

MECDA

San Francisco • Bay Area

Spring 2008

"Serving the Greater Bay Area Dance Community Since 2000"

Vol. 5 - Issue 1

Morocco of New York 2008 Winter Hafla at the Hoover Presented by SF/BA MECDA

Thanks go out to everyone who attended our winter event! Many who attended have expressed having had a fantastic time. It was a delight to host such a fantastic superstar as Morocco. Even though we didn't quite break even on this event, we brought an extraordinary dancer to the Bay Area belly dancing community.

Some of the figures from our production:

- Number of attendees at the event - 165
- Number of workshops - 3
- Number of vendors - 10
- Staff and Committee - 26
- Snack Attack Sales - \$55.00
- Raffle Ticket Sales - \$63.00
- Donations to Casbah Dance - \$31
- Donations to Next Door - \$15.50

Our videos are in production, and will be mailed soon. The total money raised through our Video Fundraiser has not been finalized but is well over \$75. Look for your video to arrive the last week of March.

As soon as we know our total donation figure, we will post it on our website!

Thank you for participating in our event. We look forward to seeing you at the next Hafla at the Hoover on Sunday, August 17, 2008.



Some of the ladies who attended Morocco's Master Class.

Meet the Board Your 2008 officers



President 2008

Dawn Devine ~ Davina

Davina has been serving on the board of the SF/BA chapter of MECDA for several years, and this is her second time as president. She is looking forward to working on events throughout the 2008 as well as working with the board to modernize and update the website.

Dawn is the author of several books about designing and making Middle Eastern dance attire, and runs her own publishing house, Ibexa Press. She currently teaches private and semi-private lessons and workshops in both sewing and dance. Her jewelry, costume design and wearable art are worn by dancers around the globe. Look for several new books slated for release in 2008.

For a more complete bio and information on her ongoing classes and projects, visit her website for more details - www.davina.us



Vice President 2008

Leyla Lanty

Leyla Lanty is a founding member of the San Francisco Bay Area of MECDA. As Vice President of SF/BA MECDA, she hopes to bring more dancing opportunities to the Bay Area's dancers and to help the chapter in its goal of sponsoring events featuring local teachers and vendors.

Leyla has studied, performed, and taught raqs sharqi, Egyptian folkloric cane dance, and finger cymbals over the last three decades. She has been invited yearly since 2006 by master Egyptian dancer/choreographer, Raqia Hassan, to teach at the Ahlan Wa Sahlan Festival in Cairo, Egypt.

She teaches workshops as well as private and small group lessons in the San Francisco Bay Area. Visit her website for more details. <http://www.leylalanty.com> - Producer of CD "Golden Days, Enchanting Nights"



Treasurer 2008

Zemira

Zemira has been studying Middle Eastern dance for 10 years and has performed in the Bay Area and is teaching monthly workshop style classes at the Sequoia YMCA in Redwood City.

As a long standing volunteer member of this chapter she enjoys being able to give to the belly dance community and share her joy of dance with other dancers. This year Zemira is managing the continuation of the SF/BA MECDA Chapter: Greater Bay Area Studio Tour.

She hopes you will join us and take a workshop with an instructor from outside of your local area!

Meet the Board Your 2008 officers



Secretary 2008 Yolanda

Yolanda is a professional dance artist and dance instructor in the San Jose / San Francisco Bay Area. She performs a variety of dances from the Middle East incorporating the use of sword, tray, cane, veil and traditional finger cymbals. She has created and taught both choreography and improvisational dance.

Yolanda teaches at the East Palo Alto YMCA, Palo Alto Family YMCA and the Lunatic Fringe Boutique & Art Center in Sunnyvale. She performs most Saturday evening at Kan Zeman Restaurant on University Avenue in Palo Alto, CA. She is a certified instructor in the Dunia "Traditional Old World Bellydance" and one of the Dance Masters of Bellydance! Please visit her website at YolandaBellyDance.com for more information on classes and where she will be performing.

Yolanda served as President of the San Francisco Bay Area Middle Eastern Culture and Dance Association Chapter in 2003 and 2004 and as Vice-President for 2001 and 2002. She along with Izora, Zemira, Nashwa Ahlam, Leyla Lanty and Jenza was one of the founding members of the SF/BA MECDA chapter which started in 2000. She is glad to again be working with wonderful organization as Secretary for 2008.



