



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

## THE YMCA'S DOWNTOWN WRITERS CENTER ONLINE WORKSHOPS – SPRING 2022

### ALSO AT THE DWC THIS SPRING: NEW ONLINE READINGS AND AN IN-PERSON BOOK PARTY!

Did you know that the DWC is home to a terrific series of online readings by visiting poets and writers? This spring's Visiting Author Reading Series includes poets Gary Young, Donika Kelly, Dan Rosenberg, Deena Linett, and Barbara Ras; author E.C. Osondu; and a group reading by contemporary Ukrainian poets and their translators. And we'll celebrate our own Linda Lowen with a party for her new book, "100 Things to Do In Syracuse Before You Die."

For the complete schedule, including Zoom registration links, [CLICK HERE](#).

### WORKSHOP REMINDERS...

Courses are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

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.

### 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 familiarity with writing workshops.

**ALL All.** Course content is geared 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/ADVANCED.** Space may be limited in these advanced courses for students not enrolled in DWC PRO; a manuscript review may also be required for new students.

**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.

### *Save the date for* **ALMOST AUGUST OCCASION 2022!**

After a two-year hiatus, we're delighted to announce that our annual summer retreat weekend is returning, July 15-17, at Christ the King Retreat Center in Syracuse! Stay tuned for more details.

# SPRING 2022 ONLINE WRITING COURSES

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN AND P.M.

## POETRY COURSES

**ALL** = **H** **Mining the Marvelous** with Thomas Townsley. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 26. Surrealism taps into the subconscious mind to access the "marvelous," an altered sense of reality, perceived with intensity, as in certain dreams. We will read and discuss poems by the first-generation surrealists and their successors, then explore for ourselves the creative techniques they used to generate "marvelous images."

**ALL** = **H** **Writing the Narrative Poem** with Gloria Heffernan. Mondays, 5:30-7:30. 6 weeks, starting April 25. In this workshop, we will read, write, and share poems that tell stories. We will explore narrative voice, creating tension, what to leave in and what to leave out, and how to use the techniques of poetry (metaphor, symbol, sound...) to write poems that tell moving and memorable stories.

**ALL** = **H** **Image and Sentence** with David Ruekberg. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 26. A poetic image is a kind of epiphany, yet poems are made of sentences stretched out over time. We'll look at the way words, lines, and sentences prepare the way for moments of increased awareness. We will discuss student poems, noticing how they work, versus "fixing" them.

**ALL** = **H** **The Short Poem** with Christopher Citro. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 27. "But who would believe such a thing? / To build a house out of paper and then abandon it" (Mary Ruefle, "Wasps' Nest"). We'll explore the challenges and joys of making a poem happen in fewer than 14 lines. We'll discuss short poems old and new, and then use prompts to inspire our own writing.

**PRO** = **W** **DWC PRO Poetry Workshop** with Dan Rosenberg. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:30. 8 weeks, starting April 27. 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.

**PRO** = **H** **Beginnings and Endings** with Philip Memmer. Thursdays, 6:00-7:30. 8 weeks, starting April 28. A poem's beginning and ending are its most crucial moments...a flat beginning risks losing the reader, while a weak ending reduces the impact of everything before it. We'll dig into what helps a poem leap into action, and then stick the landing, revising our poems and learning from the masters.

## NONFICTION COURSES

(For more nonfiction opportunities, see our Cross-Genre courses!)

**ALL** = **W** **The Spring Flow** with Georgia Popoff. 8 weeks. Two sections: Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00, 8 weeks, starting April 27; or Thursdays, 1:00-3:00, 8 weeks, starting April 28. Our popular nonfiction critique workshop continues with weekly comments and detailed table critique that are the essence of this group, which welcomes new members. Working on a nonfiction project or need encouragement to get going? Join us!

## FICTION COURSES

**BEG** = **H** **The Writer's Life III: Intro to Workshopping** with Chris DelGuercio. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 26. A natural follow-up in 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! Great class for first-time workshop participants or to brush up on your critique skills.

**INT** = **H** **Fiction Boot Camp Plus** with Megan Davidson. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 28. A forum for critique of new work in a supportive environment, incorporating in-class exercises to generate new work and perspectives on writing. You will receive creative, insightful ideas for further development of writing in progress, discuss technique, and suggestions for outside reading. *Prerequisite:* Two or more DWC writing classes or similar workshops.

