

CALENDAR

MVFD Events

➤ DECEMBER

Regular Dance (beginners, 7 PM):

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 (**party!!**), 29

Ethnic Sunday: Dec. 11, 2:30 PM

➤ JANUARY

Regular Dance (beginners, 7 PM):

Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26

Annual Meeting: Jan 8, 2:30 PM

➤ FEBRUARY

Regular Dance (beginners, 7 PM):

Feb.. 2, 9, 16, 23

Ethnic Sunday: Feb. 12, 2:30 PM

Other Regular Events

Scottish Dancing – The Flying Ghillies. Beginning & intermediate classes on Mondays, 7:30 PM, Mangan Banquet Ctr., 1585 Grange Hall, Beaver Creek.

Israeli Folk Dancing – Classic and modern for all. 6-8 PM most Wednesdays at the Boonshoft CJCE, Centerville. \$3. janifer.tsou@gmail.com.

Cityfolk Contra Dances at the Pavilion – 7:30 instruction, 8:00 contras. \$7 adults, \$5 students, under 12 free. **No dance in Dec.** Jan.6, The Corndrinkers with Kathy Anderson. Feb. 3, Full Moon Country Dance Orchestra with Ken Gall. March 2, Coffee Zombies with Susan Moffett.

English Country Dance – Kathy Anderson and Leslie Hyll. Historic and modern. 7-9:00 PM, Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Feb. 19, the Pavilion.

Columbus Balkan Night Dance Parties – **FRIDAY** Dec. 16, Holiday Hip-Hop; Sat. Jan. 28, Winter Waltz; Sat. Feb. 11, Torrid Tango.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

MVFD Council

Chairperson:.....**Joanne Dombrowski**
426-8509....joanne.dombrowski@wright.edu

Vice Chair:.....**John Pappas**
291-3343.....jepappas@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:.....**Bill Vernon**
294- 6722.....verwill@hotmail.com

Treasurer:..... **Lee Moser**
885-4698.....moserted@aol.com

Member-at-Large:.....**Carolyn Stovall**
427-2120..... .cstovall31@aol.com

Committee Assignments

Historian.....Leslie Hyll

Kitchen.....Ellen Rice

Membership.....Lee Moser

Miami Valley Dance Council and
Pavilion Support Committee

Representative.....Carolyn Stovall

MVFD Webmaster.....Leslie Hyll

Newsletter Editor.....Ellen Rice
(277-1814.....efrice927@att.net)

Orientation Class Coordinator
.....John Pappas

Program Committee
.....Chair, Harry Khamis

.....Lina Considine

.....Meredith Martin

.....Dan Reckers

.....Jim Rohal

.....Rose Vernon

Publicity.....Dolores Brooks

Recordings & Equipment Maintenance
.....Edmund Cordray

Refreshments.....Lee Moser



DON'T FORGET!

Our spring workshop will be on
March 24th and 25th
with Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu



DECEMBER 2011

THE NEWS



★ Dancing Very Soon ★

- ❖ Just a reminder that we have the regular MVFD Christmas-party evening, and another wonderful MVFD New Year's Eve party with live music, in rapid succession! Set the Chair's Corner for details.

★ Dancing in the Winter ★

- ❖ We have two overlapping winter chances to dance coming up:
 - The **Columbus Folk Dancers' winter workshop** will be held February 24-26, mostly at the Fourth Avenue Christian Church. CFD's featured teacher this year is Dave Vinski, who last taught there in 2001. He does a lot of teaching and choreographing in the Pittsburgh area (including some for the Tammies!), and will probably focus on Balkan oldies. Details to come....
 - The **Miami Valley Dance Council's Honor Dance** – which will announce the winning Honor Dancers – is scheduled for Sunday, March 4th, at 6:30 PM in the Pavilion. MVDC is hoping to put together a dance that will appeal to square, round, *and* folk dancers!

★ Teaching Dance ★

- ❖ Several issues related to teaching will be raised at the annual meeting. Should all teaching be done during the 7-8 PM time period? If not, should the intermediate teaching be moved to 9:30? Our Chair encourages you to come and vote, and provides her insights here.
“It is, of course, very difficult to meet the needs of everyone each week. In general, teaching provides a means to include more people in the action—without limiting the repertoire to only easy dances. The 7-8 PM class is designed to provide newer dancers with an enjoyable hour of dancing, so that they will come back, learn more, and become permanent members. But many dances we enjoy are not suitable for newer dancers, and this is the reason MVFD has 9:00-9:30 teaching. The later session provides an opportunity to review more advanced dances, and to introduce some new ones.
“Moving intermediate teaching to a later slot is an issue for the membership to decide. However, I am concerned that those members who currently leave right after the 9-9:30 session might not be able to stay for a 9:30-10 teaching session. Please consider what would work best for allowing everyone to review the harder dances and try new ones.”



The Chair's Corner

The holiday season has begun, and you are invited to some very special MVFD events!

