



**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 2026

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.

Writers Voice PRO emphasizes what is essential to growing as a writer: sharing work with our incredible writing mentors and getting generous feedback to 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.

WINTER 2026 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

POETRY COURSES

GHOSTS IN THE ROOM:

WRITING WITH WORLD POETS

(ALL - SEM - ONLINE) with Tim McCoy. Mondays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 19. We'll analyze translated world poets like Darwish, Hyesoon, and Stepanova, using their craft as prompts. Expect to write new poems weekly and revise them based on workshop feedback.

READING AND WRITING THE SONNET

(INT - MS - ONLINE) with Deb Diemont. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 21. We'll read traditional and contemporary sonnets to learn how to write this fourteen-line form that has been a vessel for love, argument, and wit.

BRINGING LIFE TO POETRY

(INT - MS - ONLINE) with Derek Pollard. Tuesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 20. How can we write poems that move and inspire? We'll read Ashley M. Jones, Jason Schneiderman, Terry Blackhawk, and Pádraig Ó Tuama to see how they do it, so we can do it, too.

ADVANCED POETRY WORKSHOP

(PRO - WRK - ONLINE) with Suzanne Frischkorn. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 21. Refine your writing and learn from others in this workshop that investigates how great poems work. This class 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.

POETRY AS LEGACY

(ALL - GEN - ONLINE) with Gloria Hefferman. Tuesdays, 10 to 12 AM. 8 weeks, starting January 20. This popular workshop returns. How do you want to be remembered? What poems do you want to leave as your legacy? This class is a safe place to explore your most tender stories for those who mean the most to you.

FICTION COURSES

THE WRITER'S LIFE, PART TWO: SELF-EDITING

(ALL - MS - ONLINE) with Chris DelGuercio. Tuesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 20. This three-part series continues! Part two focuses on SELF-EDITING. Shape your rough drafts into professional stories and the next step in your writing journey.

NONFICTION COURSES

THE WINTER FLOW: WORKSHOP

(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Georgia Popoff. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM, and Thursdays, 1 to 3 PM, 8 weeks, starting January 21 and 22. Expect to share and receive comments and constructive critique. New members are welcome, so join us if you need a supportive group!

INTRO TO CREATIVE NONFICTION

(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Kayla Blatchley. Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM, 8 weeks, starting January 22. Get introduced to contemporary non-fiction and learn how to expand your own writing in this supportive and exploratory workshop.

WRITTEN ARTIFACTS OF YOUR LEGACY

(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Cheyenne Dorsagno. Tuesdays, 4 to 6 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 20. Learn to build strong, long-lasting connections in your writing by using artifacts, letters, journals, news articles, obituaries, and photographs.

DRAMATIC WRITING

WRITING THE 10-MINUTE PLAY

(BEG - MS - HYBRID) with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 21. Designed for writers who are new to playwriting, this course will introduce the art of creating stories through dialogue for the stage.

MORE WINTER 2026 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

MORE DRAMATIC WRITING

REVIEW, REVISE, & INVENT: PLAYWRIGHTS AT WORK
(INT - WRK - ONLINE) with Len Fonte. Tuesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 20. For playwrights with a continuing project—or the germ of an idea. The process includes prompts tailored to individual works and peer commentary with emphasis on dramatic structure. Open to writers who have completed at least one Writer's Voice playwriting class.

CROSS-GENRE COURSES

ADVANCED PROSE WORKSHOP
(PRO - WRK - ONLINE) with Yvonne Murphy. Mondays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 19. We'll workshop nonfiction or fiction projects and read contemporary examples 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.

HYBRID CRYPTIDS
(ALL - MS - DWC) with Misha Tentser. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM, 8 weeks starting January 21. Through poems, short stories, and essays by (mostly) contemporary authors, we'll investigate the origins of cryptids—supernatural, hybrid creatures based in folklore—and generate our own mystical, genre-nonspecific tales.

WRITING LONGER WORK
(ALL - MS - HYBRID) with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 21. This popular workshop is back! 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 commitment!

