

Northwest Writers' Weekend 2025 Teachers and Classes

TEACHERS 2025

KATE GRAY



Most all of the time, Kate feels just plain grateful, to be living on the Olympic Peninsula, tending land within the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Indigenous peoples, to live with her partner and two feisty dogs, to have two full-length poetry books published, two chapbooks, and a novel, to have taught at a community college for 25 years. Luckier still, she's escaped to writing residencies and to Baja for half the year. Lucky duck. Best things ever? Writing with others. Teaching. Zumba.

ELIAN CARBONE



Elian Carbone is a songwriter and dancer who moves between Havana, Cuba, and Bellingham, WA. Elian comes from a Syrian, Mexican, and Italian family, a colorful combination that fuels his passion for community, narrative, movement, song, and travel. As a voracious reader and music theory enthusiast, he strives to find simple, economical, and engaging ways to marry lyrics and composition, relying on intuition, practical theory, and his friends and family as his guides. Currently, he works for two non-profits: The Bellingham Food Bank and The Puget Sound Guitar Workshop. His educational background includes undergraduate, graduate, and technical studies in education, counseling psychology, and massage therapy.

JUDY KLEINBERG



Judy Kleinberg finds and writes poems in Bellingham, Washington, and has produced a near-daily blog on poetry (The Poetry Department) since 2010. Her writing, including more than 800 of her visual poems, has appeared in print and online journals and anthologies worldwide. Her chapbooks include *The Word for Standing Alone in a Field* (Bottlecap Press, 2023), *How to pronounce the wind* (Paper View Books, 2023), *Desire's Authority* (Ravenna Press Triple Series No. 23, 2023), and *Sleeping Lessons* (Milk & Cake Press, 2025). A full-length collection of visual poems, *She needs the river* (Poem Atlas), was published in 2024. More on Instagram: @jikleiberg

CAMI FREEMAN



Camellia (Cami) Freeman is a Seattle-based writer, somatic practitioner, and community educator. Her work has appeared in *River Teeth*, *Crazyhorse*, *Image*, *Indiana Review*, *Portland Review*, and elsewhere, and received notable mention in *Best American Essays*. Past honors include *Image's* Milton Postgraduate Fellowship, an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award, and an OAC summer residency in Provincetown. She teaches embodied writing workshops at Hugo House, and her current projects include a novel and personal essays.

NOVA DEVONIE



Nova loves paper, scissors, images, colours and art fun! When not performing/composing/teaching music with her trusty accordion, she spends creative time making collage art with papers enhanced by painting techniques and mark making.

CLASSES 2025

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Classes are two hours. Each class is offered twice unless otherwise noted.

○ Resilience Writing cross-genre | *Kate Gray*

In times like these, we turn to music and poetry. In this workshop, you will discover some online resources to find poems of resilience and poets, who will lift your spirits. We will look at examples and examine what makes a poem offer resilience to its readers, and we'll use one or two as writing prompts to generate our own poems of resilience.

○ Blessings cross-genre | *Kate Gray*

Not so much the religious kind, but more the personal, observed, transcendent kind. A blessing brings people out of their bodies and into a kind of unity with nature, community, or history. We'll do a guided meditation, generate writing, read examples, laugh, respond to each other's work in a good-hearted way.

○ Storytelling Techniques for Songwriters

songwriting | *Elian Carbone*

Discover lyric writing tools & strategies to sharpen your skills as an effective storyteller. Identify scenes, build a backstory, raise the stakes, develop structure, find your arc, magnify the emotion, create spotlights, use smaller stories to carry the weight of larger ones, utilize lyrical toggling patterns, and understand prosody (how lyric and music composition inform one another). We'll analyze existing works and use them as scaffolding for our writing.

○ Little Bits of Melody, Harmony, and Rhythm

songwriting | *Elian Carbone*

This class is for hummers, whistlers, noodlers, and tappers! Discover economical ways to craft simple and interesting melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic motifs that support the underlying message of your song. Follow rules, break rules, and create your own.

(Offered once)

○ Song Workshop

songwriting | *Elian Carbone*

Thoughtful, constructive feedback on original songs in a group setting. This feedback will focus on key aspects of songwriting such as melody, harmony, rhythm, lyrical choices, song structure, arrangement, genre, concept, and prosody (tying it all together). Elian will use his songs and other existing works to support the discussion.

If you would like one of your songs to be considered for feedback during the class session, please submit one song. Send an mp3 or voice memo recording of your song, along with a lyric sheet to: nwwritersweekend@gmail.com anytime **before October 23rd**. Songs will be selected dependent on the variety of topics they offer with the intention of serving as many writers as possible. The songs that are selected will be performed during class, and Elian will offer feedback.

Everyone is welcome in this class, whether or not you have submitted a song, whether or not your song was selected. Workshopping songs benefits us all.

(Offered once)

○ Accident and Intention: found words/fresh poems

poetry | *Judy Kleinberg*

In this fast-paced session, we'll look at how found elements (words and otherwise) can inspire and enliven your poems, add surprise, and challenge you to make use of the unexpected. We'll examine and experiment with a number of found poetry techniques and explore ways to add found language to conventional-form poems and use found prompts to kick-start new work. *Optional: bring your own scissors and glue stick.*

○ Delicious: food poetry

poetry | *Judy Kleinberg*

Far more than a simple necessity, food is deeply personal. For each of us, food, and all its attendant activity, can evoke memory and emotions. In this tasty session, we will sample some favorite poems about food and play with some of the tools and
Optional: bring a copy of a beloved recipe.

○ Engaging Your Ancestors

creative nonfiction | *Cami Freeman*

Each of us carries histories—some known, some unknown, some imagined. Through bloodlines, traditions, or lineages we choose to claim, our ancestors shape us in ways we may not fully realize. So, what happens when we invite them into our creative work? In this generative writing workshop, we'll use accessible somatic practices to explore our connections to ancestry, such as embodied awareness, gentle movement, and guided reflection, offering an alternative way to access connection and inspiration for your writing practice. No prior experience with somatic work necessary—only a willingness to explore!

○ Two Truths and a Paradox

memoir | *Cami Freeman*

The depth and power of creative nonfiction often comes from the writer's commitment to exploring complexity, doubt, and contradiction. In this manner, the essay anchors in paradox: the messy and inexplicable contradictions that make us human. In this generative workshop, we'll engage with seemingly disparate truths—whether they're personal, cultural, or both—playing with paradox first through embodiment practices and gentle movement and then by putting pen to paper.

(Offered once)

○ Art Start Stamping!

art | *Nova Devonie*

Design simple stamp shapes, and through repetitive mark making in tandem with collage techniques, make some art! Illustrate an idea or theme you are writing about to glean creative insights as you propel and distill your words into imagery, or create postcards and greeting cards...no experience required, all materials provided.

