

The Quill

The Monthly Newsletter of the Monadnock Writers' Group
February 1, 2024

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



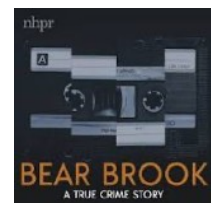
Welcome to the MWG! Since 1984, the **Monadnock Writers' Group** has provided community, inspiration, and support to the writers of the Monadnock region. All are welcome! Our membership includes writers of every variety: from poets to journalists, from mystery writers to playwrights, and from career 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.

UPCOMING MWG EVENTS

Feb. 4, 2:00-4:00 PM — SMOKY QUARTZ ONLINE READING by authors and poets published in the Fall 2023 issue (see flyer below)

Feb. 17, 9:45 AM — MONTHLY MEETING WITH JASON MOON as featured speaker.

Jason is the first podcaster to address the MWG! He is known nationwide for his award-winning "Bear Brook" podcast, an unbelievable tale of true crime at New Hampshire's Bear Brook State Park. Moon is a senior reporter and producer on New Hampshire Public Radio's *Document* team. He has created long-form narrative podcast series on topics ranging from unsolved murders to presidential elections and secret lists of misbehaving police officers. <https://www.nhpr.org/people/jason-moon>



March 1 — DEADLINE FOR THE MWG’s GEORGE DUNCAN ESSAY CONTEST for high school students in the Monadnock Region. Students attending public, private, charter and homeschool programs in the Monadnock Region are invited to write opinion pieces on the issues that matter most to them. The contest is free; the winner will receive a cash prize of \$250, 2nd place, \$100; and 3rd place, \$75. Students are encouraged to review the submission guidelines before entering. Please spread the word to any high school writers! The submission guidelines are online at: www.monadnockwriters.org/george-duncan-essay-contest.



March 4 — SMOKY QUARTZ ONLINE READING by authors and poets published in MWG’s journal

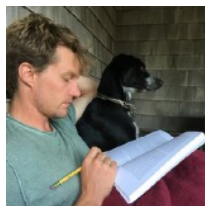
March 15 — DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR WORK TO SMOKY QUARTZ for consideration in the Spring 2024 issue (see flyer). *Smoky Quartz* publishes poetry, prose, art and photography. *Photo: Peterborough NH Post Office Waterfall by Alison Leland Scott*



April 19-21 — MONADNOCK PASTORAL POETRY RETREAT (see flyer)

2024 WINTER/SPRING MEETING & SPEAKER SCHEDULE

February 17: Jason Moon (see above)



March 16: John Knight is an editor who lives with his wife, Rebecca, and their two children in Chesham. He edits fiction and nonfiction for writers across the country and teaches a writing workshop at CUNY's Writers' Institute. He has worked for Farrar, Straus and Giroux in New York, and for McSweeney's in San Francisco. He grew up in Greenfield, NH. <https://www.knighteditorial.com/>

April 20: Singer-songwriter Cosy Sheridan is our speaker for National Poetry Month. Cosy has been called one of the era’s finest and most thoughtful songwriters, and also "a buddhist monk trapped in the body of a singer-songwriter". Her music regularly tops the folk radio charts. She has released more than 13 CDs and written a one-woman-show. <https://cosysheridan.com/>





May 11: PLEASE NOTE THIS MEETING IS THE 2ND SATURDAY!
Rebecca Dinerstein Knight of Harrisville is the author of novels *Hex*, *The Sunlit Night*, and *Lofoten*. Her screenplay adaptation of *The Sunlit Night* is now a major motion picture. Her essays have appeared online in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, and *The New York Times*. A graduate of Yale and the NYU MFA program, Rebecca is the recipient of a Wallant Award for Jewish Literature.

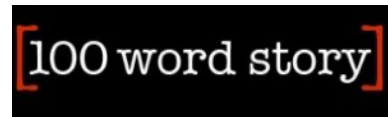
<https://www.rebeccadinersteinknight.com/about/>

June 15: Biannual Members’ Read-Around. Our second read-around of the year has the same rules as in December...please come, share your writing, and keep it to ten minutes!

