

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Soundboard

DECEMBER 2014 31 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC Aug 1983-2014 Issue 356
Website : www.silverstrings.org

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Marsha Kozlowski

"Joy to the World", "He is Born," "Have a Holly Jolly Christmas" – the stockings are not yet hung with or without care, and while I am not experiencing "visions", music is running through my head from all the practicing in anticipation of our many holiday gigs. For some members, it will be their first time playing a holiday gig. For others, it may be their first time with some of the tunes that have been added. For everyone, it is our opportunity to share music and offer harmony in a seemingly fractious world. It is our gift and it is offered generously. May our love of music shine through us in our smiles and expression.

"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent" – Victor Hugo

This is a good time, before the season overtakes us, to pause and reflect. My "State of the Club" report is attached to the newsletter, but there are some things to add. **My gratitude to Karen, Mick, Terry and Marie for their work on the board.** A team is needed to lead the club and all did their best to be mutually supportive and work together in the best interests of Silver Strings. **My appreciation of all those who helped make this club what it is** – whether to bring a dish to pass, lend your musical talents at the jams or performances, setting up, taking down, and the myriad of little things that add up over time. **My thankfulness that there is a dulcimer club** in our area in which to jam and enjoy playing traditional music. Talking to people at various festivals, I realize not everyone is so fortunate. It is a blessing we should not take for granted.

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything." – Plato

As I conclude my year as President, I lift up ideas we didn't get to try or have the time to develop into reality: Additional workshops, a fully developed school assembly program to bring our music in a fresh way to a new generation; a dulcimer "orchestra" that might play at a state event; a flash mob experience. Some of these are probably just fantasies, but every good thing began as a wild idea. Who knows? Maybe with the right combination of people, one or more of these could happen.

"If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music." – Albert Einstein

Thank you for a memorable year.

"And I thought about how many people have loved those songs. And how many people got through a lot of bad times because of those songs. And how many people enjoyed good times with those songs. And how much those songs really mean. I think it would be great to have written one of those songs. I bet if I wrote one of them, I would be very proud. I hope the people who wrote those songs are happy. I hope they feel it's enough. I really do because they've made me happy. And I'm only one person." – Stephen Chbosky, The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Marsha



The Secret of Christmas

It's not the glow you feel when snow appears,
It's not the Christmas card you've sent for years,
Not the joyful sound when sleigh bells ring,
Or the merry songs children sing.

The little things you do on Christmas Day
Will not bring back the friend you've turned away.
So may I suggest the secret of Christmas
Is not the things you do at Christmas time,
But the little things you do all year through.

IT'S DECEMBER...LET'S CELEBRATE !

BIRTHDAYS

3...Marsha McCullough
13...Theresa Smith
25...Carol Harmon
31...Sandi Hlavacek



ANNIVERSARIES

22...Bert & Elaine Stein.....51st

From the VP PROGRAMS _____ Wade Mullins with Jeff Despard & Maureen Mullins

As we approach this very busy Holiday Season I'd like send out some reminders about upcoming dates. December 4th we will be having a concert for Good Hope with refreshments to follow, which we will provide. I am asking for two volunteers to help with set up and clean up. We are also asking for donations of desserts and snack food to be dropped off before the concert begins.

Also, in December is our Holiday Pot Luck scheduled for the 18th. The club will, as always, provide meat, pop and coffee. We are asking that members with the last name A - N contribute a side dish and O - Z provide a dessert.

Since the first Thursday in January falls on New Year's Day the meeting is canceled with the next regular meeting on the 15th. January has five Thursdays, so the 29th will be our next Variety Night giving everyone time to get something special ready for that night.

Wishing you all a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

PLAYDATE CHATTER _____ VP BUSINESS

Our Holiday season kicked off with a gig at Southgate Co-Op. We were able to use the Holiday Library playlist since the group requested both Holiday and Christmas tunes. Our music was very well received by enthusiastic seniors who sang along with every Christmas tune. And we have already been asked back for St. Patrick's Day next year!

