

The Quill

The Monthly Newsletter of the Monadnock Writers' Group

March 1, 2026

Supporting Writers Since 1984

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

PO Box 3071, Peterborough, NH 03458



MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Maya Angelou said, *“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.”* Perhaps this is the month you will tell your story. Here is some advice from two women writers:



“Write the kind of story you would like to read. People will give you all sorts of advice about writing, but if you are not writing something you like, no one else will like it either.” —Meg Cabot

“Cram your head with characters and stories. Abuse your library privileges. Never stop looking at the world, and never stop reading to find out what sense other people have made of it. If people give you a hard time and tell you to get your nose out of a book, tell them you're working. Tell them it's research. Tell them to pipe down and leave you alone.” —Jennifer Weiner

STEPHEN KING ON THE NECESSITY OF READING

Stephen King has famously touted the important of reading for writers.

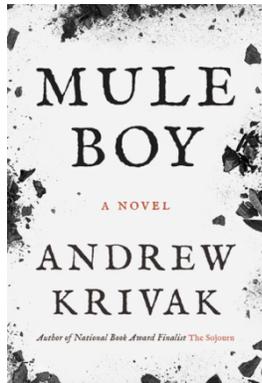
According to King, “You have to read widely, constantly refining (and redefining) your own work as you do so. It's hard for me to believe that people who read very little (or not at all in some cases) should presume to write and expect people to like what they have written, but I know it's true. If I had a nickel for every person who ever told me he/she wanted to become a writer but ‘didn't have time to read,’ I could buy myself a pretty good steak dinner. Can I be blunt on this subject? If you don't have the time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that.”



— Stephen King, On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft

READING IS ESSENTIAL FOR WRITERS

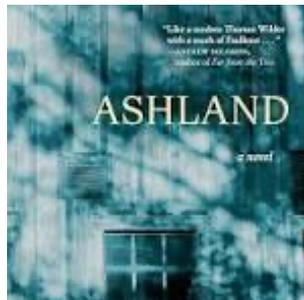
Toadstool Bookstore in Peterborough welcomes author conversations. On Thursday, March



5th, at 6 pm, local author Andrew Krivak will discuss his new book, *Mule Boy*. On Saturday, March 7th at 11 am, author Chuck Collins will read from his new book, *Burned By Billionaires: How Concentrated Wealth and Power are Ruining Our Lives and Plane*. Later on March 7th, at 2 pm, author Maren C. Tirabassi will read from her new book *Death Throws a Bouquet: A Rev and Rye Mystery*. Stop by at 11 am on March 21st to meet NH Poet Laureate Jennifer Mititello as she reads from her new book *Identifying the Pathogen*.

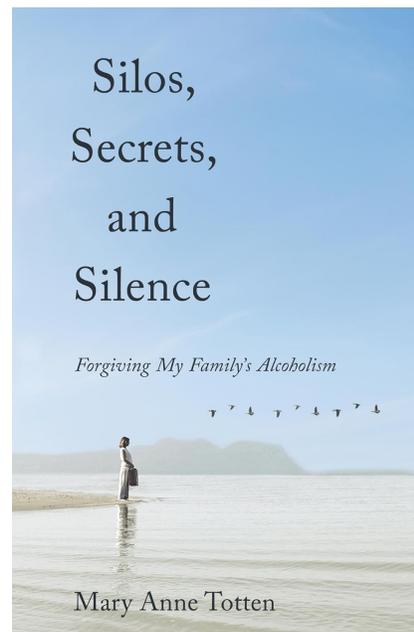


Gibson's Bookstore in Concord, New Hampshire welcomes an exciting line-up of authors in March. On Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:30 pm, meet *USA Today* bestselling author Emma Hamm as she presents *The Heartless One*, the steamy second book in her *Gravesinger* trilogy. Emma will be joined in conversation by her friend and fellow Romantasy author, Ariella Isabella ([A Secret Shared with Death](#)).



On Wednesday, March 4th at 6:30 pm, Gibson's will welcome Dan Simon, founder and editor-in-chief of Seven Stories Press, presents his debut novel, *Ashland!* On Thursday, March 5th at 6:30, meet Mary Anne Trotten as she presents her powerful memoir, *Silos, Secrets, and Silence: Forgiving My Family's Alcoholism*. On March 10th at 6:30 pm, Karen E.

