

The Quill



March 2018:
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.** Beginning in October, 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 5: Writers' Night Out

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 **Brady's American Grill** in Peterborough, located a mile north of Peterborough center on U.S. 202 (Concord Street) in Brady's Plaza.

March 6 (and each following Tuesday): Open writing session

Come to the Greenfield Library at 10:00 to noon on Tuesdays (enter through the back door) to dedicate two hours toward your personal writing project in the company and support of motivated writers.

March 17: Linda Reilly



Armed with a degree in Criminal Justice, Linda Reilly once contemplated a career in law enforcement. But life took a twist, and instead she found her niche in real estate closings and title examination, where the dusty tomes in the Registry of Deeds enticed her into solving mysteries of a different sort. Raised in a sleepy town in the Berkshires, Linda's a dyed-in-the-wool New Englander. A member of Sisters in Crime and Mystery Writers of America, she lives in southern New Hampshire with her husband.

April 21: Mark Timney



Checklist for Libel Libel law can be confusing, especially when you're on deadline and there's a possibility of defamation. This presentation is designed to help anyone who has concerns about libel reduce their legal exposure. Participants will be guided through a libel checklist that examines defamation law through a series of (relatively) simple questions. As soon as you answer "no" to a question libel shouldn't be an issue. Keep answering "yes" to these questions and you're on shaky legal ground.

Mark Timney is an award winning journalist, educator and mass communicator with more than 30 years of professional experience. He has been teaching media law and ethics at Keene State College for the past 16 years.

May 19: Gary Margolis



Gary Margolis is the author of several poetry books including *Fire in the Orchard* (Autumn House Press, 2002), which was nominated for the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for poetry; *Falling Awake* (University of Georgia Press, 1986); , *Below the Falls*, Addison Press. His book *Seeing the Songs* is a memoir of his travels in Ecuador, 2012.

In 2015 he published “*Raking the Winter Leaves: New and Selected Poems*” Bauhan Publishing, Peterborough. *Runner Without a Number* (Wind Ridge Publishing Voices of Vermonters) is his latest book, published in 2016.

June 16: Member Read-Around

Members of the Monadnock Writers’ Group read excerpts of their own work up to ten minutes each. The public is welcome to attend.



The 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. An entertaining

regional contest was held last month in Peterborough, sponsored by MWG. The New Hampshire finals will be held on March 8 in French Auditorium, New Hampshire Institute of Art, Manchester. For more information, see <https://www.nhwritersproject.org/three-minute-fiction-slam/> .

Two MWG winners! The Peterborough winner was *Going to Group*, written by Ann Robinson. She will represent the Peterborough Region at the state event. The Londonderry winner was also from MWG, *Baby Steps*, written by Tori Haring-Smith. Both of these will be reproduced in the Quill next month, giving the authors a chance to revise them first for the state event.

The runners-up in Peterborough were *No Fringe Benefits*, by Cynthia Sue Martell and *Moment of Knowledge* by Deni Dickler. Their pieces are reproduced at the end of this issue of the Quill.

Outlets for your work

Parhelion Literary Magazine welcomes submissions for fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and visual art. It is especially interested in strong voices, compelling stories, and innovative narrative technique. The same general thinking applies to visual art as well: thought provoking, innovative, eye-catching. Further detail at <https://parhelionliterary.com/submission-guidelines/>

Drunk Monkeys is a monthly online magazine devoted to literature & film featuring short fiction, flash fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, film reviews, interviews, & podcasts. Further detail at <https://drunkmonkeys.submittable.com/submit/103572/special-issue-yet-another-pop-culture-issue-april-2018>

The Cardiff Review is very pleased to announce a call for submissions for its first themed issue: their queer issue. Since the Summer of 2016 they have been publishing the literary work of young, courageous and talented writers from across the globe, many of whom found their first writing credit with there. In fact, *The Review* was founded for that very reason: to create a platform on which emerging writers could have their work read, viewed, shared and celebrated. Further information at <http://www.cardiffreview.com/single-post/2018/01/30/Call-for-submissions-Spring-Our-Queer-Issue>

Penny Candy Books is now accepting manuscript submissions. Their mission statement: “Penny Candy’s mission is to publish children’s literature that reflects the diverse realities of the world we live in, both at home and abroad. This means seeking out books by and about people and subjects that speak to a broad range of human experience.” Further information at <http://www.authorspublish.com/penny-candy-books-accepting-submissions/>

Free Writing Contests in March 2018

Nature-Saving Scholarship. **Restrictions:** Open to High School and College students. **Genre:** Original list of nature-saving rules. **Prize:** \$1,000 or \$500 scholarship. **Deadline:** March 11, 2018.

Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize. **Genre:** Adventure writing novel. Separate categories for published and unpublished books. Self-published books accepted. **Prize:** £15,000. **Deadline:** March 12, 2018.

Hodson Trust–John Carter Brown Library Fellowship. **Genre:** Nonfiction (includes creative nonfiction). A book-in-process relating to the literature, history, culture, or art of the Americas before 1830. **Award:** \$20,000. **Deadline:** March 15, 2018.

Alpine Fellowship. **Genre:** Pieces of any genre up to 2500 words on the theme of “Childhood.” **Prize:** The first place winner receives £3000 and an invitation to enter the symposium in Venice (two runners-up also receive the invitation). **Deadline:** March 15, 2018.

Thresholds International Short Fiction Feature Writing Competition. **Genre:** Nonfiction feature in one of two categories: *Author Profile*: exploring the life, writings and influence of a single short story writer. *We Recommend*: personal recommendations of a collection, anthology, group of short stories or a single short story. **Prize:** 1st prize of £500, runner-up prize of £100. **Deadline:** March 18, 2018.

Nicholas A. Virgilio Memorial Haiku Competition for High School Students. **Restrictions:** Open to students in Grades 7-12. **Genre:** Haiku. **Prizes:** \$50. **Deadline:** March 25, 2018.

[The Gover Story Prize](#). **Genre:** Short Fiction & Creative Nonfiction. Works of short prose must be less than 10,000 words, previously unpublished, or published with a circulation of less than 500. **Prize:** \$250.00. **Deadline:** March 25, 2018. No reprints or simultaneous submissions.

[Sunken Garden Poetry Festival's Fresh Voices Competition](#). **Restrictions:** New England high school students. **Prize:** Reading at the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival on August 5, 2018 and publication. **Deadline:** March 30, 2018.

[Rachel Wetzsteon Chapbook Award](#). **Genre:** Poetry chapbook (30 pages). **Prize:** \$250. **Deadline:** March 31, 2018. (After this date, there is a \$5 fee to submit)

[Foley Poetry Contest](#). **Genre:** One unpublished poem on any topic. The poem should be 30 lines or fewer and not under consideration elsewhere. **Prize:** \$1000. **Deadline:** March 31, 2018.

[Save the Earth Poetry Prize](#). **Restrictions:** Open to high school students, grades 11 & 12. **Genre:** Poem (1). Poems submitted should, in any way possible, evoke humankind's awareness of the natural world and nature as such. **Prize:** \$200 awarded to seven winners. **Deadline:** March 31, 2018.

[Speculative Literature Foundation Older Writers Grant](#). **Restrictions:** Open to writers who are fifty years of age or older at the time of grant application. **Genre:** Speculative fiction. **Prize:** \$500. **Deadline:** March 31, 2018.

Imprints of Big 5 Publishers That Accept Unsolicited Submissions by Emily Harstone

Getting published by one of the big five publishers (Hachette, HarperCollins, Macmillan, Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster) might seem impossible without an agent, but it is not. Most of these publishers have an imprint that accepts unsolicited submissions or queries.

These imprints are sometimes very specific in terms of what genre they publish, others are very broad. Some are print and many are digital first. Digital first, in most cases, means they publish an eBook version and if it does well, they follow it up with a traditional print run. Not all of them are currently open to submissions at this time, but all have plans to re-open. It is good to bookmark and regularly check back in on one of the websites to see if they have reopened to submissions.

The great thing about being published by one of the big five is they have more design, marketing, and editing expertise than most other publishers open to unsolicited submissions. Publishing with one of these imprints is a great way to get your foot in the door.

