

# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Soundboard

August 2020

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 37 YEARS

Issue 424

[www.silverstrings.org](http://www.silverstrings.org)

## PERKY PEGGY'S PONDERINGS\_\_ Peggy Kustra

Hello Everybody,

Hot....Hot...Summer Time!!

I'm hoping you are all able to stay cool and have power. A few of you lost power in that last storm. Bummers!

I have contacted Holy Cross Church. They are only doing their services on line. No in house services. Our jamming room won't be open for us for quite sometime. However, they are holding our Thursday spots for us. They said when it is safe for us to return, we Must Wear Masks. This will not be an option.

Now for some good news. SPIRIT JAM WILL BE RETURNING. The jams will take place once a month on the third Thursday of the month. Our first one will be Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

We are truly blessed to have Marsha and Terry available to undertake this wonderful musical interlude. Who hooooo!! Music will be flowing in the air once again, with Silver Stringers playing together in our hearts.

The board continues to meet once a month online. If you have any concerns or ideas please let me know. I can then put it on the agenda. Email me at [peggyakustra54@gmail.com](mailto:peggyakustra54@gmail.com) or if you prefer call me at 313-570-7844.

At this time.....no Silver Stringers have contracted the Covid virus. Stay safe and healthy.

If you have any questions or concerns email me at [peggyakustra54@gmail.com](mailto:peggyakustra54@gmail.com) or 313-570-7844

..... Perky Peggy still Perky

## IT'S AUGUST...LET'S CELEBRATE !

### BIRTHDAYS

3...George Gonyo  
14...Connie Major  
20...Shirley Becker  
23...Linda Osgood  
30...Paula Brawdy  
30...Bob Hlavacek  
30...Frank Duffey



*If you don't see your name here for your birthday or anniversary please let me know ..... David [dtsmithnet@yahoo.com](mailto:dtsmithnet@yahoo.com)*

## MARSHA'S MUSINGS \_\_\_\_ Marsha Kozlowski

The pandemic is forcing us to use technology not only to stay connected but to help with the music coordination aspect of the club.

**Spirit Jams** will return Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook Live and copied to the Club's YouTube page the following day. Mark your calendar.

**Tune Practice Video Collection:** A new project intended to be an updated version of the practice CD's the club used to have. The goal is to create videos of SSDS favorite and new tunes accessible from Dropbox and/or our YouTube page for practice, learning and/or review. Not having real jams in months, we are getting rusty. This is an ambitious project, but is an opportunity for the club and for its players to add to their musicianship. Volunteers are needed to help make it happen. What is involved? Make a list of a few tunes you know very well. You need a smart phone or camera that can record in High Definition and probably a tripod unless you have someone who can hold the camera. Once you are ready to record, include these elements: Tell the name of tune and the key. Play through it at tempo. Then break it down: Identify the "box" where it is played, explain your hammering pattern, if you think it is necessary. Play through the tune slowly, remarking on any repeating patterns and differentiating the A and B parts. You may want to play it 2 times slowly and then 1 or 2 times up to speed. Try it a few times. Once you

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

All August meetings are CANCELLED

All 13 Spirit Jams  
are available for viewing  
on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SilverStringsClub/playlists>

think it is okay, save it in Dropbox. Karen Turner and I will be coordinating. The actual video will probably be 5-8 minutes.

**Volunteer Call** - Please consider helping in the project. Let me know if you have questions, need more information or are ready to try it. There is no deadline. It will be done as willing people have the time and availability and as long as it takes. While it would be great to produce and post several tunes a month, whatever we do is a start that will evolve as we gain experience.

**Playlists** - Don't know what to play or practice? Look on the website or old newsletters and use those playlists for practice. This will help you keep your skills up. One day we will be jamming and performing again – and you will be READY!

..... Marsha mtkoz72@gmail.com 734-239-4190

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### VP- PROGRAMS NOTES\_\_ Bob & Sandi Hlavacek

This has certainly been a year like no other ! In January, we eagerly looked forward to our usual traditions: lots of jamming (with yummies), Variety Nights (with PIZZA buffets and jamming), campouts (with fried chicken, pot luck & jamming), Evert Funfest (with great workshops & jamming), our annual SSDS picnic (with chicken, a smorgasbord of favorite recipes & jamming), the Midland Folk Music Festival (with more workshops & jamming), and countless performances, sharing our music with communities through festivals, organization & family celebrations, churches, senior centers, nursing homes (our personal favorites... for people who can't get out to go to a concert). **ALWAYS**, we filled the air with MUSIC. **ALWAYS**, we shared our talents, bringing joy & comfort to each other and to those outside our group.

