



CALENDAR

MVFD Events

May 2
NO DANCING—Pavilion closed for maintenance

May 9, 23, 30
Regular Dance, Beginners 7 P.M.

May 16
Open House, 7-10:30 P.M.

June 6, 13, 27
Regular Dance, Beginners 7 P.M.

June 20
Greek Mini-Workshop with Joe Graziosi 7:30 P.M. Members \$3, guests \$5.

July 4, 11, 18, 25
Regular Dance, Beginners 7 P.M.

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Regular Dance, Beginners 7 P.M.

Other Events

April 20
Kolo Party, South Slavic Club
Live Music—Veseli Tamburitzaans at the Czech Club, Valley St.

May 3-5
World A'Fair
Dayton Convention Center

May 11, 8:30 P.M.-1:30 A.M.
Latin Dance Extravaganza
Polish Club—Semi-Formal

June 23
Polka Fest with Frank Spetich and others at the Polish Country Club sponsored by the South Slavic Club

3rd Sunday each month Sep.-May
Contra Dance—Pavilion, 7 P.M.

CORRECTION: There will be no **CITYFOLK Contra/Square Dance** at the Pavilion in May, or for the rest of the summer.

MVFD on the World Wide Web:
www.geocities.com/mvfolkdancers

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

MVFD COUNCIL

Chairperson: Joanne Dombrowski
426-8509 joanne.dombrowski@wright.edu

Vice Chair: Lee Moser
885-4698

Secretary: Dolores Brooks
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Treasurer: Jim Woolley
432-2136 jameswoolley2000@yahoo.com

Member-at-Large: Ed Anderson
294-8628 rhama@msn.com

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Miami Valley Dance Council representative
..... Ed Anderson

MVDC Pavilion Support Committee rep.
..... Ed Anderson

Program Committee
..... Lorraine Fortner (Chair)
..... Ray Gottschall
..... Shiela Lu
..... Beth Mast
..... Janifer Tsou
..... Bill Vernon

Recordings & Equipment Maintenance
..... Eddie Cordray

Orientation Class Carolyn Stovall

Kitchen Sara Fleischer

Refreshments Dot Santi

Publicity Dolores Brooks

Membership Committee
..... Gitta Reck

Historian
Pictures Joanne Dombrowski
Archives Leslie Hyll

Culture Works Associates Representative
..... Lois Lynch

Fiftieth Anniversary Workshop Chair
..... Harry Khamis

Newsletter Editor Jim Rohal
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April 2002

The News



MVFD to celebrate Fiftieth anniversary

International Folk dancing in Dayton started in 1947 when Michael Solomon, a recreation employee for the City of Dayton, was introduced to folk dancing by a neighbor, and formed the Dayton Folk Dance Club.

In the fall of 1952 members of a folk dance class sponsored by the City of Dayton Recreation Department started the **Miami Valley Folk Dancers** as an alternative to the more couples-oriented Dayton Folk Dance Club. Michael Solomon was the first leader. The group met on Thursday evenings for teaching, program and request dancing; and on the second Sunday of each month for teaching with an ethnic theme.

Some of those early dances were held at what is now the Michael Solomon Pavilion. The membership fee was \$1.00 per month and remained the same for 45 years.

In 1954, Grace Wolff became the leader of the club and remained so for 13 years.

In 1955 the club sponsored their first workshop, bringing in John Williams and Maire Granahan to teach Scottish and Irish dances. (The previous two years, the club participated in workshops sponsored by the city Recreation Department.) The club has held one or two workshops nearly every year since. These workshops introduced us to the cultures of Africa, Armenia, Austria, the Balkans, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, England, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Romania, Poland, Russia, Scandinavia, Scotland, Slovenia, Turkey, and many others.

In 1963 the first Tri-City workshop was held in Cincinnati for folk dancers in Cincinnati, Columbus, and Dayton. MVFD hosted their first Tri-City in 1964 as the hosting duties rotated between the three cities. In 1998, MVFD became the permanent host and the emphasis was changed from teaching to request dancing.

