



# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

## Soundboard

MARCH 2011

27 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983-2010  
Website : [www.silverstrings.org](http://www.silverstrings.org)

Issue 311

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"It has been a quiet month in Lake Wobegon". This is the opening line in Garrison Keillor's monolog on "Prairie Home Companion", a PBS radio show. February has been rather quiet for Strings after the rush of holiday concerts and busy 4 days around Erie Ice Daze in January. We have had a welcome break from playdates, and were able to concentrate on a few other club matters.

I worked with Linda Osgood pulling together our financial records, in preparation for filing our 1120 IRS tax form. The good news is, we had a great year. The bad news is, we had a great year. We will owe some tax, but financial planning done prior to year end has reduced our tax bill for 2010.

The music review group and Kelly Kaiser did a final review of the new music packet, and it was sent off to the printer. *Once again, thanks to Kelly and Lynn Ellen for the massive job of producing the music PDF's.* We began to distribute the new packets to members at the February 17 Jam. If you were not there, the music will be available at all club functions. We have a few of the new light green notebooks available for our cost (\$5). If you cannot pick it up because of distance, we will try to bring it to various functions. If all else fails we can mail the packet. Send a check for \$5 for shipping to **P.O. Box 1116, Garden City, Michigan, 48136**. The music is grouped in three sections in the packet. The first section is most of our repertoire, the second section contains songs with copyright issues we need to address, and the third section contains religious music. The music in the copyright section can be played but should not be recorded or placed on YouTube. **\*\*Note\*\*** Please remove Kesh Jig in the key of 'D'. We will only use the key of 'G' version. We will have a new index on the web site in the near future. We are exploring new ways to deliver additional music, now that all of it will be stored in electronic format.

We have quite a bit of activity coming up this month. There will be a board meeting before the March 3<sup>rd</sup> jam. Work-shops will be announced at that meeting and via email. Remember warmer weather is just around the corner. If you know of a new hammered dulcimer student who would like to apply for an ODPC loaner dulcimer, the application can be found at the ODPC web site or contact someone on our board. Applications must be in their hands by May 30, 2011. See you at the JAM. Stay 'tuned' !

Bob Hlavacek

### PLAYDATE NOTES

V.P. Business

We had a little break from playdates in February which is typical for that month but we have a busy month ahead. We currently have nine playdates scheduled for March. The sign up sheets for these have been put out at our meetings and several have been filled. However, there are still openings for those who would like to sign up to play. The playdate schedule is also listed in the newsletter. Please check out the sign up sheets or contact me if you would like to participate in any of these.

On another note, I received an e-mail from a gentleman in New York who said that he and his wife have enjoyed watching Silver Strings on You Tube. He plays banjo and she plays hammered dulcimer. He sent me a copy of a tune he wrote and gave us permission to use it. It could be a possible tune of the month sometime in the future. We occasionally hear from folks like this from other states and from other countries. It is very gratifying to know that our music is enjoyed by so many.

Larry Roper



**Fresh Pasties coming  
2<sup>nd</sup> week of March.**

If you have any left in your freezer, eat-em-up ! This is a twice-a-year fundraiser for Good Hope. **They are DELICIOUS !!!** Order forms will be available at the business table. Let's support the church that has been so good to us for so many years.

**V.P.Program Notes** \_\_\_\_\_ Dawn Hayes

**Variety Night:** Mark your calendars for March 31st for our next variety night. Dave Matthews has very generously agreed to host our event. We have some very talented / gifted people in the group. Please consider sharing your talent(s) with the rest of us, so sign up for a segment in the program. The club will be providing pizza, salad and beverages. Anyone is invited to bring a dessert to share.

**Old tunes revisited:** For the month of March we will be revisiting the tune " Red-Haired Boy".

**Campout info:** We are in the stages of getting the information together for the campout on June 10-12, 2011. Please watch for the information--hopefully in the next newsletter.

