

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Soundboard

OCTOBER 2010

27 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983-2010
Website : www.silverstrings.org

Issue 306

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Folks:

What a busy and exciting month September turned out to be, and how quickly it got by. The kids are back in school. (I know that because I manage to get behind a bus on my way home from work every day.) The maple trees are now turning from green to brilliant shades of yellow, orange and red, quickly bringing our summer to a close. I hope the good weather we've had holds on for a little bit longer, since we have at least one more outdoor playdate. Playdate requests seem to keep coming in, and with our busiest season coming up there will be plenty of opportunities to sign up.

I'd like to thank Bob and Sandi Hlavacek for the wonderful job putting together the Banquet this year. The decorations were very nice, the food was delicious, the prizes were plentiful, the jamming was fun, and we learned a great deal about our fellow musicians, when we played Human Bingo. I mean, who would have thought that one of our members held four racing records, another has nine parrots, another used to catch rattlesnakes, while another, in his teen years made every kind of explosive known, short of an atomic bomb, (I hope)! A big thanks to all of our workshop leaders, and all who go above and beyond to make our club so special. And a special thanks to all of you for helping to make our Banquet a very memorable night.

Larry Roper

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lyle Thompson Allen Park
Plays the Tenor banjo, Bass, Whistle

James Mabarak Grosse Pointe
Plays the Mountain Dulcimer

NOTES FROM PROGRAM V.P.s

Hello again and **HAPPY OCTOBER** to one and all! The Fall season is officially here and it's time to get out and enjoy the crisp autumn air, pick apples and savor some cider and donuts from your favorite orchard, collect leaves, rake leaves (not nearly as much fun), and gear up for the **HOLIDAY PLAYDATES**. We hope that everyone is taking time to refresh their memories on the holiday tunes in our music packets and to become familiar with the potentially new tunes that have been available since July. If you have not already picked up copies of the new holiday tunes, please see Janelle or Larry at the club meeting on October 7th.

This month we are offering a Hammered Dulcimer Workshop in lieu of the Slow Jam on Thursday, October 21st at 6:00 pm. The workshop will be led by the very talented Sharon McAuliffe, who will be teaching us "How to Start a Tune". There will also be an Autoharp Workshop on that same day at 6:00 pm led by the one and only Bob Niemczewski.

This year is flying by so quickly as is our time spent serving as your Program Vice Presidents. We are planning to end the year with a **big bang** with an event that we are calling the **"SILVER STRINGS HOLIDAY HAPPENING"** to be held on Thursday, December 30, 2010 at Good Hope Lutheran Church. Details will follow, but be sure to mark your calendars for that night, and we hope to see all of you there. We *promise* it will be a fun-filled evening and a joyous holiday celebration with good food, great music, and lasting memories.

Janelle Pacic and Carol Ann Matthews



SECRETARY'S NOTES

SSDS Board Meeting Sept. 2, 2010

Old Business

The menu for the annual banquet is all set. Tickets are available tonight.

Hlavaceks got 16 door prizes at Midland, and the Kaiser family is donating 6 of their CDs as prizes. There will be a mixer game called Human Bingo.

Sandi checked with Lynne Ellen about the status of the music revisions. She said Kelly might be finished by the banquet. Since this is such a big job, Kelly will be asked not to rush just to finish by the banquet. The revised music packet will be available at a later date.

The breakdown of binder costs is: 5% discount for 25, 10% for 50, and 15% for 100. Sue Duncan has offered a substantial discount to print the music.

New Business

The annual business meeting and officer election will be held on October 21. The nominating committee will present candidates and slate earlier.

Holiday Happenings, our annual potluck will be held on December 30, and it coincides with Variety Night.

Larry discussed his concern about the balance of instruments within the club. Several newer members are not dulcimer players. He suggested that experienced hammer dulcimer players mentor, and try to encourage both new and established members to learn the dulcimer. Bob Hlavacek said he and Sandi have often thought of this. Larry suggested a hammer dulcimer workshop in the future, but will need experienced people to volunteer to teach. The Board members agreed, and will discuss details later.

submitted by Beverley J. Scott

IT'S OCTOBER... LET'S CELEBRATE !

