

Mission Statement:

The Guild of Oriental Dance is an organization of professional & avocational Middle Eastern dancers. It was established in 1981 to help promote Middle Eastern dance, provide dancers with performance opportunities & promote camaraderie within the dance community.

Guild of Oriental Dance



September — October 2011

September Guild Festival Fundraiser to Support Women's Advocates, Inc.

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On Sunday, September 11 at 7:00 will be the Guild's 5th Annual Open Stage Festival Fundraiser for **Women's Advocates, Inc.** which is a battered women's shelter in St. Paul.

The event will take place at the **JDC Studio theater**, 3rd floor of 1940 Hennepin Ave. (Cassandra School) in Minneapolis. The line up is fantastic— there are 22 acts scheduled!

There is no admission price, but we are asking for

donations for the shelter. We are accepting money (cash or check, payable to Women's Advocates, Inc.)



or, if you prefer to donate goods in lieu of cash, the items that are most needed right now are: **twin-sized bed sheets, diapers for**

infants & preemies, women & children's casual clothing, socks & underwear (esp.

girls' underwear), umbrellas, toys & games. . . A more detailed list from their website is on the following page.

Last year we raised over **\$400** in cash to donate— if you can, please help us meet this year's goal to **double that & be able to give \$800!**

100% of the donations go to Women's Advocates, Inc.

Upcoming October Guild Festival at ANSARI'S!

**Sunday, October 16
6:30 –9:30 at**

**Ansari's Mediterranean Grill and Lounge, 1960
Rahnclyff Ct., Egan, MN
(651) 452-0999**



The next Guild of Oriental Dance Open Stage Festival will be in October at Ansari's in Eagan!!! We are SO excited that Ansari's has re-opened since the fire last February— **let's celebrate!**

Dancers of all styles and levels of experience are welcome!

Ansari's is particularly welcoming of dancers of ALL belly dance styles.

If you're interested in performing, please email Barb / Amara at guild-festival@yahoo.com. There is an 8

minute limit for solos and 10 minutes for groups. DVDs will be available for sale to performers. Not performing? Come and watch! Enjoy a fantastic dinner, watch an exciting belly dance show...what could be better?

- Full Menu is available 11am-10pm**
- Smaller menu available 11am-2am**
- Bar Happy Hour Everyday 3-6pm & 10-2am**
- \$2 off All Drinks & 1/2 off select appetizers.**

The Sept. 11 Guild meeting has been postponed, new date TBA

If you have an item for the agenda, please contact Sam Huonder, First Chair, at shuonder@live.com

Donations to Women's Advocates, Inc. will be accepted at JDC theater on Sunday, September 11

Thank you for your interest in helping women and children affected by domestic violence. Every donation makes a difference in the lives of the women and children at Women's Advocates. Please note that we cannot accept furniture at this time. We suggest contacting Bridging, Inc.

Current needs at the shelter:

***items in bold are urgently needed! (updated regularly)**

Don't have time to go to the store? Visit our [online Target wish list \(click here!\)](#) Browse, order, and have the items shipped directly to the shelter right from your desk!

Clothing: **Due to concerns about bedbugs, we request that you wash and dry all clothing before donating, and deliver to the shelter in plastic bags.*

Casual clothing in all sizes for children and women (tshirts, sweatpants, jeans, school clothing, polo shirts, etc) and women's and **childrens' socks and underwear (especially girl's underwear, all sizes).**

Personal Care items: **We request that all personal care items be new or unopened.*

Lotion, body wash, hair ties, shampoo, African American hair products (hair gel, hair moisturizer, and hair grease), hair brushes, women's head scarves, Secret deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, bar soap, Carmex, Q tips, cotton balls, shower caps, curling irons and flat irons (can be used).

Household items:

New Toys and games! Used toys for our living room toy bin (trucks, cars, little people, sorting/stacking toys, learning and pretend play toys)

Alarm clocks, vacuum cleaner, **umbrellas**, pens, table lamps, clothes hangers, **TWIN sized sheet sets**, pillow cases, blankets/quilts, fleece tie blankets for kids, towels, MOVE OUT KITS (pots, pans, dishes, cooking utensils, silverware, cleaning supplies) and non-birthday themed gift bags!

Infant care: **We request that all infant care items be new.*

Baby medicine spoons, baby bottles, pacifiers, Desitin cream, nasal aspirators and infant nail clippers, baby wipes and **diapers in sizes preemie and infant.**

Used Cell Phones



What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or wound someone. Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, economic class, religion or gender. It can happen to couples that are married, living together or who are dating. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

Does the Person you Love:

- Threaten to hurt you or other people you care about?
- Hit, kick, punch, push, choke or use physical force against you?
- Criticize or blame you for everything that goes wrong?
- Humiliate you in front of other people?
- Control your access to money?
- Control the decision-making in your relationship?
- Control your time and actions?
- Put you down, call you names, make you feel like you're crazy?
- Destroy your property or abuse your pets?
- Threaten to hurt you or commit suicide if you leave?
- Force or coerce you to have sex when you don't want to?

All information on this page, as well as pages 2 & 4 is from the Women's Advocates, Inc. website:

www.wadvocates.org

If you've answered "yes" to any of these questions, you may be in an abusive relationship. You are not alone; many people just like you are dealing with violence at home. You didn't cause the violence and no one has the right to hurt you. If you would like to talk with someone, free and confidential help is just a phone call away.

To speak with an advocate, call our 24-hour crisis line at 651-227-8284 or the Statewide Toll-Free line at 1-866-223-1111.