For the full listing, go to <http://www.authorspublish.com/13-imprints-of-big-5-publishers-open-to-unsolicited-submissions/>

New England Memories: MWG member Linda Thomas has completed the Fall 2017 issue of her semiannual (spring and fall) *New England Memories* magazine, with writing and photography from MWG members and others. If you would like to submit prose, poetry, or artwork for the Spring issue, please read the submission guidelines and past issues at www.newenglandmemories.com.

Smoky Quartz seeks new members for editorial board: *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.

Smoky Quartz is taking a hiatus in order to save time for its staff to focus on the MWG Anthology. *The Smoky Quartz* is seeking new members for its Board in time for starting up again later this year. This is a good opportunity to work with local authors and participate in a major project of the MWG.

Marketing outlet for your work: The Marketing Team of the New Hampshire Writers Project will post your information for free to their platforms (FB, Twitter, IG with pictures), as well as their website. Send a blurb to "Marketing@nhwritersproject.org".

Other Items

Mud Chronicles Update: The editors of the upcoming MWG anthology, *The Mud Chronicles: A New England Anthology*, would like to thank MWG members who submitted their work for review. Review of submissions will take place through spring and early summer with editorial decisions completed by July 1st. Periodic updates can be found on the MWG website.

Save the Date for Black Fly Story Hour #6! **Black Fly Story Hour #6 happens Friday, March 23rd, at ConVal High School!** The Black Fly events present local storytellers telling unscripted true stories. Often funny, sometimes poignant, and always exhilarating, these are stories you won't want to miss! Tickets must be bought in advance, and will be available at Toadstool Bookshop in Peterborough by mid-March, or online at www.convalypac.org. Buy promptly as tickets sell out quickly! This event benefits the *Fill the Void* effort to build a performing arts center at ConVal High School for educational and community use.



Writers Night Out beyond the Monadnock Region: The NHWP organizes 13 Writers Night Out groups across New Hampshire. In December we had an on-line “zoom chat.” The groups represented in the chat described a range of formats. Some have a monthly read-around; some have their participants describe what they are reading. A few mentioned difficulty in finding a quiet place to meet. The group in Epping will meet for the first time in January 2018. All writers are welcome at any of the groups. To find other locations around New Hampshire see the NHWP website (www.nhwritersproject.org) and the Writers’ Night Out page: <https://www.nhwritersproject.org/writers-night-out/>.

Six ways to contemplate yourself as a writer: For an article on things to consider that will help focus your thinking on your internal development as a writer-- regardless of the project you are working on at the moment-- go to http://blog.bookbaby.com/2018/01/contemplate-yourself-as-a-writer/?utm_campaign=BB1808&utm_source=BBNews&utm_medium=Email&spMailingID=56028053&spUserID=MjMxNzAyNjUxMzEwSO&spJobID=1343006612&spReportId=MTM0MzAwNjYxMgS2.

Fantasy-, Science Fiction-, and Horror-writing Workshop: You may experience six weeks (June 2 – July 13, 2018) of directed study with Jeanne Calvelos, former senior editor at Bantam Doubleday and winner of the World Fantasy Award. She promises in-depth feedback on your work; intensive sessions on character, plot, word-building, style, and more; and one-on-one attention and guidance. The course will be held at Saint Amselm College, Manchester. The application deadline April 7. For more information go to www.odysseyworkshop.org.

Book Review- “50 Literature Ideas You Really Need to Know”: John Sutherland, professor at University College London, briefly discusses 50 concepts relating to literature ranging from the familiar (allegory, irony, metafiction) to the insightful (mimesis, intentionalism) to the moral (plagiarism, obscenity, blasphemy) to the esoteric (textuality, heteroglossia, deconstructioun). It turns out that 50 items is enough for a broad coverage of ideas we do not not often consider but which might strengthen our writing and reading. And despite the use of a few technical terms I had never heard before, the book is entirely readable by the untrained writer. (Reviewed by Carl M-Z)

Writer's Corner at Greenfield's Stephenson Library: Take a look at the offerings outlined below from the library in Greenfield at <https://www.greenfield-nh.gov/stephenson-memorial-library/library-services/pages/writers-corner>

Try the new and exciting digital software, "Press-Books" to create your own e-book. Submissions are automatically reviewed by Library Journal editors.



