

## INBC Member's Newsletter

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From INBC ISAMETD <inbcisametd@gmail.com>

Date Fri 12/26/2025 12:59 PM

Bcc middleagednerd@sbcglobal.net <middleagednerd@sbcglobal.net>

### Indiana Bellydance Collective

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

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#### President April's Message

Seasonal Greetings fellow members!

I hope you're doing well, staying safe on these roads, and keeping warm as you can, as the weather has been a little overwhelming recently. We're days away from the winter solstice and the outside is reflecting that in abundance.

Saturday, December 13th, we hosted a Holiday Hafla at Green Lotus Therapeutics. The weather did NOT cooperate at all. Loren & I drove from an hour out of Indianapolis during the worst of it, arriving safely and plenty warm. Loren popped the dough into the oven to bake up, started the Winter Vegetable Stew with Moroccan flavors, and we waited for folks to show up. We didn't have to wait long before a few folks arrived, bringing added warmth and mirth. It was a small group, but all the better to connect, share, and eat so much bread. Hopefully the weather will cooperate for the next gathering.

And when is the next INBC gathering? The 2026 Annual Bazaar will be February 28th with Tina Meric headlining. We'll be back at the same location, Wyndham Indianapolis West. Nisreen, our PR maven, will share all the pertinent information.

Stay safe and warm.

Cheers!

April

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## Daewen Interview



INBC's PR Officer Nisreen sat down with Daewen to chat about the upcoming festival Ascension, the Stygian collective, and her perspective on Dark Metal Fusion! The full interview and transcript are [available now!](#)

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## Meeting Minutes

Catch up on the latest from our December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Click [here](#) to read the minutes!

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## Event Highlights

### - Kaeshi Chai Comes to Chicago

Start the new year in a truly special way by studying with one of the most respected, prolific, and world-renowned dancers in the industry—**Kaeshi Chai**. This is a **one-day-only** opportunity.

- **Date:** Saturday, January 3
  - **Location:** Hōkūle'a Academy of Polynesian Arts  
5180 N Elston Ave, Chicago, IL
  - **Registration:** [www.BellydanceByPhaedra.com/classes](http://www.BellydanceByPhaedra.com/classes)
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### - Zahra Zuhair Workshops

The famous and wonderful **Zahra Zuhair** will be sharing her deep knowledge and artistry in this special workshop experience.

- **Date:** Sunday, January 11, 2026
  - **Time:** 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM
  - **Location:** Studio Z  
11256 Cornell Park Dr #504, Blue Ash, OH
  - [Tickets](#) available now
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### - Partnership Event: Dark Fusion Retreat – Ascension

Like Persephone rising from the Underworld, we're emerging into spring with the **first-ever in-person Ascension Dark Fusion Festival**. Celebrate the halfway point to Halloween and the freedom of bold self-expression.

  
**ASCENSION**  
**APRIL 10-12**  
**2026**  
 DARK FUSION FESTIVAL & RETREAT

FEATURING WORKSHOPS BY  
**AMY SIGIL | DAEWEN | AMI AMORÉ**

PLUS SOCIAL EVENTS, INTIMATE SHOW, & COMMUNITY LODGING

JORDAN'S WAREHOUSE:  
 1426 NORTH BROADWAY  
 ST. LOUIS, MO, 63102

STYGIAN DANCE  


REGISTER AT  
[HTTPS://STYGIAN.DANCE/ASCENSION](https://stygian.dance/ascension)


  
**ASCENSION**  
**APRIL 10-12**  
**2026**


<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
4pm: Check In	9-11am: Dance Class	9-11am:
5pm: Dinner	with Amy Sigil	METAL CHVRCH
7-9pm: Cathartic	11am-1pm: Lunch	with Ami Amoré
Dance Release	2-5pm: GENERATING and	11am-1pm: Lunch
with Daewen	Embracing Your YES	1-4pm: Movement
	with Amy Sigil	for the SPIRIT
	5-6pm: Community Dinner	with Amy Sigil
	7-8pm: Mini Photo Sessions	4-5pm:
	8:30pm-?: Showcase & Soirée	Closing Circle

STYGIAN DANCE  
  
[stygian.dance/ascension](https://stygian.dance/ascension)

This debut **Festival + Retreat weekend** is packed with dance, creativity, and connection—bringing together authentic dancers who push boundaries while building a supportive

community.

**-Location:**

1426 N Broadway, St. Louis, MO

*-Be sure to check out [Andy's article](#) about this event on our website!*

**- INBC Members:** Access your exclusive discount codes here:

<https://inbcdance.org/members-only-discount-codes/>



Check out more upcoming events via the [Calendar of Area Events](#) at the bottom of our website.

Want to suggest a belly dance or MENHAT-related event? [Click here](#) to submit it!

*Note: Only special events like shows, workshops, and haflas will be published. Recurring group classes are excluded.*

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## New Learning Center Content from Daewen



We're excited to welcome a new contributor to the INBC Learning Center! **Daewen (also known as Amanda Garion)** has generously shared **five Dark Fusion mini-instructional videos**, now available exclusively to INBC members.

These videos can be accessed through our [Learning Center](#) (you must be logged in as an **Individual or Professional Member** to view the content).

Daewen will also be teaching at the upcoming **Ascension Dark Fusion Retreat**, making this online content a wonderful way to experience her teaching style—especially if you're not yet familiar with her work!

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## INBC Bazaar Applications Are Now Released!

Our 2026 Bazaar applications for performers, instructors, and vendors are now open!

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share your talent with our community.

Note: Accepted instructors are not automatically included in the show, and vice versa. If you'd like to both perform and teach, please complete a separate performer application.

Everyone dancing in the show (i.e., each soloist and every member of a troupe) must purchase a workshop pass or an all-day pass. This requirement does not apply to instructors, individual members, or professional members.

You can find the applications under the [Important Links] section on the webpage 🙌  
<https://inbcdance.org/events/2026bazaar/>

The graphic features a stylized orange and purple background with the text "INBC Bazaar Applications Are Now Open!" in a decorative font. A QR code is located at the bottom left. To the right is a white box with a purple border titled "Important Links" containing a list of application links and deadlines. Above the box is a yellow starburst with the text "Instructor, Performer and Vendor applications live NOW!" and a yellow arrow pointing down.

**INBC Bazaar Applications Are Now Open!**

**Important Links**

- **Apply to teach** (deadline **1/23/2026**)
- **Apply to perform** (deadline **1/23/2026**)
- **Apply to vend** (deadline **1/31/2026**)
- Volunteer (coming soon)
- **Book a room** - see additional info under "Venue/Overnight Accommodations" below

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## INBC Media Survey

PR Nisreen has created a survey on media platforms and promotions to identify the most effective ways to reach INBC members and the public. It would mean the world to us if you could take a few minutes to fill it out—it will only take 2–3 minutes!

<https://forms.gle/i9S1ZavmfxXQRSnX8>

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We hope you enjoyed this edition of our newsletter!

**Wishing you happy holidays and a very happy new year!**

Warm regards,

**The INBC Board Members**

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**Indiana Bellydance Collective**

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[Website](#)