

WORKING WATERFRONT FESTIVAL PRESS RELEASE



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2010 WORKING WATERFRONT FESTIVAL TO FEATURE AWARD WINNING POET AND NOVELIST FRANK X. GASPAR

Event to Explore Cultural Diversity of New England's Working Ports

New Bedford, MA, September 10, 2010— Slated for September 25 & 26, the 2010 Working Waterfront Festival is pleased to feature poet and novelist Frank X. Gaspar. Born and raised in Provincetown, Massachusetts, Frank Gaspar's paternal grandparents immigrated from the Island of San Miguel, and his maternal grandparents from the Island of Pico, both in the Azorean Archipelago. His ancestors were traditionally whalers and Grand-Banks fishermen, sailing out of the Islands and then Provincetown. After graduating from Provincetown High School, Gaspar spent a year in New York City and then a year in Boston, Mass. before going to sea himself with the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. After his discharge he attended colleges and universities in California, eventually earning his Master of Fine Arts degree from the Graduate Writing Program at the University of California, Irvine. He is Professor Emeritus at Long Beach City College, and currently teaches in the Graduate Writing Program at Antioch University. A number of his books treat Luso-American themes or settings, particularly the Portuguese community in Provincetown, with an insider's view of the rich ethnic base of this famously diverse Cape Cod town. His poetry and fiction have received numerous awards and honors, and serious critical attention, both in the United States and Portugal. He is the author of *Leaving Pico* and *Stealing Fatima* and *The Holyoke*. Mr. Gaspar will present a reading at on Sunday, September 16th 1:00 p.m. on the Festival's Narrative Stage, followed by a book signing.

The 2010 Working Waterfront Festival will explore the ethnic diversity of the region's working waterfront communities with a program entitled *All in One Boat: the Cultural Mosaic of New England's Working Ports*. Immigrants from around the globe have settled in New England's port cities and helped shape these working waterfront communities which today include a rich mosaic of cultures. Special Festival programs will include performances of ethnic music, traditional craft demonstrations, ethnic foodways and more.

The Working Waterfront Festival is a project of the Community Economic Development Center of Southeastern MA, a non-profit organization. The FREE festival, a family friendly, educational celebration of New England's commercial fishing industry, features live maritime and ethnic music, fishermen's contests, fresh seafood, vessel tours, author readings, cooking demonstrations, kid's activities and more. It all takes place on working piers and waterfront parks in New Bedford, MA, America's #1 fishing port, on fourth full weekend in September. Navigate to us at www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org.