

Why Trees are Critical to our Lives

As social and economic issues fracture our society, trees connect communities, cultures, and generations.

Trees create healthier, safer, and more connected communities.

Trees clean air, filter water, and even slow flooding in cities.

Tree shade can cool cities by up to 10 degrees, preventing heat-related deaths.

Neighborhood trees can:

- Reduce stress
- Improve health and development in children
- Encourage physical activity

Community-wide tree canopies:
Foster economic advantages
Increase civic pride among residents

Credit: https://www.arborday.org/trees/index-benefits.cfm

What You Can Do in Bloomfield

Trees for Bloomfield

Justice Dance Performance Project | JDPP

Moving for Change

In the Presence of Trees: Autumn

Sunday, October 16, 2022

Scan or visit the link below to support the continuation of

In the Presence of Trees

https://give.jdpp.org/TreesBloomfield



We welcome you to this place today and acknowledge that **Farmington River Park** is on the historic homelands of the **Poquonook Tunxis people.**

We honor, respect, and appreciate the relationship that exists between our communities, and aspire to uphold shared responsibilities and vision of stewardship for our nations, lands, and waterways.



Dedicated to the late **Renata Dixon** (March 6, 1959 - January 6, 2022), who truly shone in her life. Renata was a beautiful friend and associate of JDPP and made a significant difference to our organization. We miss her! At her celebration of life, her niece shared that more than once Renata had said, *"When I go, I want to be turned into a tree. That's the way I want to give back."*

Justice Dance Performance Project | JDPP

Moving for Change

Upcoming Events

A Response and a Call

Freedom Journeys:

She Takes Flight Through Story

A unique evening of dance and conversation with artists Deborah Goffe, Lauren Horn, and Mellissa Craig.

On Friday, November 11, please join JDPP host and curator, Mellissa Craig, for the next iteration in our series, with guests Deborah Goffe and Lauren Horn. The collective stories featured in this episode embody the true spirit of identity, ownership of one's narrative, the opportunity to make space for each other, and ultimately, the expansive flights to Freedom. Each of these extraordinary Black women will share their thoughts, ideas, and deeply rooted movement projects in a continuing effort to bring light to the struggles, hopes, and dreams of black women and all of humanity alike.

November 11, 2022
7pm on Zoom

JDPP Year End Fundraiser

CommUNITY Matters!

December 10, 2022, on Zoom

An afternoon of tree awareness activities culminating in the screening of *In the Presence of Trees: Winter, filmed at Keney Park*

February 11, 2023, at Hartford Public Library

In the Presence of Trees: Upcoming in 2023

In the Presence of Trees is a series of outdoor, in-person and virtual dance theater performances presented at various sites in Greater Hartford in 2022-23. The series explores our relationship to trees and the environment and how forests can be models for human communities. At each location, the audience will enter an imagined world of the tree: slow down their sense of time and begin to understand the rhythm of the canopy. There is much we can learn here, most especially the significance of trees in the urban, suburban, rural, and wild landscape and their potential to heal our planet and ourselves.

The winter segment of *In the Presence of Trees* will be filmed at **Keney Park** in late 2022 with a screening at **Hartford Public Library** on February 11, 2023, and online.

The final in-person performance at Bushnell Park will be accompanied by an art installation at the Pump House gallery that recreates the series on video interfaced with artwork depicting where we now stand with trees and climate change and how we can *Move for Change*.

Also, JDPP's residencies at Hartford's Parkville Community School and Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan Elementary will use the children's book, ***The Wisdom of Trees* by Lita Judge** as the theme text.

The series has been supported by the Greater Hartford Arts Council and City of Hartford; Edward C. & Ann T. Roberts Foundation; CT DEEP Urban Forestry Capacity Building Grants; and Wesleyan University. JDPP receives operating support from the J. Walton Bissell Foundation, CT DECD Office of the Arts, CT Humanities, Diebold Foundation, Greater Hartford Arts Council, and others. A complete list of funders is available at **www.jdpp.org.**

Production Order

Gathering
Welcome by Mayor Danielle Wong
Land acknowledgement by Charmaine Craig
Introduction by Judy Dworin

Performance begins

The Walk in
Led by Mashpee-Wampanoag tribal song carrier and musician Kitty Hendricks-Miller (Nenaweetah)
Dances by the Ensemble and poems by Marjorie Agosín, translated by Celeste Kostopulos-Cooperman unfold in the forest

Performance continues (*audience seated)*

- **Arrival of Autumn**
- **Homage to the Trees**
- **Leaves Unfolding**
- **Community**
- **In the Meadow**
- **Connecting Again**
- **Leaf Dances**
- **Transformation**
- **Passing the seeds**

Talk back with performers, Artistic Director Judy Dworin and Visual Designer Marcela Oteíza

Planting of seeds

Poems by Marjorie Agosín

Translations by Celeste Kostopulos-Cooperman

I

An autumn leaf that once resided among the flowering trees
Now reaches your hands and
Delights you with its color and destiny.
Drifting, you protect it between the pages of a book.
You are certain that it will return next fall to live in
The lush branches of that tree where
It will once again find its home.

Una hoja de otoño que antes vivía entre los árboles floridos
Ahora llega a tus manos y
Te obsequia su color y su destino.
Errante, la proteges entre las hojas de un libro.
Tienes la certeza que en el próximo otoño regresará a los
Frondosos ramajes, a la vida de aquel árbol donde esta hoja
Encontrará de nuevo su casa.