**ALL** = **H** **Climate-Controlled: Fiction in the Age of Global Warming** with Jason Zencka. Mondays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 25. If complacency about climate change is a failure of imagination, could storytellers and other imaginative professionals be uniquely positioned to help? This class examines fiction as a technology for fighting global environmental catastrophe and writing to the themes.

**ALL** = **H** **It's All in the Evidence** with Mary Jumelic. Thursdays, 5:00-7:00. 8 weeks, starting April 28. This course is geared toward mystery/crime writers, to teach details of a murder scene investigation that go beyond the description of the corpse. A former Chief Medical Examiner will guide you through the CSI process and workshop with students on their own stories.

# MORE SPRING 2022 ONLINE WRITING COURSES

## DRAMATIC WRITING

**ALL = H** **The Essence of Short Plays** with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 26. What does it mean when your primary tools as a writer are dialogue and action? When your writing is “an opportunity rather than an end,” as playwright Tom Stoppard said? In this class, students will use a wide range of exercises to develop short plays over the course of 8 weeks.

## CROSS-GENRE COURSES

**BEG = H** **Setting Explored** with Kayla Blatchley. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 27. Examine how writers can unlock the potential and impact of setting. From thinking of setting as character to camerawork, worldbuilding or sociology, setting is not just time and place; it evokes the lived experience of a moment. Students will analyze published stories, but primarily focus on analyzing and revising their own work.

**PRO = W** **After Inspiration** with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. Mondays, 7:15-9:15. 8 weeks, starting April 25. In this long-form prose workshop, we examine what makes for helpful critique and useful revision. New members are welcome!

**ALL = H** **Morphing Poetry into Prose** with Tim McCoy. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 26. What can poetry teach the prose writer? Make your prose leap off the page imaginatively and sonically as we look at a range of texts showing the positive poetic effects in fiction and nonfiction.

**PRO = W** **Photo+Text/Text+Photo** with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00. 8 weeks, starting April 26. 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’ll consider examples of such successful projects plus students’ own work.

**ALL = H** **Good, Better, Best Versions** with Keith Stahl. Mondays, 6:00-8:00 p.m. 8 weeks, starting April 25. Read and discuss different versions of published short stories and poems by established authors, as well as students’ work, in order to examine the revision/workshop process and apply new insights into our own projects.

**ALL = H** **Muse Writing** with Tim McCoy. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m. 8 weeks, starting April 26. More than merely free-writing, “Muse Writing” attempts to move us into the dreaming part of imaginations, where the weird and often difficult material is. With free-writing as a base tool, combined with visual art, music, and other writing (and maybe some surrealist games), we will access more wild, authentic material for new work.

**INT/PRO = H** **Pattern, Not Formula: Your Book in 15 Beats** with Linda Lowen. Mondays 5:00-7:00 p.m. 7 weeks, starting May 2. Longer works (novels, memoirs) often stumble because of poor pacing and weak narrative spine. Jessica Brody’s “Save the Cat Writes a Novel” (required text) offers a practical approach to structure—an ‘a-ha!’ moment for the stuck writer. Using Brody’s book, we’ll test drive our works-in-progress.

## OTHER COURSES

**ALL = S** **Spring Reading Series Book Club** with Phil Memmer. Wednesdays, 5:00-5:50. Each week, this book club reads and discusses the latest book by each author in our Visiting Author Reading Series. It’s a great way to warm up for each week’s Friday night online reading! Best of all? Book Club itself is free... you just purchase the books through the DWC, at a discount! Please register by 4/4, so that we can mail you the necessary books!

## SATURDAY INTENSIVES

**ALL = H** **Living the Poet’s Life: A Workshop and More** with Suzanne Cleary. Saturday, April 23 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It’s one—marvelous!—thing to write a poem, but how do you keep writing poems? How do you sustain that energy? Expect keys to living your most productive poetry life, and expect to generate surprising new poems based on brief writing prompts.

**ALL = H** **Mixing It Up with Dickinson** with Terry Bohnhorst Blackhawk. Saturday, May 7, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Taking “A little Madness in the Spring” as our cue, this workshop will bring us up close and personal with several of Dickinson’s poems as well as art and music that the poems have inspired. Drawing on her 20 years of experience as a Dickinson “devotee,” Terry Bohnhorst Blackhawk will suggest ways that diving into Dickinson can help release our own flights of imagination.