The COVID pandemic has prevented us from meeting, but it hasn't stopped the music. Thanks to Marsha & Terry Koslowski with their Spirit Jams, we have been able to communicate & jam over the internet, sharing our music with the world... at least 25 states and England, Czechoslovakia & Australia. We have been able to re-connect with past members who have moved away or been confined to their homes, who were **thrilled** to be able to jam with us again. With the Spirit Jams on YouTube, we all can jam again & again at our leisure. From the 1<sup>st</sup> jam with 12 attendees, to 265 joining on Facebook & 30-50 more who joined us later on YouTube, what a gift this has been to the music world !!! It has been an **enormous** job, **but they are actually willing to resume this gift monthly, beginning September 17<sup>th</sup>. What a REMARKBLE outreach for Silver Strings ! THANK YOU Marsha & Terry !**

20 years ago, Bob & I were new to SSDS. It wasn't long before I was putting the Soundboard together. I often did some research for a special article. One of those research projects was to interview the "old timers". My question was, "What brought you to Silver Strings, and why have you stayed?" I can't count the number of people who said, "It's the people. I don't know how I could have made it through my cancer treatment... heart surgery... loss of my spouse... loss of my child... loss of

my home... etc. without my Silver Strings friends." THAT spoke VOLUMES from their hearts, and we know from personal experience, how very true it is. This **music family** is a precious gift to enjoy.

As I bonded with new friends in the group, I gained a tremendous appreciation and respect for the SSDS founders and all of the people who had worked diligently every year to keep the club going. It takes a **HUGE** amount of dedication & hard work to keep a club going for 37 years (as of July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020). From an original 13 members, we have grown to our current 106, 11 of those joined because of the Spirit Jams. There have been ups & downs over the years, but people have persevered to continue building the traditions. This year's leaders have worked hard, behind the scenes, to maintain the spirit and momentum of SSDS. While **we ALL desperately want to see your smiling faces & pass out LOTS of hugs**, we are mindful of our responsibility to keep everyone safe. We are challenged to find ways to plan activities, knowing they might have to be cancelled. We do still **HOPE** to have our **Annual Banquet on October 1<sup>st</sup>**. We pray that we can actually follow through. What a **GLORIOUS thing** it would be to start that new month **together !!!** We are also **hoping** we can play our holiday concerts for the public, and end the year with our Annual Holiday Party, the week before Christmas. So for now... let's not look back on what we've missed, but look forward, instead, to fun things **we WILL** get back to. *Keep on practicing so you'll be ready to jam !*

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

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### SECRETARY\_\_\_\_ Julie Kafkas

Hello Folks! I miss seeing everyone and jamming. Here it is August already and still not much going on, I saw a parade or two as folks try to celebrate life events. Even for some fellow members this has been going on. I hope everyone is getting the hang of this new lifestyle.

Notes from our last board meeting:

- The church is not holding any events in the building but we have been assured we have our Thursday evening slots held for that day in the future when we can meet again.
- We are ready for that future meeting with our PPE and a set of guidelines to implement and follow.
- Banquet??? We don't know about that event yet.
- Membership is growing even without our "Traditional Jam" meetings. A great big thanks to Marsha and Terry putting on the Spirit Jams. Many, many, thanks!
- We wondered if and when we get our first opportunity to meet, who will feel comfortable enough to come?

*Until next time, stay safe, stay healthy and play music!*

.....Julie juliekafcas1@msn.com 734-552-7326

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### TREASURER NOTES\_\_\_\_ Judy Pyrkosz

Things have been, of course, very quiet for us. All of our playdates have been canceled so far without any indication of when they may resume. This means no real income. As a result of the Spirit Jams we did pick up a number of new members. We have also received a

very generous \$50 donation from Mary Barden. Although not a member, she learned of the Spirit Jam through a friend and quickly joined them. They helped her to get through a very trying time in her life brought on by the pandemic, so, in gratitude she sent a donation.

On the other hand, we have not had any significant disbursements. Evart was canceled, the camp-out was canceled, as well as our Annual Picnic, and we currently don't pay any rent. We were able to recoup all the deposits that had been paid in advance for those events. So basically there hasn't been many changes in our finances. We have about the same amount as when we went into lockdown back in March.

There is one new development. As many of you may have heard, the hackers and cons have been very busy during this crisis. There have been many news articles warning people about scams and hoaxes that are currently circulating. And we were not spared. After receiving a number of false claims, I felt it would be most prudent to implement a new system for the reimbursement for any club expenses that may arise. If you should need reimbursement for any club costs, please contact any board member and we will explain the new system. A new email has been set up for this purpose: Please send any requests of this nature to: [ssdstreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:ssdstreasurer@yahoo.com).

Thanks for helping to keep our club safe by using this system.

