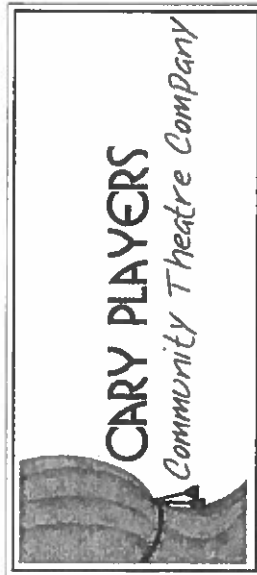


website: [www.caryplaywrightsforum.org](http://www.caryplaywrightsforum.org)  
email: [register@caryplaywrightsforum.org](mailto:register@caryplaywrightsforum.org)

Many thanks for the support and sponsorship of:



AND



**PRESENTS**

their

**Second Staged Reading of New Works  
HOLIDAY JOURNEYS**

by

Paul Allgood, Heather Boggs, Alison Davis, Lynanne Fowle,  
Darryl Freedman, Paul Kane, Phil Lowden, Annalisa Norman,  
Nicole Noel, Gale O'Neal, Lydia Sbityakov, and Laurel M. Weizork

December 6, 2008, 3:00 p.m.  
Herbert Young Community Center, Cary, NC

Thanks to the Town of Cary and the Cary Players  
for their support and sponsorship!

### Moderator's Notes

Thank you so much for joining us today at our second staged reading of new works by Cary and Cary area playwrights. We're joined by a group of very talented actors, who will bring our words to life. We'd like to thank you, our audience, for attending and helping keep the wonderful art of theater alive and growing.

Today's plays center around the theme "Holiday Journeys." "Holiday Journeys" brought something different to mind for each of us, evidenced in the staged plays you'll see today. The mention of 'holidays' almost always provokes an emotional reaction ranging from joy to dread to grief. The word 'journey' also holds different meanings. It can mean a physical journey to a faraway place, a journey of the heart, or it can represent our hopes and dreams.

We are delighted that you have come to share in the excitement of our second staged reading, and hope you return in June 2009 for our next batch of short plays. Thank you in advance for taking the time after the performance to give us your comments.

Laurel M. Wetzork, moderator

## Cary Playwrights' Forum

2nd Staged Reading of New Works  
December 6, 2008

Meet Me In Atlanta.....by Lydia Sbitiyakov

Stuck in a Restaurant Booth.....by Paul Kane

Tissues and Other Issues.....by Darryl Freedman

The American Santa.....by Nicole Noel

Lost and Found.....by Heather Boggs

The Night Before Crazy.....by Phil Lowden

### INTERMISSION (15 minutes)

Christmas Pudding.....by Annalisa Norman

Home Brew.....by Lynanne Fowle and Paul Allgood

Saint Charles by the Bay.....by Gale O'Neal

Broken Ornaments.....by Alison Davis

Icebreaker.....by Laurel M. Wetzork

Please take the time to give us your impressions  
in the intermission handout. Thank you!

## CAST and SYNOPSIS

Meet Me in Atlanta  
written by Lydia Sbitiyakov  
directed by Alison Davis

Traveling for work around the holidays can really get you down. But is there a silver lining? (Romantic comedy)

Jason.....Jaret Preston  
Pamela.....Cindy Verian  
Ram.....K Sridar  
Narrator.....Mary Ann Freedman

Stuck in a Restaurant Booth  
written by Paul Kane  
directed by Greg Tarsa

A woman runs into her boyfriend's ex at the home of the 'binjburger'. Did his mother really invite both of them to the family holiday celebration? (Comedy)

Angela.....Tracie Merwitzer  
Kara.....Sharon Galluzzo  
Narrator.....Phil Lowden

Issues and Other Issues  
written by Darryl Freedman  
directed by Lydia Sbitiyakov

A comedy of obsessive behavior, invading insects and verbal conflict. Can the family find a way to go forward? (Comedy)

Ann.....Tracie Merwitzer  
Hy.....Larry Boullia  
Leah.....Kim Morris  
Narrator.....Terry Townsend

