

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Soundboard

September 2019

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 35 YEARS
www.silverstrings.org

Issue 413

PERKY PEGGY'S PONDERINGS ___ Peggy Kustra

Hello Everyone, I can't believe it is September already. Where has the time gone. Well, picnics, festivals, playdates, and jamming, this might explain where it went.

- 1) There will be a board meeting on September 5th at 5:45.
- 2) Our annual picnic was a total success. Thanks Bob and Sandi for your hard work. Thanks, Marsha, for booking and finding the glorious park. Thank you everyone for your generous donations of food. The food was delicious with a capital D.
- 3) There are sign-up sheets for t-shirts, sweatshirts and zip hooded sweatshirts. Please sign up to choose size and shirt. Payment will be upon arrival of the shirts.
- 4) **SAVE THE DATE!!** Silver Strings will be hosting a jam for ODPC on Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 1:00-5:00pm. Come and meet musicians from other clubs. Please bring snacks or a dessert to pass.
- 5) On October 3rd Silver Strings will host our Annual Banquet. Plan to attend and join in on the fun! If you won't be attending the banquet, there will not be a jam at Holy Cross on October 3rd.
- 6) If anyone has the SSDS brochure to pass out, please double check to make sure it is the current one. It should have us at Holy Cross church.
- 7) Theresa Smith and Sally Niemczewski are the nominating committee for the 2020 SSDS board. If interested in a board position let them know. It is very important to become a board member. It helps our club to continue to grow and be active.
- 8) Now is a good time to start practicing Christmas music. Christmas will be here before you know it. We Hope to see many of you at all the upcoming activities.

If you have any questions, ideas or concerns call me at 313-570-7844 or email at Kustras1976@yahoo.com Perky Peggy Kustra

VP - BUSINESS NOTES _____ Bob Patterson

Hello everyone. It's hard to believe that September is here already. I hope you had a great summer. We have a slow month lined up.

On Friday September 20th, we have our return playdate to the Cedarbrook facility on Haggerty road at 2pm. Then on Sunday the 22nd, we will perform in our Victorian outfits at the 11th Annual Harvest Festival in Pittsfield Township at 4pm. We will begin our setup at 3:30pm. Lastly, we will celebrate our new SSDS Home with an ODPC sponsored jam in the Holy Cross Fellowship Hall on Saturday the 28th from 1pm to 5pm.

Bob..... silverstring14@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 5... SSDS Board Meeting..... 5:45
- 5... Slow Jam with Linda Osgood..... 6:00-6:45
- 5.... SSDS MEETING AND JAM 7:00 - ??**
- 19.... "Heavy Breathers" Harmonica Jam... 6:00-6:45
- 19... SSDS MEETING AND JAM 7:00 - ??**
- 20.... Playdate - Cedarbrook, Plymouth..... 2:00 pm
- 22.... Playdate - Pittsfield Harvest Festival..4:00 pm
- 28.... ODPC jam at Holy Cross Church.....1 - 5:00 pm

VP- PROGRAMS NOTES___ Bob & Sandi Hlavacek

Summer is slipping away very fast. The summer picnic on August 1st was attended by over 70 members. The weather was outstanding for a day in the park. Blue sky, not too hot, and a nice breeze. We jammed from 2:30 to 9:00 pm led by President Peggy. We enjoyed about a one hour break for chicken and a great potluck dinner. Thank you Marsha Koz. for getting the pavilion. Thanks to all who pitched in to help set up and clean up. We **really appreciate** the people who come forward to help at these activities. It makes it possible for US to have fun too.

The fun continues. Thursday, August 29, we are hosting Variety Night. Get your act ready, & show us what you can do !!! Theresa Smith will MC the event.

Pizza and salad will be provided. Bring a desert or other side dish. Many of us will attend the Midland music festival on the weekend of August 22 thru 24. By the time this newsletter is published both events will be a fond memory.

