

AMAN Alumni Reunion

50th ANNIVERSARY

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2012



IN THIS ISSUE

- **BOOK YOUR ROOMS NOW** for **AMAN's 50th Anniversary Celebration**—October 2013 —Page 2
- **KAFANA!** – A Message from Trudy Israel —Page 3
- Do you know where your Linão partner is today?
Check the **AMAN Alumni List** —Page 3
- **Ephemera**—and other items retrieved from **Pearl's Ladarke basket** —Page 4
- **What's My Motivation?**—Tales from the **AMAN Story Book** —Page 5
- **Toronto Tabla Ensemble**—Postcards from the Diaspora —Page 6
- **Whiskey Before Breakfast/Flop Eared Mule** and **Parlez-Nous a Boire**—**FREE Song Downloads** from the **AMAN Archives** —Page 6
- Have you Liked the **AMAN Facebook Pages?**...
More Links to the **AMAN Related...** Worker-Bees Unite!...
What's Under Your Bed? —Page 8



AMAN 50th Gala Weekend Reunion

3 Nights, 2 Days of socializing and reconnecting with your fellow AMANites and good friends in a beautiful resort hotel/spa setting. With venue spaces just right for schmoozing, discussing, dancing, singing and playing music together. Hope you can join us, because no matter what decade you participated in AMAN... what lingers still in our hearts and memories are the friendships forged through shared experiences, both on and off the stage.

Thursday October 10th – Sunday October 13th, 2013
COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND
Renaissance Marriott Hotel, Palm Springs, CA

RESERVATION LINES NOW OPEN - Book Your Hotel Room Early!

Hotel reservations are NOW being accepted for our weekend reunion/anniversary celebration under the group code “AMAN50.” Use this code when making your reservations to receive our special group rate of \$149 a night standard room or \$169 a night for a resort suite. Click [HERE](#) to book online or call **Toll Free 877-622-3056** to reserve your room(s) over the phone on their special group hot-line.

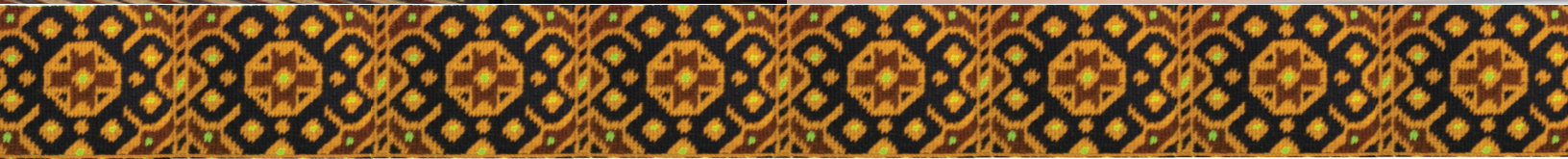
THESE GROUP RATES WILL BE IN EFFECT FROM OCT. 7TH – 15TH, 2013 FOR THOSE WANTING AN EXTENDED VACATION BEFORE OR AFTER OUR EVENT.

Early reservations are strongly suggested as we’re expecting our block of rooms to go quickly. And if everyone books early enough, we stand a better chance of getting more rooms released to our group

later if they’re needed. So *Aye me hearties*, book your rooms early and secure your place in the center of the action... trust us, it’s where you’ll want to be!

Go ahead and bring your significant other!

The Palm Springs area affords numerous fun-filled things for those “non-AMANite” loved ones who might come with us to the event: Golf, Tennis, Cycling, Swimming, Spa Treatments, Casinos, Botanical Gardens, Extreme Eco-Tours, the Palm Springs Tramway, Knott’s Soak City Water Park, Shopping and more!





КАФАНА, pronounced [kafanau] (Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, Macedonia, Croatia, Albania) is a term for a distinct type of local bistro which primarily serves alcoholic beverages and which sometimes also has a live band. “Who does not love wine, women and song remains a fool his whole life long.” (Johan Heinrich Voss 1751-1826)

50th Anniversary Reunion Columbus Day Weekend

>Thursday, October 10-Sunday, October 13, 2013

*A Message from Kafana Coordinator **Trudy Israel***

Nazdrave! Živili! Yastas! these are some of my favorite words in the world language of celebration. Any excuse for a celebration is my credo. That's why I'm very excited about helping plan the **AMAN Reunion Kafana** at the Marriott Renaissance.

