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THE YMCA'S DOWNTOWN WRITERS CENTER NEWS & WORKSHOPS – FALL 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you all for making Summer 2020 our busiest summer ever, despite the fact that we could not be together in person! We're looking forward to a busy fall season as well. Inside this brochure, you'll find the largest series of creative writing workshops we've ever offered at the DWC, with several exciting new options. We're also pleased to welcome new instructors this season, including Len Fonte, Demetrice-Anntía Worley, Kristofor Minta, and Timothy Carter. Programs will continue to be offered exclusively online, until we are able to welcome our members safely back to our classrooms.

A few other notes:

- **Remember to visit the website for our complete list of fall visiting author readings...** it will be among the largest we've ever hosted, all free, and all online! <https://ycny.org/dwc>.
- **If you're not on our email list, please consider joining us!** Email pmemmer@ymcacny.org to be added to the list.
- **YMCA of CNY 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 course, you will be charged a prorated fee. Please also note that YMCA of CNY members who wish to take more than one class will need to sign up for their free course first using the "DWC1ST" promo code, then pay for their second class *in a separate transaction* using the "DWC2ND" promo code."
- **In order to expedite registrations, we encourage YMCA of CNY members to register online, and all others to register by phone.** Leave our Workshops Coordinator, Georgia Popoff, a message at 315-474-6851 x380... we'll get in touch to help you complete your registration.

Finally, as many of you know, the Arts Branch of the YMCA has had to cancel most of its fundraising activities for this year. I won't sugar-coat it: for a non-profit arts organization, that is a devastating blow... but the fact is that we cannot hold most of our usual Literary Dinner and CNY Book Awards events safely. I hope you'll consider making a tax deductible donation to support our programming in this important time. 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! You can also donate by check, using the registration form at the end of this brochure. All donors of \$100 or more will receive a free 20th anniversary DWC messenger bag... hand-delivered with at least six feet of distance, wherever possible (and mailed, wherever not)!

With all best wishes for you and your writing,

Phil Memmer, Executive Director

FALL 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

BEG **We Are All Novices** with Tim McCoy. Thursdays, 6:00–8:00. 8 weeks, starting Oct. 1. This class is designed to help students deeply dedicate themselves to poetry writing, using journaling, exercises, and workshopping keyed to Clayton Eshleman’s essay “Novices.” Join us, and begin the rewarding work of coming into your own as a poet!

ALL **20th Century African American Poets** with Antoinette Brim-Bell. Mondays, 6:00–8:00. 8 weeks, starting September 28. This class will examine a representative collection of poems by celebrated 20th Century African American poets with attention given to the poets’ literary influences, relevant literary movements, and the historical climate in which the poets’ work is situated.

ALL **Poetry of the Essential: Turning to Poetry in Times of Crisis** with Gloria Heffernan. Wednesdays, 10:30 AM–12:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting September 30. 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 **Getting In, Getting Out: The Art of the Short-Short Poem** with David Wojciechowski. Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting September 30. Focus on poems that are extremely brief—as in Williams’ “The Red Wheelbarrow” brief. We’ll examine how incredibly short poems still hit us in the heart, and whether or not that impact is a product of their brevity. We will also write and discuss our own extremely short poems.

ALL **What Is a Poem?** with Timothy Carter. Mondays, 6:00–8:00. 8 weeks, starting September 28. While we shape our own craft, we start to question, “What does it mean to write a good poem?” “What does it mean to understand a poem?” “How do our answers to these questions shape our poems?” This class will find the answers as we learn from masters of the art, and as we create new, confident poems together.

ALL **Letting the World In** with Kristofor Minta. Tuesdays, 6:00–8:00. 8 weeks, starting September 29. With poetry in translation, much context may be lost; but this can be a boon. Imagination fills in what’s missing, providing new approaches through creative misunderstanding. What’s understood and what isn’t are both fantastic. We will discover how these fresh perspectives translate to and enliven new work of our own.

PRO **DWC PRO Poetry Workshop** with Mary Hutchins Harris. Thursdays, 6:00–8:30. 8 weeks, starting October 1. 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.

CREATIVE NONFICTION COURSES

BEG **Intro to Creative Nonfiction** with Linda Lowen. Tuesdays, 5:00–7:00. 8 weeks, starting September 29. Writing is like a muscle—exercise it, and you’ll grow stronger. With training, tools and guidance, go from weakling to warrior in this class that lays the foundation for absolute beginners interested in writing fact-based narratives including memoir. (Required text: *Imaginative Writing* by Janet Burroway).

