

## Barbara Daniels

### Like Waves

I'm changing my name: a flower  
this time, Daisy, Hibiscus?  
Or how about car names-Dart,  
Audi, Cooper? And why not  
a body sculpt-reshaped nose,

ears, fabulous breasts? I know  
what names do, their lack  
of innocence. I color my nails  
passionate orchid, turn  
my hair daylily orange.

Taking a new name melts ore,  
strikes it, shapes and balances  
a spring-steel blade. It arcs  
calm seas into massive  
waves, mounting, cresting.

That's what I want: like waves  
I'll throw myself forward,  
reckless, bawling, my body  
rising through lime-green water,  
hoarse wind, gesturing reeds.

**Barbara Daniels'** book *Rose Fever: Poems* was published by WordTech Press and her chapbooks *Black Sails*, *Quinn & Marie* and *Moon Kitchen* by Casa de Cinco Hermanas Press. Her poetry has appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *WomenArts*, *Mid-American Review*, *The Literary Review* and many other journals. She received three Individual Artist Fellowships from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.