

ETH-NOH-NEWS



Come along as we travel the world through stories and a whole lot of fun!

A Newsletter

November 2008

Once a Pod a Time
Eth-Noh-Tec is going techno with a podcast!

It Takes 2, Babyeee..
Tandem is interesting on-stage...but what about off-stage?!

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Oldies but goodies Asian American style!
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We're humbled and grateful for these awards as storytellers and as a green environmentally sound org! Got to practice what you preach!
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Indian food, stories, workshops, laughing yoga...Hear about it at our Dec. 13 Salon.

Getting Personal
Nancy and Robert to write family stories.
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Salon! You're On! '09
Our 4th year of monthly salons! Intimate and fun, you must grace our studio!

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Return with us this time? Youth tellers, too?
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Classes '09
Yes, you too can learn the art of kinetic performance -

Spotlight
Diana Thompson: our office techno whiz+!

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WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

"ONCE A POD A TIME"
Eth-Noh-Tec launches its podcast!

But wait! What is a podcast? Why would I want to listen to one?

When radio first hit the scene in the world it was a confounded box that talked all by itself! Music, voices, announcements and stories broadcast from storefront radio studios across the country. A podcast is like a "radio" show, but instead of it being broadcast during certain hours or only to certain areas, a podcast is heard at any time, anywhere. Just log on and download onto a computer or an mp3 music player.

So what is our podcast show "Once A Pod A Time" about?

We share the exciting road lives and stories of a myriad of tellers and cultural activists. As Eth-Noh-Tec travels from gig to gig, we gather a slice of life of other vagabond storytellers on tour out there in America and around the world. We have interviews from Austria and Singapore, and across the US.

How do I log on or download a podcast? How do I subscribe?

Just visit our website, look for the "podcast" link and subscribe. Just click on the button. Your computer will do the rest, formatting it for your standard media player (iTunes, Real Player, or Windows Media Player). Download, listen

and write a review. We'd love to hear comments from you.

"IT TAKES TWO... BABYEEE!"

Nancy has written a chapter to be published in a book of tellers who tell "as two"! In the world of storytelling, most are solo performers with a few tandem teller groups other than us. And so, an entire book? Here are some names of other tandems from across the country: "Double Deckers" (Chicago), "Storycrafters" (New York), "Storyquilters" (Sonora, CA), "Twice Upon a Time (Texas). Fun, eh? Look for *Team Up! Tell in Tandem!* scheduled for an early 2009 release from PRESTO & US Storytelling Products. In our chapter 'Tandem Telling: An Intimate Affair', you might find out a bit of what it takes for Nancy and Robert to work together!! Yikes!

"THE WHAT BUDDIES?"

Some of you may remember way-back-when - the 'NOH BUDDIES'!! Well, they're back! A world-beat-jazz-rock-fusion band ahead of their time back then, Robert, along with good friends and dynamite musicians Michael Sasaki (guitar), Don Nguyen (multi-instrumentalist), Shigemi Komiyama (drummer) have reunited (just like all those rock and roll bands of old seen on PBS) and are sizzling hot! Their eclectic sound includes Taiko drums and Filipino kulintang gongs. They groove grind, foot stomp, and sing the sounds of East and



West! Look for them in our production "Slam Bam, Story Jam" a concert of performance narrative, music and storytelling coming in May '09.

"AWARDS"

Nancy and Robert and Eth-Noh-Tec, received some pretty cool awards this year! We were named to the 'Circle of Excellence' given by the National Storytelling Network, and a 'Green Business Award' by the City of San Francisco. We have had solar and a Prius since 2001. We have the usual green cleaning products, recycling, low-flow toilets - and we continue to ask all our visitors to use only 3 squares of toilet paper per wipe!



India, etc.

'BACK FROM INDIA!'

Yummm...on Saturday Dec 13, 2008 6:00 pm, join us for a Vegetarian Curry dinner and then a 7:00pm performance: *THARISANAM: Vision of the Other*

Eighteen of us left the US on 10/31, and now back a few weeks, we're eager to share with our stories and experiences meeting storytellers, dancers, theater companies, puppeteers and other artists that celebrate their expressions through story-based arts.

Join Eth-Noh-Tec, Liz Nichols, Tim Ereneta, and Jeff Byers in our last 'Salon! You're On!' of 2008 as we share some of the stories (maybe some attempts at Indian dance) we learned and even a fashion show! We'll defi-

nitely tell you about our experience with Laughing Yoga! Eth-Noh-Tec Studio, 977 So. Van Ness Ave in the City. Dinner starts at 6:00pm; sliding scale \$10-\$25 suggested donation. Get a start on your holiday celebrations with us!!

Check out our India blog:
www.ethnohtec.org

"SALON! YOU'RE ON!"