By the time you read this article, we will have completed our 4 practices, have the Christmas playlist firmed up, have musicians signed up for the remaining 12 gigs, and will be ready to take our show on the road! It's always a fun time, playing one gig after another, carpooling to and from, going out to eat afterwards and socializing with fellow musicians and getting not only ourselves in the Christmas spirit but getting our audiences in the spirit.

My term as Business Manager will conclude at the end of the year and I want to thank all those club members who have supported and helped me in my position. I want to thank all the Board and club members who have supported and helped me in my position. Ann Wassell will take over in January and I hope that everyone will give her the same support. KT

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

FROM THE TREASURER'S BOX: Terry Kozlowski

As I complete my first year as Treasurer, I must thank my fellow board members for being such a good team and a pleasure to work with. I welcome the new board members, Harold Crane, Ann Wassell and Wade Mullins as we look forward to 2015 and a new year of great music.

Membership: Thanks to all of you who have been prompt in renewing your membership. Almost 70 of you have turned in your renewals. This is a good sign and indicates not only what a bargain membership to Silver Strings is but its value in our musical life. Where else can you belong to such a fine club for such a reasonable cost? If you are in contact with members who we haven't seen in a while, invite them back. If you have friends who play acoustic instruments, give them a personal invitation to join us. It would be nice to be over 100 members again.

Financial status – our bank account is balanced. The balance is expected to go up as the bulk of our income comes at Christmas from all the gigs we do and there are no big expenses expected. I always have the books with me and you are welcome to review them.

Christmas gifts – remember our CD's make good stocking stuffers and are only \$5 for members. Introduce someone to our music – it is a gift that never goes out of style.

Finally, my Christmas wish for you (to paraphrase John Wesley):

“Play all the music you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.”

Terry Kozlowski

NEW MEMBERS

Maureen Mullins (Wade's wife), Northville
Maureen is a non-playing member but that status may change as she figures out how to play a dulcimer.
Lend her your support and encouragement.

Nancy McKee Ann Arbor
She is a beginning player
mountain dulcimer and banjola.

George Newton Livonia
Plays banjo and is becoming a regular face at our jams.
Give all these new members your warmest welcome.

ANN'S GROUP

There will be no meeting Nov. 26th or Dec 24th
Last class in 2014 will be Wed, Dec. 10th

Phone: 734-744-4255
Email: ann.wassell@yahoo.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 4...**PLAYDATE** **H** 7:00
 Good Hope Church Garden City
- 6...**PLAYDATE** **H** TBA
 Royal Oak Public Library Royal Oak
- 8...**PLAYDATE** **H** 2:00
 Plymouth Seniors Plymouth
- 9...**PLAYDATE** **H** 3:00
 Canton Heartland Health Care Canton
- 10...**PLAYDATE** **H** 12:30
 Retired School Personnel Livonia
- 11...**PLAYDATE** **H** 12:00
 Retired School Personnel Dearborn
- 12...**PLAYDATE** **H** TBA
 Generations at Botsford Livonia
- 13...**PLAYDATE** **H** 1:00
 John F Kennedy Jr Library . . . Dearborn Hgts
- 13...**PLAYDATE** **H** 3:00
 Caroline Kennedy Library . . . Dearborn Hgts
- 14...**PLAYDATE** **H** 2:00
 St. Richard's Church Westland
- 16...**PLAYDATE** **H** 2:00
 Brookhaven Manor Ann Arbor
- 18...**PLAYDATE** **H** 12:15
 Livonia Civic Center Library Livonia
- 18...**SSDS Meeting and Jam**
 Last jam of the year and potluck 7:00-?
- 25.....**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