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

MORE FALL ONLINE WRITING COURSES

ALL **Fresh, Brilliant, Urgent: Deepening Voice in Memoir** with Linda Lowen. Mondays, 5:00–7:00. 8 weeks, starting September 28. “Fresh and urgent...brilliant but brittle” is how the LA Times described Kiese Laymon’s 2018 memoir *Heavy*. We’ll study Laymon’s shifts in voice and tone from childhood through adulthood. and apply them to our own weekly writing assignments. (Required text: *Heavy* by Kiese Laymon.)

PRO **After Inspiration: Long-Form Revision** with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. Wednesdays, 7:00–9:00. 8 weeks, starting September 30 (no class 11/4). This workshop adds a third edition for those with long-form prose projects well underway who desire to keep working together. Some reading is required. Though enrollment is limited, there is room to welcome a couple new members.

INT **The Fall Flow** with Georgia Popoff. Thursdays, 1:30–3:30. 8 weeks starting October 1. 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.

PRO **Text+Photo/Photo+Text** with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. Tuesdays, 6:00–8:00. 8 weeks, starting September 29 (no class 11/3). Typically when words and images appear together, one primarily serves the other. Either images “illustrate” text or text “captions” images. Now suppose the two can function as equals. We will look at examples that illuminate how that occurs successfully and workshop participants’ own projects. *In partnership with Light Work Gallery.*

FICTION COURSES

BEG **The Writer’s Life: Phase 1** with Chris DelGuercio. Wednesdays, 6:30–8:30. 8 weeks, starting September 30. This class will help beginners delve into what makes a successful author. We show how to alter your mindset and remove various obstacles that keep you from fulfilling your literary potential. (Required text: *Bird by Bird*, by Anne Lamott.)

ALL **Point of View** with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Tuesdays, 6:00–8:00. 8 weeks, starting September 29. How does perspective change a story? In this class, we will engage in both novel study and ongoing writing exercises to develop point of view in our work. We will consider exposition, voice, and reliability as we build up our skills and repertoire. (Required text: *Room*, by Emma Donoghue.)

ALL **The Harlem Renaissance: African American Writers in the Jazz Age** with Demetrice-Anntía Worley. Thursdays, 6:30–8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 1. During the Harlem Renaissance, race, gender, class, education, and location were germane to African American writers. We will read two Harlem Renaissance (1919–1930) novellas by Nella Larsen as examples of this vital literary movement. (Required text: *The Complete Fiction of Nella Larsen: Passing, Quicksand, and The Stories.*)

ALL **Stories of Hope and Resistance** with Kayla Blatchley. Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00. 8 weeks starting September 30. This course is dedicated to stories that have changed how we’ve looked at the world and transformed our culture. We will discuss methods and strategies for writing effective narratives that both engage and empower others.

INT **Fiction Boot Camp** with Megan Davidson. Thursdays, 6:00–8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 1. Do you have a half-novel drafted, a handful of promising stories, or just a great concept? Boot Camp can help! With constructive, thoughtful critiques, we’ll guide you in character development, setting, dialogue, pacing, and more—whether you seek publication or just want to finish a manuscript.

PRO **DWC PRO Fiction Workshop** with Jason Zencka. Mondays, 6:00–8:30. 8 weeks, starting September 28. This workshop is for experienced fiction writers whose goal is publication, focused on strong peer critique. Limited space is available for DWC PRO graduates and other advanced fiction students. Call 474.6851 x380 for details.

DRAMATIC WRITING

BEG **Write a Play with Snap, Crackle, and Pop!** with Len Fonte. Tuesdays, 6:00–8:00. 8 weeks, starting September 29. Conflict, diction, and disruption are the basic tools of the playwright. We’ll explore them in a series of exercises and quickly move into writing a fully-realized 10-minute play or a portion of a longer piece. Appropriate for both first-timers and writers with some experience.

ALL **Playwriting In Lockdown** with Christopher Carter Sanderson. Mondays, 6:00–8:00. 8 weeks, starting September 28. Playwrights are getting their plays out there during lockdown, and not just through Zoom! Set and accomplish playwriting goals with structured peer critique, through reading/performance, and with creative responses to our restrictions as they evolve.

