

The Quill

**The Monthly Newsletter of the Monadnock Writers' Group
March 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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/monadnockwriters/).

MWG NEWS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS - DEADLINE MARCH 10: *Smoky Quartz*, the MWG's online literary magazine, is open for submissions for the **Spring 2025 Issue**. Please send us your poetry, prose, art, and photography **by March 10**. We welcome submissions from new, emerging, and established writers and artists with ties to New Hampshire. Please note our guidelines have changed. Visit our website for complete guidelines: www.smokyquartz.org/submissions.

MEMBER NEWS

Fred Gerhard had a surreal short story published recently in *Quibble Quarterly* under the pseudonym Reed HF. Read it here: <https://www.quibblelit.com/a-root-out-of-dry-ground-by-reed-hf-grad>. And one of his poems, "Night Canoe," will be published this summer in *Blueline Magazine*. fredgerhard.com

RECENT EVENTS

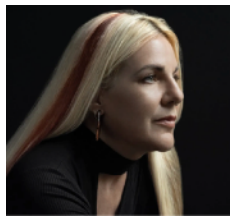
Hancock author Paul Hertneky, who has a 35-year career as a freelance writer and photographer, read two new essays from his upcoming collection at our February meeting. Many thanks to Paul for a really wonderful presentation! <https://paul-hertneky.com/>



MEETING SCHEDULE

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!

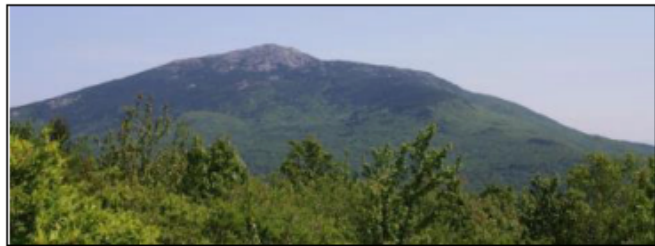


June 21: Member Read-Around. Please come, share your writing, and try to keep your selection to ten minutes, so everyone will have a chance to read! Our Read-Arounds are always surprising, humbling, entertaining, and inspiring. Come learn what your fellow MWG writers are working on!

July & August: No meetings.

LOCAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES FOR WRITERS

The **20th Annual MONADNOCK PASTORAL POETRY RETREAT** will be at the beautiful Barbara C. Harris Center in Greenfield, NH on **April 25-April 27**. Please join us for the annual gathering of the Monadnock New Pastoral Poets & Writers as they host their 20th annual weekend retreat. For more than 35 years, this group of writers has gathered annually to celebrate new work and publications. 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 and collegial but full, featuring small group workshops of six people maximum. Workshops include a primary workshop, which meets twice, and an optional single-session secondary workshop that meets once. The retreat also includes an individual conference with mentors, readings by participants, writing time, social time, and 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 an opportunity 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. Registration is limited to maintain small workshop size. **Deadline for registration: March 22, 2025.**

Calling ALL Writers for a FREE networking event at New Dawn Arts Center Art Gallery, 84 Main Street, Ashburnham, MA, **Tuesday, April 29,** 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. 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 writers 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. <https://www.newdawnarts.org/calendar>

Open Mic Poetry at the Root. Poetry at The Root is an open mic poetry night held the last Thursday of every month at the Root Café on Route 101 in Temple. Everyone is welcome: read your own poems, read poems by others, or come to listen and support! Live music, excellent food and coffee/tea from the café, and a warm atmosphere. Next reading is on **Thursday, March 27, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** More details and sign up for reminders at: <https://www.writebetterpoems.com/poetry-at-the-root>.

The New Dawn Writers Group, at the New Dawn Arts Center, 84 Main Street, Ashburnham, MA, holds **Tuesday night** workshops on fiction, memoir, and poetry, plus open mic nights, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. MWG member Fred Gerhard runs the poetry workshop. Please click the link for more details and events on specific dates: <https://www.newdawnarts.org/>.

