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THE YMCA'S DOWNTOWN WRITERS CENTER EVENTS & WORKSHOPS – SUMMER 2021

JOIN US FOR THE 2020 CNY BOOK AWARDS!

Saturday, June 19th, 7:00 PM

ONLINE

Each year, the YMCA's Downtown Writers Center salutes the best books written by the authors who call CNY home. Awards are given in poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and children's books. The winners receive a cash prize, and all books receive some well-deserved notice in the public eye.

This year's CNYBAs will be held online, as we still are not able to gather together for a sizeable reception. But the good news is that as a result, ticket prices are significantly lower! There are two ways you can join us to hear the Awards announced live:

- Purchase a **General Admission** ticket for \$25 (*a fully tax-deductible contribution*).
- Or join us as a **Patron** for \$100, and receive a copy of the winning books of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction! (*We estimate the tax deductible portion of these tickets at \$50.*)

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS!](#)

...or text CNYBOOK21 to 41444

Special thanks to this year's sponsors!

Anonymous • **Vita DeMarchi**



Submit Work to *Stone Canoe!*

Stone Canoe is the only literary journal focused on writing and art by those who have called upstate New York home. Our submission deadlines are coming up in July, so there's still time to submit your poems, stories, essays, or art for consideration.



All submissions must be submitted through [Submittable.com](#), and there is no fee to submit work. For complete submission guidelines and info, visit

<https://stonecanoe.submittable.com>

SEE INSIDE FOR...

- Summer Poetry Readings
- Adult Writing Workshops
- Teen Writing Programs
- Summer Book Club
- Registration Info

SUMMER 2021 READINGS

For readings marked **ONLINE**, click the author photo to register for the Zoom event. For events marked **IN PERSON**, location info is included in the event description.

Friday, July 9, 7:00 PM • Poet W. TODD KANEKO

ONLINE W. Todd Kaneko is the author of *This Is How the Bone Sings* (Black Lawrence Press 2020) and *The Dead Wrestler Elegies, 2nd Edition* (New Michigan Press 2021), and co-author with Amorak Huey of *Poetry: A Writers' Guide and Anthology* (Bloomsbury Academic 2018) and *Slash / Slash*, winner of the 2020 Diode Editions Chapbook Contest. A Kundiman Fellow, he lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan where he teaches at Grand Valley State University.



Tuesday, July 20, 7:30 PM • Poet PATRICK LAWLER

IN PERSON Backyard of 36 Albany St., Cazenovia (the home of Eric Evans and Heidi Ravven). Patrick Lawler has published six books of poetry including *Feeding The Fear Of The Earth* and *Underground*. In addition, he has two books of fiction: *Rescuers of Skydivers Search Among the Clouds* and *The Meaning of If*. A number of his filmscripts have won awards and been produced, including *The Zeno Question* and *Giving Birth to a Butterfly*. He is Professor Emeritus at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and Writer-in-Residence at Le Moyne College.

Friday, August 6, 7:00 PM • Poet KAREN SCHUBERT

ONLINE Karen Schubert is the author of *The Compost Reader* (2020, Accents Publishing) and five chapbooks. Her poetry appears most recently in *Reunion: The Dallas Review*, *Poor Yorick*, *New World Writing* and *Read+Write: 30 Days of Poetry*. Her awards include a Wick Poetry Center Chapbook Prize, an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award, and residencies at the Vermont Studio Center and Headlands Center for the Arts. She is Founding Director of Lit Youngstown.



Friday, August 27, 7:00 PM • Poet MEG KEARNEY

ONLINE In spring 2021, The Word Works Press published **Meg Kearney's** *All Morning the Crows*, winner of the 2020 Washington Prize for poetry. Meg is also author of *An Unkindness of Ravens* and *Home By Now*, winner of the PEN New England L.L. Winship Award; a heroic crown, *The Ice Storm*, published as a chapbook in 2020; and three verse novels for teens. Meg's poetry has been featured on Garrison Keillor's "A Writer's Almanac" and Ted Kooser's "American Life in Poetry" series, and included in the 2017 *Best American Poetry* anthology (Natasha Tretheway, guest editor). She lives in New Hampshire and directs the Solstice MFA in Creative Writing Program in Massachusetts.

SUMMER 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.
- G** **Generative.** These courses focus on creating new work through exercises and prompts.
- S** **Seminar.** Classes that examine specific elements of literary schools, craft, and/or writing theory in practice, reading often required.
- W** **Workshop.** Workshops focus on peer critique and/or revision strategies.
- H** **Hybrid.** Classes will incorporate multiple elements according to the instructor's syllabus.

POETRY COURSES

ALL = G Poetry but Fun

with David Wojciechowski. Monday, 6:00–8:00 PM. 4 weeks, starting July 26. After years of writing, we can begin to take poetry too seriously, placing so much importance on our little poems that they begin to feel like work. In this class, we will read and respond to work that has fun with poetry. We'll read James Tate, Russell Edson, Mary Ruefle, Daniel Bailey, Jane Yeh, and more. This class will be silly, weird, and will breathe new life into your process.

