



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
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# THE YMCA'S DOWNTOWN WRITERS CENTER WRITING WORKSHOPS – FALL 2023

## JOIN US FOR THE 2023 CNY BOOK AWARDS!

CNY's best literary party is back! Join us as we honor the books published by CNY authors in 2022, and announce the winners of the Poetry, Fiction, Nonfiction, and Children's Books awards, as well as the Nine Mile Community Award.

**Thursday, October 5th, 6:00–8:00 p.m.**  
**The CNY Philanthropy Center**  
**431 E. Fayette St., Syracuse, NY**

### TICKETS:

**\$75 per person general admission, or join us as a Patron at \$145 and receive a copy of each winning book!**

**To order, call 315-474-6851 x328,**  
**or [CLICK HERE](#) to order online.**

**Special thanks to our sponsors:**

*Vita DeMarchi*



### 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 on Zoom/etc.

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

**ASYNCH** Learn at your own pace in these asynchronous courses!

# FALL 2023 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

## POETRY COURSES

**INT/PRO = W = ONLINE** **Let's Dig In!** with Georgia Popoff. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 12. We will collaboratively discover opportunities in our works in progress, incorporating many lenses to examine a poem. Enjoy working together in real time to chart routes to our poems' full potential, affording readers deeper images, inference, and connection.

**ALL = M = ONLINE** **Bishop, Kenyon, Swir: Poetry Craft Seminar** with Elizabeth Twiddy. Wednesdays, 4:00-6:00. 8 weeks, starting October 4. We'll read and discuss poems mainly by Elizabeth Bishop, Jane Kenyon and Anna Swir, looking for craft lessons and generative inspiration. This course is focused on reading and discussion, with generative prompts given by the instructor; it is not a workshop.

**ALL = M = DWC** **Let's Get Lyrical!** with Sara Parrott. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 6 weeks, starting October 12. This "sound garden" workshop will unearth what makes lyric poetry sing—meter, form, alliteration and more. We'll read a wide variety of lyric poems—odes, sonnets, elegies—and generate poems of our own to share.

**ALL = G = ONLINE** **Poetry as Legacy** with Gloria Heffernan. Wednesdays, 10:00 AM-12:00. 8 weeks, starting October 4. What stories do you want to leave behind for future generations? In this generative workshop, we will write from prompts, read exemplary poems, and share work of our own that is written from the heart.

**PRO = W = HYBRID** **DWC PRO Poetry Workshop** with Yvonne Murphy. Mondays, 6:00-8:30. 8 weeks, starting October 2. Elevate your poems from "Guess I'll keep this" to "I can't wait to share this!" in this workshop that stresses investigating how great poems work. This workshop is for experienced poets whose goal is publication. Limited space is available for DWC PRO graduates and other advanced students. Call 474.6851 x380 for details.

## NONFICTION COURSES

**ALL = W = ONLINE** **The Fall Flow** with Georgia Popoff. 8 weeks. Two sections: Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00, starting October 4, OR Thursdays, 1:00-3:00, starting October 12. 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!

**ALL = G = ONLINE** **Getting to the Heart: An Introduction to Memoir** with Susan Keeter. Thursday, 6:00-8:00. 6 weeks, starting October 26. Do you want to write a memoir or help a loved one write his/hers/theirs? Using writing prompts based on StoryCorps interview questions and Modern Love's "36 Questions that Lead to Love," this class helps you start writing a manuscript that is soul-searching, intimate and satisfying.

## FICTION COURSES

**BEG = M = ONLINE** **The Writer's Life, Part I** with Chris DelGuercio. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 3. What makes a successful writer? This class helps beginners discover how to maintain a productive writing mindset, find a process that works for them, and overcome obstacles to they can reach their full literary potential!

**INT = M = ONLINE** **Reading for (Fiction) Writers** with Nicholas Rys. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 4. We'll read exemplary pieces of short fiction in this class and ask ourselves, "What can we learn from this?" This class is technical approach to thinking about narrative, character development, and syntax, so we can take what is useful to us into our own writing.

