

MIAMI VALLEY FOLK DANCERS

Newsletter
April, 1989

Calendar of Events:

- Apr 7 Cityfolk Cajun Dance Series with D. L. Menard Band, Polish Club
Apr 8 Tri-City-Eve Party, Leslie Hyll's house
Apr 9 Tri-City Folk Dance Festival, M. S. Pavilion
Apr 13 MVFD & Crosscurrents International Institute "Soviet Spring",
M. S. Pavilion
Apr 13 MVFD T-Shirt Orders due to Leslie Hyll
Apr 23 DCD Spring Contra Festival with Bob Howell & Stew Shacklette, M.
S. Pavilion
May 12 Cityfolk Cajun Dance Series with Beausoleil, Polish Club
May 14 MVFD Request Ethnic Sunday, M. S. Pavilion
May 18 MVFD Open House, M. S. Pavilion
May 20 Yugoslav Club Kolo Party with Vatra Ziva, Lithuanian Club
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
Nov 11 MVFD Hungarian Dance Workshop with Andor Czompo, Burkhardt Center
Nov 12 MVFD Hungarian Dance Workshop with Andor Czompo, M. S. Pavilion

Comments on Upcoming Events:

Apr 8, Tri-City-Eve Party - Dancing, cards, games, etc., a trails-end party the night before Tri-City given by Leslie Hyll. Out of town attendees may sleep over. See flyer for more information.

Apr 9, Tri-City Folk Dance Festival - The 1989 Tri-City will be held here in Dayton at the Michael Solomon Pavilion. Afternoon workshop, 1:30 pm; Dinner, 5:30 pm; Evening party, 7 pm. Cost to MVFD members is \$10.00 for the entire day, \$12.00 for other people. Sara Fleischer is the chair.

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. Dances of the various ethnic groups (Armenian, Estonian, Russian, Lithuanian, etc.) in the Soviet Union will be taught from 7 - 8 pm and the international program at 8 pm will include more dances of the various ethnic groups. Please bring munchies and guests for this evening. See flyer for information on other "Soviet Spring" events.

May 18, Open House - We will hold our annual open house this evening. Please bring your family, friends, and neighbors for a fun evening of dancing. Also, please bring munchies along. Harry Khamis is chairing this event.

May 20, Kolo Party - The 8th annual Kolo Party sponsored by the Yugoslav Club features lots of line dancing with a live band, and will be highlighted with the performance of a Macedonian suite by Zivio. Tickets are \$4.00 in advance. See Yugoslav Club members for tickets.

Gossip - Yes, finally, the "special assistant to the chairperson" has delivered! Here is our first installment of gossip. This column has not been edited, it is entered as received.

SUE ARNIE, the last (latest, let's hope she's not the last! ed.) to become an official member of the clan of Miami Valley Folk Dancers, didn't even know what folk dancing was about until she was subjected to folk dancing harassment by her statistics prof. at Wright State. She did not say if she received an A in statistics or not. Sue is majoring in biology at Wright State and has been doing karate for 10 years, she specializes in Shorin-Ryu. Shorin-Ryu works well for short people because of its linear and circular techniques and is very versatile (That's all I can tell you about Shorin-Ryu). She enjoys horseback riding and has trained two fillies, one was 1/2 Arabian/ 1/8 horse. In case you do not know what a 1/8 horse is, it is a 1/2 quarter horse. Sue has mastered riding a bucking horse, has a broken helmet to prove it; was shot at by poachers; thinks driving a 14 ton semi-tractor trailer is easy, she is paying her way through school as a SPC in the national guard; and has spent a summer vacation driving a "deuce and 1/2" over sand dunes in Michigan.

"What's taking a statistics course from Harry Khamis like?" questioned the special assistant to the chairperson of the Miami Valley Folk Dancers, who had once heard that Harry graded like Attila the Hun. "Welllllll", stated our distinguished interviewee, "it's like digging a ditch, getting an all expense trip to Beirut, going to the dentist, and then having a heated disagreement with your Karate instructor."

Sue noted that though she finds the folk dancing fun, she is here more for the people than for the dancing. She, obviously, has good taste. WELCOME SUE!

MARJ DARRAGH is known as the Daffodil queen of the Miami Valley Folk Dancers; be sure to visit her back yard during daffodil season. No one has kept record but Marj may also be our champion traveler; she has traveled around the world and was one of the first to visit China after it was reopened to the west (1975). She studied piano, received a music degree from Miami University, and regularly attends philharmonic and pops concerts and performances of the Dayton Music Club. Before her retirement, Marj worked as a secretary for Frigidare and served as the secretary of the Miami Valley Folk Dancers for 6 years; she has typed **MANY** dance instructions for our workshops. She is a former golfer, bowls, and regularly plays bridge. She has been an active member of MVFD since its beginning years and performed with the Yugoslav dancers up until the last couple of years.

MVFD T-Shirts - If you would like an official MVFD t-shirt, see Leslie Hyll for an order form. T-shirts are \$8.50 each. The design, by **Adele Nellis**, will be silk-screened with white on the color shirt of your choice. Orders are due by Thursday, April 13. If you are interested in something besides a short sleeved t-shirt (like long sleeved t-shirts, jackets, etc.), please talk to Leslie.

