



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
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THE YMCA'S DOWNTOWN WRITERS CENTER WRITING WORKSHOPS – SPRING 2023

HELP WRITERS THRIVE IN CNY!

For over 21 years, the DWC has served as the CNY region's only community center for the literary arts, filling an important need for aspiring writers and dedicated readers. As a non-profit literary arts program, the DWC relies on the support of our friends to both function and grow. I hope you'll join me in supporting our annual campaign... there are several fun ways to support our important literary mission!

Join the '23 "Writing Forward Together" Write-a-Thon, happening on April 1st and 2nd! DWC Workshops Coordinator Georgia Popoff has a great weekend of activities planned. For complete details, email her at dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org.

Get your ticket for our spring DWC Benefit Reading with poet Tim Carter. Tim will be premiering his upcoming book of poems, *The Pigs*, on Friday, March 31st. The reading will be both in-person and on Zoom. **For tickets, click here.**

Attend a DWC Literary Dinner! Back for the first time since 2020, the Literary Dinners are hosted by board members and friends throughout the spring. Admission is a donation, and the festivities include a reading by a guest author! To be connected with a host, email me at pmemmer@ymcacny.org.

–Phil Memmer, Executive Director

KEY TO COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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, and some degree of familiarity with writing workshops.

ALL All. Course content is geared to writers of all experience levels and, frequently, all genres.

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.

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.

M Multiple Styles. Classes will incorporate multiple instruction styles.

DWC Course will take place in-person at the Y.

ONLINE Course will take place only on Zoom.

HYBRID Students can participate either in-person at the YMCA, or on Zoom.

ASYNCH Learn at your own pace in these asynchronous courses!

SPRING 2023 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

POETRY COURSES

ALL = S = ONLINE **History of Prose Poetry, from the 1800s to the Present** with Christopher Citro. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 20. We will read prose poetry, from its establishment in 1842, through Modernism, the surreal 70s, up to today, featuring audio and video for entertaining weekly sessions. Including handouts for further reading and exploration, this seminar is intended for both writers and readers who love poetry and wish to gain a deeper experience of this form.

ALL = M = ONLINE + ASYNCH **Make, Break, and Repair** with Sherre Vernon. Fridays, 4:00-5:30. 8 weeks, starting April 21. Let's make new poems, break them open, and put them together differently. Come prepared to provide and receive encouraging feedback as we share the revision process and revised work. Alternating weeks are asynchronous for reading/annotating peer work.

ALL = M = ONLINE **Mining the Marvelous** with Thomas Townsley. Thursdays, 6:30-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 20. Surrealism taps into the subconscious to access the "marvelous," an altered reality perceived with intensity, as in certain dreams. We will read and discuss poems by the first-generation surrealists and their successors, discovering for ourselves the techniques used to generate "marvelous images" of our own.

ALL = M = ONLINE **Submitting Your Poetry: Before, During, After** with Gloria Heffernan. Mondays, 6:00-7:30. 4 weeks, starting April 17. Learn how to navigate the submission process, explore listings, select venues, target and track submissions, deal with rejection, and reach the widest possible audience. We will write weekly about the stages of the process, and submit to a minimum of five publications. *Note: class will meet for 3 weeks, work independently, then return for a final class on June 5th to check in on progress.*

PRO = W = ONLINE **DWC PRO Poetry Workshop** with Gemmas Cooper-Novack. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:30. 8 weeks, starting April 19. 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.

NONFICTION COURSES

ALL = W = ONLINE **The Spring Flow** with Georgia Popoff. 8 weeks. Two sections: Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00, starting April 19, OR Thursdays, 1:00-3:00, starting April 20. Our popular nonfiction critique workshop continues with weekly comments and detailed table critique that are the essence of this group, which welcomes new members. If you are working on a nonfiction project or need encouragement to resume a writing practice, join us!

FICTION COURSES

BEG = M = ONLINE **The Writer's Life III: Intro to Self-Editing** with Chris DelGuercio. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 18. 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 = M = HYBRID **Finding Your Character's Voice through POV** with Ron Bagliere. Mondays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 17. We'll explore the power of point of view in your stories, by seeing how well-known authors use them in storytelling. While exploring these points of view, we'll be sharing small writing assignments in each of them so see how they affect the written word and your voice.

INT = M = ONLINE **Fiction Reboot** with Keith Stahl. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 19. This forum for critique of new work in a supportive environment will incorporate in-class exercises to generate new work. You will receive creative, insightful ideas for further development of writing in progress, discuss technique, and suggestions for outside reading.

