



## SUMMER

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Olympic Valley CA 96146

(530) 583-5200

## MAIN OFFICE

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(530) 470-8440

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## ADMINISTRATION

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Brett Hall Jones

### PRODUCER/COORDINATOR

Hunter Jones

### ALUMNI RELATIONS

Leah Skoyles

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### POETRY WORKSHOP

Brenda Hillman

Assistant Poetry Director

Lisa D. Alvarez

[www.communityofwriters.org](http://www.communityofwriters.org)

April 9, 2025

Dear Poet,

Poetry Director Brenda Hillman and I are delighted to invite you to attend the Community of Writers Poetry Program, June 21-27, 2025. We hope that the following information will help you plan for your week with us. If you cannot attend, please take a moment now, and let us know by return email or phone call.

*Due to the transient, digital nature of our lives, I encourage you to take a moment and print this letter today so you have it for reference.*

The Poetry Program at the Community of Writers was founded — to quote founder Galway Kinnell — “on the belief that when poets gather in a community to write new poems, each poet may well break through old habits and write something stronger and truer than before.” This summer, we will gather in person in Olympic Valley. We will make poetry the center of our days for this time, writing drafts of poems, and coming together each day to share this fresh new work. We will cultivate an atmosphere in which everyone might feel free to push through old boundaries, while creating a space that is welcoming and safe.

## TUITION

The tuition for the week in Olympic Valley, including six dinners, is \$1,650, a figure we keep as low as possible in keeping with our aim never to exclude anybody on the basis of inability to pay. Tuition does not include accommodations.

## REGISTER

If you are able to attend you will need to complete our online registration form and we must receive your nonrefundable tuition/housing deposit no later than the end of day, April 20. This deposit will be a down payment on your housing and tuition costs. If we do not receive your deposit by that deadline, your place in the workshop will be automatically forfeited and filled that day with someone from the waiting list.

## ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM

**Please complete the online registration form ASAP.** Deadline: April 20. The form can be found by scrolling down on the **Acceptance Information** webpage from which you downloaded this Acceptance Package. <https://communityofwriters.org/workshops/poetry-reg-info/>

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Every participant who registers for the Poetry Workshop at the Community of Writers, June 21-27, 2025, automatically agrees to the Terms and Conditions set forth on our website: <https://communityofwriters.org/terms-conditions/>. Please review them carefully.

## COMMITMENT

We have many poets who would like to attend this workshop. Please consider your comfort level and responsibility before you accept. It would be hard for us to fill your space at the workshop should you drop out closer to when the program begins. We hope you will join us, but please do not accept if you know now that you may want to bow out as June approaches.

## DEPOSIT

**You also will need to pay your nonrefundable deposit by April 20.** Payment can be made securely with a credit card at the end of the online form. (Credit card payments are subject to a 3.20% service fee. To avoid those fees, you may instead mail a check.) If you choose to pay by check, mail it to: Community of Writers, PO Box 1416, Nevada City, CA 95959. At this time of year, do not send anything to the Olympic Valley address. Refer to your acceptance e-mail for the deposit amount, as it may vary from person to person. *All payments must be received at our office in Nevada City by April 20.*

Upon receipt of your deposit and form we will send you more information about the conference and the Tahoe area.

## EXPENSES & BALANCE DUE

Once you have requested (and we have assigned) housing, you will be provided with a breakdown of your expenses. Depending on your responses to our registration form, this may include your tuition balance and housing costs and charges for the airport shuttle. You will be asked to pay your entire balance by June 10.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

A complete schedule of events will be provided when you arrive. Registration will be from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM on the afternoon of Saturday, June 21. The entire group will meet at 4:30 PM for introductions, a description of the week ahead, answers to questions, and Brenda Hillman's craft talk. The Poetry Week will end late morning, Friday, June 27.

- Morning Sessions (Workshops) are held every day from 10:00 AM to noon, in which we read to each other our work of the previous day. You can expect to participate in one session with each of the six staff poets.
- Poem First Aid consultations are offered, which are very brief individual conferences with staff poets on a new poem. You may schedule such a meeting a couple afternoons during the week at times when you may need them.
- In the late afternoon, before dinner, you can expect staff talks about some aspect of the craft of poetry.
- The rest of the time you will be free to write.