New Dance Listings - Finally, we have updated the club's dance, record and tape listings. Please thank **Joe Birkemeier** and **Ed Anderson** for their many hours and hard work contributed to make this happen. It has taken at least two years and they have done a fabulous job. THANKS!

Easter Ernie's Pot of Gold, A Review - by Louise Van Vliet. MVFD's dynamite duo of Carol Culbertson and Bette Kelly were responsible for one of the most smashing box office successes in Dayton's theatrical circle this spring. Masses of admirers descended upon the theatre just before the play commenced and a special riot control squad was needed to control them. MVFD viewers, Joanne, Louise, Gitta, Leslie, and Harry, as well as Wayne Gulden and Gitta's friend who flew in from California for the performance were most impressed with the mob control. Even though hundreds had to stand or sit on the floor, there was no unruliness. Director Carol Culbertson did an excellent job of casting her all star performers; and the costumes, designed by Bette Kelly, were magnificent. Easter Ernie's Pot of Gold was fast moving, the thought of Ernie loosing his shop kept the audience in high suspense, however, it all ended well as the Easter bunny saved the day. Virginia Garcia, eat your heart out.

MVDC Leadership Seminar Report - On Sunday, April 2, the Miami Valley Dance Council held a leadership seminar for council clubs. Topics such as responsibilities of club officers, responsibilities of the MVDC representative, how to motivate volunteers within your club, problem solving, how to improve the quality of dancing, and how to promote dancing were presented and discussed. These are subjects that may apply to any kind of organization and many of us need to be reminded from time to time of the qualities and responsibilities of good leadership. The council leadership was very excited that the Miami Valley Folk Dancers were represented (Leslie Hyll and Grace Wolff attended). During the evening dance, Leslie taught 3 folk dances that were very well received.

WHAT IS THE MIAMI VALLEY DANCE COUNCIL

The Miami Valley Dance Council (MVDC), is an organization sponsored by the City of Dayton, Division of Recreations & Parks, and is made up of area dance clubs, forty-nine at this time, whose purpose is to promote the square dance activity, including round, contra, clog, and folk dancing as well as square dancing. It is an advisory organization and does not regulate except in specific programs which it administers. Officers are elected and appointed each year.

Meetings, to which each member club sends a representative, are held six times a year. At the meetings dance business is conducted. Club representatives express opinions and vote on council matters, announce dances and future plans, and ask for suggestions and opinions in matters facing their clubs. Cooperation between clubs and communication between clubs and Council are stressed. Any dancer may attend the meetings and take part in discussions but may not vote.

Miami Valley Dance Council carries on activities and provides services to promote dancing and benefit Council clubs. Specifically, MVDC:

- Conducts square dance lesson classes; graduates join any club(s) they choose.
- Prepares and distributes:
 - Flyers with composite listing of all area lesson classes,
 - Coupon booklets, with free dance passes for new graduates, to all clubs wishing to participate.
- Organizes demos in various places throughout the area, using dancers from all clubs that want to participate.
- Conducts leadership clinics.

- Provides various types of printed material--yearly calendar, reports, informational, educational, and leadership material.
- Prepares and distributes:
 - Miami Valley Dance News
 - Foldout dance schedule listing all Council clubs
 - Leaflets with club listings to hotels, libraries, etc., throughout the area.
- Maintains a telephone hotline to provide daily, up-to-date dance information.
- Provides incentive programs:
 - Honor-raider badge and dinner/dance
Traveling banners to clubs with highest number and percentage of new participants each year.
 - Friendship badge and dance
 - Honor couple
 - Plaques for clubs that are 25 years old--star added every 5 years thereafter.
- Subscribes to a group liability insurance plan.
- Sponsors a benefit dance each year for the Speech & Hearing Center.
- Maintains membership in Miami Valley Callers' Association, Ohio State corporation of Dance Clubs, Inc. (sends representatives to meetings), Ohio Mini-Legacy, and Legacy International in order to be informed and receive leadership materials.
- Offers grants to help with expenses for persons attending Ohio Mini-Legacy.
- Organizes and hosts state conventions every 3-4 years, using dancers from all clubs.
- Has available display items showing all Council clubs:
 - Blanket-banner with a block for each club.
 - Electronic board showing clubs and their locations.

All the above services, except the insurance and blanket-banner, are provided by the Council at no cost to member clubs. There is a nominal charge to participating clubs for the insurance coverage, and clubs must provide their own blocks for the blanket-banner.

Any club in the area that meets the requirements of the Council constitution is eligible for membership. Clubs pay no dues and remain members as long as they adhere to the constitution.

Miami Valley Folk Dancers Participation in the Council - The MVFD participates quite a bit in the Miami Valley Dance Council. Our class is listed in the composite of all area lesson classes, we participate in at least one Council sponsored demo a year (maybe we should participate in more), when we provide information to Council we are included in the Miami Valley Dance News, foldout dance schedule listing of all Council clubs, leaflets with club listings, telephone hotline, yearly calendar. We submit nominations for honor couple and take part in the liability insurance plan. Next year, we will have a coupon in the coupon book. The Council welcomes our participation, but **WE** must take the initiative to come up with more ways to participate. Whenever you see something that refers to square dancing, substitute folk dancing and see if it fits; quite often it does.