PLACES TO SUBMIT YOUR WRITING

In addition to MWG’s own *Smoky Quartz*, here are some other publications where you can submit your writing in the coming weeks.

100 Word Story.... no more or no less. Tell a story, pen a slice of your memoir, or try your hand at an essay. You get 100 words—*exactly 100 words*—which is both the pain and the pleasure here. It’s short, you tell yourself. You could write 100 words at a bus stop, on your lunch break, in your sleep. But with 100 words you must tell the whole story in its entirety, so it holds together like a perfect little doll house. (Your title is not part of the 100 words.) Please include a short bio (25 words, max!) with your submission. Also, did we say exactly 100 words? We weren’t kidding! We count words according to Microsoft Word’s word-count tally. Also, make friends with your spell-check, or have a friend proofread your story.



<http://100wordstory.org/submit/>

The Bennington Review is published twice a year in print form. Submissions are customarily read every fall, winter, and spring. The next submissions period will be from November 15, 2023, through March 8, 2024. We aim to stake out a distinctive space for innovative, intelligent, and moving fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, film writing, and cross-genre work. In the spirit of poet Dean Young’s dictum that poets should be “making birds, not birdcages,” we are particularly taken with writing that is simultaneously graceful and reckless. We welcome submissions from established and emerging writers alike.



<https://www.benningtonreview.org/submit>



The Sandy River Review is a literary journal consisting of two parts: an annual print issue and *The River*, a regularly updating stream of online content. *The Sandy River Review* is printed once every Spring. Our print issue is edited by creative writing undergraduates at The University of Maine Farmington and overseen by the poetry press Alice James Books. *The River* is our constantly updated online content, and is also run by student editors in regular conversation with the print editors. For more information please go to:

<https://sandyriverreview.com/submit-to-the-sandy/>

carte blanche is a Quebec-based literary magazine. We invite creators to submit previously unpublished pieces in the following genres: fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, translations (French to English), photography, and comics for *carte blanche* issue 48. Our first issue of 2024 will be open themed. Submissions are open through February 15, 2024. *carte blanche* acknowledges the intersectionality of individuals' lived experiences and aims to provide a welcoming and safe space for racialized and marginalized voices. We encourage and welcome submissions by individuals who identify as LGBTQ2S+, BIPOC, disabled, and those who live with mental health challenges or neurodivergence. Please note that while Canadian and international creators are welcome to submit their work to us for consideration, as a result of our affiliation with the Quebec Writers' Federation and Canada Council grant requirements, we may emphasize a focus on Quebec-based creators in a given issue. <https://carte-blanchemagazine.com/>



NEW FEATURE: MEET A MEMBER!

Every month (I hope!), *The Quill* will interview one of our members and print an excerpt of their writing. **Linda Tiernan Kepner** kindly agreed to be the subject of the very first Meet a Member and provide an excerpt of her newest novel, *Out Far Enough*.

Please email Jess at mwg.quill@gmail.com if you would like to be featured in Meet a Member!

How long have you been writing?

I've been writing all my life, but I only got paid for it (in any significant amount) from 2012 on. That year, I joined the NH chapter of the Romance Writers of America, who are very big on the business part of publishing. A couple of small publishers started business that year, so I was lucky enough to hit a good publishing window. Four of my books came out in two years. I didn't

strike it rich – the annual royalties from those books allow me to celebrate with perhaps one hamburger.

What are you working on right now?

I am working on a science fiction series, of which *Out Far Enough* is book #1. I am also working on two contemporary romances – I just read a short story, derived from one of these, at the Monadnock Underground Open Mic session.

Who are some of your favorite writers?

I love mysteries – Arthur Conan Doyle, Rex Stout, Agatha Christie, and Victorian-era writers. I like to see the good main character use their brains to win. There are some contemporary authors who write well, too. I like good writing and good ethics.

