

RUNAKI !

...means "light" in Kurdish. We hope our *Runaki !* festival will help people see the Kurdish region in a new light!

Musicians, dancers, designers, cooks, scholars and artists will fill the remarkable building of St Ethelburga's with the sights, sounds and tastes of the Kurdish people.

OUR PURPOSE

St Ethelburga's and the new charity GULAN want to draw attention to the rich traditions of the Kurdish people. Join us to celebrate their art and culture. Gain a better appreciation of how culture can help build understanding and relationships across the divisions of the region.

THE KURDISH PEOPLE

"The Kurds are a non-Arabic people who speak a language related to Persian. Most adhere to the Sunni Muslim faith. 15 million to 20 million Kurds live in a mountainous area straddling the borders of Armenia, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey. About 8 million live in south eastern Turkey. The Kurds have been subjugated by neighboring peoples for most of their history. In modern times, Kurds have tried to set up independent states in Iran, Iraq and Turkey, but their efforts have been crushed every time."

(Source: Washington Post 2008).

Only in recent years have the Kurds in northern Iraq been able to democratically elect an autonomous government under President Barzani. Kurdish communities are also established in Lebanon, Armenia, Azerbaijan and, more recently, Europe and the United States. With the speed of change that is currently taking place it is crucial, for future generations, to preserve the heritage of the Kurdish people and their homeland.



AHENG

The Kurdish language has a wonderful word - "aheng" - to describe a joyful gathering of people. Come along to St Ethelburga's and enjoy the special atmosphere created in this unique space. Whether you want to bring children to take part in the dancing or percussion workshops, watch a Kurdish film, join in discussion - or just simply soak up the atmosphere and sample the food and refreshments - this will be a rich and inspiring way to spend a March weekend!

Musician with daf drums

Sunday 15th March

- 12.00 Film: "Close-up Kurdistan" (*Dir Yuksel Yavuz, 2007*)
- 2.30 Kurdish Dance workshop by **Murat**
- 4.00 Kurdish Dance Performance
- 5.00 Story-telling about New'roz by **Rizgar Karim**
- 7.30 **Closing Gala:** Kurdish Poetry by **Choman Hardi** and Carol Coiffait with live music, dancing, refreshments.

FOOD

No Kurdish event would be complete without delicious traditional food. You will be able to buy snacks and hot and cold food throughout the day.

ON DISPLAY

The fascinating restored mediaeval surroundings of St Ethelburga's and its unique Bedouin Tent will provide a striking backdrop for a colourful array of Kurdish artworks - paintings, photographs, fabrics, dresses, designs, kilims, and musical instruments. Throughout the weekend there will be slideshows and videos of many aspects of Kurdish life and culture.

PROGRAMME

See www.runaki.org for further details

Saturday 14th March

- 12.00 Film: "Half Moon" (*Dir: Bahman Ghobadir 2006*)
- 2.00 Sufi Sound & experimental music by **Adalat R. Garmiany** & **Chris Gladwin**
- 3.00 Discussion: *Kurdish Language*
- 4.15 Percussion workshop by **Arya**
- 5.30 Talk & Slideshow on Kurdish artists and their work, presented by **Parwez Zabih**
- 7.30 Contemporary Kurdish music by various artist from north, south and east Kurdistan 'til late



Design by Della Murad

CURATOR



Della Murad was born in Halabja in Kurdistan Iraq. She is working in London as an image consultant and fashion designer. She has organised many fashion shows with museums in London such as the V&A, The Museum of London and Hackney Museum. She was a Millennium Award winner in 2004, and because of her contribution to the community in London she received a certificate from Ken Livingstone, then Mayor of London. She has also organised other fashion shows in the Netherlands, Germany and Kurdistan. Her designs are improvisational on traditional Kurdish styles. People in Kurdistan, especially the young, are attracted to this modern take on their cultural heritage, and, through various TV interviews and magazine articles, her designs have become increasingly popular.

ORGANISERS



St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation: arose from the ruins of the mediaeval City church destroyed by an IRA bomb in 1993. It aims to inspire and equip people to practice reconciliation and peace in their own communities and lives. It uses its unusual building and The Tent - a remarkable new space dedicated to the meeting of faiths - for public and private conversations designed to help people explore how faith can be both a source of conflict and a resource for transforming conflict. It runs training programmes and is a focal point for world music in London. www.stethelburgas.org



GULAN is a newly registered charity, (No 1126372) formed to promote Kurdish art and culture. As well as promoting Kurdish cultural events, it plans to research and document the traditional textiles, costume, jewellery and skills of the Kurdish people before they are lost; to collect tangible and also intangible heritage in the form of memories. GULAN wishes to help preserve and sustain the sense of Kurdish identity through its heritage and traditional skills for the Kurdish people and for people of all cultures and identities. GULAN's long term aim is to help establish a heritage museum in the Kurdish region of Iraq. www.gulan.org.uk

SUPPORTED BY



COSTS

Individual events from £5 (some free). Weekend ticket: £30. Day Ticket: £20

For more details visit

WWW.RUNAKI.ORG

Venue: St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation & Peace, 78, Bishopsgate London, EC2N 4AG.
Near Liverpool Street and Bank stations. Tel: +44 (0) 20 7496 1610 email: runaki@stethelburgas.org

RUNAKI!

A celebration of Kurdish life and culture



14 - 15 March 2009

St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace