



**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 – FALL 2025

CELEBRATE WITH US AT THE CNY BOOK AWARDS!

Our favorite night of the year! Each Fall, we celebrate the best books published in CNY through the CNY Book Awards!

Awards are currently published in Poetry, Fiction, Nonfiction, and Children's Books. Get your tickets today and join us for a fun night of food, music, and books!

**CNY BOOK AWARDS
9 OCTOBER 2025
6 PM at the
CNY PHILANTHROPY CENTER
431 E Fayette St, Syracuse, NY**

**General Ticket \$75
Patron Ticket \$150
(includes a copy of each winning book!)**



KEY TO COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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| 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. |

FALL 2025 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

POETRY COURSES

NARRATIVE POETRY: TELL ME A STORY

(ALL - GEN - ONLINE) with Gloria Hefferman. Tuesdays, 10 to 12 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 7. We all have stories to tell and poetry is a wonderful way to share and express share them. This workshop offers examples, lively discussion, writing prompts, and feedback in a supportive, encouraging group.

CREATING YOUR POETRY MANUSCRIPT

(INT - MS - ONLINE) with Deb Diemont. Tuesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 7. How do poems "speak to each other" when organized into a book? How can we create a dynamic energy in our own poetry manuscripts? We'll look at many examples and talk about why (or how) they're successful, and we'll share our manuscripts in progress.

CRASH COURSE IN POETIC FORM

(ALL - MS - DWC) with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 8. Stymied by sonnets? Vexed by villanelles? Flabbergasted by form? We'll use some of the best contemporary poets as guides to explore the rich world of experimenting with form.

ADVANCED POETRY WORKSHOP

(PRO - WRK- ONLINE) with Phil Memmer. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 8. Refine your writing 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 students. Please call 315-474-6851 x380 or email for more details.

FINDING FREEDOM IN FORM

(INT - MS - DWC) with Sara Parrott. Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 16. In this hands-on workshop, we'll deconstruct poetic forms (such as the Triolet, Triptych and Ekphrastic) and use them to inspire new poems. We'll share and critique our drafts each week!

REVISION BOOTCAMP!

(INT - WRK - ONLINE) with Georgia Popoff. Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 16. Revision can be daunting, and it can deter poets from enjoying the writing process, but it's a crucial element in achieving satisfaction with the work. Through a series of steps and lenses for examining opportunities for the poem, we will focus on effective self-editing!

FICTION COURSES

THE WRITER'S LIFE, PART ONE

(BEG - MS- ONLINE) with Chris DelGuercio. Tuesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 7. This three-part series returns! What makes a successful writer? This class helps beginners learn how to maintain a healthy mindset and routine, so they can avoid common obstacles and fulfill their writing goals!

DEVELOPING YOUR STYLE

(ALL - MS - ONLINE) with Alyssa Pfingst. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 8. Developing style is a skill, and this course is designed to give you plenty of practice in finding a unique approach. Expect to read many examples and talk about what makes them work (or not!).

EMULATION NATION

(INT - MS - ONLINE) with Keith Stahl. Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 16. We'll read and analyze iconic short stories by George Saunders, Franz Kafka, Flannery O'Connor, ZZ Packer, Joy Williams, and James Joyce, and emulate their styles in class and our own stories.

MORE FALL 2025 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

NONFICTION COURSES

THE FALL FLOW: NONFICTION WORKSHOP

(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Georgia Pop-off. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM, and Thursdays, 1 to 3 PM, starting October 8 and 16. Our popular workshop continues! Expect lots of weekly comments and critique. New members are welcome, so join us if you need a supportive group!

INTRODUCTION TO MEMOIR

(ALL- MS- ONLINE) with Susan Keeter. Tuesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 6 weeks, starting October 7. This popular class returns! Do you want to write a memoir or help a loved one write theirs? We'll use prompts based on StoryCorps questions and Modern Love's "36 Questions that Lead to Love," to help you write a manuscript that's intimate, and satisfying.

CREATIVE NONFICTION

(BEG - GEN - ONLINE) with Kayla Blatchley. Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM, 8 weeks starting October 16. We'll read a variety of creative nonfiction, from personal stories to braided essays to flash, and then we'll generate work inspired by these forms.

DRAMATIC WRITING

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP! PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP

(INT - WRK - ONLINE) with Len Fonte. Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 16. Conflict, diction, and disruption are the basic tools of the playwright. We'll review them in a series of exercises and quickly move into writing a fully realized ten-minute play or a portion of a longer piece. Writers should have prior experience with playwrighting.

GETTING STARTED WITH THE 10-MINUTE PLAY

(BEG - MS - HYBRID) with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Saturdays, 3 to 5 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 11. Designed for writers who are new to playwriting, this course will introduce the art of creating stories through dialogue for the stage.

CROSS-GENRE COURSES

INTRODUCTION TO CHILDREN'S WRITING

(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Susan Keeter. Mondays, 6 to 8 PM. 6 weeks, starting October 6. Open to all who want to write for children and share work with other writers. Expect to share and receive insights so you're ready for publishing.