Note that only work written during the week will be discussed in morning sessions. It may be useful for you to think about difficult or long-postponed poems you've been meaning to write. As this is a space for newly-written work, our hope is that you won't bring published or previously drafted work to the morning sessions.

## OLYMPIC VALLEY

Olympic Valley is in the California Sierra Nevada, close to the north shore of Lake Tahoe. Our gathering, held in the ski area there, now called Palisades Tahoe, was the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics. Palisades Tahoe provides venues for our programs each summer. Many of our events take place in the Olympic House, the lodge at the foot of the ski area.

The Community of Writers formally acknowledges its debt to the original people of this valley. For thousands of years the Wasiw, now called Washoe, lived here from snowmelt through summer. The valley's creeks and marshes provided game and forage for the Wasiw, who knew this land intimately and worked with it wisely. The Washoe still live in their ancestral lands today. We recognize and honor their history, traditions, and care.

Summers are generally warm and sunny; participants and teaching staff will have opportunities to hike to the local waterfalls, take guided nature walks up the mountain, swim in Lake Tahoe, or bike along the Truckee River. In summer, the weather is also changeable; days are usually warm/hot and dry (72°- 87°) and nights are cool (40°- 50°). The elevation of the valley floor is 6200 feet. Air conditioning is generally not available in this mountain resort.

## MEALS, TRAVEL, AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Your evening meals are included in the tuition; you may prepare breakfast and lunch in your condo/house, or purchase meals at one of the several places to eat in Olympic Valley. You may have us arrange your accommodations for the week, or arrange your own. Transportation will be provided to and from the Reno International Airport for a fee. See the Accommodations & Travel sheets, attached, for more information.

*Housing questions can be directed to our Housing Coordinator Leah Skoyles: [leah@communityofwriters.org](mailto:leah@communityofwriters.org).*

## COVID 19

We are committed to protecting the health of our participants, teaching staff, employees, and visitors. We do require that a COVID-19 rapid test be taken twice within the 7 days (one within 72 hours) before traveling to Olympic Valley. Please refer to our evolving Health Guidelines: <https://communityofwriters.org/health-at-the-community-of-writers/>. If any participants become ill during the week, we will work with them to find alternative lodging. However, if this results in a requirement to stay in the area to quarantine, these costs will not be the responsibility of CW.

## COMMUNITY

As you prepare to join our Community to share your work and consider the work of others, please keep in mind that we are committed to creating a safe and inclusive creative environment. Ours is very different from an academic setting. Rather, each summer we create a brief seasonal community. Participants in our program will come from many different regions and backgrounds. There will be participants with MFAs alongside participants with no formal writing education who've never been in this kind of environment before, and every experience level in between—all talented enough to be invited here. We will have participants who may be reticent, and others who feel more comfortable as leaders. It is important to make room for the quiet ones, and for the leaders in the group to listen, too. We hope to have rigorous, positive discussions about the craft of poetry, create new writing-friendships, and explore what is possible in poems. We hope we can all lead with kindness, sensitivity, openness, and warmth, as we make poetry together.

## OUR NAME

Some time ago, we changed our name by dropping the long-used place name for the traditional location of our summer writing workshops. We recognize this name has a painful and derogatory legacy which has been disrespectful to the Native American community. We are now known as the Community of Writers. The valley where we meet is called Olympic Valley, and the ski area is now called Palisades Tahoe. For years writers have used the old name as shorthand to refer to our Workshops in the summer. We hope you will join us and choose not to use the name in that context. You may have some muscle-memory to retrain, and we understand that.

Please don't hesitate to call or email if you have any questions or concerns: (530) 470-8440.

Please note that I will be moving the office up to Olympic Valley between June 9 and 12. The best way to reach me is by email: [brett@communityofwriters.org](mailto:brett@communityofwriters.org). I do not have email on my phone.

Anthony Cody, Forrest Gander, Brenda Hillman (Program Director), Jane Miller, Gregory Pardlo, and Evie Shockley, along with the rest of us, look forward to meeting you very soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Hillman", with a stylized, flowing script.

