

Title of Session: Blogstreams Salon - New Year Resolutions

Moderator: Bee Dieu

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Room: Blogstreams Salon

BeeD: Hello Marie and Mary - welcome to Blogstreams Salon and Happy New Year

BeeD: Hi there Jose - how are things in Brasilia?

JoseD: Hi Bee. Thanks for rescuing me

JoseD: Things are great.

JoseD: So you are in Sidney. Great

JoseD: Hi Jim.

BeeD: what's the weather like? Very hot?

JoseD: It was pretty hot and cloudy.

JoseD: It is getting cooler now

JoseD: How about there in Sidney?

BeeD: Sydney is a bit like Sao Paulo, but there is always a breeze from the harbour

JoseD: Hi Mary. Hi all

BeeD: I am now in Lithgow, which is in the mountains - inland

BeeD: very peaceful and quiet

JoseD: São Paulo is not bad. Here is too hot

DianneA: What are you doing in Lithgow Bee?

MaryHil: Hi Jose

BeeD: I am visiting an online buddy - Peter Shanks and family

DianneA nods

BeeD: and they are showing me their neck of the woods

JoseD: Still in Japan Mary?

BeeD: Each part of Australia is very different from each other

MaryHil: Yes, but our academic year finishes in 2 weeks, and then I'm going to visit the US in Feb.

JoseD: EVO has almost started. You are moderating what course?

BeeD: Maybe we could introduce ourselves to Marie

JoseD: Feb in the US is really nice.

JimTit: What part of Japan? (I normally live in Mitaka, Tokyo... but have been in NZ for the past year.)

MarieHo: I've been checking out all your profiles - no worries.

JoseD: Hi Marie. I am José Antônio. I live in Brasilia Brazil.

DianneA: Hi, I am from Kiama, Australia, and my area of teaching is professional development

BeeD: I am an EFL(English as a Foreign Language) presently on a sabbatical leave from the Franco-Brazilian secondary school in Sao Paulo. Visiting Australia at the moment.

MaryHil: My intro: My name is Mary Hillis and I live in Japan, halfway between Osaka and Kyoto. co-mod of Blogging for Educators EVO this year.

IllyaA: and I'm Illya, I live in Switzerland, but also from the Us

MarieHo: February in some parts of the US is great - others it's not. I'm in Virginia which is reasonable.

JoseD: HI Illya. So nice to see you here.

IllyaA: I'll be co-moderating with Bee -Social Media

BeeD: HI Jim, welcome to the Blogstreams Salon

JoseD: I wanted to take that course. Social Media, but I am co-moderating two weeks in BaW.

JimTit: Hi Bee. I'm a software developer (and TALO-ite) and thought I would see what

this was about.

IllyaA: I'll be sending people your way and to the bloggers

BeeD: Oh a Talonian here..nice

BeeD: Welcome

BeeD: So the theme of our conversation today is New Year resolutions

DennisOl entered the room.

BeeD: Happy New Year Dennis

IllyaA: hugs Dennis

MaryHil: Hello Dennis!

BeeD: and thanks for your

DennisOl hugs Bee right back.

BeeD: Twitter messages

DennisOl: You're very welcome, Bee. They were from the heart!

DennisOl: Illya and Mary: Hugs!

BeeD: I know...they did warm my heart

IllyaA: I've missed out foodbridges

DennisOl: Me, too, Illya!

DennisOl: Hi, José and Marie and Jim!

JoseD: Hi Dennis this is JA.

IllyaA: first New Years resolution - start again

DennisOl: Ah, I thought so, JA, but I wasn't sure! Um fuerte abraço!

JoseD: Pra vc também.

DennisOl: JA: :D

DennisOl smiles broadly

JoseD: Dennis it will be nice to have you as a partner in EVO

IllyaA: Dennis and I could use some hands :-)

MarieHo: Newbie question - what is EVO?

DennisOl: Obrigado, JA. I'm just getting started, but I'm raring to go!

BeeD: Electronic Village Online

MarieHo: Thanks.

BeeD: these are 6 week free online sessions

IllyaA: Excellent online courses

DennisOl: It's a wonderful collection of learning opportunities!

