

# *The Quill*

**The Monthly Newsletter of the Monadnock Writers' Group  
November 1, 2023**

*Supporting Writers Since 1984*

The Monadnock Writers' Group is a registered 501(c) 3 organization.  
PO Box 3071, Peterborough, NH 03458

[www.monadnockwriters.org](http://www.monadnockwriters.org)

[www.facebook.com/groups/monadnockwriters/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/monadnockwriters/)

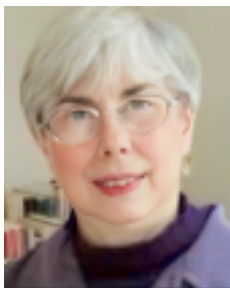
[monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@gmail.com)



**Welcome to the MWG!** Since 1984, the **Monadnock Writers' Group** has provided community, inspiration, and support to the writers of the Monadnock region. All are welcome! Our membership includes writers of every variety: from poets to journalists, from mystery writers to playwrights, and from career writers to those just getting started. We meet on the third Saturday morning of each month, September through June, at the Peterborough Town Library, unless otherwise noted. Monthly meetings start at 9:45 a.m. and go to about 11:30 a.m., but times can vary. Meetings include a 15-minute meet-and-greet, announcements, a ten-minute reading from a member, and a main speaker sharing professional writing experience and answering questions. Coffee and light refreshments are provided. Our monthly 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. For more information, please go to our website at [www.monadnockwriters.org](http://www.monadnockwriters.org) or join our Monadnock Writers' Group Facebook page.

## ***In Memory of Sara Miller, May 29, 1943—September 30, 2023.***

A poet, librarian, world traveler, and a lifelong, avid reader, Sara Miller was for many years the President of the Monadnock Writers Group. Sara was beloved at the MWG for her kindness and good humor, her knack for getting great people involved, and her ability to run a tight ship. Sara was our fearless leader during the COVID years, and her fluffy cat was always a welcome addition to our virtual meetings! Sara was a former Children's Librarian at the NYC Public Library and served on the board for the Caldecott Award. She also Chaired the Newbury Medal Committee and the Children's Notable Books List for several years. When she retired to New Hampshire, Sara attended Kate Gleason's poetry workshop for over a decade. Sara joined the board of the MWG in 2014, became President in 2016, and served for two terms, until 2020. Sara also served on the editorial board of *Smoky Quartz*. She will be deeply missed by everyone at the MWG.



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### **The MWG's George Duncan Essay Contest**

for high school students in the Monadnock Region is **open for submission** from now until March 1, 2024. Students attending public, private, charter and homeschool programs in the Monadnock region are invited to write opinion

pieces on the issues that matter most to them. The contest is free; the winner will receive a cash prize of \$250, 2nd place, \$100; and 3rd place, \$75. Students are encouraged to review the submission guidelines before entering. Please spread the word to any high school writers! The submission guidelines are online at: [www.monadnockwriters.org/george-duncan-essay-contest](http://www.monadnockwriters.org/george-duncan-essay-contest).



**Smoky Quartz Update.** The *Smoky Quartz* Editors thank everyone who submitted poetry, prose, and artwork for the upcoming issue. We were fortunate to receive over 200 submissions of poetry and prose, and over 50 of art. The Editors are finalizing selections and layout of the issue. A late-November or early-December release is planned. <https://smokyquartz.org>.

### **Member News and Events**

**S.M. Stevens** has won a **2023 American Fiction Award** for *The Wallace House of Pain*, and the novelette has also made the long list for the **Chanticleer International Book Awards** (CIBA). Stevens also wrote a script version of the story, which was published in the autumn 2023 edition of *Rushing Thru the Dark* from [Choeofpleirn Press](http://Choeofpleirn Press). Learn more at: <https://authorsmstevens.com>.