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1..... Ernie Stewart
12... Nancy Straky
17... Carol Anne Matthews
23... Larry Allen
25... Marilyn Mullins
26... Ben Catt (21st)
26... Pat Jurasek
27... Marilyn Catt
28... Valerie Karhu
30... Bev Scott



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

16....Jack & Marilyn Mullins (38th)
19... Bob & Sally Niemczewski (36th)
22... David & Theresa Smith (17th)
29... Walt & Pat Jablonski (61st)

SSDS JACKETS & SHIRTS

Now that the weather is cooler, it is time to get your jacket and/or shirt. I have a limited supply of sizes. I will have them with me for all jams in Oct. Carol Ann

PURSE STRINGS

Treasurer

Just a friendly reminder regarding dues : The cost is \$15 per member for renewal (\$20 for new members). Please see me with preferably a check at anytime to update your membership.

Our election of officers will be on Oct 21st and in order to vote or play in our playdates you **must** be current on your membership. I'm sure you will agree that these are important issues, so please support our club and see me soon!!
Linda Osgood

NOTES FROM OUR WEBMASTER

Karen

We continue to be popular and listened to around the world! Whoever thought our club would reach it's "wings" to Italy. Regarding our You Tube posting:

dakkymarco7 has made a comment on John Ryans Polka - Silver Strings - Henry Ford Estate - August 2009:
"Amazing!!! Greetings from Italy"

- - - - -
jukejackie1 has made a comment on Over The Waterfall - Silver Strings - Henry Ford Estate - August 2009:

I love this!!! I have been playing Hammered Dulcimer for about 4 weeks...taking lessons with Ken Kolodner in Maryland and I just finished this Song. I love the tones of the Dulcimer and I am determined to learn the instrument. Thanks so much for posting the video, it inspires me.

MANY THANKS TO OUR ANNUAL BANQUET PRIZE DONORS !

MIDLAND VENDORS:

Pam Bowman
Cliff's Custom Crafts
Eylan Violin
Guy George
Harrison Harps
Wood ' N' Strings

OTHERS:

Sharon Hall
Sandi Hlavacek
Kaiser Family
Larry Roper



Photo by Bill Smith

The Clinton Harvest Festival was a surprise invitation from our Adrian performance the week before. They were so pleased with our performance, they have already invited us back next year.

DECEMBER PLAYDATES ARE INCLUDED
SO YOU CAN SCHEDULE YOUR ACTIVITIES
AROUND THEM.

Player sign-up lists will be out as December gets closer.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

(V) = Victorian Costume

OCTOBER

- 2....**PLAY Harvest Happening** 1:30-3:pm
Hess Hathaway Park Waterford
- 6.....**Holiday Practice** 7:pm
- 7.....**SSDS Board meeting** 6:pm
- 13...**PLAY luncheon.** 12:45-1:30pm
Redford Suburban League Livonia
- 13...**PLAY Mayors' Assn. Mtg (V)** 6-8:pm
Witch's Hat Historic Village South Lyon
- 19...**Holiday Practice** 7:pm
- 21...**H Dulcimer & Autoharp workshops** 6:pm
Annual Meeting & Elections & Jam . . . 7:pm
- 29...**PLAY Concert.** 2:30-3:30pm
American House Royal Oak

NOVEMBER

- 2.....**Holiday Practice** 7:pm
- 17...**Holiday Practice** 7:pm
- 28...**PLAY Holiday concert** 10:30-11:30am
Emerson Unitarian Church Troy
- 28...**PLAY Pioneer Concert (V)** 6-7:00pm
S. Lyon Hist. Soc., Village chapel. . . South Lyon

