



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Soundboard

December 2020

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 37 YEARS
www.silverstrings.org

Issue 428

PERKY PEGGY'S PONDERINGS ~ Peggy Kustra

Wow Wow, what a year we have had! We started strong, a new board, playdates lining up, playing music with great gusto, then.....STOP.....Covid Virus.

SSDS did not let the virus defeat us. Marsha and Terry came up with the idea of the Spirit Jam. This has been a great success and has brought many new members to our group, as well as music to many who have had no other way to play music with others.

The SSDS Board continues to meet via Zoom. This has been wonderful to keep the club connected and on point. Rest assured that the board continues to work for the good of the club. We are keeping SSDS alive and well.

Work has begun to update the SSDS Website. This is a job that is very necessary. Remember to work on verbiage for the section "about us". Please send your selection to me at peggyakustra54@gmail.com

Currently, several Holiday Video Greeting Cards are being worked on. When completed they will show up on Facebook, so watch for updates.

We also saw pop-up jams that happened randomly. A few playdates occurred with 6 or 8 SSDS members. Our music brought a great deal of comfort to those in need of a touch of happiness.

This year has also brought us the loss of one of our longtime members, Roger Davis. Roger was a wonderful, delightful, talented man and a past President of our club. He was an all-around good guy and will be missed.

Hey everyone, just to let you know.... your dues be due. These dues help our club remain a vibrant working musical society.

I know it has been a difficult year for everyone. We all miss playing music together. Hopefully, in the New Year, we will be able to meet face to face. However, at this time we are truly blessed that none of our members have caught the virus. I pray that this continues.

I keep all of you in my thoughts and prayers. I'm praying that we all stay safe and healthy. God willing we will see each other soon.

If you have any concerns, ideas, or suggestions email me at peggyakustra54@gmail.com or call me at 313-570-7844.

God Bless you All and MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!
.....Perky Peggy still Perky

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7:00

Zoom Meeting with everyone. This is a time to see and talk to each other. No music will be played. Just talking and seeing and enjoying each other's company. Zoom link information will be sent to your email.

Thursday, Dec. 17 at 7:00

Live SPIRIT JAM

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2641846032714862>

All 16 previous Spirit Jams
are available for viewing on YouTube at:

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

VP- PROGRAMS NOTES ~ Bob & Sandi Hlavacek

Hello again... As we recover from too much turkey, we enter the Christmas cookie season. Another month has gone by, still pretty much in isolation. Many things have happened along the way, to help pass the time. Our members have coped in many ways. Countless closets have been cleaned out, a coast to coast bicycle trip was accomplished, kitchens have been remodeled, new songs have been written, new songs have been learned, balcony & patio concerts have been played for neighbors, "car parades" have been organized, "pop up jams" in the parks have brought small groups together, a concert was filmed for a library, ZOOM meetings have been held, and now Silver Strings is working on a musical Christmas card (6 people at a time). What have you done to pass the time away? Please tell us what you have been doing to cope, so we can pass your ideas on to our SSDS musical family. Send us a note, an e-mail, a text, or a call. Contact information is in the board member listing in the newsletter. And if you would like to visit with your board members, contact

Peggy, so she can set you up to join our next ZOOM board meeting.

Our neighbor told us of an interesting thought expressed by a medical professional, who recommended we stop talking about "social distancing", and use the term "physical distancing", in its place. His observation is that people who "socially distance" are far more prone to anxiety & depression. People who maintain "physical distance", while continuing to reach out and communicate with others are coping better. So... call a friend who might be feeling isolated. Take home-made soup to a neighbor. Take a batch of cookies or home-made bread to a friend. You can call and drop it off on their porch. Send a card, a note or an e-mail ... All of these tend to cheer the giver as much as the receiver.

This pandemic has been challenging, but the silver lining is the creative ways people have found to reconnect with family, friends, & hobbies. We never would have done a pop-up jam in the park, which brought many smiles to other people visiting the park. We would not have thought to do our musical Christmas card, as we would have been too busy with our usual 15-23 December concerts. Enjoy this time to concentrate on family, without so many outside interruptions.

