



Archive #232

Winter Issue

Jan-Feb 2016

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## Welcome New Members!

Ashley Olibas  
Shenen Kroupa (Shenandoah)



Dark Side Tribal performing at the Winter Bazaar. Photo by P. Shypula.

## Reminders & Announcements

**EVENTS CALENDAR:** Post events, workshops, hafas and parties open to all members/public by submitting them to Jeana ([editor1@isametd.com](mailto:editor1@isametd.com)) or go to (<http://www.isametd.com/WEBPROTECT-addevent.htm>).

**Individual classes and performances go in the Forums.**

## Calendar of Events

### Bloomington Belly Dances: Mar 4 (Bloomington)

Come see Bloomington's finest put on a show celebrating the many forms belly dance takes in Bloomington (with performers in nearby genres like flamenco and hula). Show at 7:30. Tickets at \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door (\$5 and \$8 for kids under 12). More info at <http://www.dbbd.org/bbd/>

### Love is a Dream/Love is a Nightmare: Apr 23 (Indy)

Come to the dream and nightmare-themed belly dance show with performing, vending, and other arts! 7pm at Motus, \$10 at the door unless you have an ISAMETD card, in which case it's \$8! <https://www.facebook.com/events/509950079178057/>

### Women's Week Workshops & Hafla: Mar 19 (Muncie)

This event is free and open to the public! Workshops are from 11am-noon and 1-3pm, and the show starts at 7pm. Everything takes place on Ball State campus. More info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/575925232564778/>

### Shimmy Mob: May 14 (Muncie)

This annual fundraiser will be hosted in Muncie and possibly other locations. Keep an eye out for an invite to an event near you. More info at [www.shimmymob.com](http://www.shimmymob.com)

## ISAMETD Business:

**REPORT FROM WINTER BAZAAR LUNCHTIME ROUNDTABLE:** We had a roundtable discussion at the Winter Bazaar to talk about the organization of ISAMETD, ways we can update the mission statement, bring in more members, and impart the importance of this organization to the future of Middle Eastern dance in Indiana and the Midwest. Below are just some of the points which we touched on: The Officers and Board are concerned about the future of ISAMETD, and we implore the membership to help come up with a solution. If we do not get more paying memberships, or bring in more revenue, whether it be from workshops, gala shows, merchandise, etc., ISAMETD will be bankrupt in less than 5 years. It has been a few years since we have produced a profitable workshop event, which was a crucial source of income. We really need to discover ways to attract more members, and create events and workshops which appeal to the spectrum of styles of bellydance today.

- Possibly changing the Levels of membership
  - Pro
  - Amateur
  - Student

(Different pricing and perks for each price level. There was discussion about phasing out of troupe memberships, as most troupes are either more than 5 people, or troupes also include students or junior members.)

- Instead of ISAMETD organizing and having an annual event, ISAMETD goes to statewide events, and for a small fee to be worked out with organizers, to be a partial sponsor to support the event. We set up a table with materials, and the hope of being mentioned in advertising as well.
- Winter AND Summer Bazaar?
- Donation table - members who are giving away items could 'donate' items that ISAMETD would in turn sell
- Local vendor for SWAG – Tshirts, hoodies, bags, stickers, magnets, mugs, etc.

- Update the logo and mission statement to match the current face of dance today.
- Possibility of staggered elections, to have overlap of serving Officers with new Officers coming in. This would entail changing the By-Laws
- Mailing list – Lisa will look into Mailchimp - it is free for users with less than 2000 subscribers sending out less than 10,000 messages in a month.
- Video of past shows – transfer to DVD – fundraising opportunity?
- Movie night to watch those old videos?
- Lecture series with dancers, historians, musicologists - learn about different aspects of culture and history of the dance and the places from which they originated.
- Gala Show Fundraiser - no workshops, just having a great evening of wonderful entertainment!

