

Dancers and Drummers Seriously Affected by Hurricane Katrina and Middle Eastern Dance Artists of Louisiana's Efforts To Help Them; pg. 1 Marlane Drake, author; [marlane@cox.net](mailto:marlane@cox.net); 504-669-3369  
**BADLY AFFECTED IN 2005; 38 DANCE ARTISTS; 33 in NEW ORLEANS; 5 on GULF COAST; MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE ARTISTS (MEDA) GATHERED MANY & AWARDED 42+ WORKSHOP GRANTS; there are more that are not listed here.**

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1) [New Orleans](#) Lost job that was the start of her career in teaching, now working for MailboxesRUs at \$8/hr and very much struggling financially. Still is taking from two or 3 teachers; **bd is her salvation.**  
**THREE DAYS & HELP WITH HOUSING;REGISTRATION AND ANGEL:**

2) [New Orleans](#) Displaced & working in New Orleans over the weekend to cover other dancers. **1 DAY**  
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3) [New Orleans](#) Lost her home in Lakeview, her car, nearly all belongings; evacuated west; had to evacuate again for Rita while in Lake Charles; started teaching bd in Baton Rouge (90 miles away) and continued in NO; is now back in a condo in NO. **"I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to MEDA and my love to the dancers of Baton Rouge and New Orleans for helping me through these hard times, and donating supplies and costumes."** **2 DAYS; HELP WITH REGISTRATION SAT/SUN**

4) [New Orleans East](#); President of MEDA; lost her home; **evacuated with MEDA's papers and materials, and a dancer whom she has helped relocate; rallied members to allow benefiting the affected dancers and drummers in this year's MEDA workshop and arranged for the stars to perform for no fee, sought out the affected dancers, & raised scholarship money for workshop days.**  
**THREE DAYS; DIRECTOR OF WORKSHOP WITH THE HELP OF STAFF AND ANGELS**

5) [New Orleans](#); A strong force in regrouping dancers; lost income; and the dreams for her troupe and business need to be re-created. "I've been a member of the NOLA bd community for 10 yrs; a teacher in my own studio for three. **My studio post-Katrina is a rehearsal & class space and a center for many bd teachers, as well as for other ethnic dance.** My apt in Mid-City was destroyed. I lost half my costumes, several props, photos, and music." **THREE DAYS**

6) [New Orleans](#); Evacuated and lost her job with the University; then lost her apartment to a fire with all contents; had to relocate again; **is coming from Oregon for the workshop.** **THREE DAYS**

7) [New Orleans](#); Treasurer; Long time officer MEDA; lost her home in Broadmoor and not adequately insured due to policy limits; evacuated to apartment in Baton Rouge for 10 months; her tenured professor husband had to take a position elsewhere. She is rapidly running out of money because of move and the cost of setting up a new house; doesn't have a job; no jobs in her field are listed in the local paper;  
**THREE DAYS; HELP WITH REGISTRATION;**

8) [New Orleans](#); "I lived in New Orleans in Lake Vista. My husband and I lost nearly all our belongings to 9 feet of water. Slidell, 40 miles away, was the closest relocation place for us. We will move back when the levees are safe. I miss NO dearly and travel there several times a wk for bd. These classes have been so important; helping me make it through these tough times. I had major surgery a month before the storm. The stress of both events has been difficult. **Belly dance has been at times, the only thing I can look forward to.**" **THREE DAYS**

9) [New Orleans](#); Took from three teachers and is continuing with two; "Because of Storm, I lost the best job I ever had." **TWO DAYS**

10) [New Orleans](#); "loss of job"; **TWO DAYS (25 total on this page)**

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11) [The Gulf Coast](#); Lost everything, home and job; has been out of the state and out of the country. Went to S Africa as a nurse practicing "healing touch". She'll go, & take Sue. **She thanks us very much and is much excited;** [THREE DAYS](#)

12) [The Gulf Coast](#); Long-time dancer whose apartment complex was flooded but not her 2<sup>nd</sup> floor apt. Classes were suspended because the bridge is destroyed, so she's not able to be involved in dance as usual; [ONE DAY; SAT/SUN AT \\$60](#)

13) [Mobile](#); Daughter & family flooded out of their home on Mobile Bay; stayed at considerable expense at her home; [ONE DAY SAT; SUN AT \\$60](#)

