



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

## **THE YMCA'S DOWNTOWN WRITERS CENTER NEWS & WORKSHOPS – SUMMER 2020**

Dear Members and Friends,

I'd like to express my gratitude to our audience for making our first season of online workshops a success. This isn't exactly how we thought we'd be spending our 20th anniversary season... but it has been heartwarming to know that our programs are valued, and that you are willing to join with us to make the best of trying times. We look forward to hearing from you as we continue our online programming, and I hope you'll continue to let us know what's working, and what isn't.

**Like our spring series, our summer workshops will be offered entirely online.** We understand some students prefer in-person classes (I do, too!), but this is our only option in the short term. The upside about holding workshops online is that we have far fewer limitations in terms of physical space... as a result, we're able to offer more courses, and a wider variety of times. And we're also able to bring in some new instructors, from outside our geographic region. I'm delighted that we're joined this season by acclaimed writers Antoinette Brim-Bell and Shawn Goodman!

**I'm also pleased to announce that we will have our first series of online visiting author readings this summer!** Complete details will be announced soon... including both the selected authors, and details about obtaining copies of their books from the DWC. But in the meantime, we suggest keeping your Friday evenings free throughout July. Stay tuned!

A few other notes on summer workshops:

- Y members making use of their "free DWC workshop" member benefit must retain their membership throughout the course. If you cancel your membership, or put it on hold, during your summer course, you will be charged a prorated fee based on the non-member tuition rate, and the number of weeks remaining in your course.
- In order to expedite registrations, we are encouraging Y members to register online, and asking non-members to register by phone. Leave our Workshops Coordinator, Georgia Popoff, a message at 315-474-6851 x380... we'll get back in touch to help you complete your registration.
- If you must use a check to pay for your course, you may mail in a registration form and check... but please also email Georgia at [dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org](mailto:dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org) first, so that we know to expect your mail.

Many thanks! We look forward to seeing you this summer, even if only virtually.

Phil Memmer, Executive Director

# SUMMER 2020 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** **In the Landscape of Contemporary Poetry** with Christopher Citro. Mondays, 6:00–8:00. 6 weeks, starting July 13. “I am so hungry/ for the song that grows tall like a weed /grows, and grows” writes Diane Seuss in her 2017 poem “backyard song.” In this recurring poetry workshop, with all different readings each session, we’ll discuss recent poetry, then use prompts from our readings to inspire us to create our own lively poetic flora.

**ALL** **Myth into Modern Poetry** with Antoinette Brim-Bell. Tuesdays, 6:00–8:00. 6 weeks, starting July 7. This workshop will use African, Asian, Greek, and Roman myths as a means to explore modern political, social, and spiritual issues through poetry. Workshop participants will mine both well-known and obscure myth for fresh images, new strategies for form, structure, musicality, and theme.

**ALL** **Poetry of the Essential: Turning to Poetry in Times of Crisis** with Gloria Heffernan. Wednesdays, 10:30 AM–12:00 PM. 6 weeks, starting July 8. We will explore poetry as meditation and inspiration using the anthology, *Poetry of Presence*, as the textbook. We will engage in discussion, meditation and free-writing. The final project for the workshop will be for each student to create a 24-line cento using 24 poems from the anthology.

**ALL** **Lost and Found Poetry** with Mary Hutchins Harris. Thursdays, 10:30 AM–12:30 PM. 3 weeks, starting August 6. We sometimes see poetry in the newspaper, junk mail, a novel or email. Words and images on the page can be rearranged into something new and intriguing. Find poetry in prose and learn to craft it, by erasure, black-out, and imagination, into a new work of art ... yours!

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

**ALL** **Getting Poems in Print** with Georgia Popoff. Thursdays, 6:00–7:30. 3 weeks, starting July 9. Submitting work for publication can intimidate any writer. This class will help participants develop a system for selecting journals, searching for calls for submission, and formatting work in ways editors appreciate. Then consider “Grabbing the Editor’s Eye” with Gemma Cooper-Novack as a follow-up course.

## CREATIVE NONFICTION COURSES

**ALL** **It’s All in the Cards: Writing with Tarot, Oracle, and Intuitive Decks** with Linda Lowen. Mondays, 5:00–7:00. 4 weeks, starting July 6. The Tarot and other forms of cartomancy employ archetypes to describe our path through life. Whether you’re a novice or expert, the Tarot images offer intriguing prompts for both memoir and fiction. Delve into the Fool, the Magician, and the other figures/symbols of the Major Arcana, discover stories in the Minor Arcana, and unlock your own insights into stories you want to tell.

