

MIAMI VALLEY FOLK DANCERS

Newsletter
February, 1989

Calendar of Events:

- Feb 7 Cityfolk Mazowsze Performance, Memorial Hall
- Feb 12 MVFD Russian Ethnic Sunday, M. S. Pavilion
- Mar 12 MVFD Irish Ethnic Sunday, M. S. Pavilion
- Mar 24 Cityfolk Cajun Dance Series with Queen Ida & Bon Temps Zydeco Band, Polish Club
- Apr 2 MVDC Leadership Seminar, Lohrey Center
- Apr 7 Cityfolk Cajun Dance Series with D. L. Menard Band, Polish Club
- Apr 9 Tri-City Folk Dance Festival, M. S. Pavilion
- Apr 13 MVFD & Crosscurrents International Institute "Soviet Spring", M. S. Pavilion
- May 12 Cityfolk Cajun Dance Series with Beausoleil, Polish Club
- May 14 MVFD Request Ethnic Sunday, M. S. Pavilion
- Jun 2 Leslie's 30th Birthday (I expect a big party, folks!)
- Jun 2-4 Dayton International Festival, Dayton Convention Center
- Jun 11 MVFD Italian Ethnic Sunday, M. S. Pavilion
- Jul 9 MVFD USA Ethnic Sunday, M. S. Pavilion
- Aug 20 MVDC "Day in the Park", Carillon Park

Comments on Upcoming Events:

Feb 7, Mazowsze - If you do not already have a ticket, I strongly recommend you get one to see the national folk troupe of Poland. 50 singers, 50 dancers, and 30 musicians (that's 130 people) will perform at Memorial Hall. This concert, sponsored by Cityfolk, is not to be missed. Call Cityfolk at 223-3655 for tickets (\$15 & \$13). We have just a few \$1.00 off coupons that may be used toward tickets.

Mar 24, Cityfolk Cajun Dance Series - This year Cityfolk is sponsoring a series of dances with well known and excellent Cajun bands. This traditional American music from Louisiana is very easy to dance to and features mostly two-steps and waltzs. These should be enjoyable evenings of music and dancing at the Polish Club.

Apr 9, Tri-City Folk Dance Festival - The 1989 Tri-City will be held here in Dayton at the Michael Solomon Pavilion. Sara Fleischer is organizing it and will be asking for your help. If you would like to help, please go to her and volunteer. Specific details will be available later.

Apr 13, "Soviet Spring" - In cooperation with Crosscurrents International Institute, and as a part of a month of events about the Soviet Union, we will be sponsoring a special Thursday evening to highlight dances of the Soviet Union. Watch this space for more information.

HI! 1989 is underway and we seem to be organized and prepared to make it a fabulous year! The council has had its first meeting, the result of which is the following positions of responsibility have been filled:

Chairperson	:	Leslie K. Hyll
Vice-Chairperson	:	Harry Khamis
Secretary	:	Lee Moser
Treasurer	:	Sam Ballinger
Member-at-Large	:	Joanne Dombrowski
Program Committee	:	Ann Ballinger Ted Eltzroth, July '89 - June '90 Lorraine Fortner Nirmal Mondol Marjorie Rodgers, through June '89 Eleanor Woolley, Chairperson
Kitchen	:	Zora Krainz
Refreshments	:	Dot Santi
Tape Committee	:	John Pappas
MVDC Representative	:	Peg Eltzroth
Orientation Class	:	Ann Ballinger
Publicity	:	Leslie Hyll (I am still doing this. If you are interested in doing it please let me know.)
History	:	Joanne Dombrowski is still accepting pictures, articles, etc. that you would like to donate to the club.

Cancellation of Dance - In the event that dancing is cancelled or location is changed due to inclement weather or broken water pipes, council members will be calling you. Please be sure we have your correct address and phone number. If we do not get in touch with you, call the MVDC HOTLINE, 294-5511, for information.

