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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, April 18, 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](mailto:phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com).

**Questions?** Email Cindi Reiss at [writeoncindi@gmail.com](mailto:writeoncindi@gmail.com)

## April Meeting — Penny Orloff

Penny Orloff is a professional arts journalist, content editor, newsletter editor, book doctor, playwright, and opera librettist. She has taught academic writing at the college level and edited more than two dozen successful psychology dissertations. The author of *Art as Lifework*, *Life as Artwork*—a creativity seminar and workbook offered nationwide since 1991—she is a regular contributor of stories to the Chicken Soup for the Soul series of books, and continues to procrastinate on her upcoming book, *Who Would You Be If You Had Nothing to Bitch About?* Penny was a working actor and dancer in Los Angeles when a Juilliard scholarship took her to New York, where she sang more than 20 Principal Soprano roles for New York City Opera and played featured roles on Broadway. In a career spanning over 50 years, she starred in 100+ productions off-Broadway, regionally, and internationally. Symphony, theater, and opera engagements took her all over the US, Europe, and the former Soviet Union. Penny's one-woman show, *Jewish Thighs on Broadway*—based on her best-selling, award-winning comic novel—toured the US for a decade, including a successful run off-Broadway. She is currently touring in a new one-woman show, *Songs and Stories from a Not-Quite-Kosher Life*.



### LET THEM TALK! Writing Compelling Character Dialogue

Introducing the characters in our stories usually leans toward physical descriptions, current and lifelong desires, and reactions to situations. Their unique voices will reveal so much more. Don't put words in their mouths! Let them talk!

## A Note from the PWC President

April is National Poetry Month, which gives us a chance to think about how poetry shapes our daily lives.

Dictionary.com includes these two definitions of poetry:

1. Poetic qualities however manifested.

*the poetry of simple acts and things*

2. poetic qualities, spirit or feeling in anything

These definitions really do cover our lives and our writing.

If poetry feels intimidating, try seeing the everyday

moments in your life and your writing as small acts of poetry. Whether you're working on a novel, a short story, or a poem, every word is chosen to share your meaning and stir emotions in your reader.

There is poetry all around us. I love reading and learning about all types of poetry, and I hope you'll take some time this month to do the same.

This month, there are many ways to enjoy poetry, both online and in person.

Take a look at these links and dive into poetry!

<https://poets.org/pcm2026>

<https://tinyurl.com/47uyunh4>



Write on,  
*Cindi Reiss*

## PWC Critique Writing Group

The April 10th workshop is cancelled. The next workshop shall be held April 24. 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.

Workshop guidelines are available on the PWC website:

<https://phoenixwritersclub.com/pwc-critique-workshop-guidelines/>

## March Minutes

March 21, 2026, 10-12:30 pm

Devonshire Senior Center

*Submitted by beth Johnson*

**PWC Board:** Prez-Cindi R, Treasurer- Navissa K, secretary-beth j, Newsletter Editor-D’Anne P, Social Media-Ilsa M, Website-Eric M, Historian-Jeff C, Centennial Co-chairs: Lois K, Jeff C

Attendees: 42

### **PWC President Cindi Reiss:**

Introduced new PWC members and guests: Rita Hanner-Ward; Maria Cronyn; Pam Devmo; Matt Nastasia; Diane Tasev; Summer Cherland; Cody Cherland; Meher Singer; Mary Elizabeth Evans; George Thornton; Celia Jones; Karen Bankston; Carter Tobin; and Special Guest BetteLou Tobin who wrote the PWC play.

**AZ Author Book Festival, Sun, May 3, 2026**, 10am – 3 pm, PWC table at this event, \$20 if a PWC Member wants to sell their book, <https://azauthorbookfestival.com/>

**Phoenix Oasis Press (POP) Network Event, Fri, April 17, 2026**, 10 am to 12:30 pm, ASU E+I space @ 850PBC, Downtown Phoenix (850 N. 5th St., Phoenix, AZ. 85004) <https://www.phoenixoasispress.com/event-calendar>

**BEWARE Email scams.** An email is circulating from PWC President asking for funds to pay a vendor but the email is FAKE and NOT from Cindi. Don’t respond. D’Anne’s Note: I recently became aware that my name is also being fraudulently used. Do not reply or send money. Double check the email addresses, please.