Special Thanks to

The amazing village of people from Bloomfield who made this piece possible: **Sharon Mann** and **Paula Jones** of **Trees for Bloomfield**; **Daniel Carter**, Director of Public Works; **Merrit "Bart" Ritson, Michael Castonguay,** and **Mike LeDuc,** Department of Public Works; **David Melesko**, Director of Parks, Recreation, & Leisure Services; **Victor Herson** and the Wintonbury Land Trust; and **Meredith Johnson**, Doll's House Foundation

And Charmaine Craig; **Dr. Susan Masino**, Professor of Applied Science Trinity College; **Jack Hale** and the **Hartford Tree Commission**; **Charles Tracy** for helping to lay the groundwork; **Dr. Suzanne Simard** and **Robin Wall Kimmerer** for their inspirational research and writing; **Joe Lea** for gifting their books; and the **JDPP Board of Directors** for their constant dedication and support.

We invite all audience members to take a **brief audience survey.** Your feedback will help us measure the impact of our programs so we can provide the best experience possible for all.

Scan for Audience Survey

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Trees2

II

In the thin light of dusk, you walk among the meadows that
Are now a carpet of fallen leaves
Sleeping upon the earth.
Near you, the children play while
The rustling wind also takes them away
Until the next time when they will be clothed in light
And will adorn the branches
Of a new autumn.

En la delgada luz del atardecer caminas por los prados que
Ahora son una alfombra de hojas caídas
Durmiendo en la tierra
Cerca tuyo, los niños juegan con ellas mientras que
El murmullo del viento también se las lleva
Hasta la próxima vez cuando se vestirán de luz
Y adornarán las nuevas ramas
De un nuevo otoño.

III

Leaves seem to have invisible maps
Until they find their way to earth, but before
It is possible to hear them singing in the treetops, and suddenly,
They fly gently until they touch the meadows
Resting upon the stillness of
A winter that promises returns.

Las hojas parecen tener un mapa invisible
Hasta encontrar a la tierra pero antes,
Es posible oírlas cantar en la copa de los árboles… y de pronto,
Vuelan livianas hasta tocar los prados.
Las hojas descansan en la estación de la quietud
En un invierno que promete regresos.

Production Credits

Conceived and directed by **Judy Dworin**

Visual Designer: **Marcela Oteíza**

Dances developed with JDPP Ensemble members **Mellissa Craig**, **Emily Daly**, **Haley Fabrycki**, **Alexa Fleury**, **Juanita Harris**, **Heidi Klecak**, **Lisa Matias**, and Associate Artistic Director **Kathy Borteck Gersten**

Performed by **Mellissa Craig**, **Haley Fabrycki**, **Alexa Fleury**, **Juanita Harris**, **Heidi Klecak**, **Lisa Matias**

Music: **Daniel Birch**

Poetry: **Marjorie Agosín, translated by Celeste Kostopulos-Cooperman**

Spoken by **Judy Dworin**

Sound Direction: **Ritz Ubides**

Photography: **Tiana Correa**

Program Design and Production Coordination: **Robyn Genzano**

Communications and Marketing: **Jennifer Eifrig**

Social Media: **Suzi Jensen**

Marketing Assistant: **Yalines Torres**

Please refrain from video recording the performance.

All music copyright Daniel Birch
www.danielbirchmusic.com

The Justice Dance Performance Project (JDPP) is a critically acclaimed dance and multi-arts organization. Its mission is to educate, inspire, and ignite awareness, bridging the boundaries of art and social justice to create a more equitable society in ways that spark individual growth and collective action.

The JDPP Ensemble enriches public dialogue and awareness of social justice through pioneering dance-based, multi-arts performances that examine contemporary social and individual issues. Known for its innovative fusion of dance, text, music, and visual design, the JDPP repertory searches the darkness to discover the light, drawing audiences into worlds that illuminate understanding and reflection. The company's award-winning work can be seen throughout New England in theaters, at colleges and universities, prisons, and inner-city schools. Its collaborative repertory has been performed in major cities across the United States and Europe.

IV

My mother gave me a leaf and
Told me that it was the heart of the tree.

Mi madre me regaló una sola hoja y
Me dijo que era el corazón del árbol.



V

On an autumn eve, an orange and violet colored leaf approached me. It still appeared to hold the warmth of the sun when it rested among the branches. I decided to keep it as a precious object, a golden premonition, a delicate elegance between my hands.

It accompanied me during the stoic winter season. I looked at it incessantly, noticing how it still held the sun's afterglow. How I loved holding it in the darkness of the days, as I looked at it and anticipated the arrival of Springtime bathed in a tenuous light!

Then in the fall I left it on the earth where I had found it, and a benevolent wind carried it to the treetop that forever awaited its return. This taught me that everything comes back like the fall that offers us all the beauty of a stray leaf that will always return to its tree, its home, its refuge.

En la víspera de un otoño se me acercó una hoja que era anaranjada y violeta. Aún parecía guardar la tibieza del sol, cuando se posaba entre los ramajes. Decidí guardarla como un objeto preciado, una premonición dorada, una delicada fragilidad entre mis manos.

Me acompañó en el estoico tiempo del invierno. La miraba siempre y aun guardaba en ella los arreboles del sol. ¡Cuánto la quise en la oscuridad de los días, mientras la miraba y presagiaba la llegada de una primavera bañada en una luz tenue!

Luego en el otoño la regresé a la tierra donde la había encontrado y un viento benevolente la llevó hasta la copa del árbol que siempre la aguardaba. Aprendí que todo regresa y más que nada, el otoño nos brinda toda la belleza de una hoja extraviada que siempre regresará a su árbol, su hogar y su refugio.