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Contact: Katy Fuller, Marketing, Membership, and Special Events Manager
Address: 59 School Street, Edgartown, MA 02539
Phone: (508) 627 -4441 x123
URL: <http://www.mvmuseum.org>



**AUTHOR CHERENE SHERRARD-JOHNSON TO SPEAK ON
*DOROTHY WEST'S PARADISE***

Thursday, June 21 ~ 5:30pm ~ Museum Library

Edgartown, MA – June 11, 2012 – The Museum is excited to bring author Cherene Sherrard-Johnson back to the Island to discuss her latest book, *Dorothy West's Paradise*.

Dorothy West is best known as one of the youngest writers involved in the Harlem Renaissance, but West was also intimately rooted in a very different milieu—Oak Bluffs. She played an integral role in the development of the African American retreat spot and also worked as a columnist for the *Vineyard Gazette*. Cherene Sherrard-Johnson will discuss West's long life and career, and explore Oak Bluffs' history as an elite African American enclave.

Cherene Sherrard-Johnson is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She received her PhD from Cornell University and interests include African American Literature, 19th Century American Literature, and Feminist theory. In 2007 she published *Portraits of the New Negro Woman: Visual and Literary Culture in the Harlem Renaissance*, and just recently published *Dorothy West's Paradise*.

Cherene Sherrard-Johnson will speak on Thursday, June 21st in the Museum Library beginning at 5:30pm. Admission is \$8 for members, and \$12 for non-members. Books will be available for purchase and signing following the talk.

Visit www.mvmuseum.org for more information about upcoming programming and exhibits. The Martha's Vineyard Museum is dedicated to furthering an interest in, experience of, and appreciation for the history and culture of the Island and its environs. The Museum is open year round, 10am to 4pm Monday through Saturday. Admission is free to Members; admission for non-Members is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children 6 to 15 and free for children under the age of 6.