DECEMBER

- 01..**PLAY Holiday Concert** 7-8:00pm
Wayne Public Library. Wayne
- 02..**PLAY Holiday Concert** 7-8:00pm
Good Hope Lutheran Church. Garden City
- 07..**PLAY Candlelight Tea** 6:15-7:15pm
Cross Pointe Community Church Wayne
- 08..**PLAY Christmas Luncheon.** 12:45-1:45pm
Mich. Association Retired School Personnel
Knights of Columbus Hall Livonia
- 09..**PLAY Holiday Concert** 2-3:pm
Inn at Cass Lake Waterford
- 10..**PLAY Holiday Concert** 3-4:pm
Village Manor Retirement Comm. Howell
- 11..**PLAY Holiday Concert** 2:30-3:30pm
Caroline Kennedy Library. Dearborn Heights
- 12..**PLAY Holiday Concert.** 2-3:00pm
St. Richard's Catholic Church Westland
- 13..**PLAY Holiday Concert** 2-3:00pm
Plymouth. Council on Aging
Plymouth Cultural Center Plymouth
- 13..**PLAY Holiday Concert** 6:30-7:30pm
Pine Ridge - Hayes Sr. Comm. Sterling Hts.
- 15..**PLAY Holiday Social (V)** 6:30-7:30pm
John F. Kennedy Jr. Library Dearborn Heights
- 16..**PLAY Noontime Concert** 12:15-1:pm
Livonia Civic Center Library Livonia
- 20..**PLAY Holiday Concert.** 6-7:00pm
Maple Heights Retirement Comm. Allen Park

2010 OCTOBER PLAY LIST

KEY	TUNE	PLAY
	Tunes for 45 minute gig	
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
C	Five Foot Two	4
D	Over the Waterfall	3
G	Red Wing	3 *
C	Tennessee Waltz	3 *
G	Maggie	3
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
A	Red Haired Boy	3
D	Ashgrove	3 *
D	Smash the Windows	3
D	Hey Polka	5
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/Riding on Hay	3/3
G	Larry's Waltz	3 *
D/D D/G	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy /Golden Slippers (If longer than 45 minutes, skip this & use it as final medley)	2/2/ 2/2
	Add for 1 hour-long gig	
G	Down Yonder	3
Em	Tamlin	3
D	John Ryan's Polka (Karen chooses)	5
G	Young Jane	3 *
D/D D/G	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy/ Golden Slippers (If gig longer than 1 hour, skip this & use it as final medley)	2/2/ 2/2
	Add for 1.5 hour-long gigs	
D	Painter's Polka	3
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
Em	Dancing Bear	3
D	Ashokan Farewell	3 *
G	Flowers of Edinburgh	3 *
D	Jenny Lind Polka	3
G	Irish Washerwoman	3
D	Angeline the Baker	3
G	Sophrinia	3 *
D/D D/G	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/ Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers	2/2/ 2/2
	Extra Tunes	
G	Hundred Pipers	3
D	Possum up a Gum Stump	3
D	Chinese Breakdown/Nelly Bly	2/3
D	Midnight on the Water	3 *
G	Southwind	3 *
	* = 2nd time: Fiddles, Harmonicas, backup; HD's softly	

Silver Strings member Cathy Douglas has compiled a list of **Victorian dress online resources** that may assist members with their Victorian costume for playdates. I posted the article on the message board

http://www.ssdssociety.org/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=138



When a Victorian costumed Silver Strings group plays at the historic Greenfield Village, we always draw a crowd of appreciative listeners and toe tappers. Performing 4 concerts per day keeps us busy. This year, half way through Saturday we were rained out, except for a few determined musicians who stayed in the gazebo. Sunday, we were back in full force, and by the end of the day we had 80 -100 spectators gathering to enjoy our lively music.



Photos by Val Losse

FESTIVALS-WORKSHOPS-CONCERTS

Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club

2nd Saturday of each month...noon-4:pm
Senior Center in Spring Arbor, Mi
For info. contact Penny 517-547-7448

Maumee Street Music Jams

First Presbyterian Church
156 East Maumee, Adrian, Mi
Saturdays from 6-11:pm
Oct. 30th, Nov. 27th, Dec. 18th
For info. contact Penny Schieber 517-547-7448
or Jack or Marilyn Mullins 517-254-4828

Huron Applefest Old Time Fiddlers Contest

October 2-3 New Boston, Mi.