We're launching our fourth year! YAY! 'Salon! You're ON!' presenting exhilarating, inspiring and a diverse array of talent. Here's the line-up so far: *Allan Manalo* (Filipino stand-up comedy), *Colleen Nakamoto* (Okinawan Am. Performance artist), *Nanci Gaglio* (play/screen writer), *Elise Ficara* (Poet), *Jane DeCuir* (First Nations singer/ songwriter), *Somei Yoshino* (Taiko drum group), *Iyabo Kwayana* (African American singer/ songwriter), *Minette Mangahas* (ink brush painter & animation artist), *Valerie Soe* (Asian Am. Filmmaker) and oh so many more! Our first salon: January 24, 2009. Check out our webpage for full info.



"UPDATE: GREEN GROWS THE STORY"

Another grant has been applied for in our attempt to get this needed program funded. We're optimistic with this one! It's a partnership grant from the SF Arts Commission. Of course that means we have a partner!! Two teachers from Buena Vista Alternative School are committed to working the whole program with their 4th and 5th graders in their Friday Enrichment day. We're thrilled! This is an immersion Spanish public school in our own Mission neighborhood. Keep your fingers crossed!

"SPOTLIGHT!"

Diana Thompson is the creator and performer of *Pushing Air* exploring voice, rhythm, and improvisation between the primal and the



logical. As one singer, her trusty techno looper creates phrase by phrase, building up complex grooves and intertwining melodies. One

voice, ten thousand ways. Hear her at our January 24th salon, and by the way, she is the voice that answers our office phone! Visit: <http://www.pushingair.com/>

"GETTING PERSONAL"

For decades Nancy and Robert have focused on traditional myths and folktales re-synthesized for modern performance. This coming year we are creating several new works that explore our own family histories, one on the theme of immigration. With the anti-immigration for people of color, we thought it important to share our family stories and contributions to this country.

Nancy is part of 5 generations of Chinese in America starting with a convoy of Chinese "junk" ships forging a perilous journey across the Pacific and crashing into Monterey, California. It is they who started the fishing industry in the area, though few know this fact and for which Monterey became famous. Robert's background includes immigrations from both Japan and the Philippines. He has stories of whaling ships in Alaska and turtle hunting in Galapagos island, 'stinking fish paste' barrels on the docks of SF and Filipino farm labor camps of Walnut Grove, CA.

Some of you may know that Nancy's mother passed over in September at the age of 97. Always feisty and independent, many changes took place for her after her heart attack in March. By the summer, not only could she no longer walk, but the dog went missing, and we prepared our last child for college away from home. This is another story! (You'll be happy to know that the dog was miraculously returned 3 months later on the day of mom's memorial). Check out the premieres in Portland in April on www.ethnohtec.org.

"NU WA 2009: CHINA AGAIN!"

Mark Sept. 12-26, 2009 for our next trip to the storytelling village of Gengcun, China. This centuries old traditional storytelling village contains a plethora of folk tales and myths ever since the trade routes of ancient dynasties regularly brought in merchants, travelers, and adventurers along it's path, sharing tales, myths, and other hearsays in the local taverns and inns. Now a farming village, this will be our fourth visit to the community. It's like a homecoming celebration! Story swapping, cultural sharing and plenty of heartfelt exchange along with the many famous and not as famous sights and sounds of Beijing and the surrounding areas are included! Start signing up now: 415-282-8705 / www.ethnohtec.org / contact@ethnohtec.org.



"THE YOUNG WHO TELL"

We have always enjoyed a few youth on our trips to China. For our 2009 exchange, we are creating a Youth Ambassadorship Program. Headed up by Doug Banner and Kevin Cordi, their goal is to enroll 5-7 high quality, dedicated youth tellers to join us.

In parts of the US, storytelling organizations, clubs and showcases help young people hone and perform their craft. In 2006, first place winner of the Youth Tellers contest, Chloe Clunis, joined us from Florida. She was like a magnet wherever she went!

We will continue to build goodwill between young people of two great nations leaving an indelible impression on the American youth who begin to build bridges of friendship with their stories of the people and cultures of China, breaking stereotypes and forging peace.



"FROM PAGE TO STAGE"

We love teaching and coaching! Whether a story that is personal, a folk tale, or myth, you can experience a "corporeal approach" to creativity that will enliven your story and performance. As a writer, dancer, singer, actor, poet or a storyteller, our classes support your exploration working with the physical, visual and vocal. **Kinetic Theater Class:** 10 weekly sessions usually on Tuesdays (call for Winter-Spring schedule; tuition: \$200) or the **Summer Storytelling Institute (June 19, 20, 21;** fee: \$450 includes daytime meals, creative art supplies, handouts and tuition). Both courses take place at the Eth-Noh-Tec Studio in SF.

"THE ECONOMY!"

The economy has hit Eth-Noh-Tec! Your donations are welcomed! We will always continue to do the work even without money! But we need to pay rent, phone, internet, to pay our staff, and there are multiple program needs to keep us going. For the first time, we will be closing our office the last 2 weeks in December. Be well and be happy!

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