

The Quill



January 2017:
Monadnock Writers' Group
Supporting Writers Since 1984

P.O. Box 3071, Peterborough, NH 03458

<http://www.monadnockwriters.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/monadnockwriters/>

Monadnock Writers' Group is a non-profit 501-(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Calendar of Events:

The **Monadnock Writers' Group** meets on the third Saturday of every month from September through June, **9:45 to 11:45 a.m.** We meet at the **Peterborough Town Library** in the lower level meeting room. The 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.

January 21: Christian McEwen

Christian McEwen is a freelance writer, workshop leader and cultural activist. She has edited four anthologies, produced a video documentary and a play, and published several books. Her book, *World Enough & Time: On Creativity and Slowing Down* (2011) is now in its sixth printing. It was published by Bauhan Publishing in Peterborough, NH. *World Enough & Time* is intended as an antidote to contemporary "hurry sickness," and explores ordinary everyday activities, such as walking, talking, dreaming, and drawing, both as a pleasure in themselves and as a gateway to creative work.

Christian grew up in the Borders of Scotland, and now lives in Williamsburg, MA. Her most recent book is *Sparks from the Anvil: The Smith College Poetry Interviews*, which appeared in spring 2015. You can learn more about Christian McEwen at her website:

<http://www.christianmcewen.com>.

February 18: Howard Mansfield

This talk is titled: Mr. Klein Mows His Lawn: In Praise and Fear of Routine

Writing about preservation, architecture and American history, **Howard Mansfield** has contributed to The New York Times, American Heritage, The Washington Post, Historic Preservation, Yankee and other publications. Mansfield has explored issues of preservation in six books, including *In the Memory House*, of which The Hungry Mind Review said, "Now and then an idea suddenly bursts into flame, as if by spontaneous combustion. One instance is the recent explosion of American books about the idea of place... But the best of them, the deepest, the widest-ranging, the most provocative and eloquent is Howard Mansfield's *In the Memory House*."

He is on the Board of Trustees of the New Hampshire Historical Society and the advisory board of the Monadnock Institute of Nature, Place and Culture at Franklin Pierce University. He is an occasional guest on radio and TV shows commenting on issues of historic preservation. He has been a keynote speaker at preservation conferences, and spoken to many historical societies, art museums, and colleges.

March 18: Diane Les Becquets

Diane Les Becquets is the author of four novels, including the national bestselling *BREAKING WILD* from Berkley at Penguin Random House, which has received starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Booklist*, and was selected as an Indie Next Pick for February, as well as one of the ten most addictive books of the year by *Kirkus*. Her other books include three YA novels for which she was the recipient of a Pen American fellowship, a BCCB Blue Ribbon Award, the Maine Lupine Award, ALA Best Book of the Year, Forward Reviews Gold Winner Book of the Year, Volunteer State Book Award Selection, and Garden State Book Award Finalist.

She is a faculty member of the MFA program at Southern New Hampshire University, where she was the director for three years, and serves on the board of Back in the Saddle Equestrian Therapy Center. She is an avid outdoorswoman, enjoying archery, bicycling, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and backpacking.

April 15: Henry Walters

Poet **Henry Walters**, Writer-in-Residence at New Hampshire's Dublin School was born in Chicago in 1984 and grew up in Indiana and Michigan. He studied Latin and Greek literature at Harvard College, beekeeping in Sicily, and falconry in Ireland. He has worked as a teacher, a naturalist, and a steward of a wildlife sanctuary, and is the recipient of Better Magazine's 2014 prize for poetry.

Walters is the author of the play, *Objects in Mirror*, and a collection of poems, *Field Guide A Tempo*, which has been named a finalist for the 2016 Kate Tufts Discovery Award. He lives in a house he built himself in the beech and hemlock woods of southern New Hampshire.

May 20: Dan Szczesny

Dan Szczesny is a long-time journalist and author living in New Hampshire. His books include *The Adventures of Buffalo and Tough Cookie*, a hiking memoir about a one year, 225-mile journey through some of New Hampshire's least known wilderness with his 10-year-old foster daughter. Also, *The Nepal Chronicles*, about a month long trek to Everest Base Camp and marriage in Kathmandu.

His first collection of fiction, *Sing and Other Short Stories*, and includes a variety of short fiction spanning Dan's 25 year career as a writer and journalist. His latest book, *Mosquito Rain: Alaskan Travel Essays* is an illustrated travelogue of Dan and his wife's journey to discover the true meaning of the Last Frontier. Dan is also the Editor of *Murder Ink*, a series of New England-based Pulp Fiction anthologies set in or around the newsroom. Volume Two is set for release in 2017. You can learn more about his work at his website: <https://danszczesny.wordpress.com/>

June 17: Member Read-Around

We conclude our program year with a “read-around.” The public is welcome to attend and hear Monadnock Writers’ Group members read excerpts from their work. Please bring short excerpts from your writing or a few poems to share (five to ten minutes’ reading time per member). Please note that in the interest of time, this is not a critique session. It is your chance to shine and hear your voice within a welcoming writer community.

Possible extra meeting in February: The December Read-Around was cancelled due to a snowstorm but we are considering rescheduling it for February 11. We want to be sure there is interest and that holding this session will not detract from attendance at the regular meeting on February 18 to hear from Howard Mansfield. Let us know if you are interested in the read-around on Facebook, by e-mail, or during the discussion at our January meeting.

