

Camel Tracks



Jan/Feb 2010

Rakkasah!

by Jen Bak

Rakkasah East is a weeklong belly dance conference of workshops, capped by massive amounts of shopping and performances. This event brings together belly dancers from all over the country, giving you the opportunity to learn from teachers and network with dancers you might otherwise never meet. The six workshops I took (you don't have to do the entire week of workshops, it's a la carte) were fabulous, giving me a lot of new techniques and concepts.

I had massive fun watching the performances, some of which were absolutely fantastic and some mind-blowingly bad. But with over 25 hours of them, your brain can start to shut down from the overload of sparkles and shimmies. I suggest periodic breaks for food and air. (I only made it though about half of them.)

Another great thing about Rakkasah was the live Middle Eastern bands, who were available for the dancers' performances. You could have them play specific tracks from their albums, or if you were feeling brave, you could improv. The bands also had "open dancing" periods in between performances and after hours dance parties.

Definitely worth the occasional trip to New Jersey, but going every year would be belly dance overload.

Once in a Blue Moon...

An expression that has come to denote a rarity. In January, we have one; that is, a second full moon in one month. Bernice, are you ready for this?

The New Year starts with a rarity for me. For the first time in my many trips to Egypt, I will celebrate both the New Year and Coptic Christmas in Cairo. I will also be taking my first group of Aegela Monsters to Egypt. Sandy Gaietto, Deb Bard, and Catherine Gray will join me for a week in Cairo. As you read this, we will have tranquilized Sandy, pushed her onto the plane and will be headed for adventure. Egypt, are you ready for this?

Perhaps beginning the year in the Blue Moon phase bodes well. I don't make resolutions, and I don't dwell on the shoulda, woulda, coulda. Rarely do I look back, except to recall our achievements, and I don't consider any experience a loss if I learned from it. It's less about where we've been, than where we are going.

A goal of mine is to provide a studio environment for each of you to grow with your dance. Some of you may want to teach, others may want to write choreographies, and some would like to be able to give a presentation about dance to groups. Others may like to design sets or costumes. Just want to dance more? Each of you has her own circle of friends, acquaintances and community contacts. Someone in those various groups would welcome your talent in their own endeavors.

As our studio grows in numbers and increases its community presence, it isn't possible for just one person to unearth all the opportunities for the group. If you have an "itch to scratch," let us know. You have the support of a powerful and talented group of women, and twelve months of opportunity ahead. If you've ever thought... "once on a blue moon, I'd like to..." here's your chance.

Happy New Year!
Aegela

Aegela Centers for Middle Eastern Dance

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Publisher-Aegela ~ Editor - Racheal Wallace

www.aegela.com ~ aegela@mindspring.com ~ (517) 918-9547

Aegela Monster Sightings



We've been so busy, we don't have room to show all the things Aegela Monsters have been up to these past two months! Here are some highlights: Left top, Aegela Monsters at the Mystic Lotus Hafla. Left bottom, Aegela Monsters at the 2009 Hair Show. Center, Bernice pins the tail on the camel at the studio birthday party. Right, Aegela takes down the belly-dancer piñata.



Camel Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Betsy Bodamer-Scarbro's and Aija Grindulis's Birthday	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Jodi Frazier's and Rosemary McElfish's Birthday	28	29	30	31

January 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Sandy Gaietto's Birthday	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

February 2010

Have You Heard?

Lisa Losek is now Lisa Uhrman! Lisa got married October 10, 2009 at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC to John Uhrman. Congrats!

Our own Laura Hansen, current president of The Village Players Theatre, recently produced a play called "Murder Among Friends." The show was written by Bob Barry and directed by Jennifer Rockwood. It involved an aging actor, his rich wife and a double dealing agent in a New York duplex where a murder occurs, but not one of the planned ones. The show opened Nov 6 and ran for three weeks and received many write ups, including some from The Blade, The Toledo Free Press, The Toledo City Paper and The University of Toledo.

Candace Byington is going back to school for graphic design at Davis College. Candace should complete the program by 2011. Congrats Candace!

Sandy Gaietto has a new job as the Activity Supervisor at the Goerlich Center on the campus of Flower Hospital! The center is an Alzheimer's & Dementia Care Center and is affiliated with ProMedica and Flower Hospital. Sandy will begin working upon her return from Egypt in January. Congrats Sandy!

Don't forget about the 'attitude jar!' When one utters the words "I can't" or makes a negative comment about oneself, one will have to pay the Attitude Jar 25 cents. The jar will help our Race for the Cure team raise donations for the overall team.