



Dokus Sekiz

Dans Aşkına Newsletter, March 2016

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We are on Facebook!

~ Upcoming Performances ~

**26th Guild of Oriental Dance
Annual Show
at Patrick's Cabaret**

April 23, 2016
7:00 pm

~ Volume 5, Issue 1 - March, 2016 ~

Rakkas Minneapolis - August 26-28, 2016

Whether you are a professional or avocational Middle Eastern dancer, you enjoy music and dance from other lands, or you enjoy shopping in a Grand Bazaar, this weekend is for you! Thanks to a combination of a Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) Arts Activities Support Grant and our generous supporters, we are able to bring three of the 'Rak Stars' of Middle Eastern dance, Reyhan Tuzsuz, Serkan Tutar, and Artemis Mourat to the Twin Cities!

What will Rakkas Minneapolis weekend be? A full weekend of dance and music beginning with an informal 'Ask the Artist' open house, continuing with eleven different Turkish and Egyptian dance workshops, shopping with local vendors in our Grand Bazaar, and concluding with the fabulous gala show Anatolian Origins: Dance and Music Across the Ottoman Empire.

Our 'Rak Stars' will be teaching dance workshops in Turkish Romani,

3010 Minnehaha Ave. in
Minneapolis

**Amina Beres and Meira
Famodu perform with the
Turkish American
Association of Minnesota's
Folkloric Dance Troupe**

April 24, 2016
1:00-3:00 pm

Urban Expedition, Landmark
Center in St. Paul

**Amina Beres and Meira
Famodu perform with the
Turkish American
Association of Minnesota's
Folkloric Dance Troupe**

May 5-8, 2016

Festival of Nations, River
Center in St. Paul

**Lasa Anahata's Annual
Springtime Shimmy
at Acoustic Cafe in Eau
Claire, WI**

May 14, 2016
7:00 pm

Modern Veil, Egyptian Shaabi, Argentine Baladi, a 9/8 Rhythm Refresher (the integral rhythm to Turkish dance), Turkish Chiftitelli, and Turkish Oryantal . Turkish Folk Dance workshops, will also be taught by our Artistic Director Amina Beres.



The gala show, Anatolian Origins: Dance and Music Across the Ottoman Empire, will feature live musical performances by local Turkish band **On the Way to Uskudar**, and dance performances by the Turkish American Association of Minnesota Folkdance group, professional Middle Eastern dancers from across Minnesota, the U.S. and Canada, Dans Askina Turkish Dance Ensemble, and more!

Please visit the **Rakkas Minneapolis** website for more information. Updates are also posted on our **Facebook page** and the **Rakkas Minneapolis Facebook Event** page.

Rakkas Minneapolis is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from The Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a Legislative Appropriation from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.



**Daughters of Atlas
Bellydance Festival
at Empire Theater, Grand
Forks, ND**

May 21, 2016
7:00 pm

**Amina Beres and Meira
Famodu in Istanbul to
participate in Turkey's
Biggest and Best Oriental
Dance Festival**

June 1-5, 2016

**Ren in the Glen
Glenwood City, WI**

July 30-31, 2016

**Anatolian Origins, the Gala
Show for Rakkas
Minneapolis
Main Theater, Hopkins
Center for the Arts,
Hopkins, MN**

August 27, 2016
7:00 pm

*~ Turkish Dance Classes with
Amina Beres~*

Amina also offers private

Fifth Annual Dans Senlik

Our 5th annual Dans Senlik was held on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the Hopkins Center for the Performing Arts. While each year has been a great show, this year was our best one to date! Thanks to our audience for supporting us again this year, and also for your kind donations to the ICA Food Shelf. Thanks to you, 125 lbs. of food plus cash donations were made!

In keeping with our 1930's Turkish Kanto theme, we included more diversity in performers this year. By popular demand, we brought back Mustafa Ali with his music, poetry and storytelling.



Bardmageddon, Caileena, Davin, and Marie, found time in their busy Midwest tour schedule to entertain with a variety of Irish folk songs.

New this year to Dans Senlik was vocalist Sarah Larsson, who is also a member of the Nightingale Trio. She performs traditional folk songs from the Balkans and Eastern Europe and was accompanied by Steven Hobert on the accordion.



We also added the lively General Hardware Border Morris Dancers, who performed village dances from the English side of the

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 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



Wales-England border. Besides the very energetic dancing, their dances include long wooden staffs which they tap together and toss in the air in time with music. Our audience, and Dans Askina, were so pleased to welcome all these talented performers to our Dans Senlik family.

Another addition this year an emcee, "Sultan Louis I", introducing each performance, and musical entertainment at intermission by Rags Mckay on the hammered dulcimer.

