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For Immediate Release

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## ***Waiting for Tables: A Reading of Work-in-Progress***

by author Nancy Agabian

**Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 3 pm**

**Free admission**

P.O. Box 770150  
55-03 39th Avenue  
Woodside, NY 11377

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***“Waiting for Tables”*** is a lyric essay about the Armenian and Turkish communities in Sunnyside and Woodside, Queens. After moving to Woodside in 2007 and discovering Turkish and Armenian restaurants and groceries, not to mention corresponding communities, Agabian set out to discover the relationship between two nationalities historically at odds with each other, mashed together in a tiny neighborhood in New York City. This is a first-person account about life and death, the reality of immigration, and neighborhood diplomacy.

The reading takes place on **Saturday, May 2, 2009, 3pm** at **TOPAZ ARTS**. Admission is free. A question-and-answer session will follow the reading. Refreshments will be served.

TOPAZ ARTS is located at 55-03 39th Avenue in Woodside, Queens. Subway directions: #7 train to 61 St. or the R, V, G trains to Northern Blvd. Details available at [www.topazarts.org](http://www.topazarts.org).

**Nancy Agabian** is the author of *Princess Freak*, a collection of poems and performance texts on her bisexual coming-of-age, and *Me as her again*, a memoir of her Armenian-American family. Her writing has appeared in numerous anthologies and journals, including *Birthmark: A Bilingual Anthology of Armenian-American Poetry*, *Hers 2: Brilliant New Fiction from Lesbian Writers*, and *KGB BarLit*. A Fulbright scholar to Armenia for 2006-07, she's currently working on *The Fear of Large and Small Nations*, a book about nationalism, corruption, family and freedom in post-Soviet Armenia. Nancy lives in Astoria and teaches writing at Queens College and at the Gallatin School at NYU. For more info about the author, please visit [www.nancyagabian.com](http://www.nancyagabian.com). This summer she will lead ***“Our Side”***, a creative nonfiction workshop on cultural identity at TOPAZ ARTS – applications are available at [www.topazarts.org](http://www.topazarts.org).

***“Waiting for Tables”*** is made possible in part with funds from the Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, administered by the Queens Council on the Arts.

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TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded in 2000 by artists **Todd Richmond** (composer/visual artist) and **Paz Tanjuaquio** (choreographer/dancer). TOPAZ ARTS fosters the creative process, produces the collaborative works of its founders and provides public programs for the performing and visual arts. TOPAZ ARTS maintains a 2,500 sq. ft. multidisciplinary arts center in Woodside, Queens housing a dance rehearsal studio, audio room, and gallery. Providing affordable space, technical support, residencies and presentation opportunities, TOPAZ ARTS enables artists to realize their projects and the process shared with audiences.

TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. is made possible, in part, by public funds from the NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; National Endowment for the Arts; Carnegie Corporation of New York; Dance Theater Workshop's Outer/Space Program; Foundation for Contemporary Art; The F.B. Heron Foundation; QCA Queens Community Art Fund; Material for the Arts, a program of NYC's Department of Cultural Affairs, Dept. of Sanitation and Board of Education; and the generosity of private individuals.