Fall Workshop - We were unable to secure John Pappas of California for a Greek workshop. We are currently trying to contact Andor Czompo for a Hungarian workshop this fall. Will let you know what happens. In a few months, council will begin discussing a workshop for 1990. We are currently working with names from the survey on instructors that was taken in Jan 1988. If you know of other instructors that you would like considered, please tell any council member.

Dues - At the annual meeting it was suggested that council look into raising the dues, to give the club a larger financial buffer, and to subsidize workshops. Council discussed this at its meeting, and decided that a raise in dues is not warranted. The current balance of the club is about \$2600. From 1980 - 1986, the club ran on a balance of \$1200 - \$1800. A balance of \$1000 is needed to run the club, so we seem to be in excellent financial shape at the moment. With regard to subsidizing workshops, our prices for workshops are in line with, and often less than, workshop prices in other areas. On a case by case basis, a workshop may be considered for subsidization, but a raise in dues is not necessary to do so. If you have any questions about the finances or financial history of the club, please contact Sam Ballinger. He will be happy

to provide you with information. Unless a formal proposal, with supporting evidence and arguments, is made to the council, the issue of a dues increase will NOT be presented to the membership at this time.

Mailing of Newsletter - (The following is Leslie's editorial comment and does not necessarily represent the views of the management, staff, or sponsors.) Also brought up at the annual meeting was the possibility of mailing the newsletter to members. First, let me mention that a newsletter comes out at the whim of the chairperson, when that person has time and information to impart, and certainly not necessarily on a regular basis. The existence and production of a newsletter is not a required function of the council or club. Second, I estimate that it would cost \$400 a year to produce and mail a monthly newsletter. I will not ask council for that money. I will produce a newsletter as I have time and information to impart, and will make it available on Thursday evenings and ethnic Sundays to the membership. I will be happy to mail a copy of each newsletter to you if you will provide me with legal size SASEs.

Gossip - Our illustrious past-chairperson, Louise Van Vliet, who performed her duties so magnificently, has agreed to continue to provide us with colorful information on the members of this club. We hope you will get to know fellow dancers better through this column.

MVFD Honor Roll Couple - In case you missed that annual meeting, you missed a **HISTRIONIC**, if not historical, look at the club, which led into the surprise nomination of Ann & Sam Ballinger as MVFD Honor Roll Couple to the MVDC. Here is our letter of nomination:

The Miami Valley Folk Dancers enthusiastically nominate Ann and Sam Ballinger as the Honor Roll Couple for the Miami Valley Dance Council. They have been active folk, round, square, and contra dancers and have made, on a volunteer basis, exceptional contributions to the promotion of recreational dancing in the Miami Valley through administration, teaching, and public relations.

For over 20 years, Ann and Sam Ballinger have been, administratively, the backbone of the Miami Valley Folk Dancers (MVFD). Not only have they served as the driving force of the group but they have trained others to be leaders as well. Both have actively served as mentors to individuals wishing to promote dancing and understanding of other cultures. They have given responsibility yet provided any necessary support in the training of others to teach and lead workshops and demonstrations. Through Sam's direction the group has been able to maintain \$1.00/month dues which were initiated over 35 years ago.

Ann's teaching contributions are unequalled. For 15 years, Ann has taught the beginners' class for the group from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. every Thursday evening. In addition, she has been very active in the Girl Scout Council and has taught over 2,500 girl scouts and leaders how to dance. The impact of her dedication to teaching extends beyond MVFD, where over 75% of our members learned to dance through her efforts, to much of the Miami

Valley. Former members of her class have taught folk dancing at public schools within the Miami Valley and to students at Wright State University, University of Dayton, and Miami University.

They have been responsible for the promotion of dance through public demonstrations and support of the Dayton International Festival. Each year, Miami Valley Folk Dancers present, under Ann and Sam's direction, an average of eight public demonstrations at places such as West Milton, Aullwood, and Wright State University, as well as, many nursing homes and retirement centers. These demonstrations include the Sauerkraut Festival in Waynesville where thousands have been given their first opportunity to view recreational folk dancing. The Ballingers have played a key role in each International Festival held in Dayton. In addition to performing and leading participation dancing, Ann and Sam have coordinated clean up, information, and ticket sale efforts.