Who are we? 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. For more about us and to say something about yourself, see the Monadnock Writers’ Group Members page (<https://monadnockwriters.org/membership/our-members/>) where you can read short biographies of our members and you can get in touch with someone doing work related to your own or just to share work that is interesting. If you wish to be included in the bio sector, submit at [REDACTED] paragraph or two including:

- what kind of writing you do,
- where you live now and where you came from,
- what you have published or plan to publish, and
- anything about yourself that might help other members approach you with some relevant ideas or conversation.

Writers’ Night Out: is the first Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m. to about 9:00 p.m., *except July, September, and January*, when the first Monday often conflicts with holidays. This is largely a social gathering of writers at various locations across the state, co-sponsored by the ***New Hampshire Writers’ Project*** (www.nhwritersproject.org). The MWG gets together at **Brady’s American Grill** in Peterborough, located a mile north of Peterborough center on U.S. 202 (Concord Street) in Brady’s Plaza near the Monadnock Community Hospital access road. Other locations are listed on the NHWP website.

Weekly Writing Opportunities: Twice a week from 3:00 to 5:00, writers gather to work on their individual projects. These are excellent opportunities to dedicate time for your personal writing project in the company and support of motivated writers. A discussion of what attendees have written may follow the writing time.

Greenfield Library: On Tuesdays, writers work on their individual projects at the lower level of the Stephenson Memorial Library, Greenfield, NH, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Tea and occasional snacks are usually available. Location is the lower room, with walk-in entrance on the back side of the library, even if the main front entrance to the library is locked. Wi-Fi is also available. New attendees should contact Carl Mabbs-Zeno ([REDACTED]) to be on the list to be notified in case of cancellation.

Jaffrey Civic Center: On Wednesdays, writers work on their individual projects in the Jaffrey Civic Center, 40 Main Street, Jaffrey at 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Wi-Fi is also available. New attendees should contact Karen Ayers ([REDACTED]) to be on the list to be notified in case of cancellation.

Other Items:

New Hampshire Writers Project: NHWP is *New Hampshire Magazine's* "Best of NH 2013" winner for "Cultural Catalyst." Stay up to date with NHWP online: www.nhwritersproject.org. See them on Facebook: "The New Hampshire Writers' Project." Follow them on Twitter: "nhwritersproj."

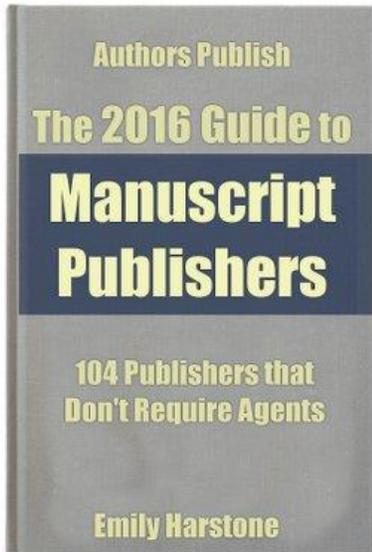


NHWP's Three Minute Fiction Slam is a fast paced literary competition that challenges writers to perform original pieces of fiction in three minutes or less in front of a panel of judges. This year's regional winners will

gather for a final showdown on March 9. For information on last year's slam, go to <http://nhwritersproject.org/content/three-minute-fiction-slam>.

Smoky Quartz: *Smoky Quartz* is the semi-annual online publication of The Monadnock Writers' Group that publishes poetry, short fiction, creative nonfiction and a diverse selection of art and photography. You can read *Smoky Quartz* online at <http://smokyquartz.org/>. Contributing writers and artists retain all rights to their work. Visit <http://smokyquartz.org> online for additional information about the publication, submission guidelines, and to enjoy archived issues. If you have a Twitter account, the handle for *Smoky Quartz* is "@SmokyQuartzNH".

New England Memories: The Fall 2016 Issue of *New England Memories*, published by MWG member Linda Thomas, features work by Parker Towle, Janet Banks, Deborah Murphy, Tom Sheehan, Tom Sacramona, and others. Linda is currently reviewing submissions for the Winter 2017 Issue. Please read the Submission Guidelines at www.newenglandmemories.com for more information.



Get a free download of *Marketing Your Book on Amazon* at <https://www.authorspublish.com/manuscript-guide-2016/>. The book reviews over 100 traditional book publishers that currently accept submissions directly from authors.

Monadnock Writers' Group Membership Information:

- Program year membership - September through June
 - Regular membership \$30
 - Students and seniors \$25
 - Patron \$50
 - Benefactor \$100
 - Corporate \$250
- 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 [\[REDACTED\]](#) 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!

Poems are my inner life, take it or leave it. I don't particularly care what the reader thinks because I'm just not invested in other people's responses to my life.

--Mary Ruefle in an interview with the Paris Review Daily

2016-2017 Board of Directors:

President: Sara Miller; Vice President: Rodger Martin; Secretary: Carl Mabbs-Zeno; Treasurer: Denny Caldwell;
Members-at-Large: Martha Eichler, Maura MacNeil, Terry Kepner, Ann Day.
Ex-Officio President: Tina Rapp; *Ex-Officio Member At Large:* George Duncan.