

# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Soundboard

July 2020

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 36 YEARS  
[www.silverstrings.org](http://www.silverstrings.org)

Issue 423

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

Hello Everybody,

Summer is here and the Sun is shining brightly. What a beautiful day. Enjoy the small moments in life.

We do not have anyone in SSDS who has contracted the Covid virus. This is very good news. Amen to that.

When will we return to jamming? We do not know as of yet. I have talked to many of you who are missing each other. I totally understand how you all feel. We will one day be able to play music together again, when is anybody's guess. I will let you know immediately when I have news.

We had our final Spirit Jam on Thursday, June 25th, what a wonderful happening. We were very blessed to have Marsha and Terry Kozlowski conducting the jams. It was a lot of work and pressure. However, they spread a great deal of happiness and joy. A HEART FELT THANK YOU TO YOU BOTH.

I'm keeping all of you in my thoughts and prayers. Stay healthy and safe.

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

All July meetings are CANCELLED

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

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

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

Due to the continuing Covid 19 virus pandemic, our **Annual SSDS Picnic** scheduled for August 6th is **CANCELLED**.

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

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

### BIRTHDAYS

4...Regis Proulx  
5...Karen Turner  
14...Sally Niemczewski  
14...Richard Rowe  
15...Gerry Kustra  
17...John McAuliffe  
29...Linda Lloyd  
29...Lynne Ellen Kaiser



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)

## TREASURER NOTES\_\_ Judy Pyrkosz

Among the many great benefits the Spirit Jams have provided, one of the best is the increase in our membership. The Spirit Jams have opened us up to a larger audience who would like to become members in our group. I'm happy to announce we have 4 new members sign up this month.

Please welcome our new members

- **Mary Jensen** is from Racine, Wisconsin  
*Plays hammered dulcimer*
- **Evie Belland** from Racine, Wisconsin  
*Plays hammered dulcimer*
- **Su Calkins** from Otsego, Michigan.  
*Plays hammered dulcimer, guitar & ukulele.*
- **Jamie Burch** is from Mount Pleasant, WI  
*Plays hammered & mountain dulcimer, fiddle, ukulele, guitar, flute, recorder, & tin whistle.*
- **Rose Szwed** from Goodrich, MI  
*Plays violin*

Respectfully submitted

..... Judy [jpyrkosz@yahoo.com](mailto:jpyrkosz@yahoo.com) 734-525-3553

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

Hello from the Secretary! Quick notes from the virtual June 5<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting: Not much has changed, yet! Discussions on where we stand on implementing our live Jam's at some point in the future. No Gigs planned.

Wow! New members are joining as a result of the Spirit Jams, it has been quite good for everyone. Welcome to our club, I look forward to meeting some of you folks soon. To date we have not heard of anyone in the club having contracted Covid 19, thank goodness. I hope that everyone remains healthy in that respect. If you know of anyone who could use a note from our club please let me know. I can send a card to brighten a day, lift a spirit or just let them know we still think of them and wish them well. All the best to each of you!

...Julie juliekafkas1@msn.com 734-552-7326

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

By time this newsletter is read, we will have completed 13 weeks of the Spirit Jam sessions. It has been quite a trip and accomplished more than what was originally envisioned which was just to keep our members connected in a musical way by having a short virtual jam once a week for about a month via Facebook Livestream and SSDS YouTube page. What else has happened is:

- It attracted followers from across the country who became our musical friends. Starting with just 15 FB users, it grew to over 225 people in the Facebook group plus 25 or more who followed it on Silver Strings YouTube page.
- People connected through more than just music. They participated in the weekly conversations and shared their stories and comments with warm greetings to each other. A number of them contributed to the photo collages that Dave Smith put together and some even became new members of SSDS. (Welcome to the family!)
- It introduced SSDS members to music being played elsewhere and others to the tunes we play. By time we finished Week 13, 18 new tunes were added to the SSDS Library with the AFTERHOURS tag. It is unlikely all will become a Tune of the Month, but they can be enjoyed anyway.
- Every week there was a heartwarming story, personal email or new connection that touched my heart.
- It brought suggestions for how SSDS may utilize technology to improve our club. Two suggestions were to record the jams for our snowbirds or homebound to follow along and secondly record each tune of the month for the YouTube page to help people learn it. The board is discussing these ideas.

*Summer is now here. It is time to make the living easy.  
I wish all of you a lovely peaceful summer.*

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

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

I have missed seeing all of you. One of the best things every week has been Sprit Jam on Thursday's. I have been receiving information from the CDC and the State of Michigan Health Department about the virus emergency and it tells me this will be a long drawn out problem with our 2020 practice and playdate year. Peggy and I have been in constant contact, weighing what we should be doing as a group. I have also been in touch with the places where we have had our playdates scheduled to find out how they are doing. Keep being healthy and safe.

