

Archive #233

Spring Issue

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Welcome New Members!

Michelle Davis



Tracie performing at the “Love is a Dream/Love is a Nightmare” hafla. Photo by Crystal Tuttle.

Reminders & Announcements

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

Individual classes and performances go in the Forums.

Calendar of Events

Shimmy Mob: Saturday May 14, 5-8pm (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 <https://www.facebook.com/events/438742336336753/>

Stage Show at the Broad Ripple Art Fair: Saturday May 21, 4:30-5:30pm (Indy)

This year we get to perform on the stage rather than having a booth. More info at <https://www.facebook.com/events/458533407678555/>

ISAMETD Business:



ISAMETD RETREAT REPORT

On Saturday, April 23, a dozen ISAMETD Members came together at a local Indianapolis McAllister's Deli to talk about and brainstorm the future of ISAMETD. As has been stated in previous newsletters and recorded in business meeting minutes, the financial stability of the organization is precarious, and changes need to be made to ensure ISAMETD will be around for many more years to come.

Member Facilitators led discussion groups in the following categories:

Vision/Mission of ISAMETD - Changes of mission statement, review the By-Laws and Membership Handbook for any possible revisions.

Fundraising/Publicity - How can we fundraise for the organization to keep it solvent? How do we get the word out about ISAMETD in new ways, and draw in new members.

Membership/Continuity - Explore new membership levels? How do we keep members involved?

Programming/Events: Which events that we currently participate in should stay, and what should go?

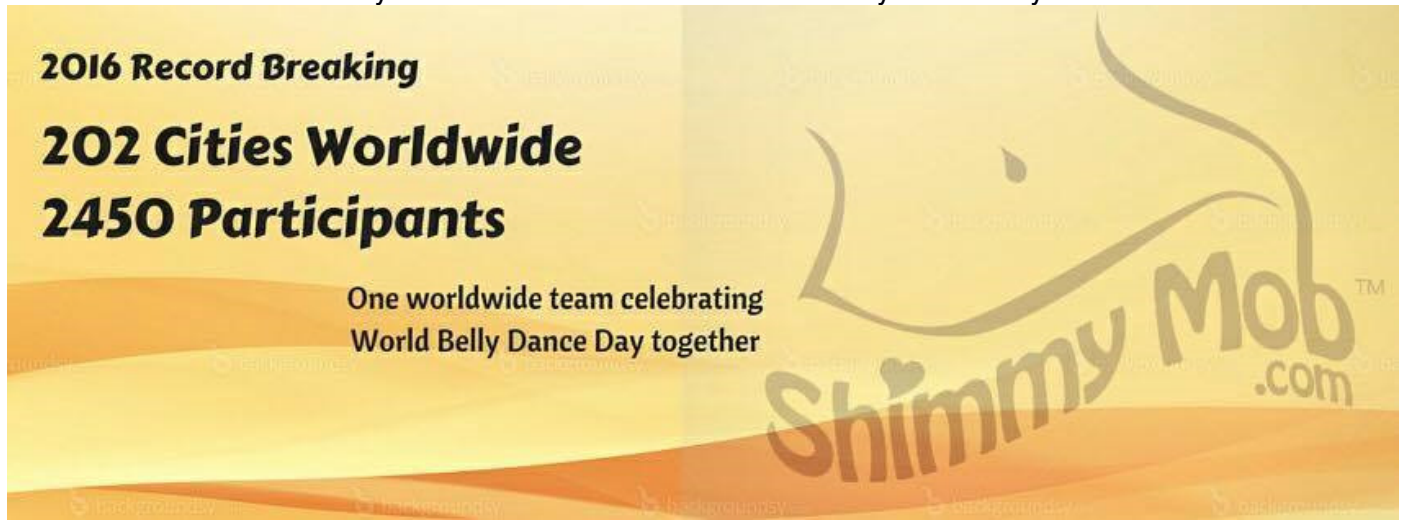
After about an hour and a half for discussion, the group came back together as a whole to go over major talking points each group came away with. There were a lot of great ideas, and a lot of thinking outside the box.