BeeD: for teachers who want to develop their online skills

BeeD: I highly recommend them

IllyaA: a great meeting place

JoseD: I agree with Illya really excellent EVO is a must.

DennisOl: Taught by highly-recommended experts--like Bee!

IllyaA: for making friends as well.

MarieHo: Where can I check them out so I can potentially share them with some of my teachers?

BeeD: <http://evo08sessionscfp.pbwiki.com/>

BeeD: Here is the address

MarieHo: Thanks. I am responsible for technology training of our school's teachers so I am always looking for ways they can help themselves.

JoseD: So New Year's resolutions

BeeD: Becoming a Webhead is a workshop for beginners and is in the hands of very experienced moderators

DennisOl: Marie, you should definitely check the EVO sessions out. They will be well worth your--and your teachers'--time.

BeeD: Tell me about your resolutions Jose

DennisOl: Mary, I've enjoyed your Twitter posts.

DennisOl: Yes, tell us all, JA!

JoseD: Let me think a little

DennisOl: I'll tell you one of mine.

MaryHil: Thanks, Dennis! I like following you too!

JoseD: Well I want to learn about Second Life, because I am not very good on that

IllyaA: listening

BeeD looks at Dennis in expectation

DennisOl: Thanks, Mary!

DennisOl: ending the expectation: To come here regularly!

BeeD smiles

BeeD: This is a wonderful way to start the New Year :-)

JoseD: Well I want to learn about Second Life, because Iam not very good on that

IllyaA: listening

BeeD looks at Dennis in expectation

DennisOl: Thanks, Mary!

DennisOl: ending the expectation: To come here regularly!

BeeD smiles

DennisOl: The times that I've been here, I've enjoyed everything thoroughly.

DennisOl: The schedule is a little difficult for me--not to meet, but to remember!

BeeD: This is a wonderful way to start the New Year :-)

JoseD: Dear Dennis yours is also mine. I like Tapped ing

DennisOl: However, it's only a matter of developing a new set of habits, so

DennisOl: Me, too, JA.

DennisOl: Another resolution is to get somewhat involved in Second Life.

DennisOl: I think so, too, Bee.

JoseD: SL is a little difficult for me because I have never played video games or the like.

BeeD: it is a steep learning curve at the beginning

DennisOl: It's the same for me, JA.

DennisOl: Definitely, Bee!

MaryHil: Have you tried SL yet, Dennis and JA?

JoseD: So I have to learn everything from scratch.

IllyaA: I wish I could log in 8sigh)

MaryHil: I have never tried!

BeeD: but then once you manage to walk, sit , fly and teleport

DennisOl: Yes, Mary. I've enrolled at least five times.

JoseD: Yes I have. Mary.

DennisOl: And then cancelled four times!

BeeD: control your movements together with your words

JoseD: I enjoy it, but would like to learn more

DennisOl: But the last time I made some significant progress.

BeeD: then it becomes gradually easier

BeeD: I have not built anything yet

DennisOl: I'm glad to hear that, Bee.

JoseD: Dafne shared some tutorials with me and I will study them carefully

BeeD: do not think I ever will - not skills at that

BeeD: just socializing and talking to people

BeeD: I think it is easier when you learn with others Jose

JoseD: I agree with you Bee;

JoseD: By the way my avatar is Paul Kurosawa.

DennisOl: I agree, too, but I haven't been able to do that.

BeeD: although I am a teacher, I prefer when people show it to me - I remember it better

DennisOl: Paul Kurosawa? Very interesting!

BeeD: hate manuals

DennisOl: Mine is Quazno Schmooze.

BeeD: Bee Kerouac

JoseD: Yes, I love the movie director.

DennisOl: Me, too, Bee--because they're usually written by folks who don't know what it's like to be a learner.

JoseD: Very interesting avatars.

BeeD: Marie and Jim - have you been using SL?

MarieHo: Yes, I was there once - felt so over whelmed that I never went back.

JimTit: I've explored it, but never got into "using" it.

JoseD: Yours Dennis reminds of Osmosis Jones (Don't know if I spelled it correctly)

DennisOl: I can relate to that, Marie.

MarieHo: I am another one of those people that never played computer games.