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

# ONLINE COURSES FOR TEENS!

## YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY

A Saturday workshop for teens and tweens who are on fire to write! Now celebrating its 11th year. For students in grades 6-12.

## 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 teen programs start on Saturday, April 30, and provide opportunities for students to generate new work and receive feedback 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)

## 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 the office of the Governor and the NYS Legislature. Additional support is provided by Onondaga County, CNY Arts, and the Poetry Foundation.



**Council on  
the Arts**



## 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](http://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](http://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 **DWCSPR22** when you register.

Please note that you must complete your transaction for your free course, then start a new transaction for any additional courses.

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## 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

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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 2022 FACULTY BIOS

**Terry Bohnhorst Blackhawk** was founder and Executive Director (1995-2015) of Detroit's InsideOut Literary Arts Project. Terry's poetry collections include *body & field* and *Escape Artist*, winner of the John Ciardi Prize. Her most recent is *One Less River*.

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

**Christopher Citro's** latest book is *If We Had a Lemon We'd Throw It and Call That the Sun* (Elixir Press, 2021), winner of the 2019 Antivenom Poetry Award. He also teaches at SUNY Oswego.

**Suzanne Cleary** is the author of four collections, most recently *Crude Angel* and *Beauty Mark*. Winner of numerous awards, including the Pushcart Prize and Paterson Award, she teaches in the MFA in Creative Writing Program at Converse College.

**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 such magazines as *Kaleidotrope* and *OG's Speculative Fiction*, and in the themed anthologies *Forbidden Speculation* and *3 Tales of Horror*.

**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*.

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

**Philip Memmer** founded the DWC in 2000. His most recent books of poems are *Pantheon* and *The Storehouses of the Snow*. He also teaches creative writing at Hamilton College.

**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.

**Dan Rosenberg** is the author of *Bassinets* and *The Crushing Organ*, and he co-translated Miklav Komelj's *Hippodrome*. His work has won the *American Poetry Journal* Book Prize and the Omnidawn Poetry Chapbook Contest.

**David Ruekberg** has two books of poetry: *Where Is the River Called Pishon?* (Kelsay Books, 2018) and *Hour of the Green Light* (FutureCycle Press, 2021). A former high school English teacher, David teaches at Writers & Books in Rochester.

**Keith Stahl** is a graduate of the Syracuse University Creative Writing Program. His poetry collection, *From the Gunroom* (Main Street Rag Publishing), won the Joyce Carol Oates Prize. His short stories have been published in *Notre Dame Review*, *Southeast Review*, and other venues.

**Thomas Townsley** teaches English and Creative Writing at Mohawk Community College. His books include *Reading the Empty Page*, *Night Class for Insomniacs*, *Babel's Rebuilding*, and his most recent, *Holding a Séance with Myself*.

**Jason Zencka's** stories appear in *One Story*, *Image Journal*, *Great River Review*, and *Juxtapose*. His story "Catacombs" opens the 2018 Pushcart Prize anthology.

### YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS!

The YMCA's Downtown Writers Center relies on the donations of our members and students to keep our programs strong. Your tax deductible donation ensures that Central New York has a strong community literary arts center at the Y!

[TO GIVE, CLICK HERE!](#) Or text "ArtsYMCA" to 71777. We appreciate your support of our programs!

# SPRING 2022 ONLINE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 20

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"/> Mining the Marvelous	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing the Narrative Poem	Free*	\$90	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> Image and Sentence	\$150	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> The Short Poem	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> DWC PRO Poetry Workshop	Free*	\$145	\$190
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginnings and Endings	Free*	\$90	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> The Spring Flow (Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00)	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> The Spring Flow (Thursdays, 1:00-3:00)	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writers Life III: Intro to Workshopping	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiction Boot Camp Plus	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate-Controlled: Fiction in the Age of Global Warming	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> It's All in the Evidence	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> The Essence of Short Plays	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> Setting Explored	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> After Inspiration	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> Morphing Poetry into Prose	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo+Text/Text+Photo	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> Good, Better, Best Versions	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> Muse Writing	Free*	\$116	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> Pattern, Not Formula: Your Book in 15 Beats	Free*	\$105	\$140
<input type="checkbox"/> Spring Reading Series Book Club (Fee includes 7 books!)	\$120	\$120	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> Living the Poet's Life: A Workshop and More	Free*	\$35	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixing It Up with Dickinson	Free*	\$25	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual DWC Membership (1 year)	\$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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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.**