First, the 8 PM dancing on **Thursday, December 22**, will be a Christmas Party that includes some seasonal music. A contribution to the refreshments would be appreciated.

On **Saturday, December 31**, there will be a New Year's Eve party with live music by Vatra Živa (the same band that played last year). We were fortunate enough to be able to get the Pavilion on New Year's Eve this year! Doors will open at 8:00 PM.

There will be request dancing from 8:00 to 9:00. Vatra Živa will play traditional folk dances from 9:00 to 12:00. Admission is \$10 plus something for the refreshment table. It was a really great party last year, so please plan to join us! Spouses, friends, and family are all welcome; we'll do a couple of dances for them as well.

Last, the MVFD Annual Meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 8, 2012**. The Pavilion will open at 2:30, and the meeting will begin promptly at 3:00. Agenda items include a review of the previous year, committee reports, a creative announcement of the honor dancer(s) (which is always fun!), a discussion of future plans and possibilities, and the election of officers.

Please come and join the discussion. It's your group we're making plans for, and we want to hear your thoughts and preferences!

Happy holidays to all,

—Joanne Dombrowski

COME DANCE THE OLD YEAR OUT AND THE NEW YEAR IN AT THE PAVILION!



News

We got two people's worth of prizes into the newsletter last time, but neglected to mention **Charlene Lacroix**! Charlene entered acrylic paintings in both the Montgomery County and Greene County fairs. In Montgomery County, she won a first prize and an honorable mention. In Greene County, however, she received three second prizes, two first prizes, and a Best of Show! Huzzah!



Preview

MVFD is very pleased to announce that for our 60th anniversary workshop on March 24th and 25th we will have **Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu**! Most of us will remember their workshop here in Spring 2009, but it's safe to say that anyone who missed them should reserve the 24th–25th NOW. Sonia and Cristian are delightful teachers, very clear and precise but also very friendly and funny. They will teach mostly Romanian and Gypsy dances – and you'll love them!



A New Member!

Our newest member is **Jim Hessler**, who is almost a local boy. The son of a USAF Master Sergeant, he grew up on the south side of Columbus, and worked his way through OSU to become an electrical engineer. Jim went to work for IBM straight out of college, first on IBM 370 mainframe hardware in Endicott, NY and then on AS/400 software in Rochester, MN. (He claims to miss Minnesota, even with the cold!)

Next Jim took a job in Cincinnati to be closer to his family – only his new employer went bankrupt. But he found a job in Kettering with Scitex Digital Printing, writing embedded software for commercial printers. He has been with

them for the last 14 years (through their purchase by Kodak), and long ago moved to Oakwood.

After having been married for 21 years, Jim is in the process of getting divorced. But he is proud of his three children! Olivia is a freshman at OSU; Ethan is an Oakwood High School sophomore; and Elliott is a 6th grader at Smith Elementary.

In college, Jim danced in clubs along High Street. However, it was only after a 21-year break that he turned to dance to help him recover from deep bipolar depression. His first step out was to a Cityfolk contra dance, where he met Tony van der Slujs. Tony, who reminds Jim of his polka-dancing uncles, told him about MVFD.

Now, Jim says, dancing has replaced his medication, and the great Dayton dance community has replaced his psychologist! He has always enjoyed world beat music; so dancing to it is awesome. Jim has also tried polka, salsa, Scottish country dance, and drum line. He admits that sometimes he just likes to watch others dance – DCDC, ballet, Cityfolk....

Pressed for other things he enjoys doing, Jim chooses three. He is a walker/hiker; walking in the snow is his favorite (that Minnesota thing again), and walking under a full moon is a close second. He likes foreign and indie movies. And he considers the library his second home. But he says his current motto is "Life is too short for regrets – let's dance!"



What's the fuss over the orientation class teaching?

Some MVFD members have been wondering out loud why we have a list

of core dances to be taught during the 7:00 to 8:00 PM session.

The answer is that at various times certain types or nationalities of dance become very popular (as, for example, Israeli is today), but over the years preferences change. For example, Scandinavian dance was all the rage for a while. Balkan is still popular, but not as much as it once was. German, English... the list goes on.

In MVFD's early days, all members were couples, and couple dances predominated; these days the converse is true. The core list is designed to incorporate dances from all around the world as much as possible, both to give today's dancers some knowledge of the different kinds of folkdance available, and to provide alternatives for those dancers who enjoy dance types other than the currently popular ones.

MVFD has been blessed with an organization that promotes longevity, with a teaching core of qualified individuals, and with a membership that accepts dances from various locations without too much angst. Many folkdance groups around the nation have had peaks of membership that swelled when a particular type of dance dominated, and then collapsed when that type became less popular. The core list, and its emphasis on teaching interesting and historical dances from all over, is partly designed to make sure that never happens to us.

MVFD is an *international* folk dance group, so we strive to balance breadth of repertoire with responsiveness to our members' current interests. I believe that teaching to the core list will do this over a couple of years, cumbersome as it may sometimes be.

John Pappas