

The Quill

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

Supporting Writers Since 1984

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

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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

***Smoky Quartz* Call for Submissions!** *Smoky Quartz* will open for submissions January 1 - March 10 for the Spring 2025 Issue. We seek poetry, prose, art, and photography. We welcome submissions from new, emerging, and established writers and artists with ties to New Hampshire. Please note our guidelines have changed recently. Visit our website for complete guidelines: www.smokyquartz.org/submissions



Critique Group Interest Survey. MWG frequently receives inquiries (including at our recent holiday brunch) about organizing a critique group for members to give and receive feedback and support from other authors. The group would meet outside of our monthly meetings. Please email mwg.quill@gmail.com if you would be interested in organizing or taking part in a critique group. (And if you are in a critique group open to new members, let us know and we can mention that in the next *Quill*.)

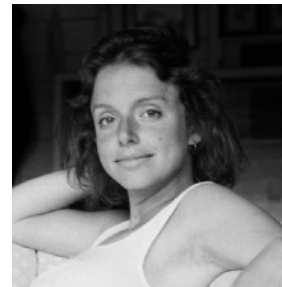
Membership Renewal. Dear Members: Please be sure to renew your membership for 2024-2025! Your dues pay for our speakers and event space rentals, and enable us to cover our operating costs without fundraising. They also entitle you to receive *The Quill*. We are a small, writer-powered group that relies on volunteers and membership fees...and we are grateful for your continued support! Regular membership is only \$30 a year, \$25 for seniors and students. Please renew at <https://www.monadnockwriters.org/membership> or email monadnockwriters@gmail.com. Thank you!

RECENT EVENTS

December 21: We had a great turnout for our first-ever Holiday Brunch following the December Read-Around! The Read-Around was very well attended as well, with about 20 members sharing their work! Thanks to all who attended. We will be looking for ways to add more social events to our calendar in 2025.

MEETING SCHEDULE

January 18: Rebecca Dinerstein Knight is the author of the novels *Hex* (Viking, 2020) and *The Sunlit Night* (Bloomsbury, 2015), the bilingual English-Norwegian collection of poems *Lofoten* (Aschehoug, 2012), and the forthcoming nonfiction project *Notes to New Mothers* (W. W. Norton). Her screenplay adaptation of *The Sunlit Night* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and is now a major motion picture. Knight has reviewed restaurants for *The Village Voice* and novels for *The New York Times Book Review*, and her essays have appeared online in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, and the *New York Times*. <https://www.rebecca-dinersteinknight.com/>





February 15: Journalist and novelist **Paul Hertneky** is the author of *Rust Belt Boy: Stories of an American Childhood*. Over 34 years, Hertneky has written stories, essays, and scripts for the *Boston Globe*, *Athens News*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *New Hampshire Union Leader*, *NBC News*, *The Comedy Channel*, *Gourmet*, *Eating Well*, *Traveler's Tales*, *The Exquisite Corpse*, *National Public Radio*, *Public Radio International*, *Adbusters* and many more. <https://paulhertneky.com/>

March 15: Storyteller **Tricia Rose Burt**, an instructor and storytelling coach for The Moth, will talk about the art of storytelling. Burt's podcast *No Time to be Timid*, which explores the inspiration and process of artists and creators, was a finalist for the Signal Award in Arts and Culture. Her story "How To Draw a Nekkid Man" about her transformation from business executive to professional storyteller and creativity coach is one of the most-downloaded stories on *The Moth Radio Hour*, with more than 250,000 downloads. <https://triciaroseburt.com>



April 19: For National Poetry Month, we are delighted to welcome **New Hampshire Port Laureate Jennifer Militello** to the 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 writers are TBA. 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.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Write for Harlequin. Harlequin is always on the lookout for talented writers—from established authors to those just starting their writing careers. They publish a wide range of stories and welcome writers from all backgrounds, cultures and communities to submit to the romance line best suited to their unique voice and story. They want all readers to see themselves reflected in the books they publish, and are committed to publishing diverse and inclusive voices and stories. As such, they are actively looking for more story submissions from authors in underrepresented communities. Get to know their various imprints and editorial lines to find out where you might fit into Harlequin's extensive publishing program. <https://harlequin.submittable.com/submit>



Aethon Books is open to all genre fiction, with a focus on Science Fiction and Fantasy. Hard Sci-fi, Epic Fantasy, Romantasy, Space Opera, LitRPG, Military SF, Alt/History, Time Travel and other sub-genres are accepted. Their main concern is “story, story, story.” Aethon is also now open to Thrillers of all types, though with an emphasis on Action, Political, and Military Thrillers. A compelling narrative should pull readers through your world, rife with three-dimensional characters, urgency, and enough conflict to keep things interesting. Make them think, make hearts race, but never forget that the most important thing when it comes to fiction is the plot itself. They are only looking to publish novel-length work that can either stand-alone or is part of a series. No novellas or short story collections at this time. No poetry or plays, graphic novels, or anything else that is plainly not a prose novel. <https://aethonbooks.com/submissions/>



Second Sky is looking for science fiction and fantasy stories that genre readers will love: gripping, commercial storytelling that keeps readers up all night, effortlessly transporting them to another world with characters they'll root for all the way. What makes your style of storytelling unique? What will readers remember about your writing? They are looking for fresh, distinctive voices that stand out from the crowd. <https://secondskybooks.com/what-were-looking-for/>



Dragonblade Publishing. This full-service, traditional publishing house only publishes works of historical fiction with a clear focus on romance. Within the historical romance genre they are open to most subgenres including: Viking, Regency, Georgian, Tudor, Highlander, Medieval, Victorian, Roman, Civil War, Restoration, Edwardian, etc. They are interested in anything



pre-20th century except Westerns and Amish. They are also open to time travel, historical fiction, historical fantasies, and historical mysteries as long as there is a romance component that ends happily ever after. <https://www.dragonbladepublishing.com/>

3 Mile Harbor Press publishes the best diverse work by new and established poets, and is particularly interested in finding works by underrepresented voices including LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and feminist. They are currently accepting submissions for their 8th Annual Book Award. The winner will receive a \$500 award and the publication of their book as a perfect-bound edition. The winner will also receive 25 author copies. <https://3mileharborpress.submittable.com/submit>

Four Way Books is dedicated to producing and promoting excellent literary publications and to creating opportunities for writers of merit. They believe that the work of writers brings good to the world—understanding, empathy, curiosity, wisdom—and they strive to connect writers and readers, to make each writer’s life more meaningful by bringing validation to the artist and important, pioneering, virtuosic work to wide public attention, as well as to the communities each book most seeks and serves. Four Way Books publish 18-20 collections of poetry and short fiction a year by emerging and established writers. <https://fourwaybooks.com/site/what-we-do/#mission>



Green Writers Press is an independent publishing house located in rural Vermont, which opens for submissions March 1, if you want to plan ahead. Their mission is to help spread a message of hope and renewal through the words and images they publish, and to help foster a sustainable environment. They hope to share beautiful words and art with the world, and would love it if you would accompany them on this journey. Green Writers

Press is dedicated to spreading environmental awareness and social justice by publishing authors who promulgate messages of hope and renewal through place-based writing and environmental activism. <https://greenwriterspress.com/contact/submissions/>

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 2023-2024 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.