We would like to have a half day retreat to really go into depth on some of the topics above, and to discuss any other ideas that members may have. This retreat will be on Saturday, April 23, in Indianapolis. The location is TBA, and coincides with the “Love is a Dream/Love is a Nightmare” Halfa hosted by Liz Wray and Ursula at MOTUS later that evening. If any of the membership would be interested in participating in the retreat, please send me an email at [president.isametd@gmail.com](mailto:president.isametd@gmail.com)

**THE TREASURER SEARCH IS ON!** Heddy has been our faithful treasurer for a number of years and is ready to retire. This person will complete the term of Treasurer through July 2016. Qualified candidates must be detailed oriented, able to balance multiple banking accounts, make deposits, and write checks. Bookkeeping/Accounting experience is preferred. Must attend business meetings held every other month, and prepare Officer's Reports to present at business meeting and for presentation in the newsletter.

Interested individuals should send an email to Lisa at [president.isametd@gmail.com](mailto:president.isametd@gmail.com), and be prepare to attend the next business meeting on Sunday, December 13th.

**NEW WEBSITE!** All members need to sign up all over again to use the website. If you already renewed before July 1, or have a two year membership, you will need a special code in order to gain access to the website. Please send an email to [president.isametd@gmail.com](mailto:president.isametd@gmail.com) to obtain your code.



## ISAMETD Member Event Spotlight

For this month's issue, we'll shine the spotlight on an event being produced by ISAMETD member Elizabeth Carr-Wray! Maybe some of you took her makeup workshop at the Winter Bazaar...knowing how creative she is, this will be a show to look forward to!

Liz Wray and troupe Ursula are proud to present: Love is a Dream/Love is a Nightmare, a gala show exploring the many facets of love. Belly Dancers of different styles from all over Indiana (and beyond!) will be joining us in Indianapolis on April 23, 2016, interpreting love in all its glory. All will be explored and adored or abhorred! (This show is rated PG-13.)

April 23, 2016.

Basile Opera Center/MotuSpace

4011 S. Pennsylvania Ave.

Indianapolis, Indiana

(Parking behind the building)

Doors open 7pm

Show Starts 7:30pm

\$10 admission per person

\$8 admission for ISAMETD members (with membership card)



Left: Tomika; right: Eastern Odyssey at Winter Bazaar. Photos by P. Shypula

## Music for Oriental Dance

### Kat Lebo

I usually write about a specific song, or occasionally about a specific style of dance, but this time I writing more of a review of a group of albums. In particular, the albums produced by Leila Farid (Leila of Cairo): Leila presents Helwa, Leila presents Sukara, Leila present Om' Al Dunya, Leila presents Tarab, Leila Farid presents Min Gheer Kalaam (Without Words), and her newest release, Leila presents Shobesh. All of these albums are full of music to make any oriental style dancer very happy! I believe that all of the albums are made with her husband, Safaa and his orchestra. My hands down favorite is Tarab, but let's look at each album separately.

#### *LEILA PRESENTS HELWA*

Her first release, Leila presents Helwa, contains 9 pieces, ranging in length from 2:37 to 7:19. Many of the songs fall in the 3-6 minute range, making them good choices for the venues most of us dance in these days. "Leila Music Oriental" (6:06) is a great magency style piece replete with the requisite rhythm and mood changes you expect from an opening number. It's an instrumental piece, so if you prefer no singing, it might be perfect for you. "Ganal Howa" (7:07) is also set up as a full performance piece featuring the singing of Safaa Farid. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQGDCCD-68JI>) For me, this piece has a very earthy feel to it. The third piece on this album, "Saidi Cocktail" (5:54) is a wonderful medley of Saidi rhythm, perfect for nightclub style and for folkloric style dance.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9IPZqZxT1E>) Again featuring beautifully sun lyrics. Fourth on the album is "Ana Elbilik Mayel" (4:19), a nice piece heavy on the accordion with a very easy, upbeat feel. Next is "Min Hobi Fik Ya Ghari" (3:46), that has a wonderfully flowy, moderate pace. ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V\\_UGn6Fq1c8&list=PLg-PPumm9IFuZbJEi-zngUA9A22dQt70y&index=10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_UGn6Fq1c8&list=PLg-PPumm9IFuZbJEi-zngUA9A22dQt70y&index=10)) I've seen both nightclub style and more folky styles done well to this piece. Following this is a very short piece, "Asharlee Bil Manadeel" (2:37). This is a very folky feeling piece suitable, I believe, for Kaleeji style dance.

