
The Quill

The Monthly Newsletter of the Monadnock Writers' Group
April 1, 2025

Supporting Writers Since 1984

The Monadnock Writers' Group is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.
P.O. Box 3071, Peterborough, NH 03458

www.monadnockwriters.org

www.facebook.com/groups/monadnockwriters/

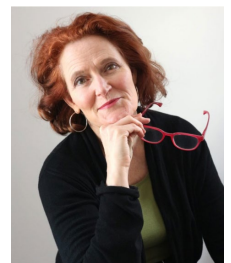
monadnockwriters@gmail.com



Welcome to the 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. For more information, please go to our website at: www.monadnockwriters.org, or join our Monadnock Writers' Group [Facebook page](#).

RECENT EVENTS

On March 15, storyteller Tricia Rose Burt of Hancock, an instructor and storytelling coach for The Moth, inspired our group talking about her life journey and new podcast, *No Time to Be Timid*. Many thanks to Tricia for making time for the MWG! You can find Tricia's work, including the *No Time to Be Timid* podcast at <https://triciaroseburt.com>. Her podcast is available at Apple Podcasts.



MWG NEWS

Three-Minute Fiction Contest. The Monadnock Writers' Group will hold its annual short fiction contest on Saturday, May 3, at 10:00 a.m. in the Eben Jones Classroom of the Peterborough Town Library. Competitors will read their original fiction of up to three minutes in length. Two judges from outside MWG will determine the winners. The event is open to the public. Anyone may

compete in the contest by registering at the event. There is no fee. The New Hampshire Writers Project has not announced whether it will be holding a state-wide contest this year, but if it does, the MWG contest winner will be invited to participate.

The **20th Annual MONADNOCK PASTORAL POETRY RETREAT** will be at the beautiful Barbara C. Harris Center in Greenfield, NH on April 25-April 27, 2025. Please join us for the annual gathering of the Monadnock New Pastoral Poets & Writers as they host their 20th annual weekend retreat.

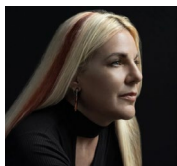


For over thirty-five years, this group of writers has gathered annually to celebrate new work and publications as the New Pastoral Poets and Writers. These award-winning writers have been anthologized in China for over two decades, including a book: *On the Monadnock: The New American Pastoral Poets* (Chinese Drama Press: Beijing, 2006). They have spent all those years staying true to language written beneath the shadow of the mountain Emerson, Thoreau and Kinnell made famous: Mount Monadnock. The weekend will be low-key, collegial, but full with small group (6 maximum) workshops (a primary workshop which meets twice and an optional single-session secondary workshop that meets once), an individual conference with mentors, readings by participants, writing time, social time, optional activities such as Saturday night acoustic folk music by Tim Mowry & Matt Harris.

The conference concludes with the 36th annual reading of mentors followed by a closing banquet. There will also be opportunities to enjoy the almost 350 acres of hiking trails at the Harris Center on Otter Lake (www.bchcenter.org). To register and for more information please go to: www.MonadnockPastoralpoets.org or e-mail rodgerwriter@myfairpoint.net or dvmulligan@gmail.org for additional details. Registration is limited to maintain small workshop size. **Deadline for registration: March 22, 2025.** (Registration is closed for overnight attendees. Day students can still attend.)

Calling ALL Writers for a FREE networking event at New Dawn Arts Center Art Gallery, 84 Main Street, Ashburnham, MA, **Tuesday, April 29th, 5:00-9:00 pm.** ALL writers are welcome, whether published or not, experienced or not, young or old, poet or essayist, novelist or someone who privately journals. Anything is welcome--the more diverse, the better! Join us for a night of networking and mingling with the New Dawn Writers Group—published poets, authors, bloggers, memoirists, etc., as well as a mix of other writer groups and writers from all over. Writers who commit to attending this event will be able to read their work aloud to the audience; sell and promote their books/chapbooks, etc.; submit a short piece of their writing of any kind (length/word count TBD) to be selected by Abigail Abbott, the Art Director and founder of New Dawn, to be printed and hung in the New Dawn Art Gallery. Everyone is welcome! Bring your friends and family. Food and drinks will be available. Please email MsMelissaDorval@gmail.com to reserve your spot or if you have any questions.

