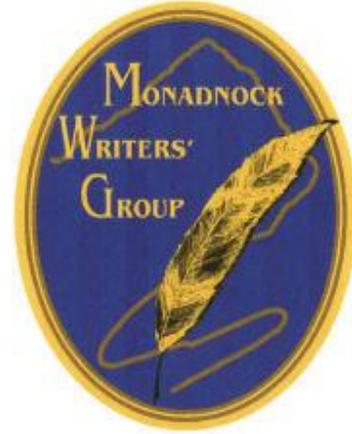


The Quill



April 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

Due to the social constraints recommended to limit spread of COVID-19, our scheduled meeting for April is cancelled. The **Monadnock Writers' Group** normally meets every month from September through June, **9:45 to 11:45 a.m.** 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.



April 2 - cancelled

No Writers' Night Out

Writers' Night Out normally 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 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.

April 18 General meeting - cancelled

April 18 MWG Board meeting via ZOOM

MWG members may go <http://www.monadnockwriters.org/> for details on joining us on line.



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.

Smoky Quartz: 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, creative nonfiction, and a diverse selection of art and photography.

The editors of *Smoky Quartz* have completed the process of reading and selecting work for the spring 2020 issue. We are in the process of notifying contributors, requesting edits, and updating bios. The issue will be in production in April and announced sometime in May. Thank you to all who submitted their work!

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

Essay Contest: The **Monadnock Writers' Group** has announced 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 submission period for the George Duncan Essay Contest ended in March. The MWG Board will be meeting in April to discuss the next steps for the contest.

“Contrary to what most people think, there is no glamour to writing. In fact, it’s heartbreak most of the time.”

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

New England Memories: *New England Memories* is seeking submissions of creative nonfiction, poetry, photography, and artwork for its website. The editor, Linda Thomas, welcomes submissions year-round and publishes work at the time of acceptance. Please see the submission guidelines at: <https://newenglandmemories.com/submissions/>

Thank you to those who have submitted their work recently; you will hear back from the editor in April. If you'd like to receive an email when new work is published at *New England Memories*, please subscribe at: <https://newenglandmemories.com/subscribe/>

New MWG Anthology: The MWG requests submissions for an anthology on the theme of "Coping with COVID." All of us have been affected by the peculiar and unprecedented problems of the current pandemic. Has your writing addressed it yet?

1. Submissions are
 - open to anyone writing in any genre - including memoir, poetry, essay, science fiction, fantasy, mystery, romance, experimental, and anything else you do.
 - open until June 1, 2020.
 - limited to 5000 words.
2. Selection will
 - be based on quality of writing within the genre being used, giving some preference to items with a connection to the Monadnock region.
 - be made by a panel of judges selected by the MWG Board,
 - be made without judges knowing the submitters' identities.
3. There is no fee for submission.
4. Authors whose work is accepted will get one free copy of the anthology.
5. Submission guidelines:
 - Send your submission as an attachment Word to monadnockwriters@gmail.com
 - Include your name and address in the message but not the attachment.
 - We will ask for a short bio if your work is selected.

Opportunities to Help Run the Monadnock Writers' Group:

1. We need applicants to help with the new MWG anthology described above. Please let us know as soon as possible of your interest in joining the selection panel for the anthology or the committee marketing the eventual book. Express your interest to monadnockwriters@gmail.com.
2. Three positions on the Board of the Monadnock Writers' Group will be open this year. The MWG Board works together in a very friendly atmosphere to prepare a slate of speakers for the year, administer various writing projects for members and pursue other initiatives to encourage and support writers in our region. Nominations will be made at our May meeting or by e-mail. Elections will be held at the June meeting. Express your interest to monadnockwriters@gmail.com.
3. The position of Treasurer will be open starting in June. This is an unusual opportunity to become part of the MWG leadership. Express your interest to monadnockwriters@gmail.com.

"Lieutenant Trotta wasn't experienced to know that uncouth peasant boys with noble hearts exist in real life and that a lot of truths about the living world are recorded in bad books; they are just badly written."
- Joseph Roth in his novel *The Radetzky March*

Monadnock Pastoral Poetry Retreat – REVISED DATES:

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.



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. The deadline for registration has been extended. For further information, E-mail rodgerwriter@myfairpoint.net or go to www.monadnockpastoralpoets.org.

August 28-30, 2020, Barbara C. Harris Center, Greenfield, NH.

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.

