

The Quill

The Monthly Newsletter of the Monadnock Writers' Group

November 1, 2025

Supporting Writers Since 1984

The Monadnock Writers' Group is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

PO 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.

MWG NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer Opportunity with *Smoky Quartz Online Journal of Literature and Art*. *Smoky Quartz, An Online Journal of Literature and Art*, published by the Monadnock Writers' Group (MWG), is looking for a **volunteer manager/coordinator to join our small team of editors**. We currently publish one issue a year. In this role, you'll support the editorial team by setting up and leading meetings, assisting the submissions manager, publicizing and promoting the journal, and coordinating with the production editor. **You'll also have the option to participate in the submissions review and selection if you wish.** Support local writers and bring your gifts and skills to our friendly online gatherings. **Training is available.** Please contact us at mwgsmyquartz@gmail.com for more information.

MWG has a new Facebook Page! If you haven't already, members and the general public are welcome to check out the new MWG Facebook page, which can be found [here](#).

Holiday Market at the Peterborough Night Market. Normally held on first Fridays in the warmer months, the Peterborough Night Market will host a Holiday Market this year on November 29 at 2:00 - 7:00. MWG has reserved a table in the Peterborough Town House auditorium to sell member books. If you are a member and you have books to sell, please bring copies to the November general meeting of MWG. If this does not work, please send Carl Mabbs-Zeno an email at monadnockwriters@gmail.com to reserve a space on the table, and plan to bring the books to the Town House on November 29th. Writers who have time to assist at the table should send Carl the hours they are available.

RECENT MEETINGS

On Saturday, October 25, the Monadnock Writers' Group held its leg of the 3-Minute Fiction Slam at the Mariposa Museum in Peterborough. An impressive line-up of writers read their pieces in front of this year's judges, authors Diane V. Mulligan and Emily Robins Sharpe. Congratulations to the winners! Marc Woods of Londonderry will go on to the state finals. First runner-up was Karen-Marie Scolforo of Hillsborough, and second runner-up was Eric Notaro of Wilton. Marc will advance to the state-wide 3-Minute Fiction Slam sponsored by the NH Writers' Project. Should Marc not be able to attend, Karen-Marie would step into the spot.



On October 18, MWG welcomed David Moloney. David is the author of *Barker House*, which was critically acclaimed by Elizabeth Strout, among others. The novel's storyline revolves around correctional officers at a fictional county jail in New Hampshire. David shared stories about his own experiences, including his publication journey, the pros and cons of working with literary agents, and his thoughts about craft. David shared excerpts from his forthcoming novel, *Lion in Love*, about an extortion plot that goes wrong, due for publication in spring 2027.



David's short stories and essays have also appeared in *Guernica*, *The Yale Review*, *AGNI*, *Joyland*, *The Common*, and elsewhere. He's a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Lowell and earned his master's at the Mountainview MFA (SNHU), where he was awarded the Lynn Safford Memorial Prize for Outstanding Thesis. He now teaches and coordinates the undergraduate creative writing program at Southern New Hampshire University.

2025 FALL MEETING & SPEAKER SCHEDULE

November 15 at the Peterborough Library: Richard Adams Carey has pursued seal and walrus with Yupik Eskimo hunters; fished for lobster, shrimp, and cod off Cape Cod in the winter; ridden shotgun with Russian fisheries police in pursuit of sturgeon poachers; and reconstructed—on a moment-by-moment basis—the events of a mass shooting in a small New England town. **He is the prize-winning author of four books of literary nonfiction.** His short fiction, essays, and reviews have appeared in such places as the *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Hunger Mountain*, the *Beloit Fiction Journal*, *Harvard Magazine*, the *Massachusetts Review*, *Yankee Magazine*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. He is a former president of the New Hampshire Writers' Project, and he has taught graduate-level fiction and nonfiction at Southern New Hampshire University. His work-in-progress, a natural and social history of seals, will be published in 2027.



December 20 at the Peterborough Library: Member Read-Around. Please come, share your writing, and try to keep your selection to ten minutes so everyone will have a chance to share! We will be trying out a new format this time around, breaking participants into two groups, those who wish to receive feedback and those who prefer not to. Either way, this experience offers an opportunity to learn what your fellow MWG writers are working on. Expect to be delighted!

January through June speakers and meeting content will be announced in a later issue.

PUBLISHERS ACCEPTING UNAGENTED SUBMISSIONS

Abbeville Press will consider brief submission queries emailed to abbeville@abbeville.com. Please include the words "SUBMISSION QUERY" in the subject of your email. Due to time constraints, we may not be able to reply to every query.

