March 2020

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 36 YEARS www.silverstrings.org

Issue 419

PERKY PEGGY'S PONDERINGS___ Peggy Kustra

Top O' the Mornin!!

Tis' that time of the year to be working on our Irish Tunes. Being a wee bit Irish me self it makes me very happy. On March 5th we will be playing our March playlist as well as extra tunes. MORE MUSIC!!

Anyone who would like to START a tune, practice a start and shout out to give it a try. REMEMBER, it's okay to make a mistake. To tell the truth, there is no such thing in music.....it's just an alternative note.

There is a board meeting March 5, at 5:45pm

Mark your calendars for the following events

- June 5,6, & 7 SSDS Campout
- July 16 NO SSDS Meeting
- July 16,17,and 18 Evart funfest
- August 6, SSDS Picnic
- August 28,29 and 30 Midland Festival

FYI: Our club treasurer, Judy Pyrkosz was recently in an auto accident and she had an operation on her thumb on February 27th. Best wishes for a quick recovery!

If you have any questions, ideas or concerns contact me at peggyakustra54@gmail.com or 313-570-7844

Hope you all find your pot of gold at the end of the rainbow!.... Perky Peggy

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH 5.... SSDS Board Meeting....... 5:45 5.... SSDS MEETING & JAM....... 7:00 - 8:30 19... SSDS MEETING & JAM...... 7:00 - 8:30 19... Slow Jam with Linda Osgood... 6:00 - 6:45

VP- PROGRAMS NOTES__ Bob & Sandi Hlavacek

GREETINGS! BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH!!! Do you believe in Shakespeare? Personally, we prefer to recognize St. Patty's Day.

The SSDS campout is coming the first weekend in June 5,6,7. We have Group camping section #1

reserved for Silver Strings, with 20 'official' campsites, but we can put multiple campers or tents on a site. Because of the layout, it will still not be as crowded as it was at Meyers Lake in years past. Remember when we had to cram together? To get late arrivals in was like threading a needle with a camper. At Groveland Oaks, we will have easy access to all sites, our own pavilion, a 30X40 jam tent, our own 2 porta-johns, and 2 campfire rings for only our group to use. Each site has 30 and 20 amp power. There are no "water hookups" at each site, but there is water available in our group area to fill your tank when you arrive, or haul to your tent... a very minor inconvenience. There are also 4 person CABINS, and 4 and 6 person YERTS available, contact the camp office...248-634-9811.

Bob and Sandi Hlavacek are the wagon masters. We would like pre-paid reservations sent to us by May 22, (the last week of May).

Send to: 5598 N Dixboro Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105

You may arrive as early as Wednesday, and stay through Tuesday of the following week at \$30 per night. This is a "county operated" park, and they have LOTS to do... fishing, nature trails to walk or bike, miniature golf, paddle boat rental, a really nice playground, even laundry facilities. And we will have some early-bird activities of our own... Frisbee golf, horse shoes, Yahtzee tournament (Jolly Green Giant style), and some other surprises. We will have some unusual workshops for fun this year, with inexpensive instruments available to purchase & take home. (More about that next month) You may also bring your favorite outdoor toys to share.

April 30 is our next Variety Night. It's not too early to start planning your act. That always has some fun surprises. It's a good time & place to show off a 'non-dominant" instrument you play! We welcome all love songs, bluegrass, country, classical, old time, musical jokes or stories. Help us give competition to AMERICA'S GOT TALENT!

We offer a **HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL** who have been helping set up and clean up before and after jam nights. With the chemo-therapy, Bob's stamina at that time of night is close to 5%... we have 6 more months of this. **Thank you all for your prayers & support.**

....Sandi & Bob_datadoc@charter.net 734-663-7974

MARSHA' &S MUSINGS _____ Marsha Kozlowski Plavlists:

March – We are all Irish this month and the playlist emphasizes Irish/Celtic music. Dust off the tunes you are rusty at. Let's have fun playing them. Observe the rhythmic patterns (dotted 8th or quarter notes) that give it the Celtic feel.

April – July Playlist – could be called the Musical Daylight Savings set, bringing in some lighter tunes. It also includes the tunes (not necessarily in the same order) we will play at Evart.

Tune of the Month: Balleydesmond #2. This is an Irish polka, often played with other polkas in a dance set. It is relatively simple and but could be added to something as a medley. What do you think? If you are a hard copy person, I try to have copies of the tune of the months at each jam. If there is a specific tune you do not have, see or email me and I will get you a copy.

Silver Strings Playlist - Evart 2020

Key	Tune	Play
G	Girl I Left Behind	3*
D	Ashokan Farewell	3*
D	Liberty Waltz / Liberty (Waltz - no repeats)	1/1
D	Armed Services Salute	1**
G	America the Beautiful - repeat chorus 2 nd time.	3*
G	God Bless America - repeat pt B 2 nd time thru	2 1/2**
G	Yankee Doodle Boy / You're A Grand Old Flag	2/2
G	Star Spangled Banner	1

*2nd time: If instruments are available--Fiddles, Harmonicas, MD or Whistles take melody; HD's softly backup ** Tempo should be singable – not too fast.

