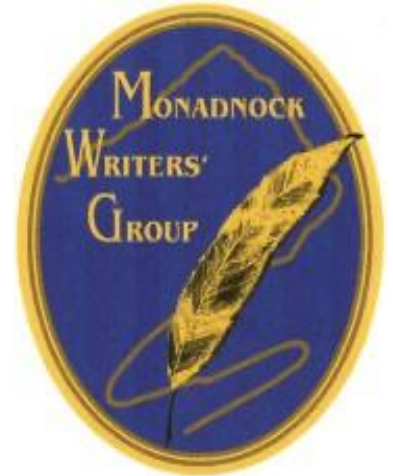


The Quill

The Monthly Newsletter of the Monadnock Writers' Group

May 1, 2026

Contact us at: monadnockwriters@gmail.com or
P.O. Box 3071
Peterborough, NH 03458



UPCOMING MEETINGS

MWG meets monthly, usually on the third Saturday at 9:45 – 11:45, from September through June. Eight of these meetings feature an invited speaker who is a prominent writer, editor or publisher. The meetings also include time for meeting other members, announcements on workshops and other events of interest to writers, and ten minutes for a reading by an MWG member. Two meetings each year are devoted to readings by members.

MAY 30 – Read-Around: It is always intriguing to hear a sample of what our members are writing. At the Read-Around, everyone is invited to read up to ten minutes of their work. This event will be held in the classroom on the lower floor of the Peterborough Town Library.

JUNE 20 – Lorraine Ash: Lorraine'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. A love of American history led to penning three historical plays about American presidents— *Tyler*, *Monroe*, and *Jackson*—published by The History Project. Ash has produced numerous short



stories and essays for literary journals and anthologies. Her memoir, *Life Touches Life: A Mother's Story of Stillbirth and Healing* (New Sage Press), reached stillbirth mothers in six continents. She has worked one-on-one with more than sixty writers to either ghostwrite, edit, or coach their book manuscripts into existence. See the notice in this issue of *The Quill* about her workshop in Peterborough on June 18-19.

JUNE 20 – MWG Annual meeting: Concurrent with the general meeting on June 20, will be the official annual meeting of the Monadnock Writers' Group. Our only business will be electing Board members and officers. The 3-year term of office for some current Board members is expiring. If you have any interest in joining the Board or wish to know more about it, send a message to monadnockwriters@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 19 – MacDowell: Our September meeting kicks off a new program year, tentatively planned for the James Baldwin Library at MacDowell in Peterborough. We hope to hear from two of the MacDowell Fellows as we normally do in September. The artistic vision and writing talent of the Fellows who have addressed us before have always been inspiring to our members.

RECENT MWG EVENTS

April 11 – Poetry in the Pines: Winners of the Fifth Poetry in the Pines contest sponsored by MWG were announced in the meeting hall at Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge by the contest judge, Brian Evans-Jones. The winning poets read their work in the event and then



everyone went outside to the nearby trails where the poems had been placed on wooden plaques, and the poems were read

again. There are now fifteen contest winners whose work is read by visitors as they walk through the woods at Cathedral of the Pines. Look for the new Poems on the “Peace Trail”: *Under Stars* by Brenna Manuel, *Trail Guide* by Linda Thomas, and *Haiku* by Lyrion ApTower.

April 18 – General meeting with Brian Evans-Jones: Brian’s poetry has



appeared widely in competitions, magazines, and art events in America and the United Kingdom. He taught poetry in England until moved to America where he has taught in colleges in Maine and New Hampshire. He currently lives in Sharon.

His presentation to MWG included describing the poetry structure that helped make the poems he read us from his own work so memorable. His work demonstrated techniques appropriate to their intended emotional responses, e.g., humor, nostalgia, anger, or affection. See how to take advantage of his poetry techniques in the next section of *The Quill*.

RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

The Power of Place: A Memoir Writing Workshop: Lorraine Ash will lead this workshop on June 18 -19 at Peterborough Town Library, based on how place and identity are inextricably linked. Using a personal map-drawing technique, prompts, and literary examples, participants will explore and connect personal stories evoked by the streets, landscapes, and neighborhoods they have inhabited. They will produce new, stand-alone pieces or devise augmented segments for larger works already underway.

Tuition cost: \$225 Maximum number of participants: 20

Register at: <http://lorraineash.com/events.php>

For more information feel free to email MWG Board member Mary Marchese at maryfm94@gmail.com.

The Poetry Place: Brian Evans-Jones provides articles on form, technique, creativity, and the drafting process, that give you the benefit of his experience in ways that you can understand and really use in your poetry, including

- Poetic Form and Technique,
- Creativity for Poetry,

- Mastering Your Drafting, and
- Publishing Your Poems.

Start with *8 Steps to Better Poems* available with other free poetry learning resources at [The Poetry Place](#).

Federal Book Ban Bill: Many publishers, including the big five, have been promoting [Every Library's Stop the Federal Book Ban Bill](#) campaign. Their campaign offers several easy ways to help prevent the passing of H.R. 7661. You can learn more about H.R. 7661 [here](#).

Advice on collaborative writing: For a free article on how to take advantage of discussion with a partner to strengthen your writing, go to authorspublish.com/talk-to-someone-how-the-best-writing-is-born/

Free e-magazine for writers: *Authors Publish* is a free e-zine with lots of advice on writing and publishing. To subscribe, go to:

Authors Publish Guiding Principles

1. We always pay our authors
2. All the publishers we review do not require agents or previous publications
3. We do not have relationships with the publishers we review
4. We research all the publishers to make sure that they are legitimate
5. We do not feature markets which charge a fee for all submissions
6. All markets that we review are open to submissions regardless of writers' nationalities

Guidance on publishing books for children and young adults: Free article at <https://authorspublish.com/a-quick-start-guide-to-childrens-and-young-adult-publishing/>

Bacopa Literary Review 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](#).

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.

Website: www.monadnockwriters.org

Email: monadnockwriters@gmail.com

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 joining the MWG Board, 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 mwg.quill@gmail.com at least a week before the end of the month. 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.

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

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 McIntire and Karen-Marie Scolforo