How to Help Victims of Domestic Violence

Listen to her. Believe her. Let her know you care and that she's not responsible for the abuse. Explain that physical violence or other types of abuse are never acceptable at any time.

What you can say:

- Talking about this must be really difficult.
- I'm sorry this is happening to you.
- No one deserves to be treated like that.
- I'm concerned about you.
- There are people out there who can help and give you information.
- There are a lot of women in your situation.
- Abusers need help, too.

What you can do:

Call a domestic violence crisis line. It's anonymous and free. You can speak with an advocate who will understand: 651-227-8284.

24-Hour Domestic Abuse Crisis Line
651-227-8284



Article from the Women's
Advocates, Inc. website:
www.wadvocates.org

'Women's Advocates' wins Ann Bancroft Dream Maker Award

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- Women's Advocates, the nation's first shelter for battered women and their children, is being honored with a Dream Maker Award from the Ann Bancroft Foundation.

In 1974, Women's Advocates in St. Paul became the first shelter in the nation for battered women and their children.

"Our mission is to eliminate violence in the lives of women, children and their families," Executive Director Raeone Loscalzo said.

Women's Advocates is one of 12 domestic violence shelters for women and children in the Twin Cities area. During 2010, the organization served 326 women and 486 children.

Women's Advocates serves an average of 45 women and children each day. The facility has 15 bedrooms and 6 community bathrooms at its campus in St. Paul.

Women's Advocates focuses on programs designed to respond to the immediate needs and to address the future plans of families.

Emergency shelter is the first step in the process.

"There is a place where they can have their children and be safe," program director Mary Brown said. "We try to make it as warm and inviting as possible," Loscalzo added. "It is the first piece that is important when any family comes here."

Stays at the St. Paul shelter range from a few days to as long as three months. While at Women's Advocates, mothers are invited to support groups and they get help with things like finding a job, transportation, even legal assistance.

"The thing we are most proud of is our children's program," Loscalzo added. The Women's Advocates Children's Program includes on-site childcare, counseling and appointments with social service agencies.

The program also provides mental health services and therapy. Among the new resources for kids is a program that uses therapy dogs to teach non-violent communication.

"They can come and they can have fun and they can kind of let go of all the grown up stuff they've had to do," Brown said. Meanwhile, mothers have time make plans for the future.

Most families are able to start a safer life. "The majority of the families, well over 75 percent, do exit from the relationship and start their lives over," Loscalzo said.

2011 marks the 14th annual Ann Bancroft Foundation Dream Maker Awards. Each year the Bancroft Foundation recognizes two adults, an organization and one girl for their achievements in life and for supporting other women and girls as they accept challenges and reach toward their potential.

Guild Annual Summer Picnic



Gretchen Wartman was trusted with a large knife.

The annual picnic was a small group, but lively! Since there were drummers in attendance (thank you!) we had a couple dance, zill & drum jams. Hidden Falls was a lovely location and the food everyone brought was delicious (despite some confusion about pecans vs. walnuts).

Nancy Anna Hyvarininan donated her time to lead a relaxing Reiki based energy healing session between drumming episodes. Nancy Anna is a Certified Massage Therapist, Reiki Master & Medical Intuitive. She is experienced, passionate about and dedicated to her practice. Check out her website at:

www.NancyAnna.com. Afterwards, Nancy Pearlman surprised Nancy Anna Hyvarininan with the gift of a copper-colored hip scarf she had bought at the Mega Souk earlier in the day. Thank you, Nancy H., Nancy P., drummers, dancers & all who helped clean up (a.k.a. everyone).



Flowers from Saskia Nichols 's yard. (if anyone knows what kind they are, please let her know.)



Nancy Anna Hyvarininan & Lisa Bah during the energy healing

Relaxed people during the energy healing. (Kim Bea, Gretchen Wartman, Khaldoun Samman, Bonnie Berquam & Nancy Pearlman).



Bonnie Berquam tried on some new feet.



Kim Bea showcasing our exceptional culinary skills



Gretchen Wartman's arm is still attached.

Appreciation Gifts Table: (mirrors, fans, butterfly clips & zill pouches)



Silk Road weekend at the Renaissance Festival



Although participation at RenFest is NOT organized by the Guild of Oriental Dance, it's a great weekend for belly dancers & drummers from any & all studios and it would be a shame not to share some of the gorgeoussness & fun of the past weekend.

These are photos of the Royal Belly Maidens & their Drummers Divine (volunteers) in the King's Dance on Saturday, plus 2 photos of a strange woman who was beheaded after eating a turkey leg. There was no way for me, (Saskia, newsletter editor/person writing this) to get anywhere near having photos of every belly dance troupe, dancer, musician, etc since there were...drum roll, pleaserhythm of your choice...add zagreet.....

Saturday : 18,000 patrons at the fest, 185 volunteer belly dancers, 12 drummers, 3 zillers, 84 King's dancers, 9 Pavilion performances by the volunteers, 15 Main Stage scheduled performers.

Sunday : 22,000 patrons, 123 volunteer belly dancers and 10 drummers, 2 zillers, 49 king dancers, 8 pavilion performances by the volunteers, 15 main stage scheduled performers.

Monday : 12,000 patrons, 85 belly dancers and 7 drummers, 1 ziller, 21 king dancers, 6 pavilion performances by the volunteers, 16 main stage scheduled performances. (These statistics were stolen from an email without prior authorization).

Till next year—
Huzzah!



Guild of Oriental Dance Board Members contact info:

First Chair - Sandra Huonder "Sam" ~ shuonder@live.com

Second Chair - Joanna Lessard ~ mnmro@netzero.net

Treasurer - Kathy McCurdy ~ bldgmgr@jawaahir.org

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