

Madiha's dancers raise thousands for St. Jude's

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

Princess Madiha Bashara's popular dance charity for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital drew a crowd of more than 400 donors to Farmington Hills Manor Saturday night.

But that was just the end of a day-long event. Beginning at 9 a.m., 85 students learned the fine art of Middle Eastern dance, including instruction in jazz and cane techniques, as well as the Pilates style of exercise.

Over the last 11 years, Princess Madiha's events have raised more than \$100,000 for St. Jude, a facility that treats children with life-threatening illnesses, bringing comfort and hope to their families. As of Tuesday, figures weren't available for the 2002 event.

Paul Simon, who chairs the national board of directors, called it "a labor of love."

"It's steeped in our heritage," he said. Simon's grandfather emigrated from Damascus, Syria.

Simon recognized Bashara's commitment to the hospital, which was founded by the late



Fahih Nazangy and his 3-year-old daughter Michele applaud the dancers.

entertainer Danny Thomas more than 50 years ago. Broke and with a family to feed, he knelt in a Detroit church before St. Jude Thaddeus, the patron saint of hopeless causes.

All he asked, Simon said, was that St. Jude "show me my way in life." A few years later, at another turning point in his life, Thomas again prayed to St. Jude and promised to build a shrine.

In the 1950s, that shrine took shape in the form of a hospital devoted to researching and finding the cure for catastrophic illnesses in children. In 1957, representatives of the Arab-American community formed American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities, whose sole purpose was to

raise funds to support St. Jude's Children's Hospital, which is now located in Memphis, Tenn.

Since its doors opened, Simon said, the cure rate for many diseases has skyrocketed — for Ewing's sarcoma, it's up to 75 percent from just five percent and for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, an astronomical 80 percent from seven percent.

"It's simply incredible, and it's all because you guys show up at events like this," he said.

At St. Jude's, there are no financial standards. The hospital has treated more than 17,000 children and covers all costs, even if a family isn't insured. What's more, Simon said, the hospital covers the cost of their meals and lodging while their child is in the hospital and through any follow-up treatment prescribed.

"We believe that a family should devote every bit of energy for that child and not worry about whether they're breaking



Middle-Eastern dancer Jessica entertains the crowd during the first set of the floor show.

the family bank," Simon said, to a round of enthusiastic applause.

Master of ceremonies John Akouri introduced the evening's entertainment after Simon's remarks and traveled through the crowd, microphone in hand, introducing local celebrities and dignitaries. An unsuccessful candidate for the 37th District

State House Republican endorsement, Akouri assured the supportive crowd, "We will be back and we will win."

Farmington Hills Mayor Pro Tem Christopher McRae, with his wife Maureen and Miss Farmington Oakland County Kelly Zander, welcomed visitors to the community. Featured during the floor

show were Aida's Middle Eastern Dance Group, who performed at this year's Renaissance Festival; The Habibi Dancers; Princess Daughters and Daughters of Peace. Individual dancers were Karima, Jessica, Kall, Amalia, Tahmid, Aziza, Leyali, Jamilla & Samia, Nahed, Nadia and Yasmina.



Master of Ceremonies John Akouri walks Leyali to the stage where she sang two songs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

KID STUFF

Little Me

Stories and hands-on fun for children ages 16 months to 2 years (with adult) 10:30-11:25 a.m. Mondays, through Nov. 25, at the downtown Farmington Library.

Learning Activities

The downtown Farmington Library offers learning activity centers 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, through Nov. 26, for children ages 3-5 (with adult) 10:30-11:25 a.m. Mondays, through Nov. 27, for children ages 2-3. Activities will include stories, reading readiness and crafts.

Baby Time

Babies up to 16 months can enjoy stories, rhymes and songs 10:30-11:15 a.m. Thursdays, through Nov. 21, at the downtown Farmington Library.

SALES/SHOWS

Holiday Greens Sale

The Hill & Dale Garden Club will hold its 15th annual Holiday Greens and Poinsettia sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Vagazzi Visitors Center in Heritage Park.

Christmas Fair

Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington

Hills will host an Alternative Christmas Fair 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16. More than 20 local and international charities will set up booths and offer interesting and distinctive gifts with the proceeds benefiting the charities. The church is at 39200 W. 12 Mile.

CLUBS

Neighbors Club

The Farmington Neighbors Club will meet at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, at the Longacre House in Farmington Hills. Singers/musician, Peter B. will perform.

Hill & Dale

Hill & Dale Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. today, Nov. 14, at the Vagazzi Visitor's Center in Heritage Park. Guest speaker Jackie Walley will discuss herbal cosmetics, fragrant oils and potpourri.