Now it is time to address the Banquet. Our annual fall banquet will be held at the **Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Rd., Westland Mi.** on the first Thursday of October (instead of our usual jam). For those newcomers, it is a fun night out for a **really good dinner** & socializing with your new friends. Tickets will be available at variety night and the 2 jams in September, from Theresa Smith or Bob Hlavacek. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$15 for guests. They need to be purchased by Sept 19 (2nd Sept jam), because the facility needs a final head count. You may also send a check to **Bob Hlavacek, 5598 N. Dixboro, Ann Arbor Mi. 48105.** (We will hold those tickets at the door for you.) We invite you to display your hobby or creative work. That's one more way we learn about our members' lives outside of our shared music. Marsha is coordinating the display. Contact her for details, and see her newsletter article. The committee is putting together a fun evening with a few surprises.

October also has a 5th Thursday, falling on October 31st. Do we want to have a Halloween Variety Night, or will too many people be trick or treating? We will vote at our 1st September jam.

There's a LOT going on! We have a great club! We're glad you're a part of it.

... Sandi & Bob datadoc@charter.net 734-663-7974

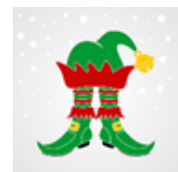
MARSHA'S MUSINGS _____ Marsha Kozlowski



Jam Observation – I have noticed that more people seem to be calling tunes that haven't been played in a while or that are not necessarily a favorite.

THANK YOU! There is

much benefit to doing this. It helps new members to hear what a tune sounds like, it is a good review for the rest of us, we get to hear it anew and it helps the club's versatility.



Yes, it is early BUT, it is time to dust off the holiday music and at least go through the recall process of seeing how many of the tunes you know. There will be 3 practice/rehearsals (2 in October and 1 in November with a 4th date (if needed)). Rehearsal dates to be determined by church availability. In the meantime, refresh your memory of the tunes. Pull out last year's playlist for reference (you can also find it on the website – pull up the newsletter for November or December 2018).

Holiday Playlist: While the majority of the tunes will be the same, some tunes will be given a "vacation" and new tunes introduced. This year on the "may be added": Over the River and Through the Wood, Do You Hear What I Hear (yes, we played it last year but in a different key) and Christmas Waltz. You will be

sent a copy of this via email so you have it ahead to review.

Attire: Many of the performances are holiday attire (red/green/etc.). However, some will be Victorian wear – if you want to perform at one of these, start now to assemble something. Ask around, some of our members have extra items. In addition, last year we found some toy soldier headbands which we wore for a couple tunes. (Think we got them at Hobby Lobby). If they have them again and you are willing to wear one, pick one up.

It is likely there will be two playlists. One for programs at libraries whose policy is no religious music. In addition, I plan to tweak the format for any Advent Tea type programs. The playlist may not change, but will be divided with the first ½ being played as background music. The second half will be played as a regular performance with commentary.

Playlists: August-September list will be used for the 2 September gigs. **October-November** list has a fall theme. Review tunes you haven't played in a while if you plan to perform. Call for the tunes at a jam. It is a good way to practice them with the group. **Library Outreach** – there is a library outreach program at the South Lyon Library in October. If you haven't performed before, this is a good way to begin.

Evart Feedback – we have been invited to play again as the warm-up to the Thurs night program in 2020. They like our "theme" approach and commented on how sharp we looked. They asked if we would play a patriotic theme next year and finish by playing the national anthem for all to sing. I accepted the request because there is a lot we can do with this – from what we wear, how we look and put it all together. Thanks again to everyone who played the program.

Banquet – Gathering Hour. The Board decided the perfect way to get to know each other better and mingle is by having a home grown exhibit, i.e. "Creativity on Display." You are invited to bring a display of what you create, collect, or an exhibit of your hobby, etc. Some of our members are artists, some are quilters or do needle crafts. We have woodworkers and collectors of all sorts. There is a large variety of interests which make for great conversations. The last time this was done, there were displays of all sorts from Tai Chi to genealogy, from art work to train collecting. It was quite fun. Even if you brought something the last time, we haven't done this since 2015. So it will be new to most of us again.