Parade, 1mile & 10K races, Apple pie contest,
Old Time Fiddle Contest (Kelly has won this twice)
all day entertainment Classic car Show
<http://huronapplefest.com/fiddlerscontest.php>

Dee Dee Tibbits Weekend

Oct 22 & 23. Caro Mi. . . \$55

Jams Fri. & Sat. evening, breakfast & lunch Sat,
2 1/2 & 3 hour workshops on Saturday
Contact Joan Sayers for info. & reservations
989-551-4902 Kande Marie@yahoo.com

NEW East Lansing Dulcimer Festival

Saturday Oct 23, 2010, noon-10:30 pm Unitarian
Universalist Church

855 Grove Street, East Lansing, MI 48823

The First East Lansing Dulcimer Festival will feature Florida's Maddie MacNeil, and Michigan-based musicians Wanda Degen, and Doug Berch with nine workshops for beginning, intermediate and advanced levels hammered and lap dulcimer. Afterwards, a slow and a fast jam will precede a 7:30 PM concert, which features a set by each of these three headliners. A \$20 wristband, at the door, covers any and all workshops. Concert tickets are \$15 public/ \$12 members, available on line and at the door
<http://suapi2.org/api/0/e/detail/options:eventid=9633>

Rick Thum Concert & Workshop

Nov. 20th ...Rockford V.F.W. Hall

Workshops \$25 ea or 2/\$45. . . . Concert \$10...
All day jamming Potluck at 5:pm
Contact Jim Rathbun @ 616-490-9103
or... Dulcitude@gmail.com

How funny is this?!

Double checking that Stephen Foster's middle name is indeed "Collins", and that he did indeed write Nelly Bly, I came across this surprising fact in Wikipedia: "Old Folks at Home" is the official state song of Florida, designated in 1935. Lynne Ellen Kaiser

PLAYDATE MATTERS

Silver Strings played outdoors in Victorian attire September 11th and 12th for the Old Car Festival at Greenfield Village. The two days were starkly different weather-wise. On Saturday, a large weather system was moving steadily toward us as we began to play our first set at 11:00 AM. We played through that set with a good-sized, appreciative audience throughout it. After lunch, we started our second set at 1:00 PM and again we had a nice-sized responsive audience. But about 25 minutes into that set, the rain began to fall, the musicians scrambled to find shelter for themselves and their instruments, and the audience also sought shelter. Since the weather system was extensive on the radar map, a number of our group left the Village, but some of us moved into the gazebo. Since it was raining pretty hard, we couldn't easily leave the gazebo and we had our instruments with us, so we started playing the tunes that were left to play on our program, even though the audience was gone. As we played, even though the hard rain continued, some people who heard the music gathered around us with their umbrellas, and stood in the rain listening to our music. We played until close to 5 PM. On Sunday, I had a prior commitment and Karen Turner kindly took the on-site management for that day - - thank you Karen! The weather was perfect on Sunday, and the crowds listening were large and receptive. Kris Wheeland, a VP Programs of SSDS in 1991-92 and guest of Pennye Scheiber, played with Silver Strings. Tom Koppin sang Five Foot Two while playing guitar. Karen recruited two young ladies who were doing some Irish dancing on the sidelines to dance for the audience while Silver Strings was playing Irish Washerwoman. The Wheelmen paraded by on the sidewalk on their antique bicycles while Maggie was being played and this was videotaped and will likely appear on YouTube. A little boy came up to Tom Koppin and asked him if he was "an old-fashioned man".

On Sept. 16th, we entertained the residents and staff of Abbey Park at Mill River in New Hudson. We had a nice-sized very lively and appreciative audience, and there were many positive comments about our performance. Several people said "You folks have got to come back", and Cindy Kometh, the activities director said she would definitely be asking us to return to play for their residents again. On Sept. 18th, we finished off our five-gig week with two performances in Adrian. The first was for the Art-A-Licious Street Fair on a stage in downtown Adrian. I thought this was one of our best outdoor performances since I've been business manager. Our players were highly energized and having a lot of fun, and those in the audience really responded to our music. Right after our performance, Tom Valenti who is connected with the Clinton Fall Festival introduced himself, told us we did an outstanding job, and invited us to play for the Clinton Fall Festival on Sept. 26th, which we accepted. That evening, we played for the Maumee Street Jam in the First Presbyterian Church in Adrian. That also went very well.

