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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, June 20, 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.

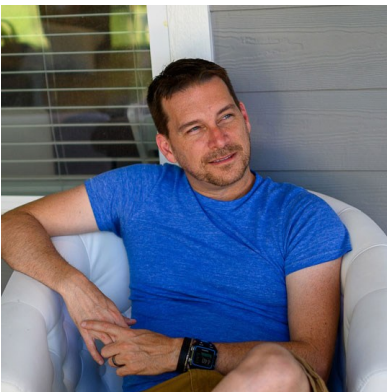
To RSVP, please pay via Zelle or Venmo to phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com

or mail a check to our treasurer, Navissa Kaiser, payable to Phoenix Writers Club, 5715 E. Alder, Mesa 85206. You are also welcome to pay for several monthly meetings in advance.

Questions? Email Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com

June Speaker — Kolby Granville

Kolby Granville (Founder, Editor-in-Chief <https://www.afterdinnerconversation.com/>) is a lawyer, teacher,



traveler, writer, and trail runner. He spent 5 years teaching Socratic discussion classes based on primary-source literature and just finished 3.5 years traveling the world across 20 countries and living the digital nomad life. He now works with his sister as a lawyer at Granville Law, doing indigent criminal defense. In 2025, Chillsubs members voted Kolby the #2 "Best Lit Mag Editor." Members previously rated After Dinner Conversation "Top 10 LitMag of 2023, 2024."

Kolby will discuss the inside track of submitting to literary magazines, including Substack. What are editors looking for? How can your submission rise to the top of the acceptance process? Also, should you start your own Substack, and how

do you grow it? Get ready to submit!

So You Think You Know English

Stop making these annoying grammar mistakes

By Word Flow

<https://tinyurl.com/344td2fh>

A Note from the PWC President

“In the heart’s garden, memories bloom even amidst the weeds of sorrow.”

I am heartbroken to share this tragic news. Penny Orloff was hit by a car May 12th as she was riding her bicycle and did not survive. <https://www.kjzz.org/kjzz-news/2026-05-22/opera-singer-and-author-penny-orloff-killed-in-goodyear-collision>



Penny was a spark of joy wherever she went. Her enthusiasm for life was unmatched, and she was always ready to help any of us in our writing journey. She was a dynamic speaker and gave an exceptional presentation on dialogue in April. She was not only a writer but also an actor, singer, dancer, art therapist, and the list goes on. She was gracious and sincere, always making me smile with her witty stories. https://phoenixwritersclub.com/member_page/penny-orloff/

If you would like to pay tribute to Penny in a paragraph or a few sentences, we will share it on our website and in our newsletter. Please email me with ‘tribute’ in the subject line.

We share in our sorrow at the loss of such a vibrant presence in our PWC community. I will treasure having known her and experiencing her joy.

Change of Subject: The Devonshire community center has expressed some concerns: per city rules, we are not to accept payments on-site. We have been a bit lax about this.

We accept advance payments each meeting by check or via Zelle or Venmo to phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com, and prepayment for several months at a time, which has worked for many of you. Navissa keeps track of this at the monthly meetings. And please note that if you pay in advance, we do not meet in July or August, and there is no payment in December (and this year we will not have a general meeting in November, as the centennial party is the week before). I know that at times things happen at the last minute, so please let me know, and we will work with you that day as we do not want anyone to miss a meeting.



“One day I will find the right words, and they will be simple.”

