



Michael Solomon Pavilion 2917 Berkley Street Dayton, Ohio 45409

February 18, 2008

Linda Hasting, President
Miami Valley Dance Council
1136 N. Detroit St. Lot 80
Xenia, OH 45385

Dear Linda,

The Miami Valley Folk Dancers (MVFD) is celebrating its 55th Anniversary. We respectfully request that the Miami Valley Dance Council add a star to our Anniversary plaque at the Michael Solomon Pavilion per the standing policies of the Council. (See Standing Policy 1.)

To mark our anniversary, we will sponsor an International Folk Dance Workshop on March 29 and 30, 2008. The instructors will be Ron Houston of Austin, Texas and Alix Cordray of Oslo, Norway. All sessions will be held at the Michael Solomon Pavilion. You and a guest are cordially invited to be our guest for dinner during the workshop on Saturday, March 29, 2008, at 6:00 pm. This dinner would be an excellent time to unveil the new star on our plaque. Please RSVP no later than March 20, 2008.

Attached is a brief history of our club. MVFD is proud to be an integral part of recreational dance in the greater Dayton area and a member of the Miami Valley Dance Council. We hope for another 55 years of cooperation and good dancing.

Sincerely,

Leslie Hyll, Chair
Miami Valley Folk Dancers
leslie.hyll@daytonfolkdance.com

cc: Lee Moser, MVFD Secretary
Enclosures

Member of Miami Valley Dance Council, Culture Works and CITYFOLK
www.daytonfolkdance.com/mvfd

In the fall of 2007, the Miami Valley Folk Dancers began its 55 th year.

Folk dancing in Dayton started in 1947 when Michael Solomon, a recreation employee for the City of Dayton, was introduced to international folk dancing by neighbors.

Miami Valley Folk Dancers started as a class in 1952 sponsored by the City of Dayton, Recreation Department. The class was so successful that a new club was formed, led by Michael Solomon and Grace Wolff¹. The initial membership fee was \$1.00 per month, which remained in effect until 1997. Today, the club, about 80 members strong, is led by a council with many people serving on committees and teaching and leading dances.

Over the years Miami Valley Folk Dancers has been dedicated to learning new dances, increasing members appreciation for many diverse cultures. (MVFD was into cultural diversity long before it was politically correct to tout cultural diversity.) In its history the club has sponsored over 80 weekend workshops with nationally and internationally known instructors. With each workshop we immersed ourselves into the culture of other countries with dance, singing, costumes, food, and fellowship. These workshops introduced us to the cultures of Scotland, Ireland, the Balkans, Germany, Poland, Denmark, Israel, England, Hungary, Greece, Canada, Italy, Romania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Austria, and many others. Mini-workshops have introduced us to the cultures of Russia, Turkey, Scandinavia, Slovenia, Croatia, and Africa.

The Miami Valley Folk Dancers and its members have been very active in the Dayton community. We have done countless demonstrations for nursing homes, schools, festivals, and community groups. From 1957 to 1961 our group opened

¹ Grace Wolff was also the first leader of the Miami Valley Round Dance Club. Grace is now 97.

the winter Sunday Music Series at the Dayton Art Institute. Our members were instrumental in developing a significant folk dance program with the Girl Scouts in the 50's and 60's. Several of those girl scout leaders became active members of our club. Other members have helped local ethnic clubs such as the Yugoslavs, French, Italians, and Czechs form their own dance groups and recapture the dances of their own cultures. In addition to our own weekly beginners class, members have taught folk dance classes for local night schools, the University of Dayton, and Wright State University. In fact, our members taught folk dance at Wright State for 17 years.

In recent years, the club has worked to preserve our history and heritage while moving into the digital age. Twenty members worked 4 years to produce a CD with dance instructions from all of our workshops from 1953-2004. Our music recordings have migrated from 78 rpm records to LPs and 45s to cassette tapes to CDs to .mp3 files on a laptop. We use an email list to communicate with members.

Today, our programs include a weekly beginners class on Thursdays from 7-8 pm, participatory dancing from 9 - 11 on Thursdays, and 2:30 – 5 pm on second Sundays of each month. Our membership includes singles, couples, and families. Everyone is always welcome, no partners or experience is necessary. Your first visit is always free, and, after that, the "outrageous" sum of \$1.50 is charged.

We hope to continue our traditions and create some news in the years ahead.