



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

THE WRITERS VOICE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK DOWNTOWN WRITERS CENTER and WRITERS VOICE ONLINE WRITING WORKSHOPS – WINTER 2025

AN UPDATE ABOUT WRITERS VOICE PRO

Writers Voice PRO is a two-year intensive program for writers who are serious about developing their writing. PRO gives all the dedication, guidance, and community of an MFA program without the high cost.

Starting in 2025, PRO will look different from previous years, but will emphasize what is essential to growing as a writer. We are greatly expanding the time that writers spend sharing work with our incredible writing mentors, meaning that you will have more personalized time with mentors who will give generous feedback on your work and help refine your strengths as a writer.

PRO is open to new and former students. Learn more at our website and apply to begin in the upcoming Winter 2025 season.

ymcacny.org/programs/arts/creative-writing



KEY TO COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

- BEG** Beginner. These courses are open to all students, but are designed specifically for new writers.
- INT** Intermediate. These courses are for students with writing experience and some familiarity with workshops.
- ALL** All. These courses are for writers of all experience levels--including beginners!
- PRO** PRO/Advanced. Space may be limited in these courses for students not enrolled in PRO. A manuscript review may also be required for new students.
- GEN** Generative. These courses focus on creating new work through exercises and prompts.
- SEM** Seminar. These courses examine literary schools, craft, and/or writing theory in practice; reading is often required.
- WRK** Workshop. These courses focus on peer critique and/or revision strategies.
- MS** Multiple Styles. Classes will incorporate multiple instruction styles.
- DWC** Course will take place in-person at the Downtown Writers Center
- ONLINE** Course will take place online (e.g. Zoom)
- HYBRID** Students can join either in-person at the Downtown Writers Center or online.
- ASYNCH** Students write and share work without a weekly scheduled class.

WINTER 2025 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

POETRY COURSES

READING POEMS, TALKING CRAFT

(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Derek Pollard. Mondays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 27. Poetry is most powerful when it invites dialogue. We'll practice this by sharing poems we admire and writing and workshopping our own poems.

PRO POETRY WORKSHOP

(PRO - WRK - ONLINE) with Georgia Popoff. Thursdays, 5:30 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 23. Refine your strengths and learn from others in this collaborative workshop that investigates how great poems work. This is for experienced writers whose goal is publication. Limited space is reserved for PRO graduates. Please call 315-474-6851 x380 or email for details.

LATIN AMERICAN MODERNIST POETRY

(INT - MS - ONLINE) with Deb Diemont. Tuesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 21. We will explore great Spanish-language poets of the 20th century, including Pablo Neruda, Gabriela Mistral and Federico Garcia Lorca. We will discuss their forms and themes, using their work as inspiration to write our own poems.

MINING THE MARVELOUS: POETRY & SURREALISM

(INT - MS - ONLINE) with Thomas Townsley.. Mondays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 27. Surrealism allows us to access the "marvelous," an altered sense of reality, perceived with intensity, as in our dreams. We'll read and discuss poems by the first-generation surrealists and their successors, then explore their creative techniques to generate "marvelous images."

TELL ME A STORY: WRITING NARRATIVE POETRY

(ALL - GEN - ONLINE) with Gloria Heffernan. Tuesdays, 10 AM to 12 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 21. We will explore narrative voice, creating tension, what to leave in and what to leave out, and how to use the techniques of poetry to write poems that tell moving and memorable stories.

POETIC REVISION

(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Jessica Cuello. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 22. We all have poems that insist on their existence and refuse to be abandoned. This course will experiment with revision strategies and provide time to share poems for feedback and discussion.

FOUND: A GENERATIVE POETRY WORKSHOP

(BEG - MS - ONLINE) with Suzanne Frischkorn. Thursdays, 10 AM to 12 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 23. We'll read centos, collages, erasures, golden shovels, and more, and we'll borrow their techniques to write our own found poems.

POEMS TO VIDEO AND BACK AGAIN

(ALL - MS - ONLINE) with George Guida. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 4 weeks, starting January 22. Students will draft and share poems in class, then create videos based on their poems, then use the videos to reimagine their poems, before finally revising their poems and sharing them in class.

FICTION COURSES

THE WRITER'S LIFE, PART TWO

(ALL - SEM - ONLINE) with Chris DelGuercio. Tuesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 21. A continuation of the popular Writer's Life series, part two focuses on SELF-EDITING. Shape your rough drafts into professional-looking pieces of fiction and the next step in your writing journey!