Monadnock Underground Writers' Open Mic Night. Thursday, March 13, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. CALLING ALL WRITERS (and curious readers/listeners)! The Peterborough Town Library and Monadnock Underground host a monthly, free-form open mic night for writers of all genres and levels of experience! Teens and adults welcome. <https://peterboroughtownlibrary.org/event/11545889>



Also note: After a hiatus, the **Monadnock Underground** website is back online for reading, listening, a bookstore of local authors, and submissions. <https://monadnockunderground.com/>

The **Monadnock Storytelling & Spoken Word Circle** is the third Wednesday of every month from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., at the Dublin Community Center. This event is an open mic for participants to share stories, poetry, rap, comedy, truly any kind of spoken word, going round the circle. The organizers are Sebastian Lockwood and Papa Joe Gaudet, both of whom have 20-plus years of experience as professional storytellers. <https://dublincommunitycenter.org/>

Toadstool Books, Keene - The Untitled Writer's Group meets the first and third Wednesday of the month. It is a writer's group for those with a love for the written word. Come for feedback, fellowship, support, inspiration, and information. <https://toadbooks.com/event/2025-03-05/keene-untitled-writers-group>

The Toadstool Bookshops



Rindge Writers Group is a supportive critique group held the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. via Zoom. Meetings are free and open to writers of all genres and levels of experience. We believe that members gain writing skills by both giving feedback on other members' work and receiving it on their own. Want to attend the next meeting? Email rindgewritersgroup@gmail.com.

New Hampshire Writers Project. We are a welcoming community of writers from all genres and all levels, published and unpublished. We provide quality resources to develop and enhance craft, educate regarding publication and distribution, and foster an interactive group of creative individuals in New Hampshire and beyond. You don't have to live in New Hampshire to be a member. Nor do you have to be a member to participate in our monthly WRITERS NIGHT OUT, which is held across the state. As a non-member, you also have access to Laura Knoy's podcasts and NHTalk Radio Author Interviews. Another bonus for non-members is you can stay up to date with our events and happenings with Beth D'Ovidio's articles that are posted monthly. <https://nhwritersproject.org/>



Park Theater Open Mic Night is the second Wednesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. If you have talent, then the Park Theatre is looking for you! The Park Open Mic Night features local musicians, poets, and storytellers (and, maybe you?). Come perform, or listen to great music and stories. Please contact The Park Theatre at (603) 532-9300 or email programming@theparktheatre.org. More info at: <https://theparktheatre.org/>.

PTL Literary Book Club. Join our Literary Book Club at the library, where we dive into award-winning fiction and nonfiction! This welcoming group embraces all genres, making it the perfect place for book lovers to share their passion. We meet on the last Friday of every month at 11:00 a.m. No registration is required, so feel free to drop in and join the conversation. Whether you're a seasoned reader or just looking to explore new titles, you'll find a friendly and engaging community here. Books available at the main desk. <https://peterboroughtownlibrary.org/>



Cocktails and Classics with Jaffrey Public Library. Join the library staff for a lively literary discussion the third Thursday evening of every month at the Dublin Road Taproom in Jaffrey. Check the library website for this month's book. Ages 21 and up only. Registration is required. <https://jaffreypubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/12743505>

The **New Hampshire Writers Guild** is an organization of professional writers, editors, journalists, authors and publishers. Formed in 2016, our Facebook group highlights press releases for local literary events, promotion of new publications, job notices and general discussion about the publishing and media industries. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nhwritersguild/>

MEET A MEMBER: ERIC POOR

Retired journalist, writer and photographer **Eric Poor** has just released a speculative fiction novella, *Invasive Species*. Poor spent 17 years working as a reporter for the award-winning weekly newspaper *The Monadnock Ledger*, now known as the *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript*, a twice weekly community newspaper. Poor is the winner of numerous writing awards from the New Hampshire Press Association (NHPA) and was twice named Columnist of the Year.



Photo by Marsha Poor

Please email mwg.quill@gmail.com if you would like to be featured as Member of the Month!

How long have you been a writer?

