



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
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# THE WRITERS VOICE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK DOWNTOWN WRITERS CENTER and WRITERS VOICE ONLINE WRITING WORKSHOPS – WINTER 2024

## A Quick Note to Our Members

As we kick off 2024, I have some subtle but exciting changes I'd like to let you know about.

The Writers Voice is the YMCA's long-standing brand for literary activities, going back to when poet Jason Shinder (namesake of our Jason Shinder Theater) started the program in the '80s. A fun history lesson: when we opened in late 2000, we weren't sure if we were *allowed* to use the official name, because our program was new... so we called it the Downtown Writers Center instead. By the time we realized the brand was ours to use, the "DWC" name had stuck.

Well, fast forward 23 years, and our programs are attracting more and more writers and readers from around the country... and of course, many of those programs are taking place online, not at the DWC itself. So with that in mind, we're making a few changes that better represent what we do and who we are:

- **The Writers Voice of Central New York** is the new name for our overall literary arts program.
- **The Downtown Writers Center** now refers specifically to our physical space in Syracuse.
- **Writers Voice Online** is the "location" for our on-line workshops and events.
- Finally, the Arts Branch itself is now **The Arts and Education Branch of the YMCA**, which better reflects our work throughout CNY.

We're glad you're with us for this exciting new chapter in our nearly 25-year story here at the Writers Voice!

–Phil Memmer, Executive Director

## KEY TO COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**BEG** **Beginner.** These courses are open to all students, but are geared specifically towards new writers. If you are a new writer, start here or **All!**

**INT** **Intermediate.** These courses are for students with previous writing experience, and some degree of familiarity with writing workshops.

**ALL** **All.** Course content is geared to writers of all experience levels... including beginners!

**PRO** **DWC PRO/ADVANCED.** Space may be limited in these advanced courses for students not enrolled in DWC PRO; a manuscript review may also be required for new students.

**G** **Generative.** These courses focus on creating new work through exercises and prompts.

**S** **Seminar.** Classes that examine specific elements of literary schools, craft, and/or writing theory in practice, reading often required.

**W** **Workshop.** Workshops focus on peer critique and/or revision strategies.

**M** **Multiple Styles.** Classes will incorporate multiple instruction styles.

**DWC** Course will take place in-person at the Y.

**ONLINE** Course will take place on Zoom/etc.

**HYBRID** Students can participate either in-person at the YMCA or online.

**ASYNCH** Learn at your own pace in these asynchronous courses!

# WINTER 2024 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

## POETRY COURSES

**INT = M = DWG Translation and Transformation** with Kristofor Minta. Mondays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting January 22. Transform your writing practice and dust off your language skills! We'll look at approaches to translation (successful and unsuccessful) and attempt our own. Foreign language proficiency is encouraged but not required. We'll also be looking into the potential of machine translation.

**ALL = G = HYBRID The Haibun: A Generative Writing Workshop** with Suzanne Frischkorn. Thursdays, 10:00 AM-Noon. 8 weeks, starting January 25. We will learn and discuss the elements of modern Haibun, read contemporary Haibun by Jane Huffman, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, and Maureen Seaton, and explore the form by writing our own.

**ALL = G = ONLINE Robot Poetry: Writing Innovative and Unpredictable Poetry** with Tresha Haefner. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting January 23. Witnessing machines try to write poetry raises questions about what makes language both formulaic and inventive. We'll look at what AI-generated work can teach us about how to use formulas and how to subvert them, go beyond them, and write poems that are distinctly human.

**ALL = S = ONLINE History of the Prose Poem: from the 1800s to the Present** with Christopher Citro. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting January 23. We'll read prose poetry, from its establishment in 1842, through Modernism, the surreal 70s, to today. This online class features audio and video for a fun session each week, including handouts for further exploration. Intended for writers and readers who love poetry and wish to gain a deeper experience of this form. No prior knowledge required.

**ALL = M = ONLINE What the World Needs...** with Mary Hutchins Harris. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting January 24. ...is more poetry! We'll take a look at poems from seven contemporary poets and write a few of our own poems, in response to or inspired by the examples.

**ALL = G = ONLINE Politics and Poetry: Writing the Difficult Poems** with Melissa Tuckey. Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30. 8 weeks, starting January 24. This workshop includes craft discussion around multi-cultural contemporary poems, prompts for your weekly writing, and time to workshop new poems. Together we'll create a safe, supportive environment for your riskiest work.