**Blue Guitar Festival of the Arts, co-hosted by PWC, Sun, Nov 8, 2026**, PWC 2026 Contest Winners will read their winning entries

**Arizona Professional Writers 2026 State Conference, Sat, April 25, 2026**, 9 am to 3 pm, Western Spirit Museum, 3 speakers, Earlybird \$60, after Mar 31 \$70 <https://arizonaprofessionalwriters.org/2026-state-conference/>

### **Miscellaneous:**

- Historical Societies: PWC looking to connect with local, regional, national historical societies. Contact Cindi if you can assist.
- Publicity: PWC looking for more publicity about our Centennial events and members. Contact Cindi if you can assist.

**2026 PWC Contest Winners, Navissa Kasier:**

Theme: Pioneering Spirit. PWC awarded 1st place for the essay and poem, and honorable mention for the essay and poem. Each winner was present and read their piece.



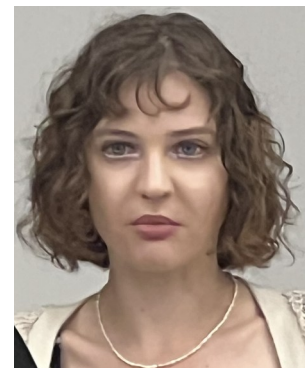
1st Place Essay  
“Billie and Hawk”  
by Summer Cherland



Honorable Mention Essay  
“Doctor Frau”  
by Bibi Khalsa



1st Place Poem  
“Inheritance”  
by Rita Hanner-Ward



Honorable Mention Poem  
“Dragon Fruits”  
by Mary Elizabeth Evans

**PWC 100th Anniversary Celebration Update, Lois Kiely, Jeff Callan:**

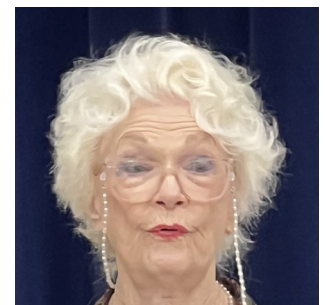
- Venue: North Mountain Visitor’s Center (<https://northmountainvisitorcenter.org/>) selected but will not be confirmed until 2 months prior.
- Date: tentative Nov 12 or 14, 2026
- Guest Speaker: Alberto Rios, Inaugural Poet Laureate of Arizona, waiting to be confirmed <https://poets.org/poet/alberto-rios>.
- Volunteers: Needed for set up and clean up.

**PWC Decades Project, Jeff Callan:**

Still need volunteers to write about following decades: 1990s, 2020-present. beth J volunteered for 1960s. Sybil Yeaman read the summary of 2000-2010, and Leslie Cox read the summary of the 1940s.

**Special PWC Guest BetteLou Tobin:**

PWC President Cindi Reiss presented BetteLou with an honorary PWC membership. BetteLou wrote *The Play*, which was performed for the PWC 86th Anniversary in 2012. BetteLou was accompanied by her son, Carter. At 94 years young, BetteLou, a delightfully articulate woman, shared her memories of producing and performing in the PWC play. She also wrote *Writing Tips for PWC Members* and raised Alaskan wolves. She authored 3 screenplays and numerous TV scripts (I Dream of Jeannie, Dick Van Dyke Show, etc.). Current PWC members greatly appreciated hearing from BetteLou.



Cindi thanked everyone for coming.

## Blazing New Trails

Arizona Professional Writers Conference, Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 9 am until 3 pm. Western Spirit Museum of the West, 3839 N Marshall St., Scottsdale, AZ

Presentations by: Nick Russell, Maria Crimi Speth, and Nancy Hicks Marshall.