On Sept. 24th, we played at the Village Manor Retirement Community in Howell. This was a great gig with a responsive audience, many of whom came up afterward with compliments like, "You folks were terrific", "We have got to get you back here again", and "Your music was so different and beautiful !" Their staff also expressed their excitement about our group and our music, and the contact person, Barbara Shallman asked us to come back with a Holiday concert in December. I'd like to thank Karen Turner for her on-site management of the Clinton Fall Festival playdate on Sunday, Sept. 26. By the way, as of the writing of this article we are up to 44 gigs booked for 2010 and we're still in September, which may be into record territory for Silver Strings.

We have scheduled four holiday music practice sessions at 7:00 PM on the following dates: Wednesday, Oct. 6; Tuesday, Oct. 19; Tuesday, Nov. 2; and Wednesday, Nov. 17. Please mark these dates on your calendars. We will make use of the music I duplicated and handed out last year (2009 was marked on each sheet to help you locate those) and we will add some additional tunes which have already been handed out at regular SSDS meetings. I would like everyone who intends to play at any of our Holiday gigs in December attend as many of these practice sessions as possible (all of them if at all possible) because we will be working out arrangements and working on optimizing our playing of the holiday tunes.

Bert Stein



On September 18th, we played two concerts in Adrian.

At left is on stage at the afternoon Art-a-licious Festival.

Below, we opened the monthly Adrian Maumee Street Jam with a lively concert at the Presbyterian Church

It was a beautiful, fun filled day.





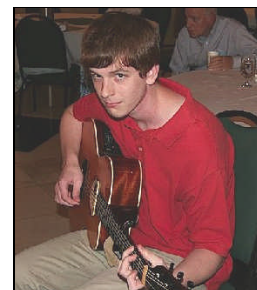
B
A
N
Q
U
E
T

2
0
1
0



The room was lovely, the game was fun.
It wasn't accomplished by only one.
The group grew quiet... The food was "DELISH" !
Revised music unveiled, lo-o-o-ng hours accomplished.
Then the jamming began, creativity was bared.

With new instruments devised, traded or shared.
By the end of the eve, we had played till we dropped.
But still it was hard for some people to stop.
They were heard to exclaim as they turned out the lights,
"Can't wait till next year...This was ALL RIGHT !"



Photos by Lynne Ellen Kaiser



GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....Lee Lack

My name is Lee Lack, you probably know me from Variety Nights or from the beginning fiddle workshops I have done for Silver Strings. I was born in Peoria, Illinois, but later moved to Washington, Illinois, a town that was like Mayberry from the old Andy Griffin TV Show. I pride myself in being a small country gal from where life was simple and everyone cared about one another. I had 2 brothers, one older and one younger, and one younger sister, a Dad who worked hard and a Mom who stayed at home and kept our family happy and content

Our home was filled with music, because my mother played the piano. Every time she played, it was so loud that all the neighbors would stop whatever they were doing, and enjoy the music. My Mother was a classically trained pianist and started me playing piano when I was around 8 years old. I played piano until I realized I wanted to deviate, get away from the rigors of reading music, and do my own, more interesting thing. As a teenager I loved listening to old time fiddlers' music and also to my older brother, who was an excellent guitar player.

When we moved to Michigan, as an adult, a friend bought a fiddle for \$10.00 and gave it to me. I took it to the Giftdler Shop in Northville, and got it repaired. At that time, you got 1 free lesson when you picked up your fiddle. The first tune I learned was Boil That Cabbage Down, and from there I continued to take more lessons. I have been playing the fiddle for over 20 years now. When I met my husband, Tom, he played guitar. We have been playing together ever since. We have been street performers and paid performers at various civic and historical events. We have 5 grown children and 2 grandchildren. One son is a Rock Guitar star in a group called West Fall out of Flint. One daughter just returned from Egypt, where she worked as a Librarian Archives Specialist for 3 years. Before she left Egypt, I went over for a 2 week visit, and she took me all around that area. What a place! I have worked at 2 music stores as a fiddle and mandolin teacher, and have taught students from 6 to 60 how to play and enjoy these instruments.

