

The Quill

The Monthly Newsletter of the Monadnock Writers' Group

September 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



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, or join our Monadnock Writers' Group Facebook page.

MWG NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

September Meeting at MacDowell. Just a reminder our meeting on September 20th is at the James Baldwin Library at MacDowell at 100 High Street in Peterborough. The library is the stone building toward the back of the campus on the left as you drive into the main parking lot. For directions, please visit <https://www.macdowell.org/>.

Katie Peterson and Ewa Chrusciel To Read on Sunday, September 21st in Harrisville, NH. See full announcement/flyer at the back of this newsletter.

New Editors for The Quill and Monadnock Writers Group Facebook Page. The board has approved the voluntary assignment of MWG member Karen-Marie Scolforo as the new editor of *The Quill* newsletter and Heather Dixon the new administrator for the MWG Facebook page.

Call for Volunteer Managing Editor for *Smoky Quartz*. *Smoky Quartz, An Online Journal of Literature and Art*, published by the Monadnock Writers' Group (MWG), is looking for a volunteer managing editor to join our small team of editors. In this role, you'll support the editorial team by setting up and leading meetings, assisting the submissions manager, publicizing and promoting the journal, and coordinating with the production editor. You'll also have the option to participate in the submissions review and selection if you wish. Support local writers and bring your gifts and skills to our friendly online gatherings. Training is available. Please contact us at mwgsSmokyQuartz@gmail.com for more information and to schedule a time to meet.

2025 FALL MEETING & SPEAKER SCHEDULE

May 17: MacDowell Fellows Lydia Martín and Tamar Raphael to speak. We are scheduled to hold our September meeting at the James Baldwin Library at MacDowell.

Lydia Martín is an award-winning fiction writer and journalist who spent 25 years covering Miami's growth and cultural evolution for The Miami Herald. Her work has appeared in literary journals such as *Masters Review Anthology*, *Ploughshares*, *Fifth Wednesday Journal* and *Origins Literary Journal*; in books such as *Presenting Celia Cruz*, (Clarkson Potter) and *Louis Vuitton City Guide Miami* and in magazines such as *Billboard*, *Esquire*, *InStyle*, *Oprah*, *Latina* (for which she also served as a contributing editor), *Hispanic* and *Out*. Martín, born in Havana and raised in Yonkers, Chicago, Flint and Miami, was part of the Miami Herald team that won a Pulitzer Prize for coverage of Hurricane Andrew. She was twice a finalist for journalism's Livingston Award and won a GLAAD Media Award for Spanish-language magazine writing. She won the 2016 Ploughshares Emerging Writer contest for fiction; and the 2016 Editor's Prize from Fifth Wednesday Journal, which nominated her for a Pushcart Prize. Martín, a Yaddo, MacDowell, and Bennington College fellow, has a BA in English and journalism from the University of Miami and an MFA in creative writing from Bennington College. While at MacDowell she'll be working on completing a draft of her first novel.

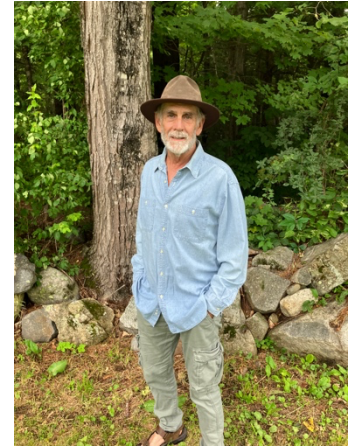
Tamar Raphael is an Israeli writer based in Berlin. Her debut novel, *There Were Two with Nothing to Do* (2024), received rave reviews and an honorable mention from the Brener Award for debut fiction. Her poetry collection, *Receding Songs* (2021), received the Ministry of Culture Award for Young Poets. Her poems and short stories have appeared in a range of literary magazines and journals. While at MacDowell, she will work on her second novel, which explores themes of immigration, memory, and the politics of trauma. All of her work has been published in Hebrew, with translations into English and German forthcoming.



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.