— Jack Kerouac

Write on,
Cindi Reiss

Looking Ahead

July and August: No general meetings (summer break)

September 19th: General Meeting Speaker—attorney Maria Crimi Speth is speaking on intellectual property, copyrights, and much-needed information to protect our writings

October 17th: General Meeting—PWC History presentations

November 8th: Blue Guitar Festival—Contest winners will read, and we'll have other presentations from members

November 12th, 4-7: PWC Centennial Party

November: No general meeting

December 19th: PWC Holiday Salon Party with members' readings (in lieu of general meeting)



PWC Beta Readers Wanted

Bob Weber is seeking beta readers for his historical and time-travel novel. The story alternates between 2045 and 2AD, following Jordanian archaeologist Peter Radwin and three students as they are transported back in time during an investigation of the tomb of Nabataean King Aretas IV. As they are thrust into 2AD, they hear their names and the phrase “The Story Has Been Written.” While exploring antiquity, they find Moses’s mystical staff, meet historical figures, and discover their true purpose. The novel combines futuristic technology with themes of self-righteousness, wickedness, and greed that have persisted throughout human history. The word count is 98839. For more details, contact Bob and take a ride back in history and then into the future!

Bob's email is bjclweber2014@icloud.com, and his phone number is 612.747.3611

Editor's Note: We've read a couple of Bob's chapters in our PWC Critique workshop. I recommend Bob's book from the chapters I've read thus far. I look forward to reading future chapters.

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/>

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 is a flyer for the Desert Owl Bookclub. The plan for Bookclub is to continue through the summer (once a month). June's selection, *Beasts of Carnaval* by Ros  lia Rodrigo, with its historical fantasy and mythology, and enchanting prose, is eagerly keeping me reading each night!

- June 11 - *Beasts of Carnaval* by Ros  lia Rodrigo
- July 16 - *Kin* by Tayari Jones
- August 13 - *The Ghost Women* by Jennifer Murphy

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

Seeds for Autism—Arizona Author Book Festival

Several of our members joined many authors May 3rd from throughout Arizona to raise donations for the Seeds for Autism. PWC included its own table with books written by our authors.



Deborah Partington, Karen Logan and Cindi Reiss



Leslie Cox with
Phoenix Oasis Press leader
Tracy Skochil



Wanda Bevan

PWC Plans and AI

By D'Anne Pientka

Eric Miller's May 2026 AI presentation was a resounding success. Many guests and new members joined the meeting specifically to hear him. Afterwards, and given the positive accolades, Eric's agreed to follow up next year to highlight the AI changes—advances and challenges.

After a little begging (I'm not that proud), he's agreed to organize a Zoom meeting on how to use some of the AI graphics tools. That won't be scheduled till after the summer months and does not replace the

May Minutes

May 16, 2026, 10-12:30 pm

Devonshire Senior Center

Submitted by beth Johnson

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

Attendees: 36

PWC President Cindi Reiss:

- Introduced guests/new members: James D., Mary S., Lorrie M., Nick B., Traci L., Bob B., Andreea B., Amena G., Karen P.
- We do not have a general meeting in July or August
- **Phoenix Oasis Press Editing workshop:** <https://www.phoenixoasispress.com/editingworkshop> May 29th, 6:30 pm
- **Payson Book Festival:** July 18, 2026, <https://paysonbookfestival.org/> Bobbi Bennett and other PWC members will have a table there
- **Blue Guitar Festival of the Arts, co-hosted by PWC, Sun, Nov 8, 2026:** PWC 2026 Contest Winners will read their winning entries
- **Publicity:** PWC is looking for more publicity about our Centennial events and members. Contact Cindi if you can assist
- **PWC Desert Willow Substack:** accepting submissions - fiction, non-fiction, poetry, art - <https://phoenixwritersclub.substack.com/>, contact Eric Miller, eric@millerphx.com

PWC 100th Anniversary Celebration Update

Sponsorships: local businesses/ authors /business cards may be printed in Centennial program, a chair and committee are needed

Venue: North Mountain Visitor's Center (<https://northmountainvisitorcenter.org/>)

Date: Nov 12th, 2026

Guest Speaker: Alberto Rios, Inaugural Poet Laureate of Arizona, <https://poets.org/poet/alberto-rios>

Volunteers: Needed for set up and clean up.

