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PWC Monthly Meeting

Reminder: There is no monthly meeting for July or August. We start back up in September.

*Phoenix Writers Club meets monthly on the 3rd Saturday of the month.
New location to be announced.*

Membership Annual Dues

Annual dues of \$40 are due by the end of September. You may 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. **Questions?** Email Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com

Looking Ahead

- August: No general meeting
- 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, plus 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)



A Note from the PWC President



*When August days are hot an' dry,
I won't sit by an' sigh or die,
I'll get my bottle (on the sly)
And go ahead, and fish, and lie ...*

Paul Laurence Dunbar

<https://www.poetry.com/poem/28747/in-august>

August is the perfect month for a fish story! Our imaginations are in full gear as summer's laziness has settled into our bones.

Thank you to everyone who sent suggestions for venues to hold our future monthly meetings. And a giant thank you to those who were able to check some of them out as we find the location that works for us. As soon as a location is found, I will let you know, so keep reading the newsletter and email blasts!

We have been continuing our centennial celebration plans and keep that date of Thursday, November 12th, from 4-7 pm, on your calendar. Thank you to everyone who is able to help bring the party to life.

And keep Sunday, November 8th, from 10-3, for the annual Blue Guitar Festival at Desert Ridge Marketplace. Our contest winners will be reading, and we will be sharing more of our history. November is a celebratory month!

I appreciate all who serve on the board and committees, and PWC could not run without every one of you. We are in need of a vice-president, and I invite you to consider this role. The VP stands in for the president as needed, but beyond that, the role is flexible, with activities and tasks decided between the president and vice-president. You need to have been an active member for at least 6 months. If you are interested or would like to learn more about what this role could entail, please email me. I would love to discuss options.

Write on,
Cindi Reiss

So You Think You Know English

Lesser Known Linguistical Facts

<https://tinyurl.com/3yr84nsx>

by Bryon Dovey

PWC Wanted Ads

If you have a writers service you offer or if you are looking for advice and/or service, please send D'Anne (dannewriteson@gmail.com) your notice for inclusion in this area.

Agent Advise: Tom Lewellen would like to discuss the best course to finding an agent for getting his book published. If anyone has suggestions for him, please contact him at tom@tomlewellen.com

PWC Beta Readers

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

PCW Poetry Reviewers

by Cindy Mosca

I am a member of the Peace Corps Writers (PCW) Advisory Board with Mark Walker. I am volunteering as the coordinator for book reviews written by Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) and current volunteers. Several RPCVs have written poetry books and would like them reviewed. I am looking for people willing to review poetry.



The procedure is:

1. You send me your request to be a reviewer by September 30th (cnmosca69@gmail.com).
2. I send the reviewer information about the books so they can select one. The information includes author details and a description explaining why they might want to read the book. I usually also include the cover and a link to where the book is available for sale.
3. The author sends the assigned reviewer the book.
4. The reviewer sends their review to me. I check it over for required details.
5. I send the review to Greg Emerson, our president and editorial director. He does a final edit and decides when to publish the review.

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. Note that currently she is on the East Coast, and there is a 3-hour time difference.

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/>

The Desert Willow Substack

From Aliens in the Closet to Desert Plants with a Message: A Collection of writings from Phoenix Writers Club members—Volume 3—Summer 2026 is now available online.

<https://phoenixwritersclub.substack.com/p/the-desert-willow-volume-3-summer>



Upcoming Writing Events

Writing Workshops with Robrt Pela

Robrt Pela, our PWC 2026 February speaker, is running two separate workshops starting in August at Changing Hands on 300 West Camelback Road. He teaches writing workshops at ASU and Changing Hands Books and owns an editing business, Red Pen Ink, where he works on book projects with first-time authors. For more information and registration:



- *Be a Better Writer*: Tuesdays, August 18-September 8 (4 weeks), 6:00-7:30
<https://changinghands.com/event/2026-08-18/writing-workshop-robrt-pela-be-better-writer>
- *You Ought to Write a Book*: Saturdays, August 22-September 26 (six weeks), 10:00-11:30
<https://changinghands.com/event/2026-08-22/writing-workshop-robrt-pela-you-ought-write-book>

Author Networking Event: Supporting the Writer's Hustle

Friday, Aug. 14 • 10AM - 12PM

ASU E+I space @ 850PBC

Downtown Phoenix, 850 N. 5th St., Ste 130 · Phoenix, AZ

Join us for our final Author Networking Event of the year! This event is all about getting questions answered and making connections.

What to expect: local writers hosting small tables for group discussion, plenty of Arizona authors to connect and learn from, and free coffee and snacks.