Have a Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**MARCH**

- 02...**Afternoon concert** (BC) . . . . . 1:30-2:30pm  
All Seasons of R.H. . . . . Rochester Hills
- 03...**Board meeting before jam** . . . . . 6:pm
- 15...**St. Pat's concert** (SP) . . . . . 7-8:pm  
West Winds Health Care . . . . . Commerce
- 17...**St. Pat's concert** (SP) . . . . . 1:30-2:15pm  
Elderwise @ Cleary College . . . . . Ann Arbor
- 17...**Slow Jam before meeting** . . . . . 6:pm
- 18...**St. Pat's concert** (SP). . . . . 6-7:pm  
Maple Heights Retirement . . . . . Allen Park
- 19...**St. Pat's concert** (SP). . . . . 7:30-8:30pm  
Colonial Acres . . . . . South Lyon
- 23...**Dinner concert** . . . . . 7:30-8:30pm  
Wayne Westland 1<sup>st</sup> Meth. Ch. . . . . Wayne
- 26...**Wom. Glee Club opener**. . . . . 8-8:20pm  
UM Hill Auditorium . . . . . Ann Arbor
- 29...**Afternoon Concert** . . . . . 1:30-2:30pm  
Waltonwood Independent Liv. . . . . Novi
- 29...**Afternoon Concert** . . . . . 3-4:pm  
Waltonwood Assisted Liv. . . . . Novi

**BC**=Business Casual, **SP**=St. Patty's green,  
**BW**=Black & white

**Currently no playdates in April**

**IT'S MARCH... LET'S CELEBRATE !**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- 1.... Shayla Rachelle
- 3.... Kay Rowe
- 7.... Bonnie Ream
- 11... Rich Smith
- 12... David Smith
- 12... Evie Bain
- 15... Sherry Humecky
- 16... Kaye Hemmerling
- 25... Donna Mayer
- 27... Ida O'Dell
- 30... Dorothy Ewald
- 30... Bob Niemczewski
- 30... Jerry Coval



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- 2.....Shirley Kaiser (65<sup>th</sup>)

*Sixty-five years is a long, long time  
For better or worse, 'til the end of the line  
When this began, did you know what's in store?  
Congratulations... We wish you more !!!*

**SECRETARY'S NOTES** \_\_\_\_\_ Carol Ann Matthews

**FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING**

\* Bob and Linda will get Taxes together by Mar. 15.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- \* No playdates in Feb., 5 in March, We will play for the Relay-for-Life on May 14 and a benefit in June.
- \* A high profile playdate at Hill Auditorium in March will have 15-20 hand-picked players, & special practices.
- \* Dawn needs an MC for March variety night.
- \* Campout info. will be coming as we get closer
- \* Slow jam will continue next jam.
- \* Bob's one-on-one teaching is going well.
- \* We will continue revisiting old tunes in the jam session. The attendance at slow-jam is not enough for this.
- \* New music packet will be sent to Sue Duncan at Kinko for printing, and should be ready by 17<sup>th</sup>. mtg.
- \* There are still openings for Music Coordinator and Newsletter Editor. We are splitting music job.
- \* Kelly has volunteered to put new music in PDF files
- \* The Feb. autoharp workshop has been cancelled

**NEW BUSINESS**

- \* Students can get loaner dulcimers form ODPC for \$25 deposit. They will have a mentor and report to ODPC each month. Applications must be in before the festival in July.
- \* ODPC wants clubs to make 36"X45"quilts to hang in the large meeting room to help cut down the noise. They must be in by June. ODPC will provide all the hanging materials. Carol Ann will make a quilt for Silver Strings. We can make more.

*This is a synopsis. Full board minutes are available from Sec.*

## To print the February Play list,

please click on our website or this link :

<http://www.ssdssociety.org/sections/tunes/pdf/2011/jan11.pdf>

### MARCH PLAY LIST 2011

Key	Tune	Play
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Redwing	3*
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	Smash The Windows	3
G	Hundred Pipers	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Southwind	3*
D	Over The Waterfall	3
G	Irish Washerwoman	3
Em	Tamlin	3
A	Red Haired Boy	3
D	Danny Boy	3*
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarnia / Riding on Hay	3/3
D	John Ryan's Polka	Karen
D	Hey Polka	Bob
C	When Irish Eyes Are Smiling	3*
D	Young Roddy McCorley	4
Em	Drunken Sailor	3
G	Young Jane	3*
D/D	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie /	2/2/2/2
D/G	Soldiers Joy / Golden Slippers	
	<b>Extra Tunes</b>	
G	Scotland The Brave	3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
D	St. Anne's Reel	3
D	Midnight on the Water	3*
	<b>*2<sup>nd</sup> time: Fiddles, Harmonicas, Backup; HDs Softly</b>	

## QUILTERS ARISE !!!

The ODPC has started a quilt project for the large, new meeting hall and fair office at the Evert fair grounds. They are joining other organizations which use that building, to provide decorative quilts to hang on the walls to help absorb excess sound.