University Women

The Farmington Branch of American Association of University Women will hold its annual talent auction at 7:45 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, at the downtown Farmington Library. Special foods, gourmet baskets, bridge and dessert, trips, hand knitted or made items by the members will be auctioned off. Call (734) 591-0181.

POTPOURRI

Twelfth Night

Farmington High School will perform Twelfth Night at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 21-23 in the school auditorium.

Lend Me A Tenor

North Farmington High School presents Lend Me A Tenor at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 21-23 in the school auditorium.

A Tuna Christmas

The Farmington Players will perform A Tuna Christmas Nov. 29-Dec. 14 at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore Theater in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 219-0800.

Table for 5

Chicago-based quintet Table for 5 will perform at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 17 at Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills. A reception will begin at 1:30 p.m. Call (248) 476-8860.

Car Seat Check

The Novi Police and Safe Kids Coalition will provide free car seat inspections 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at Jaguar at Novi, 24295 Haggerty Road. Call (248) 476-1111.

Wizard of Oz

Our Lady of Sorrows presents Wizard of Oz at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 14-15. Call (248) 476-0977.

Velveteen Rabbit

The Marquis Theatre in Northville presents Velveteen Rabbit now playing through mid January. Call (248) 349-6100.

Publish Your Book

In recognition of National Writing

Month, Farmington Public Schools presents How to self-publish your first book 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19. For location and registration information, call (248) 489-3333.

Dyslexia Support

The Michigan Dyslexia Institute will

hold a November meeting 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20. The Institute is located at 30230 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 130, in Farmington Hills. Topics to be covered will be Dyslexia, Attention Deficit Disorders and learning disabilities. Call (248) 737-0044.



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November 13-17

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Wine

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Fine Dining

RD's Mongolian Barbecue Dinner for 2
The Beach Grill Lunch or Dinner for 2
Big Rock Chophouse Dinner for 4
Diet Dinner for 4
Flora's Tea Room Dinner for 2
Gem & Century Theatres Dinner & Theatre for 2
Grawtman Casino/Alley Billie Dinner for 2
Hankin Pub Lunch or Dinner
Krus & Murr Restaurant Dinner for 2
Mac & Ray's Sunday brunch for 2
MGM Grand Casino/Hollywood Brown Derby Dinner for 2
MGM Grand Casino/Indiscreet Dinner for 2
Morris Dinner for 4
Nobel Inn Dinner for 2
Northern Lakes Seafood Co. Dinner for 4
No. VI Ship House Lunch for 4
Phuket's Dinner for 2
Sweet Lorraine's Lunch or Dinner for 2
Shiraz Dinner for 4

Travel

Ritz Carlton - Dearborn 1 night stay
DoubleTree Hotel - Novi 1 night stay
Hyatt - Dearborn 1 night stay
Barchwood Inn - Harper Springs 2 night stay
Embassy West Hotel - Ottawa, ON 2 night stay
Imperial Palace - Las Vegas 2 night stay
Ocean Pointe Suites - Ray Largo, FL 2 night stay

Join Ye Olde Wine Shoppe's Denny Walsh and Unique Restaurants' master sommelier Madeline Thiffon for a Detroit Public TV special, PUBLICTVAUCTION.COM

Airing on Channel 58

Thursday, November 14 10 PM
Friday, November 15 11 PM
Saturday, November 16 8 PM

Red Carnation Hotel Collection- London 3 night stay
Rondeau Village - Jamaica 3 night stay
Marce Beach Resort - Marce Island, FL 6 night stay
Amazon Adventure - Peru 7 night stay

Leisure

Bay Valley Hotel and Resort golf for 2 with cart
Beamer's Laser tag party for 8
Beverly Hills Club 3 month family or 6 month single membership
Clarkston Village Players tickets to 6 performance
Community House wine series for 2
Detroit Historical Society day of discovery
Detroit Repertory Theatre 10 ticket bargain book
Detroit Science Center pass for 4
Detroit Symphony Orchestra - tickets
Diamond Jack's River Top - tickets for 4
Jewish Ensemble Theater - tickets
The Majestic at Lake Wales - golf for 4 with cart
Michigan Opera Theatre tickets
Skate World of Troy party for 10

And More

A. Elites tailoring service
Avery Bakeries
Classic Collegiate China collector plates
Cuisinart cookware set and food processor
D.C.C. Optical gift certificate
Detroit Tigers Dmari Young autographed baseball
DWD Interiors gift certificate
Dynamic Muffler & Brake gift certificate
Electralysis Clinic of Birmingham gift certificate
Girl Friday Tech Service
2 hour computer training
Haggleplan rug cleaning gift certificates
Karen's Fabulous Biscotti and Cookie Tins
Mrs. Maddox Cake Shop cakes
Palate Pleaser picnic lunch for 4
Radio Flyer Wagon
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