Those of you who have attended the Mendocino camps, know that while a whole slew of people are folk dancing to live music in the large room, there are simultaneous events going on in the smaller, more intimate Kafana. This will be the case in Palm Springs as well.

The Kafana is the place where folks can enjoy their cheerful beverage of choice, maybe play a bit of Shesh Besh, (Tavli) and listen or watch excellent (especially after a couple of cheerful beverages) music and dance performances. Who knows, some of us might just

spontaneously get up and dance when the fine music moves us to do so.

The programs will go until the wee hours of the morning, and I'll bet there are enough hearty (or fool-hearty) folks that will hang with us at the Kafana way after the dance program is over.

We will be scheduling short sets of music, dance, (story-telling, puppetry, performance art, poetry readings and reality events) for both Friday and Saturday nights.

So, to all of my multi-talented alumnus bros and sisters, this is your chance to strut your stuff!

In the Spring of 2013, we will start taking your performance requests. We'll send out a form where you can describe the nature of your mini gig. So—we're giving you plenty of time to practice guys.

In the meantime, *Živili pasa na Krivili!*

Do you know where your Lindo partner is today?

Check the ~~AMAN~~ Alumni List

A NEW, GINORMOUS **ALUMNI LIST** has been posted at the AMAN Reunion Website <http://www.aman50.com>. But the work is still ongoing to find as many of our colleagues as possible. With over 600 AMAN Alumni we've located more than half at almost 350. AMAN detective **Louise Weiler** and her team need as many super-sleuths as we can get. Click through to the actual list and take a look. We bet you are in contact with someone that we are looking for.

HELP US MAKE SURE EVERYONE IS GETTING THE NEWS. Forward the newsletter and website links to the AMAN Alum in your address book!



Ephemera—and other items retrieved from Pearl's Ladarke Basket

Tony's 10 Commandments

Thou shalt not shuffle.

Thou shalt have no other directors before me.

Honor thy left foot and thy right and keep thy buttocks tight.

Thou shalt not commit atonality.

Thou shalt drop no costume pieces before me.

Obeys the Sunday and Thursday and keep them holy.

Thou shalt not become pregnant.

Thou shalt not kvetch.

Thou shalt not miss rehearsals; be the reason lice, vermin or pestilence.

Thou shalt take every final bow...and bow...and bow.

AMAN Psalm 23

Tony is our shepherd; we shall not forget it. He maketh us to dance on wretched stages; he leadeth us beside short people. He restoreth our soles. He leadeth us in the paths of folklore for AMAN's sake. Yea, though we walk through the valley of the shadow of Verendo, we shall fear no purse snatchers; for thine art is with us. Thy shrieks and thy stomps; they comfort us. Thou preparest suites before us in the presence of all. Thou annointest our heads with false braids; our caps runneth over...and over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us dummies all the days of our lives and we shall dwell in the house of AMAN forever.

*Fakelore—True (and Tall) Tales from the **AMAN** Storybook*

WHAT'S MY MOTIVATION?

I GOT MY FIRST big acting break in L.A. soon after graduating from my Theater program at U. C. Santa Cruz: The part? A big bird with an appetite for naughty humans.

by Dov Bierman

Once upon a time in 1989, The AMAN Folk Ensemble came to perform at our University and soon after, I ran away with the circus to join the company. As a new member, I had to quickly learn Appalachian clogging, French Canadian step

dancing, Hungarian boot slapping and Mexican machete throwing. Exhilarating and challenging all. But as an out and proud thespian, I loved the dance dramas of AMAN the very best. So when Barry Glass, the artistic director, told me I was going to play the part of the half naked masked Raven in the Kwakiutl winter ceremonial, my first thought was... "Shit. I have to lose 30 pounds quick!"

Actually, I was thrilled. Here was a chance finally to sink my teeth into

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WHAT'S MY MOTIVATION?

