

604 Kenwood Avenue
Dayton, Ohio 45406
January, 1968

Dear Miami Valley Folk Dancers,

Someone has said that not all change is progress, but that progress entails change....and so begins my message on "the state of the Miami Valley Folk Dancersand myself." About myself there are many things that I should like to change so that I might become a more useful instrument for service. With the help of God and friends, I shall try to bring this about. I have become involved in a more vital movement than ever before. However small it may be, the contribution which I make to it must be the best that I can give. There is much to learn in this new venture and it promises to be a great adventure, not perhaps the kind of adventure I enjoyed before, but indeed, genuine adventure. I shall always need the goodwill of those I already know and of all whom I shall meet. Past accomplishments that might have been credited to me came only as the result of the devotion and cooperation of my family, friends, and more casual acquaintances, who believed in the same goals or who were willing to find out if these goals were valid. I am grateful to each one of these people.

Together we began the Miami Valley Folk Dancers and together we grew through the years, fulfilling at first the dreams of our first leader, Michael Solomon, and then continuing to fulfill our own. It seems to me that we initiated a pattern in our area for a true folk dance group and for a rewarding type of folk dance weekend. At least neighboring areas seem to have employed similar patterns for their own weekends, while the attendance and joy, associated with our own never diminished, but on the contrary, continued to bring new as well as familiar faces and dancing feet from far and near. Some weekends have been greater than others, but it would be difficult to recall one that did not have excellent leadership, good home-cooked food, and genuine hospitality. As I resign my leadership I leave a part of myself with you. It could never be otherwise, because in many ways you were my way of life, my happiness and my joy. I extend to you the challenge to continue this part of our tradition!

Together we made a number of substantial contributions to the community. Some of these may be closed chapters but that should not deter the group from further community efforts. I refer to the Dayton Art Institute concerts, Band Shell programs, and other public and less public appearances for demonstrations, and to the gigantic, more recent efforts of the group which brought to the attention of the Dayton Area Public the cultural advantage of the Duquesne University Tamburitzans....two capacity crowds in Memorial Hall, 1966 and 1967.

It would be interesting to know if another folk dance group in America has been able to do as much in less than fifteen years, with an average membership of between 30 and 40, without a "so-called" demonstration group, and with a traditional welcome to beginners.

I have written a letter to Viltis about our DuTam efforts, offering them our method of procedure and challenging them (meaning the readers) to do in their own communities that which we did here. I shall also send the above letter and will appreciate being allowed to do this before anyone else sends information about my resignation.

I wish you well. "My heart goes with you...." As always,

Grace
Grace Wolff