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THE YMCA'S DOWNTOWN WRITERS CENTER NEWS & WORKSHOPS – SPRING 2021

Dear Members, Students, and Friends,

Thank you for joining us this spring at the DWC! We could not have imagined, in spring 2020, that we would still be offering all of our programs online... but we're looking forward to seeing you as we kick off another great season, regardless.

A couple of quick notes:

Visit the website for our complete list of spring visiting author readings... we have nine authors appearing online this season, from newly published local authors to established voices from around the nation. The season kicks off on April 9th with acclaimed poet Kim Addonizio! Get the full schedule at <https://ycny.org/dwc>.

Stone Canoe #15, our 2021 issue, is now available. This issue includes a special feature on the life and work of poet and DWC instructor Karl Parker, along with tons of poems, stories, essays, artwork, and a short screenplay. Join us on April 8th for the online release party... and start thinking about submitting work of your own for next year's issue!

Finally, I'd like to thank all of you who have made donations in support of our work over the past year. Right now, we rely on your support more than ever. You can give online quickly and easily at <https://ycny.org/give>. Be sure to respond "Arts Branch YMCA" to the "Where would you like to direct your gift?" question! We deeply appreciate your support.

With all best wishes for you and your writing,

Phil Memmer, Executive Director

SEE INSIDE FOR...

- ADULT CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS... POETRY, FICTION, NONFICTION, AND MORE
- PROGRAMS FOR TEENS
- DWC SPRING BOOK CLUB
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THANK YOU

Programs made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the NYS Legislature. Additional support is provided by Onondaga County, CNY Arts, Humanities New York, LitTAP, and the Literary Arts Emergency Fund.



**Council on
the Arts**



SPRING 2021 ONLINE WRITING COURSES

Workshop Experience Level Guide

- BEG** **Beginner.** These courses are open to all students, but are geared specifically towards new writers. If you are just getting started with a particular genre, this is the place you should start!
- INT** **Intermediate.** These courses are for students with previous writing experience, along with some degree of familiarity with writing workshops.
- ALL** **All.** Course content is geared to be useful to writers of all experience levels and, frequently, all genres. Beginners are welcome, but experienced writers will also find these courses engaging.
- PRO** **DWC PRO.** These courses are geared towards very experienced writers. Space is limited for those not enrolled in DWC PRO; a manuscript review may be required.

POETRY COURSES

ALL **The Prose Poem with Tim Carter.** Mondays, 6:30–8:30 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 19. What is the prose poem, anyway? Short answer: Who cares? We'll discuss what makes them work. There are so many worth exploring by James Tate, Russell Edson, Mary Ruefle, Harryette Mullen, John Ashbery, Lyn Hejinian, and Rosemarie Waldrop. The list goes on. This class will get you thinking about how prose allows for varied rhythms and new expressions for the imagination.

ALL **Poetry of Presence: Turning to Poetry in Times of Crisis with Gloria Heffernan.** Wednesdays, 10:30 AM–12:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 21. We will explore poetry as a source of meditation and inspiration using *Poetry of Presence* as the required textbook. We will explore assigned poems both analytically and experientially using meditation and free-writing in response. Each student will create a 24-line cento using 24 poems from the anthology.

ALL **Can You Hear Me Now? Poems That Claim a Space with Derek Pollard.** Wednesdays, 6:30–8:30. 8 weeks, starting April 21. Every poem has a politics—which is not the same thing as saying every poem is political. We'll write in response to politically engaged poets like Denise Levertov, Allen Ginsberg, and Claudia Rankine—as well as poets we often don't consider political, but whose work is charged with an activity we might equate with claiming a space and inviting change.

PRO **DWC PRO Poetry Workshop with Antoinette Brim-Bell.** Thursdays, 6:00–8:30 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 22. This workshop is for experienced poets whose goal is publication, focused on strong peer critique. Limited space is available for DWC PRO graduates and other advanced poetry students. Call 474.6851 x380 for details.

NONFICTION COURSES

BEG **Making Memoir with Mary Jumbelic and Rae Tyson.** Thursdays, 2:00–4:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 22. "Writing about one's life is a powerful personal need," wrote William Zinnser. In preserving your legacy, memoir offers great advantage; yet, creating good memoir can be challenging, the mere act of getting started a formidable task. This workshop will help launch your journey. Writing exercises and assignments, writing craft lessons, and critique of fellow students form the foundation of this beginning CNF class.