With "Darit il Ayam" (7:19), we return to a more traditional piece, one originally sung by Om Kolthoum, and written by Abdel Halim Hafez. Leila's version is replete with changing rhythms and moods, all accompanied by Safaa's very smooth vocals. "Beledi Helwa" (3:34) is lovely little baladi progression, perfect for the style! (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RVw8mW2vjc> -- yes, I know, not the correct costume for the style, but...). The album concludes with a "Tabla Solo" (3:10) that is full of all the rolls and runs and accents and fun any dance could want!

#### *LEILA PRESENTS SUKARA*

Leila's second album, Leila presents Sukara, contains 8 songs, with a nice mix of traditional pieces. The first song on the album, "Leila Sukara" (6:06) is again a magency styled nightclub opening number written for Leila by Reda Saad. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHb2zw27NYM>) Perfect piece for a solo performance on stage or the opening number in a club or restaurant setting. The second piece on the album is a great number once sung by the famous Warda, "Esmaooni" (7:42).

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcGAo31JHrs>) This lovely, emotion-filled number is a delight for those of you who love digging into the meat of the music. Next up is "Salamit Om Hassan" (3:13), an interesting number. This song is actually a political song that emerged after the Egyptian-Israeli 6-day War. Despite this, the song has been accepted as "okay for belly dance," even though I would see it more as a balady number. As such, it would be okay to do in nightclub costuming if it were internalized in a longer routine, but I was surprised that I couldn't find many videos where the dancer was dressed in balady attire, and none for this version. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-Zwa0VsBjc>) See Shira's site

(<http://www.shira.net/music/lyrics/salamet-ha-umm-hassan.htm>) for a good translation and explanation of the song's meaning. Next we have "Beledi Alwad" (5:04). Another obvious balady style song, so I was happy to find this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVtJWI06cHw>. The song ends with a very short, very lively, drum solo. The album continues with an Om Kolthoum classic, "Ansak" (6:51). This song is not only very classical, but very complicated composition was written by Baligh Hamdi for Om Kolthoum in 1962. Lyrics by Mamoun El Shennawy. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KrW4uUBs98>)

Lovely song, the title of which translates as “Forget You?” Full of longing and lost love, it’s another for those who love the emotional context of Arabic music. The sixth song on the album is another “Saidi Cocktail” (7:01) which lends itself well to folkloric styles. ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S\\_V\\_S5sP0g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_V_S5sP0g)) Just an aside here, let watching this video remind us all of just how important synchronization of props is.) My favorite song on the album is next: “Min hob fik ya ghari with Tahtil Shabak” (5:07) Definitely balady! (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhAmp8MK4es>) The pairing of these two popular balady pieces is fun incarnate! Last comes “Mo’aood” (11:48). This long piece would be perfect for those of you looking for a short set for your restaurant work. It starts very slow, but at about the 3:30 mark it picks up nicely. I you felt it too slow in the beginning, you could do some cut and pasting to rearrange or add parts such as the dancer in this video did: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYpTyYjl-ns>.

