



# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Soundboard

January 2020

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 36 YEARS

Issue 417

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

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

Happy Happy New Year!

What an awesome Christmas run we had. Thank you everyone for showing up to playdates and performing so well. Kudos to all of you! Marsha Kozlowski put a wonderful repertoire together and the audiences loved it. She also set up many seating charts, starter charts, and suffered many personal snow squalls. Through it all she was patient and gracious. In other words Marsha.....a job well done.

The New Board members seem to be full of energy and ideas. We will have a great year.

What do we have ahead of us in the year 2020? We have music, friendship, fellowship, variety nights, picnic, campout, banquet, giggles, grins, new music, old music and perhaps a surprise or two.

I am looking forward to 2020 and spending it with all of you!

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

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

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!

As 2019 comes to a close, we look back at the great year we've had as your program VPs. We faced some new challenges in scurrying to find a new camping facility, but we didn't do it alone... we couldn't have found such a GREAT place without Terry Kozlowski and Bob Patterson. Then so many volunteers came forward over that weekend to keep things running smoothly. The fall banquet was a smash hit, with all of the hobby displays & a flock of owls to be adopted. Again, we couldn't have done it alone... the Kozlowski's took on the hobby displays & our group of artists came together to make the owls appear on the tables. More helpers came forward for set-up, and the evening was fabulous. Our Variety Nights had M.C.s step up and plentiful performers. Slow jams and workshops helped the 'newbies' get involved and brought several new players into our playdate circuit. Every jam session we've had helpers with getting supplies from the closet and/or the beverage bar. And snacks magically appeared from so many sources, we are blessed with great cooks in our club.

That brings us to the Christmas dinner. Once again, Julie Kafkas & Laurie Patterson helped Sandi create those fun Christmas tree gnomes for the tables, and Santa had so many helpers for set-up & clean-up... THANK YOU all for allowing US to enjoy the party! A lot of work goes into making these programs run smoothly, and we are so very fortunate to have such a wonderful SSDS family to back us up. Because of the cooperation, we look forward to continuing to serve the club as your VP's of programs through 2020.

THANK YOU ALL !!!!!

Our next event is Variety Night at the end of January. Start polishing your acts ! We look forward to seeing & hearing them. HUGS to you all !!!

....Sandi & Bob [datadoc@charter.net](mailto:datadoc@charter.net) 734-663-7974

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### JANUARY

- 2.... SSDS Board Meeting ..... 5:30
- 2.... Slow Jam with Linda Osgood..... 6:00-6:45
- 2.... SSDS MEETING AND JAM ..... 7:00 - ??**
- 16... SSDS MEETING AND JAM ..... 7:00 - ??**
- 30... VARIETY NIGHT & PIZZA PARTY.... 7:00 - ??**

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

Here we are starting a New Year with Silver Strings. We started in 1983 and are traveling to 2020 and beyond (I'm getting a little Buzz Light Year). Our club started with only a few members to now over 100.

Look at the amount of people who came out to the Festival of Trees some 24+ players. We looked great next to the Polar Bear and we even had to create a 2<sup>nd</sup> level so all could play.

**I want to encourage more players to come to the other playdates that are in 2020.** I have had fun practicing every 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month, but what fun I had using what I practiced into making enjoyable music for the people we played for. Some younger and some older getting interested in music while others just wanted to be taken away in peace, hearing music that filled their minds and even tapping to the music. **YES**, we give people an escape from the world. This club was created to learn and teach new

music, and give joy, and peace to all who listen to our music and sometimes a little dancing and singing.

Currently we have no playdates in January since the event at Erie Metro Park was canceled by the park. So let's take a well-deserved rest after a busy December. I would like to give Bob Patterson a big thank you for all of the hard work he did in 2019. Thanks Bob!

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

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

The holiday performance schedule was grueling, but rewarding in many ways. For the most part, we had great audiences and packed them in. Some of the venues were so happy with us, they have already booked for next December. What was notable was the broad support of the club to make this season so successful. More than 40 of our people came to at least one rehearsal, even though some did not get to actually play a performance. 21 people learned and did at least 1 start (I created starters list for each gig, so everyone who was willing would get to do a start). There were usually 20+ at each performance and I think the fewest we had was 14 people. The individuals changed with each performance, but all pitched in where needed to add the "bells and whistles" and adapted to the unique demands of each venue. People commented to me that it was wonderful to see a group of people who looked like they enjoyed playing and were having fun at it. Thanks to Bill Smith for all the official photographs (and some unofficial).

