

# The Quill

The Monthly Newsletter of the Monadnock Writers' Group

April 1, 2026

Supporting Writers Since 1984

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

PO Box 3071, Peterborough, NH 03458

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## WELCOME APRIL

The word *April* is derived from the Latin word *aperire*, which means *to open*. This phrase evokes images of blooming flowers, their petals unfolding to welcome the sun. With the tangible change in season, this second month of spring invites levity—with April Fool's Day—followed



by the juxtaposition of new beginnings and the tedium of income tax filing by April 15<sup>th</sup>. We plan Easter egg hunts and gardening parties; we rake the relentless leaves that refused to leave last fall. We welcome warm breezes and fresh grown grass, while cursing too much rain and mud at every turn. Our boots collect the residue and track it like evidence of bygone days. We lift our chins, our eyes bright behind dark sunglasses, and welcome what's to come.

**April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month**, raising awareness about sexual violence while promoting consent culture, survivor support, and prevention education ([verbate.io/knowledge-center](http://verbate.io/knowledge-center)). Its roots trace back to survivor-led and feminist movements of the 1970s, with teal becoming the symbolic color of awareness. Some inclusive ways to engage including offering trauma-informed training or learning sessions, sharing confidential resources and reporting pathways, and partnering with local or national advocacy organizations.

## POETRY ABOUNDS

**Thoor Ballylee welcomes poets from three continents.**

Mark your calendars for the fifth gathering of the symposium Poetry Bridging Continents, a noteworthy event designed to bring together poets from three continents: China, the United States, and Ireland. This year the event will be held at Thoor Ballylee in Gort from May 16-18 For more information, click [here](#).



## NEW AND NOTEWORTHY: OPEN SUBMISSIONS



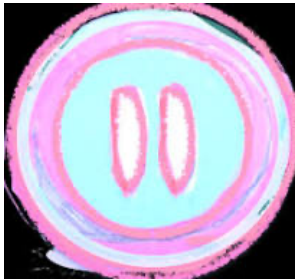
**Bacopa Literary Review (and the Writers Alliance of Gainesville)** is looking to publish true stories, written beautifully, and based on the author's experiences, perceptions, and reflections in the form of personal memoir or literary essay (for example, nature, travel, medical, spiritual, food writing. For information, click [here](#).

**Only Poems Magazine** announces a \$5000 POET OF THE YEAR AWARD with one \$3000 award and four \$500 awards. Submit by May 1, 2026. Results will be announced in July and winners published in August. Submit [here](#).

**The Plentitudes** is accepting submissions for a variety of genres, including fiction, flash, nonfiction, and poetry. Learn more [here](#).

## The Plentitudes

A quarterly international literary journal



**Press Pause Press** is seeking submissions by April 30, 2026. They publish short stories, flash, and novel/novella excerpts. They do not publish full-length works at this time. In your submission, attach a word doc, docx, or pdf. Please stay away from weird, hard to read fonts—we're big fans of plain ole Times New Roman and Garamond. Don't fret about length but know that they don't typically publish over 20 pages. Learn more [here](#).

**The Wilbur & Niso Smith Foundation** announces the 2026 New Voices Award, which supports writers to develop an idea they've yet to commit to paper, or those in the very early stages of their work in progress. The Award provides mentorship and editorial guidance for aspiring authors and encourages entries from all writers, including those from underrepresented backgrounds with a new story to tell. The award is exclusively for unpublished writers. Writers must not be represented by a literary agent or be under an existing or future contract to any publisher. The work submitted must not have been previously self-published or have been published in full or in part through any publisher or other media. To participate, writers must submit their opening three chapters totaling no more than 10,000 words and a full plot outline of no more than 1,000 words detailing where they imagine the story will go. To ensure this award is for you, you can read more details [here](#). Please consider '[What We're Looking For](#)' and the full [Terms & Conditions](#) carefully.



THE WILBUR &  
NISO SMITH  
FOUNDATION

## WRITER'S CONFERENCE: THERE'S STILL TIME TO APPLY

**Yale University Writers' Workshops in New Haven, Connecticut.** From First to Final Draft: Find Your Voice at Yale This Summer! The Yale Writers' Workshop (YWW) offers an exceptional opportunity for writers at all levels to hone their craft in a dynamic, supportive environment. Guided by Yale faculty and experienced instructors, participants engage in hands-on writing exercises, thoughtful feedback sessions, and in-depth discussions that strengthen both technique and voice. Whether you're exploring new genres or deepening your existing practice, YWW provides a vibrant community and the tools to grow as a writer. Learn more [here](#).