PRO **Text + Photo / Photo + Text with Nancy Keefe Rhodes.** Mondays, 7:00–9:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 19. Typically when words and images appear together, one observes the other. Images "illustrate" text or text "captions" images. But the two can function as equals. We will consider examples of such successful projects plus participants' own work.

PRO **After Inspiration with Nancy Keefe Rhodes.** Tuesdays, 7:00–9:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 20. In this long-form prose workshop, we examine what makes for helpful critique and useful revision. New members welcome in this continuing workshop.

ALL **The Spring Flow with Georgia Popoff.** Thursdays, 1:30–3:30 PM. 8 weeks starting April 22. Weekly comments and detailed table critiques are the essence of this nonfiction writing group, which welcomes new members seasonally. If you are working on a project or need encouragement to resume a writing practice, join us.

Questions? Call us at (315) 474-6851 x380, or email dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org.

MORE SPRING ONLINE WRITING COURSES

NONFICTION COURSES (CONTINUED)

ALL **Mommie Brain: Document Your Parenting Journey** with Rachel Schinderman. Fridays, 2:00-4:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 23. Motherhood today is all-encompassing. Documenting our children by scrapbooking or keeping old report cards is not new, but exploring our experiences as mothers through essays and stories is. We'll learn to tell those stories, be inspired by great writings about being a mom, and explore the ethics of writing about our children. Exercise your Mommie Brain!

FICTION COURSES

BEG **The Writer's Life II: Intro to Self-Editing** with Chris DelGuercio. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 21. Every writer needs to "tend their garden." This course teaches how to recognize possible missteps, offering quick, effective problem-solving options while focusing on compelling narrative... a must for future storytellers! (Required text: *Self-Editing for Fiction Writers*, Rennie Browne & Dave King.)

INT **Fiction Boot Camp** with Megan Davidson. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 22. This ongoing workshop provides a forum for critique of new work in a supportive environment. Receive creative, insightful ideas for further development of writing in progress, discuss technique, suggestions for reading, in-class prompts, and more. *Prerequisite: At least two prior DWC writing classes or similar workshop.*

ALL **Narrative Voice** with Kayla Blatchley. Mondays, 6:00-8:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 19. In this fiction workshop, we will examine texts and practice strategies to develop and refine narrative voice. With the objective of greater discovery and range into our own writing voices, we will contemplate the identities and postures from which our stories are told, and address elements such as style, psychic distance, and diction.

DRAMATIC WRITING

ALL **I'm Talking Here: Voice in Drama** with Len Fonte. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 20. Dramatic monologues, dialogue among characters, and the ways that voice carries a good play forward are the elements we'll explore, striving toward the goal of a fully-realized ten-minute play or a polished first act. Appropriate for both first-timers and writers with experience.

CROSS-GENRE AND OTHER COURSES

ALL **Story, Plot, Structure** with Linda Lowen. Mondays, 5:00-7:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 19. Writers who think like language architects—focusing on beauty and style at the expense of construction—often produce lyrical prose that goes nowhere. But if you build strong scenes and shape a solid narrative spine, the result is a well-paced, well-told story that holds together and makes logical sense. This workshop will help both fiction and nonfiction writers to craft better stories.

ALL **Fear and Focus: Unfreeze Your Writing** with Linda Lowen. Tuesdays, 5:00-7:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 20. Whether writer's block is real or not, you might find yourself frozen. This workshop examines the basic situation—you want to write—and the layered complications of why you aren't. Explore techniques, and take ownership of your choice to write or not to write. (Required text: *Art and Fear* by David Bayles & Ted Orland.)

ALL **What's Your Soundtrack?** with Mary Hutchins Harris. Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 22. Come write to the music of your life, the stories they tell, your love of music, the heart of who you've become with those songs still under your skin. We'll generate new work using the music in your life, the songs that changed you and stay with you still, writing to prompts, music, and maybe new lyrics to an old tune too.

