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## **THE YMCA'S DOWNTOWN WRITERS CENTER NEWS & WORKSHOPS – WINTER 2021**

**Dear Members, Students, and Friends,**

Welcome to 2021 at the Downtown Writers Center! While we wish we were back with you in person at the Downtown Y, we're pleased that we can continue to make great literary arts programs available through DWC Online. We have more terrific classes, and an exciting lineup of visiting authors, all starting in January.

A few notes and reminders:

- **Remember to visit the website for our complete list of winter visiting author readings...** we have nine authors appearing online this season, from newly published local authors to established voices from around the nation. Get the full schedule at <https://ycny.org/dwc>.
- **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) before the end of your program, 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. Of course, if need be, you can also mail in the registration form at the end of this brochure, along with a check payment.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of you who joined us at our fall online benefit event with poet Dana Gioia. We deeply appreciate your support, and I hope you'll remember us as you consider your charitable giving options for 2021. The Arts Branch of the YMCA has lost roughly half of our annual budget due to the inability to safely operate many of our key arts education programs, and your gifts will help ensure that our programs are still here to serve the community once the pandemic is over. 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 appreciate your support in this difficult time.

With all best wishes for you and your writing,

Phil Memmer, Executive Director



Poet and former NEA Chairman Dana Gioia

# WINTER 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** **Documentary Poetics** with *Tim Carter*. Mondays, 6:00–8:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 25. C. D. Wright interviewed people in Louisiana State Prisons. Anne Carson blended family photos with translations of a Catullus elegy. Examine how writers use pictures, interviews, and documents: How may poetry “extend the document” in ways differing from essays or, say, the news, deepen our awareness of social issues? How can it bring together voices in our communities?

**ALL** **10 Ways to See a Poem** with *Mary Hutchins Harris*. Mondays, 6:00–8:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 25. Join us as we look closely at the tools for revision. As writers, we know what we want to do: create poems that reach out to the reader. But sometimes it feels overwhelming. This class will break down the process into a specific focus for each week and enable us to find more insight and fun in shaping our work for the world.

**ALL** **Fantastic Ekphrastics** with *Gloria Heffernan*. Wednesdays, 10:30 AM–12:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 20. Ekphrastic poems take their inspiration from works of art. Starting with description, the poet moves beyond the canvas to create new insights and inventions. Participants will read, visit a virtual museum, and write poetry inspired by art. And no, they don’t have to rhyme!

**ALL** **Sound Driving** with *Tim McCoy*. Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 20. A poem is not just about *what* it says, but *how*. While considering poems and theories from Mandelstam to Ashbery to Carson, poets will draw upon sound as the driver of both composition and revision. See the new territories into which you’ll wander, the wildness that results.

**PRO** **DWC PRO Poetry Workshop** with *Derek Pollard*. Thursdays, 6:00–8:30 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 21. 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

**ALL** **Clever, Comedic, Censored: My Time Among the Whites** by *Jennine Capot Crucet* with *Linda Lowen*. Tuesdays, 5:00–7:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 19. Entertaining essays tackle Cuban-American immigration, the Ivy League, Disneyworld, and Trump in this funny and incisive collection by a former *New York Times* contributing opinion writer. Yet she saw her book burned by students after she spoke at a Southern public university. We’ll study her use of humor and her conversational tone in covering hot-button topics. (Required text: “My Time Among the Whites”)

**PRO** **Text+Photo/Photo+Text II** with *Nancy Keefe Rhodes*. Mondays, 7:00–9:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 25. 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. New members welcome in this continuing workshop.

**PRO** **After Inspiration** with *Nancy Keefe Rhodes*. Tuesdays, 7:00–9:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 26. In this long-form prose workshop, we examine what makes for helpful critique and useful revision. New members welcome in this continuing workshop.

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

# MORE WINTER ONLINE WRITING COURSES

**ALL** **The Winter Flow** with *Georgia Popoff*. *Thursdays, 1:30–3:30 PM. 8 weeks starting January 21.* 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.

## FICTION COURSES

**ALL** **The Writer's Life II: Intro to Self-Editing** with *Chris DelGuercio*. *Wednesdays, 6:30–8:30 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 20.* 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 January 21.* 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.*

## DRAMATIC WRITING

**ALL** **Invent, Create, Revise, and Polish: Playwrights at Work** with *Len Fonte*. *Tuesdays, 6:00–8:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 19.* After a review of the basic tools of playwriting, we'll explore structure, dialogue, images, and theatricality with the goal of a fully-realized ten-minute play or a polished first act. Appropriate for both first-timers and writers with experience and scripts to continue.

## CROSS-GENRE COURSES

**ALL** **Writerly Obsessions** with *Gemma Cooper-Novack*. *Tuesdays, 6:00–8:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 19.* Kafka had entrapment. Roxane Gay has the dialogue of love and violence. How can you transform your obsessions into original works? We'll identify our own obsessions and break them down, to acknowledge perspectives that make us the writers we are without growing repetitive.

**ALL** **Borrowing from Life** with *Cheryl Reed*. *Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 20.* This cross-genre class focuses on making fiction and non-fiction more authentic by rooting

stories in actual events. By layering details from the news, our jobs, our families, or even archives, we'll make stories more relevant and memorable.