### *LEILA PRESENTS OM ‘AL DUNYA*

The third album in Leila’s series is Leila presents Om ‘Al Dunya, sometimes also called Leila in Egypt: Om ‘Al Dunya. This album has 11 pieces and, of the three so far, the most standardly nightclub in nature to my ear. It begins with a short “Overture” (0:59) to introduce the dancer (obviously Leila) to the stage. It continues with a dandy “Mergence” (6:27) with a rousing and upbeat beginning, full of plenty of rhythm and mood changes. This number is all instrumental. Many of you may remember seeing DaVid of Scandinavia dance to this number at the ISAMETD seminar in 2013: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhsMHoIFHZA> (Mergence until Fi Yom Wa Leyla kicks in about 7:30) The third number on the album is “Mally Wanna Mally” (6:28), a moderately paced number featuring Safaa Farid’s vocals. (shortened version here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWhEF9uE954>). Next up is the classical piece, “Zey al Howa” (6:42). This song was written by famous composer, Abdel Halim Hafez. Safaa’s version is true to this song-every-belly-dancer-should-know! (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZWNCCMMkVU>) From here, Leila and company jump into what they call “Lebanese Tableaux: Al Eine Moonayity with Darl ya Dar” (5:53). Most of you will recognize the first number as “Ya Ain Moulaytien,” a Lebanese piece used often for dabke. Interesting note – it’s known as “Shaskin” in Turkey. The second piece in the tableaux, “Darl ya Dar” is one of Warda’s numbers. I couldn’t find this specific piece on a video, but you can go online and find other versions of each song easily. The album continues with a modern piece called “Pussy Cat.” (6:00). A fun and flirty balady style, this song should make you smile. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9hQ9uion4A>) Next is a “Solo Tabla” (3:12), again this drum solo is full of accents, some dead stops, runs, trills, rolls and all the things we love for showing off those drum solo skills. The following song, “Beledi Vibe,” is a short baladi progression, starting from a nice instrumental taqsim and moving on through the progression to the fast, fast finish. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btGWH6hvu1g>) In the #9 spot we find “Shaabi Cocktail – Bint Sultan with Shartit Elenoo Itganin” (7:17). “Bint al Sultan” was first sung by the legendary Ahmed Adewaya, while the more modern “Shartit Elenoo Itganin” was made popular by the well-known singer Sami Ali. The first song has long been a favorite of mine, and the version on this album is very nice. This medley was my first introduction to the second song, so this version was a fun, new experience for me, although I was familiar with Ali and his cheeky style, which was done very well here. ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J\\_YtRP0XCGk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_YtRP0XCGk)) Next is “Helwa Dire Shabeka” (4:14), or “The Sweet One In The Window.” This quick paced song is very upbeat with nice variations in rhythm, mood and speed. I couldn’t find a video of the recorded number online, but I did find this video taken at Camp Negum, which is Leila’s festival. Again, I’m assuming this is the Safaa Farid group, but that’s not Safaa singing. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmYMprAdSCY>) Finally, we have “Zey al Assie” (4:21), a nice, moderately paced number, the title of which translates “Like Honey.” This is a nice cover of a song originally sung by Sabbah. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iES8ZjUtHis>).

### *LEILA PRESENTS TARAB*

The fourth entry in Leila’s album series is my favorite: Leila presents Tarab. This album is full of wonderful dance pieces, some of them definite members of the songs-every-belly-dancer-should-know list! The entire album lends itself to the mix and match many of you are looking for in putting together your nightclub/restaurant sets. First up is “Ben Aleya Hoboo” (5:30), which translates as “My Love For Him is Obvious.” This plays out like a great opening number. Upbeat with solid vocals, it is a delight to the ear.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FPbX7w3iCc>). Second is one of those list songs, "Wahashtini" (6:11). I blow hot and cold on this song, depending on the version, and Farid's version is definitely on my HOT scale! (Shortened version here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTuGULVc71g>) In slot #3 is "Ekdeb Aleya" (4:49), a nice, moderately paced piece that is perfect in length and mood for most of the venues where we perform. Strange lyrics (the title translates as "I Lie To You"), so you might want to check them out in the liner notes to be sure you feel okay about them. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1xCa7vV0Og>) The next piece is "Kamel el Awsaf" (5:13). Another very nice love song by the composer Abdel Halim Hafez, "Kamel" features nice changes in mood for a creative performance. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NREe5CSVI-8>) That's followed by a more upbeat little song called "Tisel Ley Aleya" (5:38). Lots of sass in this one! (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Q8Z-r5NsRU>) And, slowing things down again, "Al Helwa Wa Mora" (5:39) has an earthy, balady feel to it that is fun to listen to, and even more fun to listen to while actually dancing! (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLMWBsKL98o>) The #7 spot is filled by my all-time favorite song (and my all-time favorite version of it!), "Fi Yom Wa Leyla" (4:59). This wonderful love song, the title of which translates as "In a Day and a Night" is a well-loved song that was sung by both the legendary Om Kolthoum and the equally legendary Warda. It was composed by Baligh Hamdi, with lyrics by Morsi Gamil Aziz. This version makes me melt. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7eWz2H3dE4>) The album moves on with another upbeat, fun piece, called "Enta Mein" (4:05). The singer asks "Who are You?" Lots of great accents, this song about losing a lover to another is a great piece. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUmJxGVLiHc>) The last number on this album is "Hiyart Elbi Ma'ak" (You Confuse My Heart)(7:30), another piece taken from an original Om Kolthoum number. It would be easy to either cut down or add to in order to make your perfect set! Again, I didn't find a video to the recorded piece, but did find a performance to the Safaa Farid Band, with Ahmed Elkhatip singing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7ZNDr51fRQ>

