

National Endowment for the Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Suite 720
Washington, DC. 20506

Dear Sirs,

My late husband Peter Gamoian and I first met John Bilezikjian in the mid to late 50's. A friendship and bond began almost immediately because of our mutual passion for our ethnic culture, particularly music and dance. Also my husband was a Middle Eastern musician. He was at one time considered one of the better dumbeg (Middle Eastern hand drum) players in the country. We attended many weddings, dances, fund raisers and concerts that John played for and I still continue to do so.

For the past thirty years I have studied Middle Eastern solo dancing and I perform monthly for Daughters of the Nile and perform each June at their convention. They are held across the United States and Canada. I have heard many oud players both on the East coast and West coast and since I've been exposed to this music since childhood, I do consider myself an aficionado.

John is truly a master oud player. His passion is to keep our ethnic culture alive through his music. I am very proud to call him friend.

Jane Gamoian
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