**Rodger Martin** is one of **Three New Hampshire Poets** reading at Toadstool Books in Keene on Saturday, November 11, from 2:00-3:30 pm. Rodger's work includes *For All The Tea in Zhōng guó*, *The Battlefield Guide*, and *The Blue Moon Series*. Rodger has received an Appalachia award for poetry, NHSCA's award for fiction, and was a finalist for The Stanley Kunitz Medal in 2023. His work has been translated and published in China. He's a recipient of numerous fellowships. He was co-editor of *The Granite State Poetry Series* and Managing Editor of *The Worcester Review* for twenty-seven years. His latest manuscript, *The Sleeping Dogs of Lubec*, is sniffing out publication. The other poets are Sara Backer and Miriam Levine. For more information, please go to the Poetry Society of New Hampshire website. <https://psnh.org/events/nov11-three-nh-poets/>.

**Linda Tiernan Kepner's** new novel, *Out Far Enough*, has just been released by Flying Chipmunk Books. This book is science fiction, with elements of romance. The setting is about 250 years in the future, and the main characters are a noble man managing an agricultural space station and a policewoman investigating a possible homicide. Longtime MWG member Linda Tiernan Kepner is a multi genre fiction writer who has written science fiction, fantasy, historical romance, and paranormal fiction. Reviews say: "Grayson and Bourriac are a great study in the development of



relationships – not just between classes of humans but between alien races. A

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good read.” (*Jessie Salisbury*) “An outlandish adventure featuring delightful, devious, sometimes erotic and strange citizens – human and otherwise.” (*Lyrion apTower*) “An intriguing, complex story, complete with vivid characters and a well-thought-out plot.” (*Nikki Andrews*). This book is available from electronic and real-space retailers. For more information, please see the author’s web site, [www.LindaTKepner.com](http://www.LindaTKepner.com)

## Recent Events

MWG’s annual **Three-Minute Fiction Slam** took place on Saturday, October 28th in the Peterborough Town Library. 6 writers competed, and we had a full audience in attendance. Our judges, novelist Diane V. Mulligan and poet and romance writer Linda Warren, chose Brenna Manuel for first place, David Agans as second and Ellen Chase as third place. Brenna will compete for a \$250 prize at the New Hampshire Writers’ 2023 state-level competition on Saturday November 11, 5:00 p.m. at Webster Hall on the SNHU campus.



At our **October 21** meeting, poet and novelist **Rebecca Kaiser Gibson** spoke to our group about her very unusual process of writing her novel, *The Promise of a Normal Life* (Arcade Publishing, 2023). Kaiser-Gibson’s previous works include *Girl as Birch*, (Bauhan Publishing, 2022), *Opinel* (Bauhan Publishing, 2015), a poetry collection; and two chapbooks, *Admit the Peacock* and *Inside the Exhibition*. A former MacDowell fellow and Fulbright scholar, Gibson lives in Marlborough, NH and is the founder of The Loom: Poetry in Harrisville. Kaiser Gibson’s full bio can be found at: <http://rebeccakaisergibson.com>.

## Upcoming Speakers



**November 18: Charles Morey** is an internationally known, award-winning director, playwright and former artistic director with more than fifty years experience in the professional theatre and extensive credits from coast to coast. He is the author of twelve produced plays that have received over five hundred productions around the world. His plays include *Laughing Stock*, *The Granite State*, *Fi garo*, and *The Ladies Man*. He has also adapted many classic novels for the stage including *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Bram’s Stoker’s Dracula*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Morey was just named interim Artistic Director for the 91st season of the Peterborough Players. [www.charlesmorey.com](http://www.charlesmorey.com)

**December 16: Biannual Members’ Read-Around.** Join your fellow MWG writers in our biannual Read-Around! Bring a selection of your work—prose, poetry, nonfiction, novel excerpt, or

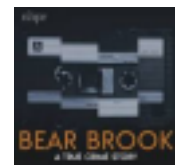
hybrid—and read aloud to our very supportive group for no more than ten minutes so that every one will have a chance to read in the allotted time. You will walk away inspired!