Respectfully submitted,

..... Judy jpyrkosz@yahoo.com 734-525-3553

#### VP - BUSINESS NOTES \_\_\_\_\_ Stephen Beck

I have had the easiest job as Business Manager than all who came before me. I wish it was not so. I see it as a bad thing for our membership. Just like you I am stuck at home, but it has given me time to start back into:

- Playing my Hammered Dulcimer
  - Play guitar
  - Playing Mountain Dulcimer
  - Build a cannon
- Work at rebuilding a cannon with some of my friends



- Wood carving
- Practice 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> century music to play at reenactments and at special events at craft events. And getting my period clothing finished.
- Praying for good health for all of the members of SSDS and the many people who wish they could hear our music.

So, I don't know about you, but I'm getting a lot of things done.

**Currently all playdates have been canceled through September. Playdates and practices will start again when the SSDS board has determined it is safe for our SSDS family.**

**Please stay safe, healthy, and busy because soon we will be meeting and playing together again.**

.....Steve slbeck@beck-enterprise.com 313-701-7539

### Subject: Let's do Evart again in August

We had a fun time at Evart, 48 campsites and some who live close drove in for the day. Rick Thum had his seminar. And there were a few jam sites to entertain the dulcimer players. Then it came to an end!

But some thought we should do it again in August in Midland. Midland fairgrounds is not open for us to camp, but the Osceola fairgrounds in Evart is available the third week of August.

I need a show of emails from those interested in going. There could be more campers in August because of the success of the July outing, but my mail list is limited. Please forward this to others who may be interested. **There will be people there.** This may be your last chance for the year to dust off the music instruments before it is too cold to play safely outside. So, if you are interested, send me an email and put 'Evart' in the subject.

Thank you. [freeman.gilmore@gmail.com](mailto:freeman.gilmore@gmail.com)

## Happy Anniversary

## Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Celebrating 37 years  
of  
Sharing Music





## DON BALLINGALL'S PANDEMIC ADVENTURE

When I was 38, I challenged myself with a bicycle ride across the United States. I faced my midlife crisis at 50 with a second transcontinental ride. At 60 it seemed like a good idea to try it again, and I did. As I approached 70 I was still feeling pretty good on the bike, and decided to kick off my 70's with a fourth crossing. Turning 80 in November 2019, still enjoying riding my bike, I questioned myself... was there one more crossing?

With a lot of pre-planning, my wife, her friend Barbara and I picked up a rental motor home in Florida, and headed out to San Diego, California. On March 5<sup>th</sup> I dipped my back tire in the Pacific and began heading East. Barbara signed on to drive the motor home with my wife to support me. On this crossing, I was not carrying any camping gear. I was riding my Specialized Roubiex all carbon fiber road bike, carrying a small water backpack with tire tools, spare tubes and light snacks.

Each morning I left the motor home to ride ahead. The ladies would then pass me by about five miles and wait for me. I would either pass them and we would continue to hop and skip each other during the day, or I would just pull in for a break. We always tried to stop about noon for lunch, and then I would try to ride another 20 or 30 miles.

Each evening we found a campground or a safe place to park for the night. The ladies spoiled me with good food, encouragement and clean laundry. The 24 foot motor home was pretty tight, but throughout the crossing no unkind words were spoken.

I tried to be on the road by 8:00 each morning. My goal was to average 60 to 65 miles a day. Riding into a strong wind was a always a challenge. The reverse was a delight. In New Mexico I climbed to 8200 feet on Emory Pass, the highest point on my trip. In Florida I actually rode at -8 feet above sea level. Morning rides were pleasurable with fresh legs and cooler temperatures. After lunch I always felt like I needed a nap, but plodded on.

The scariest point in the ride was at the end of the second day when my front tire caught in a pavement crack and I went down hard on my left knee. I could barely stand on the leg the rest of the day. The next morning I climbed on the bike, and gently, after about 5 miles the discomfort abated. It took almost two weeks for my knee to feel normal.

I loved riding through the desert in the early spring with all the beautiful different cacti. Entering Texas hill country I really enjoyed the wildflowers, especially the Blue Bonnets. Western Texas to Florida became more lush with each spring day. Because of the pandemic, we sheltered in place. However, our place kept moving each day. We were very careful maintaining social distancing at all times.

On Saturday, April 26, I rode into St. Augustine Florida. The ladies drove ahead to find an open beach for me to dip my bike in the Atlantic. This was a team effort, unlike when I was younger and could load my bike with camping gear, food and water. I needed support, and what wonderful support I received. 3000 miles in 51 days.

there is no MAGIC  
in the WORLD  
like HEARING the  
first few NOTES  
of a SONG you  
really LOVE.