I've been a writer for more than 35 years. I started writing an outdoor column for the *Monadnock Ledger* newspaper in 1988 when I was well into my forties. In 1991, I expanded my outdoor writing to other publications like *Hawkeye* and *New Hampshire Wildlife Journal* and I also became a newspaper reporter. I worked as a reporter for the *Monadnock Ledger* and *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript* for 17 years. I still write occasional features and outdoor stories for publications like *Hawkeye* and *The Keene Sentinel's ELF Weekly*. My journalism memoir titled *Working at the Word Factory* has been used in a Keene State College journalism class since its publication in 2013. And I recently had my first piece of fiction published, a speculative novella titled *Invasive Species*.

What are you working on right now?

I'm working on a novel titled *Mountain Man*. It's part of a series featuring fictional New Hampshire game warden Henry Wetmore, who always seems at odds with other law enforcement agencies but manages to solve major crimes.

Who are some of your favorite writers?

I love reading suspense, mystery, and thriller novels—everything by authors like James Lee Burke, Elmore Leonard, Thomas Perry, John Sandford, Michael Connelly, and Chris Whitaker. In non-fiction it's writers like Ty Gagne. Loved his latest: *Lions of Winter*. I'm fond of saying I'll write anything, and the truth is I'll also read anything interesting.

Do you have a writing process that you stick to?

Because I'm also an outdoorsman, my writing habits shift with the seasons and what I'm doing—hunting, fishing, canoeing and such. My writing takes place any time of day (or night) and no matter what I'm doing, I'm probably writing something in my head. Right now, I'm writing a minimum 500 words a day every day in addition to plotting some future work and writing those occasional features. I like to take time every now and again to work on poetry, which I write longhand with the TV watching me.

What is your favorite/least favorite thing about writing?

My two favorite things about writing are being creative and imparting information. Being creative makes me feel good and I think information of all kinds is important to people in some way or another. My least favorite thing about writing is deadlines. They make me anxious. I try to deal with that anxiety by not waiting until the last minute—doing things right away. Sometimes I succeed in this.

Doctor Spyder and the Blinking Wasps by Eric Poor

If you had a question about bugs, Doctor Spyder was the go-to guy, the bug expert. Nobody says bug expert, though. The proper term is entomologist.

And Doctor Spyder wasn't his real name. It was just what almost everyone called him. Only, if you were a student, you didn't ever want to call him that to his face if you wanted a good mark. His real name was Sydney Snyder, and he really was a doctor. Not a medical doctor, a PhD. A PhD is pretty much a must have if you're going to be a professor at a college—even a rural agricultural college.

It was mostly his colleagues who called him Doctor Spyder (behind his back). He wasn't a popular person. Popularity was not a priority in his job description, which was a good thing, because he didn't care much about it. He was aware of his reputation as a nitpicking, off-putting fussbudget. He told himself he didn't care—even though he knew it was at least part of the reason he was essentially friendless and a confirmed bachelor. It also had a lot to do with why he had never progressed beyond Associate Professor, despite his many years at Stockman College of Agriculture, where entomology was a required course for students from every major—animal husbandry and agronomy to forestry.

Agnes was part of the reason his peers called him Doctor Spyder. The hairy black tarantula resided in a terrarium on his office desk where her presence encouraged the students assigned to him as faculty advisor to keep their visits brief unless they really liked spiders. Agnes was more than just another means of intimidating or entertaining his students, though. She was Sydney Snyder's pet, the closest thing to an actual relationship for the academic.

Folklore has it that people tend to resemble their pets. This was another reason some people favored the Doctor Spyder moniker. The professor was a gangly man: tall, thin, and seemingly all arms and legs—especially when he became particularly animated during one of his lectures. And there was something, too, about his pot belly, beady eyes, coarse black hair, and whiskers...

Then there was his collection of bug corpses. Downright ghoulish if you weren't a bug aficionado. Tables, drawers, and shelves of glass-covered shallow display cases filled with preserved dead bugs. They contained everything from flies and beetles to giant cockroaches and grasshoppers; bugs with ginormous mandibles, scorpion stingers, fearsome fangs and barbed legs, bugs wearing armor, bugs with venom. At the moment Snyder had his entire collection of wasps at home, spread out in the spare bedroom that no one ever used. That collection needed some attention, a bit of updating.

