

# *The Quill*

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

**October 1, 2025**

*Supporting Writers Since 1984*

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

PO Box 3071, Peterborough, NH 03458

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



[www.facebook.com/groups/monadnockwriters/monadnockwriters@gmail.com](https://www.facebook.com/groups/monadnockwriters/monadnockwriters@gmail.com)

---

**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.

## **MWG NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MWG has a new Facebook Page!** Members and the general public are welcome to check out the new MWG Facebook page, which can be found [here](#).

**New Dawn Art's Upper Gallery** is once again accepting submissions to display your writing samples in our upcoming Fall 2025 Writers Unite! Printed-Works Exhibition & Networking Event. Please be sure to share this event & exhibition opportunity with your literary groups & networks. If you would like to be part of the Planning Group for this event, please reach out to us at [info@newdawnarts.org](mailto:info@newdawnarts.org).

**Holiday Market at the Peterborough Night Market.** Normally held on first Fridays in the warmer months, the Peterborough Night Market will host a Holiday Market this year on November 29 at 2:00 - 7:00. MWG has reserved a table in the Peterborough Town House auditorium to sell member books. If you are a member and you have books to sell, please bring

copies to the November general meeting of MWG. If this does not work, please send Carl Mabbs-Zeno an email at [monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@gmail.com) to reserve a space on the table, and plan to bring the books to the Town House on November 29th. Writers who have time to assist at the table should send Carl the hours they are available.

**The Monadnock Writers' Group will hold its annual 3-Minute Fiction Contest on October 25th at 10:00 am at the Mariposa Museum in Peterborough.** This event has been one of the highlights of the MWG program both in challenging writers and in entertaining audience members. Contestants will read a selection of their own writing, to be judged by a panel of experienced, well-published writers. Readings will be timed and points deducted for excess time over the three minutes. There is no charge to participate, and the public is welcome to join as contestants or supporters. The winner will be invited to the New Hampshire finals, which will be held on November 8th at Southern New Hampshire University, where a top prize of \$250 will be awarded.

## 2025 FALL MEETING & SPEAKER SCHEDULE



**October 18: David Moloney is the author of *Barker House*,** a novel that revolves around a number of correctional officers at a fictional county jail in New Hampshire. His short stories and essays have also appeared in *Guernica*, *The Yale Review*, *AGNI*, *Joyland*, *The Common*, and elsewhere. He's a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Lowell and earned his master's at the Mountainview MFA (SNHU), where he was awarded the Lynn Safford Memorial Prize for Outstanding Thesis. He now teaches and coordinates the undergraduate creative writing program at Southern New Hampshire University.

**November 15: Richard Adams Carey** has pursued seal and walrus with Yupik Eskimo hunters; fished for lobster, shrimp, and cod off Cape Cod in the winter; ridden shotgun with Russian fisheries police in pursuit of sturgeon poachers; and reconstructed—on a moment-by-moment basis—the events of a mass shooting in a small New England town. **He is the prize-winning author of four books of literary nonfiction.** His short fiction, essays, and reviews have appeared in such places as the *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Hunger Mountain*, the *Beloit Fiction Journal*, *Harvard Magazine*, the *Massachusetts Review*, *Yankee Magazine*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. He is a former president of the New Hampshire Writers' Project, and he has taught graduate-level fiction and nonfiction at Southern New Hampshire University. His work-in-progress, a natural and social history of seals, will be published in 2027.



**December 20: 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! We will be trying out a new format this time around, breaking participants into two groups, those who wish to receive

feedback and those who prefer not to. Either way, this experience offers an opportunity to learn what your fellow MWG writers are working on. Expect to be delighted!