### **A look back at 2019 :**

The monthly **slow jam, coordinated by Linda Osgood**, continues to help newer members. It will start up again in March. The **After Hours Jam** at 9:00 sees a small but dedicated group that shares tunes, works on some of the less often played tunes. Please feel welcome to participate in either or both of these.

**2019 Tunes of the Month** – There were only 5 new tunes added in 2019, not counting the new tunes added to the Holiday repertoire: Manger Medley, Over the River and Through the Woods (medleyed with Jingle Bells). We tried Christmas Waltz but were unable to bring that to performance level.

- **Orange and Blue** – a traditional Scottish tune which uses the rhythm pattern known as a sprathspey, it is a 16<sup>th</sup> note followed by a dotted 8th. We performed this Evar.
  - **Toora, Loora, Loora** – an Irish lullaby penned in 1914 by James Royce Shannon of Tin Pan Alley. (sung in the Bing Crosby movie, "Going My Way." and 1983 episode of "Cheer" sung by Carla) I would still like this to be played well enough to include in a March playlist.
  - **Green, Green Grass of Home** – a familiar ballad, also performed at Evar.
  - **Adirondack Cascade** – a 6/8 jig in Am
  - **Willafjord** – 4/4 in D fun sea shanty with syncopation. It will be a crowd pleaser.
- 2020 – First Tune of the Month:**

- **Yankee Doodle Boy** – a George Cohan tune that will be part of our patriotic set (April – July playlist). It is easy to play.

**Library Outreach** – We did two of these in 2019 at South Lyon Library and Northville library. On the target list: Ypsilanti, Belleville and Canton. If you go to any of those libraries, please drop off a brochure and promote this. These programs have brought a lot of interest to our instruments, our club and given people a nudge to try playing.

**Workshops** – Last year I wrote about member requests for some workshops. This never really went anywhere. If there is still interest, let the Board know. Last year people were interested in: "Improving back-up playing", "Improving starts," Bones, Bowed Psaltery, Spoons, Bodhran and/or Cajon Box.

**CMU Grandparents University** – about 8 from our club were joined by musical friends from around the state to conduct 2 classes on an afternoon at this event in June. It was a great hit. The children and their grandparents learned to play "Brother John" or as it was earlier known, "Frere Jacques." I have heard from CMU who is inviting us to do this again. Further information to come... Marsha mt.koz@hotmail.com 734-239-4190

## **TREASURER \_\_\_\_\_ Judy Pyrkosz**

Season's Greetings to all! I just wanted to take a few lines to introduce myself. I am the new Treasurer for Silver Strings. Many thanks to George Gonyo, our outgoing Treasurer. Under his guidance I expect the transition to be a smooth one and I look forward to a very profitable and gainful year.

I have but one bit of information to share. Since our relocation from Garden City to Livonia, it was decided to also transfer our Garden City PO Box to the Livonia post office. Please note our new address:

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society  
PO Box 51446  
Livonia, MI 48151.

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to pay any dues still outstanding, please send your check (payable to Silver Strings Dulcimer Society) to this address. Thanks again and wishing you a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

*"Music is an addiction that affects millions of people. Though there is no cure, there are thousands of support groups across the planet who share the same addiction. These groups meet regularly on a stage near you. We suggest you join one of these groups immediately."* www.musiciansunite.com

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

Hammered Dulcimer - Repair/Rebuild  
Hammers, Strings, Lessons, Loaners  
Bob Hlavacek 734-657-0820  
datadoc@charter.net

### Bob Patterson outgoing V.P. of Business

Our frantic Holiday season is over, 2019 is over, the decade is over, and my term as your Business Manager is also over. Sadly, this will be my last newsletter piece as VP/Business Manager. I would like to say it has been an honor for me to work with our Board and this wonderful club. I want to thank our Executive Board who helped me in my position, to Marsha and Terry for their guidance during Peggy's medical leave of absence. Lastly, I would like to give my thanks to our members who generously volunteered their time and signed up for our playdates. Our season flew by very fast. It's hard to believe that we had 45 performances. I do believe a good time was had by all.

Congratulations to our 3 new board members. With time and patience they will help guide us into the new decade on another musical journey with many exciting memories. Please give Stephen Beck your continued support.

