

## CALENDAR

### MVFD Events

#### ➤ DECEMBER

**Regular Dance** (beginners, 7 PM):

December 5, 12, 19, 26

**Play It Again:** Dec. 8, 2:30 PM

**\*New Year's Eve party: Dec. 31!\***

#### ➤ JANUARY

**Regular Dance** (beginners, 7 PM):

January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

**\*Annual Meeting: Jan. 5, 2:30 PM\***

#### ➤ FEBRUARY

**Regular Dance** (beginners, 7 PM):

February 6, 13, 20, 27

**Play It Again:** Feb. 9, 2:30 PM

### Other Regular Events

**Scottish Dancing** – The Flying Ghillies. Beginning and intermediate groups, Monday nights at the Mangan Banquet Ctr., 1585 Grange Hall, Beaver Creek. 7:30 PM.

**Israeli Folk Dancing** – Classic and modern for all! Dec. 4, 11, 18; Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26. At Temple Beth Or; \$3. 6 PM, beginners (\$1); 7-9 PM, program & intermediate teaching. janifer.tsou@gmail.com.

**Yellow Springs Folk Dancing** – Meets most Fridays at the John Bryan Community Center (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), 6:30-8:30 PM. Free! Check with Patty Gehring at plg2010@yahoo.com.

**Dayton Contra Dance Parties at the Pavilion** – 7:30 PM instruction, 8:00 PM contras. \$7 adults, \$5 students, under 12 free. **December 6**, Dan, Debbie & Whitt with Josh Moses; **January 3**, Gallimaufry with Michael Hamilton; **February 7**, Jim's Red Pants with Steve Edwards.

**Columbus "Balkan Night" Dance Parties** – Dec. 28, Jan. 25, and Feb. 22. Check with Ellen Rice.

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

### MVFD Council

**Chairperson:**.....**Harry Khamis**  
546-6092.....harry.khamis@wright.edu

**Vice Chair:**.....**Colleen Dillon**  
839-5490.....llamaccd@gmail.com

**Secretary:**.....**Jim Rohal**  
824-0742.....jim@jimrohal.com

**Treasurer:**.....**Maureen Moloney**  
222-5255.....bigmo@daytonfolkdance.com

**Member-at-Large:**.....**Janifer Tsou**  
436-2167.....kumon@woh.rr.com

### Committee Assignments

Historian.....Leslie Hyll

Kitchen.....Ellen Rice

.....Rose Vernon

Membership.....Ellen Rice

Miami Valley Dance Council and

Pavilion Support Committee

Representative.....Janifer Tsou

MVFD Webmaster.....Leslie Hyll

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

Orientation Class Coordinators

.....Harry Khamis and John Pappas  
Program Committee

.....Chair, Bill Vernon

.....Mary Haritos

.....Marsha Markert

.....Lee Moser

.....Carole Pappas

.....Ellen Rice

Publicity.....Dolores Brooks

Recordings & Equipment Maintenance

.....Edmund Cordray

Refreshments.....Lee Moser

Sunshine.....Lee Moser



### EXCEPTION FOR 2014!!!

*The 2014 MVFD Annual Meeting will be held on the first Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.*



## DECEMBER 2013

# THE NEWS



### **MVFD New Year's Eve Party**

We're doing it again! MVFD will celebrate the advent of 2014 not at the Pavilion, but in Beaver Creek at C.I. Beaver Hall – the same place where we had our NYE party last year. (It's at 3696 Highmont St. – take Forestdale off Dayton-Xenia Rd. and bear left; the hall is on the right.)

Even better, **Vatra Živa** will play for us again! (And this year their wonderful singer/clarinetist will be in town, too.) They will play mostly Balkan dances, plus some polkas and waltzes and such, but our dance computer will be available for other requests. The plan is for Vatra Živa to play 45-minute sets, with half-hour request periods in between.



The party will run from **8:30 PM to midnight** on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The price of admission this year is \$12 – plus a treat to share with everyone. Coffee and a berry drink will be provided; the rest is up to you. There will be games and company for non-dancers – bring them along!

### **Contra Dance Fundraising Party**

Cityfolk may be dormant, but its contra dances have become a separate, volunteer-run organization called the **Dayton Contra Dance Parties**. They still dance at the Pavilion on first Fridays, but have almost no financial support! So DCDP is holding a **fundraiser dance on Sunday, January 12** to build a foundation.

The band will be Changeling (Karl and Deborah Colon), with Mark & Hilarie Burhans; Kathy Anderson will call. (They're great, and are donating their services!) If you've never been, this would be a perfect time to try contra dancing! The schedule is:

- Advanced Contras 2–4 pm  
(Dinner Break & Potluck 4–5 pm)
- Contras and Squares 5–7 pm

The cost is \$7 for one session or \$10 for both; children 12 and under are free. A 50/50 raffle and silent auction are planned, so auction items (from preserves or dancewear to CDs or services) would be most welcome! Bring them to a contra dance, or tell Beth Mast (dancinbeth@juno.com or 937-299-2016) that they're coming on the 12<sup>th</sup>. She can also answer any questions you have.



## The Chair's Corner

A few notes to all: Last month we lost one of our youngest and most enthusiastic dancers, Meredith Martin, completely unexpectedly. Her tragic and untimely death defies understanding. Her smile, energy, youth, and friendliness will be sorely missed in our Club.

