

FRIDAY NIGHT DIALOGUES

'Egypt Dances' film screening and narration

BY PETER FARRAR

The film "Egypt Dances," described by its creator, Shelter Island's Magda Saleh, as a "time capsule," will be presented Friday, June 21 at 7 PM as part of the ongoing Friday Night Dialogues series at the Library. The film, a unique blending of dance, music and song with live narration by Saleh, is a feature-length ethnographic documentation of the wealth of Egypt's dance traditions.

The Theatre Times said, "In this, a groundbreaking documentary, Magda Saleh travels the length and breadth of Egypt to create a visual record of the numerous indigenous dance forms throughout the country."

The film was created as the audio-visual supplement to Dr. Saleh's Ph.D. dissertation, "A Documentation of the Ethnic Dance Traditions of the Arab Republic of Egypt" (New York University in 1979). Its production was subsidized by Egypt's Ministry of Culture. Dr. Saleh will narrate the film, providing cultural context, and hopefully have time to weave in why she was uniquely positioned to bring it to fruition.

Beyond the historical, entertainment and educational value of the film, the added interest here is the quite amazing career of its creator/narrator – Magda Saleh – Egypt's prima ballerina! Dr. Saleh's life and career, for those who missed the screening last summer of "A Footnote in Ballet History?," were and

are forever interwoven with Egypt's culture. She was one of the first five Egyptian ballerinas to graduate from the Bolshoi Academic Choreographic School, Moscow (1965), and made her mark on the stage of the old Khedivial Opera House in Cairo (1966-71), as well as at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow and the Kirov Theater in Leningrad, and at the Higher Institute of Ballet of the Academy of Arts, first as a student (1958-1965), then professor and dean (1984-86). She served as the founding director of the New Cairo Opera House-National Cultural Center of Egypt (1987-88). Moving back to the US in 1992, she married Egyptologist Jack Josephson and has since lived in New York and Shelter Island, nevertheless not detaching herself from her home country.

For dance fans and historians alike "Egypt Dances" is a magical documentation of traditions that may never be captured again due to the rapid political and social change that has overtaken Egypt in recent decades. Introducing Dr. Saleh will be John Claassen of Fusionworks, a longtime collaborator with her on numerous cultural presentations focused on Egypt. Joins us on June 21 for this important screening and meet Magda Saleh, Egypt's prima ballerina! See you at 7! Admission is free with donations accepted.

Up Next – On June 28 at 7 p.m., Walter Wisniewski and Allison Vanski will speak about their book, "The Millionaire Within."

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Reverend Marjory J. Roth to preach at Union Chapel on June 23

On Sunday, June 23, Reverend Marjory J. Roth will preach at the historic Union Chapel in the Grove. Her sermon is titled, "Finding Hope."

Reverend Roth currently serves the United Adult Ministries as their director of church relations, as well as director of the Long Island Presbyterianism in new church development. She has also served in many communities as a chaplain for community outreach.

Reverend Roth is the author of "A Journey with Ruth: A Woman of the Past, Lessons for Today," in which she weaves real-life situations with the story of Naomi and Ruth from the Bible. "I'm always thinking outside the box and struggling with the questions of the world," Reverend Roth says in her book. "As a woman, a mother, a Christian and an ordained pastor, I feel called to change the world, or at least my part of it," she said.

Reverend Roth was ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament in 2010 by the Presbyterian Church. She received her master of divinity from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester and a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from the University at Albany.

She lives in Oceanside, New York with her husband, who is also an ordained minister. They are both avid bicyclists. They have three young children and three dogs.

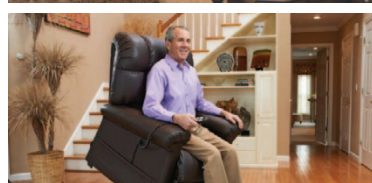
Music will be performed by guest organist Joan Osborne and William Packard on flute. Mr. Packard studied music at the Eastern Suffolk School of Music in Riverhead. He is a founder and performer with the woodwind quintet, East End Winds.

Next Sunday, June 30, music educator, storyteller and banjoist Bill Gordh will join us for the annual children's service.

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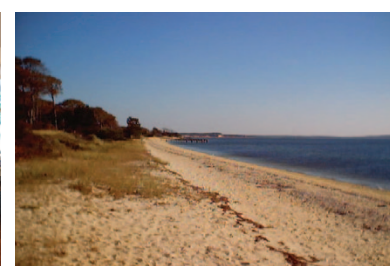
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