

Camel Tracks



March/April
2009

From the editor

We've been publishing Camel Tracks since September 2007. When we began, I worried we wouldn't have enough content to fill the one sheet. Now, over a year later, I find myself reducing font sizes and finding ways to stretch text boxes. I am consistently amazed and proud of the multiple talents and happenings within our studio. This group is truly special.

In recognition of some of those talents, Aegela and I have decided to shake up Camel Tracks. Studio members are invited to submit Middle Eastern and dance themed articles to the newsletter. For example, you could write about a workshop or performance, about a Middle Eastern restaurant, or a book on the Middle East. Keep in mind that space is tight, so less is more. My hope is that this forum will encourage dancers to share their creativity, while getting some recognition. If you are interested, please email me at rtafelski@gmail.com. If enough interest is generated, Camel Tracks may be released more frequently.

In addition, current and previous issues of Camel Tracks are now available online at www.aegela.com.

Jobs Scramble

We have so many interesting careers within our group. To showcase this, we have made a job scramble game. Aegela is offering \$25 in Belly Bucks to the winner. Game cards are in the studio. Drop your completed form in the Suggestion Box.

Countdown...

to Mirage is just seven weeks! Each year, I begin the preparations with rattled nerves, and each year, I am assuaged as I see the work so many of our Swans and Monsters put into the event. It is gratifying to see soloists and groups write their own choreographies, design their costuming, and manage the technical aspects of staging.

Each year, our productions are refined, and each year, our supportive audiences expect us to step up another level.

Since January, we have welcomed so many new dancers to our studio. Our spring production is a new experience for them, so I'd like to reassure our "newbies" that we certainly encourage their participation in this event. Even if not on stage, there are a zillion tasks to be addressed, so jump in and share your talents, organizational skills, experiences with us!

Spring production is a group effort, and as such, the profits of the event (and we operate on the premise of making a profit) are returned to the studio members, not to Aegela. Once the accounting is complete, a committee is appointed to come up with ideas for using the profits. They will narrow it to three options, and then all members of the production, including dancers and technical staff, vote on how to spend the money.

Tickets are on sale now, and may be obtained from Aegela or ordered through the website www.aegela.com. Studio members purchase the tickets up front, and can return unsold tickets for a full refund by April 30. This year, we have a bonus offer—purchase 10 tickets and get one free to keep, sell or give away.

We will have two group rehearsals before the production; dates and times will be announced soon. On the day of production, the dress rehearsal will begin at 1:00 pm and the curtain goes up at 5:00 pm. The run time should be approximately 90 mins. Between rehearsal and curtain, our resident catering maven, Jodi "Trouble" Frazier will provide lunch for the dancers and staff. Professional makeup and hair artists will be on site to assist performers. First time participants will find other Swans and Monsters very supportive of each other, jubilant over the success of each dancer.

So here's to us, my dear Swans and Monsters...to another stellar production! Now, if I can just remember my own choreography....

Aegela

Aegela

Centers for Middle Eastern Dance

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Mystic Lotus Workshop



Melissa Benjamin (Mylitta), of Mystic Lotus, came to the Aegela Centers for Middle Eastern Dance and taught a tribal fusion choreography for workshop attendees on Friday, February 20.

Several of the Mystic Lotus dancers came with her and Aegela Monsters enjoyed getting to know some of the new Lotus members. The event ended on a raucous note with everyone attempting something called a "weave." No injuries were reported.

Have You Heard?

Congrats momma Shannon Lehsten! Shannon, hubby Tom and family welcomed new baby Janie Olive Lehsten on February 4, at 3:18 pm. The new



addition weighed 8.7oz and measures 20 1/2 inches. Shannon had a long labor process which ended with a nurse delivering Janie.

Shannon also reports that newborns don't like sticking to a schedule.

Studio friend, Crystal Dunlap, is engaged to longtime partner, Robert Esteves. Robert proposed during a Christmas holiday and Crystal gleefully accepted! Their wedding will be September 5 in New York City.

Lucas County Commissioner, Ben Konop, visited the Martin School on February 19 to speak with Aegela, Matt Miller (Dance Clinic) and Paulette (Paulette's School of Dance) about the needs of small business owners in the county. Mr. Konop was seeking ways to both keep and grow business in the area.

Elif Erturk had a leading role in the recent University of Toledo production "Crumbs from the Table of Joy."

Catherine Gray's daughter, Alex Schermbeck, gave emergency aid to a grand mal seizure victim on her school bus. The bus driver and kids did not know what to do and everyone was panicking. Alex called her mom on her cell phone from the bus. Catherine relayed to her what needed to be done (get her laying down, roll her to her side, get a jacket under her head, call 911, etc.) Not only did Alex have the sense to quickly call a nurse (her mom), calmly take control of the situation (including assigning tasks to others) and make sure that everything got done correctly up to the point the EMT's took over, but she did what the adult charge could not. Alex is our Security Manager for our shows, and is an Aegela Monster. We are so proud!

Congrats Betsy Bodamer! Betsy is getting married May 2 in Sandy Lake, Pennsylvania, in her parents' back yard. She and her soon-to-be husband, Jona "Rock" Scarbro, will be going on a 9-day western Caribbean cruise honeymoon. Betsy will be changing her name to Betsy Lee Bodamer Scarbro.

Congrats Amanda Urbanus! Amanda is getting married to Kyle Ducey June 20 at Little Flower Church with the reception at the Tamaron. Amanda will be changing her last name after the wedding.

Camel Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Tickets go on sale for spring production, Mirage	10	11 Racheal, Kathleen and Aegela at Central Elementary	12	13 Racheal at Mano's	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 5:45 pm Meeting in studio re Egypt trip	21 Aegela Dance Company at WAVE Festival/Lourdes College	22 Aegela teaching in Akron
23	24	25	26	27 Karim Nagy in Detroit Brooke at Mano's	28 Aegela performing in Samia, Ontario	29 Bellydance Superstars in Detroit
30	31					

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 End of Session	10 Performance at Mano's	11	12 Easter
13 Begin Spring II Session	14	15	16	17	18 Aegela teaching in Cincinnati	19
20	21	22	23	24 Performance at Mano's	25 Aegela Dance Company in Artomatic	26
27	28	29	30			

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