



Dokus Sekiz

Dans Aşkina Newsletter, March 2015

~ In this issue ~

- 4th Annual Dans Senlik
- Masters in Minneapolis
- Return to Rakkas Istanbul
- Festival of Nations
- Through Time Show
- New Artistic Board Member
- Book Corner
- Turkish 101
- Performance Recap
- Supporter Thanks



We are on Facebook!

~ Upcoming Performances ~

Festival of Nations

~ Volume 4, Issue 1 - March, 2015 ~

Fourth Annual Dans Şenlik

The Hopkins Center for the Performing Arts came alive on February 7th with the 4th Annual Dans Şenlik, hosted by Dans Aşkina Turkish Dance Ensemble. The evening, inspired by 1930s Turkish Kanto shows, featured dancing, storytelling and vocalists. Thank you to everyone who attended and generously supported the local ICA Food Shelf and Resource West with over 200 lbs. of donated food and personal care items.

Dans Aşkina introduced two new dances from its repertoire including Bir Dogu Masali (a Turkish Oryantal dance choreographed by Gul Nihal and Amina Beres) and Bu Aklu Fikr Ile (a tribute to the Whirling Dervish – music by Suleyman Yardim). The troupe also performed Asmar Cocek, a historical re-creation featuring male dancers of the Ottoman Empire who performed dressed as women, and ended with the crowd pleasing Trabzon Horon, an energetic Turkish folk dance from the Black Sea region.

**Meira Famodu performs
with the Turkish American
Association of Minnesota
Folkdance Group
St. Paul, MN**

May 1-3, 2015

**World Belly Dance
Richfield Community
Center, MN**

May 29, 2015

**2015 Rakkas Istanbul
Amina Beres, Meira
Famodu, and Kerime Posz in
Istanbul, Turkey**

June 10-13, 2015

**Brooklyn Park Tater Daze
Festival
Brooklyn Park, MN**

June 19, 2015

**Glenwood Renaissance
Festival (Ren in the Glen)
Glenwood City, WI**

July 25-26, 2015

*~ Turkish Dance Classes with
Amina Beres ~*



Students of Middle Eastern dance made local communities proud. Elk River Community Ed performed a colorful fan veil dance and Bloomington-Richfield wowed the crowd with a 1940s Egyptian Cabaret. Wonderful performances from local dance troupes and instructors included Egyptian Oriental by Salome Alexandra, Turkish Romani by Amina Beres, Egyptian Saidi Cane by Dance Caravan, Egyptian veil variations by Nimaat Aswad, a group sword dance by Blue Jasmine, and modern Egyptian belly dance by Emalee Morem.

Two special guest performances made the evening unique. Mustafa Ali, a wandering Sufi musician, poet and story teller helped all in attendance imagine life in another time and land. Caileena and Davin from Bardmageddon serenaded the audience with beautiful Irish folksongs.

Dans Şenlik, a night of talented performances, beautiful costumes, passion, and enthusiasm was appreciated by all. We look forward to seeing you at the 5th annual event next year!

Masters in Minneapolis Dance Series

Dans Aşkına Turkish Dance Ensemble's newest dance community outreach is our Masters in Minneapolis Dance Series.

Hopkins Center for the Performing Arts

Classes are held on Tuesday evenings at the Hopkins Center for the Performing Arts

Spring 2015 Session - March 24-May 19, 2015
7:30-9:00 pm

Summer 2015 Session - Turkish Romani! - July 7-August 18, 2015
7:30-9:00 pm

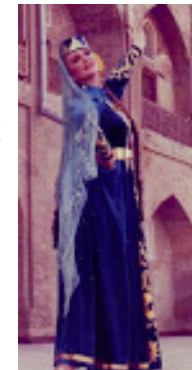
Amina also offers private lessons and coaching for individual dancers or troupes

~ Dans Askina Advisory Board: ~

Artemis Mourat - International expert in Turkish Oriental and Romany dances, Artemis is an award-winning dance instructor and performer and extensive academic researcher

“Throughout the year, Turkish dance professionals travel to Minneapolis to work exclusively with Dans Aşkına”, says Amina Beres, Dans Aşkına’s Artistic Director. “We’ve built an extensive network with Turkish dance experts over the years; even though their schedules are busy they always find time to work with Dans Askina. We’re honored to have these excellent opportunities to hone our Turkish dance skills with these superstars. Our dancers benefit so much from this opportunity, and we want to share this expertise with our local dance community. No matter what your chosen style of ‘belly dance’ is, our Masters in Minneapolis will provide you with attentive instruction and coaching in a supportive manner.”

