

# *The Quill*

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

**December 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)

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**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.

**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:

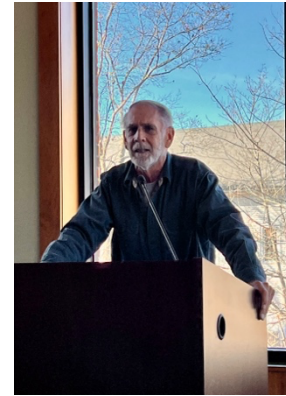
Monadnock Writers' Group, P.O. Box 3071, Peterborough, NH 03458

## RECENT MEETING

**On November 15, MWG welcomed Richard Adams Carey at the Peterborough Library.**

Carey shared with members of the Monadnock Writers Group his fascinating writing and publishing journey, which included pursuit of seal and walrus with Yupik Eskimo hunters; fishing for lobster, shrimp, and cod off Cape Cod in the winter; riding shotgun with Russian fisheries police in pursuit of sturgeon poachers; and reconstructing—on a moment-by-moment basis—the events of a mass shooting in a small New England town. Carey 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.

## NEW! 2025-2026 MEETING & SPEAKER SCHEDULE

**December 20 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! Stay for a lovely holiday brunch (*feel free to bring a dish to share!*). Expect to be delighted!

**January 17 at the Peterborough Library: Betsy Small.** Revisiting journals and photos from her Peace Corps days between 1984 and 1987 inspired Betsy Small's memoir *Before Before: A Story of Discovery and Loss in Sierra Leone*. In 1988, Small worked for the Peace Corps in Washington, D.C. and subsequently traveled to Africa to support a farming cooperative in Ghana. During her visit, Small hoped to visit with dear friends in Sierra Leone. Instead, the government of Ghana mistakenly accused her of belonging to a subversive group, which led to her arrest, detention, and deportation. Kirkus Reviews

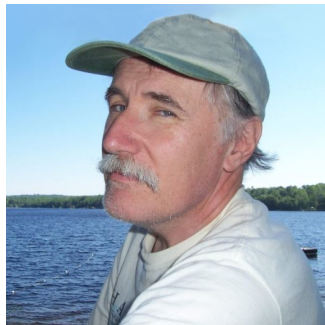


called Small's *Before Before* "A powerful commentary and memoir that challenge Western narratives of Sierra Leone."

**February 21 at the Peterborough Library: Sebastian Lockwood.** Storyteller and podcaster Sebastian Lockwood tells 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 Crotched Mountain in a 1792 house with his wife, jazz singer and LUX Lifestyle founder, Nanette Perrotte.



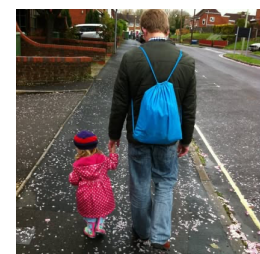
**March 21 at the Peterborough Library: Ken Sheldon** is a novelist, composer, playwright and performer. Formerly the West Coast bureau chief for *Byte Magazine*, his writing has appeared in publications ranging from *Acoustic Guitar* to *Yankee Magazine*. He writes music for children and adults and 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](https://www.thepoetryplace.com).





**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.



## CONTESTS AND SUBMISSION OPPORTUNITIES

***Bardsy's 2025 Fall First Chapter Anthology Contest-\$1,000 prize.*** Ready to turn your first chapter into a published success story? Check out <https://bardsy.com/contest> to find out more!

***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](https://www.academyofamericanpoets.org/) 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.

***The Rialto Nature and Place Competition 2026***, in association with the RSPB BirdLife International and The University of Leeds Poetry Centre, poems are invited that deal with any aspect of nature and place. For more information, [info@therialto.com.uk](mailto:info@therialto.com.uk).