**ALL** **Writing to the Tastebuds** with Mary Hutchins Harris. Mondays, 6:00–8:00. 6 weeks, starting July 6. Many of us crave eating and creating food for comfort as well as nutrition, especially in tough times. As we make bread the way our grandmother taught us, try a new flourless chocolate cake recipe, or wonder if the lettuce seeds our neighbor gave us will grow, we create new stories and re-create old ones. Join us to look at food writing, and try some of our own. Celebrate feeding minds, hearts, and bellies with words and pictures!

**PRO** **After Inspiration Part 2** with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. Tuesdays, 6:00–8:00. 7 weeks, starting July 7. In this continuation of the spring class, we will examine what makes for helpful critique and useful revision. We will also learn to know when a piece is done. *Participation in Part 1 not required.*

# MORE SUMMER ONLINE WRITING COURSES

## CREATIVE NONFICTION COURSES (CONT.)

**ALL** **The Summer Flow, Part 1** with Georgia Popoff. *Thursdays, 1:30–3:30. 4 weeks starting July 9.* This workshop relies on weekly peer critique to beta-test new works with willing readers. Perfect for honing work for publication, keeping motivated on a longer nonfiction project, or jumpstarting that memoir you always wanted to write.

**ALL** **The Summer Flow, Part 2** with Georgia Popoff. *Thursdays, 1:30–3:30. 4 weeks, starting August 6.* The Flow continues for a second month-long session to keep moving forward or to catch up with your work after other summer activities. New members and returning participants all welcomed. (Note: separate charge for continuing in the second session.)

**INT** **Short-Form Creative Nonfiction** with Christopher Citro. *Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00. 6 weeks starting July 15.* “And the lily will resurrect you, too, your lips and nose lit with gold dust” writes Ross Gay in his 2019 book of short essays, *The Book of Delights*. In this generative workshop, we’ll read and discuss recent micro and flash nonfiction, using prompts drawn from the readings to inspire us to create our own literary blossoms.

## FICTION COURSES

**ALL** **The Writer’s Life Summer Workshop, Part 1** with Chris DelGuercio. *Wednesdays, 6:30–8:30. 4 weeks, starting July 8.* Our time will be devoted to peer feedback and to exploring specific literary elements. Fine tune your drafts! Great for newer writers as well as seasoned authors. *May be taken stand-alone or combined with Part 2.*

**ALL** **The Writer’s Life Summer Workshop, Part 2** with Chris DelGuercio. *Wednesdays, 6:30–8:30. 4 weeks, starting August 5.* This second session will continue to provide the feedback that is so supportive in bringing work to its fullest potential, and is open to both new and returning students. *May be taken stand-alone or combined with Part 1.*

**ALL** **Writers Read: Ducks, Newburyport** with Jason Zencka. *Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00. 8 weeks, starting July 8.* Lose yourself in the brain of Lucy Ellman, whose stream-of-consciousness novel, *Ducks, Newburyport*, won the 2019 Goldsmiths Prize. Writers will use this maximalist novel tracking the thoughts of an Ohio mother to push themselves into more daring, intimate places in their own writing, focusing on critical reading and writing.

**ALL** **YA Fiction Writing: A Crash Course** with Shawn Goodman. *Thursdays, 6:00–8:00. 6 weeks starting July 9.* In each class we will dig into YA favorites to explore the essential elements of powerful and entertaining storytelling. Through a mix of craft lessons, group discussion, and peer critique, we will cover character, voice, and dialogue. A draft of your own work is great, but not essential.

**ALL** **The Ins and Outs of Submitting Fiction** with Kayla Blatchley. *Tuesday, August 4, 6:00–8:00.* Once you have written the short story, completed the novel, then what? This nuts-and-bolts approach to submitting fiction for publication will inspire and encourage you to take that step, while understanding the business of literary publishing.

