



**Contact: Mark Schorr, Executive Director  
Robert Frost Foundation  
978-725-8828**

**13th Annual Robert Frost Festival Friday Program  
Features Early Education Through Poetry**

Photo caption:

Lesley Lee Francis, will be featured speaker at the 2009 Frost Festival In-service Friday Program for Greater Lawrence teachers, librarians, and parents..

EVENT: 13th Annual Robert Frost Festival  
DATE: Friday, October 23, 2009  
PLACE: Lawrence Library, 51 Lawrence St.,  
Lawrence, Mass. Wheelchair accessible, free parking  
TIME: 10:30 p.m. - 12:00 noon.  
ADMISSION: Free and open to the public  
CONTACT: 978-725-8828 or [www.frostfoundation.org](http://www.frostfoundation.org)

PROGRAM: 10:30-10:45 Welcome, light refreshments,  
10:45 -11:45 Dr. Francis' talk "Education By Poetry"  
followed by questions and answers  
11:45- Ray Landry and guests. How to bring a Robert Frost Poetry Bee  
to your middle school or how to add a Poetry Out Loud  
program to your high school.

LAWRENCE, Mass., September 8 The Robert Frost Foundation will present a special in-service Friday program for teachers, librarians, and parents in the Greater Lawrence area on Friday October 23 at the Lawrence Library from 10.30am- noon. The featured speaker will be Robert Frost's granddaughter, Lesley Francis, who will give a talk about her mother Lesley's journals and early education by poetry. Francis has written a book describing the approach that her grandmother Elinor Frost and her grandfather Robert Frost used as a part of the children's at-home schooling while on the Derry Farm in Derry, New Hampshire. Dr, Francis' biographical study, *Robert Frost: An Adventure in Poetry, 1900-1918*, is available in paperback (Transaction Publishers).

Dr Francis' talk will be followed by Frost Foundation Chairman Ray Landry and guests with a discussion of How to bring a Robert Frost Poetry Bee to your middle school or how to add a Poetry Out Loud program to your high school. The foundation will honor teachers in the Greater Lawrence Area who have found innovative ways to use poetry in their classrooms.

The Robert Frost Festival has been funded in part by the White Fund, Massachusetts Humanities, the Catherine McCarthy Charitable Trust, the Josephine G. Russell Trust, the Stevens Foundation, by volunteers, and by individual contributors. For more information, see Frost Foundation website at [frostfoundation.org](http://frostfoundation.org) or contact Mark Schorr at the Robert Frost Foundation 978-725-8828.

The Robert Frost Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded in 1997, originated when local artists, scholars, and writers came together to commemorate Robert Frost's work and his connection to the City of Lawrence. The mission of the Foundation is to communicate the spirit and work of Robert Frost to his hometown of Lawrence and beyond; to celebrate the profound influence Lawrence had on the poet and his work; and to use this legacy as a source of inspiration for the arts and community enhancement. The Robert Frost Foundation is located at The Lawrence Library, 51 Lawrence St., MA 01841. For more information, please call (978) 725-8828 or visit [www.frostfoundation.org](http://www.frostfoundation.org)

# # #

Please see the separate press release for Saturday Frost Festival events (attached)



**Contact: Mark Schorr, Executive Director  
Robert Frost Foundation  
978-725-8828**

**13th Annual Robert Frost Festival Saturday Program  
Features Robert & Elinor: Poems of A Great Love**

Photo caption:

Megan Grumbling, Jarita Davis, and Mark Schorr will be featured readers at the 2009 Frost Festival.

