



Editor's Note

First item on my list for today is an apology. Yes, there was no May/June newsletter. Those who know me or are my friends on Facebook know I spent most of May flat on my back in bed with a very bad case of vertigo. And from the end of May through June, I was working on being able to keep my balance on the long walk from my bedroom to the living room (approx.. 20 steps). However, things are nearly back to normal now – I've even driven my car 2 times in the last 10 days. Prior to that I hadn't driven since April 30th; it's remarkably difficult to drive when you can't look over your shoulder or check for traffic looking right and left without getting dizzy.

So, here we are in mid July. For most of us, there hasn't been a lot of opening up happening. I ate indoors at Dairy Queen (I NEEDED that Blizzard!) a couple of days ago. There were about 8 customers inside, all masked, and all the employees, again, about 8 of them, were masked as well. A much better mask showing than at Walmart where I picked up my prescription before going for lunch.

I've watched a lot of videos, read a lot of books, learned several old songs, and finally, last week, I began to do some dancing. It's been a long summer. Hopefully, yours has been better.

Do me a favor and submit something for the September-October newsletter. A photo, or a video of you dancing or playing an instrument, or of you practicing your dance or playing a musical instrument. Write a short article (or a long one) about what dance means to you, what style of dance you do If a musician, how did you come to play your instrument? Or just write about what you've been doing over this strange spring and summer of 2020. Deadline is August 31st.

Kat Lebo, Newsletter Editor

Results of the Officer Election

The results of the 2020 INBC Officer Election are in! Thank you to all of you who voted. Here's to the next two years of leadership for INBC!

- President: Angie Shaw
- Vice Presidents: Virginia Hojas and Tahulla Setsena
- Treasurer: Paul F.P. Pogue
- Secretary: Romana Bereneth
- Public Relations: Deborah Kull
- Newsletter Editor: Kat Lebo

Member News

Kat Lebo's Bare Bones classes are all cancelled for the summer, but Troupe Oasis has been doing Zoom rehearsals. It's been difficult, as none of us can figure out how to share the music and have each attendee hear it the same. As you'll see in this video of Becca, Deb, Sara, and Val practicing our *Bel Arabi* routine back in May. Becca is sharing the music, so she looks like she might be the only one who is getting the timing correctly. Actually, they are all spot on, they just hear the music on a delay that is different for each of them. Sigh! If any of you have suggestions for how to get the music timed correctly for all, please pass those tips along.

