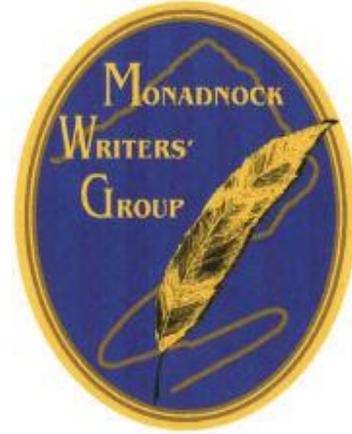


The Quill



May 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 May 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.

May 4 – Writers' Night Out cancelled

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.

May 9 General meeting - cancelled

June 20 General meeting

Because of Covid-19 and the closure of the Peterborough Library for renovations, the Monadnock Writers Group will be hosting its annual June read-around using Zoom. You will not need a specialized app to join the meeting, just a computer with camera, microphone and access to e-mail. Most laptops come with camera and microphone.

For details on how to join the meeting, send an email to monadnockwriters@gmail.com by June 15. Put **RSVP** in the subject line of the email. In the body of the email, include your full name, your email address, and the town of residence. State whether you would like to read a selection of your writing no longer than ten minutes. The host will email you simple instructions with a Zoom link by June 19. Just click that link a few minutes before 10:00 on June 20, and you'll be ready to go!

Election of MWG Board Members: The term of office for four members of the MWG Board will end this June: Denny Caldwell (Treasurer), Carl Mabbs-Zeno (Secretary). Ann Day and Maura MacNeil. A term lasts two years. There are eight Board members.

Nominations for election to the Board may be made until May 15. For MWG members to nominate themselves or others, they should contact Maura MacNeil at: mmacneil@nec.edu

Carl, Ann and Maura will run for re-election. Bill Bryk has been nominated for the Board and for the Treasurer position.

The slate of candidates and their brief biographies will be published in the June *Quill*. Voting will be done via Survey Monkey in June.

---- Publishing Opportunities ----

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.

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. The issue will be released in May. Thank you to all who submitted their work!

We are accepting submissions for the next Fall issue until September 26. 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 will reopen in January 2021.

A writer is just like anyone else, he cannot know everything, nor can he experience everything, he must ask and imagine.

- Jose Saramago in *Blindness*

Two poetry contests by Peterborough Poetry Project, both with prizes: For both contests, enter only previously unpublished poems via email to peterboroughpoetryproject.org with poem in the body of email or as an attachment:

1st ~ Ekphrastic Poetry Contest (poetry meets art): *Enter by May 15, 2020.* Ekphrastic poems may describe, interpret, or re-invent the artwork, or move beyond the object to an expression of imagination.

2nd ~ Quarantine Poems Contest: *Enter by May 31st, 2020.*

FOR BOTH CONTESTS, see peterboroughpoetryproject.org/contests for more detailed information. Question? ~ Email or call Bill Chatfield 603-924-9204

Fantasy and Science Fiction: For a listing and brief description of 23 Publishers that accept Science Fiction or Fantasy Novels, go to:

Faith, Society, and Spiritual Life: Plough Publishing Company is currently open to queries without an agent. Go to: <https://www.authorspublish.com/plough-press-accepting-submissions/>

Flash Fiction: Ghost Parachute is seeking submissions. See: <https://www.authorspublish.com/ghost-parachute-now-seeking-submissions/>.

---- Announcements ----

Future meeting venues for MWG: The Peterborough Town Library will break ground on a major renovation on June 1. Construction is expected to continue for 15 months. For further detail, go to: <https://mailchi.mp/peterboroughnh.gov/libraryprojectbegins>.

During this period, MWG will not be able to meet at the Peterborough Town Library or at its temporary location. We are researching alternative locations. Our next general meeting in-person will be September 19. We hope to begin our new program season as we have for several years at the James Baldwin Library of the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough and then to hold meetings at another convenient location.

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.

The book lay nearby. Silent. A thin object on the Divan, It was so strange... Between two cardboard covers were noises, doors, howls, horses, people. All side by side, pressed tightly against one another. Decomposed into little black marks. Hair, eyes, legs and hands, voices, nails, beards, knocks on doors, blood, the sound of horseshoes, shouts. All docile, blindly obedient to the little black marks.

- Ismail Kadare, in *Chronicle of Stone*

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/>

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.

---- **Also** ----

Plagues in Literature:

A Journal of the Plague Year, Daniel Defoe 1722 (based on London plague of 1665-6)

The Scarlet Plague, Jack London 1912 (fictional plague in 2073)

The Plague, Albert Camus 1947 (fictional plague in Oran, Algeria)

The White Plague, Frank Herbert (fictional plague in 1996)

The Children of Men, PD James 1992 (fictional plague in 2021)

Blindness, Jose Saramago 1995 (fictional plague of blindness)

Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague, Geraldine Brooks 2001 (Based on English plague in 1666)

"What did he die of?"

I couldn't say exactly. Some kind of fever..."

"Still, he didn't look that different from other people."

"I wouldn't say that. He had a weak chest and he used to play the trombone in the Town Band. It's hard on the lungs, playing the trombone."

- Albert Camus in *The Plague*

---- **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.