JANUARY

- 1.....**HAPPY NEW YEAR !**
 No SSDS meeting this 1st Thursday
- 15...**SSDS Meeting and Jam** 7:00-?
- 17...**PLAYDATE** **C** 11:00-3:00
 Lake Erie Metro Park Brownstown
- 18...**PLAYDATE** **C** 12:00-4:00
 Lake Erie Metro Park Brownstown
- 29...**SSDS VARIETY NIGHT** 7:00-?
 C=Casual, BC=Business Casual, H=Holiday

To print the Christmas play list,

please click on our website or this link :

<http://www.silverstrings.org/sections/tunes/pdf/2014/ChristmasPlaylist14.pdf>

For the Library Playlist use this link:

<http://www.silverstrings.org/sections/tunes/pdf/2014/LibraryHolidayPlaylist14.pdf>

2014 Silver Strings Christmas Playlist

Key	Tune	Play
G	Jingle Bells Start with Chorus	3 ½
G	Deck The Halls Tag by Starter	3 ***
G	Let it Snow! Tag by Starter	2
C	Winter Wonderland	3
C	Silver Bells	3
C	Ritard End. HD's walk up C chord	3
C	A Holly Jolly Christmas	3
D	Frosty The Snowman	2
D	Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer	2
	Start & Play with Spirit	
G	Up On The Housetop	3
C	Jingle Bell Rock	2
D	Jolly Old St Nicholas	4
	Pachelbel 8 Measure start; play slow! Tag by starter	
G	Angels We Have Heard On High Ritard End	3 ***
G	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Ritard End	3
G	Away In The Manger Ritard End	3 ***
Em	God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen	4
	Play Upbeat Tempo; all end on last E	
G	O Come All Ye Faithful Ritard End	3 ***
G	He Is Born	3
G	The First Noel	3 ***
	Everyone repeats last 2 lines 3rd time as tag	
G	Joy To The World Tag by Bass	3
D	Simple Gifts Ritard End	3 ***
D/G	Silent Night Ritard End	2/2***
G	We Wish You A Merry Christmas	2 ½
	Start & Play w/Spirit; Ritard End	
	*** All back down the 2nd time to let fiddles, harmonicas and/or whistles take it if those instruments are available; this will be decided just before gig.	



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Music:

We have been given permission, by several composers, to play their music in our club. We also pay for a license that allows us to play some of our favorite tunes. We want to protect our Silver Strings members and respect the composers who have generously shared their music with us. In consideration of the composers and SSDS, do not sell, copy, give away or share any of our Silver Strings music.

Our first Holiday gig of the year was at the Southgate Co-Op. We had an enthusiastic audience who sang along with our Holiday tunes.

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

President's State of Club Report – 2014

According to the by-laws of SSDS, the president is to give a state of the club report at the Club's annual meeting. So here it goes. Looking back to a year ago at this time, we could not even have an election because the nominating committee was unable come up with a full slate. There was fear and anxiety as to whether the club would even continue. By December, however, several people stepped up and a new board formed. The club got off to a rocky start in 2014 – due to weather. Don't know how many times in the past the club has had to cancel jams due to weather - but we had to do that twice. In addition to weather, there was the challenge of having board meetings. I have a monthly commitment the first Thursday. Even though assured that could be worked around, Board meetings were irregular at best. We improvised and used the technology available to us to make group decisions. Some of the secretary's reports are copies of e-mails we used to decide on our course of action. And then there were Marie's cancer treatments that added their affect. As Marie often said, "It all works out, Marsha." It does and here we are a year later.

The support of the club members was so very important as we went through 2014 because things worked a little differently. Speaking for myself, the e-mails of support I received from many of you were reassuring. The club picnic was changed to a regular meeting night in the local park down the street. The board felt it helped to make Silver Strings a visible presence in this community. A couple of new features were included in the banquet event to make it even more enjoyable and we hoped those who attended found it so. New tunes were added throughout the year. The membership took the changes in stride and helped out when needed.