Do you have a writing routine or process that you stick to?

I am a lark married to a night owl, so I get a lot of fresh writing done in the morning while hubs is still asleep. Later in the day, or on the weekends, I edit what I wrote. Much of my work is critiqued by my crit group, the Talespinners. I am also a member of an unnamed accountability group that meets weekly via Zoom where we state our writing goals for the next week and then DO it.

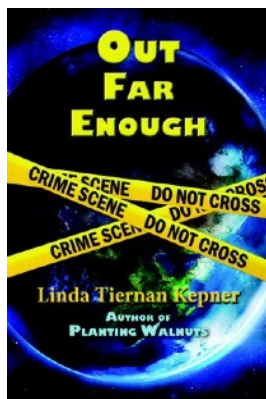
What are your favorite and least favorite things about writing?

Least favorite, hands down, is promoting it – marketing it, selling it, going to shows. That old saw “Money should flow from the publisher to the author” is mostly true, but every author puts a lot of “sweat equity” into their work. (I showed my last Simon & Schuster royalty check at the MU session, and it was, no kidding, fifteen cents.) My favorite thing is talking shop with other writers, and encouraging people to write, write, write.

What’s the best way to purchase your books and see what you’re doing?

Many ways are good ways – Toadstool, Amazon, B&N, and similar retailers for paperbacks, and Smashwords for ebook formats. Links and book descriptions are also available on my website, www.LindaTKepner.com.

Excerpt from *OUT FAR ENOUGH* by Linda Tiernan Kepner



The good whiskey lit up Grayson’s mouth and tongue. “Don’t you have a *flic* of your own?” she asked. “Your docking-bay security is appalling. An army could march through this little agridome unnoticed.”

“Never needed one. The *paysans* are basically honest. Besides, that’s the bailiff’s duty, to dig out the cheaters. There’s just the Tyrellian, the Korgorite, and Corbeil at the docking bay. Why, you want the job?”

“Not on your life. All I meant was that you’re the man in charge around here - the only authority.”

Bourriac squinted at Grayson thoughtfully. “Lennart handles most everything. I’m never here.”

“So I see.” She motioned at the bare walls, the empty shelves. “You and most of the artwork.” He flushed. “What happened to it all?”

He should have told her to mind her own business, but apparently it bothered him. “Gone to pay bills. Lennart says there’s nothing left.”

“What do *you* do?”

“Back plays that flop. Invest in companies that fold. Take risks that don’t give returns.” Again, that expressive French shrug and grimace. “My mother hired Lennart. Without him, I probably wouldn’t have even this much left. Not that I like him. And you’ve probably gathered that the feeling is mutual.”

“Ah, well. You’re le Comte de Bourriac. It’s not his place to state his opinions.”

Bourriac was not stupid. “Great Heaven, you can lie. So why are you here?”

“Despite all the ruckus, Captain Martinelli still has friends at General Mercantile. Someone in the farm division - Marcellin Godin...”

“I know Godin. Go on.”

“...got an anonymous message that someone was going to murder the Comtesse de Bourriac.”

Bourriac stared at her and set his tumbler down on the desk.

“He just filed it, of course. But then, she died.”

“Of a heart attack!”

“I know, I know,” Grayson soothed. “Except for her age, perfectly normal. Yet she happened to be in church, the one place where she would have no assistance or medication until it was too late. So GM asked Fraud - all whom they’ve come to know intimately - to send someone out, as a favor. They sent me - with no authority, no Code Napoleon training, nothing - just someone who badly needs a vacation, to check it out and keep everyone happy.”

Bourriac swore. “Who sent the warning?”

“Hidden source of transmission. This general direction.”

“So you came to see if I killed my mother! I’ll talk to Godin myself! I won’t have him casting any aspersions on my honor! By God! Everything is bad enough - ”

“Will you stay in the cart?” Grayson interrupted him. “I did *not* say you killed your mother, in fact I don’t even suspect it. If I did, I wouldn’t be sitting here, drinking your whiskey. You’re the law out here, *Monsieur le Comte*. It’s you I report to.”