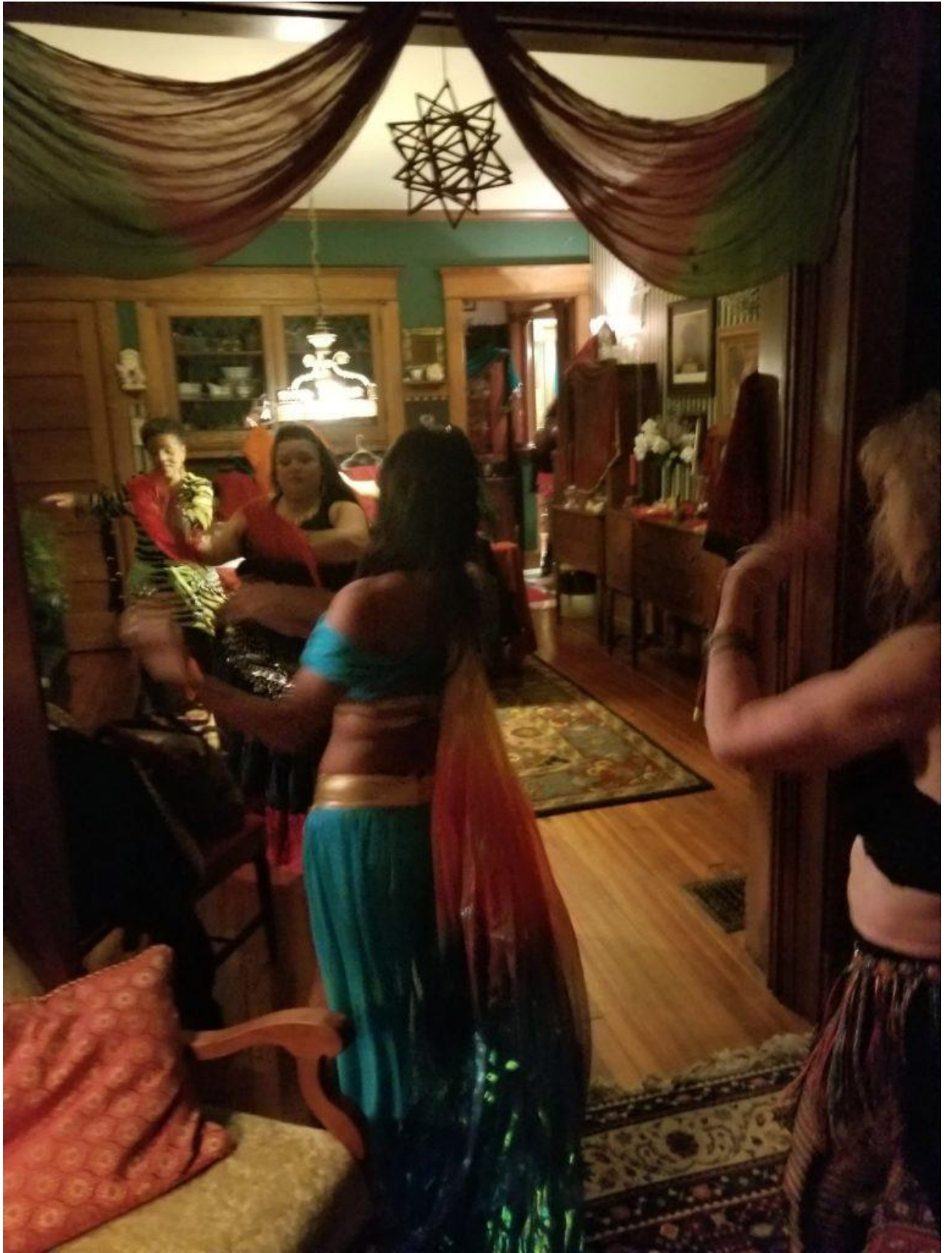
https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=KF2fHfDM6q8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1s_Vpxnsjj1Lqifzdpv0YK-kJ-KKjUBGcdt3io12ONy637U3uHzW--lsg
Top, L to R, Sara and Becca Bottom, L to R, Deb and Val