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

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

## Thirteen weeks with the Spirit Jam



Thanks goes to Marsha and Terry for providing us with 13 weekly virtual music jams. Your efforts have given us the incentive to stay musically and socially involved even though we can only meet at a distance.

# **HEALTH ADVISORY RULES**

## **for**

# **SILVER STRINGS DULCIMER SOCIETY**

1. No Entry without a Mask. One will be provided if you do not have one.
2. A non-contact TEMPERATURE will be taken as you enter the building. A person Over 99.5 degrees must return home.
3. You must fill out a form (stating if you've had a cough, been near someone who has the virus etc.)
4. Use HAND SANITIZER as you enter the building
5. If you are sick – STAY HOME
6. Maintain SOCIAL DISTANCE OF 6 FEET from each other. A new floor plan will be in place.
7. The room will be disinfected before and after the jam.
8. CEASE USE OF ALL WIND INSTRUMENTS, (harmonica, penny whistle, recorder etc.) until further notice.
9. NO DRINKS (coffee etc.) or snacks will be provided. Bring your personal drink or snack. NO sharing.



# What are your favorite tips for coping with the COVID-19 pandemic?

collected by Sandi & Bob Hlavacek

We've all shared an unforgettable experience, not seen in over 100 years. For some, it has been fairly easy, and for others very difficult. Bob & I are thanking God we can still make each other smile. I asked for others to send what helped them through their isolation. Here are the responses I received:

\*Spray your hair with Magenta Hair Coloring ( or your favorite color) and by the time it fades away, and you can be seen in public, the Virus Shut-In will be done! ..... **Alice Gajewski**

\*To help with being cooped up, I have found, just playing old and learning new tunes, and the Mandela art classes courtesy of Mick Mastel. I find my art needs a lot of work, and looking forward to the Spirit Jam sessions, that's the best. "I get by with a little help from my friends". I think Ringo Star? ..... **Gloria Tapper**

\*Since all the dulcimer events and bird watching events have all been cancelled, I have been busy every day with things long neglected. For instance, I cleaned all my cupboards and closets, washed all the blinds and curtains, did lots of baking (made my first loaf of bread from scratch), and made a quilt. I guess that is more than one thing. .... **Chris Hurt**

\*Here's my coping chip. Since I live alone, I packed my breakfast and lunch for the next day in two separate lunch bags. I pick up a McDonald's coffee in the morning and Drive 20 min to Kensington. For lunch, I go to Village Wood Lake Park or Rotary Park in Novi. I have named the two ducks Ozzie and Harriet. I have yet to name the muskrat, bunny, and gosling..... **Shayla Rachelle**

\*My suggestion for coping with the pandemic and all of life's misfortunes. I pray as much as I can about everything. Prayer is always my first go to and allows me to stay the course through all of my problems. My daughter and her family recently went through this when all of them came down with the Coronavirus, and there was absolutely nothing I could do to help or be there for her or with her. All I was left with was prayer and so that was what I did. .... **Judith Pyrkosz**

\*Most favorite coping mechanism—6 kitties rotating sitting on my lap! Very calming!... **KarenTurner**

\*Terry - spent a lot of time working on the yard. He moved plants around, started a row of raspberries, cut back overgrown bushes, tore out shrubs he didn't like any more, etc. And he helped me do the Spirit Jams - he was my technical producer in every way. Other than that, I started walking almost every day. Right now, I walk 3-4 miles a day..... **Marsha & Terry Koslowski**

\*Lucky for me I get to go to my job, our company set everyone up to work remotely 60% and be in the office 40% . Yes the house is feeling smaller after 8 weeks. Puzzles, jigsaw and sudoku, reading books and too much TV . Jams are missed, I did a couple Spirit Jams to feel the music. Thankfully we are all healthy. Our dog loves this quarantine, he doesn't care if we ever get let out again! Staycation is getting old, I had signed up for a mission trip to the upper peninsula for May 5th, camp out with Silver Strings, Evart, & Midland. Postponed and cancelled were the travel plans. I did get to go on my postponed mission trip as the U.P. was opened up and our work was essential for the outreach facility we went to. It was a trip for Dan and I and 6 other adults. I removed tile floors, replaced with new ceramic tile. Dan did some maintenance on the premises. It was rewarding and exhausting. I think it's been 3 days of recovery. My desk job is not that physically demanding. Now that I went somewhere, I am content to be home and weed my yard. I believe we are not through with this, and will see an uptick in cases. Please remember to practice social distancing, wash your hands often and mask up when distancing is not possible. I see folks relaxing now. I am especially noticing more since our trip north and as I go to work, or to the grocery store locally. I hear from both clients and friends that they know or worked with people who have died from the virus. I know of 2 who survived. This will be a year for the history books..... **Julie & Dan Kafkas**