ALL **A Peculiar Artform: Writing Children's Picture Books** with Ellen Yeomans. Mondays, 1:00-3:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 19. Picture books marry text with visuals. So, what makes a successful picture book text in 2021? We'll explore the topic with discussions and writing exercises. Our goal will be to complete and revise a picture book manuscript and consider possible paths to publication.

ALL **Story Games, RPGs, and Creativity** with Eric Swanson. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting April 22. A study of story games as tools for ideation and creativity. We will study how these games work and create our own mini-games in the process. We will also explore the oft-misunderstood interaction between character, rules, and setting in roleplaying games.

(Continued on next page.)

MORE CROSS-GENRE / OTHER COURSES

ALL **Finding Your Space as an LGBTQ+ Writer** with Gemma Cooper-Novack. *Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 21.* There's no denying that "the canon" is overwhelmingly straight, cis, white, and male. How can LGBTQ+ writers find space for their own work and identify the multiple literary traditions and present moments to which they might belong? This course will involve deep reading of work by LGBTQ+ writers, with writing exercises drawn from these works to help you to develop your understanding, voice, and skills as a queer writer.

ALL **Spring Reading Series Book Club** with Phil Memmer. *Wednesdays before each Visiting Author Reading, 5:00-5:50.* Each week, we discuss the latest book by writers in our Visiting Author Reading Series. It's a great way to warm up for each week's online reading. The cost of the Book Club includes nine books, delivered to your door... one apiece from the guest authors coming to DWC Online this season.

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY

A Saturday workshop for teens and tweens who are on fire to write!
Now celebrating its 10th year.

NUMBERLESS DREAMS

Also on Saturdays, an online writing workshop for teens with disabilities, taught by professional writers with disabilities.

SPEAKING OUT

A new workshop for 9th-12th grade students who identify as LGBTQ+, and their peer allies.

All of our teen programs are designed to help students generate new work in a supportive environment.

For more information, contact Georgia Popoff at dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org or by phone at (315) 474.6851 x380, or visit us online at www.ycny.org/dwcyoung-authors-academy.html

REGISTRATION FOR YMCA OF CNY MEMBERS

(Y members from other YMCAs, please see instructions at the bottom of this column):

STEP 1: ENSURE A VALID EMAIL ADDRESS IS CONNECTED TO YOUR YMCA OF CNY MEMBERSHIP. If you are unsure, contact Member Services.

STEP 2: GO TO YMCACNY.ORG/MYACCOUNT. Under the "I Want to Set Up Online Access for My Account" box, click "Find Account." Enter your last name, DOB (mm/dd/yyyy) and zip code.

STEP 3: ENTER THE EMAIL ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP. A secure link will be sent to this address prompting you to create a password.

STEP 4: CHECK YOUR EMAIL. Click the link and create your password (*must include at least 7 characters and contain at least one capital letter and one number*).

STEP 5: GO TO YMCACNY.ORG/MYACCOUNT. Enter your email address and password in the first box, then search for programs and register online!

To take advantage of your free course benefit, use promo code **DWC1ST** when you register.

To sign up for additional courses at the DWC Member Rate, use promo code **DWC2ND**. Please note that you must complete your transaction for your free course, then start a new transaction for any additional courses.

REGISTRATION FOR ALL OTHER STUDENTS:

Register by phone with a credit card by calling (315) 474-6851 x380. If you must pay by check, please call first to reserve your place, then return your form with check payable to YMCA to:

The YMCA's Downtown Writers Center,
340 Montgomery St., Syracuse, NY 13202

Member of a YMCA other than the YMCA of Central New York? You're eligible to take a DWC workshop at the "DWC Member" rate!

<https://ycny.org/dwc>

SPRING FACULTY BIOS

Kayla Blatchley teaches writing at SUNY Polytechnic in Utica. Her stories have appeared in such journals as *NOON* and *Unsaid*.

Antoinette Brim-Bell is a Cave Canem fellow, and a recipient of the Walker Foundation Scholarship to the Fine Arts Work Center. Her most recent book is *These Women You Gave Me*.

Timothy Carter's first book, *Remains*, won the 2019 BOAAT Book Prize and was published in November 2020. www.thcarter.info.

Gemma Cooper-Novack's theatrical works have been performed in Boston, Chicago, and NY. Her book of poems is *We Might as Well Be Underwater*.

Megan Davidson has written several published historical novels, most recently *The Thundering*.