(continued)

>>> a traditional Native American dance drama ripe in mythological theater with a chorus of Corn Beaver Maidens to back me up.

I ripped into preparing for the role. Read accounts of the Kwakiutl ceremony and legends of the infamous Raven swooping down to gobble up the greedy and corrupt. I studied the movements of my fellow winged creatures. Watched Hitchcock's 'The Birds.' I walked around my studio apartment practicing my jerky cocked head, puffed up chest and squat bent bird walk. I came in fully prepared to inhabit my role. My interpretation of Raven was going to be the most brilliant of my generation!

At the first rehearsal, Mr. Glass handed me the giant Raven mask and said, "Now work with this." My arms dropped to the floor under the weight of the biggest mask I had ever seen. It was painted bright colors with a hula skirt of cedar bark around the collar. I hoisted the mask up over my head with a 'hmmph' and the whole room suddenly went dark. It felt like I was wearing a heavy wooden canoe on my head. My breathing began to sound like Darth Vader. Then John Zeretzke, who once played Raven, taught me how to maneuver a rope inside that made the leaden beak of the Raven open and close making a sharp 'Clack clack clacking' noise. All my research flew the coop just trying to keep that boat on my head while spitting cedar straw out of my mouth.

After a few months of practice and a membership to 24 Hour Fitness, I finally got the knack of it. But still, the voice of the great Russian theater guru, Constantine Stanislavsky kept prodding, "You have

the outer motions, but what's your motivation? Why are you going out on the stage in the first place? You must dig into your imagination and create a circumstance that fuels the action of the Raven—or get out of the theater!!"

Alright. Alright.

I knew according to legend that the Raven ravenously devours those who are ravenous themselves with greed—but who from my own society would fit that bill? Who would motivate me to hunt and gobble? Who? Who? Who?

And then it came to me.

It was 1991 and America was at war. When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, its oil-rich neighbor to the south, George Bush senior, with no other motivation than to save the Kuwaiti people and bestow democracy upon oil saturated Kuwait—decided to bomb Iraq.

My lips began to smack, my mouth drool, my head cock and my feathers ruffle.

Don't forget, I graduated from U.C. 'pinko liberal no grades Santa Cruz' and had been fed a steady diet of antidisestablishment communist propaganda. I saw myself circling high above my prey: President

Bush, Dick Cheney, General Norman Schwarzkopf and of course, Dan Quayle—all running in every direction to escape The Raven's voracious appetite.

Stanislavsky cried out in approval. "Da! Yes! You see? Now you have a reason to come out on stage. You have chosen from your imagination an image that fires you! Now, not only will you have the strength to carry that big canoe on your head—but your Raven will come alive with burning motivation!"

Thank you Mr. Stanislavsky. It worked like a charm.

And with Presidential elections just around the corner, perhaps it's time to take out that Raven mask again.



Postcards from the Diaspora—The Latest from **AMAN** Alumni

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TORONTO TABLA ENSEMBLE

contemporary music and cultural collaboration. In 2000, TTE's *Firedance* received a nomination for the Juno Award for Best Global Album. Celebrating the rigors of classical Indian music and embracing jazz and world fusion, TTE tours extensively in Canada, Australia and India and is currently working on their 7th album. You can find their music on i-Tunes and CDBaby.

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At the age of 22, tabla player and composer **Ritesh Das** moved to Los Angeles from Kolkota, India to perform and tour with AMAN where he flourished in AMAN's world music stewpot. In 1991, he formed *The Toronto Tabla Ensemble*, quickly becoming an influential Canadian voice and meeting place for traditional practice,

For more information on TTE go to:

<http://www.torontotabla.com>

To see a video of TTE's *Firedance* featuring an electrifying Kathak/Flamenco fusion go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4zlrTM7oM>

—Free Song Downloads from the AMAN Archives—

Whiskey Before Breakfast Flop Eared Mule and Parlez-Nous a Boire

"I ain't got time to kiss you now, my mule has run away!" Get out your buck dance board for this Irish/Appalachian arrangement from Andy King. A great way to get your cardio in and get your chops back for what surely will be a hootenanny in Palm Springs. On this recording are Tom Easterday, Loretta Kelley, Andy King, Miamon Miller, Larry Modell, Barbara Slade, and Chris Yeseta.