The American Santa  
written by Nicole Noel  
directed by Laurel M. Wetzork

An immigrant family struggles to pay the rent at Christmas. Will the American Santa be able to leave any gifts for the young children? (Drama)

Angelita.....Kennedy Fowle  
Chimo (Mike).....Michael Verian  
Jose.....John Wetzork  
Mrs. Riley.....Mary Ann Freedman  
Mana.....Tracie Merwitzer  
Narrator.....Stacy Ingham

Lost and Found  
written by Heather Boggs  
directed by Lydia Sbitiyakov

How do you keep romance alive when one of you is no longer completely there?  
Jesse and Marie stay brave as they help each other focus on what really matters  
(Drama)

Jesse.....Kurt Benrud  
Marie.....Terry Townsend  
Narrator.....Larry Boullia

The Night Before Crazy  
written by Phil Lowden  
directed by Alison Davis

As she grapples with loss on Christmas Eve, a daughter ratchets up family tension  
Will the meaning of hope finally dawn on her? (Drama)

Connie.....Sharon Galluzzo  
Courtney.....Kennedy Fowle  
Florinda.....Stacy Ingham  
Henry.....Harvey Joyner  
Liz.....Kim Morris  
Teresa.....Terry Townsend  
Trevor.....Michael Verian  
Narrator.....Cindy Verian

INTERMISSION  
(15 minutes)

**Christmas Pudding**  
written by Annalisa Norman  
directed by Linda Depo

How much more can Kaitlyn put up with from her "popular" boyfriend? Why isn't he answering his cell phone? (Comedy)

Chris ..... Tracie Merwitzer  
Kaitlyn ..... Kim Morris  
Shelly ..... Annalisa Norman  
William ..... Jaret Preston  
Narrator ..... Kurt Benrud

**Home Brew**  
written by Lynanne Fowle and Paul Allgood  
directed by Linda Depo

A multi-generational family misses a loved one who is on active duty in Iraq when they celebrate the holidays. (Drama)

Jennifer ..... Cindy Verian  
Joe ..... Kurt Benrud  
Jordan ..... Michael Verian  
Michael ..... John Wetzork  
Paige ..... Kennedy Fowle  
Susan ..... Mary Ann Freedman  
Tom ..... Harvey Sage  
Narrator ..... Sharon Galluzzo

**Saint Charles by the Bay**  
written by Gale O'Neal  
directed by Greg Tarsa

A lonely old divorcé ponders his life and relationships in his beautiful but empty home on the water. (Drama)

Charles ..... Kurt Benrud  
Dad ..... Harvey Sage  
Dick ..... Harvey Joyner  
Doris ..... Mary Ann Freedman  
Joanne ..... Stacy Ingham  
Narrator ..... Tracie Merwitzer

**Broken Ornaments**  
written by Alison Davis  
directed by Laurel M. Wetzork

Emily's husband left her without rhyme or reason. She has worked out the logistics of the separation and her friend Gwen has come over to help her divide up the sentimental parts of her marriage, along with the division of her head and heart. (Drama)

Emily ..... Stacy Ingham  
Gwen ..... Dot Boullia  
Narrator ..... Jeri McKea

**Icebreaker**  
written and directed by Laurel M. Wetzork

Some people will go to any length for a snowy, white Christmas, even as far as the Antarctic. Too bad the heaters on board the ship are not working and the passengers are confined to the glassed-in observation deck until the repairs are completed. (Comedy)

Ann Vernon ..... Dot Boullia  
Bethany Mills ..... Angela Lowden  
Clare McGlocken ..... Sharon Galluzzo  
Gloria Peters ..... Jeri McKea  
Kurt Dowell ..... Larry Boullia  
Lyle Mills ..... Phil Lowden  
Vicky Dowell ..... Tracie Merwitzer  
Narrator ..... John Wetzork

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES (alphabetical)

**Kurt Benrud** is happy to be a part of this project. He has lived in Cary (almost non-stop) since 1967. First "post-college" role: "Rufe" in Preston Jones' *The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia* with Raleigh Ensemble Players. Most recent endeavor: Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice* with Bare Theatre. Past favorites: Chief Bromden, Lennie, Grave Digger, Guildenstern, Oberon, Feste, Touchstone. Aspirations: any Shakespearean protagonist, antagonist, or clown.

