

The Quill



March 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.

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.

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.

New! - The first statewide Writers' Night Out will be held at the Hatbox Theater in Concord on Sunday, May 14 at 6:00. This is a chance to meet writers from our parts of the state and to share experience with our local groups.

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."

Writers Day 2017: The NH Writers' Project's twenty-ninth annual Writers' Day extravaganza will run 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH. The keynote will be novelist Ann Hood with children's author and illustrator Tomie dePaola. The theme of this year's event is "Spring Training," so there will be a bit of a baseball flavor ... complete with a chance to win a couple of Red Sox tickets.

Click here to [Register](#) or go to <https://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/nhwp/eventRegistration.jsp?event=700>

NH Writers' Project Night at the Hatbox Theatre

Readings at the Hatbox Theatre in Concord is a series NHWP began for its members in 2016. This is a semi-regular event where actors read entertaining selections from 'works in progress' by three NHWP authors, and the audience offers feedback, critique, and reactions. This event is 6-8:00 pm on March 12, 2016 in the Hatbox Theatre in the Steeplegate Mall complex (270 Loudon Rd, Concord, New Hampshire).

This event will not only allow the author to "hear" some of their novel, story, or book, but also receive immediate feedback. The audience will experience new works from NH authors live and contribute directly to the creative process of a grateful author.



All Hatbox Reading events are free for NHWP MEMBERS, but \$5.00 for the General Audience (+ \$1.50 for reserving tickets in advance). As a member of NHWP you will receive an email from info@nhwritersproject.org with a passcode ahead of each reading which you will need to use when [reserving your tickets](#). The passcode is entered at the end of the online registration process and will zero out the cost. Refreshments along with stimulating conversation will be provided during intermission. Come enjoy the arts in Concord's new theater space, [the Hatbox Theatre](#)! More at <http://nhwritersproject.org/content/hatbox-readings-nh-writers-project-night-hatbox-theatre> including how to have your work read.

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 are now available on the website (www.convalvpac.org) and in 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.

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 (cmabbszenoc@yahoo.com) 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.

3-Minute Fiction Slam

The Peterborough regional competition in three-minute fiction was held on February 11 before an enthusiastic audience. The readings were judged by a pair of well established New Hampshire writers: Linda Warren and Jack Hitchner. The high quality of the presentations has encouraged the MWG to consider doing its own slam in June.

Our winners were:

- First - Ann Day “Mud Season in Palmira, Maine”
- Second – John Tuohey “First You Suffer”
- Third – Ron McIntyre “Alpha Down!”

Ann will read her piece at the state finals at the New Hampshire Institute of Art on March 9. The public is invited to attend.



Mud Season in Palmira, Maine

It is late March in Palmira, Maine. Two old geezers, Raymond and Fred, sit rocking on the porch of the general store.

“Awful muddy,” says Fred.

“Aya,” says Raymond.

“Worst I’ve seen since that flood back in '27,” says Fred.

“Could be,” says Raymond.

From the porch they could see a long way up the dirt road.

“Ray, do you see somthin’ up the hill, thar?”

“Huh,” says Raymond

“Could be a ‘coon,” says Fred

“Nah, ‘coon t’wouldn’t be out now. Fox maybe.”

“Yuuup,” Fred sighs and spits a bit of tobacco juice.

The men rock a bit.

Raymond says, “Well now, might be a hat.”

“Huh,” says Fred.

The hat moves closer to the store.

“Godfry Mighty,” says Raymond, “it’s Wilber Smith under that hat.”

“By gorry, Ray, you’re right, just as plain as cin be.”

Wilber pulls up to the porch.

“Kinda muddy walking’ ain’t it, Wilber?” says Raymond.

“Hell,” says Wilber, “I ain’t walking, cain’t you see, I’m a horseback.”

With memories of Alan Bemis, Ann’s dad, who sat around a wood stove with “Mainers” in Brooklin, ME and exchanged stories.

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.

MWG Anthology: The Monadnock Writers' Group has published six anthologies over the years. The most recent of which, *Shadow and Light—A Literary Anthology on Memory*, is available at <https://monadnockwriters.org/publications-2/>. We are now beginning the preparation of a new and seek members interested in serving on the editorial board or otherwise helping prepare the publication. Please send a message to [REDACTED] or contact any member of the MWB to indicate your interest.

Other Items:

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]

Books for writers (full reviews at http://blog.bookbaby.com/2016/02/radically-improve-your-writing-three-books/?utm_campaign=BB1709&utm_source=BBNews&utm_medium=Email&spMailingID=53522135&spUserID=MjMxNzAyNjUxMzEwSo&spJobID=1104636970&spReportId=MTEwNDYzNjk3MAS2)

Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life by Anne Lamott
[*Bird by Bird*](#) would be worth reading just for Lamott's elegant, moving, and often-hilarious prose, but the writing advice she offers is as fantastic as the style with which it's delivered.

The Sense of Style: The Thinking Person's Guide to Writing in the 21st Century by Stephen Pinker
Pinker is a professor, scientist, writer of nonfiction, and the chair of the Usage Panel of the estimable *American Heritage Dictionary*. [*The Sense of Style*](#) contains a wealth of advice born of Pinker's frustration with the incomprehensibility and deadly dullness of much of the academic writing that comes across his desk (not just what's written by his students, but by his professional colleagues as well).

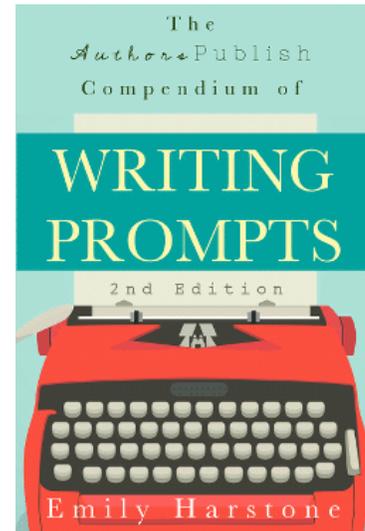
The Getaway Car: A Practical Memoir About Writing and Life by Ann Patchett
Ann Patchett is a novelist and essayist who grew her career from an unlikely start writing advice for young women at *Seventeen* magazine. From there she moved on to writing for *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*. Currently, Patchett is turning out some of the most successful novels in the English language (her best may be her latest, [*Bel Canto*](#)). In [*The Getaway Car*](#), her “practical memoir,” Patchett is generous with her advice, often told as the punch lines to some fabulous anecdotes from her life.

Free E-Books for writers:

The Authors Publish Compendium of Writing Prompts

Writing prompts are exercises designed to help a person start writing. They are often used in classrooms to generate new work, but many creative writers use them daily. Often, such writers do not keep the work they generate when using writing prompts but use it as a way to jump start their daily writing habit. They move on from the prompt to work on longer pieces in progress. Prompts generally take 3-15 minutes to complete.

<http://www.authorspublish.com/writing-prompts-compendium/>



The Paid Publishing Guidebook

400 Magazines, Websites & Blogs that Pay Writers

Updated February 24th, 2017

Freedom With Writing

The Paid Publishing Guidebook

This is a practical book for writers who are ready to get paid to write. It includes hundreds of publishers that accept queries, pitches, and submissions from freelance writers.

All of these publishers pay for the writing they publish. All of them publish work from freelance writers. Many of them are not listed anywhere else, including the famous “Writer’s Market.”

Updated February 24th, 2017

<http://www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/download-page-the-paid-publishing-guide/>

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 [\[redacted\]](#) a 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.

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!

Write a short story every week. It's not possible to write 52 bad short stories in a row.

—Ray Bradbury

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.