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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, May 16, 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, 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

May Speaker — Eric Miller

Eric is a business owner, engineer, tech ecosystem gadfly, and writer. On the writing side of things, he is a regular columnist for the Phoenix Business Journal, author of thousands of blog articles, a freelance content creator, and an aspiring fiction writer. For AI, he is a long-time user of other types of AI, and even with his strong technical background, he is just trying to keep his head above water as GenAI changes the world.

Generative AI is Here. 7 AI Realities Writers Need to Know

His lecture will cover:

1. What is Generative AI?
2. GenAI can replace you as a writer
3. GenAI has some legal concerns for writers
4. GenAI can be your research assistant
5. GenAI can be your editor
6. GenAI can be your illustrator or cover artist
7. The Secret to Using GenAI is Prompting & Training



He will finish up with thoughts on the decisions we need to make as writers and some resources writers might find useful.

A Note from the PWC President

“Every setback is a setup for a comeback; keep moving forward.”

Setbacks are a normal part of a writer’s life. We face rejections when we submit our work, and we’re always revising our stories, poems, and books. Even when we think something is finished, there’s usually more to fix. And that’s before we even get to promotion!

Setbacks can either help us grow or make us want to quit. We can feel discouraged, angry, or ignore advice and criticism. Many writers have given up because of this. But those who keep going, no matter what, are the ones who find real satisfaction in writing.

Being part of a community helps us stay on track with our writing. I’m glad to be involved with PWC and to connect with other writing groups in the Valley. We all have something to give, and supporting each other is key to our success as writers.

As we celebrate 100 years of ‘writers helping writers’ this year, let’s keep supporting each other for the next 100 years too!

Write on,
Cindi Reiss



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.

Workshop guidelines are available on the PWC website:
<https://phoenixwritersclub.com/pwc-critique-workshop-guidelines/>

Changing Hands Poetry Event

Our own poet, June Powers, will be the featured poet at the Changing Hands Bookstore in Tempe for the month of May. Poetry night is on May 8th at 6pm. There will also be an open mic portion to the event, so bring your friends, bring your story or poem, and support our PWC June Powers.

April Minutes

April 18, 2026, 10-12:30 pm

Devonshire Senior Center

Submitted by Tamara Santley

PWC Board present: Social Media-Ilsa Manning, Website-Eric Miller, Historian-Jeff Callan

Attendees: 24

Eric Miller welcomed everyone and guests, and new members introduced themselves. Carma Paden, Rene McGovern, Nick Bratcher, and Jim Gray.

Eric reminded everyone to read the newsletter for timely information and PWC's Substack submission rules.

The Centennial Party will be held on Nov. 12, 2026, at the North Mountain Visitors Center from 4-7 pm. Working on ticket price. '20's music. Albert Rios keynote. Bobbi Bennett will perform.

Historian Jeff Callan spoke of the need for more members to write summaries of PWC history.

Martha Kent read her summary of PWC's monthly meetings from 2007 to 2010. She also read 'Creature Adaptations in the Desert' based on her experiences volunteering at Desert Botanical Garden.

Guest Speaker: Penny Orloff. Arts journalist, content editor, newsletter editor, book doctor, playwright, and opera librettist Penny Orloff was the guest speaker and presented LET THEM TALK! Writing Compelling Character Dialogue. She discussed how to make the character and dialogue mesh to create an authentic voice.

Her presentation will be sent to all of the members. She will be performing at WHAM 16560 N Dysart Rd, Surprise, on May 3 at 2 pm. \$25. through Eventbrite. \$30. at the door.

The meeting ended with much appreciation for Penny's presentation.

Writer Beware

Why these Contract Clauses are Scary

By Victoria-Strauss

<https://writerbeware.blog/2025/12/19/why-these-contract-clauses-are-scary/>

Thank you, Sybil Yeaman, for the link. PWC members, you may wish to review this website.



PWC Centennial Celebration is Rolling Along

Thank you, thank you, thank you, PWC Volunteers! 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: assisting Tamara with decorations, tamsantley@yahoo.com and other “day of the event” helpers. We need a chair to oversee the option of having sponsors included in the program. The chair would maintain a list of members who have successfully secured sponsors’ funds for ads in the program, and communicate that information to the treasurer and program designers. Sponsors will receive a copy of the program with their ads. Costs and sizes of these ads are to be decided. If members have relationships with local businesses, this may be an easy way to further fund the celebration's expenses. If you have desire being a part of the organizational team, please contact me, Lois Kiely, llkiely@aol.com / 732 531 4648 (phone calls only, no texts).