**INT = M = ONLINE** **Essentials to Writing Children's Books** with Susan Keeter. Mondays, 6:00-8:00. 6 weeks, starting October 23. This class combines writing exercises with nuts-and-bolts insights into the world of children's publishing. Learn the steps of creating a children's book. Test your story ideas for kid-appeal. Look at editorial guidelines and the focus of various publishers.

**ALL = M = ONLINE** **Forensics for Writers** with Mary Jumbelic. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 4. Want to write a murder mystery? Learn from a professional forensic pathologist and published author how to describe the corpse, evidence collection, and the role of medical examiners, so you can develop authentic scenes and suspenseful stories.

**INT = M = ONLINE** **Fiction Reboot** with Keith Stahl. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 4. Share creative, insightful ideas for ongoing projects in a supportive environment and use in-class exercises to energize new work. We'll dis-

# MORE FALL 2023 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

cuss techniques, our individual processes, and get some suggestions for outside reading.

## DRAMATIC WRITING

**ALL = M = ONLINE** **Write a Play with a Snap, Crackle, and Pop!** with Len Fonte. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 12. 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 first timers and writers with some experience.

## CROSS-GENRE COURSES

**PRO = W = ONLINE** **DWC PRO Prose Workshop** with Kayla Blatchley. Thursdays, 6:00-8:30. 8 weeks, starting October 12. Discover a variety of modern creative nonfiction, and explore ways nonfiction writers have crafted personal stories that relate to the larger social, cultural, and historical concerns of our time. Limited space is available for DWC PRO graduates and other advanced prose students. Call 474.6851 x380 for details.

**PRO = W = ONLINE** **Photo+Text/Text+Photo** with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. Tuesdays, 7:15-9:15. 8 weeks, starting October 3. Typically, when words & photos appear together, one serves the other. Images "illustrate" text, text "captions" images. But what changes when we suppose the two are equal? We'll look at many examples in this class and students will present their own work as well.

**INT = W = DWC** **Writing the Body in Trouble** with Stephen Kuusisto. Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. 8 weeks, starting October 3. This class will focus on the circumstances of bodily individuality. We will write about the body in all its remarkable subjectivities and explore the techniques of putting poetry into prose; strengthening our voices; and using devices from fiction to create writing both cinematic and original. Bring your body.

**PRO = W = ONLINE** **After Inspiration: Long-form Prose Revision** with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. Mondays, 7:15-9:15. 8 weeks, starting October 2. This workshop is for writers with longform prose projects, either fiction or nonfiction. Join a core group of writers who work hard together. There will be suggested reading and participants will present aloud in class.

**ALL = G = DWC** **Sergeant Sarah's Bootcamp** with Sarah Freligh. Saturday, October 7, 10:00 a.m.-12:30. Join us for this one-time, generative class guaranteed to get your creative engine revved up and running! We'll discuss published works and use those as inspirational springboards into the prompts. All genres, all levels welcome.

**ALL = S = ONLINE** **Fall Reading Series Book Club** with Phil Memmer. Wednesdays, 5:00-5:50, with sessions on 10/4, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, and 11/29. 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 nine books. *To be sure you receive the first title on time, please register by 9/20.*

## SONGWRITING

**ALL = M = HYBRID** **Songwriting Circle** with Jane Zell. Mondays, 7:00-9:00. 8 weeks, starting October 2. We'll gather weekly to experiment, edit, and refine our songwriting style with gentle feedback and by looking at the work of renowned singers and songwriters. Our last meeting will conclude with an in-person event to share the best of our work with our fellow artists.

## COURSES FOR TEENS

### YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY

A Saturday workshop for 6th-12th graders who are on fire to write.

Now celebrating our 13th year!

10 weeks, starting October 7th.

### NUMBERLESS DREAMS

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

Two six-week sessions, starting September 23rd and November 4th.