**Dot Boulia** is happily participating in her second Cary Playwrights' Forum production. She has also appeared in two Cary Players productions, *Love Bits & Bites: Third!* *Time's the Charm* and *Don't Drink the Water* and is about to appear as a sound effects artist in *It's a Wonderful Life*. She has studied acting with Jill Holmquist at Deep Dish Theatre and J. Chacula at The Flying Machine and is thoroughly enjoying exploring this new form of expression. She is thrilled that her wonderful husband, Larry, is also participating in this show . . . everything's more fun with Larry. Come see Cary Player's *It's a Wonderful Life* Dec 12-14.

**Larry Boulia** Fresh into retirement, Larry saw so many people have so much fun in the Cary Playwrights Forum that he just had to join to share the fun with his lovely bride, Dot and their new Cary Player friends. Larry appeared as a party guest in Cary Players production of *Don't Drink the Water*.

**Kennedy Fowle** has been modeling for the Brock Agency since she was seven. Her credits include print modeling for Getty Images, a student film at NCSA, and a music video for the band, Wedlock. Kennedy also participates in Rising Stars production classes at the Holly Springs Cultural Arts Center. Roles have included Slurping Beauty in *Fairly Goosed*, Tink in *The Star of Peter Pan*, Toady in *Monster in the Closet*, and (currently) Glinda the Good Witch in *A Christmas Wizard of Oz*. Kennedy is the youngest of five children, a homeschooling 5<sup>th</sup> grader, and a Girl Scout. Kennedy has written a couple of plays and hopes to expand that hobby as well.

**Mary Ann Freedman** performed in Cary Players' *Love Bits and Bites 2008* – *Third Time's the Charm*. Over the years, she's played mothers, grandmothers, and frustrated maiden ladies. She sings with Durham Savoyards and entertains seniors with Chapel Hill's Village Revue. But her first role is that of wife of Darryl Freedman, of whom she is very proud.

**Sharon Galluzzo** has been performing since birth, just ask her family! Theatrical roles have ranged from Shakespeare to Twain to Saroyan. She is thrilled to have a part in bringing to life these fabulous new pieces and to add such great playwrights to her resume. Still, her greatest and best-loved role is wife to Peter and mother to Eitora and Natalie.

**Stacy Ingham** has lived in Cary for nine years, and has enjoyed being involved with Cary Players, both as an actor, and as a member of their Board of Directors. She has appeared in several of their productions – *A Christmas Story*, *Love Bits and Bites*, and *Twain by the Tracks*, to name a few. Stacy is looking forward to helping bring the words of local playwrights to life with the Cary Playwrights' Forum. Thanks to Dave and Chris and Ben for their support!!!

**Harvey Joyner** has enjoyed working with the Cary Playwrights' Forum and the opportunity to interact with writers and directors in bringing these new plays to life. Earlier this year, he appeared in the Cary Players production of *Love Bits and Bites 2008*. Before Harvey and his wife Hilda moved to Cary in 2004, they lived in Bethesda, MD and both were active with the Metropolitan Players in Washington, DC.

**Angela Lowden** enjoyed participating in last year's Cary Playwrights' Forum and is excited to be part of this year's Holiday Journeys. She's proud to see (hubby) Phil Lowden's playwrighting talent come to life on stage through Cary Players Community Theatre Company and the Cary Playwrights' Forum.

**Jeri McKee** is excited to participate in her second Cary Playwrights' Forum and can be seen in the Cary Players production of *It's a Wonderful Life* next week! Most recently, she has studied under Carnessa Ottelin, a dramatic teacher, through the town of Cary's programs. Film experience includes work for her church and Focus on the Family. She sings soprano in her church choir, has read for the Triangle Radio Reading Service and had a puppet team for twelve years. Thanks to husband Bill for all his support and to pal Colleen Guest for introducing her to Cary Players!