Bourriac circled his desk and threw himself into his chair. He steamed for a minute before he spoke. “D’you think it’s that wretched *secrétaire*? He’s sponging off my docking base, along with those aliens. I wouldn’t mind discovering that little worm was responsible.”

“I didn’t say I thought anyone had,” Grayson repeated patiently.

“No, you didn’t. But you think so. You sit down there at the inn, drinking with them. If you were truly *en vacance*, you’d have had Godin tell us to open a room up here at the *château*. You’d be out in my grubby back garden, reading a book.”

“I wouldn’t, anyway. *Monsieur*, you and I, we’re people of the world, but this is not the world.”

He squinted at her. “What do you mean?”

“This is Station Saint-Sébastien-des-Étoiles, a territory of France.”

“*Oui.*” Quack. “The lady doesn’t stay alone as the guest of the young man, even with the housekeeper as chaperone.”

“True. Besides which, forgive me for bringing it up, there are obvious class distinctions between us.”

He grinned. “I like you, Grayson. Too bad you don’t appeal to me on a different level. I’m told I can be quite charming.”

She returned the grin. “I’m told I can be, too. But that’s not why I’m here. Now can we talk business?”

To purchase *Out Far Enough* or to learn more about Linda T. Kepner’s work, please go to <https://www.lindatkepner.com>.

ALL ABOUT THE 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: <https://www.monadnockwriters.org/member-bios>
- **Please explore the MWG website,** www.monadnockwriters.org, for news, member profiles, speakers series information, contests, publications, and more. You can find us on Facebook under Monadnock Writers’ Group.
- **Monadnock Writers’ Group membership information:**
 - Program year membership: September through June. Regular membership \$30
 - Students and seniors \$25 Patron \$50 Benefactor \$100 Corporate \$250

- 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 2023-2024 Board of Directors. President: Jesseca Timmons; Vice President: Rodger Martin; Treasurer: Carl Mabbs-Zeno; Secretary: Susan Gebo; Members at Large: Maura MacNeil, Ronnie McIntyre, Tori Haring-Smith, Mary Marchese, Deni Dickler. Emerita: Ann Day

SMOKY QUARTZ

An online journal of literature and art

You are invited to an online reading –

February 4, 2024

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.



Hear writers and poets read their original works published in the Fall 2023 issue of *Smoky Quartz*.

All contributors to *Smoky Quartz* have a connection to New Hampshire and many are from the Monadnock Region.

Free event. Everyone is welcome.

**Email—
mwgsmyquartz@gmail.com
 for the link to the online
 reading.**

Visit www.smokyquartz.org

Smoky Quartz is a publication of the Monadnock Writers' Group — www.monadnockwriters.com

SMOKY QUARTZ

An online journal of literature and art

Call for Submissions

Spring 2024 Issue

January 15 — March 15, 2024



*Poetry * Prose * Art * Photography*

The Editors of *Smoky Quartz* welcome submissions from new, emerging, and established writers and artists with ties to New Hampshire.

Review complete submission guidelines at:
www.smokyquartz.org/submissions



Smoky Quartz is a publication of Monadnock Writers' Group www.monadnockwriters.org



THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL
MONADNOCK
PASTORAL POETRY
RETREAT

April 19-21, 2024

WORKSHOPS IN:

- POETRY
- FICTION
- PERSONAL NARRATIVE

THIS SPRING, JOIN POETS AND WRITERS FROM ACROSS NEW ENGLAND FOR A WEEKEND
OF COLLEGIALLY AND WRITING WORKSHOPS AT THE BARBARA C. HARRIS CENTER IN
GREENFIELD, NH

FOR WORKSHOP INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION DETAILS, SEE OUR WEBSITE:
[HTTPS://MONADNOCKPASTORALPOETS.ORG](https://monadnockpastoralpoets.org)