MORE FALL ONLINE COURSES

CROSS-GENRE COURSES

ALL **The Sentence** with Johanna Keller and Charles Martin. Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30. 8 weeks, starting Sept. 30. Maybe the most granular workshop you'll ever take! We'll focus on the sentence, the primary building block of all writing, as we examine, analyze, and learn from contemporary writers using Virginia Tufte's book, *Artful Sentences: Syntax as Style* (required text). We'll write sentences of many varieties, to inspire new work!

ALL **Finding Your Space as an LGBTQ+ Writer** with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting September 30. 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 along with related writing exercises to help you to develop your understanding, voice, and skills as a queer writer.

ALL **Get a Grip on Grammar and Punctuation** with Michele Cooper. Wednesdays, 12:00-1:00. 8 weeks, starting September 30. Instead of memorizing rules and technical terms, this workshop takes a hands-on, common sense approach to improve your professional, personal, creative, or academic writing by exploring the interdependent nature of grammar and punctuation.

ALL **Fall 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 poet 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, if you purchase the necessary books through the DWC by Sept. 10th! *Divided into two sessions, Sept.-Oct. and Nov.-Dec.*

YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY

Saturdays, 12:00-2:00.

10 weeks, starting Oct. 3 (no class 11/28)

Our teen/tween program gives writers in grades 6 through 12 a chance to generate new work and provide feedback to each other in a supportive environment. For more info, contact Georgia Popoff at dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org or by phone at (315) 474.6851 x380, or visit <https://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](https://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](https://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>

FALL 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*, and a Cave Canem fellow.

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

Michele Cooper teaches writing courses and is an Academic Learning Coach at SUNY Empire State College. She is also a freelance writer and editor.

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*.

Johanna Keller founded SU's Goldring Arts Journalism graduate program. A four-time Pulitzer Prize judge, she began teaching writing at the YMCA National Writer's Voice in New York City.

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*.

Charles Martin's most recent book of poems is *Future Perfect*. In 2005, he received an Award for Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His newest book is a translation is *Medea*.

Tim McCoy holds an MFA from Syracuse University and has had pieces published in *Interim*, *Ekph-*

asis, *Stone Canoe*, and other places. He lives and teaches in the Syracuse area.

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

Kristofor Minta's *A Shelter for Bells*, translations of Hans Jürgen von der Wense, has just been published, and a volume of Rilke translations (*The Voices & Other Poems*) will be published 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.

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.

David Wojciechowski is the author of *Dreams I Never Told You & Letters I Never Sent* (Gold Wake Press). He teaches writing and literature at Syracuse University. Find David at davidwojo.com.

Demetrice-Anntía Worley is the author of *Tongues in My Mouth*, and a Cave Canem Fellow. She holds a doctorate in English from Illinois State University, and teaches at Bradley University.

Jason Zencka writes and teaches in Syracuse. His short stories can be found in *One Story*, *Story-Quarterly*, *Image Journal*, and the 2018 Pushcart Prize Anthology.

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

All class times are Eastern Standard.

Early registration strongly recommended.

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.

FALL 2020 ONLINE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, September 23

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"/> We Are All Novices	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century African American Poets	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry of the Essential	Free*	\$86	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> Getting In, Getting Out	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> What Is a Poem?	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Letting the World In	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> DWC PRO Poetry Workshop	Free*	\$139	\$185
<input type="checkbox"/> Intro to Creative Non-Fiction	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Fresh, Brilliant, Urgent	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> After Inspiration: Long Form Revision	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> The Fall Flow	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Text+Photo/Photo+Text	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writers Life: Phase 1	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Point of View	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> The Harlem Renaissance	Free*	\$86	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> Stories of Hope and Resistance	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiction Boot Camp	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> DWC PRO Fiction Workshop	Free*	\$139	\$185
<input type="checkbox"/> Write a Play with Snap, Crackle, and Pop!	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Playwriting in Lockdown	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> The Sentence	Free*	\$86	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> Finding Your Space as an LGBTQ+ Writer	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Get a Grip on Grammar and Punctuation	Free*	\$56	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Sept-Oct Reading Series Book Club (7 Books! Register by 9/10)	\$110	\$110	\$110
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov-Dec Reading Series Book Club (4 books! Register by 10/10)	\$60	\$60	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual DWC Membership (1 year)	\$45	\$45	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I'd like to add a contribution to support the activities of the DWC! Amount: _____			

* 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.