



# Dokus Sekiz

Dans Aşkına Newsletter, October 2013

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We are on Facebook!

~ Upcoming Performances ~

**Raqs Afsana Bi-Annual Show, with guest star Amy Sigil**

November 8, 2014, 7pm

~ Volume 3, Issue 2 - October, 2014 ~

## ***Jumping for Joy - Dans Aşkına Wins 2nd Place in the Rakkas Istanbul Dance Competition***

During their April 2014 trip to Istanbul, Dans Askina's Artistic Director Amina Beres and dancer Wendy Famodu decided to emulate the saying 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do' by performing a Turkish folk dance, a Trabzon Horon, in the Rakkas Istanbul dance competition.

"While I'm not a big fan of dance competitions, I felt it was important for us to enter the Folkloric competition to show a different side of Turkish dance that isn't often seen," says Amina. "We wanted to show the Rakkas Istanbul dancers and audience there is more to Turkish dance beyond the Oryantal style."



Bedlam Theater  
213 4th St E, St Paul, MN  
55101

**Seward Winter Frolic  
Kick off party**

December 5, 2014, 6:30pm

Playwright's Center  
2301 E Franklin Ave,  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

**4th Annual Dans  
Senlik/Salon Orientale**

February 7, 2015, 7pm

Hopkins Center for the Arts  
Main Theater  
1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN  
55343

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*~ Turkish Dance Classes with  
Amina Beres~*

**Hopkins Center for the  
Performing Arts**

Fall 2014 Session - Tuesdays,  
September 23-October 28,  
2014  
7:30-9:00 pm



Pictures by Photoshooting by Nam

“Our Trabzon Horon dance is from the Trabzon region, in the northeastern part of Turkey along the southern shore of the Black Sea. There are many variations, common themes are very fast footwork, and aerobic turns and jumps. It’s traditionally performed as a line dance with many people, not performed as a duet”, says Amina. “We modified the group dance we learned from our Minneapolis Turkish friends Nese Yurttas and Figen Haugen (October 2012 issue of Dokus Sekiz). We also had to modify our costumes, to comply with airline restrictions and not pack too much. But as our goal was to showcase a different type of Turkish dance we felt our dance would be acceptable, and hoped we would make a favorable impression.”

“The other folkloric dances in the competition were Egyptian Folkloric, performed by Greek and French dancers”, Amina adds. “No one was more surprised than me when we won 2nd place!”

“It was a little intimidating being in a competition”, adds Meira. “But when I saw all the smiles on the faces of the Turks in the audience and the hotel staff, I realized they appreciated our effort and we really started having fun with the performance.”

We asked the founder of Rakkas Istanbul, Serkan Tutar, his thoughts

Belly Dance Turkish Triathalon  
- Tuesdays, December 2 -  
December 16, 2014  
7:30-9:00 pm

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

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*~ Dans Aşkina  
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 the Twin Cities only local belly dance 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

on American dancers performing a Turkish Horon. “It was complete shock for me. We have had many different styles and dances, but I was not expecting two American ladies doing Horon and they did GREAT!”, I loved it! They not only learned and danced a choreography, they also learned about the culture, about the costume....everything! It was very, very well done !!!”

“I was personally astonished to see them performing Horon,” adds Burcu Kisakurek, one of Serkan’s partners in organizing and running Rakkas Istanbul. “It is such a special, authentic and difficult dance, even for Turkish people. I was especially amazed by the accuracy of costumes. Also, I was touched by the fact that they selected such an authentic dance from our country and culture.” She adds, “the dancers' energy was very high. They had big smiles all through the performance. The dance itself was completely different from any other show on stage that night and this brought a great color to the competition night.”



Amina and Meira agree, “We are hooked on Rakkas Istanbul! There are many European and Asian dancers attending, but not too many Americans...yet. We hope to help change that! More American dancers really need to attend Rakkas Istanbul if they truly are serious about learning from world-class instructors. The best of the best Turkish and

Egyptian Orientale, and Turkish Romani instructors give their all for 3 days - sharing their knowledge with participants, judging the competitions, performing in two gala shows, plus they are available for private lessons and photographs. You would think dance instructors of

England's regional experts on all Romani dances, June directs Chandani Belly Dance Troupe of Ithaca and Danza Romani Dance Troupe. She also teaches belly dance 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.

their caliber might be a bit self-absorbed, but that could not be further from the truth. The event, the people, the location, the hotel....all combine for a wonderful experience. Serkan, Burcu, and the entire Rakkas Istanbul staff organize a first-rate event. We are looking forward to returning in 2015!”