**ALL = M = ONLINE Shallow World, Deep Image** with Derek Pollard. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting January 25. Tired of the culture of the sound bite? Want more from poems than just another tweet? This workshop—equal parts writing, critique, and discussion—will give you the chance to cultivate your own “art of attention.”

**INT = M = ONLINE/ASYNCH Chapbook Baby!** with Sherre Vernon. 8 weeks, starting January 21. We will learn what makes a successful chapbook and help you grow yours. You will work on putting together a 15-to-30-page chapbook, you'll revise it based on feedback, and then submit your chapbooks to at least one venue.

**ALL = M = ONLINE Grieving through Narrative Poetry** with Julian Guy. Mondays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting January 22. We'll write from grief towards understanding, telling the compelling story of our lives, crafting excellent characterization, and honing the rich, emotional details of our personal journeys.

**PRO = W = HYBRID DWC PRO Poetry Workshop** with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Mondays, 6:00-8:30. 8 weeks, starting January 22. Elevate your poems from “Guess I'll keep this” to “Wow! I can't wait to share this!” in this collaborative workshop that investigates how great poems work. This workshop is for experienced poets whose goal is publication. Limited space is available for DWC PRO graduates and other advanced students. Call 474.6851 x380 for details.

## NONFICTION COURSES

**ALL = W = ONLINE The Winter Flow** with Georgia Popoff. 8 weeks. Two sections: Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00, starting January 24, OR Thursdays, 1:00-3:00, starting January 25. Our popular nonfiction critique workshop continues with weekly comments and detailed table critique that are the essence of this group, which welcomes new members. If you are working on a nonfiction project or need encouragement to resume a writing practice, join us!

**ALL = M = ONLINE Wintering: A Creative Non-fiction Approach** with Yvonne Murphy. Mondays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting January 22. This group will work to find wisdom, comfort and beauty in our shared experiences of Winter through the practice and discussion of Creative Non-fiction writing. We will explore images, language, models and metaphors identified with this season to move more deeply and solidly into our own work.

# MORE WINTER 2024 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

## FICTION COURSES

**ALL = S = ONLINE** **The Writer's Life, Part II** with Chris DelGuercio. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting January 30. A continuation of the popular Writer's Life series, part two focuses on SELF-EDITING. Mold and shape your rough drafts into professional-looking pieces of fiction and the next step in your writing journey!

**ALL = M = ONLINE** **Unraveling the Past into Fiction** with Sheila Myers. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting January 25. Do you have old diaries sitting in the attic longing to be made into a novel? Read about a person or event that you thought would make a good story? This class is for you. This class is for beginner writers who have ideas as well as some work to share. We will be workshopping writing samples!

**ALL = M = ONLINE** **A Writer's Journey: Where to Begin?** with Regina Drumm. Tuesday, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting January 23. You have a great idea for a book, but where do you begin? This course helps writers learn the pieces that help make a good story, from figuring out the goals of why you are writing your book to writing that first chapter. We'll focus on romance writing, but writers of all kinds of fiction will benefit from the class!

**INT = M = ONLINE** **Fiction Reboot** with Keith Stahl. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting January 24. Share creative, insightful ideas for ongoing projects in a supportive environment and use in-class exercises to energize new work. We'll discuss techniques, our individual processes, and get some suggestions for outside reading.

## DRAMATIC WRITING

**ALL = M = ONLINE** **Invent, Create, Revise, and Polish: Playwrights at Work** with Len Fonte. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting January 25. After a review of the basic tools of playwriting, we'll explore structure, dialogue, images, and theatricality with the goal of a fully realized ten-minute play or a polished first act. Appropriate for first timers and writers with experience and scripts to continue.

**ALL = M = ONLINE** **Playwriting: Cultivating Diverse Voices** with Juhanna Rogers, PhD. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting January 24. This course will review plays and dramatic works that gave voice to marginalized communities. Participants 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 other writers.

## CROSS-GENRE COURSES

**PRO = W = ONLINE** **DWC PRO Prose Workshop** with Nicholas Rys. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:30. 8 weeks, starting January 23. Discover a variety of tools to grow your writing practice and explore ways writers have crafted personal stories that relate to the larger social, cultural, and historical concerns of our time. Limited space is available for DWC PRO graduates and other advanced prose students. Call 474.6851 x380 for details.

**ALL = S = HYBRID** **Writing Longer Work** with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Tuesdays, 5:00-7:00. 8 weeks, starting January 23. Attention novel novices and amateur autobiographers: this is your class! We'll brainstorm, outline, and develop your work so that it can sustain the length of a book. Through exercises and critiques, we'll sharpen plot and pace to develop your long work. You don't need to have started your book to take this class—just bring your ideas and your commitment.