## MARCH MEETING

**An enthusiastic audience of the Monadnock Writers Group welcomed Ken Sheldon on March 21 at the Peterborough Library.** MWG Board

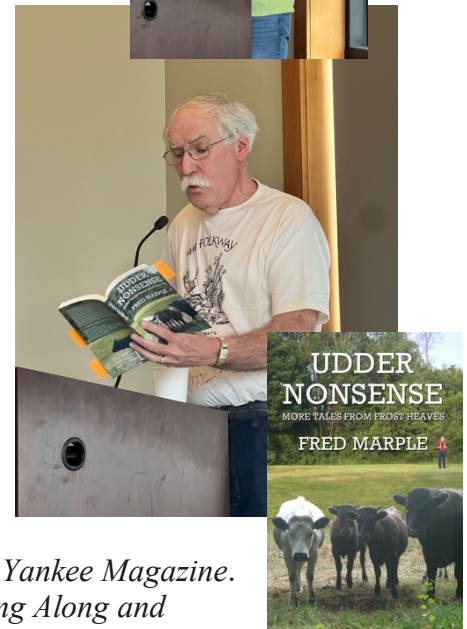


Member Mary Marchese provided a humorous ten-minute reading to open the meeting. Sheldon invited writers to contemplate his ten tips to writing humor: (1) observe life, (2) exaggerate, (3) put a



new spin on an old idea, (4) borrow ideas from others, (5) develop believable situations, (6) try self-deprecation, (7) try introducing a bumbler, (8) study and make good use of language, (9) practice the build-up and release, and (10) go around Robin Hood's barn.

Formerly the West Coast bureau chief for *Byte Magazine*, Sheldon's writing has appeared in publications ranging from *Acoustic Guitar* to *Yankee Magazine*. He writes music for children and adults and created the bestselling *Sing Along and Learn* series published by Scholastic. His writings appear under his own name, and also as suspense novelist Michael Manley and Yankee humorist [Fred Marple](#).



## REMINDER: 2025-2026 MEETING & SPEAKER SCHEDULE

**April 18 at the Peterborough Library: Brian Evans-Jones** is a poet and teacher who has lived in South Berwick since 2014. He was born in Britain, where he was Poet Laureate of the Hampshire region for 2012-13. In 2017, he won the Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award from Poets & Writers in New York City. His poems have appeared in competitions, magazines, and art events in America and the United Kingdom, and he has taught poetry in schools across Maine and New Hampshire, as well as in England. He publishes free poetry learning resources at [The Poetry Place](#).



**May 16 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!

**June 20 at the Peterborough Library: Lorraine Ash'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, including *USA Today*. A love of American history led to penning three historical plays about American presidents—

*Tyler, Monroe, and Jackson*—published by The History Project. Ash had produced numerous short stories and essays for literary journals and anthologies. These include *Tiferet, Cairn, Journeys, Ducts, Recovering the Self: A Journal of Hope and Healing, and Steeped in the World of Tea*. In midlife a significant event changed Ash: her daughter, her only child, was stillborn in June 1999. Suddenly she understood the importance of telling stories from the inside out. Subsequently, she wrote *Life Touches Life: A Mother's Story of Stillbirth and Healing* (NewSage Press), a memoir that has reached stillbirth mothers in the United States, the Middle East, Australia, Europe, China, Canada, and Mexico. Next came the spiritual midlife memoir, *Self and Soul: On Creating a Meaningful Life* (Cape House Books). Ash has worked one-on-one with more than sixty writers to either ghostwrite, edit, or coach their book manuscripts into existence. Her mission is to facilitate quality storytelling.



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## EVENTS, CONFERENCES, AND RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

**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](mailto:registration@awpwriter.org)

**Mark your calendar to experience Lorraine's transformation workshop right in our own back yard.** *The Power of Place: A Memoir Writing Workshop* with Lorraine Ash, June 18 -19, 2026 at our own Peterborough Library. According to Lorraine, place and identity are inextricably linked. Using a personal map-drawing technique, prompts, and literary examples, we'll explore and connect personal stories evoked by the streets, landscapes, and neighborhoods we've inhabited. You'll produce new stand-alone pieces or new (or deepened) segments for larger works already underway. Tuition cost: \$225 (Lodging and meals separate); Maximum number of participants: 20 (first come, first served) Register at: <http://lorraineash.com/events.php>

### Testimonials

*Through astute positive critiquing, Lorraine gently guides uncertain writers to excellence. – Mary Marchese*

*I have been fortunate to attend two other memoir writing workshops that Lorraine has led. Her teaching and guidance have been invaluable. – Rev. Donna Vuilleumier*

*I had the pleasure of partaking in Lorraine's memoir workshop at The Center at Mariandale in New York. Not only did I find peace and serenity, I found my voice. – Karen-Marie Scolforo*

## ALL ABOUT MWG

### 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](http://www.monadnockwriters.org), or join our Monadnock Writers' Group Facebook page.

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/monadnockwriters](http://www.facebook.com/groups/monadnockwriters)

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

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**Membership Renewal.** It's that time of year, as membership runs from September through June. 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

- **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 bringing refreshments, 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 Jess at [mwg.quill@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.monadnockwriters.org/about-us)
- **Please explore MWG online.** Visit our website, [www.monadnockwriters.org](http://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/](http://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](mailto: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: Tori Haring-Smith, Maura MacNeil, Mary Marchese, Ronnie McIntyre, and Karen-Marie Scolforo