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We are on Facebook!

~ Upcoming Performances ~

Wayzata High School Festival of Nations

March 23, 2012 - 6pm-9pm
Wayzata, MN

More information can be found at the school's website: [Wayzata High School](#)

Elizabeth Strong and Afsana

March 30, 2012 - 7pm
Minneapolis, MN

At the [Ritz Theater](#). Tickets \$10.00.

Guild of Oriental Dance Annual Show

Saturday, April 21, 2012
7:30pm
Minneapolis, MN

For more information, please visit: [Guild of Oriental Dance](#)

Banat el Kamar Annual Spring Show

June 9, 2012 - 7pm-9pm
Minneapolis, MN

More information can be found at: [Banat El Kamar](#)

~ Turkish Dance Classes with
Amina Beres~

Hopkins Center for the Performing Arts

Spring 2012 Session - Tuesdays,
March 20-May 15
7:30-9pm

Center for the Performing Arts, Minneapolis

Spring 2012 Session - Mondays
March 19-May 21

~ Volume 1, Issue 1 - March, 2012 ~

Welcome to Dokus Sekiz!

Merhaba! That means hello and welcome in Turkish, and as members of Dans Aşkına, we are so pleased to have the opportunity to introduce you to our new e-newsletter. Dokus Sekiz, pronounced "dough-kooz seck-eez" means 9/8 rhythm, and is one of the signature patterns of Turkish music and dance. It can be fast-paced and fun, or slow and sultry, and that variety is why we chose it for our newsletter's name. Twice a year you'll hear from us with short and informative tidbits about Turkish folk and oriental dance, along with updates on our upcoming performances.

We are grateful for your support and interest in Turkish dance. If you know someone who might like to receive our newsletter, forward this link: <http://www.bellydanceamina.com/dansaskina.html>.

About Dans Aşkına

Formed in 2009, Dans Aşkına ("Dahnz Ashk-in-ah", broadly translated as "for the love of the dance") performs Turkish-style bellydance, Romani, and both Turkish and Middle Eastern folkloric dances. Our dancers have performed individually and collectively across the Twin Cities at a variety of community events including the Minnesota Renaissance Festival, Minnesota Fringe Festival, Festival of Nations, Slice of Shoreview, and the Hopkins Raspberry Festival.

Our ongoing research of the myriad of Turkish dance styles adds colorful and unique choreographies for our performances. Reviews recognizing our 'love of the dance,' 'high energy performances,' and 'a joy to watch' inspire us to bring our best interpretations of Turkish dance to our audiences. We look forward to seeing you soon and sharing with you our love of dance!

Visit us on the web at www.bellydanceamina.com and click on "Dans Aşkına" to meet all the dancers.

Hidrellez Festival - May 2012

The Hidrellez Festival in Turkey is held to celebrate the "early summer." It has been celebrated since ancient times and centuries-old rituals continue to entertain residents and visitors alike. It is also the "Day of Hızir," when prophets Hızir and İlyas met with each other on Earth. Hızir is the symbol of spring and the new life that emerges with it. İlyas is credited with bringing rain to the region's arid croplands. Hidrellez is the merging of the two names, Hızir and İlyas, and the Persian word for day, "ruz."

Hızir is associated with certain characteristics: he always rushes to the aid of people in difficulty, grants wishes, brings remedies to those that are troubled or sick. He helps plants to grow and animals to reproduce. He is the symbol of good omens and has the God-given power to work miracles.

Various practices and rituals are performed during this time in the

More information on these classes can be found on her website [Amina Raks](#).

~ *Songs Every Turkish Dancer Should Know - Part 1* ~

Contributed by Artemis Mourat and June Seaney

1. Adana Çiftetelli
2. Bahriye Çiftetelli
3. Istanbul Çiftetelli
4. Rompi Rompi
also known as
"Çadinmin Ustune"
5. Mastika
6. Istemem Babaçım
7. Opa Nina Nina Nai
there are many spellings,
aka "Opa Sina Shina Nai"
8. Oh Fasulye
9. Bir Demet Yasemen
10. Şişeler

~ *Past Performances:* ~

- Wayzata High School Festival of Nations, May 2011
- Banat el Kamar Spring Show, May 2011
- "Under the Crescent Moon" with Dr. Laurel Victoria Gray, July 2011
- Slice of Shoreview, July 2011
- Hopkins Raspberry Festival, July 2011
- Seward King's Fair, September 2011
- Al Bahira's Spooktacular, October 2011
- Seward Art Crawl and Franklin Frolic, December 2011
- Subat Dans Parti, February 2012

~ *Dans Askina is now part of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Performing Artists Database!*

~ *Dans Askina Advisory Board:* ~

Artemis Mourat - Nationally and Internationally recognized expert in Turkish Oriental and Romany dances, Artemis is an award-winning dance instructor and performer who combines her technical dance ability with extensive academic research of Turkish dance and culture.

