

M.V.D.C. Honor Roll Dancer(s) Nomination

Nominating Club

Miami Valley Folk Dancers (MVFD)

Name, Address, & Phone of Couple/Person(s)

Leslie Hyll & Edmund Cordray
4811 Arcadia Blvd.
Dayton, OH 45432
937-252-0638

Number of Years Dancing

50+ years

Club Elected Positions and Years Held (Pres., VP, Sec., etc.)

Elected positions Leslie and Ed have held within MVFD are:

- **Representative to MVDC (1988)**
- **Club Chairperson (1989, 1996, 2007, 2008)**
- **Vice Chair (1994)**
- **Treasurer (1997)**

Club Appointed Positions and Years Held (Kitchen Chairperson, etc.)

Appointed positions Leslie and Ed have held within MVFD are:

- **Program Committee (various years; Chair 1986,1987, 2004)**
- **Workshop Chair (12 workshops over the years)**
- **Publicity Chair (1988-1991)**
- **Recording/Equipment Engineer (1994-present)**
- **Newsletter Editor (1996-1999)**
- **Historian/Archivist (1996-present)**
- **Beginner's Class Committee (2004-2008)**

Service at Club Level (Kitchen, Greeters, Clean-up, Decorate, etc.)

The list of appointed and elected positions Leslie and Ed have held – and hold – speaks for itself. The attached write-up details the scope of their activities, both for MVFD and in the greater dance community. These activities are *very* briefly summarized here:

- **Leslie teaches frequently (Ed less often) for MVFD and for other groups.**
- **Leslie created a new MVFD position in 1997, Webmaster. She maintains not only our website, but a folk dancers' e-mail grouplist and an even wider address/contact database. She also has redefined the position of Historian by scanning cartons full of MVFD records and making the resulting digital files available to all on our website!**
- **Leslie initiated and chaired MVFD's Digital Syllabus Project, covering workshops from 1953 to 2004.**
- **Ed manages MVFD's large library of music, having migrated it from records to CDs to indexed computer files over the years. An experienced sound tech, he provides sound services not only for MVFD's visiting teachers and bands, but for other local groups as well as for various concerts, festivals, and camps.**
- **Ed chaired the Michael Solomon Support Committee for 12 years, overseeing major improvements to the building where MVFD dances, and personally taking care of virtually all its maintenance.**

However, they contribute in many smaller ways as well. For example, Ed has arranged for a number of mini-workshops in addition to our regular workshops, while Leslie tracks the dances played and taught each week so we have a cumulative record and can do statistical analysis at the end of the year. They take care of a lot of the loose ends, whether it's laminating badges or mending curtains or finding beds for out-of-town visitors. But please see the long writeup!

Number of Raids and Retrievals

MVFD does not "raid"; this is not customary in folk dance.

Special Activities (Organize or Assist with Demos, Weekend & Week long Workshops, Special Dances, Parades, World A'Fair, State Fair, Festivals, etc.)

Leslie and Ed have planned and danced in a wide range of demos for many years now. They have danced at the Waynesville Sauerkraut Festival, MVDC Day in the Park and Holiday at Home demos, and myriad demos for nursing homes, schools, and all kinds of social organizations (including the Buckeye Dance Conventions) in a remarkable range of venues.

Ed and Leslie have chaired various weekend dance workshops, including the Tri-City Folk Dance Festival for several years. In addition, they have helped to identify suitable teachers for MVFD's workshops for at least the last 20 years.

Leslie and Ed have been involved with the Dayton International Festival Inc. (A World A'Fair) every year since 1982 (Leslie) or 1990 (Ed). In connection with AWAFF, one (or both) of them has:

- performed with four different ethnic dance groups
- choreographed and directed American, Croatian, Slovenian, Macedonian, and Pan-Slavic suites for the Živio South Slavic Dancers
- directed and choreographed for the Bagatelle French Dancers for 10 years
- directed the Italian dancers for 3 years
- directed, choreographed, or consulted for the Beseda Czech and Slovak dancers for 5 years

And that doesn't count the many performers' dance costumes Leslie has sewn or embroidered over 30-plus years! Or the sound services Ed has provided to dance groups, bands, festivals, and camps from California to Wisconsin to Ohio (including Cityfolk as well as MVFD and other local venues).

M.V.D.C Position and Years Held (Pres., VP, Treasurer, Trustee, etc.)

Ed has served as Michael Solomon Support Committee Chair (1998-2010).