***ROPES Literary Journal*** call for submissions. <https://www.writing.ie/resources/ropes-literary-journal/>

***The Short Story Challenge 2026 – nycmidnight—kicks off January 23***. The Short Story Challenge is an international creative writing competition, now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, that challenges participants to create original short stories in as little as 24 hours. The event is organized by NYC Midnight Movie Making Madness, an organization founded in 2002 with the mission to discover and promote a new wave of talented storytellers. Challenges include 100-word micro fiction, 250-word micro fiction, 500-word fiction, flash fiction, rhyming story, scary story, screenwriting, and short story. Check out [www.nycmidnight.com](http://www.nycmidnight.com) for entry information.

***Stockholm Writers Festival***. Enter your first five pages to win \$2,000, a developmental edit courtesy of Reedsy, and a meeting with a top literary agent. Second and third prize winners will also receive prize money. Check out [www.stockholmwritersfestival.com/prize](http://www.stockholmwritersfestival.com/prize) for details!

***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>

***Werle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest to win \$2,000 plus additional prizes***. No fee to enter. <https://winningwriters.com/werle>.

## **PUBLISHERS ACCEPTING UNAGENTED SUBMISSIONS**

***Abbeville Press will consider brief submission queries*** emailed to [abbeville@abbeville.com](mailto:abbeville@abbeville.com). Please include the words "SUBMISSION QUERY" in the subject of your email. Due to time constraints, we may not be able to reply to every query.

**Chicago Review Press** is interested in publishing high-quality nonfiction that will sell year after year. We look for books with a well-defined, passionate target audience. *Chicago Review Press* and its imprints publish general nonfiction on a wide range of subjects. Jerome Pohlen at [jpohlen@chicagoreviewpress.com](mailto:jpohlen@chicagoreviewpress.com) for popular science, DIY, US history, pop culture, and children's nonfiction activity books.

**Addicus Books** is seeking titles on consumer health, self-help, psychology, business, economics, investing, and books of regional interest. First, we prefer an e-mail query, letting us know what your topic is. (We publish only nonfiction.) Tell us about: the nature of your topic, your background, who the market is for your book, and how this market would be reached. *When querying by e-mail, send only a one-page e-mail, giving an overview of your book, and its market. Do not send attachments unless invited to do so.* E-mail address for submissions: [info@addicusbooks.com](mailto:info@addicusbooks.com).

**Albert Whitman & Company** currently has an open submissions policy. We will read and review un-agented manuscripts and proposals for picture books, middle-grade fiction, and young adult novels. Please read the following instructions carefully. We will not review any submissions that do not follow these guidelines. You may send your work to other publishers at the same time. We do not require exclusive submissions. Send to [submissions@albertwhitman.com](mailto:submissions@albertwhitman.com).

**Annick Press** is currently accepting submissions of picture books, early chapter books, middle grade fiction, YA fiction, graphic novels, and non-fiction for kids of all ages. We also encourage illustrators to submit their portfolios for consideration. Our books aim to empower readers, open minds, and create a lifelong love of reading. They feature contemporary themes (even if the setting is historical) and center kids' perspectives and experiences. We are committed to publishing diverse authors and illustrators. In considering submissions, we prioritize creators whose perspectives have historically been excluded from children's publishing. This includes but is not limited to LGBTQ2SIA+ creators, Black creators, Indigenous creators, creators of color, creators living with disabilities, and anyone living at the intersections of these identities. Click here to read about our [Editorial Mentorship Program](#) for writers. Submit to [submissions@annickpress.com](mailto:submissions@annickpress.com).

**Alcove Press** is accepting submissions via [QueryTracker](#). Due to the large volume of submissions we receive, we cannot respond to every query. We will contact you within two weeks if we are interested in reading further.

**Bancroft Press** is accepting submissions via email: [bruceb@bancroftpress.com](mailto:bruceb@bancroftpress.com) or by use of the submission form below. Please mark your submission appropriately in the subject field: Non-Fiction or Fiction. Please be sure to include your email address so we can contact you when the manuscript has been received.