**Tracie Merwitzer** is new to the Triangle theatre scene. She re-emerged after an 11-year hiatus to try her hand at acting once again. She previously participated in and directed stage combat and story lines in Renaissance Faires, and had a small part in a production of *You Can't Take It With You* at the Gainesville Community Playhouse in Gainesville, Florida. She thanks her ever accommodating and wonderful husband, Ken, for allowing her this opportunity, even though it was only supposed to be a 'reading'. Things will be back to 'normal' soon! Or maybe not. I like this theatre stuff!

**Kim Morris** has, among other shows, appeared in Cary Player's production of *Don't Drink the Water* and the June Cary Playwrights' Forum readings. She is very excited to be a part of this wonderful project!

**Jaret Preston** can often be seen participating in Cary Players' productions. Previously he was involved back stage during *Don't Drink the Water* and on stage with *Love Bits and Bites: Third Time's the Charm*. He does, however, share his attention with other companies, as well, doing shows such as *Urinetown* and *The Full Monty* with Raleigh Little Theatre. Jaret was also a member of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary ensemble for Raleigh Ensemble Players.

Harvey Sage is a veteran character actor in the Triangle for over 40 years. With Cary Players among other roles he was Falstaff in a scene from *Merry Wives of Windsor* and in two episodes of *Twain by the Tracks* as Mark Twain and as the old King of Klingenstein.

K. Sridhar is delighted to be a part of the Cary Playwrights' Forum and wishes them stupendous success and eternal springs of creativity.

Terry Townsend New to Cary, Terry has performed such roles as Judith Bliss in *Hayfever* with the Kenosha Community Theatre and Alice Kingsley in *The Impossible Years* with the Racine Community Theatre in Wisconsin. While living in Charlotte, she performed with Theatre Charlotte in the role of Delia in *Life with Father*. Her life path took her away from the theatre for the last ten years, leaving her law practice in Charlotte, she joined the Peace Corps, returning to the U.S. three years later. She landed in Cary in June 2008 and works in Raleigh as an environmental attorney for the State.

Cindy Verian has been acting for as long as she can remember. Currently, she is the director/owner of We Act For You, Inc. a theater group dedicated to murder mystery/learn building events and youth drama education. She has learned that it is as much fun to get others on stage as it is to be there herself... well, almost! She is extremely grateful to the writers and directors for allowing her to be a part of this amazing production!

Michael Verian made his first public debut telling stories to an audience of over 200 at the age of 8. In the past few years he has thoroughly enjoyed portraying such favorites as Linus, Rooster and currently, Prince Charming. On occasion he also travels with his mother's professional acting troupe as an actor or "the sound guy". An avid athlete he is on a wide variety of sports teams. His pastimes include playing Runescape and playing Runescape.

John M. Wetzork is an electrical engineer by trade. John performed in the last session of the Cary Playwrights' Forum and is delighted to be included in this production. He's had experience in film, theater, and the arts and, along with his wife Laurel, is relocating back to California in the spring. He's enjoyed working with the Cary Playwrights' Forum and the Cary Players.

## PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHIES (alphabetical)

Paul Allgood (playwright) (*Home Brew* with Lynanne Fowle) is a novelist, public speaker, and probably best known for being lead singer in the electronic pop band Wedlock, based out of Chapel Hill. He and Lynanne Fowle first met through an editing project for Allgood's novel, *An Inextricable Tale*. Lynanne suggested the novel be translated from novel to stageplay, and they have since finished *An Inextricable Tale*. Their latest collaboration is this short play *Home Brew*, about an intergenerational holiday gathering featuring a Second World War Vet, Vietnam Vet, and a letter to home from "Michael," who is currently serving in Iraq. Wedlock's album "Exogamy" is out now on Kounterfeit Records, and the sequel to Allgood's novel is due next fall.

Heather Boggs (playwright) (*Lost and Found*) is the one who wrote "that" piece performed this past June. She lives in Cary with her two incredible daughters, Alissa and Abby, and grew up in Raleigh in a time when Cary was much more countrified. Heather's day job is as a Data Team Lead in the pharmaceutical business in the RTP.