In December 2014 we hosted our first guest instructor, the incredible Dr. Laurel Victoria Gray. She was quite busy during her week in Minneapolis, working not only with Dans Aşkına but also Ethnic Dance Theater and Al-Bahira - in addition to teaching a number of private lessons during her stay.



From April 27-29, 2015, the fabulous Serkan Tutar, 2008 Male Belly dancer of the World and organizer of Rakkas Istanbul International Oriental Dance Festival, will be our next Master in Minneapolis. Serkan will be available for private lessons in Egyptian cabaret, Turkish cabaret, and Turkish Romani. If you have a passion for drum solos, this is your opportunity to study with the best!

And coming this September 16-19, 2015, the incomparable Artemis Mourat returns to Minneapolis. Artemis will also be available for private lessons or small group study in Turkish cabaret, Egyptian cabaret, Vintage Orientale, Turkish Romani, and Fusion skirt



of Turkish dance and culture.

Sarah Dorman - Founder and owner of SaraCura. A local arts patron, yoga instructor and world traveller, Sarah is also a blogger for the Twin Cities Fringe Festival.

June Seaney - New England's expert on all Romani dances, June directs Chandani Belly Dance Troupe and Danza Romani Dance Troupe. She also teaches belly dance through the Physical Education department of Cornell University.

Nancy Fetzek - Nancy's Turkish dance and costuming expertise arose from her numerous travels across Turkey. She collaborates with the Minnesota Turkish-American Association for their Festival of Nations performances, and creates custom dance costuming through her Etsy shop - ZambakDesigns.

Emily Jarrett Hughes - Emily specializes in women's dances from the Balkans and Asia Minor, including Balkan Romani and Turkish folkloric dance and has her own performance troupe, Living Wisdom. Her company

dances while she is in town to work with Dans Aşkına.

To schedule your private or small group (up to 3) lesson with Serkan Tutar in April or Artemis Mourat in September, contact us at dansaskina@gmail.com for pricing information and schedule availability!



Third Time's A Charm - Dans Aşkına Returns to Rakkas Istanbul

Once again, members from Dans Aşkına will be visiting Turkey and attending the Rakkas Istanbul Festival! We are so excited to return, this time for almost two weeks, to combine multiple



Turkish dance workshops, dance and costuming research, and sightseeing.

This trip marks the third time Amina Beres has travelled to Istanbul to study with Turkish dance experts, the second time for Meira Famodu, and the very first time for our Co-director Kerime Posz. Each will be taking different Turkish dance workshops, including Turkish folkloric with Sibel Güzel; Turkish Oryantal with Gül Nihal, Tuba Saka, and Serap Su; and Turkish Romani with Reyhan Tuzsuz.

“I am super-excited,” says Kerime. “While the main reason for our trip is the Rakkas Istanbul, there’s also the amazing sights, sounds, and tastes of Turkey to experience. I’m looking forward to taking workshops on Turkish Oryantal,

organizes special events that use culturally-based dance to connect people with the natural world. www.wisdomdances.com

Turkish folk, and Romani from a number of great instructors. I am especially looking forward to improving my Romani as the workshops are being taught by Reyhan Tuzsuz. I am sure I will bring back a lot to share with the troupe!”

“We plan on visiting some of the same historical sites as last year, but also some new ones,” adds Meira. “Such an abundance of historythe Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace, Dolmabahce Palace, museums....it’s incredible. As we roam our way across Istanbul’s Old City and the Beyoğlu district, I’m sure we’ll break it up with shopping at the Grand Bazaar and eat at some of the fabulous Turkish restaurants with rooftop views to die for.”



“Rakkas Istanbul is an incredible event - I’m surprised more American dancers do not take advantage of this wonderful festival” says Amina. “It’s really intense, you learn a lot! After the festival, we’ll be ready to wind down in Cappadocia for three fabulous days of private tours, Turkish cooking classes, and a hot air balloon ride over the valley organized by Burcu

Kisakurek of Oriental Istanbul Tours.”

Amina and Kerime have also been learning to speak Turkish. “It’s helpful to be able to communicate with the workshop instructors and when you’re haggling over prices in the Grand Bazaar” laughs Amina. “But it’s also

common courtesy, when traveling to another country you should at the very least know how to say ‘Thank you’, ‘Please’, and ‘Excuse me’.”

Kerime is looking forward to testing her newly-acquired Turkish language skills. “I will probably be saying “Afedersiniz, ama Türkçem çok iyi değil” a lot! (Excuse me, but my Turkish isn’t very good.)

