

Miami Valley Folk Dancers

Newsletter
Summer, 1989

Dance Etiquette for New and Old Dancers!

Every once in a while we all need to be reminded.

- Do not get into a dance you do not know!
It's no fun for anyone when a line or a set falls apart because some of the people don't understand what is going on. Always get behind a line dance to learn it. Couple dances that don't change partners may be attempted with a benevolent partner. Only very experienced dancers can get a person who doesn't know a dance through any kind of set dance. If two or more people don't know the dance, it becomes almost impossible for the other dancers to direct those people.

- When you have the program, please tell us when we may and may not get into a dance we don't know.
There are some dances that can be picked up very easily while doing them, or perhaps you will be walking it through very quickly. There are other dances that cannot be done without some serious teaching. Please let us know which dances are which.

- Always join a line dance at the end of the line.
90% of the time, the left end is the end. Note there are some dances whose ends are on the right.

- Always join a contra line or longways set at the foot of the set (the end away from the music).

- Do not offend others with your high flung legs, or overzealous endeavors to help others who may hesitate, by pulling, grabbing, or pushing them, or by speaking loudly or harshly to them.

- Respect other dancers and leaders and treat everyone with courtesy.

- Be quiet and attentive to the instructor even though you know what is being explained or you are not dancing. Perhaps someone else needs to be briefed.

- There shall be only one instructor at a time.
Do not try to teach when someone else is teaching. Maybe the instructor wants to do the dance in a different manner from you.

- Bathe diligently, that the sweet aroma of soap and lotion may assail the nostrils of your associates. Similarly take care that the word of your mouth is not scented with strong smelling herbs, such as garlic, onion, or alcoholic beverages.

- Folk dancing requires "reflex action" much the same as driving a car, so refrain from using alcoholic beverages before and during dancing.

- Wear a name tag at all times.
New members don't know old members; old members don't know new members.

- Do not be a snob, considering yourself too good to dance with any and all, by sitting out mixers, or by leaving a set lest you be required to dance with those you deem unworthy of your talents. Remember, it could be you who goofs the next time.

- Be conscious of the feelings of those around you and do not let the stranger in your midst sit on the sidelines, or fail to speak to him. Be friendly at all times - everyone needs fellowship.

- **Never forget** that you were once a beginner, and that others helped you become a good dancer by tolerating your mistakes. Remember, always help new dancers - that's how to keep folk dancing alive!

- Make it a practice to thank guests for coming, instructors for teaching, program leaders for leading, everyone who made your evening a pleasant one.

- And as always, dance only for the FUN which you find in it.

Five Stages of a Folk Dancer

1. Beginner
2. Advanced
3. Too good to dance with beginners
4. Too professional to dance with anybody
5. Back to JUST DANCING with everyone TO HAVE FUN

Calendar of Events:

Jul 16 Bike Ride on the River Bikeway, 9 am
Aug 13 MVFD Czechoslovakia Ethnic Sunday, M. S. Pavilion
Aug 20 MVDC "Day in the Park", Carillon Park
Sep 10 MVFD Latin Ethnic Sunday, M. S. Pavilion
Sep 17 FIELD TRIP - Dinner at Forest View Gardens
Sep 20 Yugoslav Club - Yugoslav Dance Lessons begin, Burkhardt Center
Oct 8 MVFD Israeli Ethnic Sunday, M. S. Pavilion
Nov 11 MVFD Hungarian Dance Workshop with Andor Czompo, Burkhardt Center
Nov 12 MVFD Hungarian Dance Workshop with Andor Czompo, M. S. Pavilion
Dec 10 MVFD Scandinavian Ethnic Sunday, M. S. Pavilion

Comments on Upcoming Events:

Jul 16, Bike Ride on the River Bikeway - Sunday, 9 am (that's when the ride starts, you should be there between 8:45 - 8:50!). An easy, leisurely ride on the north end of the river bikeway, no more than 15 miles. Begin at the Carillon and ride to Wegerzyn Garden Center and back. See Leslie Hyll if you would like to participate.

Aug 20, MVDC "Day in the Park" - The Miami Valley Dance Council's annual showoff day at Carillon Park. We will be participating, details to come later.

Sep 17, Field Trip - Forest View Gardens - Join your fellow dancers for dinner on Sunday, at Forest View Gardens in Cincinnati. The food is German and American, the waiters and waitresses are students at the Conservatory of Music and sing for us all evening long, there is German sing-a-long, and the evening ends with 30 minutes of excerpts from a musical. Entrees range in price from \$11.00 - \$25.00 (remember you get entertainment, also). This place is REALLY, REALLY FUN! Dinner begins at 5 pm. Please let Leslie Hyll know if you are interested, as reservations must be made.

Gossip - Louise tells us about our newest member this time:

Kris Vier, became involved in folk dancing through an Israeli folk dance class at Wright State taught by, you guessed it, Harry Khamis. Kris is finishing up her sophomore year at Wright State with an emphasis in art and psychology; at this time she is planning to get a master's degree in art therapy. When not studying or folk dancing, she is out doing photography or working as a telephone secretary. She has served as a research apprentice for the Biology Department at WSU and as a reporter for the Daily Guardian. Last summer, Kris spent a month in Japan as part of an ambassador program and spent Christmas vacation in India.

Miami Valley Dance Council Survey - The MVDC is currently doing a survey of dancers in the council. Please pick up a survey sheet off the counter and fill it in completely. Fill in "other" with "folk" where necessary. When you have completed, give it to Leslie.