We had a wonderful weekend of English Country Dances with Brad Foster on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>! It truly was a multi-city occasion, with 54 ECD dancers appearing from both south and east as well as the environs of Dayton. Brad is an exceptionally engaging teacher, and talked us through 30 planned dances and a few unplanned ones. As workshop chair, I am grateful to the many volunteers who staffed registration, kept the refreshments refreshed, and organized and sold the jumble. And our sound wizard!

**IMPORTANT!!!** Please note on your calendar: **MVFD's Annual Meeting will be held on January 5<sup>th</sup>** at the Pavilion, 3:00 - 5:00 pm. That's a **first Sunday**; we are holding the meeting early to accommodate the contra-dance fundraiser.

Three people will be going off Council (Jim Rohal, Janifer Tsou, and I) so we have three slots to fill. Please come vote! (Maureen Moloney and Colleen Dillon have another year of their terms to run.) Please be aware that any proposed changes to the rules and regulations must be delivered to the membership **by December 23<sup>rd</sup>** at the latest.

With best wishes for a warm and healthy holiday season,

—Harry Khamis



## A Distressing Milestone

First, the sad milestone that most of the local people are already aware of: **Meredith Martin** died on November 8<sup>th</sup>. She was only 21! It was a shock to us all, and we don't yet have the results of the tests made afterwards. Meredith danced with MVFD regularly during her last year at Vandalia-Butler High School (2009-10), and frequently during her first semester at Wright State. She vanished when she went off to work for six months at a collective farm in Mexico, but then reappeared when she came back to Dayton and started school at Antioch.

Meredith was dancing more regularly in Yellow Springs these days, and was planning to be part of the South Slavs' performing group, Živio, at A World A'Fair. We will all miss her megawatt smile, her love of dancing, and most of all her zest for life.



## More Cheerfully...

**Ray Gottschall** has just reached three-quarters of a century! He started dancing 64 years ago, and believes that he is last surviving charter member of the MVFD. When Ray started dancing, it was still the Dayton Folk Dance Club, and he was around when Michael Solomon persuaded the City of Dayton to replace the floor and winterize the Pavilion. Ray comments that he was also fortunate enough to become friends with some of the great folkdance teachers of the '60s and '70s, in the course of his travels to both coasts.



## Chances to Dance

First, the South Slavs' holiday dinner dance will be held on **December 7<sup>th</sup>** at the Czech & Slovak Club. Dinner reservations have closed already, but come at 8 PM to dance to Orkestar Zabava (ex-Tammies used to playing for dancers). Santa will visit too! The cost for the dance (only) is \$12.

Second, don't forget that John and Carole Pappas will oversee our Christmas party on Thursday, **December 19<sup>th</sup>**. Bring a treat to share, and expect jingly surprises....



## Health News

Both **Nancy Hyll** and **Jeanette Watts** are making good progress! Nancy is at home, receiving weekly chemotherapy for her pancreatic cancer. Give her a call if you'd like to visit. Jeanette has had radiation for her breast cancer, is taking chemo, and is now allowed to do cartwheels again!



## Fairly New: Hongping Lü

Hongping Lü was born in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province and one of China's largest cities, with over 14 million inhabitants!

Just as Hongping started school, the Cultural Revolution began. Her parents and her older brother and sister were all sent to farms to work on bringing in the harvest. Except on holidays, she lived alone in the family apartment during her first few years in grade school! She was fortunate that her family was allowed to keep the apartment, but it was still a challenge for a small girl to live alone in a place with no telephone, TV, or refrigerator.

When Hongping graduated from high school, she found work as a lathe operator. She next got a civil service job with the city of Chengdu, and finally started a business of her own dealing in bottled gas.

Hongping married, but not long after her son was born, her husband ran off with another woman! She singlehandedly reared her son and

put him through college – and then acquired a modern condo in suburban Chengdu where he, his wife, and their now three-year-old son live. (Her son works for the city.)

Frank Fanning and Hongping met while he was teaching music in Shanghai. Even though she speaks very little English, she bravely agreed to come to Dayton to help Frank care for his father, who is 97 years old. They were married in Miamisburg last year.

Hongping loves cooking, knitting, embroidery, travel, and music. (And dancing with MVFD, thanks to her friends Grace Kau and Marsha Markert!) Frank and she plan to retire to Austria eventually – German next!



## In the Land of Chililí...

As we at MVFD happily walk, clap, and snap our fingers in nearly parallel lines, I always enjoy the music and the lyrics I can never sing along with. They are not in Bolivian Spanish, but instead in either Quechua or Aymará, two of the native languages still widely spoken in the land of the ancient Incas.

On a recent trip my husband and I took to Bolivia, we heard “Chililí-type” Andean music and saw lots of lively folk dancing, both in the streets and on the stage. Smiling faces, swirling multi-layered, multi-colored skirts, nimble leaps, stomping feet, playful flirtation, energy, and joy – all combined to dazzle and amuse any spectator.

I am glad that Chililí seems to be so popular with our club; it's a dance that even beginners can pick up easily (if not sing along with). It seems to me to reflect the joy of the Bolivian people, and their rich folkloric heritage.

—Colleen Dillon