Alison Davis (playwright, director) (*Broken Ornaments*) has enjoyed this class immensely. While she has been involved with theatre through Cary Players for the past two years, it was always on the acting side. The class gave her a chance to cut her teeth on the playwrighting and directing aspects. Thank you to Laurel Wetzork and Cary Playwrights' Forum for this opportunity.

Linda Depo (director) moved to the Cary area in 2004 with her family and has been active in community theatre. She is a volunteer and former Board member of Cary Players and is one of the co-founders of the Cary Playwrights' Forum.

Lynanne Fowle (playwright) (*Home Brew* with Paul Allgood) edits technical and scientific manuscripts by day and writes fiction by night. She recently collaborated with fellow writer, Paul Allgood, on a full-length play based on his novel, *An Inextricable Tale* (which is in the final stages of revision), and was excited to be asked to create a one-act play for this year's Cary Playwrights' Forum. Lynanne also works with director Cindy Verian of *We Act For You* in her theater production classes for kids at the Holly Springs Cultural Arts Center. Lynanne is a mother of five and lives in Holly Springs with her husband, Mark, and her two youngest children.

Darryl Freedman (playwright) (*Tissues and Other Issues*) is an electronic engineer who is currently developing and selling animation software. Although he has been writing essays and producing community videos for a number of years, *The Guest Room* (June 2008, Cary Playwrights' Forum) was his first foray into playwrighting.

**Paul FX Kane** (playwright) (*Stuck in a Restaurant Booth*) is from the upper Midwest. He came of age in Buffalo, NY and lived in Chicago, IL for 17 years before his job went to India and his wife's job went to North Carolina. Lonesome, cold, and bored, he emigrated south to rejoin her. He has been contained in Cary since 2003. He received his cultural education in the city of Wilson, NC, working for BB&T Bank. He now works for the RDU Airport at the IT help desk. "I've always wanted to join the spoken and written word through dialog, but haven't had a chance until now with this group. This is new knowledge, like learning how to raise orchids after years of ordinary gardening."

**Phil Lowden** (playwright, actor, narrator) (*The Night Before Crazy*) is grateful for the chance to bring *The Night Before Crazy* to life in vibrant collaboration with the talented and generous supporters of the Cary Playwrights' Forum. Originally from Kokomo, Indiana, Phil has lived with wife Angela and daughters Emily and Kelsey in Cary since 1998. His day job as a consulting systems engineer at Cisco Systems pays the bills, but playwrighting fulfills a dream.

**Nicole Noel** (playwright) (*The American Santa*) is a charter member of the Cary Playwrights Forum and has always wanted to write a Christmas story. "I wrote the *The American Santa* as a gift to my Grandfather who earned his citizenship by fighting in WWII. A lot of people become citizens this way still and I think they have a special feeling for what it means to be an American because of it." Noel is a technical writer living in Fuquay-Varina with her daughter, Annalisa.

**Annalisa Norman** (playwright, actor) (*Christmas Pudding*) is a new member of the Cary Playwrights' Forum and *Christmas Pudding* is her first play. "I want to say 'thank you' to all the adults who made me feel so comfortable in the group. It's really intimidating to around so many talented people. Thanks for all your help with the play." Annalisa, 16, is a Junior at Fuquay-Varina High School and is active in band and theater.

**Gale O'Neal** (playwright) (*Saint Charles By The Bay*) has been writing for years, but this is her first playwrighting attempt. The characters from *St. Charles by the Bay* are based on real people and have been a part of a series of stories sent each Christmas to family, friends and clients. She is a member of the Cary Playwrights Board and has been in various productions as an actor, singer, as well as props mistress, set painter, and serving food, etc., whatever is needed. Gale is currently a realtor with Realty World on Salem St. in Apex, and helps clients and others with staging to get homes sold faster.

