

# The Quill



March 2021:  
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/>  
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## General Monthly Meetings of MWG

The Monadnock Writers' Group will meet on the third Saturday of each month through June 2021. Our meetings begin at 9:45 and continue to about 11:45. In respect for public health guidelines, these meetings are being held online for now, but our full monthly program will be included, such as regional announcements of events for writers, a ten-minute reading from a member, and a main speaker sharing professional writing experience and answering our questions. 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.

The meetings can be followed via Zoom by connecting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86162106433?pwd=cWRHV1NjNi9HQVU5QWhFSyt1UnlqQT09>

Follow the prompts to join with audio and join with video. You can also participate by telephone by calling 1 (646) 558-8656. Use the meeting ID: 861 6210 6433 and passcode: 744422.

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## March 7 The Poetry Society of New Hampshire

The Poetry Society of New Hampshire's virtual Down Cellar Poetry Salon will feature *Smoky Quartz*, the online journal of literature and art published by the Monadnock Writers' Group, on Sunday, March 7 at 1:00. Three MWG poets with deep roots in New Hampshire (**Denny Caldwell, Maura MacNeil and Rodger Martin**), who have published in *Smoky Quartz* as well as many other books and periodicals, will share and discuss their poetry, looking at our New England point of view as well as other aspects influencing their writing. The *Smoky Quartz* editors will share tips on getting published. To get the Zoom link and further information on the event or the Society, go to <https://poetrysocietynh.wordpress.com/support-nh-poetry/attend-a-meeting-or-reading/>



## March 20

### Amy MacDonald

**Amy MacDonald** is the author of fifteen books for elementary and middle-school aged children. These books have won worldwide acclaim: translated into 28 languages, they've topped the "Best Children's Book" lists in three countries, been listed on a dozen state Children's Choice Award lists, and won or been short-listed for many major awards.

She has also worked as an editor and a freelance writer, in the United States, France and England. Her non-fiction has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Times* (London), and many magazines. Her documentary film, "On This Island", about the role of arts in Maine's smallest, island school, earned a New England Emmy nomination and was screened on national television.

Amy has taught creative writing and non-fiction to all ages, from kindergarten to students at University of Maine at Farmington, the Stonecoast Writers Conference, and Harvard University.

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## April 17

### Marit Weisenberg

**Marit Weisenberg** recently followed the first two books in her successful science fiction series (*Select* and *Select Few*) with a mysterious novel about teenage love (*The Insomniacs*).

She has a master's degree from UCLA in Cinema and Media Studies and worked as a film and television executive for a number of years. She currently lives in Austin, Texas, with her husband and two daughters.

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## May 15

### Publishers' Panel



Three publishers of MWG writers (Hobblebush, Bauhan and Khotso) will describe what they need from writers to get their work published and will bring out some of the different approaches that fit particular writers. You will have a chance to bring your questions to gain from their experience.

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## June 19 Read-Around

At the June event, members of the Monadnock Writers' Group will read excerpts of their own work up to ten minutes each. Every year this is an inspirational opportunity to enjoy the creative talents of our members. This intriguing visit with fellow writers will be online via Zoom at the usual link for monthly meetings. The public is welcome to attend.

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## Our Winners in February!

***George Duncan Essay Contest:*** The Monadnock Writers' Group sponsored a high school essay contest 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.

Submissions were open until February 1, 2021, to write a persuasive, fact-based analysis of a current political issue in a civil tone using 500-800 words. In addition to winning a \$100 prize, the winning essay will be read at a MWG monthly meeting and may be published in local newspapers. We plan to hold the sponsor the event again next year.



The 2021 winner of the George Duncan Essay Contest is *Plastics: Their Rise and Fall from Favor* by **Davina T. Sienkiewicz**, a senior at High Mowing School in Wilton.

***Three-Minute Fiction for 2021:*** The Peterborough round of the New Hampshire annual flash fiction contest was held on February 6. It seems that every year the readings are better so this year we started to give prizes to the first three places. In case you missed the event, enjoy the entry *Café Drama* by **Ronnie McIntire** at the end of this month's *Quill*. The New Hampshire finals are not yet scheduled but will be announced by the New Hampshire Writers Project.

### Peterborough Round

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: *A Rose by Any Other Name*  
by **Deni Dickler**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: *Story Bird*  
by **Grace Marie Johnson**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: *Social Distance*  
by **Sue Ellen Snape**



## Writing Opportunities

**Get Your Creative Work into 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. See the Fall 2020 issue at <https://smokyquartz.org>.

*Smoky Quartz* is accepting submissions for the **Fall 2021 Issue**. We publish poetry, short fiction, short nonfiction, creative nonfiction (including, personal essay, short memoir, and hybrid prose, which can integrate poetry, dialogue, and images), art, and photography.

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](http://www.smokyquartz.org/submissions)

*Photograph by Jesseca Timmons*



**The May Sarton New Hampshire Poetry Prize:** Bauhan Publishing offers an annual poetry contest in honor of New Hampshire poet May Sarton to encourage both new and experienced poets from anywhere in the world to submit their poetry in a previously unpublished collection. Your collection could potentially win \$1,000 and publication through their company so that global readership can enjoy your words!

2020 marked the tenth year of the annual May Sarton New Hampshire Poetry Prize contest. Bauhan has had the honor of working with a range of talented judges and poets to produce beautiful poetry collections.

