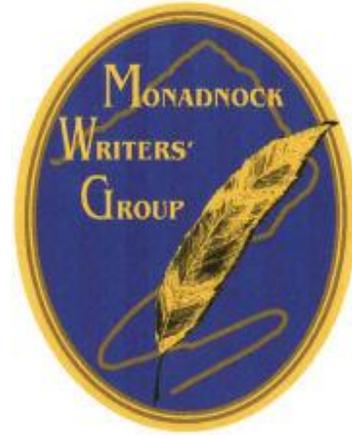


The Quill



February 2020:
Monadnock Writers' Group
Supporting Writers Since 1984

The Monadnock Writers' Group is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Mail - PO Box 3071, Peterborough, NH 03458
Website - <http://www.monadnockwriters.org/>
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/monadnockwriters/>
E-mail- info@monadnockwriters.org
president@monadnockwriters.org
treasurer@monadnockwriters.org
webmanager@monadnockwriters.org

General Meetings

The **Monadnock Writers' Group** meets 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.

February 1



On February 1 at 10 am in the Peterborough Town Library, the Monadnock Writers' Group will sponsor a preliminary round of the statewide 3-Minute Fiction Slam competition. The competition is open to anyone to read three minutes of original

fiction to our panel of judges. The Peterborough winner will be invited to read at the state finals sponsored by the New Hampshire Writers Project. The finals will be held on Thursday, March 12, at the IAD/NEC French Auditorium, 148 Concord St, Manchester, at 7PM. Both events are great fun to hear. For information on other preliminary events around the state go to: <https://www.nhwritersproject.org/three-minute-fiction-slam/>

February 15

Gary Metras



Gary Metras founded Adastra Press in December 1979. He is the letterpress printer, editor, and floor sweeper. Adastra has published 115 books, broadsides, and chiefly chapbooks of poetry by fifty-eight poets from across the country. A poet himself, he has published eighteen collections, most recently *Captive in the Here* and *White Storm*, the latter having been selected as a Must Read Poetry. In April 2018, he was inducted as Poet Laureate of Easthampton, Mass.



March 21

Rachel Sturges and Falon Smith

Rachel Sturges and **Falon Smith** headline readings by teenaged poets from the Monadnock region. A juried panel of New Hampshire State Council on the Arts selected Rachel, a student at ConVal, and Falon, from Littleton, as the two Youth Poets Laureate this year. As the letter of appointment states in part: "Your superior, crafted poetry contains imagery with emotion embodied in it, rather than simply talking about feelings; in other words, it looks outward from the self rather than simply at the self."



April 18

Patrick Donnelly

Patrick Donnelly, director of The Frost Place Poetry Seminar, is the author of four books of poems and numerous poems published in journals. He has taught at Smith College, Colby College, the Lesley University MFA Program, the Frost Place, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, and elsewhere. He lives in Western Massachusetts with his spouse Stephen D. Miller, with whom he translates classical Japanese poetry and drama. Their translations were awarded the 2015-2016 Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Prize. Donnelly's other awards include a U.S./Japan Creative Artists Program Award, an Artist Fellowship from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Margaret Bridgman Fellowship in Poetry, and a 2018 Amy Clampitt Residency Award.



May 9

Jack Hitchner

John T. "Jack" Hitchner is a graduate of Glassboro State College and Dartmouth College, and has studied at the University of Bath in the United Kingdom. For over 35 years he taught English in New Jersey and New Hampshire public schools. He is retired from teaching Creative Writing and Coming of Age in War and Peace at Keene State College. His poetry appears in the collections *Seasons and Shadows* and *Not Far From Here*; his short fiction in *How Far Away, How Near*.



June 20

Read-Around and Annual Meeting

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

We also hold our annual meeting and election of officers on this day. We will not meet again until September.



The **Monadnock Writers' Group** is pleased to announce a high school essay contest established to honor the memory of George Duncan. George was an award-winning marketing copywriter and author, and an avid

writer of political commentary. He served as President of the Monadnock Writers' Group (MWG) and was a long-time board member.

The contest winner will be awarded a prize of \$100.00. The winning essay will be published in *The Keene Sentinel's ELF Magazine* and the *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript*. MWG will invite the winner and any runner-ups to read their essays at one of our group's meetings.