### For more information:

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

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

## MEET TIM CARTER, OUR NEW WORKSHOPS COORDINATOR!

After 12 years of leading our workshop series, Georgia Popoff has retired as our Workshops Coordinator. She'll still be hanging around, both as an instructor, as the leader of our teen programming, and as the leader for some special fun projects. It's definitely the end of an era.



Poet and DWC instructor **Tim Carter** will be taking over the Workshops Coordinator position, effective this season. Many of you know Tim from workshops, or from his recent reading at the DWC to celebrate his new chapbook, *The Pigs*. He is also the author of the poetry collection *Remains*. We're excited to have him take over the role!

You can reach Tim at 315-474-6851 x380, or at [tcarter@ymcacny.org](mailto:tcarter@ymcacny.org).

## 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 **DWCFALL23** when you register.

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

<https://ymcacny.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*.

**Chris DelGuercio's** is a writer, teacher, and editor. His new collection of short stories, *An Unsettled Score*, will be released this fall. Visit him at [www.CDelGuercio.com](http://www.CDelGuercio.com).

**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's** most recent book is *A Brief Natural History of Women* (Harbor Editions). Her awards include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Saltonstall Foundation.

**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, M.D.** is the retired Chief Medical Examiner of Onondaga County and a published author of creative nonfiction. She brings both her forensic knowledge and writing experience together to teach classes for mystery and crime writers.

**Susan Keeter** recently published three books for children in Ghana: *Sunday's Wheels*, *Nana and the Night Sky*, and *Stars of Ghana*. Keeter has illustrated over a dozen children's books, several of which are award-winning.

**Stephen Kuusisto** is the author of the memoirs *Have Dog, Will Travel*, *Planet of the Blind*, and *Eavesdropping: A Memoir of Blindness and Listening*, and the poetry collections *Only Bread, Only Light*, *Letters to Borges*, and *Old Horse, What Is To Be Done?*

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

**Yvonne C. Murphy** is a poet and Professor of Arts at SUNY Empire State University, where she teaches creative writing and studio art. Her first book, *Aviaries*, was a selection for the Carolina Wren Prize in Poetry.

**Sara Parrott** is the author of *Tipping the Water Jar of Heaven* (Nine Mile Books). Her poems have appeared in *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The Literary Nest*, *Dappled Things*, and *Light on the Walls of Life*, a tribute to Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

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

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

**Nicholas Rys** is a writer and educator living in Syracuse, NY. His fiction has been published in *The Antioch Review*, *Lake Effect*, *the Heavy Feather Review*, and others. He holds an MFA in Fiction from Bowling Green State University.

**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.

**Elizabeth Twiddy** has an MFA from Syracuse University, where she won the Joyce Carol Oates award for poetry. Her two books are *Love-Noise* (Standing Stone Books 2010) and *Zoo Animals in the Rain* (Turtle Ink Press 2009).

**Jane Zell** studied music at OCC and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She currently performs with her group the Zelltones, and with Dos XX.

## 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.

# FALL 2023 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, September 27

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"/> Let's Dig In!	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Bishop, Kenyon, Swir	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Let's Get Lyrical	Free*	\$90	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry As Legacy	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> DWC PRO Poetry Workshop	Free*	\$145	\$190
<input type="checkbox"/> The Fall Flow (Wednesdays)	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> The Fall Flow (Thursdays)	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> DWC PRO Nonfiction Workshop	Free*	\$145	\$190
<input type="checkbox"/> Getting to the Heart	Free*	\$90	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writer's Life, Part I	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading for (Fiction) Writers	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Essentials to Writing Children's Books	Free*	\$90	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> Forensics for Writers	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Write a Play With Snap, Crackle, and Pop!	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo+Text/Text+Photo	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing the Body in Trouble	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiction Reboot	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> After Inspiration	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Songwriting Circle	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Fall Reading Series Book Club <i>(Includes 9 books!)</i>	\$165	\$165	\$165
<input type="checkbox"/> Sergeant Sarah's Bootcamp	Free*	\$35	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.**