Once the Board has a more solid grasp of how to proceed, they will be notifying the Membership in some manner to bring those ideas and changes to you for your input and/or vote. Stay tuned for more exciting news in the near future!

NEW WEBSITE! If you renewed your membership before July 1, 2015, 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 to obtain your code.

ISAMETD Member Event Spotlight

For this month's issue, we'll shine the spotlight on the Shimmy Mob, an event being produced by ISAMETD board member and VP Jenny Smithson in celebration of World Belly Dance Day.



Jenny describes the event thus:

Our primary objective is to raise donations and awareness. Funds raised via Shimmy Mob will be donated to Abused Women and Children shelters throughout the world.

Our secondary objective is to produce a flash mob type event formed by dancers and non-dancers with the objective of performing a choreographed medley of belly dance styles.

The Shimmy Mob performances will occur throughout World Bellydance Day and will serve to promote the dance, participating dance teachers and schools offering free related events happening in the local participating areas.

We have four teams in Indiana this year: Fort Wayne, Muncie, Evansville, and Vincennes. The Muncie event will have a hafla and fundraiser from 5-8pm on May 14, with more info here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/438742336336753/>



Rebellyon performing at the "Love is a Dream/Love is a Nightmare" hafla



Liz Wray welcoming everyone to her hafla, “Love is a Dream/Love is a Nightmare”

Music for Oriental Dance

By Kat Lebo

Last issue, I told you about the first 4 of Leila of Cairo’s wonderful CDs: “Leila Presents *Helwa*,” “Leila Presents *Sukara*,” “Leila Presents *Om ‘Al Dunya*,” and “Leila Presents *Tarab*.” I’d like to finish out this look at her CDs with a review of the last two in the group, “Leila Presents *Min Gheer Kalaam*” (without words) and her latest release, “Leila Preents *Shobesh*,” which came out the end of this past January. I was unable to find videos for the songs on these relatively new albums, and also was unable to find sound bites for them on Leila’s site or on Amazon and only found the sound bites for “Min Gheer Kalaam” on CD Baby. So, I guess you’ll just have to take my word that the albums are of similar quality to the first four!

Leila Presents *Min Gheer Kalaam* (without words)

For those of you who are looking for dance numbers without lyrics, this album may have been especially made for you! The inside leaflet states: “Min Gheer Kalaam – Without Words” by Dancer-Producer Leila Farid and Artistic Director Safaa Farid brings together three essential elements of Egyptian Dance Music: Taxsim, Beledi, and Tabla Solo.” I’ll be the first to say that although I like most of the songs on this CD, I was disappointed there weren’t more simple instrumental covers of well-known songs. I understand the purpose – but unfortunately, that didn’t appear in the info I’d read about the CD before I purchased it. However, if you are a big fan of drum solos, or taxsims, or beledi progressions, or if you feel you need more practice on these three styles of music, this is definitely for you. If you were hoping for just a lovely instrumental version of your favorite songs, it’s not here. For me, the beledi progressions are what I’m most likely to use, and maybe some of the wonderful Taxsim Cocktail that appears late in the list. No videos, but run over to CD Baby and have a listen here: <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/leilafarid>, it might be just what you’ve been looking for. Songs included are:

Solo Tabla Zeffa (3:04) – As the title indicates, this piece begins with the Zeffa rhythm, which is commonly used in wedding progressions. It continues with many riffs and rhythm changes, making a nice, reasonably short drum solo.

Taxsim Kamenga (Violin) (6:53) – If you love dancing to the emotional feel of a taxsim, here’s the first of several on this CD! Haunting and heartfelt, this taxsim delivers on emotional content.

Taxsim Saxophone (7:17) – Love the bluesy, more modern sound and feel of the saxophone? Smooth and soulful, this isn’t an old-style taxsim.