**Beacon Press** is accepting submissions. If you would like Beacon Press ([beacon.org](http://beacon.org)) to consider your work, first familiarize yourself with our mission statement and our publications. Please note that we are not accepting submissions for new poetry, fiction, or self-help books at this time and will not review, respond to, or return submissions of this type. Please also note that

our publishing mission is currently general trade; some of our publications are trade books with an additional scholarly market, but we are not currently accepting submissions for purely academic projects. If you believe your work would be a good fit for our list, please email a 250-word query describing your proposal to [editorial@beacon.org](mailto:editorial@beacon.org). If we are interested in receiving a full proposal, we will email you within three weeks.

**Breakaway Books** publishes literary and thoughtful writing on sports — fiction, poetry, and essays on the athletic experience. We are interested in the emotional and metaphysical side of sports, the inner life of the athlete. We also celebrate the many ways sport can serve as muse for excellent writing — both serious and playful. We also have a separate list of boatbuilding and boating books, with a soft spot for small craft, mostly paddle and sail. If you wish to submit writing to us for possible publication, please send a query letter first. Our e-mail address is breakawaybooks (type in the "at" symbol here) gmail.com

**Chelsea Green (chelseagreen.com) publishes books by authors who bring in-depth, practical knowledge to life** and give readers hands-on information related to organic and regenerative farming and gardening, ecology and the environment, healthy food, local economies and resilient communities, and integrative health and wellness.

Before you submit a query or proposal, please browse our website, look closely at our titles to see the kinds of books we publish, and carefully review our submission guidelines.

**Chickadee Prince is accepting submissions.** Thank you for your interest in submitting your manuscript to Chickadee Prince Books via Measure Media, its management company. We are an independent publishing house focused on delivering high-quality fiction (through our Chickadee Prince imprint) and nonfiction (through our Measure Publishing imprint) to readers worldwide. We accept general trade adult and young adult (YA) fiction and nonfiction submissions. (measurepub.com for guidelines).

**Chronicle Books is accepting submissions.** See [chroniclebooks.com](http://chroniclebooks.com).

**Crooked Lane Books accepts both agented and unagented submissions.** Founded in 2014 to publish the highest quality crime fiction titles in both print and electronic editions. Please familiarize yourself with our line of [books](#) and our [editorial team](#) before submitting your query letter.

**At Ellysian Press we believe that our passion for books is a necessary element in our publishing process.** We love stories, we love characters, and we love their creators. We are always looking for fresh voices and unique ideas. *Ellysian Press* is committed to producing quality books with engaging stories and believable characters. We provide personal attention to our authors, guide the author through the publishing process and encourage communication between our authors and staff. We provide excellent editing, quality covers and assistance with marketing so that each author receives the support he or she needs in an ever-changing industry. We are currently accepting submissions of full-length novels in the genres listed below. Novels must have a minimum word count of 60,000 and a maximum word count of 110,000 to be considered. All manuscripts must be complete and new material. We accept online submissions only.

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*Hard Case Crime* is accepting submissions. Please query [editor@hardcasecrime.com](mailto:editor@hardcasecrime.com)

**Joffe Books** is one of the UK's leading independent publishers of excellent commercial fiction, especially crime and mystery fiction. We are renowned for working closely with authors from across the world to create fantastic books and turning them into bestsellers. We accept submissions from agents, previously published authors (including self-published authors) with long backlists, first-time writers with only one book under their belt, and anyone in between. We pride ourselves on the passion and dedication we pour into each and every book.

**McFarland Books** is accepting submissions from both authors and literary agents. The simplest, fastest way to contact us is by email at [proposals@mcfarlandpub.com](mailto:proposals@mcfarlandpub.com) so that it is expedited into our proposal evaluation process. If you do mark your submission to the attention of a specific editor, please do not submit it to more than one.

## 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](mailto:registration@awpwriter.org)

## 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: Tori Haring-Smith, Maura MacNeil, Mary Marchese, Ronnie McIntyre, and Karen-Marie Scolforo