



Archive #230

Fall Issue

Sep-Oct 2015

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Welcome New Members!

No new members... hint, hint, get your friends to join!



Muse Carnivale at the Kokomo Renaissance Faire

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

Irina Akulenko Seminar and Performance: Oct 3, 9am-11pm (South Bend, IN)

Tribal fusion belly dancer Irina is bringing two workshops to South Bend, along with an evening of performances. Check out the Facebook event for more info:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/871392686215246/>

BadAss ATS Swords & Irie Dialect with Cyreigna: Oct 24, 10am-4pm (Kokomo, IN)

Certified ATS Sister Studio Cyndi returns with ATS dialect to slice and dice with swords, and amaze with concise and clear cues. For more info see the Facebook event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/531385410353182/>

Kokomo's Cabinet of Curiosities: Annual Haflaween by Red Door Vardo Arts: Oct 24, 6:30-8:30pm (Kokomo, IN)

This annual Halloween variety show promises to delight and thrill. Check out the Facebook event for tickets.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1534636546787191/>

Stay tuned for more info on how to volunteer at this fun, educational event! It'll be held at a different part of the State Fairgrounds, too.

Cornerstone Winter Hafla & Fundraiser: Dec 5 (Muncie, IN)

International Festival NEW DATES: Nov 5, 6, 7 (Thurs, Fri, Sat, NO Sunday this year), 10am-9pm

Keep an eye out for more info on this fun event!

ISAMETD Business:

Upcoming ISAMETD meetings for the rest of 2015 (all on Sundays):

October 11

December 13

(Time and location TBA, but go ahead and mark your calendars now!)

REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE JUNE 30! Just a reminder that members whose membership expires June 30, 2015 will be receiving a renewal notice by May 1st via email. Please be on the lookout for it. Don't delay; send in your dues right away! If you're not sure when your membership expires, or have any other questions about membership, please contact Heddy Charleston at heddy.charleston@att.net. Thank you.

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, and be prepare to attend the next business meeting on Sunday, August 9th.

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 to obtain your code.



Members of Indy Tribal (Rachel, April, and Tracie) perform in front of the ISAMETD booth at the Penrod Art Fair.

Know your Lyrics

by Kat Lebo

Salamata Om Hassan
(Get Well, Mother of Hassan)

I'd always been told that this song was a traditional number about an Egyptian soldier who had returned from war. I'd assumed the "war" was probably one of the World Wars, but I was wrong. When I decided to search out lyrics, I of course started with Shira's site, but checked a couple of others, as well.

The origin of the song (music by Farouk Salamah) is after the 6-Day War with Israel, the loss of which was humiliating to the Egyptians. In the song, the mother of an Egyptian soldier, is suffering and feels the evil eye has been cast upon her and, in fact, on all of Egypt. The lyrics wish her, and all of Egypt, a speedy recovery. Both translations from Shira's site allude to her undergoing a zar ritual, but it didn't make her better. The singer advises her to forget those superstitious ways.

These lyrics are the shorter of the two found on Shira's site. This translation was done by Adel Abdallah.

"Umm Hassan is a woman who thinks that she is possessed and wants an exorcist so that she can be healed", writes Adel, the translator.

Get well, Umm Hassan,
Recover from the evil eye
Recover, all our loved ones, from the eye of envy

She was hit by the mental illness
And she could not sleep
You cannot blame her

Get well, Umm Hassan...

She burned incense but it did not help
They played the drums loud to her ear like a bullet
But it did not help

Wake up, Umm Hassan
You know better that all that incense and drums
And all the hocus pocus do not help

Get well, Umm Hassan

You can find this translation and a longer, more in depth translation by Nicole Ibrahim on Shira's site at:
<http://www.shira.net/music/lyrics/salamat-ha-umm-hassan.htm>

Although there is certainly a political bent to this sha'abi classic, unlike lyrics of many of the songs from Egyptian shaa'bi singer Shaban AbdelRaheem, there is nothing controversial in these lyrics, and dancers should not worry about dancing to it.

