



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
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THE YMCA'S DOWNTOWN WRITERS CENTER EVENTS & WORKSHOPS – SUMMER 2023

SUMMER 2023 READINGS

Tuesday, July 25, 7:30 PM Poets ROSS WHITE and CINDY DAY

IN PERSON at St. Peter's Church, 12 Mill St. in Cazenovia, NY. We're delighted to once again partner with our friends at the Society for New Music for this Cazenovia Counterpoint event!

Ross White is the winner of the 2019 Sexton Prize, and author of three chapbooks. He is the director of Bull City Press, an independent publisher of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, and the host of *The Chapbook*. He teaches creative writing and grammar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His first full-length book of poems, *Charm Offensive*, is new this year.



Cindy Day has published in the *Green Mountains Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Nine Mile*, and *Mudfish*, among other magazines. In 2008 she won the Emerging Poet Award from *Stone Canoe Magazine*. She is a graduate of the DWC's "DWC PRO" poetry program. Her chapbook, *Amends*, was published in 2016 by Finishing Line Press, and her first full-length book, *Complicated Thanks*, is brand new this summer.



Friday, August 11, 7:00 PM Poet ZEINA AZZAM

ONLINE - [CLICK THE PHOTO TO REGISTER](#)

Zeina Azzam is a Palestinian American poet, writer, editor, and community activist. She is as the poet laureate of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, for 2022-2025. Her chapbook, *Bayna Bayna, In-Between*, was released in 2021 by The Poetry Box, and she has been nominated twice for a Pushcart Prize. Her first full-length book of poems, *Some Things Never Leave You*, was published by Tiger Bark Press earlier this summer. Zeina's poems have appeared widely in journals, webzines, and anthologies, including such venues as *Pleiades*, *Mizna*, *Gyroscope*, *Cutleaf Journal*, *National Academy of Poets Poem-a-Day*, and *Split this Rock*.



SEE INSIDE FOR WORKSHOP INFORMATION

SUMMER 2023 WRITING COURSES

Workshop Experience Level, Style, and Location Tags

- 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.
- 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 elements according to the instructor's syllabus.
- DWC** **Course will take place in-person at the YMCA.**
- ONLINE** **Course will take place on Zoom, with no in-person option.**
- HYBRID** **Students can participate either in-person at the YMCA, or on Zoom.**

POETRY COURSES

ALL = M = ONLINE **Tell Me a Story: Writing the Narrative Poem** with Gloria Heffernan. *Wednesdays, 3:00-5:00. 4 weeks, starting July 12.* Narrative poems use all the tools of poetry to tell stories. In this workshop, we will read, write, and share stories through engaging prompts in a generative and encouraging atmosphere.

INT = M = ONLINE **Nothing to "Express"? Try Conceptual Poetry!** with Thomas Townsley. *Mondays, 6:30-8:00. 4 weeks, starting July 10.* Conceptual poetry challenges commonly held assumptions about the fundamental purposes of poetry, the qualifications for being a poet, and the nature of the poem itself, particularly regarding expressivism and "originality." We will explore various conceptual poems, poetry prompts, and then workshop our results.

INT = G = ONLINE **The Technology of Poetry** with Jakob Maier. *Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 4 weeks, starting July 11.* How does the technology we write with shape what we create? We'll read and write poems exploring different writing technologies and their creative effects, from paper to computer to AI and beyond!

ALL = M = ONLINE **Summer Lovin' with Sherre Vernon.** *Thursdays, 1:00-2:30. 3 weeks, starting July 13.* Let's summon our summer love poems and love on some summer poems. In this generative, 3-week workshop, you'll build the foundation for a HOT micro-chap of heat-themed poems and have a blast!

ALL = M = ONLINE **Revising Your Poems: Creativity's Second Half** with Ona Gritz and Daniel Simpson. *Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 4 weeks, starting August 10.* We will re-envision our poems in an environment encouraging risk and experimentation. Along the way, we will study finished poems and the revisions that got them there.

ALL = M = ONLINE **Writing Form Poems** with Gemma Cooper-Novack. *Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 6 weeks, starting July 19.* Want to practice pantoums? Learn to vary your villanelles? Experiment with ekphrastics? This class will explore a wide range of poetic forms—we will research forms old and new, read examples, discuss them, and practice making them our own!

MORE SUMMER WRITING COURSES

FICTION COURSES

See "Cross-Genre Courses" for more!