Beledi Awady (3:21) – A great accordion beledi progression, with plenty of that playful, yummy goodness that this type of musical composition has to offer. BTW, the word awady or awadi generally is used for the woman’s version of beledi progression. Women can dance to both the awadi and the tet (men’s) versions, although men usually only dance to the tet.

Solo Tabla Fawzooa (2:31) – Another short, sassy drum solo! Lots of unusual accents. Fun!

Beledi Hassan (3:39)—Again, if you are looking for a traditional beledi progression, this one features well known compositions in a modern style.

Taxsim Anoun (8:12) -- Yet another taxsim, this one feature the kanoun {swoon!} with all its trembling goodness.

Solo Tabla Itganin (3:06) -- More for you drum solo fans. Hear some of it at that link!

Beledi Saxophone (3:08) – If you'd like an updated, jazzy feeling beledi progression, this one, featuring the alto sax as the main instrument is very different, while still delivering all the feeling of the traditional progression.

Taxsim Nay (Reed Flute) (9:30) -- Another long taxsim for those of you wishing to hone your emotional connection skills!

Solo Tabla Gamda (4:05) – Another tabla solo with lots of pizzazz!

Beledi Bint il Bilah (3:48) – Another progression, this one using one of the traditional men's tet beledi songs, "Bint il Bilah."

Taxsim Accordion (6:59) – This accordion taxsim has some wonderfully fluid sections along with some very nice fluttering sections. A bit lower toned, with a languid feel.

Taxsim Cocktail (7:32) – When you see the word "cocktail" in the title of an Arabic piece, it usually denotes a medley of different songs. This one delivers and adds a twist on the idea of medley, starting with a lovely nay that melds into the accordion, which passes it on to the violin, that dissolves into the kanoun, and finally, that bluesy saxophone. Very nice. Unfortunately, the snippet from CD baby won't do it justice!

Solo Tabla Ga'bar (3:34) – The final piece on this album is another tabla solo. This one is quick and fun.

Next up is Leila's newest CD, released earlier this year.

Leila Presents Shobesh

This, Leila's newest CD, has this blurb on the cover: "Safaa Farid Singing Classic Egyptian Songs for Bellydance." So, if you are a traditional purist like me, you'll be in heaven. If you're not, and were hoping for more alternative music, you might not find this CD of use. As is common with Leila's CDs, this has liner notes with the lyrics for the songs. Nice touch that allows the dancer to know what the song is about. Again, as this CD is just a few months old at this time, I doubt I can find much in the way of video featuring the songs, but I'll try. This cd does appear on Amazon, but without sound bites, and it isn't yet shown on CD Baby. I know I purchased mine directly from Leila. If you're interested, visit her website or find her on Facebook!

Mish Hatlaooni (5:10) – As are many traditional songs, this one is about love. But maybe not your happy love story, the song begins with this plea: "Tell me the truth today while I am with you." But, the song itself is lovely, and would be a perfect vehicle for those of you who love to emote.

Ya Amara (3:27) – This begins with a lovely accordion taxsim before launching into a lively piece. The song is obviously about a dancer. The lyrics begin: "Boy...have mercy on me ... boy/By the Prophet boy, boy./On the drum you dance so lovely/Makes us confused and crazy from love." Short, upbeat and fun piece.

Hafakarak (5:44) – Another love song, with lyrics that begin: "If you forget, I will remind you/my burning love kept you up at night." This one has slow, languid sections perfect for your sensual moves, and nice upbeat sections for all your percussive moves. Nice mix of mood and tempo.

El Arab (5:07) – The Arab. Oh, those lusty Arabs! The lyrics begin: "When she came, my torment called her/When she came, I flew to her with longing/Love was her eyes." The story, of course, doesn't run as easily as that, and the usual tormented love affair is obvious in this piece. Starts slow, but picks up to a wonderful pace with a strong Khaleeji feel.