**INT = W = ONLINE** **Funky Structures** with Kayla Blatchley. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting January 25. Not all stories fit a traditional, linear narrative, nor should they! This workshop is for writers of braided essays, epistolary novels, obsessive lists, and more: open to anyone curious about how to work and play with story structure. We will read published work for inspiration, but mostly focus on creating and reviewing student work.

**INT = M = ASYNCH** **Writing Palm-of-the-Hand Stories** with Cate MacGowan. 8 weeks, starting January 22. You'll write micro-stories or, as Yasunari Kawabata coined them, Palm-of-the-Hand stories, getting out of your head and letting your fingers fly after reading examples of the form. We'll also discuss publishing options.

**ALL = S = ONLINE** **Winter Reading Series Book Club** with Phil Memmer. Tuesdays, 5:00-5:50, with sessions on 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/13, 2/20, and 2/27. Each week, the DWC Book Club reads and discusses the latest book by each author in our Visiting Author Reading Series. It's a great way to warm up for each week's Friday night reading! Best of all, Book Club itself is free... you just purchase the books through the DWC, at a discount. This season's Club includes eight books.

# COURSES FOR TEENS

## YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY

A Saturday workshop for 6th-12th graders who are on fire to write.

Now celebrating our 14th year!  
10 weeks, starting January 20.

## NUMBERLESS DREAMS

Also on Saturdays, an online writing workshop for teens with disabilities, taught by professional writers with disabilities.

10 weeks, starting January 20.

### For more information:

Georgia Popoff / gpopoff@ymcacny.org  
(315) 474-6851 x380  
or visit <https://www.ymcacny.org/dwcyoung-authors-academy.html>

## 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, all 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 DWC 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 is provided by Onondaga County and CNY Arts.



**Council on  
the Arts**



## REGISTRATION FOR YMCA OF CNY MEMBERS

*(Y members from other YMCAs, please see instructions at the bottom of this column):*

**STEP 1: ENSURE A VALID EMAIL ADDRESS IS CONNECTED TO YOUR YMCA OF CNY MEMBERSHIP.** If you are unsure, contact Member Services.

**STEP 2: GO TO [YMCACNY.ORG/MYACCOUNT](https://ymcacny.org/myaccount).** Under the "I Want to Set Up Online Access for My Account" box, click "Find Account." Enter your last name, DOB (mm/dd/yyyy) and zip code.

**STEP 3: ENTER THE EMAIL ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP.** A secure link will be sent to this address prompting you to create a password.

**STEP 4: CHECK YOUR EMAIL.** Click the link and create your password (*must include at least 7 characters and contain at least one capital letter and one number*).

**STEP 5: GO TO [YMCACNY.ORG/MYACCOUNT](https://ymcacny.org/myaccount).** Enter your email address and password in the first box, then search for programs and register online!

To take advantage of your free course benefit, use promo code "DWCWinter24" when you register.

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

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## REGISTRATION FOR ALL OTHER STUDENTS:

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

If you must pay by check, please call first to reserve your place, then return your form with check payable to YMCA to:

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

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Member of a YMCA other than the YMCA of Central New York? You're eligible to take all DWC workshops at a discount! Use promo code "DWC YUSA".

<https://ymcacny.org/dwc>

## WINTER FACULTY BIOS

**Kayla Blatchley** is a fiction author with an MFA from Syracuse University. She has published in *NOON*, *A Public Space*, *Unsaid*, and others.

**Tim Carter** is the Director of Writing Workshops at the DWC, and the author of *Remains* (2022) and *The Pigs* (2023). [www.thcarter.info](http://www.thcarter.info).

**Christopher Citro** is the author of *If We Had a Lemon We'd Throw It and Call That the Sun* (Elixir Press, 2020), and *The Maintenance of the Shimmy-Shammy* (Steel Toe Books, 2015).

**Gemma Cooper-Novack** is a poet, fiction author, and playwright. Her poetry collection is *We Might As Well Be Underwater* (Unsolicited Press, 2017).

**Chris DelGuercio** is a writer, teacher, editor, and lecturer. His new collection of short stories is *An Unsettled Score* (2023). [www.CDelGuercio.com](http://www.CDelGuercio.com).

**Regina Drumm** is a marketing and communications executive and the author of five novels. She enjoys writing Romantic Suspense and Historical Romance novels.

**Len Fonte's** plays include SALT Award winner *Werewolf*, *Wasted Bread*, *Melagrana*, and *Hip/Shake* (with Reenah Golden). He is a theater critic for the Syracuse Post-Standard.