Stay tuned for a recap of our adventures in the Fall 2015 issue of Dokus Sekiz.

Festival of Nations – Corporate Event

Dans Aşkına was invited to perform at a Festival of Nations event at RBC Wealth Management in downtown Minneapolis on January 27th. Several countries were represented with informational booths and foods catered by local ethnic restaurants. The event was held over an extended lunch hour with 400 employees attending. Entertainment included an accordionist, West African drum and dance, and Turkish dance, of course! We enjoyed showing off our colorful authentic costumes as we performed a selection of Romani, Oriental and Folk dances.



Through Time: A History of Belly Dance in America – January 24, 2015

Dans Aşkına dancers Amy, Mahsati, and Artistic Director Amina Beres teamed up with The Bourgeois Bohemians and other area belly dancers to help present “Through Time: A History of Belly Dance in America” on January 24th, 2015.

Beginning with America’s introduction to belly dance at the World’s Fair in 1893 with performer Little Egypt and continuing into the present styles of Bollywood and Tribal Fusion, the Through Time event chronologically showcased the different styles of belly dance that evolved after that first introduction. It was a sold-out, standing room only show!



Both Mahsati and Amy performed in three different choreographies, an Orientalism-inspired dance, Bollywood, and Gothic Fusion, and Dans Askina's own Amina Beres performed a classic 1970s's American cabaret solo that wowed the crowd! "This event was an updated performance of a show done in 2008," said Amina. "I was asked to perform a 1970s cabaret solo in the first performance, and was very honored to be asked to reprise this dance in the updated show."

"For the dances Mahsati and Amy performed, obviously the styles are completely different from the Turkish styles we study.", adds Amina. "Obviously the dance steps and costuming are different, but less obvious is how different each of these styles are in terms of energy, tension, and attitude. Mahsati and Amy adapted very quickly to these difference, reminding me once again how truly dedicated Dans Askina dancers are."

Dans Aşkına Welcomes Newest Artistic Board Member

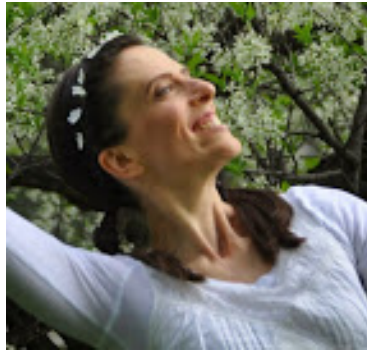
Hello Dans Aşkına community! I'm very excited to be serving on your advisory board and sharing in the love of the dance. I think of you as my close cousins in dance.

I specialize in women's dances from the Balkans and Asia Minor, including Balkan Romani and Turkish folkloric dance. (I'm currently rehearsing a Turkish dance as a member of Ethnic Dance Theatre and boy is it

challenging!)

Dancing has brought me so much joy, healing, and insight and this is the impetus behind all my performing and teaching. I teach dance in a variety of settings and have my own performance troupe, Living Wisdom. My company has also organized special events that use culturally-based dance to connect people with the natural world.

I look forward to sharing with you from my experience in fundraising, event planning, and artistic leadership.



Emily Jarrett Hughes
Wisdom Dances

Kitap Köşe - Book Corner

“The Aviary Gate”, by Katie Hickman

The Aviary Gate is an historical fiction novel set in 16th-century Istanbul. It begins with modern-day Oxford researcher Elizabeth Staveley searching for the truth behind the story of Celia Lamprey, an English sea captain's

daughter engaged to an influential English diplomat.

Initial research indicates Celia was lost at sea in a shipwreck....but then Elizabeth discovers vague references to a woman resembling Celia being seen in the courtyard of Topkapi Palace. Intrigued, Elizabeth decides to continue her research in Istanbul to learn what happened to Celia.

While the plot is thin in places, the story successfully combines the lives of actual Topkapi Palace residents with fictional characters into an entertaining tale of love and loss. The book is a quick read, and includes accurate sketches of the layout of The Harem within the walls of Topkapi Palace.

“Everyday Life in Ottoman Turkey”, by Raphaela Lewis

The Ottoman Empire lasted from 1281 to 1924. Thanks in part to the Ottoman penchant for detailed records, the author is able to provide easy to understand information on how the social structure, military recruitment, coexistence of different religions, women’s status in the Imperial Court, marriage customs, and superstitions all contributed to shaping the Empire and keeping it remarkably stable for over 600 years.

Turkish 101 - The Change in the Seasons

You will have to excuse me, but the hava (weather) has been on my mind lately.