Returning dance soloists and groups this year were Emalee Morem and Nimat Aswaad, both professional dancers and instructors. Each did a different version of a Saidi cane dance. Troupes Dance Caravan and Belly donna also returned to entertain the audience with lovely and colorful dances.

Dans Aşkina performed four new dances from our extensive Turkish repertoire: a 1930's themed 'flapper dance hall' piece; a dance based on an Azeri operetta in which a fabric peddler searches for a bride, a new karsilama folk dance common to wedding celebrations in northern Turkey, and a modern Turkish Oryantal choreography from Gulnihal Saka and Amina Beres. Co-director Kerime Posz rounded out the performances with an original fan veil solo to the love song O'na Sor.

We would be remiss if we did not thank our behind-the-scenes tech crew - many thanks to them and everyone who helped us bring our 5th Annual Dans Senlik to a successful reality. We look forward to seeing you at our 6th Annual Show next year!

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

Alexandra Howes - A high school teacher, Alexandra brings a broad depth of expertise as an educator, performer, director of high school theater programs, and educator of theater and dance.

Learn From the Legends - An Interview with Artemis Mourat By Patricia Cumbie

Artemis Mourat is one of the foremost experts on Turkish dance in the U.S. - we are thrilled to have such an esteemed and invaluable dancer, researcher, and instructor on Dans Askina's advisory board.

Meet Artemis

Over the course of her 40-year dance career, Artemis has traveled to 33 countries to research, teach, and perform dance. In the U.S., she's performed and taught in 39 states, and wants to visit all 50 "before I hang up my zills." After earning two Masters degrees in psychology and in social work, she continues researching Turkish dance history to ensure the dances she teaches and performs are culturally accurate. Her research is so thorough, it has been used by Egyptian universities, the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C., and the Library for Performing Arts in New York.



Artemis' father was a Greek whose family had lived in the western

Aegean region of Turkey for over 1000 years. When he was an infant, his parents moved from Turkey to a Greek enclave in West Virginia. Artemis was born in Washington, D.C., and she grew up in a world filled with music and dance. One of her earliest memories is when she was four years old and her grandfather put her on a table and encouraged her to dance. “He would say ‘Dance! Dance!’ and sing and snap his fingers. Our relatives took great delight in that.”

Although music and dance had long been a part of her cultural identity, Artemis didn’t have the desire to perform publicly until she was 21 years old. Upon seeing a professional belly dancer with a live band, she had an epiphany. “I was mesmerized, and said to myself ‘I’m going to do that dance on that stage.’” And, as they say, the rest is history.

However, you don't need to aspire to be a professional dancer if you're “bit by the bug.” Artemis sees this happen with her dance students. “People will sign up for classes for any number of reasons; and once they see the beautiful art form our dance is, those initial reasons disappear. They realize they have to have belly dance in their lives. It’s a magical moment for them.”

What Defines Turkish Belly Dance

Belly dance as an art form is performed by a wide variety of people and cultures; however in an effort to simplify its influence, traditions, and history it is often lumped into an all-purpose “Middle Eastern dance” category. Unfortunately, this description contributes to misunderstandings about important core differences and nuances, especially between Turkish, Egyptian, and American styles.

"Educating people about the beauty and power of Turkish dance is my life's work. I wanted to specialize in Turkish dance because it's important for dancers and their audiences to understand the differences in the different styles."



Artemis explained, "As a starting point, the Turkish people are not Arabs; therefore Turkish culture and dance is different from Arabic culture and dance. While the music of both dance styles share many of the same rhythms, the *chiftetelli* and 9/8 rhythms are unique to Turkish belly dance. Another example comes from Turkish Romany (Gypsy) dance, as we use dance gestures and footwork you would never see in Egyptian dance.

"The Turks conquered Egypt in the 1500s and ruled it until the early 1900s, resulting in a lot of cultural cross-pollination. While on the surface the dances may appear similar, the root for both Turkish and

Egyptian belly dance came from the Romany people who migrated from India into the Balkans, Middle East, and North Africa. It's the common, uniting historical dance thread between both styles that continues today," Artemis said.

Prior to the 1920s, belly dance was often a part of everyday public life, mostly performed by street performers in public, in homes, or in small establishments. In the 1920s, under the influence of the Turkish leader Kemal Ataturk, Western dancing was promoted, and government monies were spent introducing ballroom, tango and ballet dance to Turkey. Ataturk discouraged street performance belly dance; however the public belly dancers and former Ottoman Court dancers began to merge their unique styles—and Turkish Oriental Dance was born.

