

# The Quill

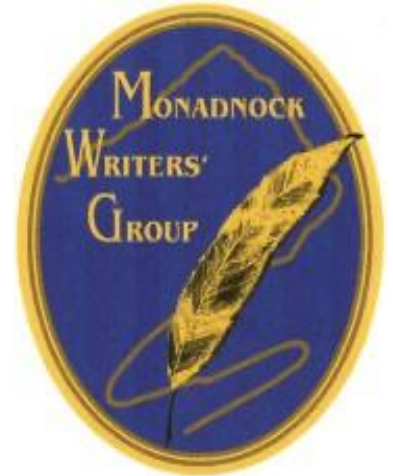
The Monthly Newsletter of the Monadnock Writers' Group

June 1, 2026

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Contact us at: [monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@gmail.com) or  
P.O. Box 3071,  
Peterborough, NH 03458

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## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

MWG meets monthly, usually on the third Saturday at 9:45 – 11:45, from September through June. Eight of these meetings feature an invited speaker who is a prominent writer, editor or publisher. The meetings also include time for meeting other members, announcements on workshops and other events of interest to writers, and ten minutes for a reading by an MWG member. Two meetings each year are devoted to readings by members.

**JUNE 20 – Lorraine Ash:** Lorraine's journalistic life led her to the White House,



homeless shelters, disaster zones, psychiatric wards, forests, caves, and castles. Ash has interviewed astronauts, Olympians, economic gurus, politicians, doctors, artists and, perhaps most importantly, ordinary people. Her articles, which won twenty-six writing awards over the years, appeared in newspapers nationwide. A love of American history led to penning three historical plays about American presidents— *Tyler*, *Monroe*, and *Jackson*—published by The History Project. Ash has produced numerous short stories and essays for literary journals and anthologies. Her memoir, *Life Touches Life: A Mother's Story of Stillbirth and Healing* (New Sage Press), reached stillbirth mothers in six continents. She has worked one-on-one with more than sixty writers to either ghostwrite, edit, or coach their book manuscripts into existence. See the notice in this issue of *The Quill* about her workshop in Peterborough on June 18-19.

**JUNE 20 – MWG Annual meeting:** Concurrent with the general meeting on June 20, will be the official annual meeting of the Monadnock Writers' Group. Our only business will be electing Board members and officers. The 3-year term of office for some current Board members is expiring. We especially need someone willing to serve as Treasurer. If you have any interest in joining the Board or wish to know more about it, send a message to [monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@gmail.com).

**SEPTEMBER 19 – MacDowell:** Our September meeting kicks off a new program year, tentatively planned for the James Baldwin Library at MacDowell in Peterborough. We hope to hear from two of the MacDowell Fellows as we normally do in September. The artistic vision and writing talent of the Fellows who have addressed us before have always been inspiring to our members.

## **POETRY WITH PURPOSE: A CONTEST**

The Monadnock Writers' Group, in collaboration with the Crotched Mountain Foundation, seeks an original poem to honor the memory of people with disabilities and those who have served them. The winning entry will be permanently installed in the Memorial Garden located at the base of the accessible trails on Crotched Mountain. The trails leading from the Memorial Garden include a boardwalk through woods and wetland as well as a gentle climb to views of seasonal flowering fields and distant mountains.

The Crotched Mountain Foundation ([cmf.org](http://cmf.org)) works toward the goal of helping children, students, and adults with disabilities to live, learn, and thrive in the community. Their programs include Crotched Mountain Community Care case management services for seniors and adults with disabilities, chronic illness, and needs related to aging throughout New Hampshire, community-based residential living options, innovative day programming for people with disabilities, affordable HUD housing for adults, accessible hiking trails, and CMF Kids, which supports community-based special education programming in local school districts.

## Submission requirements

The poetry entries must:

- honor the memory of people with disabilities and those who have served them,
- be 12-18 lines in length,
- be unpublished,
- be submitted by the author,
- limited to one submission per poet,
- include the author's name and contact information, and
- use disability-sensitive language.

The contest is open to poets, regardless of membership in MWG.

Guidance on writing about people with disabilities is available from the Americans with Disabilities Act National Network.

[https://adata.org/sites/adata.org/files/files/Writing%20about%20People%20with%20Disabilities%2C%20final%202018\(2\).pdf](https://adata.org/sites/adata.org/files/files/Writing%20about%20People%20with%20Disabilities%2C%20final%202018(2).pdf)

## Selecting the winning poem

The judge for this contest is Henry Walters. His poems, translations, reviews, and essays have appeared in periodicals such as *The Threepenny Review*, *The Yale Review*, *Orion*, *Literary Imagination*, and *New Letters*. His first book was a finalist for the 2016 Kate Tufts Discovery Award; his second was a finalist for the Anthony Hecht Poetry Prize. He lives in New Hampshire with his young family, a hive of bees, and a hawk.



Henry is not a member of the Monadnock Writers' Group and he will not be given any information about the poets making submissions.