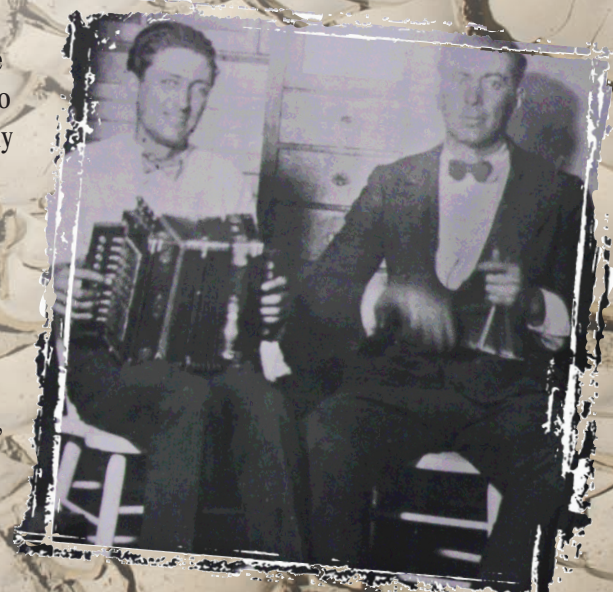
Click here to download "**Whiskey Before Breakfast/Flop Eared Mule**"

<http://www.aman50.com>

Et Toi! Slide into a waltz with a smokin' version of Dewey Balfa's "Parlez-Nous a Boire" from AMAN's 1987 album. Led by Barry Glass on vocals are Stuart Brotman, Dave Feeney, Andy King, Jim Knight, Miamon Miller, Larry Modell, Dan Ratkovich, Jerry Robin, Daniel Slosberg, Don Sparks and John Zeretzke.

Click here to download "**Parlez-Nous a Boire**"

<http://www.aman50.com>



Have you liked the AMAN Folk Ensemble Facebook Page?

Join the AMAN Facebook Groups. And if you have already liked the pages, click share and make sure your AMAN friends know about it too.

There are two:

One, the public AMAN Folk Ensemble Group at

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/92420925316/>

There is already an archive of 2000 photos and 50 videos on-stage and behind the scenes—some of you are so old you are in black and white—you know who you are. Peruse the blog wall and see what your AMAN pals are up to. Upload your pictures to share.

Two, the private AMAN Folk Ensemble Reunion Group at

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100002876950355&ref=ts>

This private group page will be your go to for updates on the actual event in 2013.

More AMAN videos and photos:

Not on FB? Check out the photos and videos on Myspace and YouTube.

More Links to the AMAN Related:

Here are two amazing AMAN artists working in jewelry—check them out for your holiday shopping!

<http://www.pale-moon.com>

Christopher Miller has for over 30 years delighted AMANites, Dickens Faire and Ren Faire mavens with hand crafted bone, horn and hydrocal jewelry, mirrors and ornaments.

<http://www.roneprinz.com>

Metalsmith **Rone Prinz** has been making jewelry since 1986. Her sculptural whimsical baubles can be found on Etsy at: www.etsy.com/shop/roneprinz and at fine art fairs across the country.

Worker-Bees Unite!

Yes it is election season, but if you aren't canvassing for your candidate, we need LA area volunteers willing to help scan in batches of photos and/or memorabilia over the next 4-5 months as they come in. We will bring you the photos and then pick them up! You do not have to commit to a huge amount—let us know what you can take on.

aman50threunion@aol.com

Other “at home” Worker-Bee volunteer jobs:

AMAN Words With Friends.

Online Researchers Needed.

Be a part of Louise Weiler's team searching the internet for missing Alumni contact information.

louise_weiler@yahoo.com

What's Under Your Bed?

Make sure you “represent” in the AMAN image CD and slide shows at the reunion. Deadline for submitting AMAN photos and/or memorabilia is November 1st, 2012. Write to us at:

amanreunion.2013@gmail.com