Leslie has served (in addition to being MVFD's liaison) as the following:

- Constitution & Bylaws Committee Chair (2002)
- Honor Dance Chair (2005, 2007, 2008)
- MVDC Historian (2010-present)

State & National Positions and Years Held (State Corp, State & National Convention Positions, etc.)

Ed has served as State Convention Treasurer (2006, 2011).

Leslie has served as State Convention Folk Dance Chair (2001, 2006). In addition, she has organized demos and MVFD's participation in costume shows when the convention has been in Dayton. For the 2011 Convention, she prepared displays on the history of square dance and of MVDC.

State & National Conventions Attended

California: 1975-1980

National: 1982

Ohio: 1984, 1988, 1991, 1995, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2011

In addition to State and National Square Dance Conventions, Ed and Leslie have attended a great many folk dance and leadership workshops, festivals, and camps, among them the below:

Various MVFD Ethnic Folk Dance Workshops 1972-present (far too numerous to list!)

Planina Folk Dance Camp 1972-1976

Bannerman Family Folk Dance Camp 1974-1975

Kentucky Dance Institute 1975, 1977, 1980

California Statewide Festival 1975-1980

Peninsula Council January Festival 1975-1980

Oregon State Folk Dance Camp 1979-1981

Lloyd Shaw Foundation Workshop 1981

Maine Folk Dance Camp 1983

Oakland Scandinavian Festival 1984-1986

Stockton Folk Dance Camp 1986, 2007

Christmas Country Dance School, Berea 1987

Mendocino Balkan Music & Dance Camp 1987-1989

Scandinavian Week at Buffalo Gap 1989

Swedish-American Week in Sweden 1990

Telemark Experience, Norway 1990

Door County Folk Festival 2007-2011

Buffalo on the Danube 2009, 2010

Boston—Montreal Folk Dance Cruise 2011

Oglebay Folk Dance Camps, Old World Music & Dance Camps, San Francisco Kolo Festivals (various)

M.V.D.C Honor Roll Dancer(s) Nomination (Write Up)

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Write Up

Because of the scope and depth of their involvement with the Miami Valley Folk Dancers, MVDC, and the greater Dayton dance community, MVFD has chosen to nominate Leslie Hyll and Edmund Cordray as MVDC 2012 Honor Roll Dancers. The positions they have held with MVFD, their contributions to MVDC, and their involvement in various recreational dance groups and events (not just in Dayton) all bear witness to the leading role they have played in recreational dance for more than 35 years.

Leslie Hyll became a member of the Miami Valley Folk Dancers in 1972 at age 12, having spent her pre-teen years in the square dance community. With her parents, Lou and Nancy Hyll, she attended dance workshops in Ohio, Kentucky, and Virginia. As a teenager she danced with the Kettering Historical Dancers, and wrote a published paper on the history of American folk dance. During and after her college years, Leslie broadened her knowledge by attending dance workshops from Maine to Norway.

Ed Cordray had dancing parents as well, and was an accomplished folk dancer by age 12. The list of his West Coast memberships at the end of this writeup shows that he was usually active in several clubs at a time, with an emphasis on Balkan dance. In his twenties, he performed in the semiprofessional ensemble Westwind. Ed has attended dance camps all over the country; he was 17 when he partnered his sister as she taught Norwegian dance workshops across the U.S.

It is therefore no surprise that when Ed found himself in Dayton for a training course and checked out the local dancing, he should have found a kindred spirit in Leslie. Their commitment to dance was apparent even in their 1991 wedding, which was held in folk costume at the Michael Solomon Pavilion

and attended by many in the Dayton dance community. Ed and Leslie continue to attend workshops together; in the past few years they have been in not only Ohio but Indiana, Illinois, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and California.

Leslie and Ed's breadth of experience has made them a wonderful resource for recreational dance in Dayton. Leslie is perhaps the most knowledgeable of MVFD's dancer-instructors, and gladly teaches dances at any level. Her repertory is wide, although she particularly enjoys English, German, French, and American dances. (Ed's range is also wide, but emphasizes the Slavic dances.) Leslie has taught courses in dance at Wright State University, and always includes some teaching and audience participation in the demos she arranges. She has helped several local ethnic groups rediscover and present their dances. She organized the Tri-City Folk Dance Festival for several years.

Leslie established (and continues to maintain) a website for the Miami Valley Folk Dancers that provides not only information about our club, but links to ethnic and folk dance groups all over Ohio as well as to related organizations like MVDC and Culture Works. In addition, she has set up and manages a group e-mail account for members of MVFD and other interested folk dancers. Leslie also maintains a database of present and past club members as well as dance contacts throughout the Midwest and even farther afield, which the club uses for mailings and publicity.