## Submission process

- Entries must be sent to:  
Monadnock Writers' Group  
PO Box 3071  
Peterborough NH 03458  
or to  
[monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@gmail.com)
- Entries must be received by the Monadnock Writers' Group no later than July 11, 2026. The winner will be announced on July 25, 2026.
- There is no entry fee.
- Please send any questions you have about the contest to:  
[monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@gmail.com).

## RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

**The Power of Place: A Memoir Writing Workshop:** Lorraine Ash (the MWG speaker on June 20) will lead this workshop on June 18 -19 at Peterborough Town Library, based on how place and identity are inextricably linked. Using a personal map-drawing technique, prompts, and literary examples, participants will explore and connect personal stories evoked by the streets, landscapes, and neighborhoods they have inhabited. They will produce new, stand-alone pieces or devise augmented segments for larger works already underway.

- Tuition cost: \$225
- Maximum number of participants: 20
- Register at: <http://lorraineash.com/events.php>
- For more information send an email to MWG Board member Mary Marchese at [maryfm94@gmail.com](mailto:maryfm94@gmail.com).

## Free publications for writers

**210 page guide to building a writing career:** Tools, strategies, and resources for getting published, finding readers, and establishing your reputation. By signing up, you will also receive a weekly email newsletter with publishing opportunities.

<https://authorspublish.com/books/submit-publish-repeat-2026/>

**Listing of literary magazines and website for memoir:** These literary magazines and websites accept submissions of short memoir. They also accept other forms of creative nonfiction, and many also accept other genres, like fiction and poetry. A few of them pay. Most, but not all, are open for submissions now.

<https://authorspublish.com/15-literary-magazines-publishing-memoir/>

**Descriptions of magazines publishing creative nonfiction:** See [this list](#) of magazines publishing creative nonfiction.

**Reviews of publishers handling books for children:** This article gives a brief review of 49 traditional publishers, each with a link to a review of the company. At the end of this article, publishers who are especially open to direct submissions from writers from historically underrepresented communities are listed.

<https://authorspublish.com/49-traditional-childrens-book-publishers-seeking-submissions-no-agent-required/>

**Publication identifying journals with fast response times:**

<https://authorspublish.com/28-journals-with-fast-response-times/>

## The Poetry Place

Brian Evans-Jones (the MWG speaker last April) provides articles on form, technique, creativity, and the drafting process, that give you the benefit of his experience in ways that you can understand and really use in your poetry, including



- Poetic Form and Technique,
- Creativity for Poetry,
- Mastering Your Drafting, and
- Publishing Your Poems.

Start with *8 Steps to Better Poems* available with other free poetry learning resources at [The Poetry Place](#).

## About Monadnock Writers' Group

Since 1984, the MWG has provided community, inspiration, and support to the writers of the Monadnock region. All are welcome! Our membership includes writers of every variety: from poets to journalists, from mystery writers to playwrights, and from career writers to those just getting started. We meet on the third Saturday morning of each month, September through June, at the Peterborough Town Library, unless otherwise noted. Monthly meetings start at 9:45 a.m. and go to about 11:30 a.m., but times can vary. Meetings include a 15-minute meet-and-greet, announcements, a ten-minute reading from a member, and a main speaker sharing professional writing experience and answering questions. Coffee and light refreshments are provided. Our monthly Speaker Series is open to the public and free of charge. Our speakers are instructive and inspirational for writers of all literary forms, genres, and levels of experience.

Website: [www.monadnockwriters.org](http://www.monadnockwriters.org)

Email: [monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@gmail.com)

**Submit your bio as a member of MWG.** Are you a member? If you would like your bio added to the [About Our Members](#) page on the MWG website, please send it to Mary Marchese at [mwgwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:mwgwebmaster@gmail.com). Bio: Maximum 200 words, 3rd person, feel free to include links to your website, most recent publication, or listing on Amazon, and social media.

**Volunteer!** If you would be interested in joining the MWG Board, being our ten-minute reader or have ideas for speakers or events, please let us know at [monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@gmail.com).

**Send your writing news or announcements to The Quill.** If you would like to submit to our monthly newsletter, please contact [mwg.quill@gmail.com](mailto:mwg.quill@gmail.com) at least a week before the end of the month. Individual members are encouraged to announce their own projects such as workshops, social gatherings, group support sessions, or whatever the writing-related endeavor. Feel free to take the floor at the monthly meeting, or contact the newsletter editor at [mwg.quill@gmail.com](mailto:mwg.quill@gmail.com) to send an announcement to the membership in the monthly newsletter.

Membership fees for one year are as follows:

Regular - \$30                                      Student/Senior - \$25

Patron - \$50                                        Benefactor - \$100

Corporate Sponsor - \$250

If you pay by check, please click [here](#) for a membership form that you can print. Write your check to Monadnock Writers' Group and mail it to:

Monadnock Writers' Group

P.O. Box 3071, Peterborough, NH 03458

**The MWG 2025-2026 Board of Directors** President: Jesseca Timmons; Vice President: Rodger Martin; Treasurer: Carl Mabbs-Zeno; Secretary: Susan Gebo; Members at Large: Tori Haring Smith, Maura MacNeil, Mary Marchese, Ronnie McIntire and Karen-Marie Scolforo