



CALENDAR

MVFD Events

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

May. 6, 13, 20, 27
Regular Dance, Beginners 7 P.M.

May 14
Ethnic Sunday (American)
– 2:30 P.M.

Jun 3, 10, 17, 24
Regular Dance, Beginners 7 P.M.

Jun 13
Ethnic Sunday – 2:30 P.M.

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

October 30-31.
MVFD Fall Workshop–Pavilion

Other Events

April 2 – 7:30 p.m
CITYFOLK Contra Dance–Pavilion.
Kathy Anderson and the
Groovemongers; \$6, 12 & under free

May 8 – 7:00
South Slavic Club **Spring Kolo Party**
with Bill Skimos band at the Czech
club. \$10, under 12 free, 13-16 \$7.50
Food available

May 21-23
Dayton International Festival—A
World A’fair. dayton Convention Center

Jul 2-4
CITYFOLK Folk Festival–
Riverscape – Free

Aug 15
Polkafest Czech Club
3rd Sunday each month Sep.-May
Contra Dance–Pavilion, 7 P.M.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

MVFD COUNCIL

Chairperson: Harry Khamis
878-4688(H), 775-2433(W) harry.khamis@wright.edu

Vice Chair: Lina Considine
438-9348 Pan_lina@juno.com

Secretary: Dolores Brooks
885-5170 dkbrooks@woh.r.com

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

Member-at-Large: Bill Vernon
294-6722 verwill@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Miami Valley Dance Council representative
and Pavilion Support Committee representative
..... Bill Vernon

Program Committee

..... Leslie Hyll (Chair)
..... Louise VanVliet
..... Sheila Lu
..... Jessica Moell
..... Susan Tsui
..... Rose Vernon

Recordings & Equipment Maintenance
..... Eddie Cordray

Orientation Class Leslie Hyll
..... Harry Khamis
..... John Pappas

Kitchen Sara Fleischer
..... Peggy Crutchfield

Refreshments Dot Santi

Publicity Dolores Brooks

Sunshine Committee
..... Gitta Reck

Historian
Pictures Joanne Dombrowski
Archives Leslie Hyll

Culture Works Associates Representative
..... Lois Lynch
MVFD Webmaster Leslie Hyll

Newsletter Editor Jim Rohal
jim@jimrohal.com



Cordray / Hyll

March 2004

The News



MVFD spreading the word with Demos, Teaching

Some Miami Valley Folk Dancers have been showing various groups in the area what we do and how much fun we have doing it. On Feb. 27, for example, nine dancers were at Monticello School in Huber Heights to the delight of some elementary school classes.

The kids at Monticello are no strangers to folk and square dancing as both dance styles are part of the gym program; the demo group was there last year and in 2002. Square dancing and, more recently, folk dancing have been taught in their gym classes. John Pappas taught folk dancing to some gym classes there last month, as did Carolyn Stovall last year.

Mike Clark often puts in a request for dancers to demonstrate at Sinclair. In the past few months MVFDrs have helped promote the benefits of folk dancing last fall at a reception for a visiting professor from the Czech Republic; Dance for the Health of It, for the Sinclair Health Fair; and demos in December for the MV International Trade Association, and in February for Global Awareness Week.

Recently Ed Anderson and Joanne Dombrowski taught some folk dances to the foreign students attending the English Language and Multicultural Institute at UD. They did the same thing for last year’s class.

While it’s not an MVFD function, Lorraine Fortner has brought along some MVFD dancers to form the mainstay of a class in Israeli dancing at the WSU Student Union gym, which is given one Sunday night each month. All are welcome. See Lorraine for details.

MVFD will be represented again this year at Wright State’s annual International Friendship Affair, as Carolyn mans a booth there to pass out flyers and information. Carolyn, along with some willing helpers, put together a colorful backdrop for a table, which is used at events such as this. It is covered with photos which convey the great fun we have folk dancing. And Ed Anderson, who’s been coordinating some of our demo appearances, will be leading a demo group there The time is Saturday afternoon, April 10. *Continue* ►

MVFD on the World Wide Web:
www.daytonfolkdance.com/mvfd/

Demos *continued*

For demos we generally do dances from different countries and show different dance styles. Sometimes we invite audience members to join in and give it a try, as we did at Monticello.