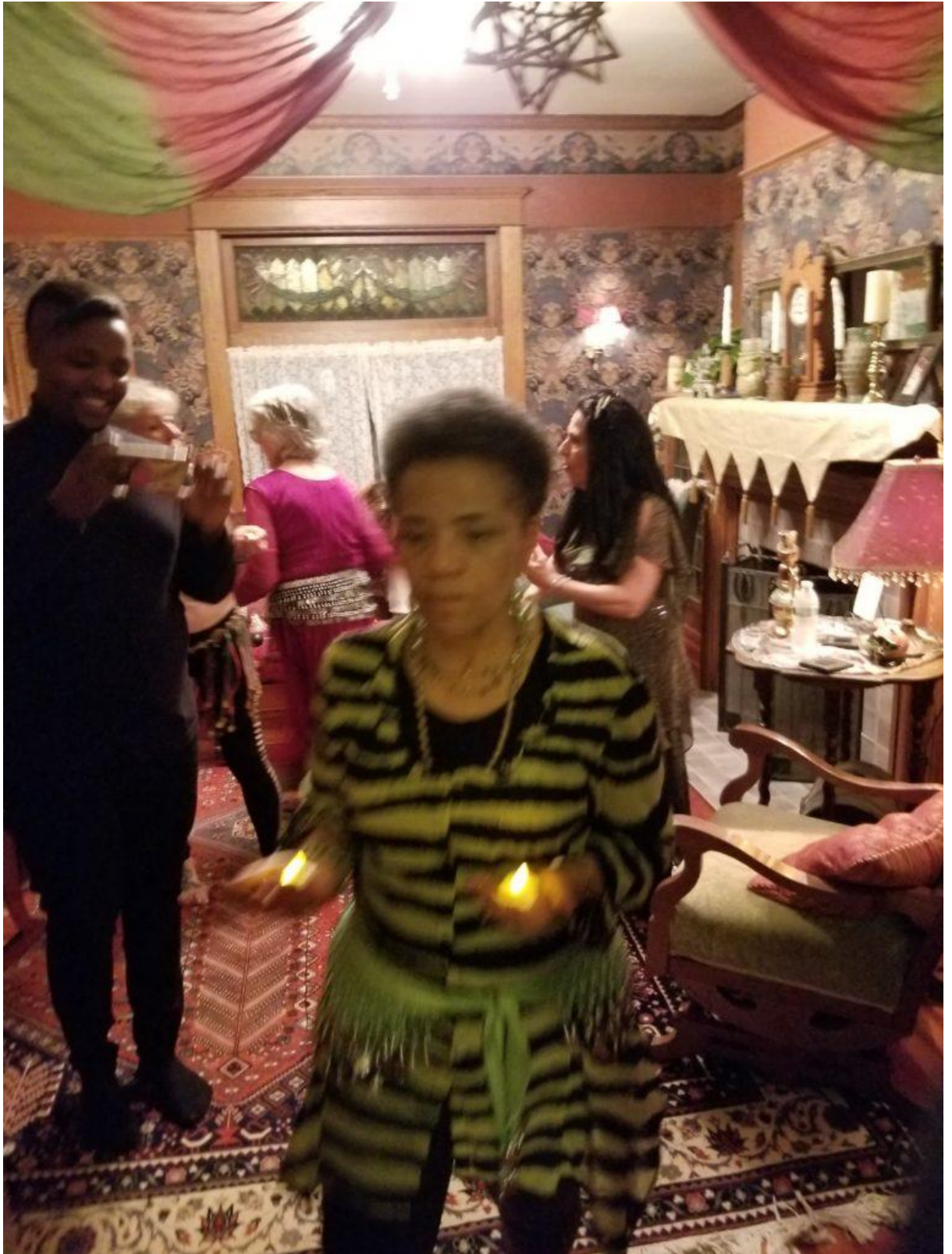
Midwest Bellydancing Superstars enjoyed a Hafala and Shop & Swap on February 22nd at the home of Sharron Mcknight in Irvington. Why? To enjoy an evening of dancing, music, food, and fun with the members of Midwest Bellydancing Superstars and their friends. Hosts were Hosted by: IBC members Sherry Ricketts and Suzzette Dubeansky along with troupe member Sharron Mcknight. Also in attendance were INBC members Carol Hurley, and Judy Hanna, founder of Midwest Bellydancing Superstars.

We had a wonderful evening of Middle Eastern music, yummy food, dancing and camaraderie. And also, there was a shop and swap table full of enticing items!









February 2020 Midwest Bellydancing Superstars Hafala

Adam Riviere and Andy Smith of Indy Raqs have been busy this summer with conducting some online workshops to help drummers and oudists and dancers relate better to some classical dance pieces. Coming up soon will be Rockin' with Indy Raqs: Aziza (<https://www.facebook.com/events/897783700708832>), on Monday, July 27th, from 8-9 p.m.; Rockin' with Indy Raqs: Hijaz Mandira and Rompi Rompi (odd meter night) on Monday, August 3rd from 8-9 p.m., and Rockin' with Indy Raqs: Alf Leyla Wa Leyla (<https://www.facebook.com/events/987574228366855>), on Monday, August 24th, from 8-9 p.m. For more information ask Adam or Andy.



Mahmoud Reda, The Reda Troupe, and Muwashahat

by Kat Lebo

By now, most of you will have heard that the Egyptian dancer/choreographer, Mahmoud Reda, passed away on Friday, July 10, 2020. He left behind a great body of work, probably most noted for the Reda Troupe, which he founded with his brother, Ali, and Ali's wife, Farida Fahmy. But Mahmoud did not start out as a dancer. His early training was as a gymnast. In 1952, he represented Egypt in the Helsinki Olympics. He attended Cairo University, where he earned a degree in political economics. However, his true interest was dance. He danced with an Argentine folk troupe, traveling around Europe. During this time he decided he would like to start an Egyptian troupe, but he lacked the funds to do so. He worked for a while as an accountant. Mahmoud then met Farida Fahmy, who became his dance partner. After the two performed in the Soviet Union in 1957, they returned to Egypt to try and

organize their own folkloric troupe with Mahmoud's brother, Ali, who eventually became Farida's husband.