\*We've played a LOT of cards ! We also cleaned out & planted our vegetable garden for the season, and Bob cleaned up the pond & got the waterfalls going. That is our place for many meals, meditation & peace. We've done a lot of other work in the yard. We have also enjoyed the SSDS Spirit Jams (thank you so-o-o-o much Marsha & Terry!) I made masks for our church, & I wrote a song, which I call the "Pandemic Polka".(I'll share the music when I finish transcribing it.) Then Bob spent 8 unexpected days in the hospital, where I'm thankful I was allowed to be with him..... **Sandi & Bob Hlavacek**

## Thirteen Weeks with the Spirit Jam

submitted by Sandi & Bob Hlavacek

*Most of us have enjoyed at least one of the Spirit Jams provided by Terry & Marsha Kozlowski. It was pretty simple, once we figured out how to tune in on Facebook or YouTube... just play along. What a great opportunity to join our music family when we couldn't be face to face. They have helped so many people beyond our members connect & survive this challenging time, & they have most certainly shown us all the power of music. We are **so-o-o VERY GRATEFUL** they were willing to share their time & their talents to help the rest of us stay connected. Here is what went on behind the scenes according to Marsha and Terry.....*

"How we Coped with COVID-19 – Shortly after the lockdown happened and it was apparent SSDS would not be meeting, I came up with the idea for a livestream virtual jam. This started the first week in April. The Spirit Jams structured every week for me during this time. I created a group on Facebook called Spirit Jam. SSDS members were invited to "join" the jam. They invited other musical friends as did I. Each week the number increased. (Karen Turner was able to copy the jam to SSDS YouTube page for our non-FB users.)

After setting it up, it was decided to do this once a week. A theme was created each week. Next I went through our tune library and picked every tune that might fit the theme. Members of the Spirit Jam also made suggestions. When this was completed, I sent the list of tunes that might fit the theme to Peggy Kustra who created the Tune lists.

**On Sunday or Monday**, Peggy would send out the tune list. That initiated my work. I would create "the EVENT" on FB, post information on the jam such as the theme, the conversation thread, the photo theme, etc. If a tune was chosen that was new, I had to get it to the members and to Karen to put in Dropbox.

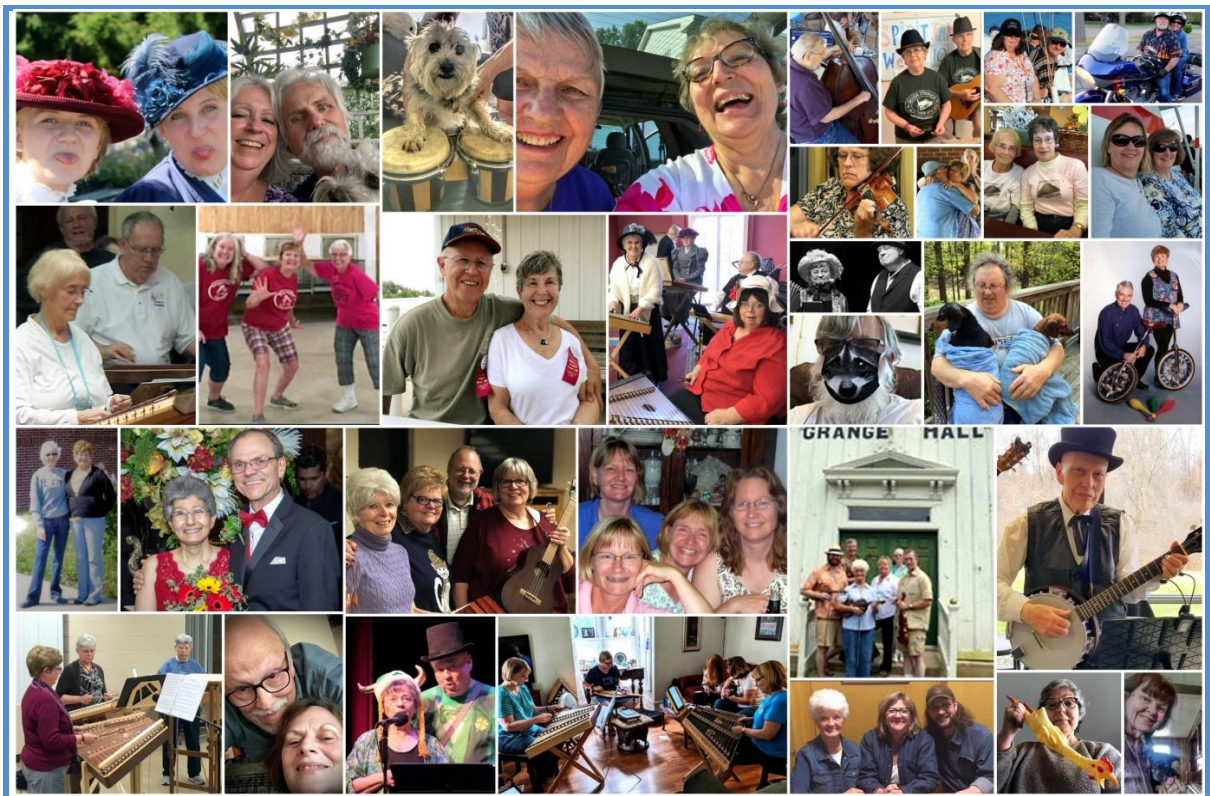
**Tuesday** we sent out music to people who were missing tune(s) & I started working on starts. If it was a tune I didn't know, I had learn it quickly. I would respond to questions & requests that came in via Facebook or email. If a tune was copyrighted and Silver Strings did not have permission to play or record, I tried to obtain it. Terry and I would start practicing the tunes, knowing this was like Candid Camera, there were no retakes.

