

The Touchstone Center's August Newsletter

August 2014



Greetings,

I am very pleased to announce that the reconstruction of the various murals, sculptures and artwork created by The Touchstone Center at PS 61M (The Children's Workshop School and the East Village Community School), which were either damaged or temporarily removed while the school buildings and adjacent spaces were being repaired, has now begun. Under the direction of Touchstone visual artist, [Kathy Creutzburg](#), with funding from the School Construction Authority, the reconstruction will bring back to life the major outdoor spaces which contained the various expressions of both children and visual artists centered on [The Bird of Imagining](#), [A Tree Lives](#), [Play, Said the Earth to Air](#) and [We Are Rivers](#). Completion of the reconstruction is scheduled for late fall.

Gigi Alvaré, who for many years was a major part of the Center's projects in schools and theatre presentations, as well as being the sensitive and riveting illustrator for [Sea Tale](#) and [Each Sky Has Its Words](#), will be having [her first solo show](#) of her artwork at the Cedar Arts Center in Corning, New York from September 12th to October 24th. Gigi, speaking of her work, said: "My work is inspired by nature – then filtered through my imagination and produced mostly on paper – lots of movement through line, form, color, light and dark. Some surprises too."

Coming up at Poets House on September 27th, as part of the Center's 45th

Anniversary, we will be presenting *Our Earth, Our Sky: A Celebration of the Poetry of Childhood*, a workshop and theatre presentation for children, along with a panel discussion for adults, *There Once Was and Always Will Be: Evoking the Poetic Worlds of Childhood*. Details of this event, which is free and open to the public, can be found [here](#).

In relation to our presentation at Poets House, I would like to share an interview, *On Seeing Children*, I did a few years ago with Mary Rothschild, Director of [Healthy Media Choices](#), which focuses on intentional media use with and by children birth to age 6. The interview offered me the opportunity to explore with Mary the richness of children's poetic perceptions through their original writings – and the need for us to continue to explore these dimensions of children's imaginative perceptions and thinking as a vital and necessary part of their growing and learning. The full one-hour interview, originally aired over Brattleboro Public Radio, can be found [here](#).

Best,
Richard

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Photograph taken by Kris Enos of the reconstruction of the We Are Rivers mosaic at PS 61M.

