

PWC Monthly 3rd Saturday Meeting – October 17

In this issue:

- October Monthly Meeting
- PWC President's Message
- Member News
- PWC Centennial News
- Resources for Publishing
- What's Happening Around Town
- PWC Member Websites/Blogs
- Contact Information

NEW LOCATION

North Mountain Visitor Center

12950 N. 7th Street, Phoenix, 85022, classroom #1
<https://northmountainvisitorcenter.org/>

10:00-10:30 social; 10:30-11:00 business; 11:00-12:00 speaker.

\$10-members; \$15-guests. Pre-Payment & RSVP required for each meeting. To RSVP, please pay via Zelle to phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com, Venmo to Phoenix@phoenixwriters1926.

We accept checks and cash at the door, but you still must RSVP. At North Mountain Visitor Center, they require us to send our setup five days before the monthly meeting to determine the number of tables and people allowed for us to follow fire marshal rules. Therefore, RSVPs are necessary.

As part of our year-long celebration of 100 years of Phoenix Writers Club, our October 17th meeting will look back on what we have learned about the men and women who have found friendship and inspiration as members for an entire century. We will have a slideshow and presentations from members covering various decades and influential people in our history. This will be a fun time to not only get to know some of our long history of 'writers helping writers' but also to get to know our peers even more. If you would like to present a history piece, please contact Jeff Callan at message.jacallan@outlook.com.

Membership Annual Dues

Annual dues of \$40 are due by the end of September. You may pay via Zelle (phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com) or Venmo (Phoenix@phoenixwriters2916), or mail a check to our treasurer, Navissa Kaiser, payable to Phoenix Writers Club, 5715 E. Alder, Mesa 85206. Or, pay at the meeting. Questions? Email Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com

Looking Ahead

- October 17: General Meeting—PWC History presentations
- November 8: Blue Guitar Festival—Contest winners will read, plus other presentations from members
- November 12: 4-7: PWC Centennial Party
- November 13: PWC Critique Workshop
- November: No general meeting
- December 11: PWC Critique Workshop
- December 19: PWC Holiday Salon Party with members' readings (in lieu of general meeting)



PWC President's Message

We had an energetic meeting in September as we settled into our new venue. As we adjust, there are a few things to work on, so thank you, as always, for your input.

I am delighted to welcome so many new members this past year. Each one of you is an integral part of PWC. Sharing in each other's writing lives enriches our own writing and keeps our creativity flowing.

Please take advantage of our website, get your page, and read about each other on the members' pages to get to know one another better.

We are excited to celebrate our centennial on November 12th! And for the Blue Guitar Festival on November 8th. Read on for more info.

October is the month when I can share one of my favorite poems as I get ready for Halloween and morph into an alternate self once a year!



The Scarecrow

Kahlil Gibran

Once I said to a scarecrow,
"You must be tired of standing in this lonely field."
And he said, "The joy of scaring is a deep and lasting one, and I never tire of it."
Said I, after a minute of thought, "It is true; for I too have known that joy."
Said he, "Only those who are stuffed with straw can know it."
Then I left him, not knowing whether he had complimented or belittled me.
A year passed, during which the scarecrow turned philosopher.
And when I passed by him again, I saw two crows
building a nest under his hat.

Write on,

Cindi Reiss

PWC Board Election Slate

It's that time of year again! The board member election will take place at our October meeting; please review the slate for the 2026–2027 year:

- President - Cindi Reiss
- Vice President - Tamara Santley
- Treasurer - Navissa Kaiser
- Secretary - beth Johnson

If you're interested in running for office or volunteering for a non-voting position {e.g., newsletter editor (D'Anne is asking for a replacement), website, social media, etc.}, please contact Ilsa at ilsamanningwrites@gmail.com.

PWC September 2026 Meeting Minutes

Location: North Mountain Visitor Center, September 19, 12950 North 7th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85022

Minutes submitted by beth Johnson

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

Attendees: 34 + guest speaker

PWC President Cindi R:

First time PWC meeting at North Mountain Visitor Center. PLEASE submit your RSVP for meeting BY Tuesday before the meeting so we can respond to facility requirements.