Desert Willow Online Literary Magazine

Submission Request: It is time to publish member content in PWC’s new online literary magazine, *The Desert Willow*. This online periodical is published on Substack. We chose Substack because of its ease of use, subscription management, and growing recognition of the platform as a place for writers and readers. For the first two issues, we published the winners of our past two writing contests. Volume 3 will be our first featuring written pieces submitted by our members.

You can view *The Desert Willow* here: <https://phoenixwritersclub.substack.com/>

We are accepting submissions through May 31, 2026 for Volume 3. Note: We don't retain any rights. I know that is a question everyone asks.

We accept (word count):

1. Literary Fiction (1,000 - 7,500)
2. Genre Fiction (1,000 - 7,500)
3. Flash Fiction (10 - 1,000)
4. Essay (500 - 2,500)
5. Poem (2-1,500)
6. Memoir (500 - 5,000)
7. Artwork (one image)

The rules and the submission format are available on the about page:

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

When you are ready or if you have questions, you can submit to: pwc.substack@gmail.com

The seven member review committee will vote on the entries. Members of the committee can submit pieces, but can't vote for their own content. We look forward to reading your submissions!

Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing

Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at ASU has many opportunities for writers, including the annual Desert Nights, Rising Stars conference on October 16th and 17th, 2026. If you are interested in leading a session, please see the attached flyer for application instructions.

Also attached are flyers about the upcoming Desert Owl Book Club sponsored by the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. This gathering will be special as we'll have a chance to meet Laura Tohe, Arizona's new Poet Laureate. This is Thursday, May 7th, at 7 pm. We'll talk about a few poems, host a community book exchange, and invite anyone who feels so moved to share a short healing poem or passage. The plan is for this Book Club to continue through the summer (once a month). I hope to see you there!

Any questions, please contact me at writeoncindi@gmail.com

AI vs Human Feedback

by *H.S. Fishbrook*

<https://scriptmag.com/critiquing-the-critic-ai-vs-human-feedback>

Reflections After Selling 10,000+ Books

by *Jennifer Shirkani*

Jennifer Shirkani is sharing her podcast, a summary of her experiences in book publishing, a complicated business and one that often leaves authors in the dark. She wants to share her advice in case you are considering publishing. Her books are non-fiction focused on self-improvement and leadership, so her target audience is someone wanting to improve their professional or personal effectiveness

<https://jenshirkani.substack.com/p/reflections-after-selling-10000-books>

PWC History

We still have 2 decades for eager writers to contribute written work: the 1990s and 2020 to the present. Works can be anything: an essay, a poem, a song, a skit, or anything that brings your inspiration to the club for the time period. You are not limited to a particular decade. You may choose to write about a particular person or event that was instrumental to the club. Go with what moves you. Last month, Martha Kent took us on a journey through the 1940s. Contact Cindi at writeoncindi@gmail.com if you need any of the PWC history binders, and contact Jeff Callan at message.jacallan@outlook.com if you want to join us in sharing our history or have any questions



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) 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 1st and 3rd 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. We'd love to have you join us!

Upcoming Book Fairs

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

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

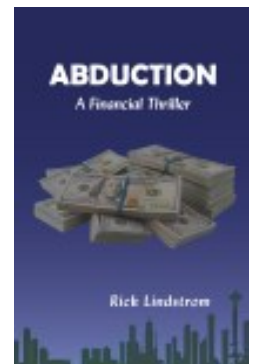
Member News

Jeffrey Callan's new book, *The Intrigants: The Cleaner*, is available on Amazon <https://a.co/d/Odk3jKu3>. It's the basis for "The Cleaner" podcast.

Rick Lindstrom's final novel, *Abduction*, is now available on Amazon, <https://a.co/d/Ofy7ykaN>. His wife, Kim Nielsen, forged ahead to get it published, now a year since his passing.

Bobbie Bennett: NFPW At Large Winner. Bobbie's *Widowhood the Next Chapter: I'm still Here—Now What?* won 3rd place in the At-Large AZ competition. Congratulations !!

Cindi Reiss is included in the *Motherhood Anthology* with little somethings press with Revisionary Arts, May 30th at Tempe History Museum (see attachment). Please join us to see our anthology and motherings zine come to life, and celebrate the many facets of motherhood. Copies of both publications, past issues, and zines will be available. The @tempehistorymuseum also has interactive exhibitions and a kids' play area, so feel free to bring little ones.



Arizona Professional Writers Conference

PWC attending members included Jody Sharpe, Mark Walker, Patricia Brooks, Bobbie Bennett, Nancy Hicks Marshall, Cindi Reiss, and Beth Johnson.

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
- 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

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PWC Centennial Co-Chairs	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