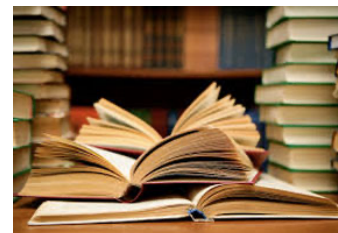
December 20: Member Read-Around. Please come, share your writing, and try to keep your selection to ten minutes so everyone will have a chance to share! We will be trying out a new format this time around, breaking participants into two groups, those who wish to receive feedback and those who prefer 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

Write to Pitch Conference 2025. NYC Live September 25-28, 2025; NYC Live December 11-14, 2025. Registration for the Write to Pitch 2025 can be accomplished here following successful application to the conference. Utilize this [event application page](#) for the live event in New York. This conference fee covers all event pitch sessions, workshops, prose critiques, materials, studio usage, pre-event assignments, online forum registration, faculty consults, and the post-event Algonkian Novel Writing Program. There is no other fee pertaining to the pre-conference, conference, or post-conference. Following registration, writers will receive access to the pre-event development and editorial forums as well as the eBook guide and logins to the post-event editorial program.

Washington Island Literary Festival (September 18-20). The Washington Island Literary Festival is a moveable feast of writing, reading, discussion, and thought about the written word. Writers' workshops, author panels and presentations, readings and parties are scheduled at various quaint, historic and beautiful venues around the Island. Participants have a unique opportunity to share time with prominent authors and dedicated readers in the intimate, friendly setting of Washington



Island, a half-hour by ferry from the Door County mainland, in September's color and warmth. <https://www.washingtonislandliteraryfestival.org/>

Colorado Gold Writers Conference (September 26-28). This year's conference theme is The Power of Prose: Writing as a superpower to change the world. Given the theme and the evolution of the Colorado Gold Conference, we're offering the typical in-person conference, Saturday passes, and a brand-new virtual option that is sure to pack a punch. <https://rmfw.org/conference-registration/>

New Frontiers In Writing Conference (September 27-28). New Frontiers in Writing is an opportunity for writers of all stripes to come together with industry VIPs, delving into the craft and business of writing, as well as exploring IP utilization that goes beyond the published page. In addition to two full days of classes and workshops, attendees will have ticketed access to the Grown-up Book Fair, keynote luncheon, and agent/editor pitch room. Registered attendees also get FREE and exclusive access to monthly Zoom sessions taught by industry professionals. Bonus sessions will occur on the first Monday, January through September 2025. <https://newfrontiersinwriting.com>

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

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

Olympia Publishers. All you need to do is send across the full manuscript of your work, with a covering letter stating your name, title of your work and genre with a short synopsis. Your synopsis should be no longer than one page of A4. If you haven't yet finished the work but would like to know if it would be something we are interested in before completing, then you are also welcome to send samples of the manuscript to us. Please always try to submit a digital copy of your work, preferably as one single document in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Our editorial team will undertake a comprehensive review of all work that is submitted to us. At Olympia Publishers we work with the hybrid publishing model and offer two types of publishing contracts. The hybrid publishing contract offer is based on a contribution, to be paid by the author, to cover initial production and printing of the work. Marketing costs are incurred by us as your publisher. The traditional contract is where no costs are incurred by the author and the whole cost for producing, publishing and marketing the work is covered by us.

submissions@olympiapublishers.com

CONTESTS

Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing 2026. Deadline September 30, 2025, via Submittable. Open Prize Winners (Short Story & Poetry) each \$5,000; Local Prize Winners (Short Story & Poetry) each \$2,500; Youth Prize Winners (Short Story & Poetry) each \$1,000; Mayor's Award (Local Short Story) \$500

<https://writersvictoria.submittable.com/submit/329808/nillumbik-prize-for-contemporary-writing-2026-poetry>

The Bridgeport Prize for Memoir. Deadline September 30, 2025, via Submittable. 8,000 words max, (5,000 minimum) taken from the opening chapter/s and a 300-word overview which should form the first page/s of your entry. Further submissions will be required if you are selected for the long list or shortlist. Long listed entrants will be asked to submit 15,000 words for the next stage of the judging process. This includes the original submission and overview. Entrants unable to comply will be disqualified. Shortlisted entrants will be asked to submit 30,000 words for the final stage of the judging process. This includes the original submissions and overview. Entrants unable to comply will be disqualified. You can submit multiple entries to the competition as long as each entry is paid for individually and includes a separate entry form. How to enter [here](#); Terms & Conditions [here](#).