Lunch, snacks, and museum tour included. <https://arizonaprofessionalwriters.org/2026-state-conference>

## Centennial History

Apply your craft to tell our story! As we explore our centennial history by decades, this is your opportunity to celebrate it in your own unique way with words, be it through poem, essay, art, song, or play, you can take on the events, spotlight a person, or reflect on the times. We still have openings for the 1960s, 1990s, and 2020-present, but do not feel constrained if another part of our history here at PWC moves you. We'd love to hear from you. If interested, contact Jeff Callan @ [message.jacallan@outlook.com](mailto:message.jacallan@outlook.com).

## PWC Centennial Celebration is Rolling Along

Thank you, thank you, thank you, PWC Volunteers! Our writers have been stepping up to the plate and filling in the blanks for our Help Needed Call. We are making excellent progress planning for the Centennial Celebration; members are even bringing in their partners to help with some of the more labor-intensive tasks.

There are still openings for committee work in the following areas: musical entertainment for the social hour, assisting Tamara with decorations, working with Jane on the “caterer search,” soliciting ads for the program, additional greeters at the welcome table, and other “day of the event” helpers. If you have the time and desire to be part of the organizational team, please contact me (Lois Kiely, [lkiely@aol.com](mailto:lkiely@aol.com) / 602 354 2951 (landline). I'll gladly and gratefully find a spot for you.

## AI Detected

*by Brooke Warner*

Please find an article about an AI-written book that got published by mistake. <https://tinyurl.com/bdfpdt5>

Thank you, Bert Haagenstad, for bringing this to our attention.

## Ficnotation

*By Josh Scott*

If you've ever struggled with the organization of your notes, or felt you could have avoided plot holes before you ran into them, or been frustrated while searching your manuscript to recall story elements that relate to the newest scene, I built an app that might help you, **Ficnotation**.

**Ficnotation** is a web application I designed to help structure the process of writing fiction. It contains multiple tools for different methods of organization that seamlessly tie together. For example, if you want to manage scenes from the context of the Timeline tool, the notes you take on a scene's contributions to a plot line will show up when you view the Plot Grid tool. All fundamental aspects of a story are abstracted: setting, plots, characters, scenes, etc. Many of the tools also contain templates to help ensure fully developed story aspects.

Ficnotation is in its beta format. I'm looking for writers interested in checking it out. If you think this app might help you, please contact me ([jathurlowbooks@gmail.com](mailto:jathurlowbooks@gmail.com)) about using **Ficnotation** for free. I'm happy to help anyone get started.

## Phoenix Writers Network

Check out the Phoenix Writers Network website. You'll find great resources for writers. They meet bimonthly via Zoom and highlight topics we can all learn about.

<https://www.phoenixwritersnetwork.com/> - WRITE. LEARN. CONNECT. - Home

Susan Pohlman is the founder and director of The Phoenix Writers Network. She is a freelance writer, editor, writing coach, and workshop facilitator based in Phoenix, Arizona. For more information, check out her website: <https://www.susanpohlman.com>

## Writers Inspiration Group (WIG)

Writers Inspiration Group (WIG) is a writing prompt group that meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays from 3-4:30 pm via Zoom. The group is based on Natalie Goldberg's book "Writing Down the Bones." Natalie says that, just as with any instrument, we must practice our writing to master our craft. We give out prompts, write for 10 minutes, and share if we would like to. No critique, just enjoying writing with no pressure or judgement and delighting in the company of fellow writers. Wherever you are in your writing journey, it works for us. No cost, and you can drop in anytime. For more info, contact Cindi Reiss at [writeoncindi@gmail.com](mailto:writeoncindi@gmail.com). We'd love to have you join us!

## ASU Workshops

The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing is offering workshops this spring in several genres.