WRITING THE SHORT STORY

(ALL - GEN - DWC) with Mark Wish. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 22. We'll move through the various stages of writing short stories, from conceiving a compelling premise to revision. Emphasis will be on writing as opposed to talking about writing!

FICTION REBOOT

(INT - MS - ONLINE) with Keith Stahl. Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 23. Share creative, insightful ideas for ongoing projects in a supportive environment and write new work. We will discuss techniques, our individual processes, and get some suggestions for outside reading.

NONFICTION COURSES

THE WINTER FLOW: NONFICTION WORKSHOP

(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Georgia Popoff. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 22, and Thursdays, 1 to 3 PM, starting January 23. Our popular nonfiction critique workshop continues with weekly comments and detailed critique. We welcome new members, so if you're working on a project or need encouragement, join us!

FLASH NONFICTION

(ALL - MS - ONLINE) w/ Dan Simpson & Ona Gritz. Thursdays, 5 to 7 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 23. Flash Nonfiction returns! A generative workshop and critique for flash nonfiction writers -- essays of no more than 800 words. A welcome place for poets to try their hand at nonfiction and for nonfiction writers to tighten their work.

MORE WINTER 2025 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

CROSS-GENRE COURSES

NARRATIVE VOICE

(INT - MS - ONLINE) with Kayla Blatchley. Mondays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 27. Who is the person telling the story? What makes their voice compelling? In this craft class, we will examine texts and practice strategies to develop and refine narrative voice for both fiction and non-fiction pieces.

THINKING ABOUT SCENE

(INT - MS - ONLINE) with Sarah Cedeno. Mondays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 27. This class is a craft-based exploration of the scene in either nonfiction or fiction. We'll read, study, and write scenes with attention to momentum, precision, depth, shape, entrances and exits, and wherever else discussion takes us. The goal: finessing craft.

PRO PROSE WORKSHOP

(PRO - WRK - ONLINE) with Nick Rys. Tuesdays, 6 to 8:30 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 21. We will explore how fiction and non-fiction writers craft personal stories that relate to larger social, cultural, and historical concerns in an advanced workshop. Limited space is available for PRO graduates and other advanced writers. Call 315-474-6851 x380 or email for details.

FINDING YOUR SPACE AS AN LGBTQ+ WRITER

(ALL - MS - HYBRID) w/ Gemma Cooper-Novack. Saturdays, 3 to 5 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 25. How can LGBTQ+ writers find space for our work and identify the traditions and present moments to which we may belong? We'll read fiction, poetry, and scripts by LGBTQ+ writers, and use them to develop our own understanding, voice, and skills as queer writers. Returning and new students are welcome!

POETICS OF PLACE

(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Darian Razdar. Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 23. Where we are, where we're from, and where we're going all shape how we create. Join this workshop to map your creative process onto the environment in which we live. We'll engage in weekly activities, readings, and discussions aimed at cultivating a poetics of place.

WINTER READING SERIES BOOK CLUB

(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Phil Memmer. Tuesdays, 5 to 5:50 PM. Starting January 21. Read and discuss the latest book by authors in our Visiting Author Reading Series. It's a great way to prepare for our Friday night readings! Best of all, Book Club itself is free! You just purchase the book through the Writers Voice at a discount. Please register early to get your books on time.

DRAMATIC WRITING

INVENT, CREATE, REVISE, AND POLISH:

PLAYWRIGHTS AT WORK

(ALL - MS - ONLINE) with Len Fonte. Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 23. We'll review the basic tools of playwriting, and we'll explore structure, dialogue, images, and theatricality with the goal of writing a fully realized ten-minute play or a polished first act. Appropriate for first-timers and experienced writers.

THE ART OF THE MONOLOGUE

(INT - MS - DWC) with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Wednesdays, 5:30 to 7:30 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 22. How can we keep a scene compelling and dramatic when only one person is speaking? In this course, we'll read theatrical monologues as well as first-person fiction and workshop monologues of our own.

PLAYWRITING: CULTIVATING DIVERSE VOICES

(ALL - MS - ONLINE) with Juhanna Rogers. Tuesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 21. This course will review plays and dramatic works that give voice to marginalized communities. Those who aspire to write a play that addresses the lived experiences of diverse characters will have opportunities to share developments, learn strategies for authentic representation, and exchange ideas with others. During the final class, writers will read part of their work in celebration of their progress.