This video is of Mahmoud and Farida dancing together:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWk5-mtpfKo>

And this one is from a film they did together. In this scene, Farida is trying out for one of the dance spots in a show.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTb6ubtkO54>

He was influenced greatly by dancers such as Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. When the Reda Troupe first began, in 1959, there were only 12 dancers and 12 musicians. While Mahmoud wanted this troupe to be folkloric in nature, he also recognized that putting a folk dance on stage would require working more interest into what the audience was seeing. He had married Farida's older sister, Nadeeda, in 1955, and she became the troupe's costumer, taking traditional folk costume and glamourizing them with fancy fabrics and trims, while Mahmoud's choreographies included fusions with western styles such as ballet and ball room. Nadeeda passed away in 1960, and Mahmoud later married a Yugoslavian ballet dancer, with whom he had a daughter. As the troupe grew and became more popular, Mahmoud trained such famous dancers as Keti Sharif, Randa Kamel, Raqia Hassan, and Dina Tala'at. He continued as the director and choreographer for the troupe until stepping down in 1990. He continued to teach and train dancers in Egypt and internationally. The following video is from a 2008 workshop taught by Mahmoud:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8BXi4BgmKI>

One of the styles for which the Reda Troupe was known was Muwashahat. Muwashahat (the plural of muwashah), is a genre of Arabic poetry in musical form. This type of dance dates to the 10th century Moorish Spain culture that we often refer to today as Al-Andalus or Andalusian dance. These traditions still be seen today in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Syria and Lebanon. In the following video, you see a snippet of Farida dancing this style as a part of the Reda Troupe, followed by snippets from workshops she taught in 2017.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybTODWw79Yw>

This video shows a complete Muwashahat Choreography of Reda's performed by the Nesma Al-Andalus troupe:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jh0xOxZfy3M>

But other styles of dance emerged from the troupe as well. Perhaps the best know is Melaya Leff. In this video, Farida talks about introducing this dance to the Egyptian public, and about what the Melaya was in the culture of Egypt at that time. At the end of the video are several pictures of Farida dancing this style.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0SYbVd7IUU>

This is a more modern take on the Melaya Leff, done to the song *Si Abdo*, wherein a merchant tries to convince the young ladies out shopping that he is perfect husband material.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fp6pDd_X1Tw&list=PLE18E0F5496169517&index=19&t=0s

In this video, you see the Reda interpretation of El Hagalla:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8EvMjM5IKo>

And here's a movie clip of the Reda version of Fellahi dance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yfdJBCb664&list=PLF0EDF73F35C232BA>

And the Reda Troupe also did Raqs Sharki:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gY86d7-QTh8>

In this video, the troupe does dance from the Said, beginning with the men's Tahtib, and then the ladies get involved!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1H6_ST4XWE

All of these styles are popular crowd pleasers today, too. One example might be here in Mohamed Shahin video: Raks Of Course, Saidi Boys from 2015.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBA9jGahtd8>

To access more of Farida Fahmy's writings on costume design, the Reda Troupe dances, and more, go to her website, www.faridafahmy.com. There are also several informational videos online regarding Farida's career Yasmina Ramzy has a 6-part interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2xVMbZdmcs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VlcX0E611E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pHQUpAh84k>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Rxc_Nn_rAA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Biwbx5hfq3o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLD8Ijwif-g>

This video is a trailer lead-in to a longer interview of Farida Fahmy available on Keti Sharif's website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyAoVXW0sQ8&t=91s>

That's all, Folks! Send in your articles, photos, video clips, and whatever to me by Messenger, or to katlebo@aol.com. Deadline is August 30th! Have a subject you'd like to see covered here, but don't want to write it yourself. Send me a message and

include any references you have, photos, etc., and I can either write it for you, or find someone who will. Kat Lebo, Editor