Introduced guests and new members: Olivia Callens-Aupperle, Patsy Tobis, Lara Bagwell, Karen Shell, Ed Duvall, Sarah Cranmer, Pam Vap, Duann Black, Jim Veindeffer

Blue Guitar Festival of the Arts, co-hosted by PWC, Sun, Nov 8, 2026, 11 am – 3 pm. Desert Ridge Marketplace. PWC 2026 Contest Winners will read their winning entries (1:00-2:00). PWC authors are welcome to display their books but NO selling, Desert Ridge requirement.

PWC Officer Voting: Slate of officers to be voted on at Oct mtg. President-Cindi Reiss; Vice-president Tamara Santley; Treasurer-Navissa Kaiser; Secretary-beth Johnson

Newsletter Editor & Critique Group Leader D'Anne P:

PWC Critique Group: meets 2nd and 4th Fridays of month. Details on PWC website

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

PWC Newsletter: seeking a volunteer to become the new PWC newsletter editor. See D'Anne for details.

Substack Update Eric M:

PWC Desert Willow on Substack – Literary magazine launched in 2025 to give PWC members a place to publish their work. **PLEASE SUBMIT writings by October 31, 2026.** Accepting fiction, non-fiction, poetry, art <https://phoenixwritersclub.substack.com/>. Details for submissions at <https://phoenixwritersclub.substack.com/about>.

PLEASE subscribe. Now at 50 subscribers and 200 reads per article.

PWC Website: AI Claude likes the PWC website, and PWC website is now an “authoritative site.” <https://phoenixwritersclub.com/>

PWC 100th Anniversary Celebration Update, Cindi R:

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

Date: Nov 12, 2026, 4 pm to 7 pm

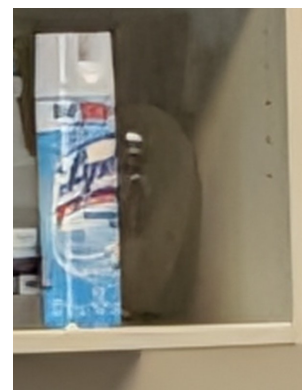
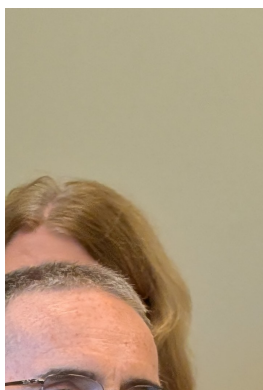
Guest Speaker: Alberto Rios, Inaugural Poet Laureate of Arizona (<https://poets.org/poet/alberto-rios>)

Tickets: available on Eventbrite (<https://phoenixwritersclub.com/100party/>)

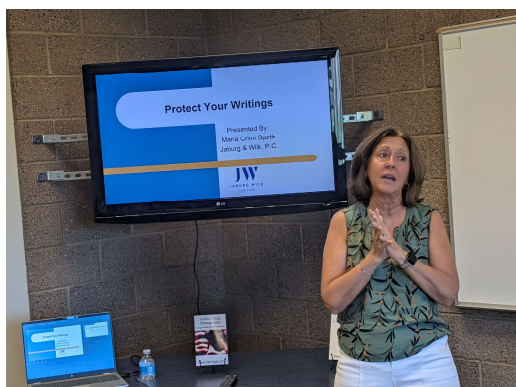
Save the Date PWC Centennial flyer completed and posted to PWC and PWC Facebook. Copies handed out at the meeting.

Sponsorships: local businesses/ authors /business cards may be printed in the PWC Centennial program. Contact Cindi if you want an ad included.

Volunteers: Needed for set up and clean up.



Speaker: Maria Crimi Speth



Shareholder in law firm of Jaburg & Wilk, P.C., practices in the areas of intellectual property, technology, and commercial litigation, representing clients and serving as a neutral.

Author of: *Protect Your Writings: A Legal Guide for Authors* and *Protect Your Photographs: A Legal Guide for Photographers*

Maria has practiced trademark law for 38 years. She's represented many authors whose work has been stolen.

Following are highlights from Maria's talk. For specifics, refer to her books or contact her for a consultation.

Trademark

- Protects original expression of idea (book, poem, song, art, sculpture)
- Use a search engine to check for your proposed book title, pen name, domain name etc.
- US Patent & Trademark Office <https://www.uspto.gov/>
- Trademark name and Copyright content.
- PWC Critique Group – recommend having a published confidentiality policy at minimum; a signed Confidentiality letter by each participant is better.