WINTER 2025 INSTRUCTOR BIOS

KAYLA BLATCHLEY is a fiction writer living in Syracuse, New York. She teaches college writing at SUNY Polytechnic and is approaching her 10th year teaching at the Writers Voice!

TIM CARTER is the Director of Writing Workshops at the Writers Voice of CNY. He is the author of *Remains* (2022) and *The Pigs* (2023).

SARAH CEDEÑO teaches, edits, and writes in Brockport, NY. Her debut book of short fiction, *The Grand Scheme of Things*, will be released from Small Harbor Publishing in July 2025.

GEMMA COOPER-NOVACK is a queer writer, playwright, scholar, and writing coach who has published in over 50 journals. She's the author of *We Might As Well Be Underwater*.

JESSICA CUELLO's latest book is *Yours, Creature* (JackLeg Press, 2023). Her book, *Liar*, was picked by Dorianne Laux for The 2020 Barrow Street Book Prize. Cuello is the poetry editor at *Tahoma Literary Review* and teaches French in CNY.

CHRIS DELGUERCIO is a writer, teacher, editor, and lecturer. His new collection of short stories *An Unsettled Score* (2023) is available. Visit him at www.CDelGuercio.com.

DEB DIEMONT writes poetry influenced by her experience in Mexico and Central America. She teaches Spanish-language poetry and translates Spanish poetry into English. Her books are *Wanderer*, *Diverting Angels* and *The Charmed House*.

LEN FONTE'S plays include SALT Award-winner *Werewolf*, *Wasted Bread*, *Melagrana*, and others. He taught playwriting at Syracuse University and is a theater critic for the Syracuse Post-Standard.

SUZANNE FRISCHKORN is the author of four poetry collections, most recently *Whipsaw*. She's an editor for *\$-Poetry is Currency*, and is an assistant poetry editor for *Terrain.org*.

ONA GRITZ's memoir, *Everywhere I Look*, explores sisterhood, true crime, and family secrets. Helen Fremont calls it "profound." Lilly Dancyger says it's "stunning and fearless." Ona's earlier books include *Geode*, an MSR poetry award finalist.

GEORGE GUIDA is the author of ten books, including five poetry collections. He teaches at New York City College of Technology, and curates the Finger Lakes Arts Series.

GLORIA HEFFERNAN's third poetry collection, *Fused*, will be published by Shanti Arts Books in 2025. She won the 2022 CNY Book Award for her guide, *Exploring Poetry of Presence*.

PHIL MEMMER founded the Downtown Writers Center in 2000. His sixth book of poems, *Cairns*, was published in 2022.

DEREK POLLARD is editor of the Poets on Poetry Series (University of Michigan Press). His most recent collection is *On the Verge of Something Bright and Good* (Barrow Street 2021).

GEORGIA A POPOFF is the author of five books of poetry, most recently, *Living with Haints* (Tiger Bark Press 2024). She is currently Poet Laureate of Onondaga County and edits the Under Discussion Series from University of Michigan Press.

DARIAN RAZDAR is a writer, artist, and independent scholar. His practice is embodied, ecological, collaborative, and research-intensive, incorporating poetry, image, textile, and print. His practice is based in Toronto and Mexico City. Learn more at darianrazdar.info

JUHANNA ROGERS, PhD. is a motivational speaker, commentator, artist, and education activist. She has an MFA from Goddard College. Her work explores ways through which underrepresented populations, specifically those of African descent, can improve their lives and communities.

NICK RYS is a writer and instructor living in Syracuse, NY. He has published in *The Antioch Review*, *Lake Effect*, and others.. He holds an MFA in writing from Bowling Green State University.

DAN SIMPSON's poetry collection, *Inside the Invisible*, won the Propel Poetry Prize and was nominated for the American Academy of Poets Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize.

KEITH STAHL's first novel, *Dear Future Occupants*, is forthcoming from University of Wisconsin Press (Fall, 2026). He is a long-time instructor at the Writers Voice and holds an MFA in creative writing from Syracuse University.

THOMAS TOWNSLEY has published five books of poetry, and his work appears in two international anthologies of surrealist poetry. A graduate of Syracuse University's MFA program, he teaches at Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, NY.