- EVENT: 13th Annual Robert Frost Festival  
DATE: Saturday, October 24, 2009  
PLACE: Lawrence Library, 51 Haverhill St.  
Lawrence, Mass. Wheelchair accessible, free parking  
TIME: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
ADMISSION: Free and open to the public  
CONTACT: 978-725-8828 or [www.frostfoundation.org](http://www.frostfoundation.org)
- PROGRAM:
- 1:00-1:15 A Welcome by Ray Landry, Chair of the Frost Board.
  - 1:15-1:30 A musical rendition of Frost's early poetry.
  - 1:30-1:45 Karen Kline's recap of Friday's in-service day with Lesley Lee Francis, Frost's granddaughter
  - 1:45-2:10 Mark Schorr's talk on "Robert and Elinor" offers a new reading of the cycle of Frost's love poems in A Boy's Will (written in Lawrence and Derry
  - 2:10-2:30 Megan Grumbling, Winner of the 2004 Frost Award, reads from a new manuscript very much in the spirit of Frost.
  - 2:30-3:00 Favorite Frost Poems from the audience
  - 3:10-4:00 Talk on "Frost and Contemporary Poetry" by Jarita Davis. Announcement and reading of the winning poem and poems selected from the short-list of poems in the 13<sup>th</sup> Robert Frost Award.

LAWRENCE, Mass., September 8 The Robert Frost Foundation will present the 13th Annual Robert Frost Festival from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 24, 2009 at the Lawrence Library (Main Branch) in Lawrence.

The program will feature a new reading of the love poems Robert Frost wrote in Lawrence and Derry and presented as a present to his wife Elinor in a Lawrence chap book and then in A Boy's Will, his first published book, The festival will also poetry readings by two contemporary poets, Megan Grumbling, a Winner of the Frost Award in 2004, and Jarita Davis, the judge of this year's Robert Frost Award.

The afternoon begins with Frost Executive Director Mark Schorr's talk that promises to shed some new light on the love story of Robert and Elinor Frost in Lawrence and Derry, N.H. through a reading of Frost's first chapbook, "Twilight" and his first trade published poetry book,

A Boy's Will. Schorr will provide new evidence on which poems were written in Lawrence and how they reflect a modern love story. Special copies of Frost's first book, "A Boy's Will," will be available and will include notes on Schorr's talk for lifetime students of Frost who want to closely examine the cycle of love poems for themselves. In his talk, Schorr will try to pinpoint the poems which made Elinor fall in love with Robert's work. Schorr's current chapbook, "Conscious Explanations" (Pen and Anvil Press) will also be available at the book-signing table.

As in previous festivals, the audience is invited to participate. This year they are encouraged to bring the poem that caused them to "fall in love" with Frost's poetry.

The interactive portion of the program will be followed by a reading by Megan Grumbling, The winner of the 2004 Frost Award will read from her new manuscript, that was inspired, in part, by the spirit of Frost. Megan Grumbling is a resident of Portland, Maine. Her current chapbook "To And From Deepening" will be available at the book-signing table.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Frost Festival culminates Robert Frost Award presentations that this year include a reading by Jarita Davis and a talk on Frost and Contemporary Poetry. Davis, who served as judge of the 13<sup>th</sup> Robert Frost Award, a international contest to find poems in "the spirit of Robert Frost." Davis, who was chosen by the board of the Frost Foundation, will then announce her short-list of poems and the top poem. Davis is a member of Cave Canem, a distinguished group of African American poets who were invited to give a featured reading at this year's Massachusetts Poetry Festival. Davis is already known to Frost Foundation audiences for a awe-inspiring reading she gave at Cafe Azteca in February. Her current chapbook, "There Should Be More Water" will be available at the book-signing table.

The Robert Frost Festival has been funded in part by the White Fund, Massachusetts Humanities, the Catherine McCarthy Charitable Trust, the Josephine G. Russell Trust, the Stevens Foundation, by volunteers, and by individual contributors. For Festival events background information, see the backgrounder on the Frost Foundation website at [frostfoundation.org](http://frostfoundation.org) or contact Mark Schorr at the Robert Frost Foundation 978-725-8828.

The Robert Frost Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded in 1997, originated when local artists, scholars, and writers came together to commemorate Robert Frost's work and his connection to the City of Lawrence. The mission of the Foundation is to communicate the spirit and work of Robert Frost to his hometown of Lawrence and beyond; to celebrate the profound influence Lawrence had on the poet and his work; and to use this legacy as a source of inspiration for the arts and community enhancement. The Robert Frost Foundation is located at The Lawrence Library, 51 Lawrence St., MA 01841. For more information, please call (978) 725-8828 or visit [www.frostfoundation.org](http://www.frostfoundation.org)

###

Please see the separate press release for Friday events (attached)