SPRING MEETING SCHEDULE



April 19: For National Poetry Month, we are delighted to welcome **New Hampshire Poet Laureate Jennifer Militello** to MWG. She is the author of the forthcoming hybrid collection *Identifying the Pathogen*, which has been named a finalist for the 2024 FC2 Ronald Sukenick Innovative Fiction Prize; poetry collection *The Pact*; the memoir *Knock Wood*, winner of the Dzanc Nonfiction Prize; and four books of poetry. Her work has appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *Best New Poets*, *American Poetry Review*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *Poetry London*, and *The Poetry Review* (UK). Militello has taught at Brown University, the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and the Rhode Island School of Design, and currently teaches in the MFA program at New England College. <https://jennifermilitello.com/>

May 17: We are scheduled to hold our May meeting at MacDowell to make up for the cancellation of the September meeting due to COVID. The speakers at the meeting will be current MacDowell artists in residence. This is always a wonderful meeting. Please stay tuned!



June 21: Member Read-Around. Please come, share your writing, and try to keep your selection to ten minutes, so everyone will have a chance to read! Our Read-Arounds are always surprising, humbling, entertaining, and inspiring. Come learn what your fellow MWG writers are working on!

July & August: No meetings.

CURRENT WRITING CONTESTS

The May Sarton New Hampshire Poetry Prize. The May Sarton New Hampshire Poetry Prize is named for May Sarton, the renowned novelist, memoirist, poet, and feminist (1912-1995) who lived for many years in Nelson, New Hampshire, not far from Peterborough, home of William L. Bauhan Publishing. In 1967, she approached Bauhan and asked him to publish her book of poetry, *As Does New Hampshire*. She wrote the collection to celebrate the bicentennial of Nelson and dedicated it to the residents of the town. The annual poetry prize contest is open now. <https://bauhanpublishing.com/may-sarton-prize/>.

The **Ploughshares Emerging Writers Contest 2025** is open until May 15. Since 1971, Ploughshares has been committed to promoting the work of up-and-coming writers. Over the years, Ploughshares has helped launch the careers of great writers like Edward P. Jones, Sue Miller, Mona Simpson, Tim O'Brien, and many more. In the spirit of the journal's founding mission, the Ploughshares Emerging Writer's Contest recognizes work by an emerging writer in each of three genres: fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. We consider authors "emerging" if they haven't published or self-published a book in any genre. One winner in each genre per year will receive \$2,000 and

publication in the literary journal. The winners will also receive a conversation with our partnering literary agency, Aevitas Creative Management, regarding their work and writing careers. <https://pshares.org/submit/emerging-writers-contest/>.

The Reedsy Prompts Contest. Reedsy, a comprehensive online resource for writers, runs daily writing prompt and other contests, including fiction and short stories. Every Friday, Reedsy sends out five writing prompts. Enter your response within a week for a chance at \$250. Winners may also be included in a future issue of Reedsy's literary magazine, *Prompted*. <https://blog.reedsy.com/creative-writing-prompts/contests/>.

Blue Pencil Agency First Novel Award 2025 . Blue Pencil Agency, a British literary agency, hosts a contest for a first novel. The award is open to unrepresented and unpublished authors for a novel in any adult fiction genre. It includes a sample of the opening chapters and a synopsis. The judges include Samuel Burr and two literary agents, Hellie and Suzannah Ball. For more information and details go to: <https://bluepencilagency.com/bpa-first-novel-award-2025/>.

The Raven Short Story Contest from Pulp Literature Press. The Raven Short Story Contest invites submissions of previously unpublished short fiction between 250 to 2500 words. The contest is judged by Kelly Robson, a renowned author. *We Pulp Literature* editors collect stories like ravens in the woods, swooping down on what catches our eye and bringing the treasures — sometimes sparkling, sometimes grisly, but always fascinating — home to our nests. Show us your most scintillating treasures in the form of short fiction up to 2500 words in length and you could be the one bringing home \$300 to line your nest! Contest opens September 1. <https://pulpliterature.com/contests/the-raven-short-story-contest/>.



Minds Shine Bright Places Writing Competition. Minds Shine Bright is a publisher and arts business based in Melbourne, Australia that supports the arts and writers. The Places Writing Competition invites stories and poems about places that inspire or challenge writers. It includes various categories such as poetry, short stories, and flash fiction, and aims to highlight the significance of places in literature. <https://mindsshinebright.com/writing-competitions/>.