Your display should take no more space than 4 sq. ft but can be less (a half a table). If you require more room, let me know. We will figure something out. If it is framed art work and you have some easels please bring those. Email Marsha at mt.koz@hotmail.com if you have any questions and to let her know you are going to bring a display and what that will be. (Display cards are created to identify the person and their hobby.) It does not matter if this is something you are not currently doing. Share what you have done and created.....Marsha mt.koz@hotmail.com

IT'S SEPTEMBER...LET'S CELEBRATE !

Birthdays

21...Sue Duncan

Anniversaries

21...Carol Dick

~ Welcome New Member ~

Connie Major



Aug - Sept. 2019 Playlist

Key	Tune	Play
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	4*
D	Down Yonder	3
D	Black Mountain Rag	3
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/ Riding on Load of Hay	3/3
G	Red Wing	3*
G	Westphalia Waltz	2*
D	Sandy Boys/ Over the Waterfall	3/3
D	Tick Tock Polka	3
Em	Tamlin	4
G	Yellow Bird	3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
C	Orange and Blue	3
C	Five Foot Two	3**
D	Saro Waltz	3*
D	Red Apple Rag	3
D	John Ryan's Polka	5*
G	South Wind	3*
G	Prairie Flower	3
Am	Schottische du Stockfish	3
A	Hangman's Reel	3
D/G	Single Footin' Horse on a Happy Trail	1
	Extras	
G	Girl I Left Behind Me	3
D	Hey Polka	4
G	March of St. Timothy	4*
*2 nd time: If instruments are available-- take it with backup; HD's softly ** If available, singer can lead audience. *** pause/rest on B part of 4 th time		

October-November 2019 Playlist

Key	Tune	Play
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast/ Mississippi Sawyer	3/3
D	Over the Waterfall	3
D	Spanish Two Step	3
Em	Dancing Bear/Missouri (2 nd Time of DB, play A part softer /B part louder)	2/2
G	Westphalia Waltz	2*
G	Maggie	3
C	Green Green Grass of Home	2
C	Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie	3
D	Turkey in the Straw	3**
D	Flight of the Haggis	3
Em	Tamlin (<i>start slow, each time a little faster</i>)	4
G	Muss I Denn	3*
Em	Drunken Sailor	4*
Am	Black Cat Schottische	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn/ Schottische du Stockfish	2/2
D	John Ryan's Polka	5*
G	South Wind	3*
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/ Riding on a Load	3/3
A	Hangman's Reel	3
	Extras	
G	Grandfather's Clock	3
D	Hey Polka	4
G	Red Apple Rag	3
*2 nd time: HD's soft – feature other instruments ** 2 nd time – feature whistles		

Library Outreach Playlist

Key	Tune	Play
	<i>Traditional Music Sample</i>	
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	4
D	Over the Waterfall	3
	<i>Dance Music</i>	
G	Westphalia Waltz	2*
D	Hey Polka	4
	<i>Irish or Celtic Music</i>	
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna	3
G	Irish Washerwoman	3
	<i>Familiar Tunes people can sing</i>	
C	Tennessee Waltz	3
G	Five Foot Two	3
	<i>Tunes that change tempo</i>	
Em	Tamlin	4

September 5th Slow Jam tunes (6:00 sharp to 6:45 pm)

- 1 Larry's Waltz
- 2 Redwing
- 3 Cold Frosty Morn
- 4 Cello
- 5 Westphalia

Hoping to see many smiling faces there!
Linda Osgood

Hammered Dulcimer - Repair/Rebuild
Hammers, Strings, Lessons, Loaners

Bob Hlavacek 734-657-0820
datadoc@charter.net



Music by Linda

Dulcimer Music For Special Occasions
Dulcimer Lessons

Linda Osgood

734-649-3843

losgood10424@comcast.net

MUSIC JAMS

UNCLE CARL'S DULCIMER CLUB

2nd Saturday of month, Sept thru May, 12:30-4:30pm

For information visit <http://www.unclecarls.org>

NETTLE LAKE MUSIC JAM

1st Saturday of Month, Sept thru May, 6pm

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

MAUMEE STREET MUSIC JAM

2nd Saturday of the month Sept thru May, 6pm

For info. Contact:

