dysart Rd. in Surprise. Let's support our fellow PWC member.



Salon Raffle Table

Phoenix Writers Club

By Cindi Reiss

Way back in 1926, some newspaper gals with gumption
said, "Let's join the Phoenix Press Club". The nerve of their assumption!
The men gazed at them with smiles and smirks, but said they were not allowed.
"We're all professional journalists here, so you dames are in the wrong crowd."
Those feisty ladies were not dismayed; they knew their talents were great,
So they formed their own little writing club, and men were not on the slate.
As Earhart flew across the Atlantic and Disney was lauding a mouse,
Edna Eaton was elected president of this soon-to-be powerhouse.
The women were writers of poetry and prose, bringing characters to life in skits,
They'd dress up in costumes to entertain and inform, all the while using their wits.
During war years, the women held a silver tea to raise funds for British Relief.
And later helped veterans with writing classes to help them live with their grief.
National Poetry Day was established in October '55.
Governor McFarland had Marguerite Graper to thank for this coming to life.
In the 60's, we offered workshops to members and the public for free
And continued to publish our own works in another anthology.
Our newsletter began in the 70's and is very well read to this day,
It's informative, witty, and telling as our editors do not go halfway.
In the 90's, a barrier was broken as the club first admitted men,
As women, we understood that discrimination should never happen again.
In 2001 a celebration was held at our library-Burton Barr.
Then, five years later, for our 80th gala, a children's book was the star.
Several members wrote of a nine-year-old girl who goes on a fantastical trip,
It debuted at our party as we dressed by decade, and Marshall Trimble spoke with much zip.
Arizona turned 100 in 2012, and we were 86.
BetteLou Tobin wrote a play about our long history in Phoenix.
Restaurateur Jack Durant came to life through Mabel Leo's books
They were adapted into a play, then a movie, as she overlooked.
We supported literacy in the schools by becoming PencilPALS
Corresponding with 5th graders with mailed letters for morale.
Our members write fiction, memoir, poetry, and flash
History, children's, Sci-Fi, with panache!
We collaborate with many conferences and groups,
ASU, Blue Guitar, and POP, are a few.
Now our Centennial is upon us, 100 years in the making.
And Phoenix Writers Club is still going strong, for our talents cannot be mistaken.

December Salon Minutes

Our annual salon and party began at 10 am at the Devonshire Senior Center, featuring a buffet of food brought by members.

At 10:30, President Cindi Reiss welcomed everyone and introduced the board, committee members, guests, and new members: Russell Wilson, Karen Logan, Nancy Hicks Marshall, and Persephone Pilibossian.

She distributed a flyer for the Phoenix Oasis Press Author Networking event on January 16th and encouraged members to attend to connect with fellow writers.

Cindi reminded members to send their news to our newsletter editor, D'Anne Pientka, our Facebook coordinator, Ilsa Manning, and their info for a webpage to our webmaster, Eric Miller.

Navissa Kaiser reminded everyone that our 2026 PWC Centennial Year Founders Contest will begin accepting submissions on January 1st, 2026. Guidelines are on our website and are included as an attachment with this newsletter.

Cindi encouraged members to get involved with the centennial planning and announced that each month, a member would present a piece about our history. She began with a poem she wrote that encompassed many events from our 100 years.

She discussed the 80th PWC celebration in 2006, which included a children's book titled *The Wall*. Nine individuals wrote one of the nine chapters. For the 86th anniversary in 2012, the club staged a play about its history. She encouraged members to browse the history books on the tables, compiled by Bernadette Inlan.

Eric Miller discussed the PWC Substack page he has been developing and is seeking volunteers to assist with guidelines and a permanent name.

Members Dean Weitenhagen and Karen Logan asked for advice on several writing topics and will also send a blurb for the newsletter.

We welcomed our salon presenters at 11. We heard poems, essays, book excerpts, and a scene from a one-woman play.

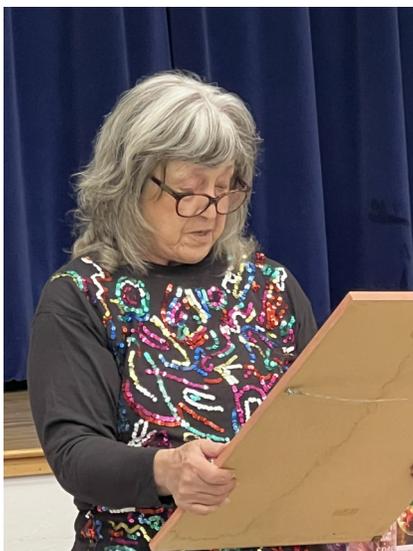
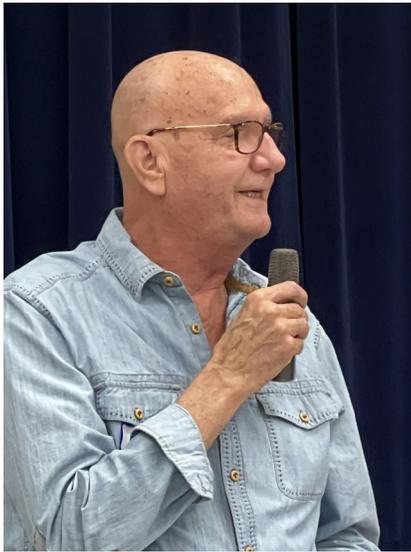
Participants were: Linda Davis Watters, Mark Prior, Patti Meis, Dean Weitenhagen, Tamara Santley, Bibi Khalsa, Nancy Marshall, Jacquie Jensen, Trudy Wells-Myer, Persephone Pilibossian, Himali Bhatt, and Penny Orloff.