The announcement of the winning essay will be in April 2020.

Eligibility:

The contest is open to students in grades 9 through 12 who attend public, private, and home-schools in the following towns:

Chesterfield, Harrisville, Keene, Marlborough, Marlow, Nelson, Westmoreland, Acworth, Alstead, Walpole, Fitzwilliam, Gilsum, Richmond, Roxbury, Swanzey, Troy, Antrim, Dublin, Peterborough, Frankestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Jaffrey, Rindge, Greenville, New Ipswich, Wilton, Lyndeborough, and Milford

Essay prompt:

Select a political issue that is currently in the news. Write a persuasive, fact-based analysis of the issue using a civil tone. Write it in the style of an op-ed piece. Essay length should be at least 500 words and no more than 800 words.

Submission instructions:

- Submit your essay to georgeduncanessay@monadnockwriters.org from January 15, 2020 to March 15, 2020.
- Include your name, school, email address, and your essay in the body of the email.

“Writing is easy; all you do is sit staring at the blank sheet of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead.”
 - Harper Lee in a letter to Gregory Peck

Smoky Quartz: Submission deadline extended to February 15th

Published by the Monadnock Writers' Group, *Smoky Quartz* is an online journal of literature and art, named after New Hampshire's state gem. Writers and artists with ties to New Hampshire are featured in each issue. We publish poetry, short fiction, and creative nonfiction, and a diverse selection of art and photography.

Please submit poetry, short fiction, creative nonfiction, art, and photography by **February 15th** for the Spring 2020 issue of *Smoky Quartz*. Work received after February 15th will be considered for an upcoming issue. We welcome submissions from new, emerging, and established writers and artists with ties to New Hampshire. Please send us your best work! Note: we now accept prose pieces up to 3000 words. Visit our website for complete guidelines and to submit your work: www.smokyquartz.org/submissions

See the Fall 2019 issue at - <https://smokyquartz.org/2019/11/23/fall-2019-issue/> .

New England Memories: *New England Memories* shares your memories about life in New England through creative nonfiction, poetry, photography, and artwork. Linda Thomas, founder and editor, welcomes submissions year-round. Accepted work is also published on a rolling basis. Please see the submission guidelines at: <https://newenglandmemories.com/submissions/>



New England Memories finished out 2019 with an essay by Jesseca Timmons, as well as poems by Yvona Fast, Ann Day, and Parker Towle. Coming in January 2020 is an essay by Jennifer Tirrell.

If you'd like to receive an email when new work is published at *New England Memories*, please subscribe to the Editor's blog at: <https://newenglandmemories.com/category/from-the-editor/>

“Writing is a never-ending self-exploration, an exorcism of not necessarily the writer's demons, but of his divine discontent.”

- Attributed to Harper Lee by Casey Cep in *Furious Hours*



Your Favorite Poem: The Favorite Poem Project, as conceived of by Robert Pinsky, former US Poet Laureate, is a gathering of individuals in a community to share their favorite poems with each other. His focus was on “Americans saying poems they love.”

It's almost time to come together for the second year, to hear about 15 favorite poems presented by members of the community. To

submit your favorite poem, email Rebeccagibson55@gmail.com for the submission form. Choose a poem (not one written by you or a family member, that's the only rule,) and talk about its significance to you, personally. **Send your submission in by Friday, February 7.**

You can look up videos at www.favoritepoem.org for examples.

Sunday, 4:30 pm on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at St. Denis Hall, Harrisville, NH

In April: MAJOR JACKSON & DIDI JACKSON will read and discuss their work. Sunday, 4:30pm on April, 19, 2020 in a new location: Harrisville Community Church

Reading Your Work in Public: For a free article on how to perform well when reading your own work, go to <https://www.authorspublish.com/its-a-performance-reading-your-art-in-public/>

Free On-line Writers' Weekly: Have you seen *Authors Publish* at www.authorspublish.com? It has articles on how to write and how to publish in addition to free downloadable books.

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".