Click on the prize link below for more information on the contest, to find out how to enter, and to view the previous winners published collections! <https://bauhanpublishing.com/contests/>



**Cosmic Poetry:** The Peterborough Poetry Project is sponsoring a contest for the best poems about the cosmos. One poem per person may be submitted and only unpublished poems are eligible. Poets with poems chosen as the best three will receive cash prizes (top prize \$75). Poems will be considered for inclusion in a

second edition of the recent book: *We Are Stardust: the universe in verse*. The maximum poem length is 44 lines. The submission deadline is May 13, 2021. See full details at <https://peterboroughpoetryproject.org/contests>

**A Poetry Challenge:** The Creative Hub issued a call for poetry submissions concerned with the climate emergency, the current crisis and possible aftermaths. They are looking for poetry that is inspiring, meaningful and original, and that reflects the principles, concerns and values of the Extinction Rebellion from a global, regional or local perspective. See details at: <https://xrcreative.org/poetry-submissions/>

***A Unique Invitation for Poets:*** *WRITING THE LAND* is a collaborative project between local land trusts and artists to help raise awareness for the preservation of land, ecosystems, and biodiversity

With support of our partnered land trusts we help coordinate poets to “adopt” a conserved property, partnering them with that respective land trust for the calendar year. Poets will visit these adopted properties and then create poems inspired by the land. Because our current times restrict in-person events this project emphasizes the importance of individual connection to the land and will include event-sharing experiences of poets reading on behalf of the land—inspiring others to visit or donate toward the protection of these farms, ecosystems, habitats, sanctuaries, and wilderness preserves.

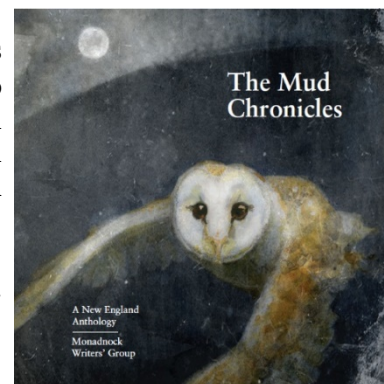
*Writing the Land* is an attempt to honor nature and our relationship with it in a way that is as equitable and transparent as it is deep and entangled. As poets and advocates, we declare our intention that the scope of this project be as inclusive—to humans and places—as we hope the mantle of protection that land trusts offer can be. Our work in writing the land will never be complete but rather gains strength, depth, beauty, and energy from a multitude of voices.

Poets who create work for *Writing the Land* poets are agreeing to give our project *First North American Serial Rights* to publish the work online as well as potentially in an annual anthology. All rights revert back to the author upon publication. We ask acknowledgment if the author chooses to republish any accepted pieces. Further details are available at: <https://www.writingtheland.org/poets>

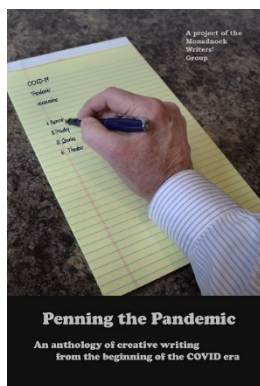
## MWG Announcements

***Timely Books from MWG:*** The newest anthologies from MWG provide different orientations to the spring of 2021.

***The Mud Chronicles:*** Experience of our “fifth season” highlights this anthology, showing how much landscape and seasonal cues matter to our contributors. Plus, beings of metaphor that we are, the fifth season reminds us of emotional transitions, of times that don’t fit smoothly in the unfolding of a life, that mark a shift in who we were and who we will become.



Copies at a discounted price are available for pick up in Peterborough. For details contact: [monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@gmail.com)



***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.

It is available at the Toadstool in Peterborough and for order from any other online or brick-and-mortar retail bookseller. Copies at a discounted price are available for pick up in Peterborough. For details contact: [monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@gmail.com)

Poetry Is the Shortest Distance between Two Humans.  
- Lawrence Ferlinghetti

## 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 [monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@gmail.com) 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](mailto: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 at [monadnockwriters@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockwriters@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!

#### 2020-2021 Board of Directors:

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

## Café Drama

Ronnie McIntire

"I'm more interested in the *meta* of writing," she said, raising her coffee mug to nose level. She was sitting opposite me with her legs primly crossed. I was interested in the run in her navy tights—outer aspect, left thigh, sun-starved skin peeking through. I turned my attention back to my latte. We sipped in tandem, all college-town coffee bar cozy. It was time to come out.

"Look, Ms. Brooks, don't get..."

"Elaine, please. Just call me Elaine." She sat back and nursed a wary-eyed sip.

"OK, Elaine, look, I just want you to understand that I don't consider myself a writer *per se*. Sure, I write from time to time, but when I'm not, I don't say to myself, 'Gee, I really ought to be getting something out there.' In my book, writing is something you do for fun...not from some pressure to produce. And besides, if you're willing to wear the writer's mantle, you need something to say that's actually worth saying."

"Then why are you a member of..."

"The writers' group?"

"Yes, precisely."

"They let me in. I practically had to beg. They tolerate my dearth of production."

"Recreational writing? Well, why not? I mean, look at all those sillies slicing serves out of tennis courts all over the world. Only a disciplined and well-schooled few reach the ranks of a Williams or a Federer. It's the same with language arts. To master the craft, you've got to know and embrace the fundamentals, and possessing a broad command of what's been done before is an absolute must. To write well one must study how to write well, and, by the way, that is what I do—I teach writing at the college."

"Is it Doctor?"

She raised an eyebrow and said, "I'm afraid I don't follow."

"Doctor Brooks...as in PhD."

"Well, yes, as a matter of fact. Cornell, 2007"

She settled again. It had sounded part confession, part brag. The run in her tights had lengthened. The rolled up gym mat in the bag by her feet suggested an exit strategy.

I played the gambit, "Are you also a yogini?"

She looked at me askance and then consulted her watch—one of those I-things. We exchanged pleasantries, and then, with sudden purpose, she departed.

In the realm of Language Smarts, vocabulary and timing trump.