PWC Decades Project: Jeff Callan

- Jeff read his tribute to the 1950s PWC in limericks
- Jeff's book, *The Cleaner*, recently published on Amazon. https://www.amazon.com/Intrigants-Cleaner-Wesley-Miller-ebook/dp/B0GX2XVY5D?ref_=ast_author_mpb
- Still need volunteers to write about following decades: 1990s, 2020-present

Speaker: Eric Miller

<https://phoenixwritersclub.com/2026/04/04/may-2026/>

Presentation: <https://tinyurl.com/eric-ai-writing>

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

Info presented on GenAI, complete with slide handouts. was extremely valuable. Many questions. Lots of discussion.



1. **What is Generative AI?** Generates data only. Does not make decisions. Not human. Different because AI accesses SO MUCH data.
2. **GenAI can replace you as a writer.** AI writes from the middle. Does not have a voice or a life. No originality.
3. **Writers have some legal concerns over GenAI.** Many legal concerns are under review and not settled. AI reads writing on the web. Verify which AI tool you decide to use. Some AI tools (e.g. GROK) own whatever data you enter. AI can trick readers because data might sound right factually but not be correct.
4. **GenAI can be your research assistant.** It's a time saver. Provides summaries. Always follow up with AI and ask "show me links where data is from" to confirm data is actual.
5. **GenAI can be your editor.** Before using AI tool, check to ensure the tool does not use your data to "train" its Large Learning Module (LLM). AI is good for tasks such as, "What words am I using too frequently?"
6. **GenAI can be your illustrator or cover artist.** Powerful for marketing. Good at infographics. Search engines love infographics. Gen AI uses other people's art – legal issues not settled.
7. **The Secret to Using GenAI is Prompting & Training.**
 - ◇ Prompting: Learn how to ask questions to GenAI. Who is the audience?
 - ◇ Training: Point GenAI to content you've written. Gemini from Google builds a profile which is vulnerable
- **Warnings on using GenAI:**
 - ◇ Don't copy/paste from GenAI.
 - ◇ GenAI will make up data
 - ◇ Gen AI could bleed into other areas of your computer – must find/delete all "agents" to avoid this
 - ◇ Monetizing of Gen AI is coming: Gen AI works on "tokens" (digital info). Each token has a value. GenAI wants to addict you to getting credits which can be exchanged for money, other items of value.
 - ◇ Currently, there are no rules but at some point, rules will appear

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: assisting Tamara with decorations, tamsantley@yahoo.com and other "day of the event" helpers.

We need a chair and a committee 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. Lois has developed a letter and more instructions for those soliciting ads and the chair of this committee.

If you have the time and desire to be part of the organizational team, please contact Lois Kiely, llkiely@aol.com/ 732 531 4648 (phone calls only, no texts). And she will gladly and gratefully find a spot for you.

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!

PWC History

We still have areas 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, Jeff Callan put history into delightful limericks! Contact Jeff Callan at message.jacallan@outlook.com if you want to join us in sharing our history or have any questions.



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

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

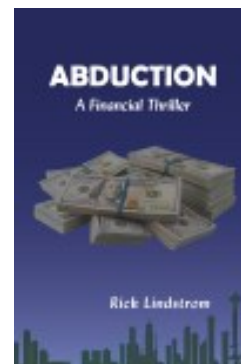
D'Anne Pientka's short story, *Song Dog Songs*, was picked a Finalist in the 2026 Next Generation Short Stories contest.

Jeffrey Callan's new book, *The Intrigants: The Cleaner*, is available on Amazon <https://a.co/d/0dk3jKu3>. It's the basis for "The Cleaner" podcast.

Rick Lindstrom's final novel, *Abduction*, is now available on Amazon, <https://a.co/d/0fy7ykaN>. 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.



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 June 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*, the Phoenix Writers Club Literary Magazine. You can find details on the types of work accepted on the About page: <https://phoenixwritersclub.substack.com/about>

The winners from the 2026 PWC Centennial Pioneer Women's writing contest have been 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

President/Membership	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
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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