Evart – Are you planning to go to Evart this year? Do you want to play the Thursday pre-show for our club? The playlist is in the newsletter. Please sign the "interest sheet" that will be on the table at the jams or email me if you intend to play at Evart. It is not a commitment, but a general intention. This helps me in planning. Since the theme is patriotic, I would like everyone to wear red or white t-shirts. Perhaps we can get some blue caps to "top" off our look.

Music updates: Silver Strings has a lot of music. There is the Official Repertoire, all of which is in Dropbox. Regardless of whatever program you use to display your music on your tablet or Ipad, periodically go into Dropbox and add the new tunes. If you don't have Adirondack Cascade, Willafjord, or Yankee Doodle Boy, you need to update. Workshop tunes introduced at our campout or other workshops are added to dropbox with a tag "WORKSHOP." These are fun tunes that are not "official" but you may enjoy playing. Afterhours Jam Tunes. These are tunes shared at the afterhours jam. They are tunes that may be heard at Evart or other circles such as the

Farmington or ODPC jams. Some are advanced or more difficult, but not always. Regardless of whether you stay for this, you may want to try them. **Classical:** a category tag is CLASSICAL. These are tunes for 3-4 part ensembles that the SSDS Ensemble players have done in the past plus the tunes presented at last year's campout ensemble jam. Music, music, music......so much to enjoy.

New Music:

Star Spangled Banner – this tune is not in our "official repertoire" and we are asked to play it at Evart. So it is now in Dropbox.

Livet I Finnskogarna – Simplified Version – this lovely waltz is rarely called for at jams and I thought perhaps it is because it is not a beginner piece. So check out this simplified version. You will recognize the tune – it was later used as the music for the lyrics of "Mockingbird Hill."

Library Outreach – So far, there are no scheduled programs in 2020. We have done 7 of these to date in the last 3 years. It is a wonderful outreach opportunity, both for local community arts and for the promotion of our club, its music and our instruments. You can help. Take one of our brochures, a copy of the program description and contact information for our VP-Business Manager, Stephen Beck for scheduling and give it to the person in charge of adult programming. We have a common goal with libraries- to reach out to people and draw them in. Libraries we have not been to but are in our area: Novi, Canton, Belleville, Ypsilanti, Wayne (don't know if they have a large enough space), Dearborn, Southfield. Some of these have been contacted but staff changes and I have found it is a matter of timing.

...... Marsha mt.koz@hotmail.com 734-239-4190

VP - BUSINESS NOTES_____ Stephen Beck

I would like to thank everyone who has come out to the playdates. We have had a great response from residences and staff and a lot of them sang along with the music. Just think we give as a club a taste of sunshine in their day. One staff member said it makes her have a wonderful day. One resident said you guy's rock. We do have openings for upcoming playdates. If you never have come out, just come and test us out and kick the tires. As Perky would say, you are all welcome.

The current calendar of playdates:

March

West Bloomfield Parks & Rec.
Friday March 13th 12:00 - 1:30pm
Oakmont – Livonia, Monday, March 16th 2 - 3pm
Oakmont – Northville, Tuesday, March 17th 2 - 3pm.

Heartland Healthcare, Tuesday, April 7th at 3 - 4pm Cedar Brook Senior Living, Friday, April 17th 2 - 3pm **May**

Alpha Delta Kappa, Saturday, May 02nd at 7:30-8:30pm Farmington Community Library, Sunday, May 3rd 3-4pm

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

TREASURER NOTES_____ Judy Pyrkosz

- Music, the greatest good that mortals know, and all of heaven we have below. –
- Good **music** does not have an expiration date. -
- There is nothing in the world so much like prayer as music is. –
- Music is the wine that fills the cup of silence. –
- One good thing about music is that when it hits you, you feel no pain. –
- After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music. –

We've all heard any number of stories and sentiments about the power of music in our lives. It's a wonderful influence that always seems to make things better. This was shown in some of the responses I received when I was working on updating our roster. I reached out to every member and received so many responses in reply. First, thanks to all of you for answering so promptly on updating or verifying your contact info. That made what could have been a hard job very easy. Second, thanks to Karen Turner for acting as a back-up fact checker. It was great to have such a good and patient spotter.

But what really made the job heartwarming and somewhat poignant was hearing from past members who would like to join us, but for one reason or another, were prevented from jamming with us. Whether they were moving away, (one suggestion was to open a sister chapter in Baltimore), or illness, or inability to attend, they all said they same thing....how much they missed getting together with friends to share and make music together, to bring a little piece of heaven down to earth. So much so, that several people renewed their membership despite knowing they could no longer join us except in spirit. They wanted their small contribution to help keep the music and love going. wonderful to hear from them and learn their stories. So I would like to acknowledge and thank Edna Garte, Marjorie Meinzinger, and Chris and Patty LaRue. Know that they think of all of you often with love and fondness. If you know them, maybe you would like to send them a card of remembrance. I think it would mean the world to them.

