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Special Sections

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Local authors put together 'Reader's Theater'

By MARGO WILSON Chronicle Correspondent Dec 26, 2023  0  1 min to read



From left, playwright and actor Robert Edwards, actress Nikki Vantilburg, playwright Margo Wilson, actress Betty Jean Steinshouer, and playwright and actor C. Barry Denham practice for "Holiday Afterwords: A Reader's Theater of Local Plays," planned for 7 p.m. Dec. 28 at Rainbow Springs Art in Dunnellon gallery at 20804 W. Pennsylvania Ave. in Dunnellon.

Toast the Yuletide one last time Dec. 28 at 7 p.m. when the Rainbow Springs Art in Dunnellon gallery presents "Holiday Afterwords: A Reader's Theater of Local Plays."

The 10-minute works of four area playwrights are featured and will be read by area actors.

In reader's theater, actors present dramatic readings of scripts without costumes, sets, special lighting, or much movement.

Bridget Hanley, the gallery's executive director, said the gallery is "venturing into a new form of creativity" by presenting the evening of plays, and she expects the performance will be "a lot of fun."

In addition to talks about art, the gallery previously has sponsored readings by individual authors. It also offers an array of art classes each month.

The plays are:

"Christmas Talent," by Robert Edwards of Floral City, in which members of a community theater dread who might audition for their holiday play until a naive young woman shows up;

"A Move to Snow," by Phyllis Burton of Hernando, in which a newlywed couple – one from Vermont and one from the South – find themselves snowed in during the holidays with their families snowed out and a baby on the way;

"DOT God," by C. Barry Denham of Hernando, in which God sends an elderly man on a rescue mission when his daughter is missing during a snowstorm; and

"When God Got Grumpy at Christmas," by Margo Wilson of Dunnellon, who's also a gallery member, in which God fires Santa and wants a redo of Christmas because people are too focused on gifts.

Those who will read parts include area actors Betty Jean Steinshouer, Nikki Vantilburg, and Leanne St. Marie, as well as some of the playwrights.

A question-and-answer session with the writers will follow the readings.

A donation of \$10 is suggested to help support the nonprofit gallery.

The gallery is the only one in the area offering scholarships to students who want to study the creative arts in college.

Reservations for "Holiday Afterwords" are at the gallery, 20804 W. Pennsylvania Ave.,

The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.