

Northwest Writers' Weekend 2024

Teachers and Classes

TEACHERS 2024

JENNIFER (JP) PERRINE



Jennifer (JP) Perrine is the author of five books of poetry: *Beautiful Outlaw* (forthcoming in early 2025), *Again*, *The Body Is No Machine*, *In the Human Zoo*, and *No Confession, No Mass*. Their latest poems and essays appear in *Five Minutes*, *The Main Review*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Pleiades*, *Nimrod*, *New Letters*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Orion Magazine*, *Harpur Palate*, *Oregon Humanities*, *Essential Queer Voices of U.S. Poetry*, and *Cascadia Field Guide: Art, Ecology, and Poetry*. Perrine lives in Portland, Oregon, where they cohost the Incite: Queer Writers Read series, teach writing, and work as the equity and racial justice program manager with the regional parks and nature department.

KATE GRAY



Kate Gray's passion stems from teaching and volunteering. She is the author of two poetry chapbooks, two full-length poetry collections, and one novel. Kate and her partner live in a pine-and-oak forest in the mid-Columbia River Gorge with two impetuous dogs, Wasco and Snickers. Currently, Kate is wrestling with an old novel and a new form, flash fiction.

JENNY ROSE LARA



J.R. Lara is an essayist and poet. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *River Teeth*, *Hippocampus*, *Sweet*, *The Eastern Iowa Review* and elsewhere. She is an adjunct professor of literature and creative writing at Western Washington University and Whatcom Community College, and has served as poetry and nonfiction editor for the literary journals *Psaltery & Lyre* and *The Bellingham Review*. She lives in the Pacific Northwest.

COSY SHERIDAN



Cosy Sheridan has been called one of the era's finest and most thoughtful songwriters. She plays a percussive bluesy style, often in open tunings or with two capos on the guitar. She is backed up by the strong rhythms and harmonies of bass player Charlie Koch. Her music regularly tops the folk radio charts. Her CD, *Pretty Bird*, was listed among *Sing Out Magazine's* Great CDs of 2014. The *Chicago Examiner* wrote: "You can't make it into double digits, and continue touring for twenty or so years, unless you know what you're doing, and do it well. Rarely do you find a CD where every song is memorable. It happens, just not often. It happens here." She first appeared on the national folk scene in 1992 when she won the songwriting contests at The Kerrville Folk Festival and The Telluride Bluegrass Festival and released her critically acclaimed CD *Quietly Led*. *The Albuquerque Journal* called her "a buddhist monk trapped in the body of a singer-songwriter." She teaches classes in songwriting, performance, and guitar at workshops and camps across the country. She is the director of Moab Folk Camp in Moab, Utah.

NOVA DEVONIE



I have loved paper since I can remember: collecting it, drawing on it, writing on it, cutting it up, pasting it, creating with it. In the past few years I've had a chance to work with collage, filling sketchbooks and making postcards. I've also delved into 2D stop motion animation, using puppet-like characters I've drawn, and have made lots of interesting little puppets out of whatever found materials I have at hand. When not playing in the art studio (my house!), I spend time learning, writing, composing and performing music, mostly on one of my favourite instruments, the accordion. I'm delighted to share some paper playtime with this wonderful community.

CLASSES 2024

○ **Writing With Our More-Than-Human Kin**

poetry | *Jennifer (JP) Perrine*

In this outdoor class, we'll devote part of our time to listening to the sounds of birds, trees, wind, rain, and other more-than-human beings we're sharing space with at Lake Flora. After gathering these sounds and translating them into our human language(s), we'll compose several poems guided by and in conversation with those sounds. No prior writing experience necessary. Please dress for your comfort while we're outside!

○ **Poetry is a Party, and You Are Invited**

poetry | *Jennifer (JP) Perrine*

In this playful class, we'll gather around a table for a poetry party, where the place settings will offer prompts to help you tune into your senses and awaken your imagination. During our party, we'll tuck into four courses of inspiration, with plenty of time for writing and sharing our poems with the other party guests. No prior experience with poetry (or dinner parites) required.

○ **Tree Stories**

cross-genre | *Kate Gray*

Maybe you climbed trees as a kid. Maybe you picnicked under trees in parks. Maybe you made your living planting seedlings, tending them, and then shipping your crop to the sawmill. Maybe you're a woodworker wanting to dig deep into the stories your lumber carries. Whether you are a tree-lover or just a human who lives in a wooden house, touches paper, or, for that matter, breathes, trees are a part of your story.

What tree(s) shaped you? In this generative workshop, you'll write the story of a tree in your life, whether it shielded you, grew you, or gob-smacked you with its beauty. No experience necessary. Poetry/prose/song encouraged. You'll experience a guided meditation, writing to prompts, laughter, and the Gateless Method of specific, positive feedback.

○ **Magically Real**

cross-genre | *Kate Gray*

In the Mexican art I've seen, images inside images create a magical landscape that seems more real than what I know to be real. Nothing is just one thing. In a mural, the insides of a whale contain cactus and coyotes. In the face of a jaguar, a whale shark serves as its nose. In this workshop, you'll start by viewing some examples of Mexican murals, and then, write the stories within your stories, pushing the limits of ordinary life into the extraordinary. All genres welcome. Laughter and awe encouraged.

○ Writing the Wild: The Naturalist's Essay

creative nonfiction | *Jenny Rose Lara*

Writers and scientists have this in common: a talent for observation. As writers, we must be able to **see**. We must notice what often goes unnoticed, so that we can write what often goes unwritten. It is in this spirit of lucid observation and curiosity that we will approach writing about the natural world. We are lucky that our workshop takes place in one of the most beautiful regions on earth: what will we discover in our close observation of mosses, animals, water, and sky? Be prepared to go outside as we wander, observe, encounter, and write the wilderness.

○ The Art of Memoir: The Braided Essay

memoir | *Jenny Rose Lara*

In this fascinating form, the writer works with two or more narrative 'threads', weaving them together to create a single essay. The result is a work that is more than the sum of its parts. As this is a memoir class, we will be writing from our own lives and memories; we may also turn our attention outward to the wider world. Expect to discover new connections, and to find inspiration in both cohesion and dissonance.

○ Songwriting: Listening for the words

songwriting | *Cosy Sheridan*

In this workshop we will look at some tools we can use to tune in to our own deep lyrical voice. We often come to our song with an idea of what we want to say - and discover that the song wants to say something else. We can develop a measured faith in the quiet voice - and there are a few tools we can use to frame what we find into a song.

○ How to find Beginners Mind - even if you're not a beginner.

songwriting | *Cosy Sheridan*

Beginners Mind is that fresh bright new day feeling you can find when you learn a new instrument or discover a new tuning on an instrument you already play. If you are someone who always wanted to try writing a song but you don't play an instrument, this workshop is for you: we will start by learning the basics of ukulele - and then we can use what we've learned to write a song. If you already play the guitar, we will find a way to put you in beginners mind as well. I have found many very fertile writing times in my career when I put myself in a place where I am not on familiar ground with the instrument.

○ Collage Postcards with a Soundtrack

art | *Nova Devonie*

Spend relaxing time with scissors, paper and glue sticks creating fun postcards while listening to a collection of vintage French Musette recordings, along with a few live ones on accordion. Lovely waltzes that will evoke travel and beauty. Materials provided.

