

Paul Green Foundation

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A Glimpse of the Literary Genius that Frequented Weymouth

In 2009, to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Friends of Weymouth (*former home of James and Katharine Boyd*), a staged reading was performed in the Boyd's former Great Room. Writer Stephen Smith with help from Sara King selected, organized and put together the play which consists of letters between James Boyd and his close writer friends: Paul Green, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sherwood Anderson, Thomas Wolfe and Maxwell Perkins. These writers, among many others including John Galsworthy, William Faulkner and Lawrence Stallings, had come to Weymouth numerous times for the quiet, the conversation and the inspiration of James Boyd (*noted writer of historical novels but also stories and poems*). Boyd's writing discipline was acknowledged and admired and led editor Maxwell Perkins of Charles Scribner's Son's to "strongly encourage" his talented but undisciplined author of *Winesburg, Ohio*, Sherwood Anderson, to "go down there and see how James works!"

When James Boyd died in 1944, Katharine Boyd asked Paul Green to write the foreword to her husband's collection of poems to be posthumously published and entitled *18 Poems*. Green, responding from California where he was writing screen plays, ended his letter to Katharine: "Our love to you and Dan and Jamie and Nancy (*her three children*), and a thousand things time will never let us say – Paul."



On **February 18th at 7 p.m.**

the Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities
will present this Readers Theatre again –

A Thousand Things Time Will Never Let Us Say:
The Correspondence of James and Katharine Boyd and Friends

The readers are retired professor of art **Denise Baker** as Katharine Boyd; **Stephen Smith**, retired English professor and writer will be Sherwood Anderson; artist and historian **Ray Owen** plays F. Scott Fitzgerald; Southern Pines Town Manager **Reagan Parson** is Thomas Wolfe; Paul Green is played by **Chris Dunn**,

director of the Arts Council of Moore County; Poet Laureate of North Carolina **Shelby Stephenson** is James Boyd and **Marsha Warren** reads Maxwell Perkins' letters and is the narrator. She has also staged the production and is the director. **Lydia Gill**, pianist, has arranged and will perform the music.

We hope all Friends of Paul Green will want to attend – it's just an hour from Chapel Hill. Tickets, which should be secured in advance because of limited seating, are \$10 for Weymouth members and \$15 for nonmembers. A wine and cheese reception follows the reading. For tickets, call (910) 692-6261.

In the preface to *Weymouth* – a collection of poems edited by Sam Ragan – Sam writes: "It was Paul Green as much as anyone who gave voice and support to the early efforts to preserve Weymouth [*from developers*]. Green himself was the first to pledge \$1000 toward buying the Weymouth estate."

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