BeeD: Yes - there are many interesting things happening when you know where to go

DennisOl: Osmosis Jones? Who's that?

BeeD: It is a bit daunting when you land alone

JoseD: A character in a comedy. Why did you choose this name?

DennisOl: Interesting. (I just saw the Wikipedia article on that topic.)

BeeD: If you are interested in SL, you can subscribe to the educators list

BeeD: <https://lists.secondlife.com/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/educators>

JoseD: Is there anything to do with Skimos?

DennisOl: Quazno is a connection to my past. A friend used a series of ridiculous names, and Quazno was one of them.

BeeD: there you become acquainted with some people and find out what they are doing, the problems they are facing and also get information about what is going on

DennisOl: Schmooze is because I (hard as you all may find it to believe) love to talk.

JoseD: Very interesting and funny too

BeeD: the NMC blog is another good source of information for SL

DennisOl: Thanks for that good tip, Bee.

JoseD: SL will impact ESL teaching in the future

DennisOl: I need to do some more transforming of Quazno Schmooze. He's still too tall and skinny--like a semi-macho Barbie doll.

JoseD: Dennis. I have always thought you liked to talk.

DennisOl: Yes, I agree, JA.

DennisOl: That's my point, JA. Schmooze is because I LOVE to talk!

DennisOl: I was trying to be funny.

BeeD: <http://sl.nmc.org/>

DennisOl: And thanks for the link!

JoseD: My Kurosawa could also use an upgrade in appearance and competence

DennisOl: One thing I want to do is to add a mustache. I don'

DennisOl: I don't know how to do it, but I'll find out.

BeeD: Yes...this year I am trying to weave participants of different networks together - The Webheads, TALO, the FLNW and NMC

DennisOl: Hi, Dianne. I just noticed your name. Sorry!

BeeD: into our Social Media in ELT session

DennisOl: What a great idea, Bee. All of these networks will benefit if they weave together.

JoseD: <http://daf-resources.pbwiki.com/SL-tutorials> Tutorials Dafne shared with me . They all have video and audio

IllyaA: Bee the weaver

DennisOl: Thanks, JA.

MaryHil: What a great list of resources!

DennisOl: Definitely!

BeeD: We are all struggling with the same issues from different perspectives

DennisOl: Bee the weaver--like "Aunt Nancy."

BeeD: lol

IllyaA: I'm really curious as to how things will go

IllyaA: and what it will look like with all the different threads

DennisOl: (Aunt Nancy is a figure in African folktales--a spider. In the U.S., the original name, Anansi, became transformed to "Aunt Nancy.")

BeeD: Jo has an interesting place in SL called Jokaydia <http://jokaydia.com/>

DennisOl: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anansi>

BeeD: There is also the Webhead hub

BeeD: and Edu Island

JoseD: Very interesting Bee. I am so glad I came here today.

BeeD: so what are the other resolutions besides SL?

IllyaA: I'd like to learn to only read my e-mails twice a day

BeeD: Marie - are the teachers in your school district connected and willing to experiment?

IllyaA: but then take care of everything I need to and answer them all

JoseD: Besides ESL, I will move to my brand new apt.

DennisOl: Wonderful, JA!

MarieHo: Some are very interested and will try anything. Other - not so much. They still think a computer is a nice paperweight.

JoseD: There is a wonderful view from a park.

MaryHil: Me too, Illya! My resolution is to study Japanese and be a more regular blogger, etc

IllyaA: I like that: a nice paperweight

DennisOl: Those reactions seem to be typical everywhere that there are teachers and computers, Marie!

BeeD: oh...you should engage them into the Becoming a Webhead session then

MarieHo: I try to provide as many options for them as possible so they can learn and try things at their own pace.

JoseD: I also want to study something related to computers.

BeeD: they will see there is much much more to it than just reading info online

JoseD: I am still investigating.

DennisOl: Mary: The daughter of some friends of mine is studying Japanese in Japan and has a wonderful blog about her experiences.

IllyaA: Marie, you might like to see the English Teachers Association Switzerland blog (etas)

MaryHil: Great, please share the url with me, Dennis

IllyaA: <http://etasblog.wordpress.com>

BeeD: and Jim..what is your experience? Are you involved in education as well?