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**January 21: Marek Bennett** is a NH-based graphic novelist and cartoonist, musician, and educator. He leads discovery-based Comics Workshops for all ages throughout New England and the world beyond! His comics work includes the graphic novel series, *The Civil War Diary of Freeman Colby*, as well as drawing, translating, & editing for *The Most Costly Journey* (2021) with the bilingual El Viaje Project. He is the recipient of the 2021 New Hampshire Governor's Arts Award for Art Education. For more information about Marek's work please go to: <http://www.-marekbennett.com>



**February 17: Jason Moon** is a senior reporter/producer on New Hampshire Public Radio's Document team. He has created longform narrative podcast series on topics ranging from unsolved murders, to presidential elections, to secret lists of misbehaving police officers. Moon is the creator of NHPR's award-winning *Bear Brook* true crime: <https://www.nhpr.org/people/jason-moon>.



## November Events

**November is “NaNoWriMo,” National Novel Writing Month!** NaNoWriMo is a national nonprofit created to support writers. Writing a novel alone can be difficult, even for seasoned writers. NaNoWriMo helps you track your progress, set milestones, connect with other writers in a vast community, and participate in events that are designed to make sure you finish your novel. The program also includes a the NaNoWriMo Young Writers Program. <https://nanowrimo.org/about-nano>.

**Author Talk: John Doelman** will share his new book, “Quetico Connection,” on Wednesday night November 1, 6:30 pm in the 1833 Room at the Peterborough Library. The author will introduce us to his book through a unique audio-visual presentation that blends vivid photography, stills, and videos, with a little history of place, and a compelling narrative interspersed with poetry from the book. The book is a threaded collection of personal, yet



gently accessible, poems and photos that began on a two-week solo canoe trip into the million-plus acres of canoe wilderness that is Quetico Provincial Park in NW Ontario. John Doelman is now a full-time New Hampshire resident, has read his poetry in numerous slams and readings in Florida, as well as many other local libraries in NH. <https://peterboroughtownlibrary.org/event/9335273>

**Writing Revision Workshop:** On Saturday, November 4, 10:00 am-12:15 p.m., New Hampshire Writers Project presents “The Art of Revision”, with Julian Zabalbeascoa. In this three-hour workshop we will examine the revision processes of several contemporary writers while apply

ing varied strategies to our own writing. This workshop will benefit short story writers, novelists, essayists, and memoirists. Where: The Ford House, SNHU, 2500 N River Rd, Hooksett NH  
Cost: \$65 Members/\$85 Nonmembers. <https://nhwritersproject.org/workshops/>.

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**Write-In at the Nashua Historical Society, November 18, 9:30-3:30** In celebration of National Novel Writing Month, the Nashua Historical Society invites writers to join us for a day of writing. Come write in our story-inspiring exhibit spaces. Rarely seen historic writing objects from the Nashua Historical Society's collection will be on display for the month of November. For additional inspiration, at 11:00 am a free tour of the beautiful and historic Abbot-Spalding House Museum will take place, located next to the Speare Museum. This event is free and open to the public. Suggested donation of \$5.00. Details are at: <https://www.nashuahistoricalociety.org/events>.



## Calls for Submission

The *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript* is looking for experienced writers to write about town and community events. Opinion columns, essays, travel writing, food and health, local issues, business perspectives, and new ideas are welcome. We are also looking for talented community photographers and news staff. Please contact Publisher Heather McKernan at [hmckernan@ledgertranscript.com](mailto:hmckernan@ledgertranscript.com).



