

## ***Trees of Knowing Birds of Imagining*** **A Workshop on the Imaginative in Learning and Teaching**

This five-session workshop is for teachers, parents and others concerned with the vital role the imagination plays in children's learning – and the importance, as teachers and parents, in sustaining the imaginative throughout our own lives. Our focus for the second year of this workshop will be on the role of play and playfulness in learning. Our guest on May 12th will be noted teacher and writer, Vivian Gussin Paley, who will take part in our conversation around her book, *A Child's Work: The Importance of Fantasy Play*. On May 14th, Kristin B. Eno will speak about her work in making videos based on children's imaginative play. Throughout the workshops we will parallel our discussions with hands-on arts activities— as well as initiating and sharing projects, taking place both in and out of school settings, which enhance and deepen the overall intent of the workshop.

The workshop will be conducted by Richard Lewis, Director of The Touchstone Center, in conjunction with Roberta Valentine, Art Teacher, East Village Community School.

**Wednesdays,  
MAY 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, & May 8<sup>th</sup>  
and Monday MAY 12<sup>th</sup>  
4:30-6:30 PM**

- Limited to 25 Persons
- There is no fee for the workshop but persons interested in attending are requested to fill out a reservation form available from [www.touchstonecenter.net](http://www.touchstonecenter.net) or by emailing: [rlewis212@aol.com](mailto:rlewis212@aol.com)

The workshop will be held in  
The Art Room, 4th Floor,  
East Village Community School  
610 East 12th Street  
New York, NY

This workshop was made possible, in part, by funding from the New York State Council on the Arts, and the New York City Department of Education.

**The Touchstone Center** is an arts organization founded in 1969 by its present director, Richard Lewis. Through its publications, exhibitions, theatre presentations, workshops for teachers, and artist residency programs in public schools, the Center has emphasized the importance of the imagination, and its relation to the natural world, as crucial to meaningful knowledge and understanding. The most recent artist-residency programs of the Center have been with the Children's Workshop School and the East Village Community School, where its *Bird of Imagining* and *Tree of Knowing* projects took place over the last five years. Both schools are now involved in the *Play of Playing Project: How The Arts Come Alive*

**Richard Lewis** is a teacher and author of a number of books and publications that highlight the imaginative life of childhood. His recent books include, *The Bird of Imagining*, *A Tree Lives*, and *I Catch My Moment: Art and Writing by Children on the Life of Play*.

**Vivian Gussin Paley** was a kindergarten teacher for thirty-seven years, primarily at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. A MacArthur award recipient, she is the author, among others, of *The Boy Who Would Be a Helicopter*, *You Can't Say You Can't Play*, *The Girl with the Brown Crayon* and *The Kindness of Children*.

**Kristin B. Eno** is an artist and art educator who founded Digital Story Workshop— a project to produce short videos based on children's imaginative play. Her work was recently shared at the 5th International Conference on Imagination and Education in Vancouver, Canada.

**The East Village Community School** is a public elementary school under the direction of its Principal, Robin Williams. The school is noted for its child-centered and multi-cultural approach to teaching and learning—with a strong emphasis on the expressive and imaginative capacities of its students.

**Roberta Valentine** has taught at the East Village Community School since 1996 —where, teaching 1st and 2nd grade, she always made the arts a natural way for her students to extend and apply knowledge in math, literacy, science and social studies. She became the Art Teacher of the school in the Fall of 2006.

Drawing by Kieran, 4th/5th grade, Children's Workshop School from *I Catch My Moment: Art and Writing by Children on the Life of Play*, Touchstone Center Publications.

# Registration Form

*Trees of Knowing*

*Birds of Imagining*

**A Workshop on the Imaginative  
in Learning and Teaching  
SPRING 2008**

Name

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Home Address

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School or Business Address

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Telephone

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Email

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If you are teaching at present we would appreciate your letting us know what subject and/or grade you are presently teaching:

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What interests you about the workshop?

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Please email or mail this registration to:

The Touchstone Center  
141 East 88th Street,  
New York, NY 10128  
212-831-7717  
or rlewis212@aol.com

*Thank you*

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the nature of the workshops we can only accept registrations for the entire series.

The Touchstone Center  
in association with  
The East Village Community School,  
is pleased to present

*Trees of Knowing*  
*Birds of Imagining*



**A Workshop on the Imaginative  
in Learning & Teaching**

**SPRING 2008**

East Village Community School  
610 East 12th Street  
New York, NY