HAVE A BLESSED HOLIDAY ...

Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or other.

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

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

December Birthdays

1...Sue Tranquilla
13...Theresa Smith
14...Jeff Despard
17...Judy Pyrkosz
31...Sandi Hlavacek



MARSHA'S MUSINGS ~ Marsha Kozlowski

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The November Spirit Jam went live on November 19. Its theme was "gratitude". Almost 200 viewers actively participated in the almost 2-hour virtual jam. Many joined in the conversation thread, greeting and conversing with each other. Participants expressed gratitude for many things, including pumpkin pie, their loved ones, and musical friends. We finished with The Minstrel Boy in gratitude for all those who have served or are serving on the "frontline" whether it is the Armed Services or those on the frontline of this pandemic, "The Parting Glass" as a toast to each other and our musical friendship, and finally, a verse of Amazing Grace that recognizes the difficulties of this year and the presence of grace amidst all the toils and troubles.

December Spirit Jam will be on December 17 and be a mix of holiday and traditional favorites. Mark your calendar for 7:00 that night and enjoy an evening of good cheer. Think about participating in the photo collage with a picture of you by a Christmas tree (we won't be able to play in the Parade of Trees this year, but we can create a virtual display if you send your photo). The tune list will come out in a week or so. I usually invite tune choices but this month will assemble it myself as if we were all playing a gig for our club, patrons and fans in a lovely auditorium. In January we will return to a regular Spirit Jam and those people whose last name starts with Re to Z can submit a tune suggestion for the jam. Make it a musical New Year Resolution of sorts.

Practice Tune Videos – Check the Website every so often for new practice tune videos. An ongoing project, it would go faster if others would offer to create a video of an SSDS tune they know well. You need a smartphone or an HD camera. You have someone else record you or position your device on a tripod so the area of your HD you will be playing on is clear. Format: Announce the tune and key. Play it through at tempo one or two times. Then break down the hammering pattern for the A and B parts. After that, play the tune slowly 2 times and then 2 times closer to the actual tempo. Save your recording to dropbox and then email to Karen (karenturner@comcast.net) to put on the website's video page. Your help with this project is welcomed. This will help the newer members learn some of our tunes. There is no particular order in which the tunes are being added. If you have questions or are ready to contribute to this with a particular tune you love and know – let me know.

HOLIDAY VIDEO GREETINGS -a number of music video greetings cards are being created through the computer wizardry of Cindy Semrau, the efforts of about 20 SSDS members and the coordination of Marsha Kozlowski. Starting in December, one will be posted on the Silver Strings FB page each day and then copied to the SSDS YouTube page (silverstringsclub.org). Those who participate in the project will be sent a copy of the greeting card they participated in. Everyone is welcome to share these greetings with their friends and family.

ODPC News and Request – Paula Brawdy is the new Treasurer for ODPC and Gail Van Amberg is the new Secretary. With that change, the ODPC club is looking for someone to take over the Instrument Loan program from Gail. If you want more information on how the program works, go to the ODPC website, (originaldulcimerplayers.org) and open the tab labeled, "Education." It appears that many of the loanees over the past 3-4 years are from SE Michigan and of that, a good percentage can be traced back to our library outreach programs. If you are interested or have questions about this, you can contact:

Paula at paulabrawdy@gmail.com or

Gail at education@originaldulcimerplayers.org.

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



VP - BUSINESS NOTES ~ Stephen Beck

I have been asked about SSDS CD'S. There is a Traditional and Holiday Tradition and you can find out what music is on them by logging the SSDS website (www.silverstrings.org) and then go to buy CD. CD'S are \$10.00 to non-members and \$5.00 to members. Make all checks out to Silver Strings Dulcimer Society and a note on the memo section on the check that says for CD purchase. **You can order** your CD'S by calling/emailing Stephen Beck or Peggy Kustra and scheduling to pick them up at our houses. **This would be a great gift for the holidays!**

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

TREASURER ~ Judy Pyrkosz

Well, Thanksgiving is past and we are well on our way into the Christmas season. I had the honor of being able to perform for two of the video Christmas cards. I'm looking forward the seeing the finished products. I'm sure they'll be a good representation of what our club is about, but let's face it, nothing beats a real performance.