The Masters Review Debut Fiction Prize closes on April 6. Their Summer Short Story contest is opens July 1. New Voices is open year-round for short story collections. Founded by Kim Winternheimer in 2011, *The Masters Review* is an online and print publication celebrating new and emerging writers. We are on the lookout for the best new talent with hopes of publishing stories from writers who will continue to produce great work. We offer critical essays, book reviews by debut authors, contest deadlines, submissions info, and interviews with established authors, all with the hopes of bridging the gap between new and established writers. <https://mastersreview.com/submissions/#contest>.

The Masters Review
A PLATFORM FOR EMERGING WRITERS



MacDowell Downtown is a free series of presentations by MacDowell Fellows that are open to the public. It takes place on the first Friday of the month from March to November in downtown Peterborough, NH. Each season of MacDowell Downtown features a wide array of programming, including film screenings, readings, artist talks, interviews, musical performances, and more. The series launches for the season on Friday, March 7. The presenters for April 4 are Jeanine Tesori and Lisa Kron.



<https://www.macdowell.org/events/2025-macdowell-downtown>

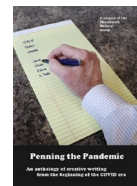
MWG PUBLICATIONS

The *Smoky Quartz Tenth Anniversary Anthology* features the work of writers and artists with ties to New Hampshire. The theme of the anthology is *Transformations*. This print edition celebrates the ten-year anniversary of *Smoky Quartz*. The 168-page paperback contains 77 poems, 6 stories, and 24 color images of artwork. The cover art is by Barbara Danser. Price: \$20.00 The Anthology is available at MWG meetings, can be ordered through the Toadstool Bookshop, or by emailing mwgsmyquartz@gmail.com.

The Mud Chronicles. Experiences of New Hampshire's "fifth season" highlight this anthology, showing how much landscape and seasonal cues matter to our contributors. You can find copies at the Toadstool Bookshop in Peterborough or contact monadnockwriters@gmail.com for a discounted price. <https://monadnockwriters.org/publications-2/the-mud-chronicles>.



Penning the Pandemic. The creative writing in this volume shares the shock, the anguish, the courage, and the resilience of humanity in extraordinary times. After science and politics have had their say, art is left to record what the survivors felt and what they learned at heart. To purchase a copy, please email the MWG at: monadnockwriters@gmail.com.



ALL ABOUT MWG

- **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. Maximum 200 words, written in third person, and feel free to include links to your website, most recent publication, listing on Amazon, and social media.
- **Volunteer!** If you would be interested in bringing refreshments, being our ten-minute reader or have ideas for speakers or events, please let us know at monadnockwriters@gmail.com.
- **Send your writing news or announcements to The Quill.** If you would like to submit to our monthly newsletter, please contact Jess at mwg.quill@gmail.com at least a week before the end of the month. As a member, you may include your author events and announcements.

- **Who are we at MWG?** Established in 1984, the primary mission of the Monadnock Writers' Group is to offer fellowship and support to professional writers and to those actively engaged in developing their writing skills. To learn more: www.monadnockwriters.org/about-us
- **Please explore MWG online.** Visit our website, www.monadnockwriters.org, for news, member profiles, speakers series information, contests, publications, and more. Find us on Facebook under Monadnock Writers' Group: www.facebook.com/groups/monadnockwriters/
- **Monadnock Writers' Group membership information:**
 - Membership period runs September through June. Annual membership fees are \$30, or \$25 for students and seniors, \$50 for Patrons, \$100 for Benefactor, and \$250 for a Corporate membership.
 - 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 to send an announcement to the membership in the monthly newsletter.
 - Bring a friend to one of our monthly meetings, and if they join MWG, you will receive a \$20 gift certificate for the Toadstool Bookshop!
 - See the full list of membership benefits here: www.monadnockwriters.org/membership

The MWG 2024-2025 Board of Directors

President: Jesseca Timmons

Vice President: Rodger Martin

Treasurer: Carl Mabbs-Zeno

Secretary: Susan Gebo

Members at Large: Deni Dickler, Tori Haring-Smith, Maura MacNeil, Mary Marchese, Ronnie McIntire

Emerita: Ann Day.