Membership – has stayed steady. We lose some and gain others. People seem to find us through the internet, YouTube, word of mouth and invitation from current members. Some new members are actually old members who have returned. The club does not appear to be growing membership wise, but has a solid core of people. One factor that became apparent both in planning and in doing gigs is the aging of our membership. That has to be taken into consideration as events are planned. For example, at Myers' Lake, we paid to have the canopy with sides put up for us. It also seems to be a factor into getting people to sign up to play at gigs – especially those that are some distance away.

Club Roles – It is appropriate to thank those who stepped up to help Marie with the VP-Programs work. She continued to be as active as she could, but the physical things she could not do needed other people's arms and legs. Jeff Despard, Megan Callaghan, Gloria Tapper and most importantly Wade and Maureen Mullins stepped in to help. Their assistance assured that all the events went on smoothly.

Supportive Roles – There are some holes in the support roles. Even though we tried, we could not get a person or person's to take on the responsibility of **historian**. There are albums of photos down stairs that should be scanned and put into document form. Recording our year by collecting and organizing photos and descriptive material is

currently done rather haphazardly. I still think there is a need to coordinate this more effectively, but if it doesn't happen, it doesn't. There has been no historian for some time so it is not a new issue.

Music Coordinator - When we started the year, Marie and Karen wanted to do this job together. The year is ending and Marie is no longer with us. Karen will be stepping down. This is an important role and one the new board will have to discuss and work on what it wants to do.

Slow Jams - Another hole in the club's fabric is a Slow Jam leader. Since Mary Colgan left, slow jams have been few and far between. Slow jams provide an opportunity for new members to work on and get up to speed on some of the more difficult tunes from our repertoire. If I would to give the new board a wish list – a Slow Jam Leader would certainly be on it. On a side note, Ann Wassell's bi-monthly gatherings have filled in the gap a little to give newer players an opportunity to work on some of our tunes. I am thankful for that.

Gigs – The number of gigs played this year has taken a dramatic drop. There are probably a number of factors that would account for the drop and it will be suggested to the incoming board to discuss this. Members input would be very helpful to them and I hope you will ponder this. Attached to this report is a summary table of the gigs played over the last six years by month.

Workshops – While I have not done a count of workshops, it seems there have been fewer of them as well. Kay Rowe did lead some whistle workshops which were well-received. I did a couple of "teach a tune" workshops. We still had workshops at the Campout. If the membership and board think there should be more of these, this might be addressed at a future meeting. Again, member input is valued.

Did everything work out? NO. The School Initiative never got off the ground, for one. However, as a gardener would say, there is always next year. And whether or not it ever happens, will be a question for the future.

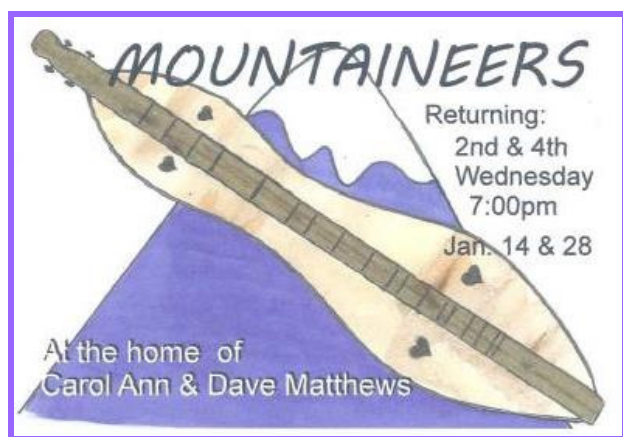
In summary, this organization has a lot of positives – the strength of its membership, the participation of so many that are willing to be active, whether to perform, to bring a dish or dessert, to lead a workshop or start a tune. The club is evolving and must step back and consider where it is at and what direction it is going so planning and action is intentional and appropriate. Technology (Facebook, YouTube, Dropbox or something else), new audiences, aging members, type of activities – the club as a whole must give these factors consideration and use their wonderful creative power to determine its path.