ALL = W Satisfying the Final Draft

with Tim McCoy. Tuesday, 6:00–8:00 PM. 5 weeks, starting July 6. You've written a draft of a poem: now what? How do you make that draft into a work that satisfies you and others? We will try out various techniques—narrative, sound, figuration—for shaping any poem into work you and others will be excited about.

ALL = S Translated Poetry: Why?

with Tim McCoy. Tuesday, 6:00–8:00 PM. 3 weeks, starting August 10. Why do we read poems in translation? What can be gained from translated work? We will explore these and other questions as we read some articles/essays on translation theory and translated work by poets such as Frederike Mayrocker, Catullus, Kim Hyesoon, and others.

ALL = G **Risking Joy: Poems about Good Stuff** with Gloria Heffernan. Wednesday, 11:30–1:30. 4 weeks, starting July 14. Louise Gluck's poem, "Snowdrops," dares the reader to "risk joy." What makes joy a risky subject? How do we focus on joyful themes and subjects at times when joy seems almost subversive? We will use prompts and themed readings that dare us to take that risk. Poems will be shared in an encouraging and supportive atmosphere. Are you game?

ALL = G Postcard Poems

with Mary Hutchins Harris. Thursday, 10:30 AM–12:30 PM. 4 weeks, starting August 12. Capture a moment, a thought, a feeling, the very essence of NOW, and send it out into the world. Craft condensed micro-poems of 50 words or less on your personally-selected or personally-created postcards, and send them to a friend, a family member, even a complete stranger. No revisions required!

ALL = H Verse Journalism

with Timothy Carter. Wednesday, 4:00–6:00 PM. 5 weeks, starting July 7. Verse journalism shapes the stories happening in your community with the concerns of a poet. Think of Gwendolyn Brooks, who coined the term "verse journalism," or William Carlos Williams, who said, "It is difficult to get the news from poems, yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there." We will use interviews, articles, and photos to generate new work exploring what's important in our communities.

MORE SUMMER ONLINE WRITING COURSES

ALL = W Digging for Fire: Opportunities in Discarded Drafts with Derek Pollard.

Thursday, 6:00–8:00 PM. 4 weeks, starting July 8. Let's explore the "hidden gems" in drafts we've set aside, reconsidering ways to open up new paths to move our poems forward. We'll engage in exercises meant to free up the writing process to approach work that may be stalled in progress, with less concern about where they may have been going than about what new opportunities they present.

ALL = H Two Heads Are Better Than...: Writing in/as Dialogue with Derek Pollard.

Thursday, 6:00–8:00 PM. 3 weeks, starting Aug. 5. This class will offer writers the opportunity to create work in dialogue with other writers. Each week, we'll read and discuss examples of collaborative writing and engage in hands-on exercises that will lead to co-authored texts. Recommended texts: *They Said: A Multi-Genre Anthology of Contemporary Collaborative Writing* (Black Lawrence Press, 2018) and *Saints of Hysteria: A Half-Century of Collaborative American Poetry* (Soft Skull, 2007).

FICTION COURSES

INT = W The Writer's Life 3: Intro to Workshop with Chris DelGuercio. *Wednesday, 6:30–9:00 PM. 4 weeks, starting July 7.* A natural follow-up to the Writer's Life series, our time will be devoted to peer feedback and exploring specific literary elements. Fine-tune your work until it is the best it can be!

INT = W The Writer's Life 4: Workshopping Continued with Chris DelGuercio. *Wednesday, 6:30–9:00 PM. 4 weeks, starting August 4.* For those writers who cannot get enough, or those who want to join us later in the summer, this session will continue to support bringing your fiction to its fullest potential.

ALL = S Forensics for Mystery/Crime Writers with Mary Jumbelic. *Thursday, 5:00–7:00 PM.*

4 weeks starting August 5. If you want to learn the basics about how to describe a dead body with a sense of scientific accuracy, then this course is for you. Our instructor is a noted former Chief Medical Examiner, and she will guide you through the true facts of blood and wounds, with the aim of helping you stay true to the scene!

NONFICTION COURSES

PRO = W Photo+Text/Text+Photo

with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. *Monday, 7:00–9:00 PM. 7 weeks, starting July 5.* Typically when words and images appear together, one serves 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. New members welcome in this continuing workshop.

PRO = W After Inspiration

with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. *Tuesdays 7:00–9:00 PM. 7 weeks, starting July 6.* In this long-form prose workshop, we examine what makes for helpful critique and useful revision. New members are welcome in this continuing workshop.