**Wednesday**, I started the "script", planned the props, and Terry and I would work on the "studio" in an attempt to find the best spot, improve the sound, the picture, and have the strongest signal. The "Studio" was moved 4 times.

**Thursday**, I sent out reminders to all SSDS members & to the Spirit Jam members. If new inquiries or member requests came, I responded to them. Thursday was "Showtime". After the recording, Terry and I would replay it to see if the video was okay, enjoy the comments and stories, etc.

**Friday** we finished responding to comments from the recording. Copied it to SSDS FB page. Sent any photos that were sent to me, or were on FB that David Smith might not see, to make sure everyone was included (a couple times they were inadvertently overlooked). And then begin the process for the next week."

**THANK YOU TERRY & MARSHA !!! THANK YOU DAVID SMITH for the GREAT COLLAGES !!!**

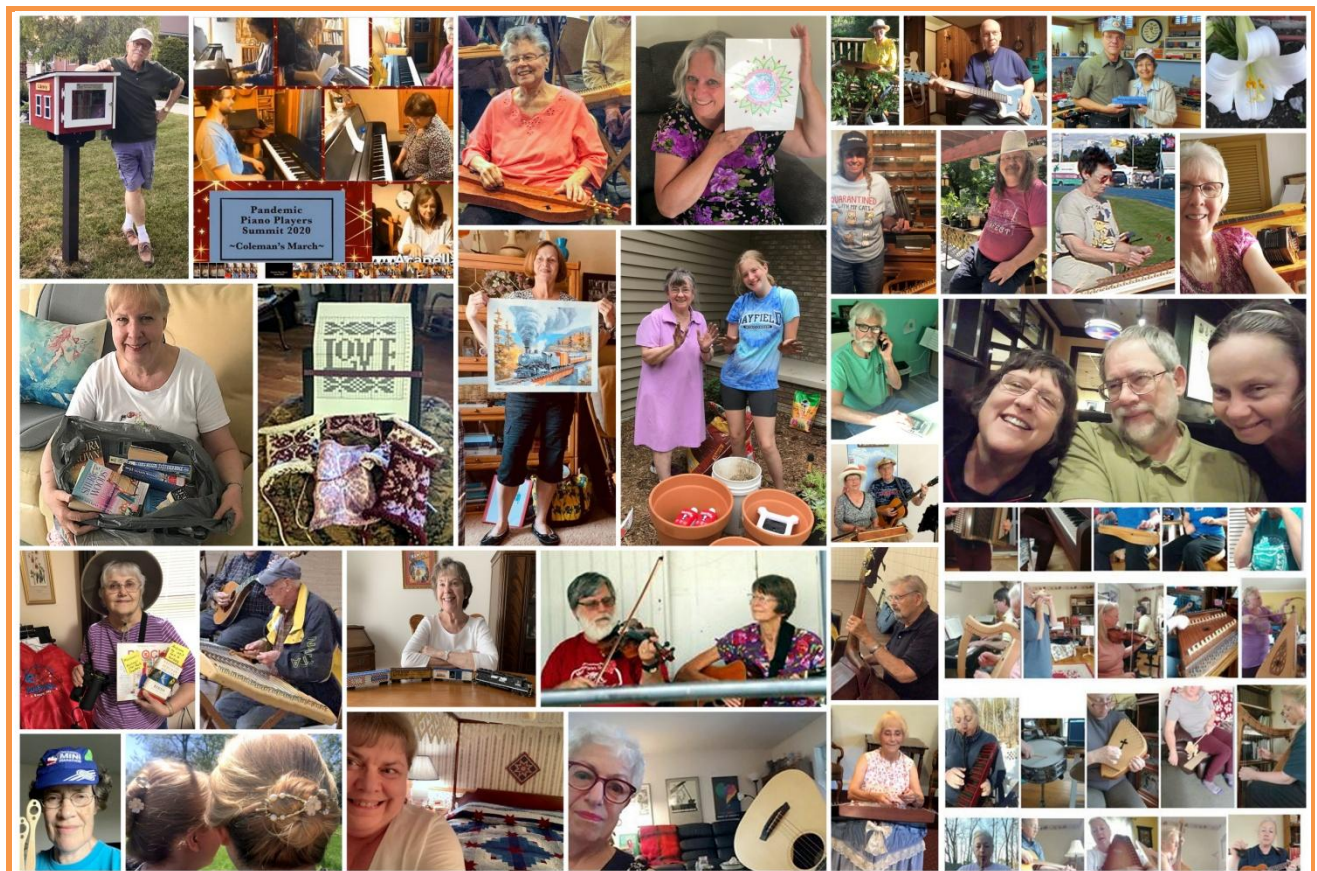


**Week 10.... 13 musicians submitted photos for the June 4<sup>th</sup> Spirit Jam.**





Week 11.... 22 musicians submitted photos for the June 11<sup>th</sup> Spirit Jam.



Week 12.... 30 musicians submitted photos for the June 18<sup>th</sup> Spirit Jam.





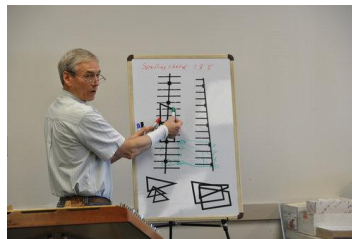
Also on Week 12.... 14 MUSIC CLUBS submitted photos for the June 18<sup>th</sup> Spirit Jam.



Week 13.... 50 musicians submitted photos from the final June 25<sup>th</sup> Spirit Jam.



## HAMMERED DULCIMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITY



Rick Thum is holding his A to Z class at Evart July 13 – 16. It is 4 days for the price of 3. \$195. You can register through his website: [rthum.com](http://rthum.com)