## DRAMATIC WRITING

**ALL** **Writing the Short Film (Session 1)** with Christopher Carter Sanderson. *Mondays, 6:00–8:00. 4 weeks, starting July 6.* We will examine short films as a gateway to issues in screenwriting, reviewing basics of writing for the visual medium: storytelling, structure, character voice, and format. Participants may submit up to one short film per week for critique; one student screenplay will be critiqued in class per week. *Option of professional actor readers, by separate arrangement. May be taken stand-alone or combined with The Short Film, Session 2.*

**ALL** **Writing the Short Film (Session 2)** with Christopher Carter Sanderson. *Mondays, 6:00–8:00. 4 weeks, starting August 3.* Please see description above. This course may be taken separately, or as a continuation of Session 1.

**ALL** **Ten-Minute Plays (Session 1)** with Christopher Carter Sanderson. *Thursdays, 6:00–8:00. 4 weeks, starting July 9.* This class will be a workshop and tutorial for the medium of short plays. Playwrights may submit up to one ten-minute play script for weekly critique. Texts include short plays and excerpts from books of playwrights on playwriting. *Option of professional actor readers, by separate arrangement. May be taken stand-alone or combined with The Short Film, Session 2.*

**ALL** **Ten-Minute Plays (Session 2)** with Christopher Carter Sanderson. *Thursdays, 6:00–8:00. 4 weeks, starting August 6.* Please see class description above. This course may be taken separately, or as a continuation of Ten-Minute Plays, Session 1.

# MORE SUMMER ONLINE COURSES

## CROSS-GENRE COURSES

**ALL** **Oh, the Places You'll Go: Travel and Immersion Writing** with Linda Lowen. Mondays, 5:00–7:00. 4 weeks, starting August 3. Sticking close to home this summer? Practice the art of immersion writing and apply it to your past travel experiences, bringing readers along with you to places you've been and would like to go to again. We'll journey as armchair tourists and create credible landscapes, moments, and stories in faraway settings. Suitable for nonfiction and fiction writers.

**ALL** **The Art of Dialog** with Kayla Blatchley. Tuesdays, 6:00–8:00. 4 weeks, starting July 7. A class devoted to composing effective dialogue in fiction and non-fiction. Students will engage in writing and editing exercises in order to refine their techniques and craft snappy and compelling dialogue, and learn to compose dialogue that reveals character and moves the plot forward.

**ALL** **Writing about Love and Relationships** with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00. 6 weeks, starting July 8. Intimate relationships in our lives shape us: friends, family members, romances. These relationships may seem too close and personal to write about, or too challenging to fabricate in fiction, but this class will show how to mine this rich territory for creative expression. We'll explore a wide range of relationships portrayed in prose, and hone our writing through in-class exercises, discussions, and critiques.

## OTHER COURSES

**ALL** **The Job Search Starts with the Cover Letter** with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Tuesdays, 10:30 AM–12:00 PM. 2 weeks, starting July 14. As you search for a job, are your cover letters showing you off to your best advantage? We'll look at tips and tricks for different fields, we'll find strategies that help you play up your strengths. You will learn to write cover letters that get the attention of employers—and get you an interview.

**ALL** **Grabbing the Editor's Eye** with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Tuesday, July 28. 10:30 AM–12:00 PM. A strong cover letter can help introduce you and your work to a journal editor. We'll look at tips and tricks for self-marketing as a writer, and develop strategies that play up your strengths, avoid boasting, and help you to get past the screening readers for consideration.

# YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY

**YAA Returns for Summer Online!**

**Saturdays, 12:00–2:00**  
**9 weeks, starting June 27 (no class July 4)**

The YAA will resume its poetry and fiction workshops via Zoom for the talented teen writers we have supported since 2012. Our weekly online workshops are designed for 6th–12th graders with a flair for the literary arts. If your teen is “on fire” to write and create, they'll love our community of young people with the same interests.

Find out more online at [ycny.org/dwc](http://ycny.org/dwc),  
by email at [dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org](mailto:dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org),  
or by phone at (315) 474-6851 x380.

# STONE CANOE

**Submit work for consideration**  
**for Stone Canoe's 2021 edition (#15)!**

Our online submissions portal is now open! Deadlines vary by genre throughout the month of July. For complete submission guidelines, visit Stone Canoe's page on the DWC website:

<https://ycny.org/stone-canoe>



## SUMMER 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 the author of *These Women You Gave Me*, *Icarus in Love*, and *Psalm of the Sunflower*, is a Cave Canem Foundation fellow, and a recipient of the Walker Foundation Scholarship to the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown.