Copyright

- SAMPLE copyright - - - © 2005, 2026 Jaburg & Wolk P.C.
- Creator owns copyright at creation. Does not matter who paid for writing, poem, story, photo, book design etc.
- Owner of Copyright benefits: Copy, Distribute, Create derivative work.
- Only human beings (NOT AI) can own copyright.
- Universities own all works created by their employees.
- Costume designer owns Copyright to their costumes.
- Logos: recommend Trademark and Register Copyright.
- Book Cover Designs: Copyright of cover design belongs to whoever created the design, even if you paid for it.

- Co-Author: Not a fan. If done, get a written agreement. If no written agreement, either co-author can do whatever they want to product without agreement from other co-author.
- Copyright lasts author's life + 70 years.
- After copyright expires, work enters PUBLIC DOMAIN.
- Recommendation: Don't copy from Internet source = NOT FAIR USE.

Register your Copyright

- Copyright is automatic at creation but REGISTERING copyright is not.
- Can register yourself online.
- Copyright Registration: <https://www.copyright.gov/registration/>
- Copyright establishes Proof of ownership/statutory damages/attorney fees.
- Register your copyright BEFORE sharing your work (writing, poem, play, song, photo, etc)
- Can register after work is published or when work is in draft.
- Attorney can stop theft of your work IF your copyright is registered.
- Recommend getting letter of agreement
- Cost \$45 – \$65 to register.
- Writing Memoir? Consult with attorney about issues to family members of privacy, publicity, defamation, children, etc.
- Song Lyrics – don't use song lyrics in your writing WITHOUT artist permission

Publishing Agreement

- Never transfer copyright of your work to a publisher.
- ONLY agree to publishing rights.
- Have attorney review publishing contract BEFORE signing.

Scams: Lots of scams. Check physical address of query.

AI

- Use AI for ideas but write your own words.
- Legal question not settled yet on whether AI can be a co-author.
- Copyright Office guidance on AI is constantly shifting.

PWC Wanted Ads

If you have a writing 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 section.

PWC Critique Writing Group

Our critique workshop meets via Zoom every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, from 6:00-8:00. Note that for November and December, we meet only on the 2nd Friday. 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

Accepting Submissions by October 31, 2026, for Volume 4: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, art. Details available at: <https://phoenixwritersclub.substack.com/about>.

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>

PWC Website

Visit the PWC 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."

<https://phoenixwritersclub.com>

Member News

New Books – available on Amazon



<i>Masks of Silence: A Gripping Story of Seduction, Control, and a Woman's Fight to Survive</i>	<i>Abduction, A Financial Thriller</i>	<i>The Intrigants: The Cleaner</i>	<i>Lizzie's Oath (Roots of Resilience Book 2)</i>	<i>The Million Dollar Educations: Lessons in Life, Resilience, and Growing Up</i>
Karen (AK) Logan	Rick Lindstrom	Jeff Callan	Diane Wahn Shotton	Mark Prior
	His final thriller.	The book is the basis for "The Cleaner" 8-episode dramatic podcast.		The most valuable degrees aren't printed on paper—they're written on our hearts!

Mark Prior

After years spent in the tech industry as a software developer, I've taken on a new chapter as a full-time author and storyteller. Today, I'm thrilled to share my book: *The Million Dollar Educations: Lessons in Life, Resilience, and Growing Up*.

It is a collection of real-life short stories ranging from my father's quiet strength flying a Navy bomber in WWII to lessons in adventure, humor, and personal resilience. To bring these memories to life, I illustrated the book with over 50 old photographs and images created with assistance from AI (Gemini).

Whether you're drawn to WWII history, non-fiction storytelling, or stories about the lessons that shape us, I hope this book resonates with you.

Preview sample stories: <https://www.markpriorauthor.com>

Available in eBook & Paperback on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/author/markpriorauthor>

I'd love to connect: What's a non-traditional "education" or life lesson that stayed with you long after your formal schooling ended?

#AuthorLife #Storytelling #WWIIHistory #Memoir #Books #LifeLessons

Writer/Author/Speaker/Storyteller

www.markpriorauthor.com, markprior123@gmail.com, www.markpriorauthor.com/about

Upcoming Writing Events

Writing in Real in the Desert

January 15-17

Lodge on the Desert, Tucson

Sheila Bender, Meg Files, and Jack Heffron have taught 19 workshops together, and now they're getting back together again. More information: megfiles@earthlink.net and the attached flyer, Writing it Real.pdf.