MARK WISH's short stories have appeared in *Best American Short Stories*, *New England Review*, *Fiction*, *The Antioch Review*, and *The Sun*. He's won a Pushcart Prize, and he edits and publishes *Cooler American Stories*. He's the author of four published novels, including *Necessary Deeds*.

COURSES FOR TEENS

YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY

(ALL - WRK - HYBRID) with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Saturdays, 12 to 2 PM. 10 weeks, starting January 25. An afternoon workshop for students grades 6 through 12 who are on fire to write! Free for students in the Syracuse City School District and active Y of CNY members.

Want to know more?

Contact Tim Carter
Email: tcarter@ymcacny.org
Phone: 315-474-6851 x380
Website: ymcacny.org/young-authors-academy

WORKSHOP REMINDERS...

All enrollment is first-come, first-served.
All class times are Eastern.
We do not call to confirm registrations; we will, however, call you if there is any problem.
Refunds are not given after a course begins. (If a course is canceled, payments are refunded.)
If a course has a required text listed in its description, you will need to obtain that text before the first class meeting.

THANK YOU

The Writers Voice of CNY is supported with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, with the support of the office of the Governor and the NYS Legislature. Additional support by Onondaga County and CNY Arts.



**Council on
the Arts**



REGISTRATION FOR YMCA OF CNY MEMBERS

STEP 1: GO TO YMCA.CNY.ORG/MYACCOUNT.

Create a new account or enter your valid YMCA of CNY membership email and password.

STEP 2: REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM. Click

“Activities” in the upper right-hand corner, and then click “Register for a program.”

STEP 3: SEARCH FOR PROGRAMS. Type “creative

writing” into the search bar and use the filters to find the right class for you.

STEP 4: COMPLETE REGISTRATION. To take advantage

of your free course benefit as a Y-member of CNY, use promo code “DWCWINTER25” when you register.

Please note that you must complete your transaction for your free course, then start a new transaction for any additional courses.

REGISTRATION FOR Y-USA and ALL OTHER STUDENTS:

Register by phone with a credit card
by calling (315) 474-6851 x380.

Paying by check? Call first to reserve your place,
then return to your registration form with check
payable to the YMCA to:

The YMCA’s Downtown Writers Center, 340
Montgomery St., Syracuse, NY 13202

Members of a YMCA outside of YMCA of
Central New York are eligible to take work-
shops at a discount!

Use promo code “DWCYUSA”.

<https://ymcacny.org/dwc>

WINTER 2025 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, 10 JANUARY 2025

Late registrations, when space is available, are subject to a \$15 late fee.

Courses (Please mark with an <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)	Member Level	YMCA	WV	Non-member
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Poems, Talking Craft		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> PRO Poetry Workshop		Free*	\$155	\$200
<input type="checkbox"/> Latin American Modernist Poetry		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Mining the Marvelous: Poetry & Surrealism		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Tell Me a Story: Writing Narrative Poetry		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Poetic Revision		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Poems to Video and Back Again		Free*	\$65	\$85
<input type="checkbox"/> Found: A Generative Poetry Workshop		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writer's Life, Part Two		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing the Short Story		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiction Reboot		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> The Winter Flow: Nonfiction Workshop		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Flash Nonfiction		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> PRO Prose Workshop		Free*	\$155	\$200
<input type="checkbox"/> Narrative Voice		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Thinking About Scene		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Finding Your Space as an LGBTQ+ Writer		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Poetics of Place		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Reading Series Book Club		\$160	\$160	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> The Art of Monologuing		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Invent, Create, Revise, and Polish		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Playwriting: Cultivating Diverse Voice		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Writers Voice Membership (1 Year)		\$45	\$45	\$45

*YMCA of CNY members are entitled to one free class per season, per membership (a family membership counts as one membership). Additional fees (Book Club, late fees) still apply. All other Y members from anywhere in the country are eligible for "WV Member Rate" discount. Call 315-474-6851 x380 for more information.

TOTAL FEES _____ NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS (city, state, zip) _____ PHONE _____

YMCA of CNY MEMBER? YES / NO (If yes, please specify branch) _____

WRITERS VOICE MEMBER? YES / NO Y MEMBER FROM ANOTHER YMCA ? YES / NO (If yes, specify) _____

ALL STUDENTS please refer to page 5 for details about registering for classes online.