

## Freeman's Book Benefits Community College Students



By: Linda C. Wisniewski

Bucks County professor James Freeman's new book of interconnected short stories takes place in Bucks County and its environs. *Irish Wake: In Loving Memory of Us All* was published with the help of a Cultural Incentive Grant from Bucks County Community College (BCCC), where Freeman teaches creative writing. The Langhorne

resident will donate the first year's royalties to the Ray Reilly Memorial Student Scholarship Fund for Bucks students with demonstrated financial or disability accommodation needs. Recent recipients at the community college include an unemployed woman who could not afford to pay for her tuition and books and a female student who was wheelchair-bound.

Freeman says his women students "are better writers," and, perhaps because of the popular cliché that women have more empathy, they are "better at character development."

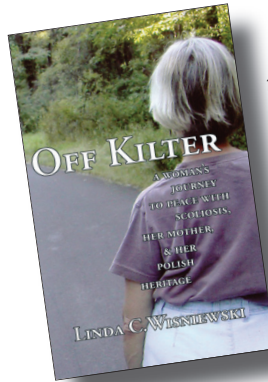
The author chose the title as "a celebration of all our lives" and the "part of the family fabric" we become even after we are gone. His characters are working-class people coping with the struggles of contemporary life: a Doylestown car detailer, a young Marine training in the desert, two lovers walking in Tyler Park, friends driving

down the Turnpike to a furniture warehouse. Many of the characters are women, and Freeman draws on the lives of his three sisters and his mother's mother—"a giant figure" in his life who lived to be 106—for the woman's point of view.

A native Californian, he came to teach at Bucks "as a ten year experiment" thirty years ago. For beginning writers, Freeman advises building a "stock of ten to twenty tribal or family characters, modeled loosely after the 'giants' in your real life." These could be parents, siblings, grandparents, friends—all are grist for the mill. Then "amalgamize" their qualities into compelling characters and "run along behind them as a writer." He recommends starting the rough draft of a story in the middle where the action, drama, and conflict are but notes he often has to write several "throwaway" pages to get to the real beginning of a story.

Readers can purchase copies of *Irish Wake* and benefit the scholarship fund at the Newtown bookshop and the BCCC bookstore, as well as online at Amazon, Google Books, or Barnes and Noble.com.

Linda C. Wisniewski teaches memoir workshops and speaks on the healing power of writing. Visit her website at [www.lindawis.com](http://www.lindawis.com) or contact her at [lindawis@comcast.net](mailto:lindawis@comcast.net) to schedule a presentation for your group.



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## Anne to Direct THE STACY PLAY in Central Park



By:  
Anne Hamilton, M.F.A.

The League of Professional Theatre Women, an international organization based in New York City, is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012 with a variety of programs and events.

Under the leadership of Co-Presidents Kristin Marting and Lorca Peress,

the League has launched "30 PLAYS CELEBRATE 30 YEARS", which features 30 brand new plays, musicals, and theatre events curated by League members. The events will take place in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and beyond; from site-specific theatre on the prairie in central Canada; to the unveiling of a new play in London; to Memphis, Tennessee; to downtown performances at the New York Theatre Workshop, the Cherry Lane, and HERE.

I am curating and directing a walking tour staged reading on May 19<sup>th</sup> on Literary Walk in Central Park in New York City, ending at the Bethesda Fountain.

I created an updated model of a medieval pageant play in the middle of New York's most famous park. Stacy, the main character in my full-length play—THE STACY PLAY – A LOVE SONG – VOLUME I—goes through

a modern journey of the soul, wheeling her pageant cart between eight locations, ending at the fountain.

The audience will follow Stacy as she travels through such "locations" as Paradise, Limbo, and The Womb, as well as her Manhattan apartment, sometimes with Jonathan, her love interest who happens to be dead.

Because THE STACY PLAY is episodic in nature, I thought it would be fascinating to literally journey through her story. Originally, I intended for the walking tour to be done in Nervi, on the Italian Riviera, where I enjoyed a fellowship and residency from the Bogliasco Foundation several years ago. But my ultimate desire was to present it in a New York City park, and the League presented me with an opportunity to direct my play in my dream location. This is just one example

of how unique staging can partner with women artists' advocacy efforts to produce a groundbreaking event.

Please join me at this 2 pm event on May 19<sup>th</sup>. RSVP to [hamiltonlit@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonlit@gmail.com). I'll see you on the Mall!

Anne Hamilton has more than 20 years of experience

in the professional theatre in NYC, across the nation, and internationally. She is available for script consultations and career advising through [hamiltonlit@hotmail.com](mailto:hamiltonlit@hotmail.com). Season Two of Hamilton Dramaturgy's "TheatreNow!" concluded with an interview with Jennifer Tipton, the award-winning lighting designer.

### Anne M. Hamilton Hamilton Dramaturgy

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