**Lydia Sbityakov** (playwright, director) (*Meet Me in Atlanta*) In a former life, Lydia commuted to work weekly by airplane, for way too long, and hopes never to make platinum again! She is a co-founder of the Cary Playwrights' Forum and lives in Cary with her husband, three kids, and a cat.

**Greg Tarsa** (director) was lured back into community theater in 1998 and has been enjoying himself thoroughly ever since. A recent transplant to NC, he has appeared in various roles in each of the annual *Love Bits and Bites* for Cary Players and performs with the NC Renaissance Fair's *Musicians Royale*, along with his daughter Kat, singing madrigals for the Queen by day and pub songs for the hoi polloi at night. He is past president of Actorsingers of Nashua, NH and veteran of many shows there, but this is his first time directing. He is thrilled to be part of this year's Cary Playwrights' Forum and thankful for the opportunity to try his hand at this new aspect of theatre.

**Laurel M. Wetzork** (moderator, playwright, director) (*Icebreaker*) graduated from University of Southern California where she learned that lack of sleep was a prerequisite for film production majors. Laurel has been involved in show business for many years and has directed, produced, and written for the stage and screen, coached actors and writers, judged screenplay contests, and taught at the university level. She is relocating back to California in the spring with her husband, John. She's immensely grateful for the support and inspiration of the Cary Playwrights' Forum and the Cary Players and will miss everyone a great deal.

## THANKS TO OUR SUPPORT TEAM

Sarah Bunch, Town of Cary. Sarah assisted us with room reservations, printing, our programs, encouragement, a wonderfully positive attitude and more. We are so very grateful for everything you do for the arts! Thanks, Sarah!

Linda Depo has been involved with the Cary Players and is a founding member of Cary Playwrights' Forum in addition to directing. She's provided administrative support, guidance, and set up and refreshments for meetings. Thank you, Linda!

Jaret Preston, web master extraordinaire. Thank you, Jaret, for helping us get our website up and for all your other assistance and words of encouragement.

Angela Lowden, graphic designer. Angela created the logo for the Cary Playwrights' Forum, for which we are extremely grateful.

Lydia Sbityakov is a founding member of the Cary Playwrights' Forum and has handled emails, web site work, coordination, messages and more in addition to playwrighting, directing, and recently becoming the mother of her third child. Thanks, Lydia!

Laurel M. Wetzork is a founding member of the Cary Playwrights' Forum and has acted as moderator, mentor, cheerleader, motivator, and friend. We wish her and her husband, John, the best of luck as they prepare for their upcoming transition out of the Triangle. Thanks, Laurel! You and John will be sorely missed as your paths lead back to the Golden State

## MORE THANKS

Deborah Grannan

Thom Haynes

Lyman Collins

Cary Players BOD

The kind folks at the Page Walker Center

The Herbert Young Community Center assistants

Thank you for sharing in the Second Staged Reading of New Works by the Cary Playwrights' Forum. We do hope that you enjoyed the show and give us your comments and any feedback.

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## Cary Playwrights' Forum

### SPRING 2009 DATES

Page Walker Center, Cary, NC

All meetings are from 7:00 - 9:00 pm unless otherwise publicized.

2/2, 2/9 - Laurel "Difference between writing for stage and screen" for writers and directors, small room Page-Walker

2/23 - Laurel "How to Pitch a Story" for writers and directors, small room Page-Walker

3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27 Playwrights' lab with actors for writers, directors, and actors, large room Page-Walker

5/11, 5/18, 5/19 Table reading/Casting for writers, directors, and actors, large room Page-Walker

5/26 (Tuesday) Complete script read through for writers, directors, and actors, large room Page-Walker or HYCC

Dates and locations of June '09 staged reading and rehearsals will be announced in March '09

\*We are hoping to have a guest instructor come to work with the playwrights and directors on a few of these nights. More details will be posted later.

Please email if you're a writer, actor, director, or simply interested in receiving news about our 3rd staged reading in June 2009. Playwrights who attend consistently will have an opportunity to see their work performed.

To register -- please email [register@caryplaywrightsforum.org](mailto:register@caryplaywrightsforum.org)

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR COMING!