
Indiana Bellydance Collective (INBC) Newsletter

Indiana Bellydance Collective <events@isametd.com>

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To: "Indiana Bellydance Collective" <events@isametd.com>

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Your go-to guide for enhancing your belly dancing journey!

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Message from Our President, April

Greetings fellow members,

I can't believe how fast this year has flown by and that we're in the last weeks of 2024. As the days grow darker and the weather gets colder, don't forget there are still opportunities to gather, celebrate, and shimmy with others.

Luna has gathered information on events happening around the state, and beyond, to share in our new Newsletter format. Luna noticed there were a lot of happenings, but nothing listed in one place, so she's decided to take this on as part of your PR role. THANKS Luna! If you know of any area events we can add to our website calendar, we'd love to hear from you. Check out the details in the [Event Highlights] section of the Newsletter.

The Board met on Dec. 1, minutes attached, and had a really good meeting. Please take a moment to read the minutes to see what all we're up to.

One thing that dominated our time was the membership restructure, especially the raising of the membership dues. As you know, this is LONG overdue and very needed, the sentiment we keep hearing is that this is a lot all at once. It is, and it's long overdue. Since I first joined back in 2014 I've been hearing how we don't have enough money. This hasn't changed, in fact, it's probably only gotten worse as the dues have remained the same for almost a decade, but costs have been rising. Our membership dues (\$1200-1900/yr) don't even come close to covering our operating costs (\$2400/yr, doesn't include any event costs). To get those covered, we have to use the money that keeps us running throwing events in the hopes we get enough to get those costs covered. This is a risky bet, just look to 2020 lockdowns to see why.

If the rising dues are too much for you right now, definitely renew at the current \$24, you get all the same benefits you've always gotten. Even if your membership isn't due until the middle of the year, renewing at the current \$24 now can save you a few bucks on your dues until the next renewal.

The Board is also looking into other avenues to help with other costs, like Bazaar, so we don't have to dip into our operating costs funds. Katie is reaching out to connections for sponsorships, and she's reached out to a grant writer in the hopes there might be a grant or two avail that we might be able to make happen. However, most of these other financial avenues aren't likely to cover operating costs and none of them are guaranteed funds, unknown amounts, and can come with requirements on our part.

Hope your holidays are good and looking forward to the new year ahead.

Cheers!

April

INBC President

Meeting Minutes

Catch up on the latest from our December 1st meeting. Click [here](#) to read the minutes!

Belly Dance Event Highlights: December & January

December 7th, Saturday

- **Event:** *Raqs Party*
- **Location:** Bloomington, Indiana (Windfall)
- **Details:** Celebrate the beauty of belly dance with Donna Carlton and the Indy Raqs Band!

December 11th, Wednesday

- **Event:** *Whorled Band with Bellydance Artist Gemhara Almaz and Guests*
- **Location:** Lansing, Michigan
- **Details:** An original world-music performance paired with mesmerizing belly dance artistry.

December 31st, Tuesday

- **Event:** *Laylat Raqs New Year's Celebration*
- **Location:** Arabesque World Dance, Lexington, Kentucky
- **Details:** A dazzling New Year's Eve bash featuring live music, open dance parties, and performances spotlighting MENATH music and its diaspora.

January 11th, Saturday

- **Event:** *Dark Fusion Belly Dance Workshops with Zahara*
- **Location:** Lexington, Kentucky
- **Details:** Learn dark fusion technique and choreography with Zahara—a one-of-a-kind instructor!

January 19th, Sunday

- **Event:** *Raqs for Relief*
- **Location:** Chicago, Illinois (Bar Sol at Navy Pier)

- **Details:** A dance benefit for humanitarian efforts in Gaza and Lebanon. Organized by Bellydance by Phaedra & The Queer Heretic.

Find full event details on the calendar at the bottom of our [website's homepage](#) .

INBC Calendar of Area Events

Click on events to see all the details. Click on the location in the page right hand corner to visit the location page for further information. You can also see all the events on your calendar by clicking on the location in the page right hand corner to visit the location page for further information. You can also see all the events on your calendar by clicking on the location in the page right hand corner to visit the location page for further information.



[Click here](#) to suggest a belly-dance or MENHAT-related event for inclusion in our Calendar of Area Events. Note that the calendar is only for special events such as shows, workshops, and haflas. Items like recurring group lessons will not be published here.

Belly Dance-Related Podcasts

[Al Raqs by Sheyla](#)

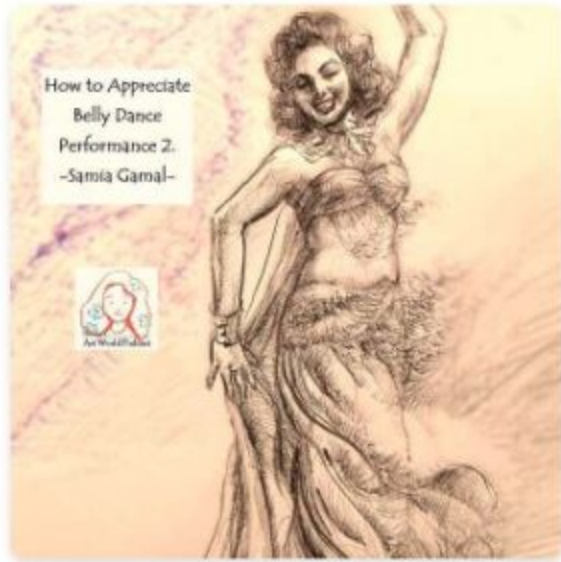
- Hosted by [Sheyla](#).
- Conversations with conference speakers, dancers, researchers, and musicians. A treasure trove of insights into MENATH culture and belly dance.

[BELLY DANCE LIFE PODCAST](#)

- Hosted by [Iana Komarnytska](#)
- Interviews with a global array of belly dance artists and industry professionals.
-

[Nisreen's Art World](#)

- Hosted by INBC's PR, [Nisreen](#).
- A bilingual podcast covering diverse art forms featuring hand-drawn thumbnails for each episode. Featured episodes on belly dancing:
- [Ep2. How to Appreciate Belly Dance Performance -Tulay Karaca-](#)
- [Ep.13 How to Appreciate Belly dance Performance.2 -Samia Gamal-](#)
- [Ep.16 Is Belly dancing for All Sizes and Shapes?](#)
- [Ep.7 Why Does Performing as a Belly Dancer Tend to Be Financially Strenuous? How Can We Improve the Situation?](#)



We hope you enjoyed this newsletter and wish you a warm, shimmy-filled holiday season. Stay safe and keep dancing!

Warm regards,
INBC Board Members

Indiana Bellydance Collective

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