



Touchstone Center's May Newsletter

May 2014

Greetings . . .

I am pleased to report that the interdisciplinary arts and education project at PS 99 (Queens) -- *The House of My Imagination* with Kindergarten and 3rd Grade classrooms and *A Room of Wonder* with 1st grade classrooms -- initiated and taught by visual artist [Karen Fitzgerald](#), along with my assistance, has culminated in an inspired gathering of art and writing. In addition, both Karen and I will give a workshop in June for teachers and staff at PS 99 entitled, *Where Our Imagining Lives: Listening to the Childhood of our Wondering*, based on the themes and images of the year's work.

In conjunction with the [Center's Archival Project](#), I wanted to bring your attention to one of our recently digitized publications, [Versions of the Traditional: A Journal of Translations from Indigenous Cultures](#), originally published in 1989. A gathering of poetry and prose, translated from a wide spectrum of indigenous cultures and traditions, *Versions of the Traditional* was published to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the reading series established in 1978 by the Touchstone Center at the American Museum of Natural History. The publication was an opportunity to share a variety of translations by some of the poets, storytellers and anthropologists who participated in the series. Among those whose work you can read in this publication are, [Joseph Bruchac](#), [Terese Svoboda](#), [Dennis Tedlock](#), [Judith Gleason](#), [David P. McAllester](#), [David M. Guss](#), [Diane Wolkstein](#), and [W.S. Merwin](#).

And finally, as part of the Center's event on March 29th at the Brooklyn Children's Museum -- *The Nature of Play and the Play of Nature: A Day of Imagining the Universe at Play* -- the performance of [Play, Said the Earth to Air](#) by the [Touchstone Center Theatre Ensemble](#) with Clea Rivera, Harry Mann and myself was well received by children and their families. In addition to our work together, both Clea and Harry have been in rehearsal with an original theatre piece based on Shakespeare's sonnets, and Clea had a successful performance of her new play, *No Vacancy* at La Mama on April 21st. She is presently in rehearsal with [a new production of The Fox by Alan Miller](#) to open on July 18th at the Gene Frankel Theatre in New York. We are looking forward to our working together again at [Poets House](#) with the Center's celebration of the poetry of childhood on Saturday, September 27th.

Best . . .

Richard

Richard Lewis
Touchstone Center for Children

Photo by Noah, 3rd Grade, PS 99 (Queens)

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