Chicago Review Press is interested in publishing high-quality nonfiction that will sell year after year. We look for books with a well-defined, passionate target audience. *Chicago Review Press* and its imprints publish general nonfiction on a wide range of subjects:

- music, film, pop culture
- history
- feminism
- LGBTQ+ interest
- true crime
- outdoor and nature
- African American history and the Black experience
- parenting
- children's and YA history, science, literature, and art

Jerome Pohlen at jpohlen@chicagoreviewpress.com for popular science, DIY, US history, pop culture, and children's nonfiction activity books.

Addicus Books is seeking titles on consumer health, self-help, psychology, business, economics, investing, and books of regional interest. First, we prefer an e-mail query, letting us know what your topic is. (We publish only nonfiction.) Tell us about: the nature of your topic, your background, who the market is for your book, and how this market would be reached. *When querying by e-mail, send only a one-page e-mail, giving an overview of your book, and its market. Do not send attachments unless invited to do so.*

E-mail address for submissions: info@addicusbooks.com Book proposals should include:

- A one-page overview of the book
- Author's background/credentials
- Target completion date
- Market/audience information
- Word count/number of page

Albert Whitman & Company currently has an open submissions policy. We will read and review un-agented manuscripts and proposals for picture books, middle-grade fiction, and young adult novels. Please read the following instructions carefully. We will not review any submissions that do not follow these guidelines. You may send your work to other publishers at the same time. We do not require exclusive submissions.

Send to submissions@albertwhitman.com

- Include a cover letter in the body of your email (please see individual category guidelines for cover letter tips)
- Include contact information with phone number
- Attach manuscripts as WORD documents (preferred) or PDFs. File sizes cannot be larger than 4MB.
- Subject line must be formatted according to individual category guidelines. Emails that do not use the subject line formatting may not be read.

Annick Press is currently accepting submissions of picture books, early chapter books, middle grade fiction, YA fiction, graphic novels, and non-fiction for kids of all ages. We also encourage illustrators to submit their portfolios for consideration. Our books aim to empower readers, open minds, and create a lifelong love of reading. They feature contemporary themes (even if the setting is historical) and center kids' perspectives and experiences. We are committed to publishing diverse authors and illustrators. In considering submissions, we prioritize creators whose perspectives have historically been excluded from children's publishing. This includes but is not limited to LGBTQ2SIA+ creators, Black creators, Indigenous creators, creators of color, creators living with disabilities, and anyone living at the intersections of these identities. Click here to read about our [Editorial Mentorship Program](#) for writers. Submit to submissions@annickpress.com.

Alcove Press is accepting submissions via [QueryTracker](#). Due to the large volume of submissions we receive, we cannot respond to every query. We will contact you within two weeks if we are interested in reading further. What we're looking for:

- Action/Adventure
- Book Club
- Commercial
- Apocalyptic/Post-Apocalyptic
- Chick Lit
- Contemporary
- Coming Of Age
- Cozy

- Dystopian
- Enemies To Lovers
- Fairy Tales & Folk Tales
- Fake Dating
- Family Life
- Family Saga
- Fantasy
 - Magical Realism
 - Urban
- Friends To Lovers
- Ghost
- Gothic
- Historical
- Holidays
- Horror
- LGBTQ+
- Literary
- Love Triangle
- Multicultural
- Myths & Legends
- New Adult
- Occult & Supernatural
- Reading Group
- Retellings
- Romance
 - Category
 - Contemporary
 - Historical
 - Paranormal
 - Thriller/Suspense
- Romantasy
- Romantic Comedy/Rom Com
- Science Fiction
- Small Town/Rural
- Southern
- Speculative
- Suburban
- Time Travel
- Upmarket
- Western
- Women's Fiction
- Workplace Romance
- Young Adult Fantasy

***Bancroft Press* is accepting submissions via email:** bruceb@bancroftpress.com or by use of the submission form below. Please mark your submission appropriately in the subject field: Non-Fiction or Fiction. Please be sure to include your email address so we can contact you when the manuscript has been received.

***Beacon Press* is accepting submissions.** If you would like Beacon Press (beacon.org) to consider your work, first familiarize yourself with our mission statement and our publications. Please note that we are not accepting submissions for new poetry, fiction, or self-help books at this time and will not review, respond to, or return submissions of this type. Please also note that our publishing mission is currently general trade; some of our publications are trade books with an additional scholarly market, but we are not currently accepting submissions for purely academic projects. If you believe your work would be a good fit for our list, please email a 250-word query describing your proposal to editorial@beacon.org. If we are interested in receiving a full proposal, we will email you within three weeks.

