

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Dancers, foods, crafts, wares and exhibits from around the world will be represented at the 18th "International Fair" at Youngstown State University from 6 p.m. until midnight Friday, April 12, in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room.

The event is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by YSU's Federation of International Students in cooperation with Student Government, the festival will feature some 20 booths selling food and crafts and showing artifacts from various nations.

Entertainment will be provided by a slide presentation, an international fashion show and 15 different ethnic acts in native costumes performing music, songs, folk dancing and martial arts during the six hour gala.

The theme of the event is "A Circle of Friends," and circular tables will be set up in front of the stage for the audience to sit with their food samples and mingle with people of other cultures while watching the entertainment.

Linda Misja, formerly of New Castle, coordinator of the event and a YSU instructor of English for International Students, says the fair provides cross-cultural communication for the entire family without leaving Youngstown.

The acts will include: The Rickie Rock Dancers of Youngstown performing various aspects of American dance.

Joe Fandozzi III of New Castle, a YSU student performing Italian trumpet music.

YSU's Chinese Wushu Kung Fu Club performing Chinese martial arts under the direction of Nick Gracenin of Sharon, Pa., a YSU instructor.

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The Happy Hearts Tamburitians of Youngstown performing Yugoslavian dances, music and songs.

Kyoko Dicks and Ayako Korchmaros, Youngstown, performing Japanese dancing.

The Palestine Dancers of Youngstown, mostly YSU students, will perform native folk dances.

Youngstown Area Irish Stepdancers from the Theresa Burke School, Irish Stepdancing.

Dheepa Rammohan, Warren, Indian folk dancing.

Seona McDowell, an Australian folk performer who was twice named best singer of the year in that country, will sing Australian and Irish folk songs and ballads from 9 to 9:45 p.m. Now a Cleveland resident, she also plays a variety of instruments including guitar, banjo, dulcimer and appalachian autoharp.

The Palestinian Cultural Troupe of Youngstown, performing Debka and Folklore dances from Palestine.

The Polonia Dancers of Youngstown, Polish folk dances.

The Youngstown Maennerchor and German Singing Society, featuring children and adults singing German songs.

The Thai dancers, YSU students, performing Thai folk dances.

Tuna Riquena, a Youngstown group including YSU students, playing popular Spanish music.

St. Stephen's Hungarian Dance Group, Youngstown, folk dancing.

Foods and crafts of all these cultures plus French, Black, Muslim, Arab, Lebanese and Greek will be represented.

The International Fair culminates a week-long program of World Fest Week, a YSU event aimed at widening the community's knowledge of world affairs and people.

Further information about the Fair can be obtained by contacting Linda Misja at (216) 742-3415.

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