While Egyptian belly dance was influenced by American and British cinema, Turkish belly dance was not and has remained closer to its Romany roots. But in the 1940s and 1950s, it went through an identity crisis when the belly dance costumes became much more revealing. When American dancers began traveling to the Middle East to research belly dance, they saw the Turkish dancers in their skimpy costumes and concluded that Turkish dance was inferior. Turkish dancers continue to feel the fallout from this today, as they strive to assert their validity on the world's stages.

The good news is their efforts are paying off. New audiences are rediscovering the exhilaration and traditions of Turkish dance in the U.S. and abroad. Why? "Classic Turkish Oriental belly dance is energetic and physically commanding; dancers show more foot-driven hip articulations, very assertive hip work, and floor-work," Artemis

said. In addition to herself, Artemis counts Nesrin Topkapi, Tulay Karaca and Sema Yildiz as Classic Turkish Oriental belly dancers.

A newer phenomenon is the rise of what Artemis calls “Nouveau Turkish belly dance.” This style is rooted in Classic Turkish Oriental belly dance, but the individual dancers assert a tremendous amount of their own personal styling into the dances. The resulting dances are dramatic and athletic performances, exemplified by dancers such as Asena, Didem Kinali, and Ozgen Ozgec. And there are dancers, such as Gigi Dilsah, who perform both styles beautifully.

“It's important for dancers and their audiences to understand that Turkish dance is a legitimate part of the oriental dance tree, that it is a beautiful art form with its own styling, music and history. This is why Dans Askina's efforts to host Rakkas Minneapolis are so important,” Artemis said.

“Dans Aşkına has done a great deal of work to bring Turkish dance to Minneapolis. I like being a part of their group because they are so hardworking and sincere. They live up to their mission to bring this art form to the public.”

Give to the Max Day

Since 2009, the charity organization, GiveMN, had been linking donors with organizations to enable charitable giving on its website, GiveMN.org. Although donations can be made year-round, every year in November, they organize a “Give to the MAX Day” when thousands

of organizations raise money to improve the quality of life in Minnesota and communities around the world. The site makes it easy for generous donors to find the non-profit organizations they wish to support. Donating is simple and easy to track.

In 2015, Dans Aşkına, was able to raise \$4,400 in funds for our upcoming Rakkas Minneapolis event. Also, as a member of Springboard for the Arts, we received an additional \$300 in funds for having the highest number of donors on that day.

Çok Teşekkür Ederim to all who donated to Dans Askina Turkish Dance Ensemble on Give to the MAX Day! It is through your continued support and generosity that allows us to continue to bring Turkish dance and music to the Twin Cities. Thank you!

Dans Aşkına Frolics at Seward



Dans Aşkına joined in a little winter fun on December 4th, 2015 at the Seward Winter Frolic Celebration. The 16th annual Winter Arts Festival kicked off with an evening of performances at the Playwright's Center in the Minneapolis Seward neighborhood.

It was an evening of firsts - first performance of our new Kanto dance Bu Gece Lazim, first solo performance by our Co-Director Kerime following elbow surgery, and the debut performance of our newest

dancer Nicole Gibas.

In addition to our Turkish dance numbers, the evening included a reading of her latest novel by our very own talented Patricia "Katze" Cumbie, speed painting by Jao, and a myriad of Seward neighborhood performing artists.

Local businesses provided wonderful food and wine for patrons, and proceeds from the evening went to the Seward Neighborhood Group.



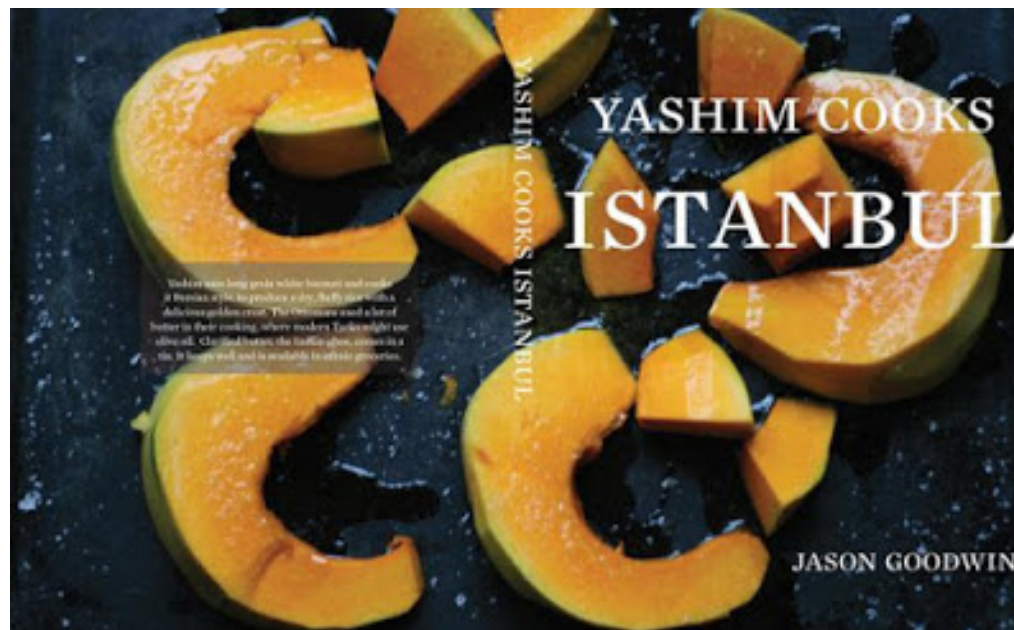
We had a great time kicking off the Winter season with this event, and hope you were able to join us!