**Mirror World Publishing.** Our goal is to provide readers with the ability to escape the mundane through wildly creative fiction. We're looking for books that act as gateways to other worlds, times, or versions of reality. We prefer strong storytelling, engaging openings, and compelling character development as well as imaginative settings, vivid world building, and interesting themes. If your manuscript transports a reader somewhere else, tells an engaging story and then brings them back feeling like they have experienced something unique, then we want to publish your book! <https://www.mirrorworldpublishing.com/>

**Heroines Anthology** is seeking submissions for the 5th volume of Heroines Anthology. It would be greatly appreciated if you could share our submissions callout with your network and members. Social media materials are also attached. Heroines Anthology - Volume 5: Call For Submissions  
Women poets are invited to submit poetry that reimagines women in myth, fairy tale, folklore or legend,



end, poems that tell women's lost histories, or untold stories, to the Heroines Anthology and Women's Writing Prize. This will be the Heroines Anthology's fifth volume and it is a global poetry edition. Submissions close on the December 28th, 2023. First prize is \$500 AUD and all short-listed entries will be published in the anthology. Find out more & submit your poetry here: <https://www.theneoperennialpress.com/>.

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**Storey Publishing** is seeking nonfiction titles for adults and children on gardening, home reference, crafts, cooking, beer & wine, nature, raising animals, horses, building, farming, home steadying, and mind/body/spirit. We are always pleased to review new proposals on these topics directly from authors and from agents. (Note: no fiction, poetry, or children's picture books, please.) <https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/imprint/workman-publishing-company/page/workman-work-with-us/workman-author-submissions/>

**Brick, A Literary Journal.** *Brick* is an international literary journal published twice a year out of Toronto. With a focus on literary non-fiction—and a willingness to stray when our hearts are taken—the magazine prizes the personal voice and celebrates life, art, and the written word with the most invigorating and challenging essays, interviews, translations, memoirs, belles lettres, and unusual musings we can get our hands on. <https://brickmag.com/submissions/>

**The Masters Review** novel excerpts contest is now open! Whether your book is not quite finished or ready to pitch, we want to read your words. For this contest, we're looking for self-contained excerpts that display a strong voice, compelling characters, and carefully constructed narrative arcs. You may submit an excerpt from any section of your completed or in-progress novel, but choose wisely: a synopsis should not be required for understanding the excerpt. As always, we have no limitations on genre, though we are primarily interested in literary fiction. This year, our guest judge is author Matthew Salesses, who will select the finalists from a shortlist provided by *The Masters Review's* editorial team. The winning excerpt will be awarded \$3,000; online publication; and an hour-long consultation with a literary agent. <https://mastersreview.com/novel-excerpt-contest/>

**The Jack Hazard Fellowship for High School Teachers.** Fourteen fellowships of \$5,000 each are given annually to creative writers who are high school teachers to support summer work on an ongoing fiction, creative nonfiction, or memoir project. Full-time instructors at accredited U.S. high schools teaching in the 2023–24 academic year who are contracted to return to their schools in fall 2024 and who have been teaching for at least three years are eligible. The New Literary Project selection committee and program director Ian S. Maloney will judge. Using only the online submission system, submit a writing sample of up to 5,000 words of prose, a brief bio, a curriculum vitae, contact information for the head of school, and a project description by January 4, 2024. There is no entry fee. Visit the website for complete guidelines. <https://www.newliteraryproject.org/jack-hazard-fellowship>

***The MWG 2023-2024 Board of Directors***

*President:* Jesseca Timmons *Vice President:* Rodger Martin *Secretary:* Susan Gebo

*Treasurer:* Carl Mabbs-Zeno *Members at Large:* Maura MacNeil, Tori Haring-Smith, Ronnie McIntire, Mary Marchese, Deni Dickler. *Emerita:* Ann Day

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**MWG PUBLICATIONS**



The ***Smoky Quartz Tenth Anniversary Anthology*** features the work of writers and artists with ties to New Hampshire. The theme of the anthology is *Transformations*.

This print edition celebrates the ten-year anniversary of *Smoky Quartz*. The 168-page paper back contains 77 poems, 6 stories, and 24 color images of artwork.

The cover art is by Barbara Danser. Price: \$20.00 The Anthology is available at MWG meetings, can be ordered through the Toadstool Bookshop, or by emailing [mwgsmyquartz@gmail.com](mailto:mwgsmyquartz@gmail.com).

