



**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 – SPRING 2025

FIND YOUR Y WITH 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. We accept writers on a rolling basis, so you can join at any point in the year. Learn more at our website!

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.

SPRING 2025 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

POETRY COURSES

READY! SET! GO!

(ALL - GEN - ONLINE) with Georgia Popoff. Tuesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 8. Let the spring season fuel your creative spark. This course provides prompts and exercises to spur memory, imagination, and new poems. We'll write, talk about our "burning questions" and breakthroughs regarding the writing process, and share our work in this generative class.

MINING THE BODY OF POETRY

(INT - MS - DWC) with Sara Parrott. Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 10. Get under the skin of your writing to learn how form supports content and how language stirs the mind and body by appealing to our senses. We'll read and discuss poems to inspire and guide our writing.

ADVANCED POETRY WORKSHOP (FORMERLY "PRO")

(PRO - WRK - ONLINE) with Yvonne Murphy. Mondays, 6 to 8:30 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 7. 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.

MUSE WRITING

(BEG - GEN - HYBRID) with Tim McCoy. Mondays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 7. This course helps poetry writers get past their conventional imagination by using free-writing and associative techniques when drafting poems. Readings of wild poems along with writing exercises will help students access their muses.

WRITING ABOUT HISTORICAL FIGURES

(ALL - GEN - ONLINE) with Suzanne Ondrus. Thursdays, 2:30 to 4:30 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 10. We'll practice different ways to make historical figures accessible and alive. Writers can write about various figures or focus on a single person.

POETRY AS LEGACY

(ALL - GEN - ONLINE) with Gloria Heffernan. Tuesdays, 10 AM to 12 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 8. How do you want to be remembered? What poems do you want to leave as your legacy? This is a safe place for exploring your most tender stories for those who mean the most to you.

FICTION COURSES

THE WRITER'S LIFE, PART THREE

(INT - WRK - ONLINE) with Chris DelGuercio. Tuesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 8. The final Writer's Life class, "Entering the Workshop," is your chance to receive constructive feedback. Through the guidance of the instructor, you will receive focused peer critique that's necessary to take your work to new heights!

FICTION REBOOT

(INT - MS - ONLINE) with Keith Stahl. Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 10. 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 SPRING FLOW: NONFICTION WORKSHOP

(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Georgia Popoff. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 9, and Thursdays, 1 to 3 PM, starting April 10. Our popular nonfiction critique workshop continues with weekly comments and critique. New members are welcome, 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 April 10. Flash Nonfiction is back! 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 non-fiction writers to tighten their work.

INTRODUCTION TO MEMOIR

(ALL - MS - ONLINE) with Susan Keeter. Tuesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 6 weeks, starting April 8. Do you want to write a memoir or help a loved one write theirs? Using the StoryCorps interview questions and Modern Love's "36 Questions that Lead to Love," as inspiration, this class helps you write a manuscript that is a soul-searching, intimate and satisfying. (Note: this is a 6-week class.)

MORE SPRING 2025 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

CROSS-GENRE COURSES

STRATEGIES IN REVISION

(INT - WRK - ONLINE) with Kayla Blatchley. Mondays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 7. This class introduces students to different ways of approaching revision, including strategies for structural and line-level editing, responding to feedback, and using revision to refine and expand our work.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITING CRITIQUE GROUP

(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Susan Keeter. Mondays, 6 to 8 PM. 6 weeks, starting April 7. Have you been writing for children and wish you could share your work with other writers? Are you looking for a critique group? Be ready to share work in progress, get constructive criticism, and ready yourself for the challenges of publishing. (Note: this is a 6-week course.)

ADVANCED PROSE WORKSHOP (FORMERLY "PRO")

(PRO - WRK - ONLINE) w/ Nick Rys. Wednesdays, 6 to 8:30 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 9. 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.