**January through June speakers and meeting content will be announced in a later issue.**

## **EVENTS, CONFERENCES, AND RESOURCES FOR WRITERS**

**New Hampshire Writers' Project offers a variety of resources and events.**

### **OCTOBER 4TH**

NH Book Festival  
Concord, NH

### **OCTOBER 11TH**

Harriet E. Wilson Literary Salon with J.  
Dennis\* Robinson  
New Castle, NH

### **OCTOBER 15TH**

Marketing Support Group: The Power of  
Storytelling in Marketing  
Zoom Room

### **OCTOBER 18TH**

NH Literary Awards  
Manchester, NH

### **NOVEMBER 1ST**

Write In with Masherri Chappelle  
Epping, NH

### **NOVEMBER 8TH**

Three-Minute Fiction Slam Finals  
Manchester, NH

### **NOVEMBER 15TH**

Harriet E. Wilson Literary Salon with L.  
Annette Binder\*  
New Castle, NH

### **NOVEMBER 19TH**

Marketing Support Group: How to Pitch  
Yourself for Speaking Engagements &  
Podcasts  
Zoom Room

**Authors Publish offers opportunities for writers.** No Submission Fees. None of the publishers we list require submission fees. No Agents Required. Only listing traditional publishers open to direct submissions. Legitimate Publishers Only, listing vetted, traditional publishers.

### **[Why and Where You Should Start Submitting Your Writing This September](https://authorspublish.com/why-and-where-you-should-start-submitting-your-writing-this-september-7/)**

If you are one of those writers who has not yet submitted your work, or perhaps you just took a long break from submitting over the summer and need motivation to start submitting again, this article is for you...

<https://authorspublish.com/why-and-where-you-should-start-submitting-your-writing-this-september-7/>

### **Free Book**

### **[The 2025 Guide to Manuscript Publishers](https://authorspublish.com/books/free-book-the-2025-guide-to-manuscript-publishers-297-traditional-publishers-no-agent-required/)**

297 Traditional Publishers. No Agent Required.

<https://authorspublish.com/books/free-book-the-2025-guide-to-manuscript-publishers-297-traditional-publishers-no-agent-required/>

**Fredericksburg Independent Book Festival (October 4).** Join us for the 8th annual



Fredericksburg Independent Book Festival (FiBF) on October 4, 2025, in historic downtown Fredericksburg, VA! This free, family-friendly festival is one of the largest independent book festivals on the East Coast, showcasing award-winning authors, small press publishers, and emerging literary voices across all genres.

<https://www.facebook.com/FredBookFest>

**Gotham Writers Fiction Conference (October 4-5).**

<https://www.writingclasses.com/fiction/writers-conference/registration>

**Atlanta Writers Conference (October 24-25).** <https://atlantawritersconference.com/the-conference/>

**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)

**The Writer's Hotel Workroom 5: Five full manuscript readings by two editors.** TWH Workroom 5 includes five full manuscript Team Readings, performed by Scott Wolven and Shanna McNair. TWH Workroom 5 spans a fourteen-month period and includes five follow-up phone calls and agency referrals. We run TWH Workrooms 5 in the following genres: Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry and Screenplay/Scripts. Cost is \$5000. Space is limited. TWH Workroom 5 spots tend to fill up quickly and must be reserved in advance. To apply, please submit up to 5000 words of prose, 10 pages of poetry or 15 pages of a Final Draft script. Please include a letter of interest, describing your current projects. And please tell us why you think The Writer's Hotel Workroom 5 would be helpful or meaningful to you as a writer. All applicants we consider for TWH Workroom 5 will be phoned for an interview. There is no deadline. We offer TWH Workroom 5 on a first-come, first-serve basis. When TWH Workroom 5 is full, we will not accept applications. <https://thenewguard.submittable.com/submit/195487/the-writers-hotel-workroom-5-five-full-manuscript-readings-by-two-editors>

## OPEN SUBMISSIONS

**Graywolf Press is accepting submissions for Poetry.** Graywolf Press partners with the Academy of American Poets and Cave Canem to publish and promote the work of new and emerging writers.

Walt Whitman Award

The Walt Whitman Award is a \$5,000 first book publication prize given to an American poet. In addition to publication and promotion by Graywolf Press, the winner receives an all-expenses-paid six-week residency at the Civitella Ranieri Center in Umbria, Italy, and a trip to New York City to attend the American Poets Prizes ceremony. The Academy of American Poets purchases

copies of the winning book to distribute to thousands of its members. For more information please visit the [Academy of American Poets](#) website.

