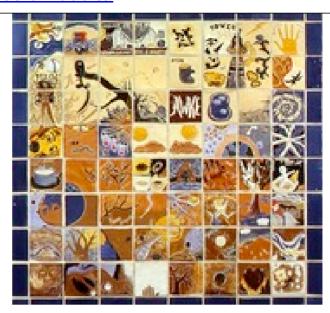# The Touchstone Center's July Newsletter

July 2014

Greetings . . .

I am pleased to announce the publication of *Children and Nature: Making Connections,* edited by George K. Russell and published by the Myrin Institute. Consisting of a collection of twelve essays by various authors, *Children and Nature* reflects on children's connection with the world of nature and how this can be enriched and enhanced in an age dominated by digital media. I am honored to have my essay, *A Wilderness of Thought: Childhood and the Poetic Imagination*, included in this probing and stimulating collection. Originally published by Orion magazine last summer, it can be read here.

The work of the Touchstone Center was cited at a very moving ceremony in honor of the late Dr. Marvin Leiner at the Townsend Harris High School in Queens, New York. Dr. Leiner, along with the school's principal Dr. Malcom Largmann, was crucial in enabling the Center to undertake a number of innovative projects at Townsend Harris. One such project was *The Dialogue of the Imagination*, which was a series of reflective workshops for faculty and students on the nature and purpose of the imaginative process in the arts, sciences and overall learning. In addition, he supported the creation -- by students in conjunction with Touchstone teaching artist Elizabeth Crawford -- of the large ceramic mural *On the Origin of Language,* presently located in the school's hallway and pictured

above.

And for those of you following the latest location of Kathy Creutzburg's sinous steel sculpture *WAVE*, based on my poem and our book [*We Are Rivers*](), it is now on exhibit until the end of August at the Kenkeleba House Sculpture Garden (3rd St. between Ave. B and C in NYC). In addition, Kathy's latest sculpture, *Magic Carpet*, is also on view at Governor's Island.

Best,

Richard

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