There are several poetry workshops and one to explore your relationship in Arizona! There are offerings in-person and online. And through PWCs partnership with ASU, we are eligible for a discounted price. Please email Cindi Reiss for that info. The associated flyers are attached.

Date/Time	Title, Presenter	Description
April 2nd 5:30—7:30	<b>Writing Poetry in an Era of Overwhelm,</b> by Diego Baez	How do we find the space to create? Apr_Writing Poetry.pdf
April 1-22, Wednes- days, 5:30—7:30	<b>You Ought to Write a Book,</b> by Robrt Pela	A workshop for first-time authors. Registra- tion: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/52x2hv3k">https://tinyurl.com/52x2hv3k</a> Write a Book Ad.pdf
April 25, 10am-12 pm	<b>Write your Arizona Story,</b> by Jonathan Danielson	Arizona is the story; you are the voice. Apr_Arizona Story.pdf

## Phoenix Public Library Call for Local Authors

Phoenix Public Library is opening its official **Call for Local Authors** from April 1 through May 11, 2026 (<https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/services/programs/local-authors>). Writers selected through this submission period will be invited to participate in our Local Author Fair this November and may be considered for additional programs throughout the year. Visit [phoenixpubliclibrary.org](https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org) beginning April 1 for full details, eligibility requirements, and submission guidelines.

## Homegrown Stories: Meet Your Next Favorite Local Author

Desert Foothills Library  
38443 N School House Rd  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331  
April 11, 10:00—3:00 pm

This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with dozens of featured local authors who will be available to share insights into their writing process, discuss their latest works, and answer your questions.  
<https://desertfoothills.librarycalendar.com/event/homegrown-stories-meet-your-next-favorite-local-author-19581>

## Upcoming Book Fairs

Thank you, Laura Nastasia, for this list. Readers, note that Laura plans to attend each of these.

### Readers of the Valley

<https://www.bookishbeccaco.com/collections/bookish-events>

May 9, 2026

DoubleTree Resort

5401 N. Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85250

### Books in the Desert - Book Bliss, LLC

September 26, 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton

1011 W Holmes Ave

Mesa, AZ 85210

### Readers of the Valley

<https://www.bookishbeccaco.com/collections/bookish-events>

October 4, 2026

Bellair Golf Club

17233 N 45th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85308

### Readers of the Valley

<https://www.bookishbeccaco.com/collections/bookish-events>

November 8, 2026

Bellair Golf Club

17233 N 45th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85308

## Member News

D'Anne Pientka's short story, *One Final Pleasure*, was published in *Beyond Words Father Stories* anthology.

Brad Graber just launched his latest novel, *Friends for a Season*, on Amazon.

## So You Think You Know English

### 9 Most Common Written Errors

*By linguamarina*

<https://tinyurl.com/bde3sn74>

## 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 (AAA) — [www.arizonaauthors.org](http://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/>
- Phoenix Writers Network— <https://www.phoenixwritersnetwork.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

It's time for the 2nd Edition of *The Desert Willow*, A Literary Magazine of the Phoenix Writers Club. You can find details on the types of work on the About page: <https://phoenixwritersclub.substack.com/about>

The winners from the 2026 PWC Centennial Pioneer Women's writing contest will be published.

You can view the magazine online at <https://phoenixwritersclub.substack.com> . Please consider subscribing even if you don't plan to submit. It is a way for us to support one another's writing.

We look forward to reading everyone's submissions!

## PWC Contacts

<b>President/Membership</b>	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Volunteer requested	
<b>Secretary</b>	beth Liechti Johnson	eljohnson707@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Navissa Kaiser	navissak@hotmail.com
<b>Social Media</b>	Ilsa Manning	ilsamanningwrites@gmail.com
<b>Website/Substack</b>	Eric Miller	eric@millerphx.com
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<b>PWC Centennial Co-Chairs</b>	Jeff Callan	message.jacallan@outlook.com
	Lois Kiely	llkiely@aol.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.

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/
Laura Nastasia	Website	https://www.soulferriers.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