ALL = M = ONLINE **Getting It Right: Forensics for Mystery/Crime Writers** with Mary Jumbelic. Thursdays, 5:00-7:00. 8 weeks, starting April 20. Learn how to describe a crime scene with a dead body with scientific accuracy with a former Chief Medical Examiner, who will guide you through blood and wounds with the aim of staying true to the science. You will describe compelling, authentic scenes and receive professional critique from a writer who is also a forensic pathologist.

See "Cross-Genre Courses" on the next page for more classes dealing with fiction and nonfiction!

MORE SPRING 2023 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

DRAMATIC WRITING

ALL = M = ONLINE **I'm Talking Here: Voice in Drama** with Len Fonte. *Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 20.* Dramatic monologues, dialogue among characters, the ways voice carry a good play forward are the elements we'll explore as playwrights strive toward 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

PRO = M = ONLINE **Photo+Text/Text+Photo** with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. *Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00. 8 weeks, starting April 18.* This continuing workshop resumes to examine how text and photo can work together, contrary to doctrines such as "photo must speak for itself" or "text is superior to illustration." Some examples will be provided; participants show and read their work for direct feedback.

ALL = G = DWC **Sightlines** with Mary Hutchins Harris. *Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 6 weeks, starting April 11.* Join us to discover how the act of seeing into a visual artist's mind and imagination can open up and enhance our writing in unexpected ways as we create in response to art, in poetry or prose. In this ekphrastic workshop, we will meet at the DWC and at art installations throughout the Syracuse area.

INT = M = ONLINE **Funky Structures** with Kayla Blatchley. *Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 19.* If you missed it this winter, here's your chance. This class is for prose writers of braided essays, epistolary novels, obsessive lists, or stories with multiple protagonists: open to anyone curious about how to work and play with story structure. We will read some published work for models and inspiration, but mostly focus on creating and reviewing student work.

PRO = W = ONLINE **DWC PRO Prose Workshop** with Anna Scotti. *Wednesdays, 6:30-9:00. 8 weeks, starting April 19.* This workshop is for experienced fiction and nonfiction writers whose goal is publication, focused on strong peer critique. Limited space is available for PRO graduates and advanced students. Call 474.6851 x380 for details.

PRO = W = ONLINE **After Inspiration** with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. *Mondays, 7:15-9:15. 8 weeks, starting April 17.* This ongoing workshop focuses on

long-form prose revision. Some readings are provided, and students read their own work for direct feedback. New members working on fiction and nonfiction projects are welcomed.

ALL = S = ONLINE **Spring Reading Series Book Club** with Phil Memmer. *Tuesdays, 5:00-5:50, with five sessions on 4/11, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, and 5/23.* Each week, the DWC 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 reading! Best of all, Book Club itself is free... you just purchase the books through the DWC, at a discount! This season's Club includes eight books. *Registration by 4/5 is required, so that we can distribute books in time for the first session.*

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

ALL = M = ONLINE **Children's Book Writing Critique Group** with Susan Keeter. *Mondays, 6:00-8:00. 6 weeks, starting April 24.* Have you been writing for children and wish you could share your work with like-minded writers? Are you looking for a critique group with peers? Be ready to share work in progress. Get constructive criticism and ready yourself for professional publishing.

ALL = S = ONLINE **Writing Children's Books for the Educational Market** with Sandra Athans and Mike Downs. *Tuesday, May 30, 6:00-8:30.* The educational market could be your DREAM path to publication! High-interest nonfiction, engaging multi-volume series, and even creative fiction are the types of diverse assignments you could land from big name educational publishers. In this session, you'll learn the benefits, the basics, and the beginning steps needed to break into this dynamic market. Appropriate for all picture book, early reader, chapter book, and middle grade writers.

ALL = S = ONLINE **Pair Up and Publish: Co-Write Your Way to a Children's Book Contract** with Sandra Athans and Mike Downs. *Tuesday, June 6, 6:00-8:30.* Jump-start a stalled career, expand success as a solo writer, or launch into publishing! Join us to learn how YOU can make gains by working collaboratively. Co-writing books has the power to create exceptional, synergistic manuscripts, and further two authors' careers! This overview discusses finding a partner, choosing a topic, working collaboratively, and making the most of combined strengths. Appropriate for all picture book, early reader, chapter book, and middle grade writers.

COURSES FOR TEENS

YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY

A Saturday workshop for 6th-12th graders who are on fire to write.
Now celebrating our 13th year!