When Mart (March) comes we are all ready for some hos (nice) hava. So what is it with the kar (snow)? I know we need the moisture, but can we have

yagmur (rain) instead?

You would think after all these years living in Minnesota I would expect the extremes; çok sıcak (too hot) in the yaz (summer) and çok soğuk (too cold) in the kış (winter). That's why ilkbahar (spring) and sonbahar (fall) are my favorites. Ya siz (how about you)?

Season - Mevsim

Weather – Hava

Nice – Hoş (Hosh)

Snow – Kar

Rain - Yağmur (ya-moor)

Too Hot - Çok Sıcak (Chok Suhjak)

Too Cold - Çok Soğuk (Chok Soh-ook)

Summer – Yaz

Winter – Kış (Kuhsh)

Spring- Ilkbahar (Ilk-bahar)

Fall - Sonbahar (Sohn-bahar)

Months of the Year

January	Ocak	July	Temmuz
February	Şubat	August	Ağustos
March	Mart	September	Eylül
April	Nisan	October	Ekim
May	Mayıs	November	Kasım
June	Haziran	December	Aralık

Performance Recap

Dans Aşkına continues our active schedule of performances. This past fall and winter, in addition to hosting our annual Dans Senlik showcase event and performing at the RBC Wealth Management's Festival of Nations celebration, we were invited to perform in a number of venues in the Twin Cities area and beyond.

We were delighted to participate in the annual Raqs Afsana Show at the Bedlam Theater in St. Paul in November. The guest artist was Amy Sigil of the fusion troupe Unmata. Many genres of fusion belly dance were represented: Tribal fusion, Dark fusion, Goth, and Modern dance as well as contemporary Egyptian and American Tribal. To round out this eclectic mix, we performed our “Yop” choreography, a contemporary and comedic Turkish Oryantal piece with half the company performing dressed as men. It was a memorable night of dance.

In December, we were the featured dance group for the Seward Arts Festival’s Winter Frolic. This fundraising event showcases the artistic talents within the Seward neighborhood of Minneapolis, where our rehearsal studio is located. Held at the Playwright’s Center, the event included spoken word, puppetry, folk singers, and musicians. We performed a Kirklareli folk dance and our Black Sea Horon dance as a group, and Mahrilan Christianson performed a contemporary Ciftitelli solo.

We started off 2015 with three of our dancers performing in a staged presentation developed by a local fusion group, The Bourgeois Bohemians. “Through Time—A History of Belly dance in America” was held at the Four Seasons Ballroom in Minneapolis.

We continue to grow our dance connections with troupes across the border in Wisconsin. At last year’s Ren in the Glen, we had the pleasure of dancing with Lasa Anahata Tribal, and in early March we performed in their annual Springtime Shimmy event at the Acoustic Café in Eau Claire, WI. It was another diverse night of groups and soloists performing a wide variety of dance styles, including our Turkish Oryantal and Romani dances.

Spring and summer have us already gearing up for another busy

performance schedule. Please visit our Upcoming Performances for our next event, and we hope to see you there!

Çok Teşekkür Ederim to our Supporters

We wish to extend a heart-felt thanks to the following individuals for their support of Dans As,kina. Words can't adequately express our appreciation for all you have done to help us with your financial, technical, and in-kind contributions. We hope we remembered every one!

Artistic Board: Sarah Dorman, Nancy Fetzek, Emily Jarrett Hughes, Artemis Mourat, June Seaney

Website Maven: Pamela Nici Lawson

Financial and In-Kind Contributors

Turquoise Level (up to \$100): Anonymous, Saturo Asato, Lisa Bah, Marilyn Christianson, Jennifer Cole, Patricia Cumbie, Kristina DeSacramento, Dele Famodu, Nike Famodu, Remi Famodu, Sehy Famodu, Toy e Famodu, Nancy Holden, Alexandra Howes, Izzy Kaehler, Laria Kaehler, Robin Kaehler, Susan Knutson, Benjamin Lamb, Sue Molzahn, Sandy & Brian O'Rourke, Carlotta Posz, John Repp, Amy Snyder, John Snyder, Jackie Walker, Charlotte West

Cöcek Level (\$101 to \$300): Allie & Lou Abela, Linda Brown, Wendy Famodu, Mark Christianson, Carl Posz, Rob Siebers

Çengi Level (\$301 to \$999): Anonymous, Lynn Anderson, Joel Beres, Laurel Victoria Gray, Sibel Guzel

Tulip Level (\$1000+): Be the first patron to donate!

You are receiving this newsletter because you signed up on our website or at one of our events.
Not interested any more? [Unsubscribe](#).