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## ***Give to the Max Day – November 13, 2014***

We truly hope you will consider contributing to Dans Aşkına on **Give to the Max Day, November 13, 2014**. Your 2014-2015 donations will help us fund our 4th Annual Dans Senlik/Salon Orientale event, where we turn the Main Theater of the Hopkins Center for the Arts into an evening of family entertainment inspired by Turkish Kanto concerts with performances by the West-Metro Community Ed belly dance students, instructors, special guest artists, and, of course, Dans Aşkına.

Dans Senlik will be held on Saturday February 7, 2015 beginning at 7 pm. Once again you will receive a discount on your admission ticket with a non perishable food or a personal hygiene product donation at the door, which we will deliver to West-Metro non-profit organizations. To date we've raised over 375 pounds of food for ICA Foodshelf! We are committed to using this event to share our “love of dance” with the community.

You can make your 2014 donation through **GiveMN** site at <https://www.givemn.org/fundraiser/Dansaskina>. Donations to Dans

Asskına through this site or directly to our fiscal sponsor, Springboard for the Arts are tax-deductable as allowed by law.

Thanks to your generosity on Give to the Max Day 2012, we met our matching grant requirement for our Metropolitan Regional Arts Council grant to host a weekend of Turkish Romani workshops and dance at Old Arizona Theater in Minneapolis; in 2013 your donations helped us purchase fabric, patterns, local seamstress work, and Turkish costuming pieces to be able to authentically present Turkish Romani and Folkloric dances to our audiences; in 2014 your donations will help us bring a Turkish Kanto concert to Hopkins! What is Turkish Kanto? You can read more about it in this newsletter!

We will sincerely appreciate your donation on Give to the Max Day, November 13, 2014! Many thanks for supporting us and the Minnesota Performing Arts Community!

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## ***First Trip to Istanbul-April 4-13, 2014- Wendy “Meira” Famodu***

Istanbul excited my imagination from the first time I knew it was an option to travel there. Rakkas Istanbul 2014 dance festival was the reason for going, but sightseeing was definitely going to be a big part of this trip.

Istanbul is where the east meets the west, Asia touches Europe, and history and tradition live alongside one of the world’s most modern

cities. I knew it would be a trip so different from any I have made, and I loved it from the moment the plane landed. It did not take long to be fascinated by the sights, sounds, and wonderful smells of the city. I was also very fortunate to travel with Amina Beres, who had been to Istanbul in 2013, and was so good at sharing what she had learned about the fascinating history. Believe me, Istanbul has so much to offer!

Istanbul is the second largest city in the world, spanning two continents across the Bosphorus. Despite its size, the Istanbul train system allowed us to cover a lot of ground in the short time we had, and we navigated pretty well in a this city of 14 million people.

Our adventures included the many sights of Sultanahmet (historical part of city). We visited the Suleymaniye Mosque (built by Suleiman the Magnificent, and the largest mosque in city), Basilica Cistern (6th century underground water system), the Grand Bazaar and Spice Market (one of the oldest and largest covered shopping districts), and whatever presented itself to us. We even got a Turkish rug store presentation with tea and extremely great customer service!

Crossing the Galata Bridge over the Golden Horn brought us to the Galata Tower through cobblestone streets where Italian traders lived centuries ago. We curved our way up to the Beyoglu District and Iskitlal Street; historically the European center of city and home of diplomats. It is now is a Bohemian collection of cafes, bars and shops winding up to Taksim Square. We also were so lucky to visit the Military museum and see a



performance by the historical Mehter band!! The Mehteran are the original marching bands, dating back to at least the 13th century. Modern-day marching bands and drum corps are direct descendants of these military bands. The costumes, vocals(!) and instruments were amazing.



On our final day of sightseeing we took the Bosphorus cruise to Anadolu Kavagi. This leisurely boat cruise affords fabulous views of the city and sights from one of the most trafficked waterways in the world, connecting the Mediterranean Ocean and the Black Sea. It was a beautiful spring day, and we experienced so much kindness from the local people and magic from nature.

We could not end our journey without visiting the Hamam (Turkish Bath), which is a great experience and a perfect way to wind down after a busy day of walking.