Executive Director

# POETRY WORKSHOP ACCOMMODATIONS

There are two ways to arrange lodging during the Poetry week:

## ARRANGE YOUR OWN ACCOMMODATIONS:

If you are interested in arranging your own accommodations for the week, we also have a small room block at the Palisades Tahoe Lodge. [palisadestahoelodgerentals.com](http://palisadestahoelodgerentals.com). Call to reserve: 530-583-5500 and reference the Community of Writers to receive our discount. Or you can explore [gotahoenorth.com/lodging](http://gotahoenorth.com/lodging) (Filter for Olympic Valley.) \*\*Keep in mind that we offer a number of private condos. See Option C, below. \*\*

## HOUSING WE ARRANGE (Deadline to request through Registration Form: April 20.)

We house participants in shared condos in the Village at Palisades Tahoe (Option A), Shared Houses (Option B), or Private Condos in the Village at Palisades Tahoe (Option C). Availability is limited, so complete your online Registration Form early to get your first choice. Each participant will be given a key to their assigned house or condo; however, there are no locks on individual rooms. To help us place you in an appropriate unit, indicate if you have any special needs, concerns or physical requirements. Mention anything that would help us put you in an appropriate house or condo with compatible house-mates. (Really, some details do help.) There may be more than one gender in the same house, but shared bedrooms will be single-gender. Some of the houses are within walking distance; some require a short drive, so indicate whether you will have a car. To keep your costs as low as we can, there will be no daily housekeeping. Every unit will have a kitchen and will be supplied with utensils, pans, a coffee pot and bedding.

### OPTION A: Shared Condos in The Village at Palisades Tahoe

These attractive condos are located in The Village at Palisades Tahoe. 3-4 participants share a condo. Participants may choose the room type they prefer, and we will assign them based on their responses. These condos are very convenient to cafés and stores, and to our conference facilities. Music, sporting events, other activities are planned by the Village such as BluesDays Tuesdays and this year, the Broken Arrow Endurance Race for the first few days.

Bedroom Type	# per Room	Bathroom Type	Rate (6 Nights)
Primary Bedroom	1	Private, "en suite" bathroom	\$1150
Private Basic Bedroom	1	Private assigned bathroom, but not all are "en suite"	\$1050
Twin Bed (or Bottom Double-Size Bunk)	2	Shared bathroom	\$550
Twin Bed (or Twin Size Top Bunk)	2	Shared bathroom	\$475

### OPTION B: Shared Houses in Olympic Valley neighborhood.

Our houses are in located in the Valley. 4-8 participants share a house. You may indicate the room type you prefer (subject to availability). Houses are usually a 10-20 minute walk away (or short drive). We always make sure there are participants with cars in each house to help those without obtain rides as needed. Choices limited: reserve early.

Bedroom Type	# per Room	Bathroom Type	Rate (6 Nights)
Primary Bedroom	1	Private bathroom, not "en suite" (Very limited.)	\$1250
Private Better Bedroom	1	Shared bathroom, with same gender.	\$1050
Private Basic Bedroom	1	Shared bathroom	\$900
Small Shared Twin Bedroom	2	Shared bathroom	\$550
Shared Bunkroom	3-4 in bunk-beds	Shared bathroom	\$380

### OPTION C: Private Condos in The Village at Palisades Tahoe

We will also be arranging private condo lodging at The Village at Palisades Tahoe for those who prefer to be on their own; each unit will have a kitchenette.

Condo Type	# per Room	Bathroom Type	Rate (6 Nights)
Private 1 Bedroom Condo	1	Private	\$1,660

\* \* \* \* \*

You will receive your housing assignment from the Community of Writers the afternoon of Saturday, June 21 during our in-person registration; checkout is mid-morning, Friday, June 27. Housing questions can be directed to our Housing Coordinator, Leah Skoyles: [leah@communityofwriters.org](mailto:leah@communityofwriters.org).

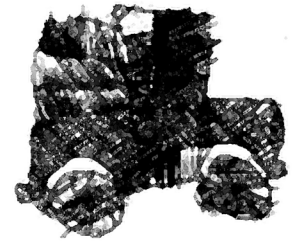
# POETRY WORKSHOP TRAVEL INFORMATION

## Olympic Valley

Olympic Valley is located near the north shore of Lake Tahoe in Northern California.

## Registration

Our registration is from 1:00 - 3:30 on Saturday, June 21, 2025.



