



"With its array of readings, courses, workshops, and other programs, the Hudson Valley Writers Center presides over a great river of language, imagination, and heart. It makes an absolutely necessary contribution to the entire region's life and letters."

—*Fred Marchant, author of Said Not Said (Graywolf, 2017) and poetry instructor at HVWC*

Dear Friend,

Summer, 2018

As we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, I am writing to thank you for your loyalty to the Hudson Valley Writers Center and proudly point you to our new logo and website ([writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)). We've recently added more member benefits to our basic (\$60) membership package we are eager to share with you: \$25 discounts on multi-session courses, \$5 event admission (regular \$10), free participation in Submission Sundays and our new Open Write, invites to members-only receptions, discounts on our *Slapering Hol Press* chapbooks, and \$100 hourly rental rate for your own events at the Center (normally \$150/hour).

Our new highest level of membership grants you numerous perks for a recurring monthly donation of \$90, or annual contribution of \$1,000, including:

- **Discounts:** on multi-session courses (\$50 off), private party rentals (save 30%), and two half-price gala tickets (which, by the way, is set for **Nov. 2 and honoring Pulitzer-winner Michael Cunningham**, so please save the date!)
- **Free:** one-day intensive of your choice (value \$124), regular event admission (normally \$10), participation in Submission Sundays and Open Write (value \$10 per session), and the latest *Slapering Hol Press* chapbook releases (value \$15 or \$20 per title)
- **Invites:** to members-only receptions (priceless)

Of course, we welcome one-time contributions of any amount. Use the enclosed envelope, call, or visit our website and follow links to join us ([writerscenter.org/join](http://writerscenter.org/join)) or donate ([writerscenter.org/donate](http://writerscenter.org/donate)).

There are too many exciting updates to pack into a paragraph, so please flip over this letter to read further on everything from our expanding outreach to our new in-house initiatives, community collaborations and increased member benefits.

With deep appreciation,

Krista Madsen  
Managing Director

**P.S. Any donation you can make is significant for us to further our mission of bringing the practice and appreciation of the literary arts to all.** To discuss higher donation amounts and corporate sponsorship opportunities, call 914.332.5953 or email [krista@writerscenter.org](mailto:krista@writerscenter.org). We thank you!

## **30 Years and Growing Stronger: Notes from the HVWC**

I've been collecting words lately. In order to get my footing as new Managing Director of the Hudson Valley Writers Center, my first instinct was to go through the old paper files, and, as you might imagine for a writers' center, there were many. What a rich legacy of excellence and innovation I explored in the deep trove of news clippings, event flyers, awards, photos and often handwritten correspondence with famous authors and poets, so many of whom have graced this special space through the decades.

As we celebrate this year the 30th anniversary of our founding by poet Margo Taft Stever, it is thrilling to honor this history from the standpoint of having much to look forward to in our future. I have also been gathering quotes for the sake of featuring the voices of our students, instructors, readers and supporters like yourself throughout the new website we've just launched – from poetry student, Amy, who said, "**It's like going to the gym AND church for your brain,**" to Jake, a fourth grader at the LIFE Center, who shared with his HVWC outreach teacher, "**The writing workshop taught me how to be unafraid to share my life with people and I got a little better with my handwriting and lost a bit of stage fright.**"

In the past two years, we have reactivated our long tradition of outreach, bringing our writing workshops free of charge to local youth at the RSHM LIFE Center here in Sleepy Hollow and to at-risk teens living at the Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry, among others served by various community centers in the region. This spring, our instructors are starting to teach at the Yonkers YMCA, a bustling space serving a low-income population with so many needs. At the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, we co-hosted the eighth annual Westchester Poetry Festival, this time surrounding the important theme of social justice. At the Center, we have reintroduced youth in-house programming with creative writing workshops for middle school students and a new summer camp in collaboration with the Tarrytown Arts Camp. Soon you even see evidence of our work in the community on our very sidewalks. Original poetry from local residents will be showcased on a new stretch of sidewalk just north of the Center, as part of a Poetry in the Pavement contest we ran with the Village.

Our classes continue to impact lives as students find and increase their voices here in the sanctuary of this former train depot, and our readings still pull in the finest writers of every genre to attentive audiences. We have reduced our prices for students, seniors and members and increased member benefits. New to our lineup are the monthly members-only Submission Sundays, where writers gather to submit together and support each other's work, and Open Write, open to all but free for members, where writers create, share and connect in a casual, supportive environment.

**Writing is not a solitary art here at the HVWC** but a dialog between two, among nine around a class table, or 40 at an Open Mic. Thank you again for being a part of this ongoing conversation. We look forward to another 30 years together! *–from Krista Madsen, Managing Director*

HUDSON VALLEY WRITERS CENTER

300 Riverside Drive, Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591 | 914.332.5953 | [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)