For the dancing part of our trip, we took the local bus to the home of Reyhan Tuzsuz for private lessons in Turkish Romani dance. Our last 3 days were spent in dance workshops at the Rakkas Istanbul festival, which included dance workshops and performances with amazing world-known Turkish and Egyptian dancers.

There is no doubt that another trip is in order, since we only touched the surface of the sights, sounds and experiences of Istanbul.

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## *Dans Aşkına's Fall Auditions*

Interested in joining the only dance troupe in Minnesota specializing in Turkish Oryantal, Romani, and Folk styles of dance? Contact us to schedule your audition!

When: November 13, 2014, 6:30-9:30 pm

Where: Ivy Arts Building, 2637 27th Avenue South, Minneapolis

Please email to [dansaskina@gmail.com](mailto:dansaskina@gmail.com) to secure a spot by November 1st.

Male and female dancers of all genres are welcome.

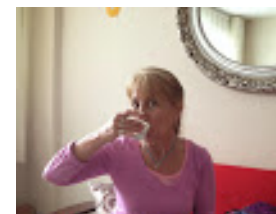
We look forward to dancing with you!!

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## *Private Lesson with Reyhan Tuzsuz*

As if our April 2014 trip to Istanbul with sightseeing and a dance festival was not enough excitement, Amina Beres scheduled a private lesson for us with Reyhan Tuzsuz, internationally -famous Turkish Romani dancer!

We were invited to her home for this lesson, which is a bus trip to the Gaziosmanpasa (Gah-zee-ohs-man-pasha) district of Istanbul. Reyhan met us at the bus stop and she escorted us through the busy,





narrow streets to her home and invited us in, where we were instantly treated to Turkish coffee and snacks. Although it can be a bit intimidating for someone like myself to do a private lesson, the sincerity and sweetness of this woman made me immediately comfortable.



Reyhan does not speak much English, Amina speaks a little Turkish, and combined with some pantomiming we were able to communicate fairly well; most of her lessons are ‘follow the leader’ but she watches intently and will gently correct you if you’re not quite getting it. And after a small social time with the coffee and snacks, she brought out some skirts for us to use during our practice.

After we settled in, the music started, and we moved non-stop for 1 1/2 hours to her new collection of Romani music which she selected with the help of her husband, musician Husnu Tuzsuz. Each move and combination were repeated until we learned them, and we followed her the best we could in her living room. I may have not remembered all that was covered in our private lesson, but it was such a great experience on so many levels that I left with the feeling of learning and accomplishing much!



It is hard to outline just how much she covered in the lesson, Reyhan had us working for the entire time! Some moves were similar to ones I already knew, and some were quite new and challenging; it was a good mix. I did realize that finger snaps, called “cat” (chat), are an important part Turkish Romani and Turkish street dance. The Turkish

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Romani style of dance is very unique, and sparks a new interest for me. Amina took some very good notes, and you can expect to see them incorporated into a new choreography for Dans Aşkina in the near future.

Because we came to Istanbul for the big Rakkas Istanbul dance festival, I wondered if taking the private lesson was a good idea because Reyhan was also teaching workshops at the festival. However when we were in Reyhan's festival workshops, it was clear we did many more complicated moves during our private lesson, so the private lesson was definitely "so worth it".

Turkish Romani dance is not a choreographed type of dance, but more an expression of feelings ( a culture) and to perform it properly it is very important to understand this! The dance comes from the heart and soul of a people with a long and not-always happy history , we need to honor and respect this when we perform their dance. I hope there's another opportunity to learn from Reyhan again in my future!

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## ***4th Annual Dans Senlik/Salon Orientale - February 7, 2015!***

Mark your calendars for our annual event as we turn the Main Theater of the Hopkins Center for the Arts into an evening of family entertainment inspired by Turkish Kanto.

What is Turkish Kanto? Originally, Kanto were Istanbul musical

theater shows held in the 1900s-1930s. Sometimes political, sometimes inspirational, sometimes bawdy, Kanto were public entertainment shows rooted in the traditional songs and dances of the widely diverse ethnic communities of Istanbul.

Our updated version will be filled with a variety of family entertainment for all ages. In addition to the diverse performances by the students and instructors of West-Metro Community Education 'belly dance' programs, our Kanto will feature vocalists Bardmageddon, the General Hardware Morris Dancers, and musician, storyteller, and poet Mustafa Ali. Dans Askina will also be performing from our extensive repertoire of Turkish Oryantal, Romani, and Folkloric choreographies.