The Juniper Prize for Creative Nonfiction. This prize is awarded annually to one original manuscript. The University of Massachusetts Press publishes the winning manuscript, and the author receives a \$1,000 award upon publication. All submissions must be made through

Submittable and will only be accepted each year between **August 1 and September 30 (11:59p.m. EDT)**. The entry fee is \$30. All manuscripts will be judged anonymously by a faculty-judge from or affiliated with the distinguished University of Massachusetts MFA program. The winner will be announced at the University of Massachusetts Press website in April, with publication slated for the following spring.
<https://umasspress.submittable.com/submit>

The Juniper Prize for Fiction. This prize is awarded annually to two original manuscripts of fiction: one short story collection and one novel. The University of Massachusetts Press publishes the winning manuscripts and the authors receive a \$1,000 award upon publication. All submissions must be made through Submittable and will only be accepted each year between **August 1 and September 30 (11:59p.m. EDT)**. The entry fee is \$30. All manuscripts will be judged anonymously by a faculty-judge from or affiliated with the distinguished University of Massachusetts MFA program. The winners will be announced on the University of Massachusetts Press website in April, with publication slated for the following spring.

The Juniper Prize for Poetry. This prize is awarded annually to two original manuscripts of poems: one first book prize for a previously unpublished author and one prize for a previously published author. The University of Massachusetts Press publishes the winning manuscripts and the authors receive a \$1,000 award upon publication.

Red Rock Review Literary Journal. We seek poems with authentic views that push boundaries and have something unique to say about the human experience; we are particularly passionate about poems that use language to explore and evoke a deep sense of emotion, culture, place, or identity. We are open to reading both traditional form and bold experimental poetry, as well as original translations of previously published work. Generally, we like submissions of no more than 80 lines, though we are open to reading exceptional work that goes beyond that. Please send no more than five poems/ ten pages of poetry per submission. All work must be previously unpublished. This means if your work has appeared in any print or online source (this includes personal blogs, websites, and social media pages), we cannot accept it. We accept simultaneous submissions with the stipulation that you withdraw upon acceptance elsewhere. For groups of poems, please send us a message indicating which poem is being withdrawn (do not withdraw the entire submission unless you intend to withdraw all poems from consideration). If you have previously published work with us, we ask that you please wait one year before sending us new work. No AI submissions: We currently do not accept work from artificial intelligence (“AI”) generators or similar. <https://redrockreview.submittable.com/submit/143226/poetry>

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. 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:* Deni Dickler, Tori Haring-Smith, Maura MacNeil, Mary Marchese, Ronnie McIntyre. *Emerita:* Ann Day.



For immediate release:

**POETS READ IN HARRISVILLE, NH
Katie Peterson and Ewa Chrusciel**

**Chesham and Harrisville Community Church, the “Brick Church”
13 Canal Street, Harrisville, on Sunday, September 21st, 2025, at 3:00 pm.
All welcome at no charge**

The Loom celebrates today’s best poets to the charming mill town of Harrisville, NH, welcoming two poets, Katie Peterson, and Ewa Chrusciel.

Praise for Katie Peterson

“It all comes back to grounding the self in the presenting world...consistent throughout is Peterson’s fascination with movement and stillness...Ultimately, *Fog and Smoke* balances terror with joy.

—Valerie Duff-Strautmann, Los Angeles Review of Books

Themes merge to showcase the poet’s sagacity, covert humor and rootedness—as the natural world is never too far away, half-visible in the haze...Peterson is [] a poet of subtle and continuous turns.... Her poems are effortless on a first read and chasmic on a second. They balance starkness, a calculating conceit, deep feeling and natural image.

—Marina Kraiskaya, The Los Angeles Review

Praise for Ewa Chrusciel

“*[Contraband of Hoopoe]* is wild and salvific... The book is written by an immigrant, and that immigrant is the human being. ...Authenticity emanates from every word as well as originality, sassy humor and bracing images, objects, rituals and queries from cultures in every old world trying to find right translation into this so-called new one.”

—Jorie Graham, poet

“It is time for the sharp and sweet audacity of Ewa Chrusciel’s work....*Yours, Purple Gallinule* shows us, in observations and witticisms crisp as the bite of an apple, the limits of our own understanding...”

—Katie Peterson, poet

“*Yours, Purple Gallinule* brims with humor, erudition and yes! Heresy. It dazzles with a fierce imagination....

—Abayomi Animashan, author of *Seahorses*



Don’t miss the opportunity to hear and connect with these poets in the intimate setting of the beautifully restored **Chesham and Harrisville Community Church, the “Brick Church” at 3:00PM, 13 Canal Street, Harrisville, on Sunday, September 21st, 2025.**

All are welcome at no charge. Visit TheLoomPoetry.com for more information.

Works Design Studio, www.umbrella-works.com.