## Transportation

Try to plan your trip to arrive in Olympic Valley between 2:00 - 3:30 pm on June 21. Plan your departure from Olympic Valley for around 11:00 am, Friday, June 27. Keep in mind that we have brief optional morning workshops on the 27th which conclude by 10:30 am.

**Driving:** Olympic Valley is a four-hour drive from the Bay Area, and a one-hour drive from the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. Please consider offering rides to others in your area. Please indicate on the online Registration Form if you are interested in carpooling to Olympic Valley. We will send driving directions as well as other travel information.

**Bus:** There is a bus station in Truckee, 15 miles (20 minutes) from Olympic Valley. The TART Yellow Line (Highway 89 Route) leaves Truckee for Olympic Valley/Tahoe City every hour on the half-hour. Arrive in Truckee no later than 2:30 pm, June 21. This free service takes about 22 minutes to arrive at the Clock Tower in Olympic Valley. <https://tahoetruckeetransit.com/routes/route-hwy89/>

**Flying:** The airport to use is the Reno-Tahoe International Airport in Reno, Nevada. Olympic Valley is a one-hour drive from Reno. You may decide to rent a car for the week, or you can take a shuttle to Olympic Valley. The cost of the shuttle is one way \$60/ Round Trip \$115.

**Arrivals:** We will have shuttles picking up participants at the airport baggage claim area on registration day, June 21. If possible, schedule your flight arrival between noon and 2:30 pm. We will have 3 shuttles:

- 10:00 am (for flights arriving before 9:30 am)
- 12:00 pm (for flights arriving before 11:30 am)
- 3:00 pm (for flights arriving before 2:30 pm)

Drop off location: The Palisades Tahoe Lodge (You won't be staying there, but it is just steps from our headquarters.) Please note, shuttle times may vary.

**Departures:** We have scheduled an optional workshop on the final day. For that reason we hope you will schedule your flight on June 27 to depart between 1:00 and 4:00 pm; however, we know earlier flights are sometimes necessary. We will have three shuttles on June 27:

- 8:45 am (for flights departing after 11:45 am)
- 10:15 am (for flights departing after 1:15 pm)
- 1:15 pm (for flights departing after 4:00 pm)

**Alternate Shuttle Service:** If your flight time won't allow you to use our shuttles, contact North Lake Tahoe Express. <https://www.northlaketahoeexpress.com/cart/> You will have to schedule and pay for the trip in advance. (Drop off location: The Palisades Tahoe Lodge. Pickup location: The Village at Palisades Tahoe.)

**REMEMBER: WE MUST HAVE YOUR DEPOSIT/FORMS BY APRIL 20!**

# POETRY PROGRAM

## Expense Worksheet - Please keep for your records

This page is for your information only. Use this Expense Worksheet to help you plan financially for the program. Make sure to complete our online Registration Form by April 20. Payment of your deposit can also be made at the end of the process online, or you can choose to mail us the check to the address below.

### TUITION:

TUITION \$ 1,650.00

FINANCIAL AID (IF ANY)\* - \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL TUITION DUE \_\_\_\_\_



A) \_\_\_\_\_

NONREFUNDABLE DEPOSIT DUE BY APRIL 20

Pay nonrefundable deposit as indicated in your letter:

B - \_\_\_\_\_

SUBTOTAL

C) \_\_\_\_\_

### ADDITIONAL EXPENSES:

HOUSING + \_\_\_\_\_

AIRPORT SHUTTLE (One way \$60/ Round Trip \$115) + \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEES DUE \_\_\_\_\_



D) \_\_\_\_\_

### TOTAL TUITION, HOUSING FEES & SHUTTLE

Please add together C and D to find the balance of your fees due.

(Depending on your final housing assignment, your balance may vary.)

TOTAL ESTIMATED FEES DUE. You will be invoiced.

F) \_\_\_\_\_

### HELP A FELLOW PARTICIPANT ATTEND

Consider including another check as a donation to our scholarship fund, and help another poet attend

or donate online: <https://communityofwriters.org/donate/>

\*Work waivers will be determined in a few weeks.

Your nonrefundable deposit may be paid with a credit card or PayPal at the end of the online registration form (a 3.2% service fee applies), or a check (made out to Community of Writers).

Checks may be mailed to: Community of Writers PO Box 1416, Nevada City, CA 95959

**Deposit Deadline: April 20**