Blue Guitar Festival

November 8, 11:00-3:00, PWC members' readings: 1:00-2:00

Desert Ridge Marketplace. <https://shopdesertridge.com/about/>

Join us at the annual Blue Guitar Festival as we partner with AZ Consortium for the Arts for a creative, fun day! Our PWC Centennial Year Founders Contest winners will be reading; Bobbie Bennett will present our history in skit form, and more. Our authors are welcome to advertise their books, though no sales are allowed, per Desert Ridge rules.

Our writers are multi-talented, and if you sing, dance, play an instrument, etc., and would like to share with us that day, or you would like to volunteer to help with setup, manning the table, etc., please contact Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com



Friends with Pens

1st Thursday of the month at 9:30 am

Noley's Books Art and Whatnot

103 AZ-260, Payson 85541

All welcome. Thank you, Bobbie Bennett, for bringing this to our attention.

So, You Think You Know English

Powerful English Words

How many English words do you know that elicit strength or power? Here's a list of 250 powerful words to propel your characters' conflicts to another level.

https://www.proofreadingservices.com/pages/words-that-sound-powerful?srsId=AU7gw4VcX6kqcwL_9mjf7AKzMnqOSLqc1mM8HKBqqQYsjc2JhtSk-SV

by Proofreadingservices.com (no author listed)

Upcoming Book Fairs

Readers of the Valley

October 4, 2026
Bellair Golf Club
17233 N 45th Ave, Glendale
<https://www.bookishbeccaco.com/collections/bookish-events>

Desert Foothills Book Festival

October 17, 2026
10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Holland Center, Scottsdale

Member and author, Earl Llewellyn Goldmann, passed away July 17th, 2026. He partnered with his wife, author Patricia L. Brooks, in their writing world for the past 25 years. Patricia will participate with her books, and Earl's. The books will sell for cost plus shipping or \$10.00 each. Patricia will be ready to greet you. Earl's spirit will be there too. info@brooksgoldmannpublishing.com and www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com

Phoenix Local Author Fair

November 7, 2026
11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Burton Barr Central Library
1221 N. Central Ave, Phoenix
PWC members Diane Shotton and Deborah Partington invited to table at event.

Readers of the Valley

November 8, 2026
Bellair Golf Club
17233 N 45th Ave, Glendale
<https://www.bookishbeccaco.com/collections/bookish-events>

Writing Contests

15th Annual Tucson Festival of Books Literary Awards Competition

The 2027 Tucson Festival of Books Literary Awards is accepting fiction, nonfiction and poetry entries in a writing competition offering more than \$5,000 in prize money. First- through third-place winners also earn scholarships to the 2-day Masters Workshop that follows the March 13-14, 2027, festival. There, they will work with a faculty of distinguished U.S. writers. Deadline for submissions is Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026.

Enter at tucsonfestivalofbooks.org. For more information: masters@tucsonfestivalofbooks.org

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. 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).

PWC Centennial Celebration Donations

If you would like to donate your book to the Phoenix Writers Club Centennial celebration on November 12, at the North Mountain Visitor Center, please bring a copy to our next meeting on October 17. We'll use your book as a table decoration and a great conversation starter for our guests. Please leave your book unwrapped. We'd love for people to see the book cover along with your name. You may add a bow or extra "bling" if you'd like.

If you are unable to attend our next monthly meeting but would still like your book to be a part of the Centennial, please contact either Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com or Tamara Santley at tamsantley@yahoo.com, and we will pick it up. We are also looking for tablecloths that fit round tables seating 7 for our party; if you have any, please contact us. Thank you in advance to all PWC members for making our Centennial a success.

Writers Inspiration Group (WIG)

WIG is a writing prompt group that meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 3:00-4:30 pm via Zoom. The group is based on Natalie Goldberg's book *Writing Down the Bones*. Natalie says that, like 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 judgment and delighting in the company of fellow writers. Wherever you are in your writing journey, you're welcome. 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 Contacts

President/Membership	Cindi Reiss	writeoncindi@gmail.com
Vice President	Election pending	
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/	

Local Writing Clubs

PWC may be the longest running Arizona writing club; however, there are others in the area you might also 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/>

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 Wahn Shotton	Website	https://dianewahnshotton.com/
Mark D Walker	Substack	https://tinyurl.com/mrrmz6j2
Trudy Wells-Meyer	Website	www.trudywells-meyer.com