The present board stepped up when it was needed and kept things moving along this year. The handoff to the new board ensures continuity but also invites new ideas, energy and creativity to be given on behalf of the club. We wish them the best and pledge our support. May the club continue to be blessed with musical richness in harmony and creative energy.

Respectfully submitted – Marsha Kozlowski

SSDS Gig History - 2009-2014

Month	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
January	2	3	3	5	5	2
Feb	3	1	0	1	2	2
March	3	5	9	2	4	5
April	3	2	1	2	4	1
May	3	3	3	3	2	3
June	2	1	3	1	1	3
July	3	3	2	3	2	1
August	3	2	2	0	2	1
September	6	6	4	7	2	1
October	2	3	2	1	1	1
November	3	3	5	2	0	1
December	15	16	18	11	11	12
Total	48	48	52	38	36	33



Welcome to the New Board

In November we held the annual business meeting and by acclamation a new board was elected. A big thank you to the Election Committee: Peggy Kustra, Luke Kawecky and Marsha Kozlowski for their work on this. There is also gratitude to the out-going board for their helpful support and behind the scenes work in recruiting new people to serve on the board.

Congratulations to the new board:

Harold Crane President

Ann Wassell VP-Business

Wade Mullins VP-Programs

Terry Kozlowski Treasurer

Mick Mastal Secretary

You will find Karen Turner and me there to support you with our experience as well as all those who served on previous boards. There is a wealth of people to call on. And as we found this year, there is a pool of talented new members with ideas, enthusiasm and energy waiting to be tapped. That being said, may your year on the board be blessed with sunny music and rich harmony.

Your out-going President – Marsha

FESTIVALS-WORKSHOPS-JAMS

UNCLE CARL'S DULCIMER CLUB

2nd Saturday of month, Sept thru May, 12:30-4:30pm
(next is Dec 13th)

For info. call Pennye 517-547-7448

NETTLE LAKE MUSIC JAM

First Saturday of Month Sept thru May – 6pm
(next is Dec 6th)

For info contact **Jack & Marilyn Mullins 517-270-2870**

MAUMEE STREET MUSIC JAM

(formerly called West Adrian Jam)

Forth Saturday of the month – 6pm (next is Dec 27th)

For info. Contact:

Jack & Marilyn Mullins 517-270-2870

Or Larry Roper 248-437-5403

SUGAR (Saginaw Ukulele Gurus and Rookies)

First Saturday of the month 10:30-Noon (Dec 6th)

Now at Sullivan's Restaurant on Gratiot in Saginaw, MI

Songs are posted beforehand on the internet

For info email: muzyka2007@yahoo.com

MT. HALEY JAMBOREE

Last Friday of every month (Dec 26th)

Mt. Haley Township Hall, Midland County

1:00-4:00-Folk and Traditional Music Jam

Admission is free but donations to the Metamora Historical Society are appreciated. Metamora's 1888 Old Town Hall is part of an historic community.

For info. Call **Alice Gajewski at 248-628-5287**

mthaleyfmsm@gmail.com

GREAT LAKES UKULELE GATHERING

First Wednesday of the month 7:00 (Dec 3rd)

Good Hope Lutheran Church,
28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

A donation of \$3.00 is requested for the church.

Contact: Bob at bsnemo@yahoo.com or

David at musicalcraft@yahoo.com

Pittsfield Open Band - POB

Pittsfield Grange 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, First and third Saturday from 3-6pm.

<http://www.aactmad.org/sa/pob.html>

LAMS - Livingston Acoustic Musical Society

3rd Saturday of the month 7-11pm (Dec 20th)

Fowlerville Church of the Nazarene

8040 Country Corner Drive, Fowlerville

Contact: **Tony Miceli 517-223-9590**

FARMINGTON JAM

Universalist Unitarian Church

25301 Halsted Rd. Farmington Hills 48335

Second Tuesday of each month from Sept – June, 7pm

Many players come to play dulcimers, fiddles, guitars...