BEG = W = ONLINE **The Writer's Life 4: Workshopping Continued** with Chris DelGuercio. Tuesdays, 6:00–8:00. 4 weeks, starting July 11 OR 4 weeks, starting August 8. The next step 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 while kicking your work up a notch.

ALL = G = ONLINE **The Speculative Fiction Generator** with Chris DelGuercio. Thursdays, 6:00–8:00. 4 weeks starting August 10. The course's aim is to complete new short spec-fic works based on a variety of prompts, nurture and share those ideas, and collaboratively brainstorm possible pathways to completion. We'll focus on achieving the goal of generating a story from scratch!

NONFICTION COURSES

See "Cross-Genre Courses" for more!

ALL = W = ONLINE **The Summer Flow** with Georgia Popoff. Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00. 6 weeks, starting July 12, OR Thursdays, 1:00–3:00. 6 weeks, starting July 13. Our popular nonfiction critique workshop continues with weekly comments and detailed peer critique that are the essence of this group, which welcomes new members seasonally. If you are working on a nonfiction project or need encouragement to resume your writing practice, please join us.

CROSS-GENRE / OTHER COURSES

ALL = M = ONLINE **First Things First** with Phil Memmer. Wednesdays, 6:00–7:30. 3 weeks, starting July 12. What makes a piece of writing start with a bang? We'll examine the characteristics of great openings in both poetry and prose, with an eye towards applying their lessons in our own work.

PRO = W = ONLINE **After Inspiration** with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. Mondays, 7:15–9:15. 6 weeks, starting July 10. Our on-going, cross-genre workshop focuses on long-form prose revision. Some readings are provided, and participants read their work for direct feedback. New members working on fiction and nonfiction projects are welcomed.

ALL = G = ONLINE **Telling the Whole Story—In Six Words or Less** with Derek Pollard. Wednesdays, 6:30–7:30. 3 weeks, starting August 2. From haiku to micro fiction to the 6-word memoir and 2-minute play, we'll spend 3 weeks writing and exploring *big* work in short forms.

ALL = W = ONLINE **Know Thyself** with Kayla Blatchley. Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00. 4 weeks, starting July 12. A workshop dedicated to observation and close analysis of student work to better understand our own habits as writers, to ensure our practices align with our goals, and to use that knowledge to further refine what we put on the page while creating new work that reflects our values.

ALL = M = ONLINE **Writerly Obsessions** with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Thursdays, 6:00–8:00. 6 weeks, starting July 20. Kafka had entrapment. Roxane Gay has the dialogue of love and violence. How can *you* mine your own obsessions into distinctive, original works? We will identify our obsessions and break them down, while acknowledging the unique perspectives that make us who we are as writers without growing repetitive.

PRO = M = ONLINE **Photo+Text/Text+Photo** with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. Tuesdays, 7:00–9:00. 6 weeks, starting July 11. This workshop examines 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.

BEG = M = HYBRID **Introduction to Screenwriting** with Tony Filosi. Tuesdays, 6:00–8:00. 4 weeks, starting July 11. For folks looking to write for the big or small screen, we'll learn the essential basics of script writing from proper formatting, and structure, to how to avoid classic writing pitfalls.

ALL = M = DWG **Defeat the Summer Doldrums** with Chris Cresswell. Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00. 4 weeks, starting August 9. Jumpstart your creativity with writers, musicians, and sound-makers to collaborate for performance and recording. Learn writing and recording basics, generate new work, and share group feedback. This class is rooted in Cresswell's *One Mic Project*, and the belief that "one mic can amplify a voice, a voice can tell a story, and a story can change the world."

More classes on the next page!

MORE COURSES

ALL = M = ONLINE **Writing KidLit** with Ona Gritz. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 4 weeks, starting July 13. Want to write for children or teens? Whether you have a glimmer of an idea or a manuscript underway, join us for supportive critiques and informative discussions on the craft and heart of writing kidlit.

ALL = S = ONLINE **The DWC Summer Book Club** with Phil Memmer. Wednesdays, 5:00-5:45. Two sessions: July 19 and August 9. Each week before our featured reading series, this book club reads and discusses the latest book by our visiting authors. This is a great way to warm up for our popular readings. Best of all, the fee includes the latest book by each author, at a discount, delivered to your door. Please register no later than July 1 so that we can order books.

FOR TEENS

Each of these terrific programs will hold summer sessions beginning mid-July.

All teen programs are designed to help students generate new work in a supportive environment.

YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY IN PERSON

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

NUMBERLESS DREAMS ONLINE

Also on Saturdays, an online writing workshop for teens with disabilities, taught by professional writers with disabilities.
Open to students grades 9-12.
This program is free for all eligible youth.

For more information:

Georgia Popoff
dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org
(315) 474.6851 x380
ymcacny.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. 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. 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 DWCSUMMER23 when you register.

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://ymcacny.org/dwc>

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

All class times are Eastern, PM unless otherwise noted.

We do not call to confirm registrations; but we will call you if there is any problem.

Refunds are not given after a course begins. (If a course is canceled, all payments are refunded, of course.)

SUMMER FACULTY BIOS

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

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*.

Christopher Cresswell is a composer, songwriter, educator, guitarist, and WCNY-FM radio host. He teaches music composition at Onondaga Community College, and founded One Mic Project.

Chris DelGuercio's novella is *Eden Succeeding*. His short fiction has appeared in such magazines as *Kaleidotrope* and *OG's Speculative Fiction*.

Tony Filosi is an Adjunct Instructor at the S.U. School of Visual and Performing Arts, where he teaches film and script writing. He is the Onondaga County Film Fund Officer overseeing the distribution of funds to local film productions in the area.

Ona Gritz is the author of the middle-grade novel, *August or Forever*, forthcoming from Fitzroy Books in 2023. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Utne Reader*, and elsewhere.

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*.

Jakob Maier is the managing editor of *Peach Mag*. His chapbook *BOX OF SWORDS* was a finalist for Foundlings Press's inaugural Wallace Prize, and was published as part of the Strays series in 2020.

Phil Memmer's newest book of poems is *Cairns*. He is the recipient of a 2023 Individual Artist Fellowship from the New York State Council on the Arts.

Derek Pollard is editor of *Till One Day the Sun Shall Shine More Brightly: The Poetry and Prose of Donald Revell*. His newest book of poems, *On the Verge of Something Bright and Good*, was published in 2021.

Georgia A. Popoff's most recent collection of poetry, *Psychometry*, was released in 2019 by Tiger Bark Press. She is Poet Laureate of Onondaga County.

Nancy Keefe Rhodes is a writer, editor, and curator whose work covers film and photo. She teaches in the Film and Media Arts program at Syracuse Univ.

Daniel Simpson's fourth book, *Inside the Invisible*, won the inaugural Propel Poetry Prize from Nine Mile Books (2022), and has been nominated for the American Academy of Poets Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize.

Thomas Townsley has published five books of poetry and prose. His latest is *I Pray This Letter Reaches You in Time* (Doubly Mad Pooks). He 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 first full-length poetry collection, was released by Main Street Rag in fall 2022.

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 and CNY Arts.



Council on the Arts



SUMMER 2023 ONLINE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: One Week Before First Class Meeting

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"/> Tell Me a Story: Writing the Narrative Poem	Free* : \$60 : \$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Nothing to "Express"? Try Conceptual Poetry!	Free* : \$45 : \$65
<input type="checkbox"/> The Technology of Poetry	Free* : \$60 : \$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Lovin'	Free* : \$35 : \$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Revising Your Poems: Creativity's Second Half	Free* : \$60 : \$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing Form Poems	Free* : \$90 : \$120
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writer's Life IV: Workshopping Continued (JULY)	Free* : \$60 : \$80
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writer's Life IV: Workshopping Continued (AUGUST)	Free* : \$60 : \$80
<input type="checkbox"/> The Speculative Fiction Generator	Free* : \$60 : \$80
<input type="checkbox"/> The Summer Flow (WEDNESDAYS)	Free* : \$90 : \$125
<input type="checkbox"/> The Summer Flow (THURSDAYS)	Free* : \$90 : \$125
<input type="checkbox"/> First Things First	Free* : \$35 : \$50
<input type="checkbox"/> After Inspiration	Free* : \$90 : \$125
<input type="checkbox"/> Telling the Whole Story—In Six Words or Less	Free* : \$30 : \$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Know Thyself	Free* : \$60 : \$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Writerly Obsessions	Free* : \$90 : \$125
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo+Text/Text+Photo	Free* : \$90 : \$125
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Screenwriting	Free* : \$60 : \$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Defeat the Summer Doldrums	Free* : \$60 : \$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing KidLit	Free* : \$60 : \$80
<input type="checkbox"/> The DWC Summer Book Club	\$48* : \$48 : \$48
<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: _____

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 previous page for instructions about how to register for courses.