Jack & Marilyn Mullins: 517-270-2870

Or Larry Roper: 248-437-5403

MT. HALEY JAMBOREE

Last Friday of every month, 1:00 - 4:00pm

Mt. Haley Township Hall, Midland County

Admission is free but donations to the Metamora Historical Society are appreciated. For info. Call Alice Gajewski: 248-628-5287 mthaleymfsm@gmail.com

GREAT LAKES UKULELE GATHERING

1st Wednesday of each month, 7:00 - 9:00pm

Good Hope Lutheran Church,

28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

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

Contact David: musicalcraft@yahoo.com

Pittsfield Open Band - POB

1st and 3rd Saturday from 3:00 - 6:00pm

3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Ann Arbor,

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

LAMS - Livingston Acoustic Musical Society

3rd Saturday of the month 7:00 - 11:00pm

Fowlerville Church of the Nazarene

8040 Country Corner Drive, Fowlerville

Contact: Tony Miceli: 517-223-9590

FARMINGTON JAM

2nd Tuesday of each month from Sept-June, 7:00pm

Universalist Unitarian Church

25301 Halsted Rd. Farmington Hills 48335

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: threedsjd@aol.com

If anyone knows of a good jam that should be on this list, please let me know. David Smith

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

from Sandi Hlavacek

Several years back, the Soundboard had a feature column called “**GETTING TO KNOW YOU**”. It gave us all a chance to learn about the many interesting facts of our new members’ lives. We ALL have a life that reaches beyond the music we share. But there are many other loves we share and don’t know it. It’s good to be able to connect with a new friend who enjoys quilting, camping, bicycles, woodworking, antiques, mystery novels, travel, or ‘whatever’ as much as we do.

We have so-o-o many new members since the last bio. was presented, we thought reviving that column would be a helpful introduction for them, and fill the rest of us with ‘fun facts’ to enjoy and relate to. I have begun passing out questionnaires and taking photos for our Soundboard newsletter. I do hope you will take the time to fill it out and return it to me. Share what you want... I’m not digging for anything you feel is too personal. If you will share your bio in the photo gallery, but prefer not in the newsletter, you can note that on your form when you return it.

If you go on our website: silverstrings.org click on [Photo Gallery](#) then click on [SSDS Who’s Who](#) you will find pictures of our members. If their names are in blue & underlined, you can click on the name and read their bio. If you click on their picture, it will enlarge, so you can get a good look to identify someone you have seen at jams. (In gathering this process, I discovered there are many older members who have no bio. So I will also be giving them questionnaires.) PLEASE... I ask you to take the time to help me introduce you to the rest of the club. THANK YOU!!

Getting to Know You..... Cindy Semrau



My musical journey began when the children’s church choir taught us kids the rudiments of the staff and notes by standing on a big staff taped to the floor. Later, we had piano lessons on the organ. The teacher taught piano. We owned an old Hammond organ. I didn’t get too far on the ‘piano’, but it did prepare me for band class, that started in 5th grade. The school gave us a music ‘intelligence’ test, then recommended to us who should consider band. I (or maybe my parents) chose the flute.

It was easy to carry. I was the third owner of a Yamaha nickel plated flute, that was probably the source of my nickel sensitivity. Band sat you in chair position. The best was at in the top chair. I was competitive, but I never made it to first chair. In high school I tried messing around with an old mandolin. Dad took pity and got me a 12 string guitar. It is pretty difficult finger picking a 12 string. (Why did I try?) So I didn’t get very far. But it was fun.

My mom invited me to the Meyers Lake camp out. I thought it would be a nice way for me and the kids to spend time with Grandma. We kept coming back year after year. I brought my old recorder to play with. The recorder led me to an Irish session, and the realization that recorder can’t play Irish. In 2011 I got my first good whistle. I know that because the date is etched on the whistle. I actually joined when SSDS moved to the new church location (almost a year). The prior location was just too far away. I performed at Evart with the group last year and this year, and I did a couple of Christmas concerts, but SSDS is soooo busy, and I’m still working for a living. Now I LOVE to play my “bones”.