***Breakaway Books* publishes literary and thoughtful writing on sports — fiction, poetry, and essays on the athletic experience.** We are interested in the emotional and metaphysical side of sports, the inner life of the athlete. We also celebrate the many ways sport can serve as muse for excellent writing — both serious and playful. We also have a separate list of boatbuilding and boating books, with a soft spot for small craft, mostly paddle and sail. If you wish to submit writing to us for possible publication, please send a query letter first. Our e-mail address is [breakawaybooks](mailto:breakawaybooks@gmail.com) (type in the "at" symbol here) gmail.com

***Chelsea Green* (chelseagreen.com) publishes books by authors who bring in-depth, practical knowledge to life** and give readers hands-on information related to organic and regenerative farming and gardening, ecology and the environment, healthy food, local economies and resilient communities, and integrative health and wellness.

Before you submit a query or proposal, please browse our website, look closely at our titles to see the kinds of books we publish, and carefully review our submission guidelines.

Chickadee Prince is accepting submissions. Thank you for your interest in submitting your manuscript to Chickadee Prince Books via Measure Media, its management company. We are an independent publishing house focused on delivering high-quality fiction (through our Chickadee Prince imprint) and nonfiction (through our Measure Publishing imprint) to readers worldwide. We accept general trade adult and young adult (YA) fiction and nonfiction submissions. (measurepub.com for guidelines).

Chronicle Books is accepting submissions. See chroniclebooks.com.

Crooked Lane Books accepts both agented and unagented submissions. Founded in 2014 to publish the highest quality crime fiction titles in both print and electronic editions. Please familiarize yourself with our line of books and our editorial team before submitting your query letter. Guidelines:

- We publish novels and an occasional short story collection.
- We do not publish individual short stories, novellas, or essay collections. We do not consider previously published novels. Additionally, we aren't likely to consider books in a series where earlier books in the series were self-published without significant sales.
- Word count should be between 60,000 and 100,000 words.
- Please send your submission to us through QueryTracker.
- Due to the volume of submissions received, we are unfortunately unable to respond to all queries. We will contact you within two weeks if we are interested in reading further.

At Ellysian Press we believe that our passion for books is a necessary element in our publishing process. We love stories, we love characters, and we love their creators. We are always looking for fresh voices and unique ideas. *Ellysian Press* is committed to producing quality books with engaging stories and believable characters. We provide personal attention to our authors, guide the author through the publishing process and encourage communication between our authors and staff. We provide excellent editing, quality covers and assistance with marketing so that each author receives the support he or she needs in an ever-changing industry. We are currently accepting submissions of full-length novels in the genres listed below. Novels must have a minimum word count of 60,000 and a maximum word count of 110,000 to be considered. All manuscripts must be complete and new material. We accept online submissions only.

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit a query letter, a synopsis and the first ten pages of your manuscript in the body of your email. We do not open attachments in the query. The subject line should be as follows:

QUERY – Your Last Name, TITLE, Genre.

We are currently accepting the following genres only:

Fantasy

Science Fiction

Paranormal
Paranormal Romance
Horror

Young Adult in the above genres (No
children's books, please)

Please do not submit queries for any genres not listed above. You may email queries to [submissions\(at\)ellysianpress\(dot\)com](mailto:submissions(at)ellysianpress(dot)com).

***Hard Case Crime* is accepting submissions.** Please query editor@hardcasecrime.com

***Joffe Books* is one of the UK's leading independent publishers of excellent commercial fiction**, especially crime and mystery fiction. We are renowned for working closely with authors from across the world to create fantastic books and turning them into bestsellers. We accept submissions from agents, previously published authors (including self-published authors) with long backlists, first-time writers with only one book under their belt, and anyone in between. We pride ourselves on the passion and dedication we pour into each and every book. Please include in an email to submissions@joffebooks.com

1. Your full-length book (minimum 60,000-word count) attached as a .pdf or Word .doc (Word .doc preferred).
2. A 3-paragraph synopsis in the body of the email, including what genre you see your book belonging in.
3. 100 words about yourself in the body of the email.
4. The following must be included in the subject line of the email: your name and book genre and the word submission. For example: John Smith psychological thriller submission. If these are not included it won't reach the right people.
5. Please let us know where you heard about Joffe Books.