The woodcarvers groups have committed 10 quilts. ODPC has only 2 committed from musicians. Silver Strings has many artists who sew and/or quilt. At the requested 36" X 45", (which is smaller than a crib quilt), the Board has suggested we could provide more than one with significant musical themes.

No loops or sleeve are needed. ODPC will provide all hardware and labor to hang it.

Please contact the board or Sandi Hlavacek if you are willing to help design, make by yourself, or help with a quilt. Our SSDS art work will hang forever in the Evert Funfest Activities Hall.

## WANTED... SOUNDBOARD EDITOR

### Do you like jig-saw puzzles ?

Some experience in lay-out is helpful, but not necessary.

#### Minimal computer skills required.

This job comes with a **very** easy to use format, (it's like putting together a jig-saw puzzle) **and** the files with Birthdays/Anniversaries, suitable clip-art, "filler" jokes and articles, and whatever training you need. Most articles are furnished by the Board and members. I'd like to continue to do musical research and submit articles occasionally.

You may set your own hours and work at your own pace in your home. Pay is not financial, but potential to grow skills is unlimited.

I began with only "semi-literate" computer skills, and a good grasp of the English language. I have learned an **enormous** amount and truly made friends with my computer along the way. This is my seventh year as Soundboard editor. I would like to pass this opportunity for personal growth and serving the club to another someone with an artistic spirit. I have other interests I would like to pursue... like update the SSDS archives.

**If interested, call Sandi @ (734) 663-7974.**

## WHAT IS THE 'BUSINESS TABLE' ?

It is the table just inside the door to our jam room, where "general business" is assembled. That is where you will find **flyers** for festivals, workshops, concerts, or other music related educational information. You may **order Good Hope pasties** there in March and October. The **Birthday and Anniversary list** is there to add your name for the newsletter. You may also order a **free SSDS name tag** there, and **New music** is distributed from the table.

**Soundboard newsletters** for those without internet access and visitors are there. **Please, if you are able, DO print yours at home.** That will enable you to get it in color by the first of each month, rather than black & white by pick up or snail-mail.

You will also find the file box of "**green cards**" to fill out with emergency contact information. This box goes with us wherever we go. It was started after one of our members became seriously ill and hospitalized at Evert, and we scrambled to locate his "next of kin". Fortunately, Hal was able to tell us of an out of state niece, but we recognized that we do need emergency contact information, in case of accident or illness at SSDS functions. Life is unpredictable, and we should be ready for anything. So, if you haven't filled one out, **PLEASE... DO IT** at the next meeting.

The flowered **SUGGESTION BOX** is also there to accept your ideas for improving the jams, a song you would like to add to our repertoire, workshop ideas, possible playdates, or other club suggestions. They will be passed on to the appropriate Board member.

## FESTIVALS-WORKSHOPS-JAMS

### UNCLE CARL'S DULCIMER CLUB

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of month 12:30-4:30pm (next is March12)  
For info. call Penny 517-547-7448

### NETTLE LAKE MUSIC JAM

First Saturday of Month - 6PM (next is March 5<sup>th</sup>)  
For info contact Jack & Marilyn Mullins 517 270 2870  
or Pastor Mike Wilder 419 485 4112

### MAUMEE STREET MUSIC JAM (formerly called West Adrian Jam)

Last Saturday of month - 6PM (next is March 26<sup>th</sup>)  
For info. contact  
Jack & Marilyn Mullins 517-270-2870  
Or Larry Roper 248-437-5403

### Buckeye Dulcimer Festival

*Call to ask if space is still available*

### REMEDY for the "WINTER BLUES"

March 9-13 in Ashley, OH.

CONTACT for info.: Louise Zeigler 740-747-2326 or  
740-815-3099 or [www.buckeyefestival.com](http://www.buckeyefestival.com)

CLASSES for hammered. and mountain dulcimer, fiddle,  
claw hammer banjo, autoharp, pennywhistle, AND "Band  
It" for all other acoustic instruments.