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Anniversary *continued*

In the early 70s a beginner's class was added to the Thursday night program from 7 to 8 P.M., and in the 80s the format was modified to encourage request dancing for all of the program.

The Miami Valley Folk Dancers and its members have been very active in the Dayton community, doing 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 50s and 60s. 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.

The club currently has over seventy members and is growing.

This information is based largely on material compiled by Leslie Hyll for her MVFD website. Leslie has a great deal more detail on the website at: www.geocities.com/mvfolkdancers/history/timeline.html

• No Dancing May 2

The pavilion will be closed for maintenance on May 2. THERE WILL BE NO FOLK DANCING.

• 50 Years of dancing with MVFD

Adele Nellis was one of the original members, in 1947, of the Dayton Folk Dancers, the group that preceded MVFD. She, and her husband John, began dancing with MVFD shortly after the club was formed in 1952, though they didn't become members until several years later, after which they danced with both clubs. They were also avid round and square dancers, often going to four dances a week.

Adele is one of about eight members of the original Dayton Folk Dance Club who continue to get together once a month to socialize and recall the many years of folk dancing.

Adele worked for Rikes department store as an illustrator, then as a freelance artist to allow more time for travel. She still enjoys drawing and painting. She has provided art for many MVFD workshop themes and syllabus covers.

After 50 years she continues to be a very active member of MVFD, regularly dancing on Thursday nights. And she is working on a design for a shirt to commemorate our 50th Anniversary.

As the anniversary year goes on, we'll be talking with other members who have memories of the early years of MVFD. If you have something you would like to share, please see, or call, Jim Rohal 824-0742, jimrohal@erinet.com

• Anniversary Year Activities

The Miami Valley Folk Dancers will begin the celebration of their 50th Anniversary in the Fall of 2002, with **Tri City** on November 9. Plans include an afternoon mini-workshop with Nicholas Hilferink, and an evening party with live music.

Mark your calendars for March 29-30, 2003 for the Fiftieth Anniversary Workshop. Tentative plans are to have two teachers, one for Balkan dances and one for couples dances. Harry Khamis is the workshop chair. Look for other Fiftieth Anniversary activities throughout the year.

• Comments from the Chair ... and the Council

Welcome to all new members! We encourage everyone to wear name tags.

Important upcoming events include **World A'Fair** (May 3,4,5), **Open House** (May 16), and the **Greek Mini-Workshop** with Joe Graziosi (June 20).

We invite everyone to participate in these activities!

—Joanne

• World A'Fair

The Miami Valley Folk Dancers will be demonstrating dances and encouraging audience participation on the Informal Stage at the World A'Fair. Times are: May 3, 8:30-8:45 P.M.; May 4, 1:45-2:00; May 5, 12:45-1:00. Please join us.

This is an important part of our effort to to recruit new members and to show the community how much fun and good exercise folk dancing is.

• Open House—May 16

Please invite your family and friends to join us for the open house on May 16. Easy dances will be taught throughout the evening. And please bring a snack to share with our guests.

• Greek Mini-workshop

Enjoy an evening of Greek folk dancing, Thursday June 20, led by expert instructor Joe Graziosi. Joe held a February workshop in Columbus, and taught a nice mix of slow and more vigorous dances. He started by teaching very basic steps, then added variations.

Instruction will begin at 7:30 P.M. The charge for this special event is \$3 for members and \$5 for nonmembers.

• New Members

Beverly Hierholzer lives in Kettering and is a reference assistant at UD. She is married, with three children and two grandchildren. Her other dancing interests include polka, waltz and jitterbug—and choreography for sixth grade musicals. Beverly also enjoys writing, gardening and bicycling.

If you don't have a name tag see Mike Clark to order the permanent plastic kind, or Jim Rohal for the paper variety.