Tom has been a truck driver for over 30 years, working 10-12 hours 5 days a week. We both look forward to retirement, when we can hitch up our 5th wheel camper and hit the roads, camping and entertaining others as we go. We love camping, hiking, bird and sky watching and are really naturalists at heart. We heard about Silver Strings at a Bluegrass Festival years ago where you were performing, and knew it was something for us to join.

Besides playing fiddle and mandolin, I play the claw hammer banjo, penny whistle, and the mountain dulcimer. I also enjoy knitting, needlepoint, and quilting, and have started sewing my own Victorian outfit for some of our playdates. Tom and I had 3 special cats- Booger, Rory, and Harley, who all lived to be over 15 years old. Harley purred like a Harley Davidson motorcycle, Rory looked like a lion, and Booger had a black spot on his nose. Since then, we have decided not to have any more pets, because we want to become full time RV'rs and travel forever. If you are interested in learning more about the fiddle or mandolin, look me up. I am a short, little, gray haired, quiet (but always smiling), happy country gal, willing to help.

- - - - -

Over the years, SSDS has gathered and added one song at a time to our collection of tunes we now play. Each person presenting a new tune has arranged and formatted it in his/her own way. Some songs have appeared and reappeared in as many as 4 different arrangements, often with misplaced chords, and some in a different key. This has occasionally caused confusion when we tried to play them.

Almost two years ago, Kelly Kaiser offered to serve as SSDS music director, and go through the entire repertoire to standardize the music format and repair errors. She proceeded to go through song by song, measure by measure and note by note, checking for correctness of notes and chords. When she discovered multiple versions, she researched the "original composition" and tried to get as close to the original intent of the composer as she could, while considering how to keep it "player friendly" for less experienced musicians. She has examined each tune from a "music theory" perspective for "correctness" of chords. She has also checked copyright issues, to make sure we may legally reproduce and play each song, and verified the composers. This was a MONUMENTAL project, with about 170 songs to study and edit. We are truly blessed to have someone with her knowledge, talent and commitment in SSDS.

As she neared the end, her very musical family joined her in playing each tune as it appears on the page, to "proof read" her work. Although we hoped to distribute the new music packs at the banquet, they have requested more people "proof play" it through, in search of mistakes they may have missed, before we go through the large expense of printing all new packs.

We now ask if any of our "**sight reading**" members are interested in helping to do this. If you would like to help, please contact President, Larry Roper. It will involve a few evenings or week-end afternoons of playing music, and you are **not** required to be at **all** sessions.



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

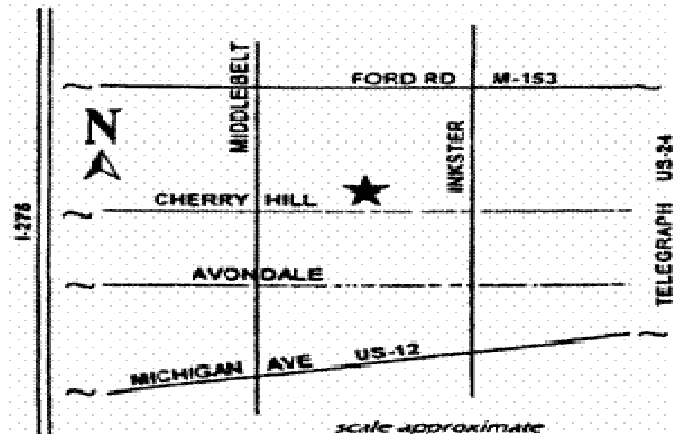
Meetings on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays of every month
7-9p.m with jamming till ...?

Meeting at **Good Hope Lutheran Church**
In Garden City, Michigan

Featuring the hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, and other acoustic band instruments : banjo, guitar, autoharp, fiddle, string bass, washtub bass, mandolin, folk harp, recorder, tin penny whistle, and harmonica. Learn new tunes and techniques, jam together with other players, receive new music and a monthly newsletter. Participate in workshops, festivals, public performances, picnics, fun and fellowship.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT :
<http://www.silverstrings.org>

Everyone is welcome !
Come to listen, or come to play.



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

P.O.Box 1116
Garden City, MI. 48136



HAPPY
HALLOWEEN