

CALENDAR

MVFD Events

➤ SEPTEMBER

Regular Dance (beginners, 7 PM):

Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25

☞ **No Ethnic Sunday this month!**

➤ OCTOBER

Regular Dance (beginners, 7 PM):

Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Ethnic Sunday: Oct. 12, 2:30 PM

➤ NOVEMBER

Regular Dance (beginners, 7 PM):

Nov. 6, 13, 20 (not the 27th!)

Ethnic Sunday: Nov. 16, 2:30 PM

Other Regular Events

Scottish Dancing – The Flying Ghillies. Intermediate classes Mondays at 7:30 PM, Mangan Banquet Ctr., 1585 Grange Hall Rd., Beaver-creek. Beginners' classes (same location, same time) start September 8.

CITYFOLK Waltzing and Contra Dance at the Pavilion. 6:30 PM waltzing, 7:30 instruction, 8:00 contra dancing. \$7 if over 12. Sept. 5, Kate Power with the Contrarians; Oct. 3, Steve Edwards with Jim's Red Pants; Nov. 7, Jim Vogt with the Corndad-dies. Saturday, Nov. 22 will be Flight of Fancy Dance Day – details later!

Israeli Folk Dancing – A classic/modern group meets 7-9 PM most Tuesday eves (Sept. 9, 16, 23, and 30; Oct. 14, 21, and 28; and Nov. 11, 18, and 25) at the Boonshoft CJCE, Centerville. See Janifer for details.

Columbus Balkan Night Dance Parties. Themes: Sept 27, Hawaii; Oct. 25, Hallowe'en; Nov 22,, Aladdin. More information at Robertsnyder.com/BalkanNight.

Monthly Yellow Springs dance. Bryan Nature Center, 7 PM, Sept.17, Oct. 18, Nov. 21. Info from Jay at scrubjay@fuse.net.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

MVFD Council

Chairperson:.....Leslie Hyll
252-0638.....lesliehyll@siscom.net
Vice Chair:.....Patty Gehring
898-6964.....plg2010@yahoo.com
Secretary:.....Lee Moser
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Treasurer:.....Peggy Crutchfield
275-4249.....obedc@sbc.global.net
Member-at-Large:.. Louise Van Vliet
298-2086.....vanvlil@muohio.edu

Committee Assignments

Miami Valley Dance Council and
Pavilion Support Committee
Representative.....Louise Van Vliet
Program Committee
.....Chair, Bill Vernon
.....Joanne Dombrowski
.....Mei-Hwa Neal
.....Eileen Rehg
.....Jim Rohal
.....Susan Tsui / Ellen Rice
Recordings & Equipment Maintenance
.....Edmund Cordray
Orientation Class.....Leslie Hyll
.....Harry Khamis
Kitchen.....Eleanor Woolley
.....Rebecca Cress-Ingebo
Refreshments.....Lee Moser
Publicity.....Dolores Brooks
Sunshine Committee...Lee Moser
Historians
Pictures.....Joanne Dombrowski
Archives.....Leslie Hyll
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MVFD on the World Wide Web:
www.daytonfolkdance.com/mvfd



SEPTEMBER 2008

THE NEWS



The Stockton Adventure or, The Sisterhood of the Traveling Skirts

On July 27th, Joanne, Dolores, Lina, Mei-Hwa, and Janifer packed their bags and headed for Stockton Folk Dance Camp in California. (For the statistically minded, that's 9% of MVFD's active membership.) The flyer promised total immersion in folk dance and culture with outstanding teachers – and it was indeed true! There were six dance classes per day – Italian, Romanian, Bulgarian, Russian, Polish and Armenian – with expert teachers. We generally chose only five classes each, so we'd have time for sessions on Polish singing, dances for all ages, Island dances, contras, wreath-making (for the final banquet), and, yes, an occasional nap. There were also culture sessions to attend, a talent show, and an auction. Each evening included a party with reviews of that day's dances, and an after-party that started at 11:30 and lasted till all hours. The week ended with a festive banquet with a Polish theme. Each table had to sing for its supper – in Polish! (We actually practiced.) And there was a grand march into the great hall for the party. By the end of the week we were exhausted, but very pleased with the dances we had learned and the experiences we had shared. It was a great week, and we hope to share some of these dances with MVFD over the next year.

– Joanne Dombrowski

We'll be dancing on New Year's Day!

The Chair Rocks Forward

It's not too early to begin thinking about any items you might want to bring up at the Annual Meeting in January. Any changes to our governing documents must be presented to the membership in advance. If you have anything to be raised at the meeting, please notify an officer no later than November 1. We'll try to get notification out by December 1. We hope to have a mini-workshop-party in October or November with Ricky Holden. Now a resident of Belgium, he will be in the US this fall. He has been involved with recreational dance since the 1940s. Pull a set of instructions out of our instruction books and it is very likely to have his name on it. He has published books, instructions, and articles on contra dance, Greek dance, square dance, Assyrian dance, international dance, etc. Ricky is one of the fathers of folk dancing in the US. Watch for an announcement of the date of this not-to-be missed event! Enjoy the rest of the summer!

