

GLOBAL HOMESTEAD

UPDATE - 2006



Suite Earth Flies Across The Big Pond

Global Homestead Director Thérèse Keegan has been invited to make a presentation at the International Conference on the Arts in Society in Edinburgh, Scotland. The overall theme of the conference this year (August 15 - 18) is "Arts of Engagement" as a broad way to think about how to link interdisciplinary forms of creative expression with social action and meanings. Keegan's presentation will describe the development of "Suite Earth", a unique two-year performance collaboration in a rural community giving voice to the notion of reclaiming our humanity in the face of violence and disconnection. Fundraising efforts are currently underway to help offset the costs of conference attendance in order to make the trip and the globalization of "Suite Earth" a reality.

Saving A Community

Civil War monuments dot many of the highways around Global Homestead's rural headquarters. Across from several of these at the edge of a road in Burkittsville, Maryland, stands an important question. The question is in the form of a small building, suffering badly from the effects of vandalism and the elements of nature. It is what remains of the Ceres Bethel Church, established in 1870 by former slaves, closed in 1984, but still used for burials—and now threatened with complete deterioration unless action is taken soon to save it. The AME church has seen many weddings, funerals and celebrations as the core of what was once a thriving African American community. The question that it asks of all of us is what stories we will tell about our community and its members. This is not just a local issue, as visitors of multiple origins visit the area. There are so many stories being told about military heroism—stories for which this area is known and which continue to attract public and private resources for their telling and glorification. Of course, the stories of any war when told from multiple perspectives become more complicated, rich, and accurate. And what happens to the stories about spiritual heroism? Who wants to tell these stories and claim them as an important part of our heritage?





Theater of Life

In June, Global Homestead hosted a weekend retreat of the newly formed Baltimore Theater Action Group (TAG). The group uses the techniques of Brazilian visionary Augusto Boal, in which theater becomes a tool for change and transformation, to stimulate awareness and social and political activism. The weekend retreat afforded the group the opportunity to conduct exercises, hold extended discussions and make plans as they shared meals, music, and nature. Global Homestead will continue to partner with TAG through the creation of workshops to be held around the region and the continued support of art making and community building.



Updraft Update

Updraft: a conspiracy of movement continues as an important program of Global Homestead with a full production schedule to be detailed in an end-of-year report. After completing a four night run which premiered "It's A Matter Of . . ." at Baltimore Theatre Project in April, the aerial dance company is hard at work on this year's production of "Suite Earth" to be presented at the inaugural Capital Fringe Festival at Woolly Mammoth Theater in D.C. in July. Performances are also scheduled for Shepherdstown, WV in September and in Brooklyn, NY in October. Please check out our website for further details of these upcoming performances.

Your Gift

Your contribution to Global Homestead, Inc. is fully tax deductible and may be earmarked toward a specific project or program or to support the organization in general. This year we are making a special appeal for support for the overall organization. The mission of Global Homestead is to strengthen communities and their members through the arts, the environment, and innovative education. Please see our website for further details about our programs related to the Environment (Groundworks), Social Justice (Groundswell) and the Arts (Higher Ground). www.globalhomestead.org. Make checks payable to Global Homestead, Inc. and send them to 1233 Hoffmaster Road, Knoxville, MD 21758. Many thanks!

Global Homestead, Inc.

Executive Director: Thérèse Keegan

slipperyslope@cs.com

Board of Directors:

Betty Ellzey
Bonnie Arnold
Connie Malamed
Lynda Bell

