

• **Another year, another amazing display of courage and strength**

On July 15th and 16th, the women of York Correctional Institution who have been participating in JDPP's fourth year of *Moving Matters!* residencies performed three beautifully touching performances for audiences of fellow inmates, their families and invited guests. The piece came together after a 12 week residency taught by Judy Dworin, Kathy Borteck Gersten, Leslie Bird, with Robin Cullen, Kerry Kincy, and Deborah Thompson. For the first time in our four years of residencies at York, the curriculum was designed so that the women could take more initiative and responsibility in the creation of the work and full responsibility for the performance of the work. This year the professional members of the Judy Dworin Performance Ensemble and Women of the Cross did not perform with them on stage, and the women rose to the challenge fully and powerfully. Women who only danced in the past became writers and performers of their writings, women who were storytellers included movement ideas in their work and singers became fully engaged in the writing of songs and performed them with body and soul. The artistic growth these women have achieved was exciting to witness, they worked as a real collaborative community, giving each other constructive feedback along the way, supporting each other as they went further and deeper into finding out what they wanted to say. They truly embodied what it means to find one's voice and to use it to speak out honestly, artfully, and constructively, not only for one's own healing and self-expression, but for all of those out there who can find meaning and truth in what one is communicating. A special feature of this performance was Tanya Cherry Savage May, a former resident of York, who returned to York to join the performance with the women, serving as an inspiration to them and to all.

• **Some small assistance will go a long way...**

Funding cuts for arts organizations are very real in the current economic climate, and we at JDPP are facing it just like everyone else. Every grant we receive is critical, and right now, one of our major grants is in danger of being cut by as much as 20%. You can prevent that from happening. So we're asking for your help.

Greater Hartford Arts Council's United Arts Campaign has been one of our pivotal organizational supports in these past many years and they are now feeling the economic crunch, too. This year's campaign came up short, so our grant, along with those of 19 other local arts & heritage organizations, stands to be cut 20% unless everyone comes together for one last push.

We, on behalf of the Greater Hartford Arts Council, normally would not ask you to make yet another contribution. But this one is so small — just \$5 — and can have such a huge impact that we can't afford not to ask. If all of you and your friends can give just five dollars, they may reach their funding goal by the end of this week.

If the Arts Council can raise \$100,000 by July 24 through a mini-campaign it is calling 5forArts, it will be able to grant all the arts organizations they fund what they originally projected this year. That's an achievable goal.

Please consider giving \$5 to 5forArts today by visiting www.letsgoarts.com/5forarts, and asking all of your friends to do the same. We appreciate whatever you and those that you know can do to support their campaign. No other \$5 you'll spend this year will have such a huge effect.

Thank you.


Judy Dworin
Executive & Artistic Director


Carla Iovinella
Administrative Director

• **Dreamings reaches arts educators from across the state**



The Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism's annual HOT Schools Summer Institute is known for their high quality arts educational experiences. This year JDPP was honored to be the opening evening event, performing its 2009 premiere of *Dreamings* for the conference participants. The performance was a complete success, and we thank the staff at CCT and the Hilton Hartford Hotel for accommodating our needs so well. Over and over during the talk-back session following the performance, arts educators,

administrators, and peer artists spoke with the performers about the value of this work, on so many levels, in the teaching and learning process. When people were leaving the performance, we were asked by many about upcoming performance of *Dreamings*. All of our upcoming events will be featured in these e-newsletters, and on our calendar of events at our website. We are also on CCT's Roster of Performing Artists, a program where schools and community organizations could receive financial support to cover our artistic fees for a performance at their venues. Contact JDPP for more information!

• **Save the Date!**

Coming soon - JDPE performing excerpts from *Time In* at the Kennedy Center on September 5, 2009 as part of the Prisons Foundation "From the Prison to the Stage" showcase. Also in September, JDPE will perform selections from the repertory on September 26 at Trinity College's Department of Theater and Dance's 40 Forward!, a celebration of 40 years of dance and co-education at Trinity. Also this fall, in November at Charter Oak Cultural Center, *What I Want to Say*, a retro mix of JDPE's 20 years of work. More details about all of this in our next E-Newsletter!

