

*SACRED DANCE GUILD
POTOMAC CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
September 2010*

Something about September

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
SEPTEMBER 14, 2010**

The SDG Potomac Chapter and interested friends are invited to Wesley Theological Seminary on September 14, 2010 to see Tevyn East perform **Leaps and Bounds**. **4:45pm in the Chapel at the seminary: 4500 Massachusetts Ave, NW, WDC 20016**. Directions are here: <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/connect/visitus/directions.aspx> This event is FREE. An informal discussion follows the performance in Elderdice Hall (bring your meal if you are eating dinner with us).

TEVYN EAST's performance is sponsored by the Affording Hope Project. **Leaps and Bounds** is a one-woman show that explores the intersection of faith, ecology, and the global economy. Developed and performed by Tevyn East, this show is circulating among a variety of faith communities and institutions of higher learning in 2010. Using a number of creative tools including storytelling, song, poetry, prayer, movement, and music, this work of theater sheds light on the driving factors of our ecological crisis while awakening the imagination to a new way of living with and relating to Earth. Grounded in theological reflection, **Leaps and Bounds**, embodies an adventure, searching for the values that would support an economic system that promotes human well-being and ecological health.

The Affording Hope Project accesses the transformative power of art to inspire the Christian church to be a prophetic witness to alternative economic systems of sufficiency and solidarity.

Contact: Kathryn Sparks, dancingsparks@yahoo.com

POTOMAC DANCERS UPDATE

**We are very grateful to Sally Moravitz for scheduling
and providing
a location for this summer's rehearsals for the Soaring
Festival.**

**We need to ensure, however, a consistent location for
monthly dance sharing
and an interest in location performance.**

**Please email me at pamelagauswhite@hotmail.com
if you are willing or have access to a location
that the Potomac Dancers can use once a month
on a consistent basis for sharing and rehearsals.**

**DANCE RESOURCE ONLINE:
Moving Arts Network**

<https://www.movingartsnetwork.com/index.php>

SPOTLIGHT ON BUTOH DANCE

As most of you know, I've spent the greater portion of the last six months recuperating from emergency spinal surgery after being tossed like a fly off of a horse. Thank goodness my friend Peter gave me access to his Netflix account so I could watch an endless number of films with my laptop on my belly as I lay on my back in bed!

One film in particular – Cherry Blossoms – included a fabulous young actress (Aya Irizuki) performing Butoh dance. I was so intrigued and impressed with her performance that I wanted to share with the Potomac Chapter what I learned about this truly sacred dance form:

Originated by the Japanese choreographer Tatsumi Hijikata in the late 1950s, butoh is “traditionally performed in white body makeup with slow, hyper-controlled motion, with or without an audience.” This is how it is performed in the film. Irizuki simply arrives at the same place every day and begins her movement.

While Hijikata is known as the “architect” of butoh, another Japanese choreographer, Kazuo Ohno (who died only this past June at age 103), is considered the “soul” of butoh. Ohno is quoted as saying “The best thing someone can say to me is that while watching my performance they began to cry. It is not important to understand what I am doing; perhaps it is better that they don’t understand, but just respond to the dance.”

Based on Ohno’s quote, Aya Irizuki really expressed the soul of butoh in her film performance. In a sense both happy and sad, the last scene of her performance was worthy of honest tears.

Enjoy this YouTube excerpt from a documentary on butoh and Ohno!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gqukIxf8oM&feature=related>

All Year Round!
Remember to Renew Your Subscription to the Sacred Dance Guild

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Group - 1 year - \$90
Lifetime - \$1000

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