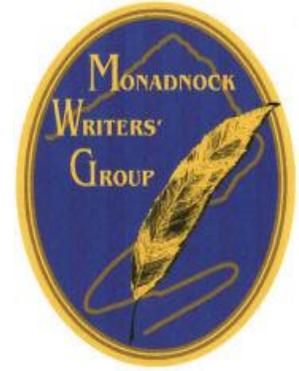


The Quill



February 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.

February 11: Three-Minute Fiction Slam

At 10 a.m. in the Peterborough Town Library, the MWG is hosting a regional fiction slam for a statewide event sponsored by The New Hampshire Writers' Project. The 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 at the New Hampshire Institute of Art on April 5. Past winners have performed their works for the Business in the Arts Awards Ceremony, the Currier Museum, and on-air at NHPR. Among other prizes, the ultimate winner gets free entrance to Writers' Day 2016 (the region's largest literary conference) where they will read the winning work in before an audience of publishers, editors, agents, and fellow writers. For more information of the statewide event, go to: <http://nhwritersproject.org/content/three-minute-fiction-slam#overlay-context=content/three-minute-fiction-slam>.

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, Foreward 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.

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 Aye [REDACTED] to be on the list to be notified in case of cancellation.

Outlets for your work:

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.

Orion Magazine and NPR: “The Place Where You Live” is an ongoing project of *Orion* magazine meant to provide readers with space to record ideas about place:

- What connects you to your place?
- What history does it hold for you?
- What are your hopes and fears for it?
- What do you do to protect it, or prepare it for the future, or make it better?

Your contribution can take the form of a short essay of up to 350 words, and may include photographs, a painting, drawing, or handmade map. In a collaboration begun in 2012, some contributors will be invited to read their entries aloud on the nationally syndicated public radio show [Living on Earth](#). Listen to a selection of those segments [here](#). For further details, go to <http://orionmagazine.org/place-where-you-live/>.

25 Literary Journals That Publish Genre Writing: Most literary journals assume that you will not submit genre work to them, because many don’t consider it to be literary. This leaves many genre writers with fewer options in terms of short story and poetry publication. However, there are journals that just publish genre work. The majority of these focus on science fiction and mystery, but there are also horror, western, romance, fantasy, thriller, and other genre publishers on this list. See: <https://www.dwdmail.com/studio/link.php?M=1156019&N=1340&L=6161&F=H>.

28 Traditional Publishers Seeking Children’s Books: See short reviews of publishers of children’s books at <http://www.authorspublish.com/28-publishers-seeking-childrens-books/>. The majority are currently open to submissions, and none of them require agents or previous publications. If you are focused on publishing a novel aimed at young adults, see [this list of Y.A. publishers](#).

Other Items:

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.

MWG Bloggers: Let us know if you would like your blog to be listed on the MWG website and Facebook page. Send your details to [REDACTED]

The Black Fly Story Hour: The fourth Black Fly Story Hour will be held on Friday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m (snow date is Saturday, March 25) in the Lucy Hurlin Theater at ConVal High School, Peterborough. This event features local residents of all ages and backgrounds telling stories in a time-

frame of about 5-6 minutes. They must tell their stories without notes. The event is modeled after the National Moth Radio Hour that broadcasts on public radio.

Tickets will be available on the website (www.convalvpac.org) for pre-purchase in March and various locations in Peterborough. Only a handful of tickets are likely to be available at the door. All proceeds from the event benefit the project to build the Contoocook Valley Visual and Performing Arts Center, which is proposed for construction at the ConVal High School campus. The new venue will serve students, local arts organizations, visual and performing artists, and generally all residents of the district, and the hope is to attract outside performers to the area as well.

Brilliant Words: The American Book Review selected the 100 best opening lines in literature and the best 100 closing lines. It is amazing often how these lines capture the feel of the entire work. Please enjoy them at:

<http://americanbookreview.org/100BestLines.asp> and

http://americanbookreview.org/PDF/100_Best_Last_Lines_from_Novels.pdf

The Key to Great Writing: The secret that accounts for all the diversity of writers, writing styles, and books with high impact is that it is as much what you do as what you don't do. While there is no common definition of great, all great books have the common feature of lacking content that isn't great. For a list of tips for editing out the less-than-great see:

[http://blog.bookbaby.com/2015/12/the-key-to-great-](http://blog.bookbaby.com/2015/12/the-key-to-great-writing/?utm_campaign=BB1704B&utm_source=BBNews&utm_medium=Email&utm_report_id=53297963&utm_user_id=MjMxNzAyNjUxMzEwSo&utm_job_id=1085317832&utm_report_id=MTA4NTMxNzgzMgS2)

[writing/?utm_campaign=BB1704B&utm_source=BBNews&utm_medium=Email&utm_report_id=53297963&utm_user_id=MjMxNzAyNjUxMzEwSo&utm_job_id=1085317832&utm_report_id=MTA4NTMxNzgzMgS2](http://blog.bookbaby.com/2015/12/the-key-to-great-writing/?utm_campaign=BB1704B&utm_source=BBNews&utm_medium=Email&utm_report_id=53297963&utm_user_id=MjMxNzAyNjUxMzEwSo&utm_job_id=1085317832&utm_report_id=MTA4NTMxNzgzMgS2).

Query Etiquette: See "Lessons I've Learned From Literary Agents" by Sheritha Singh, November 30, 2016 at <http://www.authorspublish.com/query-etiquette-lessons-ive-learned-from-literary-agents/>.

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."

Book review

***The Way of the Writer: Reflections on the Art and Craft of Storytelling* by Charles Johnson, 2016**

As the title suggests, the author is Buddhist but he is also a bewildering and intimidating compilation of other things, including not only winning the National Book award, but also chairing the selection committee for that award, and the Pulitzer Prize, the PEN/Faulkner Prize, and the LA Times Book Prize multiple times; earning a PhD in philosophy; and bench pressing 280 pounds at the age of 68. This book is essentially an autobiography and should be read for the miraculous story of accomplishment that he has lived, however, he does also offer guidance for writers, often saying he respects the work of less dedicated people than himself but actually showing little regard for any reader who cannot keep up with him. Nonetheless his love of words and their power is infectious and this small volume is a valuable introduction to his work.

See this book reviewed along with similar works in the New York Times Book Review, December 4, 2016, including

- *Soul at the White Heat: Inspiration, Obsession, and the Writing Life* by Joyce Carol Oates,
- *Am I Alone Here: Notes on Living to Read and Reading to Live* by Peter Orner, and
- *How Bad Writing Destroyed the World: Ayn Rand and the Literary Origins of the Financial Crisis* by Adam Weiner.

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 mabbszenoc@yahoo.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!

I'm writing a first draft and reminding myself that I'm simply shoveling sand into a box so that later I can build castles.

- Shannon Hale in an interview with *Salon*

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.