QUERY LETTER DEEP DIVE

(ALL - MS - ONLINE) with Alyssa Pfingst. Saturdays, 1 to 3 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 11. Learn how to strike the perfect balance in your query letter by exploring what to include and what to avoid in this notoriously tricky genre.

ADVANCED PROSE WORKSHOP

(PRO - WRK - DWC) with Jason Zencka. Mondays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 6. We'll workshop creative nonfiction or fiction projects, with some readings, if there's time. Space is reserved for writers with prior workshop experience or PRO students. Please call 315-474-6851 x 380 or email Tim Carter.

WRITING THE FAMILY

(INT - MS - ONLINE) with Ona Gritz. Tuesdays, 5 to 7 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 7. Our families of origin and the families we make shape what we care about and how we live. We'll read and write essays and poems exploring the beauty and complexity of these dynamics.

FALL VISITING AUTHOR SERIES BOOK CLUB

(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Phil Memmer. Wednesdays, 5 to 5:50 PM. 8 weeks, starting October 8. Read and discuss the latest books in our Visiting Author Reading Series on Friday nights! Best of all, Book Club is free: you just purchase the books from the Writers Voice at a discount. Our first session is 9/17, so please register by 9/10 to get your books!

FALL 2025 INSTRUCTOR BIOS

KAYLA BLATCHLEY is a writer and teacher living in Syracuse, New York. This is her tenth year teaching for the Writers Voice!

TIM CARTER is the Director of Writing Workshops at the Writers Voice. 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.

DEB DIEMONT has three books of poetry: *Wanderer*, *Diverting Angels* and *The Charmed House*. Her poems have appeared in *Nimrod*, *Stone Canoe*, *The Yale Review* and elsewhere.

LEN FONTE plays include the SALT Award-winner *Werewolf*, *Wasted Bread*, *Melagrana*, *Sundowning*, *Hip/Shake*, and *Alchemist of Light*. He has taught playwriting at Syracuse University and is a theater critic for the Post-Standard.

ONA GRITZ's memoir, *Everywhere I Look*, won the Readers' Choice Gold Award, Pencraft's Best Book Award, and was named *StoryTrade's* Nonfiction Book of 2024. A longtime columnist for *Literary Mama*, Ona's work has appeared widely.

GLORIA HEFFERNAN has authored three poetry collections, most recently, *Fused* (Shanti Arts Publishing). Her craft book, *Exploring Poetry of Presence*, received the CNY Book Award for Nonfiction.

SUSAN KEETER is a children's book illustrator and author and writes nonfiction for all ages. *Sunday's Wheels*, published in Ghana, won the CNY Book Award. She has an MFA from Syracuse University.

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

SARA PARROTT is the author of *Tipping the Water Jar of Heaven*. Her poetry has appeared in *Light on the Walls of Life*, *the Blue: A Hue Are You Anthology*, and others. She reviewed *We Rode the Rhythms as One* (University of Michigan Press) on the poetry of Etheridge Knight.

ALYSSA PFINGST is a book coach specializing in novels and graphic novels. Alyssa is certified by Author Accelerator and is a LGBTQ+ Editor's Association member.

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.

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

JASON ZENCKA writes and teaches in Syracuse, New York. His stories and essays have appeared in *One Story*, *Story-Quarterly*, *EPOCH*, among other journals. He has been awarded a Pushcart Prize.

COURSES FOR TEENS

YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY

(ALL - WRK - HYBRID) with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Saturdays, 12 to 2 PM. 10 weeks, starting October 11. An afternoon workshop for students grades 6 through 12 who are on fire to write! Free for all 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...

Enrollment is first-come, first-served.

Class times are Eastern.

We don't call to confirm registrations;

however, we'll 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 YMCACNY.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 "DWCFALL25" 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>

FALL 2025 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2025

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

Courses (Please mark with an )	Member Level	YMCA	WV	Non-member
_____ Narrative Poetry: Tell Me a Story		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Creating Your Poetry Manuscript		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Crash Course in Poetic Forms		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Advanced Poetry Workshop		Free*	\$155	\$200
_____ Finding Freedom in Form		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Revision Bootcamp!		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ The Writer's Life, Part One		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Developing Your Style		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Emulation Nation		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Introduction to Memoir		Free*	\$100	\$130
_____ The Fall Flow Nonfiction Workshop (Wed)		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ The Fall Flow Nonfiction Workshop (Thurs)		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Creative Nonfiction		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Snap, Crackle, Pop! – Playwright's Workshop		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Playwriting: the 10-Minute Play!		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Introduction to Children's Writing		Free*	\$100	\$130
_____ Advanced Prose Workshop		Free*	\$155	\$200
_____ Writing the Family		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Fall Book Club		\$160	\$160	\$160
_____ Query Letter Deep Dive		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Young Authors Academy		Free*	\$100	\$100
_____ Writers Voice Membership		\$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 _____ 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.