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DWC SPRING 2021 ONLINE READINGS

All Downtown Writers Center events listed here are free and open to the public.

To reserve your spot in the audience, click the author photo for each event...
each photo is a link to the Zoom registration page for the reading.

If you have any difficulty, email DWC director Phil Memmer at pmemmer@ymcacny.org.

Books by all authors are available for sale through the DWC. Your purchase supports both the author and our programs! See the end of this brochure for more information.

All listed times are Eastern. Please plan to log in a few minutes early.



Thursday, April 8, 7:00 p.m. **STONE CANOE 15 RELEASE PARTY!**

Stone Canoe is the only literary journal focused entirely on the writers and artists who call upstate New York home, and has been published for the last six years by the DWC. Join us to celebrate the 2021 issue, with readings by contributors, discussions of visual artworks from the issue, our annual poetry and fiction prize announcements, and more!

Friday, April 9, 7:00 p.m. **Poet KIM ADDONIZIO**

Kim Addonizio's eighth poetry collection is *Now We're Getting Somewhere* (W.W. Norton, March 2021). She has also published two novels, two short story collections, and two books on writing poetry: *The Poet's Companion* (with Dorianne Laux) and *Ordinary Genius: A Guide for the Poet Within*. Her most recent publications are a memoir, *Bukowski in a Sundress* (Penguin) and a book of poems, *Mortal Trash* (W.W. Norton). Her work has been recognized with a Guggenheim Fellowship, two NEA Fellowships, two Pushcart Prizes, and other awards, and has been translated into several languages. Her collection *Tell Me* was a National Book Award Finalist.



**Our literary events are made possible, in part, with your support.
To make a tax-deductible contribution, [CLICK HERE!](#)**

MORE SPRING 2021 ONLINE READINGS

Friday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. Poet MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

Born in Selma and raised in Centreville, Alabama, **Minnie Bruce Pratt** came out as a lesbian in Fayetteville, North Carolina, in 1975. She received her B.A. from the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa the year after segregationist Gov. George Wallace “stood in the schoolhouse door,” and her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1979. Her books and poems have received awards from the Academy of American Poets, the American Library Association, the Poetry Society of America, Lambda Literary and the Publishing Triangle. Her second book, *Crime Against Nature*, about losing custody of her children as a lesbian mother, was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. An anti-racist, anti-imperialist women’s liberation activist, Pratt co-authored *Yours in Struggle: Three Feminist Perspectives on Anti-Semitism and Racism* (1984) with Barbara Smith and Elly Bulkin. Along with lesbian writers Chrystos and Audre Lorde, she received the Lillian Hellman-Dashiell Hammett Award given by the Fund for Free Expression to writers “who have been victimized by political persecution.” She is a Managing Editor of *Workers World* newspaper, and lives in her hometown in Alabama and in Central New York. Her most recent book is *Magnified* (Wesleyan, March 2021).



Friday, April 23, 7:00 p.m. Poets CHRISTOPHER CITRO and SHIRA DENTZ

Christopher Citro is the author of *If We Had a Lemon We’d Throw It and Call That the Sun* (Elixir Press, 2021), winner of the 2019 Antivenom Poetry Award, and *The Maintenance of the Shimmy-Shammy* (Steel Toe Books, 2015). His poetry appears in *American Poetry Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Iowa Review*, the 2018 Pushcart Prize Anthology, *West Branch*, *Gulf Coast*, *Best New Poets*, and *Alaska Quarterly Review*. He teaches creative writing at SUNY Oswego and lives in sunny Syracuse, New York.



Shira Dentz is the author of five books including *SISYPHUSINA* (PANK, 2020), and two chapbooks. Her writing appears in many venues including *Poetry*, *American Poetry Review*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Iowa Review*, *Gulf Coast*, the Academy of American Poets’ Poem-a-Day Series (Poets.org), and NPR. Interviews with her about her writing appear in journals such as *Rain Taxi*, *Ploughshares*, and *Kenyon Review*. She’s a recipient of awards including an Academy of American Poets’ Prize, Poetry Society of America’s Lyric Poem Award, and Poetry Society of America’s Cecil Hemley Memorial Award. Currently, she is Special Features Editor at *Tarpaulin Sky* and lives in New York. www.shiradentz.com

Friday, April 30, 7:00 p.m. Poet BENJAMIN GARCIA

Benjamin Garcia’s first collection of poems, *Thrown in the Throat* (Milkweed Editions, August 2020), was selected by Kazim Ali for the 2019 National Poetry Series. He works as a sexual health and harm reduction educator throughout the Finger Lakes region of New York and serves as faculty for Alma College’s low-residency MFA program. His poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in: *AGNI*, *American Poetry Review*, *Kenyon Review*, and *New England Review*. Find him at benjaminarciapoet.com



