



### **Betty Cotter: Writing and Revision**

Betty J. Cotter, the author of the novel Roberta's Woods, holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in writing from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. She was named the 2006 fiction fellow by the R.I. State Council on the Arts. In addition, she has written four local history books and works as managing editor of Independent Newspapers, publishers of the South County Independent and NorthEast Independent.

### **Revision Saturdays**

In this group of classes, writers will revise their work based on three elements – character, plot and theme. The classes are designed for writers of fiction or memoir. Students must have prepared a draft of at least 5 pages (and no more than 12) for the first class.

- **Revising for Character:** Why are some characters so memorable that they seem like old friends, but others lie flat on the page like stick figures? This session will consider how to breathe life into characters, including the self as narrator. Materials: Notebook, pen, highlighters. Two hours.

- **Revising for Plot:** In every story, something happens. That “something” must have an internal coherence that is logical and yet compelling. This class will examine how a dynamic plot is essential to a good story. Materials: Notebook, pen, highlighters. Two hours.

- **Revising for Theme:** Every story has one, but theme can't be “inserted” into a story, it must emerge. This session will coax writers into a better execution and understanding of theme. The last hour of the class will be devoted to preparing work to submit for publication. Materials: Notebook, pen, highlighters. Three hours.