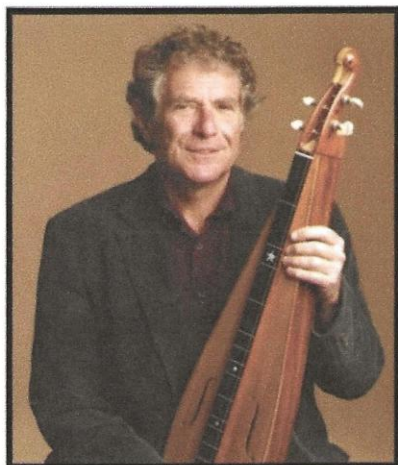


**“Music allows people to get closer to each other. It is a great barrier breaker in our lives. Just think of all the people that are in your life because music brought you together.”**

# *Southern California Dulcimer Heritage*

**Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020, All Day  
26th Annual**

**Harvest Festival of Dulcimers  
ALL ONLINE for 2020**



**Neal Hellman**  
Mountain Dulcimer



**Tina Bergmann**  
Hammered Dulcimer

## **WORKSHOPS - All Levels of Hammered & Mountain Dulcimers**

**OTHER WORKSHOPS:** Bodhran, Tinwhistle, Ten Songs-Same Chord Changes,  
Ukulele, Sing Along

- SPECIALIZED JAMS / PLAYING CIRCLES VIA ZOOM 9/25 & 9/26
- CONCERT - Tina Bergmann & Bryan Thomas // Neal Hellman 9/26
- FOCUS WORKSHOPS with Tina and Neal - Sunday, 9/27

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

[www.scdh.org](http://www.scdh.org) Email: [dulcimer@scdh.org](mailto:dulcimer@scdh.org) (714) 534-2855  
SCDH is a registered non-profit organization under Federal Law 501(c) (3)

<https://scdh.org/>



# QUARANTUNE 2.0

Virtual Dulcimer Fest



August 28-30, 2020

[VirtualDulcimerFest.com](http://VirtualDulcimerFest.com)



Karen Ashbrook *HD new!*  
 Aubrey Atwater *MD*  
 Colin Beasley *HD*  
 Tina Bergmann *HD new!*  
 Pam Bowman *HD*  
 Phyllis Woods Brown *HD new!*  
 Joe Collins *MD*  
 Elaine Conger *MD*  
 Larry Conger *MD*  
 Russell Cook *HD*  
 Rebecca "Dizzi" Cree *HD new!*  
 Matthew Dickerson *HD*  
 Jess Dickinson *HD*  
 Sam Edleston *MD*  
 Steve Eulberg *MD, HD, DulciBro*  
 Scott Freeman *HD*  
 Bing Futch *MD*  
 Guy George *HD, Penny Whistle*  
 Sharrie George *Ukulele*  
 Tull Glazener *MD new!*  
 Dave Haas *MD*  
 Deborah Hamouris *MD new!*  
 Neal Hellman *MD new!*  
 Stephen Humphries *HD*  
 Ken Kolodner *HD*

Erin Mae *MD*  
 Brenda Mangun *Bowed Psaltery new!*  
 Ilace Mears *HD*  
 Joshua Messick *HD new!*  
 Sarah Morgan *MD*  
 Katie Moritz *HD*  
 Paul Oorts *Guitar new!*  
 Geoffrey Reeve-Black *MD new!*  
 Brett Ridgeway *MD, Ukulele, Banjo*  
 Amanda Roberts *HD*  
 Butch Ross *MD*  
 Bill Schilling *Autoharp new!*  
 Timothy Seaman *HD*  
 Stephen Seifert *MD*  
 Ruth Smith *HD*  
 Steve Smith *Ukulele, Guitar, Banjo*  
 Wendy Songe *MD*  
 Linda Sniedze Taggart *HD new!*  
 Rick Thum *HD new!*  
 Susan Trump *MD new!*  
 Mary Lynn van Deventer *HD*  
 Mark Alan Wade *HD, MD*  
 Carol Walker *MD new!*  
 Tish Westman *Bowed Psaltery new!*  
 Nina Zanetti *MD new!*

50 INSTRUCTORS

Hammered Dulcimer • Mountain Dulcimer • Penny Whistle  
 Ukulele • Guitar • Banjo • Autoharp • Bowed Psaltery

[VirtualDulcimerFest.com](http://VirtualDulcimerFest.com)

Position	Name	Contact Information
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Website & Dropbox Coordinator	Karen Turner	karenturner@comcast.net 734-678-7405

## Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

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

### Holy Cross Lutheran Church

30650 Six Mile, Livonia, MI

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 :**  
**[www.silverstrings.org](http://www.silverstrings.org)**



*Start thinking about getting articles for the newsletter to me by the 25<sup>th</sup>.*

*Articles or pictures from any member are always welcome, contact David at [dtsmithnet@yahoo.com](mailto:dtsmithnet@yahoo.com)*

### Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

P.O. Box 51446  
Livonia, MI 48151



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