

PRESENTS

The 2014 Cape Henlopen Poetry and Prose Writers' Retreat

Retreat Leaders: JoAnn Balingit, Poetry; Alice Elliott Dark, Prose
Date: October 16-19, 2014
Location: The Virden Conference Center - Lewes, Delaware
Participant Fee: \$300 (include room and board)

Spend four days writing at the beach in the company of fellow writers at the Virden Conference Center. The nearby beaches at Cape Henlopen State Park or the surrounding coastal wetlands will lend tranquility and intimacy to your writing retreat and in workshops with either JoAnn Balingit, Delaware's Poet Laureate, or Alice Elliott Dark, short story author and novelist. There will be writing time during the day and writing workshops in the evening, with no interruptions or meals to cook! Writers at all levels of experience are invited to apply. The workshops are designed for participants to generate new work, explore craft, and learn from each other in a safe and supportive environment.

The Division of the Arts is pleased to support this low-cost multi-day retreat for Delaware writers. The application process is competitive, and participants will be chosen based on the merit of their writing submissions. Work samples will be juried in an anonymous review to choose 10 poetry attendees and 10 fiction attendees from the pool of applicants.

In addition to these 20 participants, a 2014 Retreat Fellow will also be chosen, based on a blind review of writing sample, project statement and account of his or her contributions to the Delaware writing community.

Beginners are encouraged to apply to this retreat. Past attendees of the Cape Henlopen Writing Retreats are also welcome to apply. If you write both prose and poetry, and wish to apply to both workshops, you must send two separate applications. Please be aware, if selected, you will be offered only one spot, determined by the ranking of your submission.

Please email the application form and attach the following to the attention of Sheila Dean Ross (sheila.ross@state.de.us) no later than 4:30 PM on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 (note the new deadline):

- *(if applying for the Poetry Writers Workshop)* up to 10 pages of poetry; no more than one poem per page
- *(if applying for the Fiction Workshop)* up to 10 pages of prose, double-spaced

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The Poetry Workshop

The poetry workshop is designed to give poets at all levels of experience a four-day weekend with plenty of time to write. Poetry participants will meet Friday and Saturday evenings to share new poems and discuss them in a relaxed, friendly and dedicated atmosphere. For those who enjoy writing together, JoAnn will lead short sessions with guided prompts on Thursday night and Friday morning. During this retreat, you are free to settle into the lap of your writing, free from interruptions and distractions. Participants will share new poem drafts and hear responses from the instructor and the group in the evenings. Together we'll look at models, ways a poem could be put together, and the many tools of the craft—form, sound, syntax, imagery, word choice and the anatomy of the line. The goal throughout the weekend is to provide encouragement, a safe space for experimenting, and techniques to move your practice toward a higher level of skill.

Instructor Bio – JoAnn Balingit

JoAnn Balingit is the author of *Words for House Story* (2013) and *Forage*, awarded the 2011 Whitebird Chapbook Prize. She works as an assistant editor at YesYes Books for eBook development. Her poems and prose have appeared in *Best New Poets*, *DIAGRAM*, *Harpur Palate*, *The Mackinac*, *Poets/Artists*, *Salt Hill*, *Smartish Pace*, *Verse Daily* and elsewhere. Appointed Delaware's Poet Laureate in 2008, JoAnn teaches poetry for schools and non-profit organizations, and for young writers coordinates the Delaware Writing Region of The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Her awards include the 2010 Global Filipino Literary Award in Poetry and fellowships from Delaware Division of the Arts, the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, as well as a 2014 residency at The Camargo Foundation in Cassis, France as a Bread Loaf Bakeless fellow.

The Fiction/Memoir Workshop

The fiction workshop—also suitable for those exploring memoir—is designed to play with two different aspects of your work. The first is to work on learning how to write the beginning of a story that will make it easier to plot all of it; and the second is to generate possibilities for stories or personal essays based on writing prompts. You will be writing during your days in Lewes at the Virden Center, and will therefore be free of any expectations of completion or perfection. You will be encouraged to feel free to stretch your work and write from your deepest feelings and wisdom. You will read your work aloud to the group the day you write it, and we will listen to you receptively. This course is crafted to provide information and response rather than critique.

Instructor Bio – Alice Elliott Dark

Alice Elliott Dark is the author of the novel, *Think of England*, and two collections of short stories, *In The Gloaming* and *Naked to the Waist*. Her work has appeared in, among others, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Redbook*, *DoubleTake*, *Best American Short Stories*, *Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards*, and translated into many languages. "In the Gloaming," a story, was chosen by John Updike for inclusion in *The Best American Stories of The Century* and was made into films by HBO and Trinity Playhouse. Her non-fiction reviews and essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and many anthologies. She is a past recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and has been awarded Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Fellowships for residency at The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and Yaddo. She is an Assistant Professor in the MFA program and English department at Rutgers-Newark.