This interview with Ahmed Adeweya in the Al-Ahram Weekly Online talks a little about this song, which Adeweya made famous. <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2001/520/profile.htm>

Videos featuring this song are easy to find on Youtube. Here are just a few:

Hassan Abou Seoud – this one is very “poppy” and I can’t really recognize the melody line in it.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZavjZjz-8f4>

This version is by the Al-Ahram Orchestra:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jdl4nv9H6Y8>

I don’t know who these musicians are, but it’s a heartfelt rendition:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foRejsBgCbY>

This nice version from one of Arab Idol shows:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCzZsbXK_Co

This version is from the Lebanese dancer, Amani’s *Around The World* dvd.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsDd9NegCUY>

Here’s a very recent one, from the Cairo By Night Festival in Greece:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=217&v=0YKNrd8d7j0>

Ahmed Adeweya:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSDKkB9m5FU>

This version, also by Adeweya, is from the recent Egyptian TV show, *Al Rakassa*. The dancer is Oxana Bazaeva. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cC7fugRhpZ8>



Above: Andy drums for us at the ISAMETD booth at the Penrod Art Fair.
Right: Zhenna dances with a sword.



Blast from the Past

This month we'll share a feature by Anna Tatman (former ISAMETD president) from the September/October 1993 ISAMETD newsletter. I was particularly struck by how yoga was described as complementary to belly dance; anyone who's followed tribal fusion stars like Rachel Brice is familiar with this concept, but it's neat to see it expressed decades ago!

In the Summer 1993 edition of *Habibi* magazine there were two articles of interest to members interested in attending the fall joint seminar with Suzanna DeVecchio. The first is titled "Classic American" Creative Styles in Motion, written by Gisselle Fobs. In this article, Gisselle writes about the elements that reflect what is known as American Style Oriental Dance. She gives a description of the sword work performed by Suzanna on the "Dances from the Heart" video. If you have already seen this lady dance, you the reader, can picture her balancing a sword on her chin and doing a backbend at the same time, or dropping the sword from her head to her abdomen and flipping the flat side of it from side-to-side on her stomach. When it comes to using interpretive movement and props in the Classic American Style of dance, Suzanna is quite skilled. Gisselle expresses her feeling that Ms. DeVecchio displays a "polished dramatic talent" in the "Moon Over Denver Vol. I" video. Suzanna is quoted as saying that "dance performance is for me an opportunity to be fully in the present moment."

That statement leads me to the second article. This one, written by Suzanna, is titled "Yoga and Dance," *Mov'ing in the Moment*. This well written and informative article gives a brief background on her early involvement with yoga and how it has helped her in her dance. In 1980 Suzanna was introduced to the Iyengar Yoga discipline, this form of yoga stresses precision in the execution of positions, anatomical alignment, and uses props to help. Suzanna feels it causes her to think and feel a pose and be aware of the movement. She says "with this yoga, I was learning to be in the pose, to be in the moment while doing the movement, to bring the mind into the present moment." This was what she was wanting in her dance, "To be one with the music and audience." She feels yoga can help us develop an awareness of who we really are and to share this with our audiences.



If you get a chance to read either of these articles, I urge you to do so. Does anyone know where I can sign up for yoga classes? I know where you can sign up for Suzanna's Indy Seminar.

The table at our ISAMETD booth at Penrod is decorated with baskets, colorful cloth, and coin belts. Indy Tribal director Jeana stands with troupe member April, zilling to live music.

Letter from the Editor

by Jeana Jorgensen

Nothing really prompts you to evaluate your collection of dance attire like moving. In the past few weeks I've packed up and moved to a new residence, and even though we're 90% settled, with a couple weeks left on the lease at the old place I've been dragging my feet moving over the remainder of my dance things.

In my 16+ years of dancing, I've accumulated a lot: costume items that were handmade for me by friends, silver zils from that Renaissance Faire in southern California I haven't been to in ages, jewelry that my mom gifted me from her hippie days, and more. In the last year I've acquired more than my fair share of 25-yard skirts and cholis, thanks to my continuing involvement with the ATS scene here in Indy.