Submit your e-book for review using Bibliolabs "Self-e" platform next! If your book is picked to be "highlighted" it will be featured nationally through the bibliolab library.

Looking for other Indie authors in New Hampshire? Authors who have submitted their works through the Self-e platform are in the Indie author database.



The way you define yourself as a writer is that you write every time you have a free minute. If you didn't behave that way you would never do anything.
—John Irving

Member Biographies: Members are encouraged to write up a short personal profile (biography) for posting on the Monadnock Writers' Group website "Members" section, and to our Facebook page if you so choose. Please submit your new or updated profile by e-mail as 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.

For the Website: Maximum 200 words, 3rd person, please feel free to include links to your own website, most recent publication, and other social media links. Submit your profile for the MWG website to our email at [REDACTED] or to Linda Thomas at [REDACTED]. The Monadnock Writers' Group website is located at <https://monadnockwriters.org/>.

For Facebook: A short bio, feel free to include a link, 140 characters counting your name but not the link. Send your Facebook bio to [REDACTED]. The MWG Facebook group can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/monadnockwriters/> .

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]

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.

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. 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.

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!

Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working.
—Pablo Picasso

2017-2018 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

No Fringe Benefits by Cynthia Sue Martell

*In the midst of a brutal human-style display of might,
Flashes of white light ended cruelly each bird's flight,
Seared and blinded all living beings with unholy fright.*

From the Poem "White Light" by CS Martell

Everyone calls them the *Fringe*. That's the name we all whisper to one another if they accidentally, or because they're starving, cross over what we are taught to call the *Line of Demarcation*. It divides 'them' from 'us'.

We even play a game called, *Line of Demarcation*. It helps us kids never forget the name... and what it means. Somebody draws a line in the dirt; if anyone steps over it his team loses points or – maybe worse.

I live in the 'woods' – even though there aren't any. The grownup person we call Grand-Mere, says there's more chance of finding drinking water here than 'out there'.

When she says, 'out there' she pulls us away from the light and back into the shadows. We don't like light. It scares us. Reminds us of the white light that made the whole sky brighter than the sun itself. Changed our planet forever.

There are strict rules in the 'woods'. When the moon's a big circle, I hear Fringes making noises on the other side of the *Line of Demarcation*. I made those same noises long ago. It happened whenever water came out of my eyes. "What's that called?" I don't do it anymore: Too dangerous. I'd get punished bad.

Some *words* are dangerous. I can only say them "inside" my head. *Never ever out loud!* "Love" is the word I want to say the most. I want to yell it! I am not allowed to, and it makes me "sad" – another word I cannot say, except in my heart.

Moment of Knowledge by Deni Dickler

With a jolt, the floor tilts upward. The ceiling tilts down, down toward the undulating mirrored walls. Garish colors surround me as I stagger to the orange door across the room. Words recently spoken to me swirl beyond my grasp.

A deep voice penetrates the fog, reconnecting my mind and my body. I sit in a plastic chair in a small private space adjacent to the Emergency Room entrance. My daughter sits next to me. *Yes, now I remember. A nurse escorted us into this room. I asked her what was going on. She didn't answer.*

Three unknown faces stare at me. A nun, wearing a heavy silver cross and short black veil. A woman, holding papers and a pen. A young doctor in a white lab coat. His voice continues, "I'm sorry Mrs. Cohn. We did everything we could. The EMT attempted to stabilize him. Upon arrival we initiated ..."

Why is this man talking? I want him to shut up. Instead, he drones on and on—heart valves, injections, medical procedures *ad nauseum*.

The woman with papers and a pen speaks, "Are you the deceased's wife?"

I whisper, "Yes."

"Do you want an autopsy performed?" Her pen poises over the papers.

I hear the sounds, but not her words. She repeats more distinctly, "Do you want an autopsy?"

"I, I don't know." My mind escapes. The floor abruptly tilts the opposite direction, slamming me into the warped mirror wall. Reflected back is the tear-streaked face of my teenage daughter.

"No. No autopsy."

"Next, what funeral home should we call to come get the body?"

A body? Oh my God. I didn't return his call after lunch. A wave of heat prickles through me. I float away from solid surroundings—hard plastic chairs, strangers doing jobs. A light touch. Pressure from my daughter's hand tugs me back to this reality.