Board Member at Large Bonnie Stensler ("Safiyah")

Bonnie ("Safiyah") lives in San Francisco and commutes to work at a law firm in Mountain View. She walked into Yolanda's class at the YMCA some four years ago just looking for a fun way to exercise, never imagining she would be a student performer at teacher recitals, be a member of Setareh's improvisational dance troupe Nour El Ain, solo at Paloma's Quarterly Raks, solo at Desert Dance Festival and now serve in a key support role as an appointed officer on the Board of SF / BA MECDA! Having no prior dance background she attributes her teachers, among them, Yolanda, Setareh, Malia, and fellow Board members, Davina, Leyla and Zemira with always encouraging her, instilling confidence and supporting her. And she doesn't want to forget to mention those dance opportunities at Straw Hat Pizza in San Jose either!

Sometime during 2006 and into 2007 she really began to make a commitment to belly dance and wanting to soak up as much as possible; (acquiring her nickname, the "Sponge"). She has attended and/or volunteered at several SF/BA MECDA-sponsored events; including most recently being responsible for coordinating the Showcase Dancers for Hafla at the Hoover with Morocco on February 10, 2008. She's still finding her own style but does particularly enjoy incorporating the veil into her performance.

Bonnie is committed to making more women aware of the benefits of belly dance and the extraordinary women in front and behind the scenes. Her goal is to introduce others in the community to this beautiful art form and SF / BA MECDA is the organization that makes that possible by offering its members dance opportunities, sponsoring workshops, networking and continuing to raise funds for Next Door.

SF/BA MECDA Presents

2008 Greater Bay Area Studio Tour
Sunday, April 6, 2008

Workshop with Jasmine Catching Air

Halanda Dance Studio

1062 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125

MECDA Members \$5 - Non-Members \$10

*Price includes all activities including workshop and exhibition showcase!
Bring a costume and wear casual dance attire so we can raq!*

Noon: Open the doors

12:30 – 2:00pm: Workshop/Class

2:30pm – 4:30pm: Open Party/Informal Performances

4:30pm – 6:00pm: Exhibition Dancing

Catching Air

Jasmine's veil work embraces traditional and modern styles, while holding true to her own personal veil philosophy. In this workshop, you will learn a few of Jasmine's signature moves and gain a fresh perspective on some old school favorites.



Jasmine is an award-winning professional belly dancer currently based in Walnut Creek, California. She began studying Middle Eastern dance with Leea Aziz in 1992, and soon after began performing throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. She is most proud of her work with Portland and San Francisco-based Raqs Habibi Dance Company. Jasmine performs weekly at Tanjia in Oakland, and you can visit her online at www.jasminedance.com.

* SAVE THE DATE *

Hafla at the Hoover

Festival Dancing ~ Teacher Showcase ~ Workshops ~ Vending

Sunday, August 17, 2008
11:00 am – 9:00 pm

Hoover Theater

1635 Park Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126

Right across from the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum
Ample Free Parking ~ Affordable Workshops

Workshops

SF/BA MECDA is pleased to present a series of workshops with some of our top regional professional dance instructors. This is a great opportunity to take a class with the teachers who have contributed so much to the development of our dance art. Workshop Dance Instructors to be announced so please keep checking back on our web site at <http://www.sfbamecda.org/> or sign-up for our newsletter for the most up to date information.

Festival Dancing

There will be festival dancing from noon until 6 pm. Join us for an afternoon of continuous entertainment on the Hoover's jewel-box of a stage. We will start taking sign-ups for troupes and soloists by email on Tuesday, May 20, 2008. Sign-up is first-come, first served. We will probably have a waiting list for performances, but you never know when a dance slot will open up, so bring music and a costume!

Want to Help?

Planning committee for this event is now forming. The committee is instrumental in selecting workshop leaders, choosing vendors and planning the details of this event. If you would like to help support the greater dance community, please send an email to info@sfbamecda.org for more information. We will be happy to let you know the details of our next meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

MECDA's Annual Belly Dance Carnival

June 7- 8, 2008
Santa Anita Race Track
285 W. Huntington Dr.
Arcadia, CA 91007

Workshops with:

Princess Farhana
Sadie
Kassar
Heather Stants
And...

Indoor and Outdoor Bazaar
Drum Circle
Performances on two stages

This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for our central chapter down in the Greater Los Angeles Region. Held in the historic Santa Anita Racetrack, this event has a long tradition of providing opportunities for members to perform, shop, learn and enjoy the company of their peers.

**For more details,
visit the central board website:
www.mecda.org
626 - 588 - 4907**

SF/BA MECDA

P.O. Box 5055
Redwood City, CA 94063
www.sfbamecda.org
info@sfbamecda.org
916-300-2142