***McFarland Books* is accepting submissions from both authors and literary agents.** The simplest, fastest way to contact us is by email at proposals@mcfarlandpub.com so that it is expedited into our proposal evaluation process. If you do mark your submission to the attention of a specific editor, please do not submit it to more than one.

Our editors attend numerous academic conferences each year. If you and McFarland are both attending the same conference, you are invited to meet with an editor. You can schedule an appointment by emailing us in advance (email proposals@mcfarlandpub.com), or you can stop by the McFarland booth in the conference's exhibit hall for a casual conversation with an editor.

***Graywolf Press* is accepting submissions for Poetry.** Graywolf Press partners with the Academy of American Poets and Cave Canem to publish and promote the work of new and emerging writers.

Walt Whitman Award

The *Walt Whitman Award* is a \$5,000 first book publication prize given to an American poet. In addition to publication and promotion by Graywolf Press, the winner receives an all-expenses-paid six-week residency at the Civitella Ranieri Center in Umbria, Italy, and a trip to New York City to attend the American Poets Prizes ceremony. The Academy of American Poets purchases

copies of the winning book to distribute to thousands of its members. For more information please visit the [Academy of American Poets](#) website.

Cave Canem Poetry Prize

Graywolf Press is one of the publishers of the *Cave Canem Poetry Prize*, a first book award dedicated to the discovery of exceptional manuscripts by African American poets. Graywolf publishes every third winner of the prize. More information is available on the [Cave Canem](#) website. For fiction and nonfiction manuscripts, agented submission is required.

CONTESTS

Black Fox Literary Magazine Fiction, Flash Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry. Thank you for your interest in *Black Fox*! *Black Fox Literary Magazine* is an international print and online biannual publication featuring quality fiction of all styles and genres, poetry, and creative nonfiction. We publish one summer issue and one winter issue each year. We accept general submissions in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for each issue during the following periods: Winter (2026) Issue Submission Period: July 1, 2025 – November 30, 2025. <https://blackfoxlitmag.com/submit/>

Parley Lit Prose and Poetry. Deadline 12/1/2025. Use this category for fully created previously unpublished written poetry or prose (creative nonfiction, fiction, or hybrid work). Your projects should not appear, in full, on any other platform (YouTube, Spotify, other lit magazines, your published book, your personal website or blog). You must attach the original file as a doc, docx, or pdf. Do not send a link to a file. Please specify the genre of your submission in the cover letter. <https://manager.submittable.com/opportunities/discover/297385>

Spectacle Open Call Full Manuscripts for Poetry. This is a non-contest open call for poetry manuscripts. We're accepting full-length manuscripts (roughly between 50 and 120 pages) to consider for publication in 2026. The deadline is December 31st, 2025. The open category will run on a periodic basis. Typically, when one period ends another will open consecutively or soon thereafter. There are no restrictions on who can submit or what kind of poetry--in English, or in translation into English--can be submitted, regardless of publication history or style. Collaborative manuscripts are also welcome. Current and former editors and interns of *Action*, *Spectacle* are not eligible. Individual poems in the manuscript may have been published previously in a chapbook, magazines, journals or anthologies, but the work as a whole must be unpublished. This is not a contest. **Please include a cover page with your title, name, email address, phone number, and physical address.** Manuscripts are not read blind. Also, include a table of contents. If applicable, please include an acknowledgments page, listing any previous publication for the individual poems in the collection. <https://balticwritingresidency.submittable.com/submit/269795/open-call-reading-period-full-length-poetry-manuscripts>

EVENTS, CONFERENCES, AND RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

New Hampshire Writers' Project offers a variety of resources and events.

NOVEMBER 1ST

Write In with Masheri Chappelle
Epping, NH

NOVEMBER 15TH

Harriet E. Wilson Literary Salon with L.
Annette Binder*, New Castle, NH

NOVEMBER 8TH

Three-Minute Fiction Slam Finals
Manchester, NH

NOVEMBER 19TH

Marketing Support Group: How to Pitch
Yourself for Speaking Engagements

Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP). Runs March 4-7, 2026, Baltimore, MD. The AWP Conference & Bookfair is the essential gathering for writers, teachers, students, editors, and publishers. Join thousands of attendees, explore hundreds of events and exhibitors, and immerse in four days of vital literary community and celebration in Baltimore!
registration@awpwriter.org

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. 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 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:**
 - 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!

The MWG 2025-2026 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 McIntyre.