EVEN MORE SPRING ONLINE READINGS

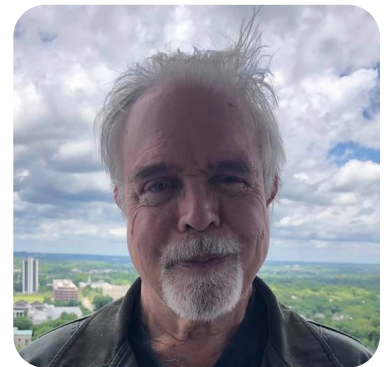


Friday, May 7, 7:00 p.m. • Poet PABLO MEDINA

Cuban-born Pablo Medina is the author of nineteen books, most recently the novel *The Cuban Comedy* and the poetry collection *Soledades* (poems in Spanish). His critically acclaimed translations include García Lorca's *Poet in New York* (with Mark Statman) and Alejo Carpentier's seminal novel *The Kingdom of This World*. Medina's work has appeared in various languages and in magazines and periodicals throughout the world. Winner of many awards for his work, including fellowships from the Rockefeller Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Guggenheim Foundation, Medina lives in Williamsville, Vermont, and is on faculty at the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers.

Friday, May 14, 7:00 p.m. • Poet JOSEPH MILLAR

Joseph Millar's poems have won fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and a Pushcart Prize. He teaches in Pacific University's Low Residency MFA and in North Carolina State's MFA program. *Dark Harvest: New and Selected Poems* is due out in Fall of 2021 from Carnegie Mellon. His most recent book is *Kingdom*. Of his work, the poet Philip Levine said, "If you want the real news of how America lives, of what it's like to be here with us...Millar will tell you with exactitude and delicacy in poems like none you've read before. He knows a country, an America, that's been here all along waiting for its voice. It's time we listened."



Friday, May 21, 7:00 p.m. Novelist JAMES ANDERSON

James Anderson is the award-winning author of two widely praised novels, *The Never-Open Desert Diner* (Crown, 2015) and *Lullaby Road* (Crown, 2018), with reviews in *The New York Times Book Review*, *Washington Post Book World*, *Associated Press*. *Lullaby Road* received the award for the Best Novel of the Southwest. Both novels are available internationally in foreign language editions, including German, Italian, French, Spanish and Japanese. His fiction, poetry, reviews and essays have been published in *New Letters*, *Solstice Magazine*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Northwest Review*, *The Bloomsbury Review* and many others.

Friday, June 4, 7:00 p.m. Poet DESTINY O. BIRDSONG

Destiny O. Birdsong is a Louisiana-born poet, essayist, and fiction writer who lives and writes in Nashville, Tennessee. Her work has either appeared or is forthcoming in *The Paris Review*, *Catapult*, *The BreakBeat Poets Presents: Black Girl Magic*, and elsewhere. Destiny has won the Academy of American Poets Prize, *Meridian's* 2017 "Borders" Contest in Poetry, and the Richard G. Peterson Poetry Prize from *Crab Orchard Review* (2019). She has received support from Cave Canem, Callaloo, Jack Jones Literary Arts, MacDowell, The Ragdale Foundation, and *Tin House*, where she was a 2018 Summer Workshop Scholar. Her debut poetry collection, *Negotiations*, was published by Tin House Books in October 2020, and her debut novel is forthcoming from Grand Central in 2022.



Strut your stuff at the DWC Spring Open Mic Night!
Friday, June 11, 7:00 P.M.

THANK YOU

DWC programs are made possible by funding from the County of Onondaga, administered by CNY Arts, and the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Additional support provided by Humanities New York, the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, and the Literary Arts Emergency Fund.



**Council on
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Although our readings are happening online, that doesn't mean you can't still get your books from the DWC! We will have the latest title from each visiting author in our Spring series. See the list below for specific titles. Order as many books as you'd like, and we'll get them to you. Prices include tax, and all books are discounted off the cover price.

Or better yet, **join our Spring Series Book Club!** The cost for the Book Club is \$145, which includes a copy of every book marked with an * below, at an even deeper discount... nine books in total. Then, join us every Wednesday from 5:00-5:50 during weeks when readings are scheduled, to read and discuss poems or stories/chapters from the books. It's a great way to get ready for each Friday night event in the series.

All titles are "while supplies last." Shipping/delivery is free if you order two or more books at the same time. Otherwise, shipping for a single book is \$3. All prices include tax.

To order a la carte: email pmemmer@ymcacny.org with the titles you'd like to receive.

**To sign up for the Book Club, contact us at dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org,
or register using your Daxko account.**

SPRING 2021 TITLES:

Stone Canoe 15, \$18

* Kim Addonizio, *Now We're Getting Somewhere* (\$25 hardcover)

Kim Addonizio, *Mortal Trash* (\$16)

* Minnie Bruce Pratt, *Magnified* (\$16)

* Christopher Citro, *If We Had a Lemon We'd Throw It and Call That the Sun* (\$16)

* Shira Dentz, *Sisyphusina* (\$16)

* Benjamin Garcia, *Thrown in the Throat* (\$16)

* Pablo Medina, *The Foreigner's Song* (\$16)

* Joseph Millar, *Kingdom* (\$16)

* James Anderson, *Lullaby Road* (\$16)

* Destiny O. Birdsong, *Negotiations* (\$16)

SPRING BOOK CLUB (\$145, includes * titles listed above)