IllyaA: You'll see that your problem is the same everywhere.

DennisOl: <http://go-nihon.blogspot.com/>

MarieHo: I'll be certain to check that out Illya. Thanks.

IllyaA: people are interested, but that's as far as it goes

MaryHil: Thanks, Dennis

JimTit: Only peripherally Bee. I am a developer of the eXe authoring tool for making content packages for LMSs.

DennisOl: Thanks for the ETAS URL, Illya. Do-itashimashite, Mary!

BeeD: Is there a URL you can share with us, Jim?

JimTit: <http://eXeLearning.org/>

IllyaA: Jim, what LMSs do you make tools for?

DianneA: Hi Dennis, to come into the conversation my 2008 will involve more working with EFL students doing assignments at the masters level (I mark them) and struggling with how to help them do the English as well as the research task

JimTit: <http://exelearning.blogspot.com/>

JimTit: Illya, our tool makes IMS content packages, SCORM 1.2, and IMS Common Cartridge... so the content can be used with most LMSs.

DennisOl: Thanks for the URL, Jim. I just pulled it up. Look forward to looking at it more closely later.

JimTit: It is most heavily tested with Moodle, but it works with Enrich, ATutor, Docebo.

KarenHai entered the room.

DennisOl: Hi, Karen.

KarenHai: Hi, sorry I'm late - confused time!

MaryHil: Dianne, that sounds like a challenge

BeeD: Kia Ora Karen

DianneA: Yes Mary, I find it very challenging, since I have no background in EFL

DennisOl: Sounds like a fascinating, but daunting, task, Dianne!

IllyaA: Jim, I only know moodle, but it sounds interesting

DianneA: It means I am learning as I am doing, and more about my own English knowledge by usage

BeeD: Long time no see , Karen - what have you been up to?

DennisOl: I'm sure you'll uncover all kinds of challenges that EFL students must deal with and--hopefully--overcome.

KarenHai: Hi Bee, Starting a PhD - time-consuming, but fascinating.

DennisOl: I'm also sure you'll find that many of the challenges are not generic, but are triggered by linguistic and cultural differences.

DennisOl: And by individual learning styles.

BeeD: I'd just like to remind new participants they can detach their windows (see actions menu at the top) and make the font larger

KarenHai: Thanks Bee - that makes a difference!

BeeD: Oh really Karen? What is your focus?

DennisOl: Well, that sounds like a pretty good place to be, Dianne. I'm greatly in favor of learning by doing.

KarenHai: To what degree CALL has changed the way we teach, particularly in terms of teacher identity. Still in the process of refining this, so ask me in sixth months and it might have changed considerably!!

BeeD: Oh how interesting

BeeD: Will you be joining our Social Media in ELT session this year, Karen?

DennisOl: Sounds fascinating, Karen!

BeeD: <http://dekita.org/smielt>

DennisOl: Bee: Will it be possible to be part of your session but not be very active as a participant?

BeeD: as I mentioned earlier we are going to try and weave the discussions happening in TALO and FLNW into it

KarenHai: Thanks for the URL. Will check it out. Sounds fun.

BeeD: sure Dennis - lurking is not a sin

BeeD smiles

DennisOl: I'm going to be heavily involved in two other sessions and can't overdo things.

KarenHai: It's always a problem making choices like that.

KarenHai: that's what is annoying about study - having to give up other equally interesting stuff.

MaryHil: yes, there are so many good sessions every year

KarenHai: I'm on holiday at the moment :) hence my enthusiasm...

DennisOl: At the same time, I'm fascinated by your topic and I know that anything you organize will be interesting, up-to-date, and full of information.

BeeD: WELL..my good year resolution was to take a sabbatical :-)

DennisOl: That's what's annoying about EVERYTHING, Karen! There aren't EVER enough hours in a day to do all the interesting things that come along!

MarieHo: I like that resolution - I would have more time for a lot of fun things then.

DennisOl: And it was a wonderful--though maybe not easy--decision, Bee!

BeeD: not easy, no..but much needed

DennisOl: Exactly what I thought!

DianneA: And Bee has accomplished the first stage of that! before 7 January even!! such resolve!