Dues are slowly but steadily coming in. A little less than 50% have sent theirs in. If you did send me a check, you should have received an email "Receipt". If you sent in your dues but did not get a receipt, please let me know so that I can address this. If you haven't yet had the opportunity or remembered to do this, please send your payment to:

SSDS
PO Box 51446
Livonia, MI 48151

I would prefer not to receive them at my private address because I'm worried I will manage to lose it in all the junk mail, advertising, and millions of catalogs I'm currently being swamped with.

I would like to wish all of you and your loved ones a wonderfully beautiful Christmas season that more than makes up for all of this past year's shortcomings. Merry Christmas to all and a Prosperous New Year!

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

The **Original Dulcimer Players Club** that runs the Evart Dulcimer Funfest, is looking for an Education Chair. The current chair is Gail VanAmberg and she has accepted a new position as the Secretary of the Board of the ODPC.

Gail has done an excellent job as education chair, lending out the dulcimers for prospective players and assigning a mentor to help the new player. It's a fun job and you make people very happy!!! They can keep the dulcimer for a year, and decide if it is something they want to pursue.

The program has brought new members to the Silver Strings club, as well as to other dulcimer clubs. We need new players to keep the clubs alive and vibrant! I hope you will consider this position!

Here is a link to the description of the position:

<http://originaldulcimerplayers.org/education.html>

For more information contact Gail VanAmberg at gvanamberg@aol.com. If you are interested in the position, please contact Kathy Rayman, president of the ODPC at kathykathyrayman@gmail.com



Merry Christmas



Our 17th Spirit Jam took place on November 17th and was filled with lots of music. The theme for the photo collage was "gratitude". Almost 200 viewers actively participated in the almost 2-hour virtual jam. Many joined in the conversation thread, greeting and conversing with each other. Join us on December 17th for our 'Holiday' Spirit Jam.



Silver String's first online Zoom meeting took place on November 30th. No music, just talking and seeing and enjoying each other's company. We got to meet longtime members as well as several new members who have joined due to the Spirit Jams. Join us again on Thursday, December 10th at 7pm and share in a visit with fellow club members.



<https://www.virtualdulcimerfest.com>

Concert Schedules

All times are shown in U.S. Eastern Standard Time (EST)

Sunday, December 20 1:00pm EST

Thomasina Levy
Dizzi Dulcimer
Tish Westman
Lorinda Jones
Mary Lynn Michal
D.J. Hamouris
Russell Cook
Heidi Muller
Matthew Dickerson
Aubrey Atwater
Phyllis Woods Brown
Neal Hellman
Stephen Humphries
Dave Haas
Rick Thum
Larry & Elaine Conger

Monday, December 21 6:30pm EST

Colin Beasley
Tull Glazener
Steve Eulberg
Karen Alley
Brenda Mangan
Nina Zanetti
Ilace Mears
Karen Mueller
Brett Ridgeway
Steve & Ruth Smith
Carol Walker
Katie Moritz
Wendy Songe
Karen Ashbrook & Paul Oorts
Stephen Seifert
Guy & Sharrie George

Tuesday, December 22 6:30pm EST

Linda Weber Collins
Scott Evan Freeman
Bill Schilling
Irma & Scott Reeder
Timothy Seaman
Erin Mae
Pam Bowman
Joe Collins
Jess Dickinson
Susan Trump
Joshua Messick
Bing Futch
Ken Kolodner
Mark Alan Wade
Butch Ross

Position	Name	Contact Information
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VP Business Manager (Contact for booking performances)	Stephen Beck	slbeck@beck-enterprise.com 313-701-7539
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Secretary	Julie Kafcas	juliekafcas1@msn.com 734-552-7326
Treasurer	Judy Pyrkosz	jpyrkosz@yahoo.com 734-525-3553
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