

- ✓ Five years ago, the disappearance of a \$1,500 laptop computer is not only questionable but should be recorded and taken as a very serious matter in MECDA, not one of indifference.
- ✓ Am I correct or misinformed that any member on this board can write a check from MECDA funds for themselves without a secondary authorized signature? Are they treating MECDA's funds like their own bank account? If this is true, then I believe we have a serious problem.
- ✓ The negotiations between Cymbal Magazine, Habibi Publication and The Chronicle's Magazine should have been for Membership knowledge.
- ✓ Latest developments: One of the Founding Mothers of MECDA along with one of our long time members were frustrated enough to go and complain to IRS about the way MECDA is mishandling the funds. A few months later when another member tries to do the same, complaining to IRS about the Inland Empire Chapter for disappearing funds, IRS tells that member that they already have a red flag on MECDA's files and they will be audited. So get ready board members, this is not going to be a pleasant experience.
- ✓ And finally, as we all know, the MECDA Anniversary party is going to be held at Santa Anita Raceway, the unfortunate location where Cairo Carnival was held. Many members are asking why? This venue should not be used for MECDA Anniversary Party. Marta Schill and the Board Members are not visionary, for them MECDA is here, it's working and it's okay. They are out of touch with reality. They keep ignoring the most wonderful resource, the Membership and they don't allow it to be developed.

These are only some of the problems that Marta Schill has been a catalyst for, causing fragmentation, rumors, gossips, tensions and disputes in and around MECDA. Membership and public faith in MECDA is eroding and until Marta steps down from her position in the organization we will not be able to start the repair process, which is so desperately needed. If Marta does not step down then the spirit of MECDA will suffer under her, who has created an atmosphere of anxiety, doubt and total mistrust. However, if she resigns, she will show fortitude, wisdom and courage allowing MECDA to be shaped by new leaders in its deep need for new guidance and not a dictatorship. Presently Marta is no longer an asset to MECDA. If she doesn't show humility and grace by stepping down, then that will be upon her conscience and everyone's conscience here today who sits silently by and says nothing, and that will keep hurting our Middle Eastern Cultural and Dance Association.

Thank you
Harry Saroyan