#### Cave Canem Poetry Prize

Graywolf Press is one of the publishers of the Cave Canem Poetry Prize, a first book award dedicated to the discovery of exceptional manuscripts by African American poets. Graywolf publishes every third winner of the prize. More information is available on the [Cave Canem](#) website.

For fiction and nonfiction manuscripts, agented submission is required.

**Alice James Books is accepting submissions of poetry manuscripts.** Alice James Books will consider submissions of poetry manuscripts to the 2026 Alice James Award postmarked through October 17th, 2025. The Alice James Award welcomes submissions from emerging as well as established poets. Entrants must reside in the United States.

***The winner of the 2026 award will receive \$2000, book publication, promotion, and distribution via Consortium Book Sales and Distribution.*** In addition to the winning manuscript, one or more additional manuscripts may be chosen for publication as the Editor's Choice.

#### **Guidelines for Manuscript Submission:**

- **AI-generated and AI-assisted work is strictly prohibited.** Those interested in submitting to the AJA may use AI to research and inspire revision to existing poems but submitted collections as a whole, and every element of the poems within, must have been originally imagined and created by the author alone; in cases where lines or phrases were inspired by or pay homage to other resources, proper attribution is required. All manuscripts proven to have benefited from AI assistance will be immediately disqualified.
- Screening for the Alice James Award is blind. **No contact information may appear within your manuscript, including within the filename, if electronically submitted. Do not include any preambles, bios, author's notes, or acknowledgments within your submitted manuscript.** Notes on the poems are permitted.
- Hard copy submissions: send one copy of your manuscript with two title pages (one that includes just the title of your manuscript, the second the title and your contact information [your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and an optional biographical note]). **Use only binder clips. No staples, folders, or printer-bound copies.**
- Manuscripts may be submitted online or by regular mail. Mail hard copy entries to: Alice James Books, Alice James Award, Auburn Hall, 60 Pineland Drive, Suite 206, New Gloucester, ME 04260. **Online submissions are open until 11:59 PM EST on the deadline.**
- Manuscripts must have a numbered table of contents, typed in no smaller than 12-point font, paginated, and 48 – 100 pages (single-spaced) in length. We accept double-sided manuscripts.

- Decorative illustrations, photographs, or images should not be included; hybrid poems are permitted. Images that identify the author must be redacted.
- Individual poems from the manuscript may have been previously published in magazines, anthologies, or chapbooks of less than 25 pages, but the collection, as a whole, must be unpublished.
- Translations and self-published books are not eligible.
- No multi-authored collections, please.
- **MANUSCRIPTS CANNOT BE RETURNED.** Please do not send us your only copy.
- Entry fee for the Alice James Award is \$30 for online and hardcopy submissions. Checks or money orders for hardcopy submissions should be made payable to Alice James Books.
- Winners will be announced in February/March 2026.

#### **Checklist for entry:**

- **Electronic:** One (1) PDF or .docx copy of manuscript (NO CONTACT INFORMATION WITHIN MANUSCRIPT).
- **Hardcopy:** Two (2) copies of title page (one page that shows only the title, the second which shows the title and your contact information) and One (1) printed copy of manuscript enclosed (NO CONTACT INFORMATION WITHIN MANUSCRIPT). If you wish acknowledgment of the receipt of your manuscript, include a stamped addressed postcard. For notification of winners, include a business-sized SASE.
- \$30 entry fee

## CONTESTS

**Red Hen Press invites submission of poetry collections.** Established in 1998, in honor of the poet Benjamin Saltman (1927–1999), this award is for a previously unpublished (including self-published works) original collection of poetry. Awarded collection is selected through an annual competition which is open to all poets. This year’s final judge will be **Brenda Cárdenas**.

**Deadline: October 31, 2025.** Award is \$3,000 and publication of the awarded manuscript by Red Hen Press. Entry fee is \$25.00. 48 page minimum, 96 page maximum. (sized on 8.5"x11" sheet, 1" margin, 12 pt. Times New Roman).