Table Topics for August:

- Publishing: Agents, Querying, & Options with @susanpohlman
- Marketing with @tracy.skochil.author
- Writing Craft with Eric Boyd (find him on Bluesky!)
- Getting Feedback with @redsandswriters
- The World of Lit Mags with @afterdinnerconversationsseries
- Working with a Bookstore with @onyxoasisbookstore
- Author Scams with @lesliecoxwrites
- Finding Focus & Inspiration

Plus, there's lots of space for 1:1 connecting away from the tables. A collaboration between PHX Oasis Press and ASU Author-preneurship @entrepreneurasu This is a free event but please register so we can plan for space/coffee. <https://www.meetup.com/phoenix-oasis-press/events/311015574/>



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

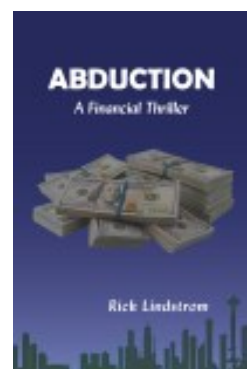
17233 N 45th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85308

Member News

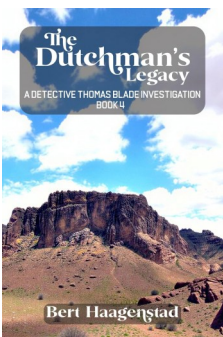


Jeffrey Callan's new book, *The Intrigants: The Cleaner*, is available on Amazon <https://a.co/d/0dk3jKu3>. It's the basis for "The Cleaner" podcast.

Rick Lindstrom's final novel, *Abduction*, is available on Amazon, <https://a.co/d/0fy7ykaN>. His wife, Kim Nielsen, forged ahead to get it published, now a year since his passing.



Cindi Reiss is included in the Motherhood Anthology with little somethings press with Revisionary Arts.



Bert Haagenstad: *The Dutchman's Legacy*, 4th in the Detective Thomas Blade Investigations series is available on Amazon <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0H3R8JCDW>

beth Liechti Johnson: "Ricochet," 2nd place, 2026 Story Circle Poetry Competition <https://www.storycircle.org/2nd-poetry-contest-winner/>

Member News (cont)

Mark Walker



I was honored to be featured in the **Author Spotlight** on the *Gypsy Journal*, thanks to fellow travel writer, Nick Russell, whom I first met at the APW conference. Nick's interview digs into the craft of writing with timely, revealing questions that made me reflect on why we write—and how stories help us make sense of the world.

Please share with PWC members who enjoy conversations about travel, storytelling, and the writer's journey. Take a look and let me know what resonates.

<https://www.gypsyjournalrv.com/2026/07/author-spotlight-mark-walker/>

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 August 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/>

Call for Submissions

The Blue Guitar

The Blue Guitar literary and arts magazine seeks literary submissions for the Fall 2026 Edition from Sept. 1 through Oct. 4. Submissions are sought in all genres — fiction, poetry, plays, creative nonfiction. Writers must submit original work (no AI-generated work) and must live part- or full-time in Arizona.

Simultaneous submissions will be accepted, but the writer must notify the magazine as soon as possible if the work is accepted elsewhere. It is free to submit, and submissions may be made in multiple genres. Please include your name and the best way to contact you on your submission. To submit or for further information, e-mail Editor Rebecca Dyer at rebeccadyer@theblueguitarmagazine.org. For more information, visit www.theblueguitarmagazine.org.

Their *Unstrung* Summer 2026 poetry magazine is now available (see attached). It features poems by Paula Ashley, Duann Black, David Chorlton, Roxanne Doty, Richard Fenton Sederstrom, and Varina J. Martindale.



Unstrung is a magazine of, for, and about poetry, and is a project of the nonprofits **The Blue Guitar** (www.theblueguitarmagazine.org) and **The Arizona Consortium for the Arts** (www.artizona.org).

The Desert Willow Volume 4

Phoenix Writers Club is pleased to announce that the submission period for Volume 4 of our literary magazine, *The Desert Willow*, is now open. Any club member can submit their work to pwc.substack@gmail.com.

The submission period is August 1, 2026, to August 31, 2026.

You can view all the details on what categories we accept, word counts, submission format, and publication rights on the magazine's About page: <https://phoenixwritersclub.substack.com/about>

And please consider subscribing. You don't need a Substack (the platform we publish on) account, just an email. The more subscribers we have, the more others on Substack will see it. We are just under 50 subscribers, and we would like to see that at over 100 by the time Volume 4 is published in October.

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."

PWC Contacts

President/Membership	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
Vice President	Volunteer requested	
Secretary	beth Liechti Johnson	eljohnson707@gmail.com
Treasurer	Navissa Kaiser	navissak@hotmail.com
Social Media	Ilsa Manning	ilsamanningwrites@gmail.com
Website/Substack	Eric Miller	eric@millerphx.com
Newsletter Editor/Writers Critique Workshop	D'Anne Pientka	dannewriteson@gmail.com
PWC Historian	Jeff Callan	message.jacallan@outlook.com
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