



# *Miami Valley Folk Dancers*

*Dayton, Ohio*

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5420 Pickford Drive  
Dayton, Ohio

June 21, 1997

Miami Valley Dance Council  
Bob DeRegnaucourt  
1943 Woodson Court  
Centerville, OH 45459

Dear Bob,

This fall the Miami Valley Folk Dancers (MVFD) will celebrate its 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We respectfully request that the Miami Valley Dance Council add a star to our Anniversary plaque at the Michael Solomon Pavilion per the standing policies of the Council.

To mark our anniversary, we will sponsor an International Folk Dance Workshop on November 8 and 9, 1997. The instructor will be Wim Bekooy of the Netherlands. Saturday's sessions will be held at the D & D Dance Hall in Miamisburg, while Sunday's session will be held at the Michael Solomon Pavilion.

Attached is a brief history of our club. MVFD is proud to be an integral part of recreational dance in the greater Dayton area and a member of the Miami Valley Dance Council. We hope for another 45 years of cooperation and good dancing.

Sincerely,

John Puterbaugh  
MVFD Chair

CC: Joanne Dombrowski, MVFD Secretary

In 1997, the Miami Valley Folk Dancers celebrate its 45 th Anniversary.

Folk dancing in Dayton started in 1947 when Michael Solomon, a recreation employee for the City of Dayton, was introduced to international folk dancing by neighbors.

Miami Valley Folk Dancers started as a class in 1952 sponsored by the City of Dayton, Recreation Department. The class was so successful that a new club was formed, led by Michael Solomon. The initial membership fee was \$1.00 per month, which remained in effect until this year. Today, the club, about 80 members strong, is led by a council with many people serving on committees and teaching and leading dances.

Over the years Miami Valley Folk Dancers has been dedicated to learning new dances, increasing members appreciation for many diverse cultures. (MVFD was into cultural diversity long before it was politically correct to tout cultural diversity.) In its history the club has sponsored 62 weekend workshops with nationally and internationally known instructors. With each workshop we immersed ourselves into the culture of other countries with dance, singing, costumes, food, and fellowship. These workshops introduced us to the cultures of Scotland, Ireland, the Balkans, Germany, Poland, Denmark, Israel, England, Hungary, Greece, Canada, Italy, Romania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Austria, and many others. Mini-workshops have introduced us to the cultures of Russia, Turkey, Scandinavia, Slovenia, Croatia, and Africa.

The Miami Valley Folk Dancers and its members have been very active in the Dayton community. We have done countless demonstrations for nursing homes, schools, festivals, and community groups. From 1957 to 1961 our group opened the winter Sunday Music Series at the Dayton Art Institute. Our members were instrumental in developing a significant folk dance program with the Girl Scouts in the 50's and 60's. Several of those girl scout leaders became active members of our club. Other members have helped local ethnic clubs such as the Yugoslavs, French, and Italians, form their own dance groups and recapture the dances of their own cultures. In addition to our own weekly beginners class,

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members have taught folk dance classes for local night schools, the University of Dayton, and Wright State University. In fact we have a 16 year history of teaching folk dance at Wright State.

Today, our programs include a weekly beginners class on Thursdays from 7-8 pm, participatory dancing from 9 - 11 on Thursdays, and our "Ethnic Sunday" sessions on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month when we teach and do dances according to various ethnic themes. Our membership includes singles, couples, and families ranging in age from 9 to 90. Everyone is always welcome, no partners or experience is necessary. Your first visit is always free, and, after that, the "outrageous" sum of \$1.00 is charged.