MarieHo: Unfortunately reality will come back when the sabbatical ends.

BeeD: It'll give me time to focus on a lot of things that were on the backburner

BeeD: reality may change after that - one never knows :-)

DennisOl: Speaking of 7 January, may I digress even more than usual for a minute?

BeeD: sure

DennisOl: January 7th is Christmas on the old (Julian) calendar.

BeeD listens to Dennis attentively

KarenHai: Bee, is your sabbatical for the whole year - cool!

DennisOl: And many Orthodox groups will celebrate it tomorrow.

DennisOl: I have a Jan. 7 Christmas greeting online, if you're interested in seeing it.

BeeD: Yes, Karen - and it may be extended a further year (unpaid obviously)

BeeD: Oh..give us the link Dennis

MaryHil: Yes, Nina (nagora) said that she had a holiday for Orthodox Christmas this week

KarenHai: is it related to Epiphany?

DennisOl: <http://www.d-oliver.net/Rozhdestvo/>

KarenHai: Bee is the smielt the open web publishing from last year?

BeeD: it has been modified Karen

DennisOl: I want to expand this a little bit--like explaining what a tropar is and to say a bit about the koljada (Nebo i Zemlja), but I may not have time.

KarenHai: I read thru all the EVO workshops and thought that that was the one I was interested in doing again. maybe I'll lurk like Dennis.

DennisOl: Karen: No. January 7th is December 25th on the old (Julian) calendar, which is 13 days behind the "normal" Western (Gregorian) calendar.

BeeD: some of it is similar...but instead of the podcasting bit which was done by Graham and co..we have introduced a wiki and games online part - it's going to be fun I hope

KarenHai: I loved last year's session

KarenHai: It was most stimulating and thought provoking

BeeD: well..we intend to provoke thinking...yes :-)

KarenHai: Dennis are you elaborating on tropar and koljada?

DennisOl: But, Karen, Armenians celebrate Christmas on Theophany (Epiphany), as far as I know.

KarenHai: Ahh!

BeeD: right

KarenHai: well, my new year resolution was to try and minimize my involvement with too many things.

DennisOl: Explaining what a tropar is and giving the text for the Christmas tropar; explaining that Slavs originally had carols for many times during the year, not just around Christmastide and giving the translation of the first verse of Nebo i Zemlja.

IllyaA: Hi Karin - good resolution!

DennisOl: Definitely a good resolution! But learning to pick and choose is not easy!

KarenHai: Trying to go deep rather than wide in terms of attention

DennisOl: Also good!

IllyaA: It's been great chatting :-)

KarenHai: Is there going to be another Blogstreams session sometime soon?

DennisOl: It's always great to chat with you, Illya!

DennisOl: Schlaf gut!

MaryHil: good night, Illya

IllyaA: danke schön

DennisOl: Bitte schön!

BeeD: In February Karen

MarieHo: Thanks for letting me watch from the fringes. Happy New Year to you all.

IllyaA: (wish I could say good night in Japanese

KarenHai: I'll look forward to it - and get the time right!

IllyaA: Marie, I hope to see you in the EVo sessions :-9

BeeD: Have a great month and hope to see and interact with you at EVO

KarenHai: Good night - kia ora also in Maori!

DennisOl: Take care, Illya!

IllyaA: kia ora!

DennisOl: Maori! Fascinating!

BeeD: Marie and Jim - join us if you can and spread the word

BeeD: Kia Ora

IllyaA: so long folks

JimTit: Oyasumi nasai.

DennisOl: Domo arigato gozaimasu, Jim-san.

DennisOl: Bee: If you have time, listen to the tropar and koljada.

BeeD: I will

BeeD: Thanks for coming and see you around

DennisOl: I thought of you, as a matter of fact, when I listened to the koljada.

DennisOl: More often, I hope!

DennisOl: Até logo!

BeeD: Thank you Dennis..bye...going to visit a sheep farm today

DennisOl: Enjoy!

BeeD: Thanks

MaryHil: Thanks, Bee! See you all later

DennisOl: Bye, Mary.

BeeD: Ciao4now

MaryHil: bye

DennisOl: Kia Ora, Karen!

DennisOl: Tchou!