HARDSHIP DONATION; She was offered a free day last year and declined; [½ DAY FRI](#)

14) [New Orleans](#); Living in NO with her husband with her parents; lost home in Lakeview 8-10' water; job moved to BR; taking bd classes in both places; lost possessions; **"dance is her relief"; "You don't know how much this means to me; I couldn't afford it."** [THREE DAYS](#)

15) [New Orleans](#); New Orleans teacher's student for over 10 years; lost job, the whole back of their house, and her husband's sole proprietor business was flooded. "I am working in Hammond well over an hour's drive away; I have trouble with my cell phone here. **Thank you so much for the scholarship. This is very generous.** I am working the other two days." One day; [didn't attend due to leg injury](#)

16) [Working in New Orleans](#); "I was working at Ochsner hospital (in New Orleans) in the Neonatal ICU taking care of preemies during the hurricane. Once the storm was over, due to lack of air conditioning in the hospital, we had to ship all the infants out by helicopters to other hospitals to keep them safe, since babies cannot take extremes in temperature. I didn't lose my job altogether, but it was nearly three months until the unit that I worked in had enough patients once again to employ a full staff of Neonatal RN's. For months, I was only allowed to work one shift per pay period, which isn't enough to live on by any means after taxes. In the meantime, I danced here and there in Houma and gave private lessons to help pay my house note for a couple of months. After business picked up at Ochsner in December, our unit was so understaffed and I was so overworked, that I was forced to find a job in Houma and stay here to avoid being completely exhausted all the time and to avoid losing my nursing license due to potentially unsafe staffing conditions per patient ratio. I've been working as a Dialysis RN in the Houma/Thibodaux area since January and the hours with the job are much kinder to me!!! I'm still teaching lessons here and there in Houma and that's my story ;) Thanks for thinking of me. **It's really kind of you to try to get everyone affected by the storm together;** [ONE DAY; TWO DAYS AT \\$60 EA; did she attend?](#)

17) [New Orleans](#); Living in FEMA trailer at FL and Franklin; lost 13 cats that drowned in NO hotel; lost home in New Orleans East ; husband is a fireman then and now in NO. She has a disability: numbness from knee down, degenerative joint disease, and rotator cuff tear from accident in May. She has had several teachers; [three days; needs housing; she didn't attend due to diverticulitis](#)

18) [New Orleans](#); Rescued from her roof; housed in a hotel & then evacuated to the Superdome; [2 DAYS](#)

19) [New Orleans](#); Evacuated with her medical facility and lives with facility still; separated from her 2 small children since Storm; lost home; [ONE DAY DUE TO FAMILY MEMBER'S SURGERY](#); (16 T) Dancers and Drummers Seriously Affected by Hurricane Katrina and Middle Eastern Dance Artists of Louisiana's Efforts To Help Them; pg. 3, Marlane Drake, author; [marlane@cox.net](mailto:marlane@cox.net); 504-669-3369



20) [New Orleans](#); Sister of 19; living on second floor of flooded home; lost all rental properties; [1 DAY](#)

21) [New Orleans](#); Moved to Baton Rouge while her house is being fixed. She's joined another former tribal to teach at a BR studio & is performing. "I would definitely like to attend." [½ SAT/SHOW/SUN](#)

22) [New Orleans](#); I will do my best to keep this brief. I was a medical student at LSU, in New Orleans, in my second year. The Monday that the storm hit, I was to have my first exam of my fall semester. Not having a car, despite all the warnings, I didn't leave town 'til late Sun, when my neighbor finally decided it was a good idea to leave. The weather was getting really bad, so I threw a few days of clothing, my photos, some study materials, and my one & only dance costume into a bag. I packed up my cat and we left. We stayed in Lake Charles for a few weeks until I learned the medical school was resuming in Baton Rouge. I found a place there (miraculously almost). [SAT AND SUN](#)

One of the first things I did was look up a dance studio. I started April '05; it made me happy. With all the madness and uncertainty of my future, it was important to me to find a place to dance so that I could stay centered. I came to realize that getting to the studio weekly and practicing every day was more a priority than going to class. To get to class I had spend an hour or more on a bus to go all of five miles from where I was living; the studio was 20 minutes biking. Dance class gave me peace and something to look forward to, especially as my living situation deteriorated. My roommate became increasingly difficult to live with, I had no friends in the city; I was feeling more and more disconnected from school. The one constant in my life was dance.

