

Monday October 4, 2010

CAPE COD ONLINE | CLASSIFIEDS | CONTACT US | SUBSCRIBER TOOLS | MOBILE NEWS | E-MAIL NEWSLETTERS

56° 
Forecast | Radar

ROBIES
HEATING | COOLING
REFRIGERATION

NEWS BUSINESS SPORTS OPINION ENTERTAINMENT **LIFESTYLE** MULTIMEDIA COMMUNITY NEWS REPORTS VISITOR GUIDE MARKETPLACE

At poetry festival, you can work with pros

Photo 1 of 1 | [View Enlarged Photo](#)



3 PHW DUBM DYVIZ LDBDGDISPHWIZ UZUJIZ FUMKPSHIDMSQWIRIKWH
0 DVWCRKXVHM3 PHWIZ HAWDD

By **Melanie Lauwers**
mlauwers@capecodonline.com
October 03, 2010

Before you sign up to write poetry at the Massachusetts Poetry Festival, here's a question you should ask yourself: Can folks be taught how to write poetry?

Jarita Davis thinks they can, and she will lead a poetry writing workshop during the one-day festival, to be held Oct. 16 at the Unitarian Church of Barnstable. A pen and notebook are all you have to bring.

"One of the best things to do to come up with new material is to get out of your own way," Davis says. To that end, she'll lead distraction exercises that will take the focus off writing the poem and allow instead for basic starting points around which a poem could be written.

What's the difference between that style of writing workshop and so-called feedback, or critiquing, workshops?

Well, first of all, for a feedback workshop you have to bring a work in progress.

Plus, Davis says, feedback workshops are "best with those you know already." With strangers, "people you're not going to work with again," being critiqued is less helpful.

Besides, she says, it's "more fun in writing workshops with people coming up with fresh material."

That's the point of her 1½-hour segment of the festival; to come up with fresh writing, rather than reworking poems already under way.

"If whatever you write (in the workshop) is junk, the exercises take the pressure off; you can just blame the exercise," she says.

And don't worry: A certain amount of shyness is expected. In fact, when Davis was in graduate school for creative writing fiction, she shied away from any poetry-writing courses. Then she met a faculty member who invited her to participate in a class where the poems would be rough and new, not polished. That type of activity opened a door for her.

Davis' workshop will be the first section of the poetry event. Also on tap is a 1½-hour discussion of William Butler Yeats' "The Tower," led by poet and critic Daniel Tobin; then keynote readings by Susan Donnelly, whose most recent work was "Capture the Flag" (Iris Press, 2009), and Afaa Michael Weaver, a recipient of the Pushcart Prize and creator of a new poetic form he calls Bop.

Davis says her workshop "will be tied into the other elements of the festival ... to give the whole day a shape."

Midday, a book fair will offer poetry books by Cape Cod authors for sale. There is no additional charge to sell a book.

Davis says organizers of the event have no idea how many poets and poets-in-training will attend the event; it's the first one of its kind here. Next year's Massachusetts Poetry Festival will be held in May in Salem.

Text Size: [A](#) | [A](#) | [A](#)

 [Print this Article](#)  [Email this Article](#)

ShareThis

NEWS | **CALENDAR** | HOMES | AUTOS | JOBS | CLASSIFIEDS

Search Stories, Videos and more... [FIND IT!](#)

GET YOUR SMOKEY ON
ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES.

9 out of 10 wildfires are caused by humans.
9 out of 10 wildfires can be prevented.

[▶ LEARN MORE](#)



HOMES | JOBS | **RENTALS** | CARS

 **\$750 /**
Cape Cod Online
Classifieds
[More Details...](#)

 **\$3,000 /**
Cape Cod Online
Classifieds
[More Details...](#)

 **\$950 /**
Centerville, MA
Cape Cod Online
Classifieds
[More Details...](#)

[View all Featured Properties](#)
(What are these?)

capecodONLINE.com DEAL OF THE WEEK [MORE >>](#)

52 DEALS ONLINE TODAY

October Special at Pleasant Bay Village
Pleasant Bay Village Motel

\$50 Full Body Massage OR Facial
Cosmetique Salon

\$75 Off Your Pool Deck Restoration & Free
Roof & Deck Checks
Deck Techs


\$50 Off your Deck Cleaning & Preserving &
Free Roof & Deck Checks
Deck Techs

Free 7 Day Pass & PT Orientation!
Fitness Company Express

We buy antiques, gold, silver and more!

[PREV](#) LOCAL REVIEW [NEXT](#)

HOME

[TERMS OF USE](#) | [COPYRIGHT](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [SITE MAP](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [NIE](#) | [ADVERTISE](#) | [MOBILE](#) | [BUY PHOTOS](#) | 

Copyright © 2010 Cape Cod Media Group, a division of Dow Jones Local Media Group. All Rights Reserved.