**ALL** **In Praise Of** with *Mary Hutchins Harris*. *Thursdays, 6:00–8:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 21.* Come play with writing in any genre, as we recognize and put to words our appreciation of the small things—and the bigger things—that influence our way of being in the daily world. We'll find ways to celebrate what astonishes us from our heritage, places we have visited, the natural world, and of course, the human beings we find worthy of praise.

**ALL** **Scandinavian Noir** with *Stephen Kuusisto*. *Wednesdays, 6:30–8:30 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 20.* People just can't get enough of Scandinavian Noir. Is it the uncompromising darkness of Nordic winters, the fortitude and stoicism of Finns, Norwegians, Swedes, the Danes, Icelanders? Why do such dark stories emanate from the world's safest countries? What can we learn about storytelling from this sub-genre as we journey through contemporary literary darkness? TV series and writings TBD... we'll rely on Netflix as our viewing platform.

**INT** **The Sentence** with *Johanna Keller and Charles Martin*. *Wednesdays, 6:00–7:30 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 20.* This may be the most granular workshop you'll ever take! We will focus on the sentence, the primary building block of any form of writing, no matter the genre, as we examine, analyze, and learn from contemporary writers using Virginia Tuft's book, *Artful Sentences: Syntax as Style* (required text). We will write sentences of many varieties, which will inspire new work.

**ALL** **Writing Prose, Learning Craft: Stephen King's On Writing** with *Linda Lowen*. *Mondays, 5:00–7:00 PM. 8 weeks, starting January 25.* Whether you adore or disdain his novels, *The Guardian* calls his writing “so fluid you often forget that you're reading.” *King's On Writing* (required text) offers a peek at his bestsellers' origins, guidance on work habits, and a well-structured narrative that shows how to do memoir right. We'll read, analyze, and identify the mechanics of his storytelling.

**ALL** **Winter Reading Series Book Club** with *Phil Memmer*. *Wednesdays, 5:00–5:50.* 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 week's online reading. The cost of the Book Club includes nine books, delivered to your door... one by each of the guest authors coming to DWC Online this season.

## NEW! "GET-ME-THROUGH" WORKSHOPS

Can't stand the month off between our fall and winter course seasons? Neither can we! Whet your appetite with these two quick workshops.

**ALL** **Stories of Hope and Resilience** with *Kayla Blatchley*. *Saturday, January 9, 1:30-3:30 PM*. There are countless stories with the power to change how we look at the world and set a path to impact and transform our culture. This intensive cross-genre workshop will investigate methods and strategies for writing effective narratives that both engage and empower others, sparking new work of our own.

**ALL** **The "I's" Have It** with *Sarah Freligh*. *Saturday, January 16, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM*. In this 90-minute crash course, we'll look at some of the ways writers of prose and poetry have employed the first-person narrator/speaker and how that might translate to our own poems, stories, and essays. Open to writers of both poetry and prose at all levels.

## YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY

**Saturdays, 12:00-2:00.**  
**10 weeks, starting January 23**

The YAA winter session will continue to virtually unite this community for the next generation of writers. Classes in creative writing give 6th-12th grade authors 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](mailto:dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org) or by phone at (315) 474.6851 x380, or visit the YAA webpage at [www.ycny.org/dwcyoung-authors-academy.html](http://www.ycny.org/dwcyoung-authors-academy.html)

## NUMBERLESS DREAMS

**An Online Creative Writing Program  
for Disabled Teens...  
Taught by Disabled Writers**

This exciting new program, a collaboration with SU's Burton Blatt Institute and Nine Mile Press, helps teens with disabilities write, build community, and have a great time with language. Best of all, due to support from the Gifford Foundation, Numberless Dreams is free! For information on our winter session, including a registration form, visit [www.ycny.org/dwcyoung-authors-academy.html](http://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](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 **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.

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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>

## WINTER 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 will be published in November 2020. [www.thcarter.info](http://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.

**Sarah Freligh** is the author of *Sad Math*, winner of the 2014 Moon City Press Poetry Prize. She was awarded a poetry fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2009.

**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.

**Stephen Kuusisto** is the best-selling author of the memoir *Planet of the Blind*. His most recent book is the poetry collection *Old Horse, What Is to Be Done?*, new in Fall 2020 from Tiger Bark Press.

**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*, *Ekphrasis*, *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*.

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

**Cheryl L. Reed** is the author of the novel *Poison Girls*, and the nonfiction book, *Unveiled: The Hidden Lives of Nuns*. She is a former editor and reporter at the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

**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.

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

All class times are Eastern Standard.

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.

## 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, and the Literary Arts Emergency Fund.



**Council on  
the Arts**

# WINTER 2021 ONLINE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

## REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

**January 15th for classes beginning the week of January 18th.**

**January 22nd for classes beginning the week of January 25th.**

*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"/> Documentary Poetics	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Ways to See a Poem	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Fantastic Ekphrastics	Free*	\$86	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> Sound Driving	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> DWC PRO Poetry Workshop	Free*	\$139	\$185
<input type="checkbox"/> Clever, Comedic, Censored	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Text+Photo/Photo+Text II	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> After Inspiration	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> The Winter 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"/> Invent, Create, Revise, and Polish	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Writerly Obsessions	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Borrowing from Life	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> In Praise Of	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Scandinavian Noir	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> The Sentence	Free*	\$86	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing Prose, Learning Craft	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Reading Series Book Club (Includes 9 Books!)	\$150	\$150	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> The "I's" Have It	Free*	\$15	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Stories of Hope and Resilience	Free*	\$20	\$30
<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.**