Waheshni Kaman (Long Version) (7:00) – In this piece, the singer tells his sweetheart that she has been his love for a long time, and even though they have been apart, he has missed her and reminds her of how long he has loved her. "Darling I miss you./My soul is yours./From long ago." This song starts out with a fast entrance, then slows to a solid Wahda rhythm when the lyrics kick in. Interesting instrumentation. I'm not sure what the instrument is that carries the melody line. It doesn't sound like an accordion, and I'm tempted to say it's something like the kanoun, or perhaps a keyboard. Lots of mood and tempo changes.

Shobesh (5:15) – The title song of the CD, "Shobesh" is a light piece that seems to be about the early stages of a love affair. Lyrics start: "Oh My God/I am flowers/Oh My God/This is the best night." The

first ¾ of the song is very upbeat and light. Then it slows a bit for some of the lovely yumminess, and then back up for a progressively quick end.

Habibi (6:35) – Lost love – a favorite topic – is the storyline behind this song. In it, the singer declares that she will always love her sweetheart, even though he has evidently left: “My love, I swear he is still my love, /I’ll never forget my love.” Like all good Egyptian traditional dance music, this song has a nice mix of rhythms and moods.

Eskandaria (5:19) – Like most songs that bear this name, “Eskandaria” is light and airy, a little ditty in the style of music from the Alexandria port area. In the song, the singer talks about one who is loved, but doesn’t realize someone loves him. “Between two beaches and the water/Lives the apple of my eye.” Nice little piece that might lend itself to a bit of meleya leff.

Waheshni Kaman (Short Version) (4:18) – As the title indicates, this is a shortened version of the song that was fifth in the list. Otherwise, it’s pretty much the same.

Tiheb Elbi (4:23) -- Very upbeat, happy song about first love. The lyrics start: “The first time my heart loved/Was the first day I felt happy.” The song moves along quickly for the majority of its length. This might be a nice piece to use if you are dancing for an engagement party or wedding reception, or just want a feel-good piece for your next event.

Ool Ya Mein (5:56) – The last piece on the CD is another song about love lost. Lyrics late in the song ask that burning question: “While I always wished my happiness to last forever/Why did it not?” Can you relate? Nice song with strong rhythmic accents and an upbeat pace.

So, there you have it, six albums by an American dancer who is now a naturalized Egyptian citizen, living and working as one of the more popular dancers in Egypt today. If you are looking for specifically Egyptian style music, Leila’s CDs are great choices.

Letter from the Editor

by Jeana Jorgensen

Well, my time as newsletter editor is over. I discovered that I like writing better than I like editing, so it’s a bit of a relief to pass on the newsletter to whoever is elected after me. Hopefully, as I’m able to return to my original love of writing, I can contribute pieces to the newsletter occasionally (hint: it’s often difficult to get people to submit pieces to the newsletter, so the new editor would probably love to hear from you, whether it’s a brief event report or a rumination on some aspect of the dance that you’d like to share!). Happy dancing!

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: February 14, 2016

Location: Al Basha Restaurant

Minutes taken by: Mechele Henderson, Secretary

Attendees Lisa Warner, President; Jenny Smithson, Vice President; Hedly Charleston, Treasurer; Mechele Henderson, Secretary (minutes); Gerie Shearrow, Member; Lindsay Holmes, Member

Call to Order: The meeting was brought to order by President Lisa Warner at 1:10pm.

President’s Report: Lisa has signed us up for Mail Chimp email database since we lost the ability to do e-mail blasts. The service is free for up to 2000 subscribers and 10,000 emails. Lisa will do a template for regular correspondences and the data entry of members.

April 23rd retreat. Motus is not available for the mission planning retreat so we will look at the Fishers library where Elizabeth Wray is a member or another library that may be available. Lisa will look into this. Once Lisa mentioned to members of the Facebook members group that they should add their events, people really jumped on the opportunity. She would like to attend more members’ events to promote

ISAMETD. She is thinking about selling ISAMETD merchandise at events and on our own website rather than Café Press.