## Blast from the Past

*This month we'll share a feature by Beth Bollinger: "Top Ten Signs that you should maybe get a new belly dance costume," from the January/February 1997 issue. How much of this humor is timeless?*

10. You are considering adding a third bra extender to the back of your bra.
9. Every dancer you meet begs you to let them dress you in one of their costumes.
8. Your bra and belt are so tight that your friends always keep spirits of ammonia on hand for when you pass out from insufficient inhalation of air.
7. As a last ditch effort to prevent your coin belt from turning completely into red dust, you spray paint the coins with Rustoleum.
6. While performing on live TV, the elastic on your harem pants suddenly gives out and your pants drop straight to the floor.
5. There is considerable discussion whether or not you were wearing any underpants.
4. The safety pins make more noise than your coined belt.
3. Before a live performance you frantically use a staple gun and duct tape to hook your belt and bra together.
2. A little bird tries to make a nest in the gap at the top of your beaded bra cup while you are still wearing it.

AND THE NUMBER 1 SIGN THAT YOU SHOULD MAYBE GET A NEW BELLY DANCE COSTUME: No one notices that you are in costume.

## **Letter from the Editor**

**by Jeana Jorgensen**

Life continues to be busy (surprise, surprise). I feel fortunate to be part of such a thriving dance community...with the Winter Bazaar right behind us, we're immediately starting to look forward to other belly dance events, such as Bloomington Belly Dances and the Love is a Dream/Love is a Nightmare Belly Dance Gala Show and Hafla.

In order to make sure I'm in top condition, I've been focusing on doing yoga at least once a week (preferably twice) and incorporating strength training into my routine. Getting enough sleep is always dicey, but hey, I try.

What does self-care look like for other dancers? Does it mean focusing on nutrition, stretching, rest days? How do you make sure you don't burn out? I've been dancing for over 17 years and I'm still figuring out when to push and when to pull back! Sometimes just finding new music that inspires me to dance is a sign that I have more energy to give, whereas if I'm not feeling connected to anything, maybe I should focus on fulfilling my commitments but taking the rest of the time to focus on nurturing myself. What do you think?

## **ISAMETD Business Meeting Minutes**

For updates and to suggest changes please visit the Secretary's Blog (<http://www.isametd.com/apps/blog/categories/show/740696-secretary>)

**Date:** December 13, 2015

**Location:** Al Basha Restaurant

**Minutes taken by:** Mechele Henderson, Secretary

**Attendees** Lisa Warner, President; Heddy Charleston, Treasurer; Tomika Thomas, Public Relations; Jeana Jorgensen, Newsletter; Mechele Henderson, Secretary (minutes); Conny Castoreno, Member; Carol Hurley, Member

**Call to Order:** The meeting was brought to order by President Lisa Warner at 2:30pm.

**President's Report:** We did not have enough International Festival volunteers to manage the booth and nearly cancelled our participation. Perhaps it was because of the date change. Perhaps it was because some of those who are normally available were not. There was no shortage of volunteers for the stage show day, however. On Thursday and Friday the Council gave us student volunteers in order to manage the school days and keep us but it's becoming more difficult for us to find volunteers for these events. We have the same handful of people volunteering every time. How can we change this before next year? Heddy added that we might want to hold off on adding it to the list of events for insurance purposes. Conny mentioned that getting back into these events/festivals if we drop them may not be possible.

**Buy ISAMETD swag:** Let's try to get some items to sell at the Winter Bazaar.

Heddy told us that, so far, not enough items have been sold through Café Press for the creator of the design, Stacey Duvall, to make any money and that we would need to create our own store in order to get the funds from sales since the store is not transferrable from the original creator/designer. Perhaps we can investigate Zazzle? New Designs? Lisa will get pricing for shirts and/or designs.