Want to car pool? See Luke or Ernie

## ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS!!!

### Zephyrhills, Florida—Jam

Rose's jam will continue in her honor.

set for **Sunday, March 6th 2011, 1-4pm.**

The Red hat ladies will supply a light luncheon. All  
dulcimers and other acoustic players are welcome.  
We hope this Jam continues to be as good as in the  
past, let's get together and have fun!!!

People in the frozen north, come on down and bring  
the sunscreen. White's RV Park is on Chancey Rd,  
Zephyrhills, Fl. Contact me for any further info.

Pat Troxell [robwillc2@gmail.com](mailto:robwillc2@gmail.com)

### Original Michigan Fiddlers Association

#### FIDDLER'S JAMBOREE

#### Old Fashioned Square Dance - Hastings, Mi.

Sat. April 16<sup>th</sup> 2011...COA Senior Center

320 West Woodlawn Street

Fiddlers play 1-5:pm

Open microphone 5-6:30 pm

Round & Square dancing 6:30-9:30pm

Refreshments & dinner available on site.

Bring your non-electric instrument & join the fun !

For info. contact Paula : (616) 240-0445

### Dulcimers in the Cornfield

April 29-May1

Full info can be found online at [FOTMC.com](http://FOTMC.com)



## COLD FROSTY MORNING

The month of March is upon us (St Patrick's month, corn beef and cabbage, green beer, Irish music). At the end of this month, beautiful weather should be here. No more 'Cold Frosty Mornings'. I found some history about this tune, thanks to Luke Kawecki. It refers to the day in 1746, when the British massacred 7000 members of Bonnie Prince Charles' army, and then killed many Highlanders, including women and children. Is this a great thing to commemorate? Bob Hlavacek

## FACTS ABOUT ST. PATRICK'S DAY

- 1) There are more Americans of Irish origin than there are Irish in Ireland. In Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Delaware, Irish is the leading ancestral group.
- 2) St. Patrick's Day got its American start in 1737 in Boston. We celebrate St. Patrick's Day to remember the achievements St. Patrick made during his time.
- 3) St. Patrick's given name was Maewyn Succat and he was born in Britain around 385 AD. At age 16 he was kidnapped by pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland. During his 6 years as a slave he turned to religion for solace. He escaped slavery and made his way to Gaul where he changed his name to Patrick and studied in the monastery under St. Germain.
- 4) St. Patrick converted pagans to Christianity, angering the Celtic Druids who threw him in prison many time as a result.
- 5) It is believed that St. Patrick died on March 17th, the day that we now celebrate St. Patrick's Day. March 17th is also feast day in Ireland.
- 6) The actual color of St. Patrick is blue. Green became associated with St. Patrick's Day during the 19th century. Green, in Irish legends, was worn by fairies and immortals, and also by people to encourage their crops to grow.
- 7) St. Patrick's celebrations were originally religious festivals; up until the 1970s Irish law mandated that pubs be closed on St. Patrick's Day. In 1995 the Irish government used St. Patrick's Day to drive tourism to Ireland.
- 8) St. Patrick did not actually drive snakes out of Ireland; the snakes represent the Pagans that he converted to Christianity.
- 9) The first organized St. Patrick's Day Parade was held in New York in 1762. The parade consisted of Irish soldiers serving in the English military, the parade helped them reconnect with their Irish roots.
- 10) The shamrock, which was also called the "seamroy" by the Celts, was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because it symbolized the rebirth of spring. According to legend, St. Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Christian doctrine of the Trinity ( God exists as three persons--father, son, and the Holy Spirit) to the Irish.

Original article by Brenda Skipper

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU

PEGGY KUSTRA



## Notes about your Music Coordinator:

Silver Strings needs to restore this position to one contact person. It has been fractured for too long. Here's a good way to give back to the club.

- 1 Maintains music library & provides copies of music for members.
- 2 Accepts member suggestions and determines, with Program VP or committee, new songs to be learned.
- 3 Arranges for music to be properly formatted. (Kelly has offered to continue to do this.)
- 4 Coordinates musical arrangements for performance.
- 5 Develops monthly song play lists for performances.