*Happy New Year everyone. I wish you a healthy and happy New Year.*

### Silver Strings March 2020 Playlist – Tentative

| Key | Tune   | Play |
|-----|--|------|
| D   | Over the Waterfall                             | 3    |
| G   | Westphalia Waltz                               | 2*   |
| Em  | Road to Lisdoonvarna/<br>Riding on Load of Hay | 3/3  |
| G   | Rosin the Beau                                 | 3*   |
| Em  | Drunken Sailor                                 | 4    |
| D   | Cockles & Mussels –                            | 3    |
| D   | Young Roddy McCorley                           | 4    |
| Em  | Tamlin   | 4    |
| G   | Dusty Bob's Jig                                | 3    |
| G   | Southwind                                      | 3*   |
| D   | John Ryan's Polka                              | 4    |
| D   | Chinese Breakdown                              | 3    |
| C   | When Irish Eyes                                | 3*   |
| D/G | Eagan's Polka/Mari's Wedding                   | 3/2  |
| D   | Whiskey Before Breakfast-                      | 3    |
| D   | Danny Boy                                      | 3*   |
| Em  | Scollay's Reel                                 | 3    |
| G   | Bellman's Jig                                  | 3    |
| Am  | Cold Frosty Morn                               | 3    |
| Am  | Star of the County Down                        | 3*   |
| G   | Irish Washerwoman -                            | 3    |
| A   | John Stenson's #2/<br>Hangman's Reel           | 3/3  |

#### Extras

|   |                      |   |
|---|----------------------|---|
| D | Toora Loora Loora    |   |
| D | Hey Polka            | 3 |
| G | March of St. Timothy | 4 |

\*2<sup>nd</sup> time: If instruments are available--Fiddles, Harmonicas, MD or Whistle take it with backup; HD's softly

\*\* last time thru – take the 4 ct pause in chorus

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

#### BIRTHDAYS

2...Gerry Hermans  
2...Sally Kilcullen  
10...Sharon McAuliffe  
11...Donna Kolowjeski  
22...Cathy Smith  
23...Terry Avery



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

### Silver Strings February 2020 Playlist – Tentative

| Key                                    | Tune  | Play |
|--|---|------|
| <i>Looking for love:</i>               |   |      |
| C                                      | Five Foot Two - <b>S</b>                                  | 3    |
| G                                      | South Wind  | 3*   |
| G                                      | Yellow Bird   | 3    |
| Am                                     | Bei Mier Bist Du Schoen                                   | 3    |
| Em                                     | Road to Lisdoonvarna/<br>Riding on Load of Hay - <b>C</b> | 3/3  |
| G                                      | Muss I Denn   | 3    |
| G                                      | Let Me Call You Sweetheart - <b>S</b>                     | 2    |
| <i>Troubled Love/ Love Gone Wrong:</i> |   |      |
| Em                                     | Katushka  | 4    |
| C                                      | Tennessee Waltz - <b>S</b>                                | 3    |
| D                                      | Over the Waterfall - <b>C</b>                             | 3    |
| G                                      | Red Wing  | 3*   |
| Em                                     | Tamlin  | 4    |
| G                                      | Columbus Stockade Blues                                   | 3    |
| G                                      | You Are My Sunshine - <b>S</b>                            | 4    |
| <i>Getting married/lasting love:</i>   |   |      |
| D                                      | Whiskey Before Breakfast - <b>C</b>                       | 3    |
| D/G                                    | Egan's Polka/Mari's Wedding                               | 2/2  |
| G                                      | Westphalia  | 2*   |
| G                                      | Maggie  | 3    |
| <b>EXTRA TUNES IF NEEDED:</b>          |   |      |
| D                                      | Lover's Waltz   | 3*   |
| D                                      | Hey Polka   | 3    |

\*2<sup>nd</sup> time: If instruments are available--Fiddles, Harmonicas, MD or Whistle take it with backup; HD's play softly

**S:** invite audience to sing along 2<sup>nd</sup> time and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> time

**C:** get audience to clapping in time



### Music by Linda

Dulcimer Music For Special Occasions  
Dulcimer Lessons

Linda Osgood

734-649-3843

losgood10424@comcast.net





## Getting to know you...

**Stephen Beck - VP Business**

I play Hammered Dulcimer, Mountain Dulcimer, Indian Flute, Piano, Guitar, Trumpet and Drums. My musical journey started with my grandma and aunt in 1954. In the 60s I played with folk groups and Rock bands at school, church and college. I worked for Decca Records Instrumentals as a sound engineer. I learned about Silver Strings from people I took a hammered dulcimer class with at Greenfield Village. I joined in 1993, paid my dues for several years, but didn't have much time to come, and now that I'm retired, I'm back. I love the music. I am the new Vice President of Business for SSDS.