We will continue our tradition of offering discounted admission for a donation of a non-perishable food item or a personal care product. Mark your calendars for Dans Senlik 2015, Saturday February 7, 2015 beginning 7:00 pm in the Main Theater of the Hopkins Center for the Arts in Hopkins, MN.

Stay tuned to our Facebook page and website for ticket information - see you there!

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## ***Turkish 101 - All in the Aile (Ueele)***

I recently attended a big family (aile) gathering to celebrate my husband's baba –bubu (father) and anne – unne (mother) 70th wedding anniversary. To me they are my babalik – bubulek and

kaynana – kuynunu (father-in-law and mother in-law).

Other family members joining us were my husband's kiz kardes – keez kurdesh (sister), my erkek kardes (brother), & bacanak –bucunuk (brother in-law), our hala -hulu & amica -umeeu (aunt & uncle) and our ogul – ahoor (son).

All three of the grand children were there to wish büyükbaba – bewyewkbubu & kaynana -kuynunu (grandfather & grandmother) lots of love. In private they like to call them Dede & Nine - nahne (grandpa & grandma).

There were also several kuzen – koozen (male cousins) and kuzin - koozahn (female cousins) present as well as many arkadas - urkudush (friends).

Until next time, best wishes to you, my arkadas – urkudush (friends), and your aile.

#### Pronunciation Guide

A - is the u sound in lucky

E - is e sound in letter

I (undotted)- is the er sound in porter or water but without any r sound

I (dotted)- is the ee in meet

O - is the o sound in lottery

Ö - is the ir sound in bird or shirt but without any r sound.

U - Is the oo sound in loot

Ü - is as ew sound few or stew

Ğ, ğ - is not pronounced; lengthens preceding vowel slightly; you can safely ignore it—just don't pronounce it!

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## *2014 Dans Askina Year in Review*

Another busy year of dance for us!

Dans Senlik, our annual showcase event, took place on March 15th with the talented West-Metro area community education programs demonstrating a wide range of belly dance genres. From beginner to advanced and young to experienced, the dancers proved that their love of dance knows no bounds. Our guest performers included Dance Caravan from the Elk River/Otsego area, and Caravan Dancers from the Shakopee area.

Countryside Elementary School's Cultural Celebration, in Edina, was our next performance on March 25th. We had a great time performing before kids, parents & relatives, and school staff as a part of our Community Outreach program. As one could tell from the amount of smaller hands stamped with our blue tulip design, we were a popular table that evening!

The City of Brooklyn Park invited us to perform for their Volunteer Appreciation event on the snowy evening of April 3rd. As the members of Dans Askina volunteer for other organizations, this event was especially fun to perform for fellow volunteers. After we danced, we had a blast getting our picture taken with the Mayor of Brooklyn Park, Jeffrey Lunde.

On April 26th, we performed at the Guild of Oriental Dance's Annual Show. It was held at the Old Arizona Theater and included many

different kinds of styles and dancers from around the Twin Cities.

Despite the stormy weather (again, with a Brooklyn Park event), dancing at Brooklyn Park's 50th Annual Tater Daze on July 14th was very fun! Our twenty-five minute show, performed under a tent for fear of torrential downpour, featured several different styles of Turkish dance, including Turkish Cabaret, folkloric and Romani. We enjoyed the camaraderie of dancing with other groups in the Diversity Tent, as well as tasting all the delicious international foods. foods.

July 26th and 27th marked the second year Dans Aşkına performed at Ren in the Glen. Our show this year included Turkish cabaret & folkloric styles, with amazing solos by our very own Ben Suleyman and Amina Beres. Our jokes were very cheesy, pardon the pun, making reference to the Vikings and Packers rivalry. This was not a show to be missed, even in the rain. We also had fun dancing improv with our sister dancers from The Belly Lab and Lasa Anahata.

Dans Aşkına was invited to perform the final night of the Little Mekong Night Market in St Paul on August 6th. This community event offered an amazing cultural experience, combining delicious foods, great merchandise, and a wide variety of talented performers. The energy was contagious at this event!

And the year isn't finished! We have more performances coming up, our schedule is under 'Upcoming Performances' above - see you there!

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