Not all his collected insects were scary or ugly. He had some righteously beautiful bugs, as well. Many of these he had mounted individually, and they were displayed on the walls of his home like works of art—Luna moth, peacock swallowtail butterfly, turquoise weevil beetle, pink glass wing butterfly and the like. They were his alone to admire. He wasn't a person who entertained.

Snyder's appreciation for insect art only extended to the dead, though. He didn't tolerate live bugs in the house. The slightest hum of a mosquito set him waving his hands and clapping them together. The buzz of a fly made him reach for the swatter. God forbid he should ever encounter a cockroach.

So, his senses went on edge when he heard the wasp buzzing around, bumping against the spare bedroom ceiling while he tried to watch Jeopardy on the TV in the living room. At first, he did his best to ignore the intruder. The host was giving the final jeopardy clue. The category was "Authors." The clue was: He quit pursuing a PhD in 1926 to pursue drawing, but you might say he gave himself a degree anyway. He wanted to see who would get it right. As much as he wanted to continue watching, the annoyance won out and he put the TV on pause, folded his Entomology Journal magazine in half, lengthwise, and went on the hunt. But now the wasp had gone silent, had disappeared. He stalked the bedroom, looked at the light, and peered behind the window shades, but he couldn't locate the offender. He even looked at his collection of dead, mounted wasps to see if it had hidden there. No luck. It appeared he'd missed his chance to deal with what could become a future problem. That was a wee bit worrisome. When they're quiet you can bumble into them unawares. And this had sounded like a large angry wasp.

He went back to watching TV but kept the volume low and one ear cocked for the slightest sound of a buzz. All three contestants had the right answer: Who is Doctor Seuss? Meanwhile there wasn't a whisper ...

... until the next morning. He'd just popped a bagel in the toaster when it dawned on him the noise he was hearing wasn't something on the Channel 7 morning news in the other room. It was

the buzz and bump of a wasp testing the limits of the ceiling. He grabbed the battery-powered bug zapper fly swatter and turned it on.

Snyder stalked the offending insect, zapper flyswatter poised mid-air to deliver the coup-de-grace. But upon seeing the unwanted intruder for the first time, he was amazed to find he didn't immediately recognize this specimen. It was huge, much larger than any wasp he was familiar with. It had the triangular head and slender waist of a mud wasp, but the color was all wrong. This invader had a throbbing iridescent red sheen that didn't fit the description of any wasp he'd ever seen. It positively pulsed with bright waves of crimson.

That strangeness called for a change of tactics. Now he thought he'd much rather capture than smash the venomous insect. A closer study was in order. Could this be some exotic, or perhaps even new, species? He had just made up his mind to go get the can of bug spray when the wasp turned on him, as if it had read his insecticidal thoughts.

The wasp went on the attack with an angry buzz, flying right at his face!

Snyder's strike was reactive. He instinctively lashed out with the swatter and struck the hornet mid-air, as much by luck as intent. The sparking blow knocked the bug to the carpet where it began to crawl away, stunned, momentarily unable to fly.

He took advantage of the opportunity to capture the insect intact, without further damaging it—so he could kill it properly. An empty glass sat on a coaster on the coffee table, the container for his nightcap the previous evening. An inch of amber water sat in the bottom of the glass—melted ice cubes, a slight residue of blended whiskey with a touch of ginger ale. It wouldn't do to spill the contents on the carpet, but there wasn't a convenient close place to dump the liquid. He solved the problem by gulping down the remains of the highball before he upended the glass and used it to entrap the wasp.

Then he went and fetched the bug spray.

He thought briefly about tilting the glass, lifting one side just enough to introduce a shot of the insecticide. But if he did that, he'd never quite be able to bring himself to drink from that glass again. And it was one of a set of six highball glasses. He didn't think he could bring himself to just discard the glass either.

So, he took a chance.

Snatching the glass up with his left hand he sprayed the wasp with the can of spray insecticide held in his right. The little Kamikaze took off with a furious buzz and crashed into the leg of the coffee table, falling back to the carpet where it buzzed, spun, and managed to get airborne again, this time heading for the light of the sliding glass door. But it fell out of the air before it reached its goal.