**PURSE STRINGS** \_\_\_\_\_ Linda Osgood

Hi All

As I am writing this, it's another "snow day"! Is it just me, or are you just plain tired of this winter? Spring is right around the corner and I, for one, can't wait for it.

Next month we start back up with playdates and that is always a fun thing for us do. I encourage anyone who has not tried it, to do so. You will be pleasantly surprised, if you've not seen Silver Strings in "action", outside of our jam sessions. We have quite a few regular "fans", and a fun time is had by all.

As always, a gentle reminder to pay your dues for 2011. They must be paid to get your new music pack. I'm happy to take your money!!! See you soon! Linda

## ODPC FUNFEST IN EVART

Coming soon...

It's time to start preparing for the "BIG BAND"

July 14-17, 2011

2011 Pre-Show Tunes

Red Apple Rag (G)

Whiskey Before Breakfast (D)

Sophrina (G) - Les Raber

Red Wing (G)

Maple Sugar (D)

Trillium Twirl (C) - Judi Morningstar (2008)

Headin' To Evert (D) - Bill Robinson

Hey Polka (G)

Liberty (D) - if time permits

Star Spangled Banner - for the opening

**FOR SALE:** Silver Strings legal-licensed copy of Music Time Deluxe, v3.5. I upgraded to v4.0 which opens up a group license seat. \$40.00. Contact Karen Turner, (734)455-4085 or [karenturner@comcast.net](mailto:karenturner@comcast.net)

...My name is Peggy Kustra, but most people at Silver Strings call me "Perky Peggy". I have been a member of Silver Strings for over 16 years, and have served as president, treasurer, and 2 terms as VP of Business and Programs. I play both hammered and mountain dulcimers, autoharp, bodhran drum, and the chord organ.

I was born in Dearborn at the Oakwood Hospital 2 years after it was built (yes, there was electricity and running water then) into a family with an older sister and an older brother who play guitar, and 1 younger sister who plays piano and guitar. My first real instrument was my voice and I loved singing! When I was 12 years old, I got my first real instrument, a chord organ, from my older brother as a Christmas present. I didn't take any formal lessons on it, because it came with a lot of books, and I taught myself to play.

During my school years, I was very shy and introverted, would you believe? I was an excellent student, worked hard to earn A's, and played basketball and baseball. I was pretty good at baseball and was proud to be called "slugger". I later earned a degree in accounting from Henry Ford Community College, and was hired at Oakwood Hospital as a bookkeeper.

I met my husband Gerry when the hospital's books needed to be audited. He was the CPA, and for 35 years everything has continued to balance in our lives. We have 3 children (Jennifer, Mike, and Tom) and one terrific grandson, Teddy who is 17 months old. I baby-sit with him 5 days a week, 10 hours a day and love it.

I started playing the hammered dulcimer at 37 years old. The first time I heard the dulcimer was at the Plymouth Orchard, where the Felicity Strings were playing, then again at the Lansing Historical Museum. I loved the sound of that instrument, and right away took lessons from Mary Lou Battley. I have been playing the dulcimer for over 20 years now. I have been fortunate to play with many other dulcimer groups, like Friendly Strings, Blended Strings, and in the Silver Strings performing group.

You might call me a "Professional Volunteer", because I have been a member and president of the Soroptimist Women's Group, which organizes fund raisers for needy women, so they can become educated and successful. I've been a religious education teacher for 2nd and 8th graders at St. Linus Church for over 25 years. I am a member of "On The Move" at U of M to encourage adults to earn their GED's and go on to college.

I enjoy camping in our pop up trailer, especially at Young State Park here in Michigan, and going to music festivals. I enjoy sewing, embroidering (crewel stitching), needle point, and ceramics. My husband would say I'm a "jack of all trades but master of none", but it keeps me happy and upbeat. We have 2 dogs ( 1 yorkie and 1 poodle) and 1 fish. The dogs are our "living" baby monitor, and bark to let us know, every time our grandson cries and needs us. My whole life has been centered on instilling the importance of a good education, spreading joy and giving daily to others. I know you will know me at the meetings. I'm the loud, funny lady with bright colored clothes, and a huge friendly smile. If you need some encouragement, a hug or funny joke, or help on your instrument, let me know!