One of 10 children, I was born in Galion Ohio, moved to Toledo, Dearborn and Allen Park. I met my wife, Karen, at a Christian camp, when I tried to hitch a ride to a commune in Colorado. I missed my ride and we've been together for 51 years (married for 48). We have 3 sons, and a daughter at New York University who runs the disability student group.

I earned a music degree at Henry Ford Community College, then studied at Michigan Theological Seminary for 7 years, where I became their Financial Aid / Information Systems / Operations Director, designing their catalog, website, flyers, brochures & promotional displays.

I love photography, and many of my pictures have been used in newspapers, TV shows, sports journals, college catalogs, magazines, displays, flyers, brochures and websites. I've done work for Allen Park High School, Urban Farming, "Ambassador", "ICON", "Essence" and "Relish" Magazines, Montel Williams, Jay Leno, Channel 2 News, News Herald, a (French) Liberation Newspaper, Associated Press, Festival of Trees and Northridge Church.

I've been a Senior Computer System Analyst (programmer / computer tech.), working with banks, the US government, and Michigan Consolidated Gas Company. I've tested and reviewed programs for computer magazines, and developed new software for banking, accounting and the Microsoft Corporation. I created Global Tech. Ministries, and established worldwide learning labs, doing software & hardware procurement, training, trouble shooting and repair, and preventive maintenance. I was also a park ranger, flying a helicopter over Yellowstone & the Grand Canyon.

My travels have included Viet Nam in 1968 as a photographer for the Associated Press, skiing in the Swiss Alps and Colorado, Utah, Michigan and Vermont. I've traveled 12 states in the west and 10 states in the east.

Since retirement I have enjoyed my photography, leather working, book repair, rock collecting and polishing, balloon sculpture, music, involvement with my church, a Bible study group, and a Christian car repair group. I don't have much time to get bored.

| Position  | Name                         | Contact Information                     |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| President   | Peggy Kustra                 | peggyakustra54@gmail.com 313-570-7844   |
| VP Business Manager<br>(Contact for booking performances) | Stephen Beck                 | slbeck@beck-enterprise.com 313-701-7539 |
| VP Programs   | Bob & Sandi Hlavacek         | datadoc@charter.net 734-663-7974        |
| Secretary   | Julie Kafcas                 | juliekafcas1@msn.com 734-552-7326       |
| Treasurer   | Judy Pyrkosz                 | jpyrkosz@yahoo.com 734-525-3553         |
| Newsletter Editor   | David Smith                  | dtsmithnet@yahoo.com 313-278-5127       |
| Music Coordinator   | Marsha Kozlowski             | mt.koz@hotmail.com 734-239-4190         |
| Historian   | David Smith / Sandi Hlavacek | dtsmithnet@yahoo.com 313-278-5127       |
| Website & Dropbox Coordinator                             | Karen Turner                 | karenturner@comcast.net 734-678-7405    |

## Silver Strings Christmas Performances



November 25<sup>th</sup> at Festival of Trees in Dearborn



December 1<sup>st</sup> at Commerce Methodist Church



Littlefield Presbyterian Church in Dearborn Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>



Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at Good Hope Lutheran Church in Garden City



December 7<sup>th</sup> at Mount Hope Church in Livonia



Commerce Township Library on December 8<sup>th</sup>



Plymouth Community Center on December 9<sup>th</sup>



December 10<sup>th</sup> at St. Colette in Livonia



Southgate Library on December 11<sup>th</sup>



Plymouth Public Library on December 15<sup>th</sup>





# SILVER STRINGS DULCIMER SOCIETY

St. Richard Church - December 17, 2019



Livonia Public Library December 19<sup>th</sup>



December 22<sup>nd</sup> at Newburg Methodist Church, Livonia



We had a fun Silver Strings Holiday Potluck Party on December 19<sup>th</sup> with lots of good food and good friends.....and also lots of gnomes, giveaways and raffles.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. We'll see you all fresh and ready to play lots of music in 2020!*

*[all photos courtesy of Bill Smith and David Smith]*

## 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 :

<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.