***The Mud Chronicles***. Experiences of New Hampshire's "fifth season" highlight this anthology, showing how much landscape and seasonal cues matter to our contributors. You can find copies at the Toadstool Bookshop in Peterborough, or contact [monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@gmail.com) for a discounted price. <https://monadnockwriters.org/publications-2/the-mud-chronicles>.

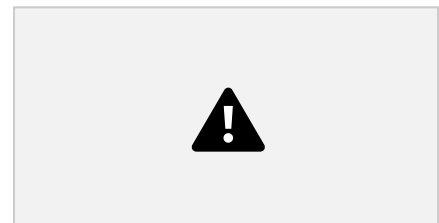
***Penning the Pandemic***: The creative writing in this volume shares the shock, the anguish, the courage, and the resilience of humanity in extraordinary times. After science and politics have had their say, art is left to record what the survivors felt and what they learned at heart. To purchase a copy, please email the MWG at: [monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@gmail.com).



## **Recurring Local Events**

**The Monadnock Storytelling & Spoken Word Circle** is the third Wednesday of every month from 6:30–8:30 pm, at the Dublin Community Center. This event is an open mic for participants to share stories, poetry, rap, comedy, truly any kind of spoken word, going round the circle. The organizers are Sebastian Lockwood and Papa Joe Gaudet, both of whom have 20-plus years of experience as professional storytellers.

All are welcome, participants and listeners! Coffee and tea will be available, and byob is welcome. For more information, contact Papa Joe at <http://papajoestorytelling.com/> and Sebastian at <https://www.nhhumanities.org/.../48/sebastian-lockwood>.



**Contoocook Writers's Group** at the Jaffrey Civic Center, first Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:00 p.m. A small, friendly writers group offering feedback and critique on writing of any kind! Bring fiction, poetry, memoir, nonfiction, children's books, essay, or whatever you want, and we will happily read it, tell you what we like in it, and give you advice on developing it. All levels

of experience welcome, the cost per session is \$10. For more information, please email Brian Evans Jones at [brian@brianevansjones.com](mailto:brian@brianevansjones.com).

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**The New Dawn Writers Group at the New Dawn Arts Center**, 84 Main Street, Ashburnham, MA, holds Tuesday night workshops on fiction, memoir, and poetry, plus open mic nights, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. MWG member Fred Gerhard runs the poetry workshop. Please click the link for more details and events on specific dates. <https://www.newdawnarts.org>.

**Rindge Writers Group** is a supportive critique group held the third Thursday of each month, 7:00-9:00 p.m. via Zoom. Meetings are free and open to writers of all genres and levels of experience. We believe that members gain writing skills by both giving feedback on other members' work and receiving it on their own. Want to attend the next meeting? Email [rindgewritersgroup@gmail.com](mailto:rindgewritersgroup@gmail.com)

## All About the Monadnock Writers' Group

- **Submit Your Bio as a Member of MWG.** Are you a member? If you would like your bio added to the *Our Members* page on the MWG website, please send it to Mary Marchese at [mwg.quill@gmail.com](mailto:mwg.quill@gmail.com). Bio: Maximum 200 words, 3rd person, feel free to include links to your website, most recent publication, or listing on Amazon, and social media.
- **Volunteer!** If you would be interested in bringing refreshments, being our ten-minute reader or have ideas for speakers or events, please let us know! [monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@gmail.com). • **Send your writing news or announcements to the Quill.** If you would like to submit to our monthly newsletter, please contact Jess at [mwg.quill@gmail.com](mailto:mwg.quill@gmail.com) at least a week before the end of the month. As a member, you may include your author events and announcements. • **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. To learn more: <https://monadnockwriters.org/our-members/>. • **Please explore the MWG website, [www.monadnockwriters.org](http://www.monadnockwriters.org)** for news, member profiles, speakers series information, contests, publications, and more. You can find us on Facebook under Monadnock Writers' Group.

- **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 at [mwg.quill@gmail.com](mailto:mwg.quill@gmail.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!

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