If you are a beginner, this is a good place
to meet people and get involved.

Contact: **HolmesSid@aol.com**

2015 SSDS LAKE ERIE ICE DAZE PLAYLIST

Key	Tune	Played
C	Winter Wonderland	2
G	Red Wing	3
D	Bonaparte Crossing The Rhine / Flop Eared Mule	3/3
D	Chinese Breakdown / Nelly Bly	2/3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	Over The Waterfall / Mississippi Sawyer	3/3
D	Possum Up A Gum Stump	3
G	Jingle Bells (Chorus + 3)	3 ½
D	Peek-A-Boo-Waltz	3
G	Dusty Bob's Jig	3
G	Silver And Gold Two-Step	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Let It Snow	3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3
D	John Ryan's Polka	3
D	Young Roddy McCorley	4
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
Em	Tamlin	3
G	Southwind	3
G	Tick Tock Polka	3
G	Old Joe Clark	4
G	Maggie	3
Em	Road To Lisdoonvarna / Riding Hay	
C	Black Velvet Waltz	3
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	4
C	Jingle Bell Rock	2
Em	Dancing Bear	3
C	Five Foot Two	4
D	Coleman's March	3
D	Painter's Polka	3
G/D	Jamie Allen / Road To Boston	3
D	Viola's Schottische	3
G	Down Yonder	3
G	January Waltz	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
C	Holly Jolly Christmas	3
D	Soldier's Joy	3
D	Ashokan Farewell	3
Em	Missouri	3
Am	Katushka	5
G	Hundred Pipers	3
G	March of St Timothy	3
G	Drunken Sailor	4
G	Larry's Waltz	2
	Endless Medley	
D	Ragtime Annie	2
D	Soldier's Joy	2
D	Golden Slippers	2
G	Golden Slippers	2
	On Demand-As Needed	
	Hey Polka	5

Note: Slow tunes may be skipped over if the audience is large in order to keep the momentum of the music; Holiday tunes may be omitted if no children are in the audience at that time or could be thrown in if children are there.

Rick Thum Workshop and Concert



Silver Strings members met with Rick for his highly informative A to Z Workshop...



...then topped off the day with a wonderful concert.



**Silver
Strings
Variety
Night
November
2014**



Another successful Variety Night with performances by a wide variety of groups and instruments included a tribute to Walt Jablonski and who could forget Luke's fabulous costume!

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays 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.

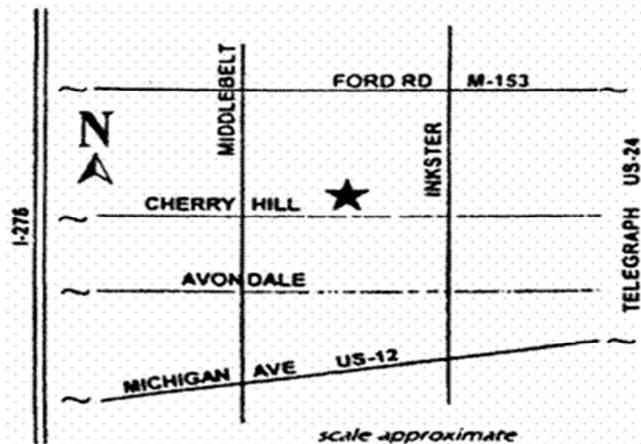
Participate in workshops, festivals, performances,
picnics, fun and fellowship.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT :

<http://www.silverstrings.org>

Everyone is welcome !

Come to listen, or come to play.



Start thinking about getting articles for the newsletter to me by the 20th.
Articles or pictures from any member are always welcome.

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

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



**IT'S DECEMBER...!
HAPPY HOLLY DAYS !!**

If you were on the mailing list
your name would be here.