ALL = W The Summer Flow

with Georgia Popoff. *Thursday, 1:30–3:30 p.m. 6 weeks, starting July 8.* This workshop provides weekly commentary and detailed table critique, and welcomes new members each season. If you are working on a nonfiction project or need encouragement to resume a writing practice, join us!

ALL = G Writing for Social Justice

with Nancy Avery Dafoe. *Wednesday, 6:00–8:00 PM. 3 weeks, starting July 14.* Writing to make a difference, writing to inspire activism, writing to help right a wrong are the purposes behind this workshop in which structures, genres, evidence, and argument frameworks will be explored. This class is intended for writers with a cause they want to promote. The last class will incorporate a reading of excerpts from completed work.

CROSS-GENRE / OTHER COURSES

ALL = W Revealing Character through Dialogue with Kayla Blatchley. *Mondays, 6:00–8:00 PM. 4 weeks, starting July 12.*

Give your characters a voice! In fiction and non-fiction, characters reveal themselves by what they say and what they don't, and of course, by how they say it. In this four-week workshop, we will practice strategies for written dialogue that reveals character and moves the story forward.

ALL = W Finding Your Space as an LGBTQ+ Writer with Gemma Cooper-Novack.

Tuesdays, 6:00–8:00 PM. 4 weeks, starting July 6. There's no denying that "the canon" is overwhelm-

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

MORE COURSES

ingly straight, cis, white, and male. How can LGBTQ+ writers find space for their own work, and identify literary traditions and current moments to which they belong? This course will involve deep reading of LGBTQ+ writers, with writing exercises drawn from these works, to help develop your understanding, voice, and skills as a queer writer.

ALL = H Summer Songwriting Workshop with Chris Cresswell. Mondays, 6:30-8:30 PM. 4 weeks, starting July 12. Participants will explore popular songwriters and receive weekly prompts and feedback for your own creative practice. Bruce Springsteen, Taylor Swift, U2, Saul Williams, Childish Gambino, and others will provide starting points for our own creations, culminating in a performance of work generated during class. For all skill levels, but everyone will be expected to share.

ALL = S Summer Reading Series Book Club with Phil Memmer. Wednesdays, 6:15-7:00. Each week, we discuss the latest book by each writer in our Visiting Author Reading Series. It's a great way to warm up for each online reading. The cost of the Summer Book Club includes three books, delivered to your door... one by each of the guest authors coming to DWC Online this season. *This does not include a book by Patrick Lawler, who will be reading in person for the Cazenovia Counterpoint summer festival.*

THANK YOU

The DWC is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, and 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, and the Literary Arts Emergency Fund.



**Council on
the Arts**



FOR TEENS

Each of these three terrific programs will hold six-week summer sessions beginning July 10th.

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:

Georgia Popoff
dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org
(315) 474.6851 x380

[www.ycny.org/
dwcyoung-authors-academy.html](http://www.ycny.org/dwcyoung-authors-academy.html)

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.

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>

SUMMER FACULTY BIOS

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

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

Christopher Cresswell is a composer, songwriter, guitarist, and WCNY-FM radio host, who currently teaches music composition at OCC.

Nancy Avery Dafoe has had nine books published through small presses. She is the National League of American Pen Women Letters Chair.

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

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.

Tim McCoy holds an MFA from Syracuse University and has had pieces published in *Interim*, *Ekphrasis*, *Stone Canoe*, and other places.

Derek Pollard is editor of *Till One Day the Sun Shall Shine More Brightly: The Poetry and Prose of Donald Revell*. His new 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.

David Wojciechowski is the author of *Dreams I Never Told You & Letters I Never Sent*. His poems have appeared in *Bateau*, *Jellyfish Magazine*, *The Laurel Review*, *Meridian*, and other journals.

SUMMER 2021 ONLINE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

Courses (please mark with an "X")

Member Level: YMCA / DWC / Non-Member

<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry but Fun	Free*	\$60	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfying the Final Draft	Free*	\$72	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/> Translated Poetry: Why?	Free*	\$48	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> Risking Joy: Poems about Good Stuff	Free*	\$60	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Postcard Poems	Free*	\$60	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Verse Journalism	Free*	\$72	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/> Digging for Fire	Free*	\$60	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Two Heads are Better Than...	Free*	\$48	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writer's Life III	Free*	\$72	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writer's Life IV	Free*	\$72	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/> Forensics for Mystery/Crime Writers	Free*	\$60	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo+Text/Text+Photo	Free*	\$96	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> After Inspiration	Free*	\$96	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> The Summer Flow	Free*	\$88	\$110
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing for Social Justice	Free*	\$48	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> Revealing Character through Dialogue	Free*	\$60	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Finding Your Space as an LGBTQ+ Writer	Free*	\$60	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Songwriting Workshop	Free*	\$60	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Reading Series Book Club (<i>with three books</i>)	\$50*	\$50	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual DWC Membership (<i>1 year</i>)	\$45	\$45	\$45

* 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 5 for instructions about how to register for courses.