I loved reading. Especially science fiction. I kept a log of all the books I had read since maybe 3rd grade. When I quit the list, it had over 600 books. I also loved art, and took as many art classes as I could... a couple after college. But toxic art supplies don’t mix with small children. I was also good in math and science, and I read all of my dad’s ‘Science News’ and ‘Scientific American’ magazines, (which explains why I went to engineering school). I remember getting admitted to UofM Engineering and GMI (General Motors Institute / Kettering). I went to GMI because it came with a job and I’d have to live on campus (no commuting!). Little did I know when I applied to GMI, that my dad had spent a few years there too.

My brother followed me to GMI for engineering a couple years later, which was a good thing. We both met our future spouses at school. Later I kept telling my boys as they went off to college – college time is the best time for hunting down your other half and making the most important decision of your life.

My husband is Geoff Semrau. We’ve been married for 36 years. He loves biking. He fixes things around the house and keeps our cars running (which can be challenging). He loves most TV sports, Nascar and Football especially.

I have a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I retrained a few years back to the field of data. I’ve worked my entire career for General Motors. Just this month I moved to a new location & department. I now work at the GM Technical Center in Warren for the Workload Model team. My husband Geoff is also a General Motors Mechanical Engineer. He retired last fall and is **so much happier**.

I spent about ten years as a hobbies potter. That hobby is currently resting, probably till retirement. I am nurturing a 13-tree dwarf fruit orchard and I keep an organic vegetable garden. My flowers this year are lovely. I do a bit of biking. I’m trying to remember how to draw. I used to enjoy cooking, but I’m kinda tired of that now. I’ve raised three fine boys. Got one more year of college to go!! When researching my family tree, I discovered that on my Father’s side I have over 150 years of Michigan ancestry. So where am I from? Right here... Michigan!



25 Silver Strings members took part in the Thursday evening concert preshow at the 2019 Evart Funfest. Our "Crayola Crayons" music included **Orange & Blue / Yellow Bird**, **Red-Haired Boy/Black Cat Schottische**, Sweet Georgia **Brown**, and the **Purple** song. We were well received by an appreciative and growing audience. Although the festival was hot and stormy at times, we had good weather the evening of our performance. You can download a high resolution copy of this photo by clicking on the following link: <https://imgur.com/RLYU1Sr>



Several well attended evening jams took place under the Silver Strings canopy at the Midland Folk Festival. The 3 day festival was graced with perfect weather for the many workshops, jams, Friday dance and Saturday evening concert. Several workshops were conducted by Silver Strings members; Bob Hlavacek-Harmonica, Sandi Hlavacek-Spoons and Theresa Smith-Ukulele. Theresa & David also led an 80+ ukulele jam on Friday evening. Mark your calendar for next year's Midland Folk Festival on August 27- 30, 2020.

SILVER STRINGS ANNUAL PICNIC August 1st at Plymouth Township Park



Perfect weather greeted all those who attended our Annual Picnic at beautiful Plymouth Township Park. The event started with an afternoon jam in the large pavilion (great acoustics) and was followed with a delicious potluck picnic. Afterwards the jam started up again and lasted until the evening twilight. What a wonderful day of music, socializing with our friends and of course... food. Who could ask for more!



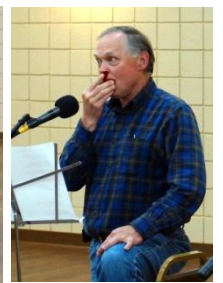


14 Silver Stringers performed at Christ Episcopal Church in Dearborn on a beautiful evening on August 9th. The audience loved us and we were asked to come back again next year.



40 members attended another really big jam on August 15th. Wow, this was our first jam at Holy Cross since June 20th!