Sarah Dorman - Founder and owner of SaraCura, since 2001

belief that Hiriz will bring blessing and abundance to the places he visits and the things he touches. Pantries, food bowls, and even purses are left open. Some make small models of the things they want, like a house, a car, or a business. Many times, these models are buried under rose bushes. There are also ceremonies to improve one's luck and obtain fortunes.

There is a ritual called *Nahils*, a grand ceremony involving a wish-tree where people write their wishes on paper and tie them to the tree. It is said whatever you wish for on that night will come true.

It is good to note that Hiriz is also the patron saint of travelers in Turkey. He will protect them from dangers and difficulties. Because of this, he holds a very special place in Turkey, a country criss-crossed by ancient travel routes.

Turkish 101 – Thank You!

We would like to say *Teşekkür Ederim* to all those who have donated to Dans Aşkına. Or should we say *Sağ Olun*? There are actually two ways to say 'thank you' in Turkish!

Teşekkür Ederim (ş=sh, ü=ew) is used when a service is expected or a gift is received; such as when you exit the bus as it was the bus driver's job to drive you, or you receive a birthday gift from a friend.

Sağ Olun (ğ=silent gh) is used when someone does a favor for you that is unexpected; such as returning an item you lost or a friend tucking in the tag in the back of your shirt. *Sağ Olun* literally means "be healthy, be strong", which could also be a blessing.

That didn't really help, did it? We will say both *Tesekkür Ederim* and *Sağ Olun* for your support, donations, and for what a blessing you are to us!

Şubat Dans Parti, A Great Success!

The JC Theater in the Hopkins Center for the Arts was alive with the sounds of Middle Eastern Music on Saturday, February 25th as Dans Aşkına hosted Şubat Dans Parti. With dancers from Shakopee, Brooklyn Center, Bloomington/Richfield, Minnetonka, and Hopkins Community Education Bellydance students and their instructors participating, plus the hosts Dans Aşkına, the standing room only audience was treated to an evening of incredible dance and music representing Egyptian, American, Turkish, and fusion styles of bellydance.

Dans Aşkına partnered with two Hopkins-area nonprofit organizations, ResourceWest and ICA Foodshelf by offering an admission discount for items donated to these worthwhile organizations - and our wonderfully, generous dancers and audience stepped up to the plate and donated over 100 pounds of nonperishable food items and personal hygiene products! Thank you for helping individuals and families in need and we look forward to hosting a second Dans Parti!

the Twin Cities only local bellydance costume, music, and finger cymbal supplier. A local arts patron, Sarah is also a blogger for the Twin Cities Fringe Festival.

June Seaney - One of New England's regional experts on all Romani dances, June directs Chandani Belly Dance Troupe of Ithaca and Danza Romani Dance Troupe. She also teaches bellydance through the Physical Education department of Cornell University.

Nancy Fetzek - Nancy has researched Turkish dance and costuming through her numerous and extensive travels across Turkey. She also collaborates with the Minneapolis Turkish-American Association for their Festival of Nations performances. Visit her etsy shop - [ZambakDesigns](#).

Springboard for the Arts and Malmborg's Garden Center - Sponsorships and Partnerships

We are part of Springboard for the Arts Incubator Program! Incubator supports artist-led groups and initiatives as they grow. Springboard helps cultivate a vibrant arts community by helping member artists connect with the resources they need to be successful. As a member group, we are also eligible to receive tax-deductible grants and donations. www.springboardforthearts.org

What's the connection between a Garden Center and Dans Askina? Besides being able to purchase tulip bulbs (did you know the tulip originated in Turkey, not in the Netherlands?) we have teamed with Malmborg's Garden Center for a Spring Fundraiser. During the week of May 6 to May 12, 2012, you can help in our fundraising efforts by shopping at any of the four Malmborg's Garden Center locations! Simply bring a copy of our fundraising form, present the form to the cashier, and Malmborg's will donate 10% of your pre-tax purchase to Dans Askina! This applies to any purchase you make, from seeds and plants to garden implements and landscaping materials. What could be easier? The only requirements are our form must be presented at time of purchase, and 'our' week is May 6 through May 12. Our form is available from any Dans Askina member or can be printed out from Malmborg's [website](#).

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