Olson will return to Gibson's to share the second novel in her genre-defying crime series, *A Defiant Woman*. On March 12, 6:30 pm, Marek Bennett returns with the latest volume of his *Freeman Colby* series: *The Civil War Diary of Freeman Colby, Vol. 4: Summer 1864!* The fun doesn't stop on March 13th from 5-7 pm when Lucy Score promotes *Mistakes Were Made 0 Authorless Launch Party*. Reservations required for this one! And if you missed Jennifer Militello at Toadstool, see her at Gibson's on Wednesday, March 18th at 4:30 pm. Gibson's Bookstore is located at 45 S. Main Street in Concord, New Hampshire.



The Peterborough Town Library offers a variety of events and activities in the month of March. For more information, click [here](#).

APPLY NOW TO THESE PRESTIGIOUS WRITERS CONFERENCES

Bread Loaf Writers' Conference at Middlebury College in Vermont is accepting applications through March 15, 2026. Scholarships and financial aid are available. With a distinguished literary and intellectual tradition dating back to its founding in 1926, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference will bring emerging writers together to work with a diverse and talented faculty. Their Centennial celebration started last summer and will continue through the year, culminating in special events planned for summer 2026. For ten days in August, Participants and Fellows will experience the opportunity of working under the guidance of notable writers, including MacArthur Fellows, U.S. Poets Laureate, and recipients of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award. The rural and scenic setting amid the Green Mountains on Middlebury's Bread Loaf campus provides an ideal environment for discussing manuscripts, sharing insights, getting to know agents and editors, and becoming acquainted with the next generation of significant writers. Apply [here](#).

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](#).

POETRY IN THE PINES

The fourth *Poetry in the Pines* competition is open for submissions. Entries should be submitted to monadnockwriters@gmail.com. Three winning poems will be selected by this year's judge, Brian Evans-Jones, and will be read by the authors at a reception in the meeting hall of Cathedral of the Pines. The judge will also read a poem at that time. All MWG members, especially poets, along with members of the public, are encouraged to attend the event. Attendees will have time to discuss poetry during an informal session.

After the reception, everyone will be invited to walk the nearby trail to view the poems, which will be displayed on wooden plaques. Winning poets will read their pieces once again in this special setting. Attendees will have an opportunity to view the winning poems from previous years, which continue to be displayed on an adjacent trail.



Submission guideline: Poems may be up to six lines in length and must convey an appreciation of nature. Participants may enter up to three poems for consideration. Deadline: March 15, 2026. The reception will begin at 10:00 on Saturday April 11. Cathedral of the Pines is located at 10 Hale Street Road in Rindge. [Cathedral of the Pines](#) | [Honor Celebrate Reflect](#)

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Poetry Wales Summer 2026 | Poetry. The submissions portal is open until Saturday 28 February for **essays, interviews and poetry** to feature in the Summer 2026 issue. As always, any and all themes are welcome; for Summer 2026, the team wants to explore the meeting point between poetry and teaching. Poets who teach within any subject or setting support creativity in ways sometimes overlooked within education and lifelong learning. They foster curiosity, strengthen critical thinking, nurture social connections, and offer a language for learners to express their inner lives. They also have a general call for poetry which may include non-teachers and/or on non-teaching topics. **Please note that the team will be capping the poetry portal at 550 submissions, to allow their editor time to give each poem the attention it deserves.** Before you submit, please make sure you have read the guidelines [here](#).

Raz-Shumaker Prairie Schooner Book Prize Series Fiction Submission for a short story collection, and manuscripts should be at least 150 pages long. Novels are not considered; one novella along with short stories will be considered as a collection, but single novellas or a collection of novellas are not eligible. Ends on Mon, Mar 16, 2026 1:00 AM. For more information, visit the submission page on [Submittable](#).

Stillhouse Press is open for nonfiction submissions (memoir, essay collections) through March 10, 2026. Stillhouse Press publishes surprising, gutsy fiction, nonfiction, and poetry that can't or doesn't want to find a home in big publishing. The publishing team there is drawn to the strange, the unconventional, the transcendent, the risky. They're looking for work that pushes boundaries. Stillhouse is a nationally distributed press that offers a competitive royalty-based compensation structure: authors earn 20% of net revenue from standard online and bookstore sales, Stillhouse website sales, and direct sales. They publish a limited number of titles each year to offer more personalized support and attention to their authors. Collaboration is paramount: they partner with their authors to build awareness of their work through review and award submissions, endorsements, newsletter campaigns, and social media promotion. For more, visit [Submittable](#).

Violet Winding Stars is accepting submissions. They are interested in poetry, literary fiction, nonfiction/memoir, and historical fiction. Learn more on [Submittable](#).