Vice President's Report: Jenny is waiting to mail 2 membership cards until she gets a mailing address once the new members use their coupon codes. She updated website w/ today's meeting and a Save-the-Date announcement for the retreat and Liz's Hafla. The teachers page and the vendors page need updated on the website. Mechele agreed to work on teachers page. Sahira has told Jenny that if we want to book her for an event this year, we need to act soon as her calendar is filling fast.

Secretary's Report: Mechele read the minutes of the December 2015 Business Meeting.

ISAMETD Treasurer's Report
February 14, 2016
(from December 13, 2015 through February 14, 2016)

CHECKING

Beginning Balance	174.71*
Income:	
Membership dues	48.00
Winter Bazaar proceeds	570.00
Transfer from Savings	1,750.00
Transfer from PayPal	<u>300.00</u>
	2,668.00

Expenses:

Extra Space Storage (Jan, Feb)	102.00
Insurance Premium	1,585.00
Cash for winter bazaar	200.00
Balance due on facility rental	125.00
Paper goods, water, etc for	
Winter Bazaar	<u>82.34</u>
	(2,106.34)
Ending Balance	\$ 736.37

* adjusted by \$6 from previous report due to increased storage fee in December

SAVINGS-REGULAR

Beginning Balance	8,501.44
Interest	.09
Transfer to checking	<u>(1,750.00)</u>
Ending Balance	6,751.53

PAYPAL ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance	252.26
Member dues	116.00
Transfer to checking	<u>(300.00)</u>

Ending Balance **68.26**

COMBINED TOTAL **\$7,556.16**

Heddy also gave all the final numbers from Winter Bazaar. We made a little profit because we sold the sound system.

As for attendance, I think we had about 120 total.

Income:

Sale of sound system	150.00
1 vendor fee	20.00
2 renewals @ \$24 each	48.00
40 guests @ \$5 each	<u>200.00</u>
Total Income	418.00

Expenses:

Room rental	325.00
Paper goods	<u>82.34</u>
Total expenses	407.34

Net profit/loss **\$10.66 profit**

Heddy reminded us that our account balances are dwindling and we have reached the point where we have to stop spending now that we have the new website and the storage issues taken care of. At the current rate we will be broke in less than 5 years. The largest expense is the liability insurance and she suggests, perhaps, we should do insurance on a per event pay-as-we-go basis to save money.

Public Relations Report: No Report

Newsletter Editor: No Report – Lisa will find out how to put Newsletter online and Jenny will make a webpage to add it.

Old Business: Winter Bazaar Wrap Up – See Heddy’s report above.

Swap and Shop needs to be tweaked next year for better cash management. One single cash box will be much better than the envelope system we used this year.

People must check in with the cashier before leaving their items. All items must have a tag and a list of their items left with cashier.

Food worked out really well, the traffic pattern as well as the no-dessert rule.

New Business: International Festival is November 10-12. The Theme is “Home Around the World” and does not conflict with Great Lake Belly Dance Convention this year.

Broadripple Arts Fair will no longer have cultural booths but has invited us to perform on their stage. We can distribute literature about the group at that time. The board agrees that we will participate.

Ideas for the Retreat is a continuing conversation. We have a Facebook group for the event and will continue discussion there.

Formation of Nomination Committee –Mechele will be committee chair and we will ask Kat Lebo and Maria Spratford if they are still willing to be on the committee. Jenny is willing to run for anything but treasurer or newsletter, Lisa for President, and Liz for PR. Jeana and Tomika are not re-running for their offices.

Maybe Connie would run for treasurer.

Next month we will put a notice in the Newsletter about the election and in April we should send out the ballots. Lisa has already been making announcements online.

Sahirah discussion will be tabled for discussion amongst the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.