NUMBERLESS DREAMS

Also on Saturdays, an online writing workshop for teens with disabilities, taught by professional writers with disabilities.

All teen programs start in mid-April.

For more information:

Georgia Popoff / dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org
(315) 474-6851 x380

or visit <https://www.ymcacny.org/dwcyoung-authors-academy.html>

THANK YOU

The DWC is supported 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 and CNY Arts.



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](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 **DWCSPRING23** when you register.

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 all DWC workshops at a discount!
Use promo code **DWCYUSA**.

<https://ymcacny.org/dwc>

SPRING FACULTY BIOS

Sandra K. Athans is a practicing Literacy Specialist, featured speaker, published literacy author, and Regional Advisor for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI).

Ron Bagliere is a local author with more than 30 years of writing experience and facilitating writing workshops. His novels include *The Lion of Khum Jung*, a CNY Book Award finalist for fiction.

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.

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

Mike Downs is the author of more than 30 books for children. His books span science, technology, engineering, poetry, fantasy, and memoirs.

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. Her chapbook, *A Tongue Full of Yeses*, was selected for the South Carolina Poetry Initiative Chapbook Contest. She is an Adjunct Professor in the Lesley University MFA program.

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 published in many scientific and literary journals and have been finalists in an AARP/Huffington Post memoir contest and the Tucson Literary Festival.

Susan Keeter is an award-winning children's book illustrator who writes about health care and history. Recent projects include "Nah-Nah and the Night Sky" and "Sunday's Wheels," picture books she wrote and illustrated for schools in Ghana.

Phil Memmer founded the DWC in 2000. His sixth book of poems, *Cairns*, was published in 2022.

Georgia A. Popoff's most recent collection of poetry is *Psychometry* (Tiger Bark Press, 2019). An editor and book coaching consultant, she is also the DWC's Workshops Coordinator and was recently named Onondaga County Poet Laureate.

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.

Anna Scotti's honors include inclusion in *Best Mystery Stories of the Year 2022*. Her book *Big and Bad* won the Paterson Prize for Best YA Novel of the Year. Her award-winning poetry collection is *Bewildered by All This Broken Sky*.

Keith Stahl is a 2020 MFA graduate from Syracuse University. His 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*, *Puerto Del Sol*, and others.

Thomas Townsley has published five books of poetry and prose. His latest is *I Pray This Letter Reaches You In Time* (Doubly Mad Books). He is a graduate of the Syracuse University Creative Writing Program and now teaches at Mohawk Valley Community College.

Sherre Vernon has two award-winning chapbooks: *Green Ink Wings* and *The Name Is Perilous*. *Flame Nebula*, *Bright Nova*, her full-length poetry collection, is new from Main Street Rag.

WORKSHOP REMINDERS...

All enrollment is first-come, first-served.

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.

SPRING 2023 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, April 12

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		
_____ History of Prose Poetry	Free*	\$120	\$160
_____ Make, Break, and Repair	Free*	\$90	\$120
_____ Mining the Marvelous	Free*	\$90	\$120
_____ Submitting Your Poetry: Before, During, After	Free*	\$50	\$70
_____ DWC PRO Poetry Workshop	Free*	\$145	\$190
_____ The Winter Flow (Wednesdays)	Free*	\$120	\$160
_____ The Winter Flow (Thursdays)	Free*	\$120	\$160
_____ The Writers Life III	Free*	\$120	\$160
_____ Finding Your Character's Voice through POV	Free*	\$120	\$160
_____ Fiction Reboot	Free*	\$120	\$160
_____ Getting It Right: Forensics for Mystery/Crime Writers	Free*	\$120	\$160
_____ I'm Talking Here: Voice in Drama	Free*	\$120	\$160
_____ Photo+Text/Text+Photo	Free*	\$120	\$160
_____ Sightlines	Free*	\$70	\$90
_____ Funky Structures	Free*	\$120	\$160
_____ DWC PRO Prose Workshop	Free*	\$145	\$190
_____ After Inspiration	Free*	\$120	\$160
_____ Spring Reading Series Book Club (<i>Includes 8 books! Register ASAP</i>)	\$132	\$132	\$132
_____ Children's Book Writing Critique Group	Free*	\$90	\$120
_____ Writing Children's Books for the Educational Market	Free*	\$35	\$50
_____ Pair Up and Publish: Co-Write Your Way to a Children's Book...	Free*	\$35	\$50
_____ 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 4 for instructions about how to register for courses.