MORE CROSS-GENRE COURSES

FINDING COMMUNITY AS AN LGBTQ+ WRITER
(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Saturdays, 3 to 5 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 24. We'll read fiction, poetry, and plays by queer writers and use them to develop our own voice and style. Returning and new students are welcome!

WRITING FOR YOUNG ADULTS
(ALL - GEN - ONLINE) with Kelsey Day. Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 22. You don't need to study TikTok or memorize the latest slang to write for teenagers. We'll use writing exercises to remember how it felt to be a teenager and identify with different versions of our selves throughout time.

MINIMAL WORDS, MAXIMUM IMPACT
(ALL - MS - ONLINE) with Ona Gritz & Dan Simpson. Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 22. How do we hold our readers' interest in this world of short attention spans? One answer is to write brief and impactful pieces. Learn to craft short poems, flash prose, and more in this hands-on and supportive class.

WINTER READING SERIES BOOK CLUB
(ALL - WRK - ONLINE) with the Writers Voice. Wednesdays, 5 to 5:50 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 21. Read and discuss the latest books in our Winter 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.

WINTER 2026 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 of CNY. His books are *Remains* and *The Pigs*.

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

KELSEY DAY has led writing workshops at Appalachian State University, and Writers Without Margins. Their debut YA novel will be published in February 2025.

CHRIS DELGUERCIO is a writer, teacher, editor, and lecturer. His new collection of short stories is *An Unsettled Score* (2023).

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

CHEYENNE DORSAGNO is an English graduate and freelancer who practices various forms of interpersonal writing: journalism, memoir, obituaries, etc.

LEN FONTE is the winner of numerous SALT Awards. He has taught playwriting at Syracuse University and is a theater critic for the 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*, won the 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.

TIM MCCOYS's poems have appeared in the *Notre Dame Review*, *BlazeVOX*, and others. He graduated from the MFA program at Syracuse University and teaches creative writing in the Syracuse area.

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

YVONNE MURPHY teaches creative writing and studio art at SUNY Empire State University. Her first book, *Aviaries*, won the Carolina Wren Prize in Poetry.

DEREK POLLARD is Series Editor for the Poets on Poetry Series (Univ. of Michigan Press). His books include *On the Verge of Something Bright and Good* (Barrow Street), and *Inconsequentia* (BlazeVOX).

GEORGIA A POPOFF is the author of five books of poetry, most recently, *Living with Haints* (2024). She is currently Poet Laureate of Onondaga County.

DANIEL SIMPSON's most recent poetry collection, *Inside the Invisible*, won the Propel Poetry Prize. He serves as flash non-fiction editor for Wordgathering.

MISHA TENTSER is a poet from Tucson, Arizona. He is the author of the chapbook *Born in the Wrong Desert*.

COURSES FOR TEENS

YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY

(ALL - WRK - HYBRID) with Gemma Cooper-Novack and Olivia Silver. Saturdays, 12 to 2 PM. 10 weeks, starting January 24. 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 "DWCWINTER26" 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>

WINTER 2026 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, 12 JANUARY 2026

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

Courses (Please mark with an )	Member Level	YMCA	WV	Non-member
_____ Ghosts in the Room		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Reading and Writing the Sonnet		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Bringing Life to Poetry		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Advanced Poetry Workshop		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Poetry as Legacy		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ The Writer's Life, Part Two		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ The Winter Flow (Wednesdays)		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ The Winter Flow (Thursdays)		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Introduction to Creative Nonfiction		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Written Artifacts of Your Legacy		Free*	\$100	\$130
_____ Writing the 10-Minute Play		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Review, Revise, Invent: Playwrights at Work		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Advanced Prose Workshop		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Hybrid Cryptids		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Writing Longer Work		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Finding Community as an LGBTQ+ Writer		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Writing for Young Adults		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Minimal Words, Maximum Impact		Free*	\$130	\$170
_____ Winter Reading Series Book Club		\$130	\$130	\$130
_____ 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.