—Leslie Hyll



Our New Cinci Member!

Jay Williams can't make Thursdays, but she rarely misses an Ethnic Sunday, and we are very pleased to welcome her as our latest member. Jay was born in Yellow Springs, where her father encouraged her outdoors interests so effectively that she is now a zookeeper in Cincinnati.

Jay says she was 10 years old when one of her friends dragged her to the community folkdance, which was then led by Rex Barger. The moment she saw the dancing and heard the

music, she was hooked! It wasn't long before Jay's entire family was going folkdancing every Saturday night.

As a teenager Jay danced in Vermont. When she attended Antioch College from 1970 to 1975, she danced with Dick and Billie Eastman whenever she could find time between her two part-time jobs and school. When she moved to Cinci in 1975, though, between her work (which involved weekends) and spells of ill health, she dropped out.

It was a conversation with a homeless woman that finally put Jay in touch with the Cinci folkdancers at U.C. She found herself dancing just enough to keep the music in her head, tantalizing her. Finally, in 2006, she made a promise to herself to get back to dancing regularly, whatever it took.

Not only did she keep that promise, but thanks to another conversation (this time after Quaker meeting in Yellow Springs) Jay found herself organizing the 2007 Antioch Alumni Folkdance (a great success, as a number of us remember). After that, she looked for someone to take responsibility for organizing a monthly folkdance for the community. Well, guess who everyone thought should do it.... Jay likes a format with very little teaching and easy, melodious dances that pull everyone in, and that approach seems to be drawing people from all around.

Jay's favorite dances are line and circle, and she admits that she leans towards Israeli and Bulgarian. She has a special place in her heart for Mayim, which was her very first dance. But she also remembers vividly when she finally became old enough (about 12 or 13) to do Dobrudzanska Reka with the grownups – a real rite of passage! Jay enjoys giving the next generation the

gifts of beauty, music, and dance that she received as a child – all of which can be found in folkdance.

Milestones and News

The Montgomery County Fair is just over, and **Nancy Hyll** has once again done us proud. She entered 30 items in household arts and antiques and received 26 ribbons – 10 1st place, 7 2nd place, some 3rds, and some honorable mentions. Great job, Nancy!

Well, we knew he could write prose, but **Bill Vernon** was also one of the Poetry Winners in the 12th Annual Dayton Daily News Short Story and Poetry Contest. His poem, called "In This Uncolored Picture," reflects on a snapshot of his father as a young man, taken in the hills of Perry County.

And **Harry Khamis** is back from his European travels with yet another diploma in Swedish polska dancing. He's now the only non-Swede to hold *eight* of these diploms awarded by the Svenska Folkdansringen!

Carole Pappas tells us that as of August 20th she and **John** have another granddaughter. Mirai was born in Italy (Aviano Air Base) to their son Eric Oglesbee and his wife Davida.

MVFD supplied *two* staff members to the Door County Folk Festival – **Leslie Hyll** taught dances at both the beginner and intermediate levels, while **Eddie Cordray** did sound for much of the festival (even at 8 AM).



Coming Chances to Dance

→ This just in (and almost here): The **Hungarian Club's Grapedance** has been scheduled for Saturday, **September 27th**. Harmonia will come from Cleveland to play! 4475 Old Troy Pike, south of Needmore.

→ No longer so far ahead is **The South Slavic Club's Fall Kolo Party**, featuring the Detroit Off Beats, which will be held on Saturday, **October 4th** at the Czech Club at 8 PM (teaching at 7).

→ Don't forget the **October Moon Grand Ball, October 11th**!

→ Help our treasury: Join other MVFD members at a **paid demonstration** in New Lebanon on an **October Sunday**. Details soon!

→ And we might not get to dance a lot ourselves, but buy your tickets now (through Cityfolk) for the **Duquesne University Tamburitzans** performance at Centerville High at 2 PM on Sunday, **December 7th**!

If You're Happy....

During the Cityfolk festival, I was hosting some students from China. In the afternoon, the students enjoyed the participation tent immensely – everyone was doing their own thing and laughing at how ridiculous we all looked. In the evening, I told them we had to go back because there would be great, easy dancing when the Balkan band played.

Well, many more people were dancing, but *no one* was smiling, and *no one* seemed to be having a good (let alone a great) time. Within 10 minutes, my guests said they were ready to leave because it was boring.

Then I looked around on Thursday evening and realized that very few people look as though they are having a good time then. If we want people to think folk dancing is fun, then we need to look as though *we* think it is!

— Louise Van Vliet