Cindi drew the names of attendees for raffle prizes donated by our members. By 12:30, everyone went home with a prize; we wished each other tidings of joy for the holiday season, and we left with creativity that will carry us into 2026!

December PWC Salon



December PWC Salon



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. The success of PWC's workshops is highlighted by:

- Numerous workshop attendees publishing their books
- Strong attendee growth.

That growth is leading our discussion to alter the current workshop format. Studies show that the more successful workshops limit their attendance to 4-6 members. With that guidance in mind, we are discussing different options, such as dividing the group into two workgroups that meet at the same time or perhaps two workgroups that meet on different days. Some members have requested meeting on a day other than Friday, so this option might accommodate that request.

Once the group comes to a consensus, we'll provide that information on the website and in this newsletter. Email D'Anne Pientka for more information, dannewriteson@gmail.com. Guidelines are available on the PWC website: <https://phoenixwritersclub.com/pwc-critique-workshop-guidelines/>

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.



Mark Prior Marketing

Mark Prior is a lifelong member of the [Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary](#). (The DAVA comprises family members of veterans that support the VA and DAV organizations.)

On September 19th, 2025, POW/MIA Recognition Day, Tucson News 4 interviewed Mark after he presented a special proclamation issued for the City of Tucson on behalf of the Office of the Mayor. Later, they broadcast the interview on that day's daily news programs. You will find a link to the News 4 video on the POW/MIA Recognition Day 2025 blog post from Mark's website (www.markpriorauthor.com).

Mark is currently working on an anthology that will include: His friends incredible Vietnam survival story; A moving narrative about Thanksgiving, Smartwatches, and volunteering at a Children's Home; A funny story about how two creative fourth graders used Trombones, Butter Knives, and Mini Golf; His father's amazing story of how he gained his "Million Dollar Education" by piloting a Navy patrol bomber throughout the Pacific, during and after WWII.

You can find additional information (e.g. drafts and excerpts) about these and other stories in blog posts on his website (<http://www.markpriorauthor.com>).

Writers Helping Writers

The board was asked to include a section in the newsletter where writers may ask for help or advice from other writers, for example, literary agents and publishers do's and don'ts. You may write a short blurb about what your needs are, along with your contact information, and send it to D'Anne. We'll include that request in the subsequent newsletter. Please realize that we can't guarantee a response, but we'll do what we can to make your request known.

Author-Preneurship: The Writer's Hustle

Friday, Jan. 16th at 10am

ASU E+I Space @850PBC

Brought to you by PHX Oasis Press and ASU Author-Preneurship



Get a jumpstart on your 2026 writing goals! Plan to join us at our first of three networking events, held in partnership with ASU's Author-Preneurship division!



Calling all novelists, poets, and creative writers!



Join us for this casual in-person get-together filled with AZ authors walking the same (or a similar) path to you. Learn from other registrants, share your experiences, and chat with area group and project leaders. Validated parking AND coffee will be served.

All networking, no big presentation beforehand, no hard sells.

Small hosted group tables offer the perfect space to learn and connect with others.

There's also a casual chatting area if you want to connect 1:1 with someone you meet.

Table Topics likely to include:

- ◆ Finding Focus
- ◆ Publishing: Agents, Querying, & Options
- ◆ Marketing
- ◆ Writing Craft
- ◆ Getting Feedback
- ◆ Working with a Bookstore
- ◆ Writing Apps & Tech Tools

We're thrilled to announce Susan Pohlman and Red Sands Writers Circle are joining us to host some of the small table topics.

Register here: <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=865744&>

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, temporarily titled *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 January 2026. 1st issue is posted and includes pieces from 2025 PWC contest winners. (eric@millerphx.com)



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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.

Member	Type	Link
Bobbie Bennett	Website	www.bobbiebennett.com
Wanda Bevan	Website	www.wandaswayiswrite.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/
Bert Haagenstad	Website	https://booksbybert.online/
Eric Miller	Substack	https://emillerphx.substack.com/
Louise J Privette	Website	https://louiseprivette.com/
Mark Prior	Website	www.markpriorauthor.com
Diane Shotton	Website	https://dianewahnshotton.com/
Mark D Walker	Substack	https://tinyurl.com/mrrmz6j2
Trudy Wells-Meyer	Website	www.trudywells-meyer.com