~~ VARIETY NIGHT August 29th ~~



After pizza, salad and a large array of desserts we all were ready to be entertained with a variety of 11 acts that included lots of singers, fiddle, autoharp, guitar, ukuleles, banjo, hammered dulcimer, cajon, hurdy gurdy, spoons and nose flute. Thanks goes to Bob & Sandi Hlavacek for organizing the food, kitchen and tables, Carol Ann Mathews for the wonderful salad, Bob Patterson for running the sound system, our MC for the evening Theresa Smith, all other members who helped set up and take down, our performers who bravely stepped forward to our stage, and our audience members who showed up ready for an enjoyable evening.

The WATERFORD TOWNSHIP UKULELE GROUP
5th Annual



UKULELE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2019 9AM-4PM

Waterford Community of Christ
1990 Crescent Lake Road
Waterford, Michigan

FREE ADMISSION

GROUP PERFORMANCES WORKSHOPS
OPEN MIC SILENT AUCTION
STRUM ALONGS FOOD

Guest Performers



PUNCH DRUNK

In Association with
MOTOR CITY UKE

for more information visit the WTUG Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1192410467584195/>



11th Annual Harvest Festival

September 22, 2019 • 2 - 5 PM
Sutherland-Wilson Farm

EXPERIENCE HISTORY & LEARN ABOUT LOST ARTS

docent tours • makers fair • artisan demonstrations

LIVE MUSIC

Saline Fiddlers • Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN

petting farm • lawn games • prizes in the straw • hay rides
cake walk* • commemorative brick sale* • handmade craft sale - 50% off!* **AND MORE!**

ADMISSION

Adult (16+) \$5

Child (3-15) \$3

FREE for children 2 and under

Admission includes all activities
Pay-as-you-go for pumpkins and artisan goods



Bike or walk to Sutherland-Wilson Farm
(797 W. Textile Road)



Park at Harvest Elementary (1155 Campus Pkwy)
and take a FREE trolley to the event



#PCTharvestfest



/pittsfieldtwp



@pittsfieldtwpparksandrec



@pittsfieldtwp

www.pittsfield-mi.gov/harvestfestival

*Fundraisers benefit the Pittsfield Township Historical Society

for more information click on the following link:

<https://www.pittsfield-mi.gov/harvestfestival>

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month
7:00 - 9:00 pm.... with jamming till ...?

Meeting at **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**
In Livonia, Michigan

Featuring the hammered dulcimer,
and other acoustic instruments :
mountain dulcimer, banjo, guitar, autoharp, fiddle,
string bass, washtub bass, mandolin, folk harp,
recorder, tin penny whistle, ukulele and harmonica.

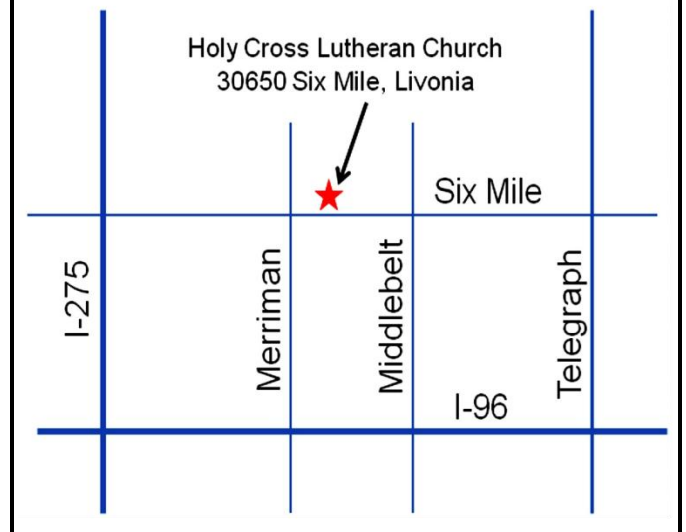
Learn new tunes and techniques, jam together
with other players, receive new music
and a monthly newsletter.

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 25th.

Articles or pictures from any member are always welcome, contact David at dtsmithnet@yahoo.com

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

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



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

September