Writing During the Health Crisis: For tips on being a writer during the health crisis, see the essay from *Authors Publish* at <https://www.authorspublish.com/tips-for-being-a-writer-during-the-health-crisis/>

Creative Markets Open for Submissions Now: Consider using this time of social separation to submit your writing to a journal that fits your style. Here are some options prepared by S. Kalekar in *Authors Publish* (see above item)

Catapult

This well-regarded magazine publishes American and International narrative nonfiction and also fiction. They are reading for a few nonfiction themes now, including **On Writing** and **Queer Life**. Submissions are 500-6,000 words; a typical piece is around 2,500 words. They are reading fiction submissions through March, and non-fiction until mid-April 2020. They pay. Details [here](#).

Sub-Terrain Magazine

They accept creative nonfiction, fiction, commentary (social or otherwise), and poetry. They are reading work for a **Disobedience** themed issue. Their guidelines say, "subTerrain has always prided itself on its rejection of the status quo, and in this issue we will feature work that explores disobedience as progress, as chaos, or as morality. Or perhaps the works will be an act of disobedience themselves, in that they flout the so-called rules of genre." They accept nonfiction of up to 4,000 words and pay CAD0.10 per word, up to CAD500. They are reading for this issue until end-April. Online submissions are charged, but there is no fee for mailed submissions. Details [here](#).

The MacGuffin

This literary magazine is published by Schoolcraft College. They accept creative nonfiction of up to 5,000 words, and portions of longer works are acceptable, if under their word limit. They also publish fiction and poetry, and are reading for a special formal poetry issue now; general submissions in other categories are also open. Payment is contributor copies. Details [here](#).

The Introspectionist

This online feminist magazine publishes persuasive essays, creative non-fiction, and in-depth informational pieces. They have several themes listed in their editorial calendar, including Spirituality, Divorce, Social Networking, Cancer, Infertility, and Diets. They want unique spins on these topics, deep insights, and in-depth explanations. Pay ranges from \$25 to \$200. Details [here](#) and [here](#).

Bending Genres

This online magazine likes creative nonfiction of up to 1,500 words that is “experimental, gut-wrenching, terrifying, honest, breakneck speed, whooshing out, fabulous and secretive. We like blending genres, mixed and hybrid writing, blurred and creative lines crossed.” They also publish fiction, poetry, and microviews. The deadline is mid-January 2021. Details [here](#).

Yellow Arrow Publishing

They accept creative nonfiction (500-5,000 words), reviews, poetry, and artwork from writers or artists who identify as women, and are reading on the theme of **Home**. They pay \$10 and a contributor issue. Length guidelines are 500-5,000 words for nonfiction. The deadline is 31 March 2020. Details [here](#).

The Gravity of the Thing

This magazine “is dedicated to the publication of defamiliarized writing, and our editors are always excited to discover new ways writers are defamiliarizing traditional forms of written language. Our contributors may be experimenting with genre, with specific elements of craft (characterization, line break, dialogue, time, etc.), or with multimedia forms”, according to their website. They publish creative non-fiction (up to 3,000 words for short, up to 500 words for flash), fiction, poetry, and others (see guidelines). They nominate published works in American national anthologies. Submissions are open till 30 April 2020. Details [here](#).

Chicken Soup for the Soul

They accept true inspirational stories and poetry on set themes. They have a few themes listed currently: **Listen to your Dreams** (about dreams and omens, premonitions, tapping into inner vision); **Christmas is in the Air** (work about the entire December holiday season, including Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Boxing Day, and New Year’s festivities. Stories should be “Santa safe”); **Age is Just a Number** (humorous or serious stories of life after 60); **Stories of Divine Intervention** (stories about divine intervention and timing, miracles, angels, miraculous healing, messages and signs from heaven – can be religious or non-religious); and **Stories About Self-care and Me Time** (stories about self care, not just about physical health but emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing). They have various deadlines for these themes. They accept work up to 1,200 words, and pay \$200. Details [here](#) and [here](#).

Azure: A Journal of Literary Thought

This magazine publishes fiction, creative nonfiction, excerpts, screenplays, stageplays, fragments, meanderings, philosophy and poetry. They want work that is linguistically, intellectually, and emotionally demanding of the reader. Their guidelines say, “We publish lyrical philosophy, experimental fiction/poetry/non-fiction, dark humor, classical forms, and innovations in craft. We do not publish

contemporary realist fiction.” They pair each piece of writing they publish with a sketch. Send up to 50 pages. Details [here](#).

