

800 DAYS IN MOLDOVA

June, 2016 • News and activities in Rîșcani, Republic of Moldova • Mark Gilchrist, U.S. Peace Corps volunteer.

Imagini RÎȘCANI

Imagini Rîșcani

I am very excited about a project I began in June. Alexandru Crigan and I discussed my traveling to every village in Raionul (county) Rîșcani and photographing people, places and things of interest.

In June, I photographed five villages. I spend about 1-4 hours in each village. I just wander into town, ask where the primarie (town hall) is, and I get to work.

I have already been pleasantly surprised many times! Going into Mihaileni, I met a herd of cattle in the road and took some exciting photographs. In Vasileuți, I saw dozens of people carrying jugs of milk from their cows to a collecting station in a woman's shed.

I ride my bike to the villages, which is beautiful in the morning, but it can be very hot in the afternoon! And the hills — the HILLS! This week, I walked four miles home with a flat tire. Still, beautiful.

Crigan suggested the name; "Imagini Rîșcani," (pronounced "Imagine Rish-cahn," and means "Rîșcani images.") I really like this name, because, not only is the project all about images, but it should encourage people to imagine the beauty of Rîșcani.

When I am finished (in a few months,) the raion will have thousands of photographs from all around Rîșcani, that can be used by the council, the villages, businesses or the people, for marketing, tourism, grants, programs or projects. [Click Here](#)



Children perform a traditional dance for Last Bell at the Russian School in Rîșcani. Last Bell is celebrated at the beginning of the last day of school.

I will miss the dance!

With school out for the summer, I guess my favorite dancers will take a break for a few months, so I will just have to find something else to aim my lens at for a while!

In America, students have many more sports, clubs, and other activities to keep them busy during and

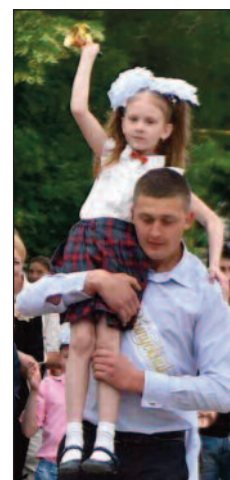
after school, so they do not dedicate so much of their time to performing arts.

The dancing I have seen here compares to the work of many professionals in the United States, and I am proud to show my friends back home the talents of my friends in Moldova.

Photos [Here](#), & dreamy video, [Here](#).



Students dance to "Cotton Eye Joe," an American folk song.



Ringing Last Bell.



1st Row: Medical clinic, and a cow in Mihaileni. 2nd Row: The library in Mihaileni, the Rîșcani sign near Ciubara, and a runaway cow in Vasileuți. 3rd Row: A bridge to the soccer field in Borosenii Noi, girls at a kindergarten in Moșeni, and a friend in Vasileuți.



Above, ready for opening ceremonies; Right, one of the 14 cabins for campers.



Summer Camp!

More than 200 children can enjoy the beauty of the outdoors, the freedom of summer, and the friendships of other children for six weeks, starting in late June, at the summer

camp in Șaptebani. Sports, dancing, campfires and healthy meals make every day complete!

Photographs and videos, at: www.Markstrail.com

"Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach him to fish, and you feed him for life."
Proverb



Children can learn to create with Lego blocks at the Children Library in Rîșcani, thanks to a grant from Novateca.

Like photography?



I made a helpful photography guide, in English and Romanian, with tips for beginners. [Click here](#).

If you, or someone you know, would like to learn how to take beautiful photographs, these can help.

I can teach individual students, a club or a class. If you know of anyone who is interested, just ask me!

Holidays in June

- 1 Children's Day
- 6 D-Day in WWII
- 14 (SUA) Flag Day
- 19 (SUA) Father's Day
- 20 Summer Solstice
- 21 (MDV) Summer Camp Opens

July, 2016, will have... **5** Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays. Have a great (5) weekends!



Varatic Stadium

I have been trying, for several months, to raise funds for safer seating at the Varatic stadium. I keep looking for money, but it is hard to find. I will keep looking and hoping! [Click Here](#).