



## Open House

Year 2007 marked MAJA's 7th year in Fells Point and 27 years in business. Somebody is getting up there, especially those of you who remember the early days at the Harbor Place, almost 10,000 days ago. As for me, I am rolling back time and encouraging you to do the same by taking time for simple pleasures in life. That's exactly what we did here on the corner of Aliceanna and Ann Streets Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the weekend of October 12th.



Friday evening, Michelle, co-founder of student troupe Belly Dance Delight, shimmied us into much laughter and excitement. We all grabbed hip scarves in every color covered with jingly things and followed our leader, doing all sorts of things like snake arms, hip drops, chest pops..... After shaking the calories, we refueled with Pat's famous spinach dip and other goodies.



On Saturday, we listened to thought provoking poetry presented by spoken word artists performing for the Poet Alliance. The performers were Adar Ayira and Margaret Locklear-Peck, co-founders of the Poet Alliance; Lady Rage; LuminoUs; Pamela Johnson and Shemshwetep. This experience, for many of us a new one, raised our awareness about ourselves, relationships, and social issues. For more information or about future performances, contact the [poetalliance@yahoo.com](mailto:poetalliance@yahoo.com). Dancing lessons were continued by Rae, the other co-founder of Belly Dance Delight. Rae had us moving our heads side-to-side between our raised arms (forgot what you call it), we joined hands and circled the entire store doing a routine. Take a dance lesson. You will not regret it!!! The finale of the evening was coordinated and presented by LaShann, my "Director of Fashion". LaShann and her mom, Ruby modeled three or four outfits each. They were stunning in selections from Sam Hilu, Dick and Jayne, Cordelia, and Jacques Ruc to name a few designers. I should have thought to video. They were fabulous.



On Sunday, we had a surprise visit by Cliff, fully dressed in his pirate attire. He treated us to tunes played on his hurdy gurdy, a stringed musical instrument that originated prior to the 11th century AD in Western Europe. You can see Cliff perform at the annual Privateer Day held in Fells Point. Michelle returned to dance. She and her mom Pat gave a spectacular duo performance. Poetry was continued by Ransom Note Poets, Leslie Peace Jubilee, reading from her book entitled "Bloodlines" and Jacob R. Shorter from his books "Don't Keep the Secret" and "They Called the Wind Mariah". You can usually hear them on Sundays at Cafe' Latte'da at 1704 Aliceanna Street. For more information contact [blindladypress1@verizon.net](mailto:blindladypress1@verizon.net).



Thanks so very much to all of you who very generously gave your time and talents to making MAJA's celebration successful.



As a final note, many of you did not know about the Open House. Unfortunately, we encountered technical problems that were not resolved in time. Please subscribe to our email list so that this will not be a problem in the future.



## A Little Bit Of Africa

by Pat Mohammad

On November 8, 2007, Mary and I along with our friends LaShawn and Carolyn attended a concert at Lisner Auditorium at George Washington University. It was our favorite guys from Mali, yep Tinariwen. You know who they are because we play their music all the time in the store. If you had a few minutes, we popped in either the



DVD "Africa Calling" or "Festival in the Desert" so you could see them in action.

The opening act was Vieux Farka Toure. You say who's that? Well he is the son of the late and very great Malian blues guitarist Ali Farka Toure. Some of you are still saying, "well, who is he"? If you saw the movie "Unfaithful" with Richard Gere, you heard Ali Farka's music during the first romantic encounter, yeah that real slow sexy song.

Vieux Farka's guitar playing is reminiscent of his father's (*vieux* meaning "old man" in French) but he has a style all his own. He mixes traditional Malian music with reggae and funk. In honor of his father's memory, he played two of his songs and wore his dad's signature brown hat.

Between songs, Vieux Farka tried to speak to the audience in English but he had to keep asking his drummer how to say things. I don't know if the drummer is American but he speaks English. It was cute the way they interacted with each other. Nevertheless, we understood what he tried to say. When their set was done, they got a standing ovation and of course, came back on stage to play one more song. This group is just starting out. I think they will do very well.



Next the stage transformed into soft hues of orange, red and yellow lighting, Tinariwen began playing their music and we were off on a trip to the desert. We missed Ibrahim and Mina, who we did not see this time, but there is a new member Abdallah AG Lamida who was amazing doing vocals and lead guitar. We have seen Tinariwen each of their four visits to the USA, twice in Washington, DC and twice in New York. This time they performed many new songs that we had not heard. Their latest CD, *AMAN IMAN : WATER IS LIFE*, we play in the store each and every day, over and over and over. We have their other CD's as well (all available for sale).



Hassan AG Agtouhami did his signature solo dance that is very energetic. It seems he can go on forever. Abdallah AG Alhousseyni, lead vocalist and guitarist, was as smooth as ever. Said AG Ayad played the djembe did not miss a beat. Eyadou, bass guitarist, did some dancing Tuareg style and later some of Tinariwen's entourage jumped up on the stage and joined him. Toward the end of the concert, people were out of their seats dancing, laughing, singing having a good ole time. Some of the audience jumped on stage to dance also. We were all transported to the desert that night and lovin every minute.



As Abdallah says in his Tamashek/French accent... "Welcome to the desert".

If you want further information you can check out [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) for videos of both groups and the official websites: [www.myspace.com/TINARIWENOFFICIAL](http://www.myspace.com/TINARIWENOFFICIAL) and [www.myspace.com/vieuxfarkatoure](http://www.myspace.com/vieuxfarkatoure) .

## ***Holiday Specials***

- Putumayo World Music - 10% off all CD's (regular price \$15.98)
- Illuminart Night Lights - 15% off (regular price \$28.00)
- 100% Rayon Shawls - Buy one, get second one 1/2 price (regular price \$28.00)
- 50% off selected jewelry
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- Free gift wrap on most items
- And print out the attached coupon for more savings!

## ***Holiday Hours***



- Monday, December 10th through Sunday, December 16th:  
Open each day 10 AM to 7 PM
- Monday, December 17th through Sunday, December 23rd:  
Open each day 10 AM to 8 PM, except Saturday December 22nd
- Saturday, December 22nd: Open 8 AM to 11 PM
- Xmas Eve: Open 9 AM to 6 PM
- Xmas Day: Closed, Merry Christmas!
- Wednesday, December 26th to Sunday December 30th:  
Open each day 11 AM to 7 PM
- Monday, December 31st (New Year's Eve): Open 11 AM to 5 PM
- New Year's Day, January 1, 2008: Closed, Happy New Year!
- Wednesday, January 2nd, regular store hours will resume:  
Wednesdays through Sundays 11 AM to 7 PM.
- Note: During January and February we may close at 5 PM on Sundays.  
Call earlier on those Sundays to inquire



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