Paper Angel Press

They are reading work for an anthology featuring work on the theme of romance gone wrong at sea. Their guidelines say, “Life at sea presents many challenges, and finding (and keeping) love is one of the biggest. **Heartwreck: Romantic Disasters at Sea** is a collection of true and semi-true stories about love gone wrong on the high seas... Rough weather, small spaces, long days in the boatyard, and an eclectic mix of personalities make personal relationships among the seafaring community challenging and rife with struggles. We’re looking for personal essays and memoir/creative nonfiction pieces about your experiences. ... Maybe a relationship fell apart and you got stuck with a boat you didn’t think you wanted. Maybe, after five days at sea with a partner and five months to go, you realized you can’t possibly live with that person on a small boat. Whatever the disaster, if it happened on or around boats, we want to read about it.” Length is 2,000 to 5,000 words, and they pay \$0.02/word. The deadline is 30 July 2020. Details [here](#).

Prairie Fire

This Canadian literary magazine publishes creative nonfiction, editorials, essays, memoirs, fiction, interviews, profiles, correspondence, notes, plays, scripts, etc. Length guidelines are up to 10,000 words for prose, and pay is up to CAD250. Submissions have to be mailed. Details [here](#) and [here](#).

Bluestockings Magazine

They do not publish pieces that perpetuate racism, colonialism, ableism, transmisogyny, and so on. Submissions should have an intersectional framework and center people with marginalized identities. Apart from creative nonfiction/personal narrative, they publish fiction, poetry, art, pieces on culture, and current events/interviews. Submissions should be 1-3 pages. Details [here](#).

Hippocampus Magazine

This magazine is accepting work for their nonfiction anthology series, *The Way Things Were*, which reflects on the things we miss. Previously published essays and book excerpts are also accepted, and hybrid and experimental creative nonfiction welcome. The themes they want work on are **Road** (true stories about road trips, and also solo travel stories with or without a car), and **Corner** (stories of all kinds that are set in or revolve around a corner bar/dive bar). The essays should be up to 5,000 words, and pay is \$50. The deadline is 15 June 2020. Details [here](#).

Grain Magazine

This Canadian literary magazine accepts work from around the world. They publish literary nonfiction, fiction, and poetry. Send up to 3,500 words for prose; they pay CAD50/page, up to CAD250. The deadline is 15 May 2020. Details [here](#).

Liguorian Magazine

This is a Christian publication and they publish personal essays of up to 1,000 words, articles, and fiction. Pay is \$0.12-0.15/word. Details [here](#).

West Branch

This literary magazine publishes creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and translations. They will accept up to 30 pages of prose and pay \$0.05/word, up to \$100. They are reading submissions through 1 April 2020. Details [here](#).

The American Bystander

Newsweek called this “the last great humor magazine”. They accept essays, first-person accounts, memoir, and premise-driven humor pieces (short pieces of up to 1,200 words, long pieces of 1,200+ words), cartoons, comics, illustration, and photographs. Pay varies. Details [here](#).

The Coachella Review

They publish creative nonfiction of up to 6,000 words, fiction, poetry, drama, and a blog (reviews, essays, short fiction, and interviews). They are reading now for their Winter 2020 issue. Details [here](#).

Away

They want nonfiction writing and photo essays about travel. Their guidelines say, “We are especially interested in pieces by writers and artists who are aware of the complicated space that writing about travel occupies. We do not shy away from the memoiristic or experimental.” Essays are up to 6,000 words. Details [here](#).

Bayou Magazine

They publish literary nonfiction, creative personal essays, and lyric essays of up to 7,500 words, and poetry. They also publish fiction but charge a fee for online submissions in that category. Pay is contributor copies for nonfiction. They are reading submissions until 1 May 2020. Details [here](#).

Bennington Review

This literary magazine is published twice a year in print form, in Summer and Winter – they will consider all work for the print magazine, and some work will be additionally featured on their website. They aim to carve out a “distinctive space for innovative, intelligent, and moving fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, film writing and cross-genre work.” They are particularly taken with writing that is simultaneously graceful and reckless. They accept up to 30 pages of prose (including self-contained excerpts from longer works), and pay up to \$200. The deadline is 15 May 2020. Details [here](#).

Improving Your Writing Skills: For a recent article on “The Importance of Trope Awareness” from *Authors Publish*, go to <https://www.authorspublish.com/the-importance-of-trope-awareness/> .

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".

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.

NaNoWriMo Goes COVID: Remember National Novel Writing Month? It’s a non-profit, on-line collection of ideas and tips and games to encourage writers to draft a novel in November. The organization has taken on a new target: encouraging writers through the COVID crisis. Get the details at <https://nanowrimo.org/stayhomewrimo>

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.

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.