**New Women’s Voices Chapbook Competition.** A prize of \$1,500, royalty contract, and publication by Finishing Line Press is given annually to the winner for a poetry chapbook by a writer who identifies as a woman and has not yet published a full-length collection. We will select a winner and 10 finalists to be included in the New Women's Voices chapbook series. Submit a manuscript of 16 to 30 pages of poetry plus bio, title page, and acknowledgments with a \$20 entry fee by October 15, 2025. We do allow hybrid manuscripts in addition to traditional poetry manuscripts: prose poetry or formal verse.

We do allow color or black/white art to be included with the manuscript. Please follow page count guidelines. One page of art is equal to one page of poetry. All entries are considered for publication. <https://finishinglinepress.submittable.com/submit/327782/2025-new-womens-voices-chapbook-competition>

**The Hope Prize Global Writers' Prize.** There are no geographical restrictions. The Hope Prize is an international competition, open to writers from anywhere in the world. The deadline for receipt of entries is 11:59pm EST on 31 October 2025. You don't need a publishing history or formal training. You just need a compelling story and the skill to tell it well. We believe great writing is rooted in curiosity, sharp observation and literary instinct, not credentials. Whether this is your first submission or your fiftieth, we're excited to read work that moves us, challenges us and stays with us. We welcome short stories that are either fiction or narrative nonfiction. Fiction can be entirely imagined, while nonfiction may draw from real life, including memoir, as long as it's crafted with a strong narrative arc and emotional resonance. Submissions must not have been widely published before — this includes online and in print media. Stories should speak to themes of hope, courage, and resilience, as experienced or expressed by you, the author. <https://thehopeprize.submittable.com/submit/323789/global-writers-prize-13-000-in-prizes/eligibility>

**The Madison Review Fiction.** Deadline November 2, 2025. We accept previously unpublished fiction, typed. Submissions should be double-spaced, with standard 1" margins. Submissions are to be in 12-point, standard font with page numbers. Submissions should be no longer than 30 pages. Cover letters are to be kept to a 250-word maximum. Please submit in .docx file format. <https://madisonreview.submittable.com/submit/3977/fiction>

**Black Fox Literary Magazine Fiction, Flash Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry.** Thank you for your interest in *Black Fox*! *Black Fox Literary Magazine* is an international print and online biannual publication featuring quality fiction of all styles and genres, poetry, and creative nonfiction. We publish one summer issue and one winter issue each year. We accept general submissions in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for each issue during the following periods: Winter (2026) Issue Submission Period: July 1, 2025 – November 30, 2025. <https://blackfoxlitmag.com/submit/>

**Parley Lit Prose and Poetry.** Deadline 12/1/2025. Use this category for fully created previously unpublished written poetry or prose (creative nonfiction, fiction, or hybrid work). Your projects should not appear, in full, on any other platform (YouTube, Spotify, other lit magazines, your published book, your personal website or blog). You must attach the original file as a doc, docx, or pdf. Do not send a link to a file. Please specify the genre of your submission in the cover letter. <https://manager.submittable.com/opportunities/discover/297385>

**Spectacle Open Call Full Manuscripts for Poetry.** This is a non-contest open call for poetry manuscripts. We're accepting full-length manuscripts (roughly between 50 and 120 pages) to consider for publication in 2026. The deadline is December 31st, 2025. The open category will run on a periodic basis. Typically, when one period ends another will open consecutively or soon thereafter. There are no restrictions on who can submit or what kind of poetry--in English, or in translation into English--can be submitted, regardless of publication history or style. Collaborative manuscripts are also welcome. Current and former editors and interns of *Action, Spectacle* are not eligible. Individual poems in the manuscript may have been published previously in a chapbook, magazines, journals or anthologies, but the work as a whole must be unpublished. This is not a contest. **Please include a cover page with your title, name, email address, phone number, and physical address.** Manuscripts are not read blind. Also, include a table of contents. If applicable, please include an acknowledgments page, listing any previous

---

publication for the individual poems in the collection. <https://balticwritingresidency.submittable.com/submit/269795/open-call-reading-period-full-length-poetry-manuscripts>

## 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](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/](https://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:* Deni Dickler, Tori Haring-Smith, Maura MacNeil,  
Mary Marchese, Ronnie McIntyre. *Emerita:* Ann Day.