The wasp lay there, still, and silent.

Snyder fetched the forceps and held the wasp up for closer examination. There was something quite odd about this bad bug. For one thing it was several times the size of a normal wasp. He was enough of an expert at this that he was surprised he couldn't name this species right off the top of his head.

He went to the recycling bin and found the plastic mayonnaise jar and lid that he'd so carefully washed just the day before yesterday, even removing the paper label. After wiping some residual moisture from the inside of the jar with the dish towel, he used the forceps to pick up and deposit the deceased wasp within. He screwed the lid on tight, then examined the insect through the clear plastic side of the jar. The wasp was at least three inches in length, and it was, indeed, an iridescent red color, although not as bright, it seemed, as just moments ago. And the firefly-like pulsing of the color seemed to have ceased. Otherwise, it appeared to be a normal, if extraordinarily large, example of the order Hymenoptera, suborder apocytia—a wasp. He took the jar into the spare bedroom to compare this monster to some of the larger hornets in his collection. Indeed, it was as big as the giant Asian hornet (a.k.a. murder hornet) and the tarantula hawk wasp, the two largest in his display.

The bagel was cold now and he didn't have time to toast another if he was going to make his first class on time. He left the mayonnaise jar and its unsettling contents on the kitchen counter and grabbed the car keys. He could hit the Daily Donut drive-thru on the way to school.

It was the beginning of the fall semester and his first class was sizable. The lecture hall was half full. *Freshman class. It'll dwindle as time goes on.*

The students hadn't quite sorted themselves out yet, so the hair styles and clothing styles were all mixed together. Later, they would cluster according to clique. He took a roll call and told them they needed to raise their hands and be recognized if they wished to speak or ask a question.

His lead-off lecture, as always, was about fear of bugs. "There is safety in knowledge," he told the class. "If you understand the actual dangers, you should be able to avoid them, or safely deal with them."

Later, Snyder had yogurt and fruit for lunch, courtesy of the student cafeteria. He carried it back to his office rather than eat with the students. The healthy lunch choices assuaged the guilt he felt about that sausage, egg, and cheese on a large sesame seed bagel he'd downed during the drive to campus. But later still, on the way home, he realized that in all the excitement of the morning's

wasp hunt, he'd neglected to get anything out of the freezer to thaw for supper. He could always nuke a frozen dinner, he supposed. But the drive home took him right past a Pizza Palace ...

He ordered a medium—with extra cheese, sausage, and mushrooms. Ate it right there in the restaurant because he just couldn't wait. He was absolutely famished after that insubstantial lunch.

When he arrived home the first thing he checked was the mayonnaise jar and its occupant. It reminded him he ought to get busy with some research and see if he could identify this wasp. He picked up the jar and at the same time noticed he'd left the dish towel on the counter that morning, instead of hanging it up in its proper place. He grabbed the towel with his free hand ... and was shocked to see another big pulsing red wasp appear in the air, seemingly out of nowhere. It immediately zoomed right at his face. He lashed out with the towel, but that limp weapon failed to deflect the wasp from its trajectory. Indeed, the motion only aggravated the attacker, which grabbed hold of his lower lip and delivered a burning sting.

Snyder used the towel to grab the offending bug off his face. He threw the towel to the tiled floor and stomped on it. When he lifted the towel again, he saw that his effort to kill the critter had come up short.

He'd missed. The wasp was climbing up the fabric toward his hand. He dropped the towel on the floor and stomped it but good—both feet—multiple times. A Flamenco dance instructor would have been proud.

And then the strangest thing happened. The kitchen sink began to grow. Not only did it significantly increase in size, but it extended towards him. Was that little drainage opening smiling at him? And the faucet—was it ... drooling?

Oh, my God. I'm hallucinating. What kind of venom is this? Is it deadly?

To purchase *Invasive Species*, go to: <https://www.amazon.com/Invasive-Species-Speculative-Fiction-Novella/dp/B0DPHZTC2B/>.

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 mwgsmonyquartz@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
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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.