**Suzanne Frischkorn** is the author of *Fixed Star* (2022), *Girl on a Bridge*, and *Lit Windowpane*. Her fourth book of poems, *Whipsaw*, is forthcoming in 2024 from Anhinga Press.

**Julian Guy** (he/they) is a queer and trans writer, editor, baker, and nature enthusiast. Julian's work has been published and recognized in *The Adroit Journal*, *Catapult*, *Lesbians are Miracles*, and more.

**Tresha Faye Haefner** is an author, creativity coach, and speaker who uses research-based methods to help others develop their most authentic creative abilities.

**Mary Hutchins Harris** teaches in the Lesley University MFA Low-Residency Creative Writing program. *A Tongue Full of Yeses* was selected for the South Carolina Poetry Initiative Chapbook Contest.

**Cate McGowan** is a fiction writer, essayist, poet, and visual artist. She is the author of a novel, *These Lowly Objects*, and a short story collection, *True Places Never Are*. <https://catemcgowan.com/>

**Phil Memmer** founded the DWC in 2000. His sixth book of poems, *Cairns*, was published in 2022. He is a 2023 NYSCA Individual Artist Fellow.

**Kristofor Minta** has twice been a finalist in the National Poetry Series. He is the author of *A Perfectly Ruined Solitude* (2021) and several books of translations, including Rilke's *The Voices and Other Poems* (2021).

**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.

**Sheila Myers** teaches ecology, and her most recent novel, *The Truth of Who You Are*, set during the Great Depression in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, was published by Black Rose Writing in April 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's** most recent collection of poetry is *Psychometry* (Tiger Bark Press 2019). An editor and book coaching consultant, she was recently named Onondaga County Poet Laureate.

**Juhanna Rogers, PhD.** is a speaker, artist, and education activist. She has an MFA from Goddard College. Her work explores how underrepresented populations, specifically people of African descent, can improve their lives and communities.

**Nicholas Rys** is a fiction writer with an MFA from Bowling Green State University. He reviews books, interviews authors, and has published in *The Antioch Review*, *Lake Effect*, *the Heavy Feather Review*, and others.

**Keith Stahl** holds an MFA from Syracuse University. His collection, *From the Gunroom*, won the Joyce Carol Oates Prize, and his fiction has been published in *Notre Dame Review*, *Southeast Review*, and others.

**Melissa Tuckey** is author of *Tenuous Chapel* and *Ghost Fishing: An Eco-Justice Poetry Anthology*. She's an emeritus fellow at the Black Earth Institute. She served as a founding co-director of the literary organization Split This Rock.

**Sherre Vernon** (she/her/hers) is the award-winning author of *Green Ink Wings* (Elixir Press) and *The Name is Perilous* (Power of Poetry). Her debut full-length poetry collection, *Flame Nebula, Bright Nova* was released in 2022.

# WINTER 2024 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE: January 18

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

Courses (please mark with an "X")	Member Level: YMCA	/ WV	/ Non-Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Translation and Transformation	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> The Haibun: A Generative Writing Workshop	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Robot Poetry: Writing Innovative and Unpredictable Poetry	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> History of the Prose Poem: from the 1800s to the Present	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> What the World Needs...	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Politics and Poetry: Writing the Difficult Poems	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Shallow World, Deep Image	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapbook Baby!	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Grieving through Narrative	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> DWC PRO Poetry Workshop	Free*	\$145	\$190
<input type="checkbox"/> The Fall Flow (Wednesdays)	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> The Fall Flow (Thursdays)	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Wintering: A Creative Non-fiction Approach	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writer's Life, Part II	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Unraveling the Past into Fiction	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> A Writer's Journey: Where to Begin?	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiction Reboot	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Invent, Create, Revise, and Polish: Playwrights at Work	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Playwriting: Cultivating Diverse Voices	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> DWC PRO Prose Workshop	Free*	\$145	\$190
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing Longer Work	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Funky Structures	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing Palm-of-the-Hand Stories	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Reading Series Book Club (Includes 8 books!)	\$165	\$165	\$165
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Writers Voice Membership (1 year)	\$45	\$45	\$45

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

TOTAL FEES: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (street, city, zip code): \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

YMCA of Central New York Member? YES / NO (If yes, branch: \_\_\_\_\_) DWC/WV Member? YES / NO

YMCA Member from another YMCA? YES / NO (If yes, name of YMCA: \_\_\_\_\_)

**ALL STUDENTS: please see page 4 for instructions about how to register for courses.**