

THE PUBLICATION FOR ALL OF CHERRY HILL!

"Eye On...

Cherry Hill™

FREE

Est. 1997 - Vol. 4 No. 2

'Connecting Education & Community Together!'

Feb. 2000

World Tales Transports Audience at Bret Harte School to Faraway Lands

by Eileen Fox

Sounds of jangling bells, shakers, hand-clapping and singing rang out from the Bret Harte School on Monday, January 10, as the PTA hosted the extraordinary presentation of multicultural tales and music by New Hampshire artists Genevieve Aichele and Randy Armstrong, who plays hundreds of exotic instruments from around the world. Aichele, a master storyteller and movement artist, enchanted the audience with stories from such places as Japan, Africa and Mexico.

The program began with the sounds of an authentic Native American courting flute in a story called The First Flute. As the performers used a variety of instruments and objects to mimic night sounds in the woods, the haunting cry of an owl seemed to float through the all-purpose room. Wind rushed past, and leaves seemed to whisper in the breeze. Aichele told the story in a mesmerizing voice, pausing to don a hand-crafted mask and flit around the room in an amazing parody of a bird.

At one point, the whole audience was invited to sing the chorus to an African story called Anansi's Hat-Shaking Dance, as Armstrong kept the beat with a traditional African drum carved from a tree. During another song, the children went up on stage to play along with bells and shakers. Entertaining and inspiring,



all the tales carried messages of courage, compassion and respect.

Along with performing World Tales before audiences like this, Armstrong and Aichele also work as artists-in-residence at dozens of schools and community organizations. Armstrong has recorded five albums, one of which reached the top ten on Billboard's adult contemporary chart. Aichele is Artistic Director of New Hampshire Theater Project and has performed, directed and choreographed theater throughout the eastern United States. More information about World Tales can be found at: www.metaglyph.com/worldtales