

The Quill

**The Monthly Newsletter of the Monadnock Writers' Group
January 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.

What Would You Like to See in the *Quill*?

Happy 2024! It's a new year, and we're always looking for new ideas for the *Quill*! Would you like to contribute a poem of the month, an essay, or novel excerpt to the *Quill*? Would you like to see member profiles? Write a book or podcast reviews? Please share your ideas for the *Quill* with mwgquill@gmail.com, or talk to Jesseca Timmons or Sue Gebo at a general meeting.

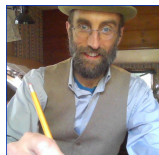


Members, please **renew your membership** for 2024! Members' dues pay for our speaker honorarium, room fees, and the donuts. Regular membership is only \$30 a year, \$25 for seniors and students. Please join at <https://www.monadnockwriters.org/membership> or email monadnock-writers@gmail.com. Thank you!

Recent Events. Thanks to all who attended the December 16 Read-Around, shared their wonderful work, and kept to the ten minute limit to the best of their abilities. Word on the street it was “the best read-around ever!” Our next read-around is June 17th.

2024 Winter & Spring Speakers

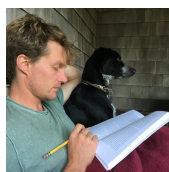
January 20: Marek Bennett is a NH-based graphic novelist and cartoonist, musician, and educator. His comics work includes the graphic novel series, *The Civil War Diary of Freeman Colby*, as well as drawing, translating, & editing for *The Most Costly Journey* (2021) with the bilingual El Viaje Project. He is the recipient of the 2021 New Hampshire Governor’s Arts Award for Art Education. For more information about Marek’s work please go to: <http://www.marekbennett.com>



February 17: Jason 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 to secret lists of misbehaving police officers. Moon is the creator of NHPR’s award-winning *Bear Brook* true crime: <https://www.nhpr.org/people/jason-moon>.



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’s 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 Sheridan 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 (May 11) DUE TO CHILDREN IN THE ARTS. Rebecca Dinerstein Knight of Harrisville is the author of novels *Hex* and *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 Dinerstein Knight 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 ten minutes!

MWG NEWS

The MWG's **George Duncan Essay Contest** for high school students in the Monadnock Region is **open for submission** from now until March 1, 2024. 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.



On **January 18, 7:00 p.m.** Jimmy Pappas will feature *Smoky Quartz* at his weekly online poetry series. Four *Smoky Quartz* contributors (William Doreski, Maura MacNeil, Lucia Owens, and Kelley White) will read and answer questions about their poems. To attend the January 18 session, email Jimmy Pappas for the Zoom link at jpappas235@gmail.com.

Calls for Submission

Blair Publishing Prizes. The Bakwin Award for Full-Length Prose will be open from November 15, 2023, through 11:59 pm ET on January 15, 2024, or until we reach our cap of 300 submissions. This award is for an unpublished full-length literary prose work of fiction or nonfiction, prioritizing manuscripts by authors that fit Blair's mission of publishing new and historically neglected voices. <https://blairpub.com/submissions>.

At **Aethon Books**, we're open to all genre fiction, with a focus on **Science Fiction and Fantasy**. We don't care what sub-genre you write in. Hard Sci-fi, Epic Fantasy, Romantasy, Space opera, Lit-RPG, Military SF, Alt/History, Time Travel and more, our main concern is story, story, story. We are also now open to **Thrillers** of all types, though with an emphasis on Action, Political, and Military Thrillers. A compelling narrative should pull us through your world, rife with three-dimensional characters, urgency, and enough conflict to keep things interesting. Make us think, make our heart race, but never forget that the most important thing to us when it comes to fiction, is the plot itself. <https://aethonbooks.com/submissions/>



3Cents Magazine has multiple submission periods throughout the year. *3cents* puts authors and their writing in conversation with one other. We believe that literature is at its best when it is intertwined, intertextual, and interconnected. We publish poetry, fiction, and nonfiction with a twist. We will publish one poem, one short story or flash fiction, and one piece of creative nonfiction together as a mini-collection built around that theme. <https://www.3centismagazine.com/submit>



The **Mad Duck Coalition** has simple *quackteria*: if you have something written up that's academic, radical, or revolutionary (or just a little too unconventional/niche for the regular agent/publisher to take on), we want to see it! Buzz words we love: experimental, innovative, literary, genre, speculative, new, and original—hell, even weird. For now, The Mad Duck Coalition has three imprints: *Big Ripple Books*, *In The Weeds Provocations*, and *Flights of Fancy Publications*. For more information on submissions please go to: <https://themadduckcoalition.org/submissions>.

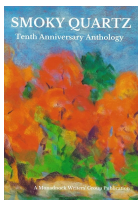


The **National Poetry Series Competition**. The National Poetry Series seeks **book-length manuscripts of poetry** written by American residents or American citizens living abroad. Manuscripts are submitted online only via Submittable with an entrance fee of \$35.00 (per manuscript). The entry period for the 2023 Open Competition begins on January 1, 2023, 12:00 AM EST and runs through (and including) March 15, 2023, 11:59 PM EST. Five winners are selected each year, and each receives a prize of \$10,000 and publication. **Submissions are open annually from January 1–February 28**. Learn more and submit at nationalpoetryseries.org.



The **Poetry Society of New Hampshire** takes submissions for their magazine, *The Poet's Touchstone: A Journal of Art and Poetry*. Active member can submit for free, submission fee for non members. The Poetry Society lists poetry events and opportunities across New Hampshire. <https://psnh.org/journal/>

MWG Publications

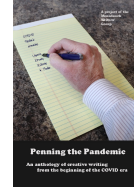


Smoky Quartz, MWG's online journal of literature and art: If you haven't already, take a look at the Fall 2023 issue of *Smoky Quartz*, (www.smokyquartz.org). The *Smoky Quartz* Team has multiple opportunities for editorial, production, and promotions assistants. Anyone interested in learning more about publishing a journal and joining a friendly team, should email the Editors at 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.



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 the Monadnock Writers' Group

- **Submit Your Bio as a Member of MWG.** Are you a member? If you would like your bio added to the *Our Members* page on the MWG website, please send it to Mary Marchese at mwg.quill@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! 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/about-us>.
- **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*