**Christopher Citro** is the author of *If We Had a Lemon We'd Throw It and Call That the Sun* (Elixir Press, forthcoming 2020), and *The Maintenance of the Shimmy-Shammy* (2015).

**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*.

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

**Shawn Goodman** is the award-winning author of the novels *Something Like Hope* and *Kindness for Weakness*, and co-author, with Wes Moore, of *This Way Home*. He works as a psychologist in Ithaca.

**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*.

**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*.

**Georgia A. Popoff's** fourth book of poems, *Psychometry*, is new this year from Tiger Bark Press.

**Nancy Keefe Rhodes** is a writer and editor based in Central New York who covers film, photography, and visual arts.

**Christopher Carter Sanderson** has more than 200 professional productions directed in NYC. His short film script "Doorbell" was recently named an official selection of the Berlin Flash Film Festival.

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

## ONLINE REGISTRATION

*For YMCA of CNY Members*

**STEP 1: ENSURE A VALID EMAIL ADDRESS IS CONNECTED TO YOUR YMCA OF CNY MEMBERSHIP. IF you don't know, or 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.

**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 provided and create your password. Your password must be at least 7 characters and contain at least one capital letter and one number.

**STEP 5: GO BACK 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 membership benefit, use promo code **DWC20SUM** when you register.

To sign up for a second course at the DWC rate, use promo code **DWC2ND**.

**You may also register by phone with a credit card by calling 474-6851 x380.**

**If you must pay by check, please make checks payable to YMCA and return form with payment to**

**YMCA, Downtown Writers Center,  
340 Montgomery St.,  
Syracuse, NY 13202.**

*Courses are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Early registration is strongly recommended for all courses. 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.*

# SUMMER 2020 ONLINE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

**REGISTRATION DEADLINES: the Friday before your class's first meeting.**

*Late registrations, if 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"/> In the Landscape of Contemporary Poetry	Free* / \$88 / \$110
<input type="checkbox"/> Myth into Modern Poetry	Free* / \$88 / \$110
<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry of the Essential	Free* / \$72 / \$90
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost and Found Poetry	Free* / \$48 / \$60
<input type="checkbox"/> Getting Poems into Print	Free* / \$40 / \$50
<input type="checkbox"/> It's All in the Cards	Free* / \$60 / \$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing to the Tastebuds	Free* / \$88 / \$110
<input type="checkbox"/> After Inspiration Part 2	Free* / \$96 / \$120
<input type="checkbox"/> The Summer Flow Part 1	Free* / \$60 / \$75
<input type="checkbox"/> The Summer Flow Part 2	Free* / \$60 / \$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-Form Creative Nonfiction	Free* / \$88 / \$110
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writers Life Summer Workshop	Free* / \$60 / \$75
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writers Life Summer Workshop Part 2	Free* / \$60 / \$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Writers Read: <i>Ducks, Newburyport</i>	Free* / \$112 / \$140
<input type="checkbox"/> YA Fiction Writing: A Crash Course	Free* / \$88 / \$110
<input type="checkbox"/> The Ins and Outs of Submitting Fiction	Free* / \$20 / \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing the Short Film (Session 1)	Free* / \$60 / \$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing the Short Film (Session 2)	Free* / \$60 / \$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Ten-Minute Plays (Session 1)	Free* / \$60 / \$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Ten-Minute Plays (Session 2)	Free* / \$60 / \$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Oh the Places You'll Go	Free* / \$60 / \$75
<input type="checkbox"/> The Art of Dialog	Free* / \$60 / \$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing about Love and Relationships	Free* / \$88 / \$110
<input type="checkbox"/> The Job Search Starts with the Cover Letter	Free* / \$32 / \$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Grabbing the Editor's Eye	Free* / \$16 / \$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual DWC Membership (1 year)	\$40 / \$40 / \$40
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Yes, I'd like to add a contribution to support the activities of the DWC! Amount:</i> _____	

*\* YMCA of Greater Syracuse members are entitled to take one free course per season per membership (a family membership counts as one membership). Additional fees (books, late fees) still apply. Call 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

**All Students: please see previous page for details about how to register for courses!**  
**YMCA of CNY Members: please see use promo code DWC20SUM when registering online.**