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Moveable Feast

Exotic dancing while you eat

Wednesday, May 19, 2010



TRUST ME. I CAN DANCE. IT MUST be true. The lead singer of Kool & The Gang personally told me so. My groove thang has the ability to shake successfully to any type of tune—rock, house, hiphop, techno. Country *and* western. So when I charged into a belly dancing class a few years back, hips at the ready, I planned on taking a few prisoners. What I ended up taking was a giant fall on a scarf and a trip to the doctor with a sprained ankle. Now that's hot.



Cheryl Fenton

I've since shelved my desire for the dance (or at least any kind of dance that leaves me lame). But that doesn't mean that I don't admire (or secretly want to be) those lovely belly dancing ladies. Which is why I'm dragging my husband to a great little underground bohemian bistro nestled beneath the Boston Center for the Art's historic Cyclorama in the South End. Given that the night promises Middle Eastern music, belly dancing, and ethnic cuisine, perhaps it's too much to say I'm *dragging* him there. Nothing leads me to believe he wouldn't want to eat amazing food, listen to cool music, and watch a scantily clad woman perform steamy, seductive, mesmerizing belly dance. Oh, no. There'll be no *dragging*, I'm sure.

Next Wednesday (May 26), the Beehive presents "Belly Dancing at the Beehive," celebrating cuisine, libations, and entertainment highlighting Middle Eastern culture.

Dinner starts as early as 5:30 p.m., but the soul of the Middle East comes alive from 8 p.m. to midnight with the sounds of the Pharohs (yeah, that's how they spell it), an Armenian and Middle Eastern ensemble inspired by Middle Eastern, Arabic, Greek, Armenian, and Israeli music. While the Pharohs perform, so will the nationally known mystical belly dancer Phaedra Rose.

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Accompanying these lovely melodies and awe-inspiring moves will be executive chef Rebecca Newell's Middle Eastern fare. The night highlights three Middle East-inspired dishes on the Beehive menu—a mezze platter of hummus, salads, whipped feta, olives, and pickles; Moroccan cigars (lamb-filled phyllo spring rolls); and a newly added Moroccan couscous (your choice of chicken and lamb or vegetarian).

The regular menu will be available as well, with rustic comfort foods infused with American, European and Mediterranean influences. For global gastronomy, try the slavic potato and cheese pierogies, Irish crispy Guinness-battered oysters, German pork schnitzel, or Portuguese fisherman's stew. Wash it down with a pomegranate or apricot martini, or an ice-cold beer from Harpoon (the kind folks who are sponsoring this event).

It's clear that belly dancing is not my safety dance. So, unless there's some sort of referee or lifeguard on duty, I'll leave the hip thrusts to the professionals. I'll just kick it a bit with Kool & The Gang. I would say not injuring yourself is something to celebrate.

Small Bites

Sweet, Boston's own specialty cupcake and cake bakery, opens a third branch next month at 225 Newbury St. Dedicated to handcrafted fresh-baked cupcakes and specialty cakes, Sweet already has locations in the Back Bay and Harvard Square.

Find out where you can [learn to belly dance](#).

Also read Cheryl Fenton's health and beauty blog, [Easy Peasy](#).



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