One of the largest of Leslie's undertakings has been the creation of a CD containing scanned syllabi from every known workshop sponsored by MVFD from 1953 to 2004. The alphabetical index of all the dances runs to 22 pages of small type. In 2000 she organized a massive scanning and proofreading effort; with the help of numerous MVFD members (and Ed), the CD was completed and published in 2005. Orders for this syllabus CD have come in from all over the country as well as abroad! Leslie and Ed are contributing all profits from this labor of love to the club.

Leslie has written a history of MVFD, and maintains both hard-copy and electronic archives of programs, letters, photographs, and other documents dating back to the club's beginning. Digital copies of hundreds of historical artifacts are publicly available on the MVFD website. Leslie has now turned her organizational and computer skills to preserving the history of MVDC. She has established an on-line digital archive for MVDC and is busily discovering, scanning, and organizing MVDC artifacts.

For his part, Ed has taken charge of preserving the wealth of music that MVFD has acquired over its nearly-60-year history, from records to digital files. After transferring all of the club's records and tapes to a CD format (some 350-400 hours of work), he updated the club's book-sized listing to show all music by name, nationality, type, and CD number. As technology progressed, he put all the CD music onto a computer that offers our members speedy retrieval and considerable flexibility in handling the music. (No more record boxes!!) As members bring back music and dances from new workshops, and as software evolves, Ed continues to update our collection and add new capabilities.

All the groups that dance at the Pavilion have benefited from Ed's willingness to take on responsibilities. His chairing of MVDC's Michael Solomon Support Committee for 12 years contributed greatly to its current status as possibly THE best dance hall in Dayton. He oversaw the refinishing of the floor, installation of a new roof, and improvements to the women's restroom and kitchen. Ed personally painted the outside of the entire building, and took care of most of the ongoing repairs and maintenance to the Pavilion, from installing new locks or gutters to replacing the hot-water heater – and much more. Somehow the wall panels were magically in place come winter, the light bulbs replaced themselves....

Between 1972 and 1988, before he moved to Dayton, Ed had regularly provided sound for bands at half a dozen established West Coast dance camps and festivals. He continues to provide or manage sound at various local dances, including many of the Cityfolk contra nights, and at the Door County Folk Festival in Wisconsin. (His choice of car is dictated by the need to transport an entire sound system at the drop of a hat.) Ed has put his skills at the disposal of a number of local dance groups as well as visiting teachers.

Both Ed and Leslie have created and nurtured relationships with other cultural organizations, such as Cityfolk, Culture Works, and Dayton Dance Partners. These partnerships have introduced recreational dance to a larger audience than just MVFD or MVDC, while bringing to Dayton some teachers or bands that clubs could not have afforded on their own. Ed and Leslie started out by contributing their time and knowledge; when the first National Folk Festival was held in Dayton, they recruited and organized volunteer workers for the event and presented a style show of ethnic costumes. Over the years, however, they have quietly increased their financial support to these institutions, and have been instrumental in helping them continue despite Dayton's economic challenges.

For their many combined years of contributions to recreational dance in Dayton, and their continued commitment to keeping folk dance available to the greater Dayton community, MVFD is proud to nominate Leslie Hyll and Edmund Cordray as MVDC 2012 Honor Roll Dancers. Together, they have truly helped to shape the face of recreational dance in this city for the past 20 years.

PRESENT AND PAST CLUB MEMBERSHIPS:

Leslie and Ed are currently active in five dance organizations:

- Miami Valley Folk Dancers 1971-present
- Živio South Slavic Dancers 1981-present
- Lloyd Shaw Foundation 1984-present (American dance)
- Society of Folk Dance Historians 1987-present
- Country Dance and Song Society of America 1991-present (American and English dance)

Over the years they have been members of a considerable number of other dance groups, including:

- Kolo San Francisco 1969-1973
- Menlo Park Balkan Dancers 1972-1978
- Sierra Singles 1974-1978
- Palo Alto Scottish Country Dancers 1975-1978
- Kettering Historical Dancers 1975-1982
- Stanford Advanced Balkan Dancers 1975-1980
- Stanford Friday Night Folk Dancers 1975-1978, 1983-1987
- Oregon State University Folk Dancers 1980-1982
- Westwind Folk Ensemble 1985-1987
- Berkeley Folk Dancers 1987-1990
- Bagatelle French Dancers 1990-1999

In addition to the dance-oriented organizations listed above, Ed and Leslie have belonged to:

- South Slavic Club
- Liederkranz-Turner German Club
- American Czechoslovakian Club
- Dayton Dance Partners
- Cityfolk