**Dress Code:** Hooping is not what ISAMETD is about and Lisa would prefer not to have hooping in the booth.

Jeana registered the objection that modern fusion dancers are hooping and it is a part of the expression within the community of belly dance.

**Vice President's Report:** Jenny's report was read by President, Lisa Warner, as Jenny is working on an event at Cornerstone.

Jenny is now Membership Coordinator. She will be contacting teachers for updated troupe lists by the end of December.

Facebook event has been posted for the Winter Bazaar. Please invite others to the event!

All coupon codes for website access have been sent out. She notes that this may not be the best method for this as the job is overly time consuming for the Membership Coordinator. Many are not redeeming the codes. Consider a motion to change membership to individual beginning July 1st, 2016 at a reduced price of \$15 each. This would streamline membership renewal, simplify recordkeeping and increase the income for the organization.

She would like to have a retreat to examine the by-laws and mission of our group in order to stay current with the belly dance community. She wants to re-examine festivals and annual shows. Will create and organize event with board's permission. We can advertise at Winter Bazaar and on facebook.

Lisa adds that we should have a mini-retreat at the Winter Bazaar. Last year we asked people what they wanted and fewer than 6 responded. This may be the only opportunity for direct engagement with membership.

It's time to look to the future and ISAMETD's place in it.

Heddy mentioned we should invite founders and also that many, many older, established organizations are dissolving and young people are not interested in joining these types of groups.

**Secretary's Report:** All members, having previously read the minutes, accepted the minutes of the 10/11/15 Business Meeting, taken by Mechele.

#### **ISAMETD Treasurer's Report**

**December 13, 2015**

**(for October 12 through December 12, 2015)**

##### **CHECKING**

**Beginning Balance** **\$257.71**

**Income:**

**Membership dues** **25.00**

**Expenses:**

**Extra Space Storage (Nov, Dec)** **102.00**

**Ending Balance** **\$180.71**

##### **SAVINGS-REGULAR**

**Beginning Balance** **\$8,501.34**

**Interest** **.10**

**Ending Balance** **8,501.44**

##### **PAYPAL ACCOUNT**

**Beginning Balance** **\$202.26**

**Member dues** **46.00**

**Ending Balance** **252.26**

**COMBINED TOTAL** **\$8934.41**

Connie mentioned that we can help pay for our booth by selling pre-sale tickets for International Festival. This year we paid \$110.00 for our triple booth space. (Penrod costs \$155, Broad Ripple costs \$200)

Winter Bazaar is our most expensive annual event but it's also the best attended and most popular. We do not yet have the room layout/contract from the Church. Heddy will follow up. She has received the bill for

the Liability Insurance for the event: \$1536.00. We will submit insurance for 1 workshop in 2016, Winter Bazaar, and we can add another event if we decide to have one later.  
Jeana moved to approve the expenditure, approved unanimously.

**Public Relations Report:** No Report

**Newsletter Editor:** Have not been able to post newsletter on webpage through e-mail blast. Needs assistance on tech end. The Newsletter was posted to Dropbox in the interim. Adam suggested we use Mail Chimp.

**Old Business:**

Winter Bazaar: Set –up Friday 1-5. List of teachers and classes are on the fb page.  
We are providing dessert this year so we don't run out of real food. Drummers are doing a third workshop this year, adding a riq class. For the shows, Lisa will announce, Jenny will run music.  
Start getting volunteers together. Will need more for the Swap and Shop.  
No canopies worked well last year.  
Let's sell the old sound equip at the Swap and Shop!

We have contacted Sahirah, about workshop for 2016. There is an open date in September since Carezza is not having Caravan. We are still competing with established events for our second event date. Perhaps this is another item for discussion at our roundtable/retreat.

We will need to appoint nomination committee in Feb.

**New Business:** Lisa mentioned that Liz is teaching at Modus downtown (Penn and 38th) at the old Greek Orthodox Church. The stage area is wonderful, there is a sound system, space for vendors, great light, a "crying room" for a dressing room as well as a choir loft. We could consider as a space for workshops/events. Church pews are still in place. She is waiting to hear back about cost.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:03pm.**