INTRODUCTION TO GRANTWRITING

(ALL - MS - ONLINE) w/ Tory Russo. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 9. This course provides an overview of how grants are made, finding opportunities and funders, and writing grants. Writers will develop a grant template for current or future opportunities. This course is for both individuals or organizations.

WRITING LONGER WORK

(ALL - MS - DWC) with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 9. Do you have a great idea for a book, but get stuck on the beginning? Do you write short stories, but want to make the leap to something longer? Through exercises and critiques, we will sharpen our skills for going the distance. You don't need to have started your book to take this class—just bring your ideas and your commitment!

SPRING READING SERIES BOOK CLUB

(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Phil Memmer. Tuesdays, 5 to 5:50 PM. Starting April 8. 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 books through the Writers Voice at a discount. Please register early to get your books on time.

FINDING YOUR SPACE AS AN LGBTQ+ WRITER

(ALL - MS - HYBRID) w/ Gemma Cooper-Novack. Saturdays, 3 to 5 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 12. 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!

DRAMATIC WRITING

I'M TALKING HERE: DICTION IN PLAYWRITING

(INT - WRK - ONLINE) with Len Fonte. Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 10. Plays are built on engaging dialogue. We will explore ways to create vibrant characters through how they speak. A goal for this class is to complete a ten-minute play or scene in a longer work. This class is reserved for writers who have previously taken a playwriting class through the Writers Voice.

SPRING 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).

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*.

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.

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.

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.

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*.

SUSAN KEETER writes for all ages. *Sunday's Wheels*, which she wrote and illustrated, received the CNY Book award. Her short memoir, *Pink Grapefruit and Chocolate Milk* is in the Healing Muse. Keeter has an MFA.

TIM MCCOY's poems appear in and are forthcoming from the *Notre Dame Review*, *BlazeVOX*, *Action Fokus*, *Interim*, and elsewhere. He's a graduate of Syracuse University's MFA program and teaches writing in the Syracuse area.

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

YVONNE C. MURPHY is a poet and teaches creative writing and studio art at SUNY Empire State University. Her first book, *Aviaries*, was selected for the Carolina Wren Prize in Poetry. She is from Cazenovia, NY.

SUZANNE ONDRUS' poetry books *Passion Seeds* and *Death of an Unvirtuous Woman* deal with history, foreign cultures, women's sexuality, racism, identity, and domestic violence serve as platforms for discussion of these taboo topics.

SARA PARROTT is the author of *Tipping the Water Jar of Heaven*. Her poems have appeared in *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Dappled Things*, and *Light on the Walls of Life*.

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.

TORY RUSSO has nearly a decade of experience in project management, development, communications, and community engagement across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. She's currently a freelance grant writer and consultant for arts and culture organizations.

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.

COURSES FOR TEENS

YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY

(ALL - WRK - HYBRID) with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Saturdays, 12 to 2 PM. 10 weeks, starting April 12. 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 "DWCSRING25" 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 workshops at a discount!

Use promo code "DWCYUSA".

<https://ymcacny.org/dwc>

SPRING 2025 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, 1 April 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"/> Ready! Set! Go!		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Mining the Body of Poetry		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Poetry Workshop		Free*	\$155	\$200
<input type="checkbox"/> Muse Writing		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing About Historical Figures		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry as Legacy		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writer's Life, Part Three		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiction Reboot		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> The Spring Flow: Nonfiction Workshop (Wed)		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> The Spring Flow: Nonfiction Workshop (Thurs)		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Flash Nonfiction		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Memoir		Free*	\$100	\$130
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategies in Revision		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Prose Workshop		Free*	\$155	\$200
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Book Writing Critique Group		Free*	\$100	\$130
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Grantwriting		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing Longer Work		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Finding Your Space as an LGBTQ+ Writer		Free*	\$130	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Spring Reading Series Book Club		\$136	\$136	\$136
<input type="checkbox"/> I'm Talking Here: Dialogue in Playwriting		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.