PUBLISHERS ACCEPTING UNAGENTED SUBMISSIONS

Abbeville Press (www.abbeville.com/)
Academy Chicago Publishers
(www.chicagoreviewpress.com)
Addicus Books (www.addicusbooks.com)
Aethon Books (aethonbooks.com)
Alcove Press (alcovepress.com)
Annick Press (annickpress.com)
Bancroft Press (bancroftpress.com)
Beacon Press (www.beacon.org)

Bella Books (bellabooks.com)
Blue Moose Books (bluemoosebooks.com)
Breakaway Books
(www.breakawaybooks.com)
Hard Case Crime
(www.hardcasecrime.com/)
HellBound Books Publishing
(www.hellboundbooks.com)
Harlequin (www.eharlequin.com)

Greenwood Press (www.greenwood.com)
Kensington Publishing
(www.kensingtonbooks.com)
Legend Press (www.legendpress.co.uk)
Nef House (www.nefhousepublishing.com)
No Starch Press (www.nostarch.com)

Potomac Books
(www.potomacbooksinc.com)
Skyhorse Publishing
(skyhorsepublishing.com)
Three Rooms Press (threeroomspress.com/)
Tilbury House Publishers
(www.tilburyhouse.com/)

FEBRUARY MEETING

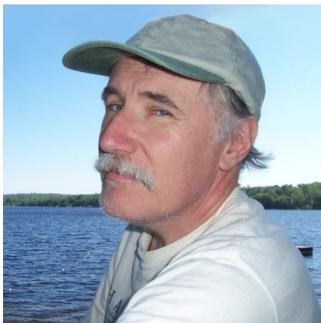
The Monadnock Writers Group welcomed Sebastian Lockwood on February 21 at the Peterborough Library. Storyteller and podcaster Sebastian Lockwood shared his experience telling the great epics: Gilgamesh, Odysseus, Caesar, Beowulf and Monkey. His studies in Classics and Anthropology at Boston University and Cambridge University in the UK laid the foundation for bringing these great tales into performance.

Lockwood's performances are designed to take complex texts and make them accessible and exciting for audiences from 5 to 95. Lockwood has tutored and taught classes in higher education for 25 years. Lockwood launched two storytelling podcasts in 2022: *Blowing Up Stumps- tales from New and Old England* (with Maine storyteller Matt Gile), and *Monkey-the Journey to the West*. He now concentrates on performance, podcasting, workshops, and audiobook narration. Lockwood lives under Crooked Mountain in a 1792 house with his wife, jazz singer and LUX Lifestyle founder, Nanette Perrotte.

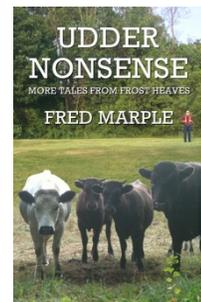


REMINDER: 2025-2026 MEETING & SPEAKER SCHEDULE

March 21 at the Peterborough Library: Ken Sheldon is a novelist,



composer, playwright and performer. Formerly the West Coast bureau chief for *Byte Magazine*, his 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.



Michael Manley is the pen name of the late Stanley Michael Miastkowski and Kenneth Manley Sheldon. Stan was a search and rescue worker who participated in dozens of rescue and recovery operations, including operations following the September 11 attacks in New York. He was a broadcast and print journalist for nearly 35 years, including stints as a columnist for *Esquire*, *PC World* and *Byte Magazine*. Stan passed away in 2009.



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.

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

Lorraine Ash Returns to The Center at Mariandale for a Memoir Writing Retreat. Writing a Braided Memoir: A classical memoir tells a single, linear story. A braided memoir—beloved in today’s marketplace—yields a more complex story by interweaving multiple themes and narrative threads. We’ll explore how to infuse your memoir, making it both a compelling story and a way for readers to rethink socially significant issues. Perfect for writers at all levels. Come ready to write. For more information, [email Karen Bernard](mailto:karen.bernard@lorraineash.com) or [contact Lorraine](mailto:lorraineash@lorraineash.com).

- 4-day option: 5 p.m. Thursday through 1 p.m. Sunday, March 29, 2026
\$435 (includes all meals and lodging)
- 6-day option: 5 p.m. Thursday through 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2026
\$685 (includes all meals and lodging)

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, or join our Monadnock Writers' Group Facebook page.

Website: www.monadnockwriters.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/monadnockwriters

Email: monadnockwriters@gmail.com

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. 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.

• **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:**

- 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!

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