

# It's A World A'Fair

India, Scotland, Germany and more represented

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DAYTON — — It's likely the only place in Dayton where you can chow down on Mexican empanadas and German meat pies while taking in the tunes of live Scottish bagpipes.

Boasting food, drink, music and more from more than 25 countries across the globe Dayton International Festival Inc.'s World A'Fair lured thousands to the Dayton Convention Center Saturday. The event, now in its 34th year, is set to resume at 11 a.m. today.

All told, a crowd of more than 30,000 is expected for the three-day event, said Phi Pham, vice president of Dayton International.

"Each year we're growing more and more, and we use that to market ourselves and get the word out," Pham said.

New this year, he added, are a variety of workshops for families and teens.

"We want this to be educational and interactive," he said. "For example, on our informal stage we have a lot of

performances, but people can join in and learn the dances."

A big hit over the weekend has been the application of henna designs, drawn on by local artists volunteering at India's booth, said Hemant Garg, president of the India Club of Dayton.

A cultural tradition in India, the ink designs are often drawn on the palms of hands and bottoms of feet during celebrations, Garg said.

"The designs can be very elaborate, and are very similar to a tattoo, but they last only about three weeks and they change color over time,"

he explained. "People are very curious. They come with lots of questions and want to know all about the history behind it."

Down the isle, David Hime, secretary of the St. Andrews Society of Dayton and volunteer for a booth representing Scotland, said he's spent much his time researching family names for passersby.

"We don't do genealogy, but we try to help people understand whether or not they may have a Scottish connection," he said. "Everybody wants to be Scot, really. We also get a lot of questions and comments about what we wear."

For Kettering resident Chris Hamm, the occasion marked her second World A'Fair.

"We come for the food, for sure," she said. "The German potato salad is my personal favorite. We also spent a lot of time watching the hula dancers and some of the French dancers that came in especially for this. It's just been wonderful."



Harinderjeet Bhullar, from Franklin on the formal stage at the 34th Annual Dayton International Festival - A World A'Fair at the Dayton Convention Center, May 19th. [Click to enlarge](#)



Dancing to the music of the Frank Svet Orchestra at the 34th Annual Dayton International Festival - A World A'Fair at the Dayton Convention Center, May 19th. In the circle are (facing camera, left to right) Rose Schneider, 9; Tabitha Jarrett, 9 and Sariah Schneider, 6 (facing away, left to right) Lincoln Schneider, 3; Dante Schneider, 5 and Laura Kay Schneider. [Click to enlarge](#)



Margaret Westlund, from Riverside (left on dance floor) dances with Bob Griffiths, from Kettering as the Frank Svet Orchestra plays at the 34th Annual Dayton International Festival - A World A'Fair at the Dayton Convention Center, May 19th. Also dancing is Carole Pappas (far right) dancing with Adel Issa, 8, from Huber Heights. Adel is a Bosnian Immigrant. [Click to enlarge](#)