Kitap Köse - Yashim Cooks Istanbul

In past editions of Dokuz Sekiz, we've reviewed the books *The Janissary Tree*, *The Snake Stone*, *The Bellini Card*, and *An Evil Eye*; each tale a gem in author Jason Goodwin's historical fiction crown chronicling the tales of Yashim Togulu, the Ottoman Court investigator and confidant in early 19th century Istanbul.

In each of the books, there are descriptions of various meals cooked by Yashim as he solves the latest conspiracy theories in the Ottoman

Courts. Carrying that concept one step further, author Goodwin has reached out to Yashim's fans around the world to field test various recipes from the books, including our own Amina Beres!



Keep your eyes out for the forthcoming Yashim Cooks Istanbul - a cookbook filled with the recipes from early 19th century Istanbul!

Turkish 101 - Afiyet Olsun (Enjoy your meal)

Turkish pişirme (cooking) is rich with an incredible variety of wonderful combinations, tastes, and aromas.

The most familiar types of Turkish cookery are:

Meze – Hors d’oeuvres

Kebap - Roasted Meats

Börek – Stuffed Pastries

Pilav - Rice Dishes

Sebze – Vegetables cooked in olive oil.

Dolma - Stuffed Grape Leaves

Kebap varieties are made with Kuzu (lamb), Sigir Eti (beef), and Tavuk (chicken), while the Bosphorus supplies a steady source of Balık (fish) as another meat or protein source.

Dolma may be stuffed with Pirinç (rice) or Bulgar Tahılı (bulgur wheat). Patlıcan (eggplant) is one of the most popular vegetables and a favorite dish is Imambayildi – eggplant in olive oil. It is said Imambayildi means “the Imam fainted”, although the legend doesn’t clarify if it was the deliciousness of the eggplant or the cost of the olive oil used that made him faint.

We must not forget dessert! Dolaz with bal (honey) starts with frying small flour patties and drenching them in bal. And of course we can't forget Lokum, or Turkish Delight. These are just two of many wonderful sweet treats.

English	Turkish
Lamb	Kuzu (Kuh-zuh)
Vegetables	Sebze (Seb-zeh)
Olive Oil	Zeytinyağı (Zateeb ya-uh)
Rice	Pirinç (Peer-inch) or Pilav (Pea-lav)
Roasted Meats	Kebap
Turkish Delight	Lokum
Beef	Siğir eti (See-ear eteh)
Eggplant	Patlıcan (Pat-ih-clan)
Bulgar Wheat	Bulgur Tahılı (Bulgar Ta-hih-lih)
Honey	Bal (Ball)

Until next time, Afiyet Olsun - Bon Appetit!

Çok Teşekkür Ederim to our Supporters

We wish to extend a heart-felt thanks to the following individuals for their support of Dans Askina. 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, Alexandra Howes, Emily Jarrett Hughes, Artemis Mourat, June Seaney

Website Maven: Pamela Nici Lawson

Financial and In-Kind Contributors

Turquoise Level (up to \$100): Anonymous, Lynn Anderson, Lisa Bah, Sarah Bell, Moe Carey, Dustin Carlson, Bryan Christianson, Megan Christianson, Michael Culliton, Deji Famodu, Dele Famodu, Kimberly Famodu, Remi Famodu, Seyi Famodu, Toy e Famodu, Susan Geller, Sylvia Hamilton, Charles Hanson, Gregory Hathaway, Avery Holden, Kali Holden, Alexandra Howes, Emily Jarrett Hughes, Jill Kohler, Janine Keller, Barbarajo Kuzelka, Melissa Lombardo, Marilyn Lovato, Michelle Mack, Cheryl Mayberry, Jessica McCroskey, Carey Moe, Sue Molzahn, Karen Monk, Jana Mora, Missy Mound, Susan Nyberg, Nan

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Cengi Level (\$301 to \$999): Anonymous, Joel Beres, Carlotta & Carl Posz.

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

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