Could I get rid of some of this stuff? Sure. But even setting aside the things I use pretty regularly, or the one-of-a-kind things I buy from their makers, so many of my dance items are associated with happy memories. There's the slightly tattered dark green silk skirt I found at a thrift shop in Berkeley, and wore the first time I performed a duet with a college friend at Amira in San Francisco (yes, the same Amira where FatChance BellyDance developed a lot of their ATS cues in the '80s and '90s). Then there's the black silk skirt, a smidge too long for me, that I bought from Flying Skirts at a belly dance festival in northern California in 2002 or 2003. That skirt came with me to Estonia, and helped me fake my way through flamenco lessons as well as being a key costume item when I linked up with some ATS dancers there. Not everyone spoke English, but the dance language translated enough that we were able to synchronize and dance together!

So even though I'm hanging onto some dance items that I don't use regularly anymore, I'm okay with this. Everything has a memory attached, and so many of my dance memories are happy ones that I love having reminders around. Now if only everything was a bit more compact and easier to move!

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: August 9, 2015

Location: Franklin Road Public Library

Minutes taken by: Mechele Henderson, Secretary

Attendees Lisa Warner, President; Jenny Smithson, Vice President; Mechele Henderson, Secretary (minutes); Heddy Charleston, Treasurer

Call to Order: The meeting was brought to order by President Lisa Warner 2:15pm.

President's report: Website updates-need help with notifying members who renewed before new website rollout how to register for new site. Jenny will send e-mails.

Tutorial for officers with web developer after meeting.

Will not be here for October meeting.

Newsletter was well-received on Dropbox last month. Perhaps we could consider an occasional "sneak peek" issue.

Vice President's Report: : Only 1 negative feedback resulting from the cancellation of the Ft Wayne event from a troupe in Illinois.

Secretary's Report: The Board, having previously read the minutes, accepted the minutes of the 6/14/15 Business Meeting, taken by Mechele.

ISAMETD Treasurer's Report
August 9, 2015
(for June 14, 2015 through August 8, 2015)

CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$352.42
Income:	
Membership dues	576.00
Cancel check 1461 never cashed	<u>26.86</u>
	602.86

Expenses:

Extra Space Storage (Jul, Aug)	102.00
Copying	19.90
Dues refund	12.00
Penrod Booth	135.00
Transfer to Paypal (website)	<u>11.13</u>
	(383.03)

Ending Balance	\$572.25
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SAVINGS-REGULAR

Beginning Balance	\$8,501.14
Interest	<u>.10</u>
Ending Balance	8,501.24

PAYPAL ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance	\$111.90
Website	(135.87)
Canceled workshop	(50.05)
Member dues	<u>258.28</u>
Ending Balance	184.26
COMBINED TOTAL	\$9257.75

Membership Report: 78 Memberships (Deadline Sept 1)

Heddy passed membership packets over to Jenny who will manage memberships from this point forward.

Newsletter Editor Report: Submissions for the newsletter are always welcome!

Old Business:

Penrod Booth: September 12. Setup must be complete by 3pm on Friday. Mechele volunteered for set-up, will need assistance. Will check with Jeana. Lisa and/or Tomika will send/post "Save the Date" notices.

International Festival: First weekend in November, 11/5-11/7. No music during the stage shows because of smaller venue. We have a triple space for dancing and drumming to keep us out of the aisle. We are not permitted to dance in the aisles for safety reasons.

Our stage performance slots are Friday 11:15-11:30 and Saturday 10:45-11:20. There is a Nationalities Council meeting tonight at the Latvian Community Center, 8/10/15, 6pm. Mechele will attend.

Winter Bazaar: Jan 30, 2016, Church is reserved. Rental went up this year again. Be thinking about workshops. Jenny suggested Jussenya as an instructor. Will need to verify membership status. Drumming has been a very popular workshop in the past and will be included as well.

Some suggestions from last year:

- Officers provide dessert and guests bring mains and sides, etc.
- Move ISAMETD banner to stage

- No vendor canopies
- Swap and shop loss prevention
- Define difference between swap/shop and a vendor
- Need forks
- Consider increase in admission to cover higher rental costs

New Business:

Discussion about moving the second event from summer/fall to the spring for 2016. Jeana has already volunteered to ask Jill Parker to do workshop.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15