We don't have an exclusive group of dancers who make up a demonstration team. Whenever we have an opportunity for a demonstration, the MVFD person coordinating the event will check to see if we have enough people who can make it at that time. Some events are during weekday hours and it's often hard to find enough dancers who can be there. Anyone can participate, as long as you know the dances and can attend a few rehearsals.

Ann Ballinger had been a leader and organizer of many of these demonstrations, but since she retired from that job last year we haven't had one person in charge. Now various MVFD dancers take on that responsibility as their time permits.

Another venue for promoting the Miami Valley Folk Dancers is the annual World A'Fair at the Dayton Convention Center in May. For the last several years we have had a table there, manned by volunteers and displaying photos and information. In addition, we will offer an audience participation demo on the Informal Stage several times during the festival. This has been a source of several new members, and has brought in a number of other people for a look.

Honor Dancers

And speaking of spreading the word about folk dancing... Lou and Nancy Hyll were nominated as MVFD's entry for the Miami Valley Dance Council's recognition of this year's Honor Dance Couple.

Lou and Nancy are truly pioneers of recreational dance in Dayton. They began dancing traditional squares in the late 40s/early 50s.

Lou began square dancing in 1948 as a very young adult. He was active in many YMCA Y-Singles activities, including community square dances. Here he began his avocation as a square dance caller. In 1954 he met his future bride, Nancy, in the YMCA Chorus, and they married in 1957. Lou continued to call, teaching square dance classes for the City of Dayton in 1957-58. In the late 60's the Hylls began specializing in programs for non-dancers. In the 70's, the Hylls expanded their dancing and leadership into the related forms of folk, contra, line, and historical dance.

Perhaps the Hyll's greatest contribution to recreational dance has been the introduction of thousands of non-dancers to recreational dance. They have presented hundreds of one-time programs and classes in square, folk, contra, historical, and line dancing to schools and community groups of every kind.

Many fledgling dance leaders have been helped by the Hylls with

encouragement, advice, support, and materials.

Lou first became involved with MVFD in 1953. In 1971, the entire Hyll family (Lou, Nancy, and two daughters) began dancing with MVFD on a regular basis. Through the years the Hylls have been on nearly every MVFD committee.

They have helped MVFD promote folk dance through their participation in numerous demonstrations and festivals including the Ohio Sauerkraut Festival, MVDC Day in the Park, and Tri-City Folk Dance Festival.

The Hylls have been promoting recreational dance in Dayton for 56 years.

Annual Meeting

Lina Considine was elected to MVFD Council at the annual meeting in January. She is now the vice chair.

The name of the Membership committee was changed to Sunshine Committee to better reflect the function of that office, held by Gitta Reck. She is responsible for sending condolences, and get well, etc. cards to members.

Other officers and committees, including the new Program committee, chaired by Leslie Hyll, are listed on the back page.

Program Committee

There will not be an Ethnic Sunday in April because of Easter.

May 9 will be an American Ethnic Sunday and Mother's Day. What a great way to celebrate Mother's Day by bringing her dancing!

—Leslie

Fall Workshop

Planning is underway for this year's Fall Workshop, which will be held here in the pavilion Saturday and Sunday, October 30 and 31, which happens to be Halloween weekend. (Costumes will be optional). Mark your calendar now. Details will be coming soon.

Dance Council & Pavilion

MV Dance Council historian Sherry Hayden has received new information about the history of the Michael Solomon Pavilion, including an old article that indicates it was originally built as a hangar for airplanes. Sherry said she will make her new material available to anyone interested in reading it. [There is an extensive history of the pavilion, written by Ed Cordray, on the web site www.miamivalleydancecouncil.org (under Pavilion History)]

About the Pavilion also, Ed Cordray needs volunteers to decorate it every month or two, and he is asking volunteers to help with the spring cleaning, which will occur on April 24. Workers will be provided a free lunch, plus a pass to attend a gala square dance that evening.

—Bill