Jan 06, I moved into another apartment. In March I got my first car. Soon I began to struggle financially. Adding to my problems, I learned, due to miscommunication after Katrina, certain assignments I'd been told were excused were now required. I didn't know; I couldn't get to class very often. And as our email server was not functional, so I had no idea the course director had changed his mind. I wasn't informed about several zeros in the course until it was too late. The course director told me three weeks before finals, which shot my concentration. My performance was less than what I expected.

At the same time, over at the studio, we were getting ready for Fest-For-All. The Friday before the show, the day of my last final exam, I realized I was not happy with school, and had not been for a very long time. I knew I had not passed my exams. So I took control and decided to spend my day working on my costume with my troupe. I haven't looked back since.

A month ago, an accident totaled my car. My finances, which were shaky until then, were completely shot. I have to find a way to replace my car so I can keep my job. One of the things I've had to sacrifice is dance class. I can't get to the studio as often because of my job and lack of car; it has been increasingly difficult to attend class. I've been practicing a Turkish Gypsy Rom with a group to perform in the MEDA show. Since I can hardly afford to eat, I'm afraid that I won't be able to attend the workshop/show because I can't afford to pay for a day of workshops (the requirement to perform). **I've been really looking forward to this because I'd really love to learn from Morocco. Receiving this scholarship will allow me to do both things: perform with my class and enjoy a day of workshops that will undoubtedly be valuable to my dancing.**

CONTACTED AND NOT ATTENDING

23-24) [Bay St Lewis](#); Teachers and performers; drummer and dancer lost their new home, the home they were selling, and two vehicles, all without insurance, riding the Storm out inside a sailboat next to their demolishing home.

25) [New Orleans](#); bd student before the storm; lost computer and everything on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and some on first due to roof damage; just returned to NO last month, was staying in CA. Husband and she looking for new jobs; **active in dance classes now and is eager.**

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26) [New Orleans](#); "Thanks for the scholarship. I'm sorry, but I will be preparing to leave town during that week. Things will be kind of hectic, so, I will have to pass. It's been fairly insane for me in the last four months. This is why I have not been to class. **I WILL RETURN TO BELLY DANCING IN THE FALL!!!! I miss it so much! It's great fun!**"; beginner

27) [New Orleans](#); lost everything in Lakeview and moved to Texas; will not be in the state for the workshop. She's currently traveling the country with her love, but **misses dance terribly**.

28) [New Orleans](#); Moved twice since losing everything in the storm. I don't think she's pursuing dance at the moment, but she should be...**she's got the spirit**. **That is very generous of you**. Alas, I am in South Carolina now and I assume you are in Louisiana~zaghareets~"

29) [New Orleans](#); Stayed for Katrina downtown and witnessed the building next to hers collapsing. Harrowing escape from town. Lost work & came back to far lessened commissions that she relies upon.

30) [New Orleans](#); People Program student; lives with her mother whose home was significantly damaged; she had to retire and her twin sister died, related to Katrina.

31) [New Orleans](#); student in People Program; her granddaughter from Lafayette will participate for her birthday; home damaged but not possessions; she is active in Renaissance Fair and will be there.

32) [New Orleans](#); Displaced to San Francisco; can't afford plane ticket and rent.

33) [New Orleans](#); getting married in Central America next month.

34) [New Orleans](#); Lost possessions. "She is not only a Katrina survivor, she is a Katrina hero. She was rescued off the roof of her next door neighbor's house, then she and her brother spent the next 3 days going around in a boat rescuing people, including patients from a hospital." **She has been traveling a lot with her job. She is exhausted and staying home this weekend. She is one of the few dancers not going, and will sub on Sat.**

35) [New Orleans](#); A student of tribal; she lost most everything, but has regrouped in SC and is teaching classes and performing

36) [New Orleans](#); New student living on the Westbank with lots of property damage, etc.

37) [New Orleans](#); drummer, musician and instructor, schooled in Lebanon; evacuated and many of his drumming things ended up on the street; thrown out by his landlord-an all too common event when communication was nearly impossible and confusion reigned after Katrina.

38) [New Orleans](#); Another qualified dancer west of Baton Rouge; info at this time unknown.

Baton Rouge non-profit lawyer helped us establish the criteria for this weekend at no charge; found him through another non-profit.

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