Chris DelGuercio's novella is *Eden Succeeding*. His short fiction has appeared in many journals.

Len Fonte's many plays include SALT Award winner *Werewolf*. He has taught playwriting at Syracuse University and is a theater critic for the Syracuse Post-Standard.

Mary Hutchins Harris is a poet and essayist, and adjunct professor in the Low Residency MFA Creative Writing program at Lesley University.

Gloria Heffernan is the author of *What the Gratitude List Said to the Bucket List*, and the chapbooks *Hail to the Symptom* and *Some of Our Parts*.

Mary Jumbelic is the former chief medical examiner of Onondaga County. Her memoirs have been finalists in an AARP/Huffington Post Memoir Writing Contest and the Tucson Literary Festival.

Linda Lowen reviews books for *Publisher's Weekly*, and local and regional theater for Syracuse.com/*The Post Standard*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Writer Magazine*.

Phil Memmer founded the DWC in 2000. His most recent books of poems are *Pantheon* and *The Storehouses of the Snow*.

Derek Pollard is editor of *Till One Day the Sun Shall Shine More Brightly: The Poetry and Prose of Donald Revell*. His latest book, *On the Verge of Something Bright and Good*, is coming in 2021.

Georgia A. Popoff's most recent collection of poetry, *Psychometry*, was released in 2019 by Tiger Bark Press. An editor and book coaching consultant, she is also the DWC's workshops coordinator.

Nancy Keefe Rhodes is a writer, editor, and curator whose work covers film and photo. She also teaches in the Transmedia film program at Syracuse University.

Rachel Zients Schinderman's parenting column "Mommie Brain" ran in *The Santa Monica Daily Press* for two years. She performs regularly in the hit spoken word show *Expressing Motherhood*.

Eric Swanson is a designer, illustrator, and game designer. He has co-designed and illustrated the roleplaying games *Goblinville* and *Rebel Crown*.

Rae Tyson has several decades of writing and teaching experience. He currently teaches creative writing at the University of Delaware.

Ellen Yeomans is a writer and ghostwriter for children's and adult books. Her published works include picture books, novels, poetry, and nonfiction. She currently lives in Prague, Czech Republic.

Courses are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Early registration strongly recommended.

All class times are Eastern.

We do not call to confirm registrations; we will, however, call you if there is any problem.

Refunds are not given after a course begins. If a course is canceled, all payments are refunded.

If a course has a required text listed in its description, you will need to obtain that text before the first class meeting.

SPRING 2021 ONLINE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 16

Late registrations, where space is available, are subject to a \$15 late registration fee.

Courses (please mark with an "X")	Member Level: YMCA / DWC / Non-Member		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Prose Poem	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry and Presence	Free*	\$86	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> Can You Hear Me Now?	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> DWC PRO Poetry Workshop	Free*	\$139	\$185
<input type="checkbox"/> Making Memoir	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Text+Photo/Photo+Text	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> After Inspiration	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> The Spring Flow	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writer's Life II	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiction Boot Camp	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Mommie Brain	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Narrative Voice	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> I'm Talking Here	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Story, Plot, Structure	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Fear and Focus	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> What's Your Soundtrack?	Free*	\$86	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> A Peculiar Artform: Writing Children's Books	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Story Games, RPGs, and Creativity	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Spring Reading Series Book Club (Includes 9 Books!)	\$145	\$145	\$145
<input type="checkbox"/> Finding Your Space as an LGBTQ+ Writer	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual DWC Membership (1 year)	\$45	\$45	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Yes, I'd like to add a contribution to support the activities of the DWC! Amount:</i> _____			

** YMCA of CNY members are entitled to take one free course per season per membership (a family membership counts as one membership). Additional fees (Book Club, late fees) still apply. All other YMCA members, from anywhere in the country, are eligible for the "DWC Member Rate" discount. Call (315) 474-6851 x380 with questions.*

TOTAL FEES: _____ Name: _____

Address (street, city, zip code): _____

Day Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

YMCA of Central New York Member? YES / NO (If yes, branch: _____) DWC Member? YES / NO

YMCA Member from another YMCA? YES / NO (If yes, name of YMCA: _____)

ALL STUDENTS: please see page 4 for instructions about how to register for courses.