He is capping the number of students to allow for social distancing and safe practices which means if you are interested, check into this sooner than later.

Evart Fairgrounds are open for camping and there will be informal outside jamming that week. Camping fees are \$20/night. [Oceolacountyfairgrounds.com](http://Oceolacountyfairgrounds.com)

## 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 Edelston *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)



# PRESIDENTS

## *Who Played*

# INSTRUMENTS



**THOMAS JEFFERSON**  
played the violin and cello.

**JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**  
played the flute.

**JOHN TYLER**  
played the violin.

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN**  
played the violin.

**CHESTER ALAN ARTHUR**  
played the banjo.

**FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT**  
played the piano and sang soprano  
in his school choir.

**WOODROW WILSON**  
played the violin and sang tenor  
in his college glee club.

**WARREN HARDING**  
once remarked, "I played every instrument but  
the slide trombone and the E-flat cornet."

**CALVIN COOLIDGE**  
played the harmonica.

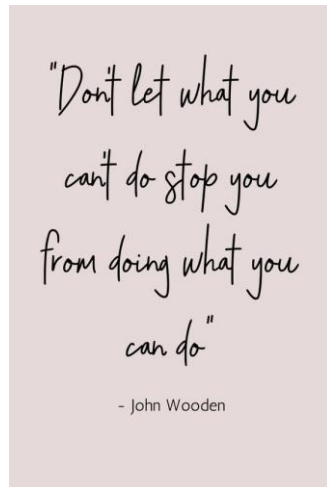
**HARRY TRUMAN**  
played the piano.

**RICHARD NIXON**  
was a classically-trained pianist and  
also played the accordion.

**RONALD REAGAN**  
played the harmonica.

**BILL CLINTON**  
plays the saxophone.





Position	Name	Contact Information
President	Peggy Kustra	peggyakustra54@gmail.com 313-570-7844
VP Business Manager (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	mtkoz72@gmail.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 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.