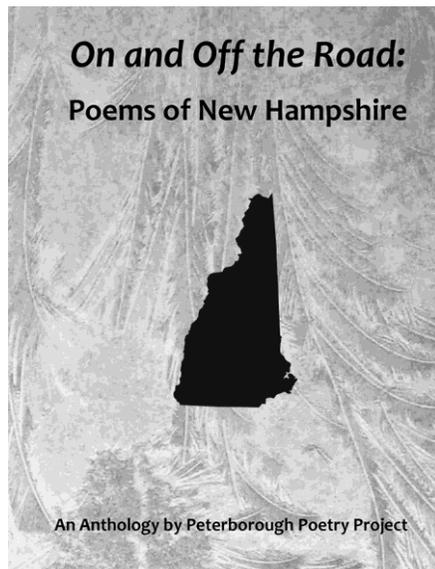
Monadnock Pastoral Poetry Retreat: For over a quarter of a century this group of writers has gathered annually to celebrate new work and publications as the New Pastoral Poets and Writers. They have spent decades staying true to language written beneath the shadow of the mountain Emerson, Thoreau and Kinnell made famous—Mount Monadnock.

Monadnock Pastoral
Poets & Writers

Please join us for the annual gathering of the Monadnock New Pastoral Poets & Writers as they host their weekend poetry retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Conference Center in Greenfield, NH. The weekend will be low-key, and collegial, but full with small group (6 maximum) workshops, an individual conference with mentors, readings by participants, writing time, social time, optional activities such as Saturday night acoustic folk music by *The Grumbling Rustics*. The conference concludes with the 30th annual reading of mentors followed by a closing banquet.

There will also be opportunity to enjoy the almost 350 acres of hiking trails at the Harris Center on Otter Lake. Registration is limited to maintain small workshop size. Deadline, March 13, 2020.

April 24-26, 2020, Barbara C. Harris Center, Greenfield, NH. For further information, E-mail rodgerwriter@myfairpoint.net or go to www.monadnockpastoralpoets.org



Contest book completed: The Peterborough Poetry Project ran a NH-theme poetry contest last fall and is now close to publishing a book of the 48 best poems received from entries by poets from all over New England, and beyond. It will be priced at \$12, and available at the Toadstool Bookshops or by mail order.

This poetry anthology, with poems from poets throughout New England and from Florida and Long Island, New York – is a result of Peterborough Poetry Project's second poetry contest. We invited poets, writers, and observers to submit up to three poems about New Hampshire – past, present, future, or fantasy.

Our six-member board chose the best seven poems after weeks of deliberation. Those seven, along with forty-one other high-quality poems, form this book. The poems are in three different sections by themes: People, Places, and The Wild, but readers may find that several poems have more than one theme.

For further information, contact Bill Chatfield for Peterborough Poetry Project peterboroughpoetryproject.org 924-9204

Writer Programs at Greenfield Library: See the Stephenson Library's "Writer's Corner" at: <https://www.greenfield-nh.gov/stephenson-memorial-library/library-services/pages/writers-corner>. Librarian Beverly Pietlicki would love to answer any questions regarding "Pressbooks" or "Self-e," or help with additional in-house print resources at any time!

New Hampshire Writers Project: Stay up to date with NHWP online: www.nhwritersproject.org. See them on Facebook: "The New Hampshire Writers' Project." Follow them on Twitter: [nhwritersproj](https://twitter.com/nhwritersproj).

Deploing egoism in novelists is like deploing violence in boxers.
- Martin Amis, quoted in *The Friend* by Sigrid Nunez

More from the Monadnock Writers' Group

Resources for Writers: Go to the MWG website <http://www.monadnockwriters.org/> or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/monadnockwriters/> for numerous ideas on writing, reading and publishing.

Get something into the Quill: If you would like to submit to our monthly newsletter please send your information to Carl at info@monadnockwriters.org at least four days before the end of the month. As a member, you may include your author events and announcements.

Monadnock Writers' Group Dues: Membership dues may be given to our treasurer by mail or at our general meeting. Details are at the end of this newsletter.

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 monadnockwriters@gmail.com.

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 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!

2019-2020 Board of Directors:

President: Sara Miller; Vice President: Rodger Martin; Secretary: Carl Mabbs-Zeno; Treasurer: Denny Caldwell; Members-at-Large: Louise Werden, Maura MacNeil, Ann Day, Jesseca Timmons.