On a more prosaic note, we are in good financial shape. We've started playing gigs again in February and the bookings are coming in on a regular basis. Payouts have been prepared for those who performed last year and I've been passing them out at the last 3 meetings. If you played Oct – Dec 2019 and I haven't given you your envelope yet, please see me at a jam. (I did miss the last jam because I was in a car accident, but I do plan on attending March 5.)

Thanks to all who renewed their membership and welcome to new members. We are now at 101 members strong. This is a good indication of the value of Silver Strings in our musical life.

Respectfully submitted,

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

IT'S MARCH...LET'S CELEBRATE!

BIRTHDAYS

- 1....Shayla Rachelle
- 3....Kay Rowe
- 12...David Smith
- 24...Stephen Beck
- 30...Bob Niemczewski



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

~ SLOW JAM ~

Our slow jams will be on the third Thursday of the month from now on starting March 19th at 6 pm Most of these tunes are on the March performance playlist, so even if you don't

performance playlist, so even if you don't perform yet, you are honing some of our performance repertoire. Tunes are:

- 1 Rosin the Beau
- 2 Cold Frosy Morn
- 3 Dusty Bob's Jig
- 4 Road to Lisdoonvarna
- 5 John Stensons #2

Happy Practicing, Linda Osgood



buckeyedulcimerfestival.com

Silver Strings April-July 2020 Playlist

Sliver Strings April-July 2020 Playlist					
Key	Tune	Play			
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast Mississippi Sawyer	3/3			
D	Sandy River Belle	3			
D	Bucket Man Blues	3			
D	Black Mountain Rag	3			
G	Westphalia Waltz	2*			
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna Riding on Load of Hay	3/3			
G	Yellow Bird	3			
G	Red Apple Rag	3			
G	Girl I Left Behind Me	3			
G	South Wind	3*			
Α	Pickin' the Berries	3			
Α	Hangman's Reel	3			
Am	Schottische du Stockfish	3			
D	John Ryan's Polka	5*			
D	Ashokan Farewell	2*			
D	Liberty	2			
D	Armed Services Salute	1**			
G	America the Beautiful	3**			
G	God Bless America – repeat Pt B 2 nd time thru	2 1/2**			
G	Yankee Doodle Boy You're A Grand Old Flag	3**			
	Extras				
D	Hey Polka	3			
Em	Tamlin	4			
G	Battle Hymn of the Republic	3*			

*2nd time: If instruments are available--Fiddles, Harmonicas, MD or Whistles take melody; HD's softly backup ** Tempo should be singable – not too fast.

Silver Strings March 2020 Playlist

Sliver Strings March 2020 Playlist					
Key	Tune	Play			
D	Over the Waterfall	3			
G	Westphalia Waltz	2*			
Em Road to Lisdoonvarna Riding on Load of Hay		3/3			
G	Rosin the Beau	3*			
Em	Drunken Sailor	4			
D	Cockles & Mussels –				
D	Young Roddy McCorley	4			
Em	Tamlin	4			
G	Dusty Bob's Jig	3			
G	Southwind	3*			
D	John Ryan's Polka -feature other instruments- A Part	4			
D	Chinese Breakdown	3			
D	Eagan's Polka	4*			
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast-	3			
D	Danny Boy	3*			
Em	Scollay's Reel	3			
G	Bellman's Jig	3			
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3			
С	When Irish Eyes Are Smiling	3*			
G	Irish Washerwoman -	3			
Α	John Stenson's #2 Hangman's Reel	3/3			
	Extras				
D	Toora Loora	2			
D	Hey Polka	3			
G	March of St. Timothy**	4**			

*2nd time: If instruments are available--Fiddles, Harmonicas, MD or Whistle take it with backup; HD's softly ** last time thru – take the 4 ct "hold" in chorus



Music by Linda

Dulcimer Music For Special Occasions Dulcimer Lessons

Linda Osgood

734-649-3843

losgood10424@comcast.net

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

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

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...





I am Judy Pyrkosz, and currently play the piano, organ, harpsichord, guitar, recorder, & hammered dulcimer. I've always loved music. I begged my parents for piano lessons for years, until they finally bought me a piano. I've also loved the pipe organ, but never got one.

I attended Wayne State University, where I earned a Bachelor of Music, majoring in Church Music, studying organ and harpsichord as well as piano. While in college, I joined the Symphonic Choir, went on tour with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and actually sang at Carnegie Hall in New York, my 15 minutes of fame! Over the years, I've also learned to play guitar and recorder. Later I went to Madonna University where I picked up a Bachelor of Science in Computers. I've worked over the years as an organist and a computer programmer.

I met my husband, Tony, at church. I was the music director and he was in the choir. We started seeing each other, & I told him how much I wanted a harpsichord.

He liked to build things, so we spent a summer building a harpsichord. We decided if we could do something as difficult as that, we could probably build a life together, so we married

43 years ago. Since the harpsichord, he's built me a grandfather's clock, a harp, a guitar, a kitchen, a major addition onto our house, and a hammered dulcimer. He's very skilled, and his work is exceptional.

We have 3 wonderful children who are all very successful in their careers. My daughter, the graphic designer is married to a career Army captain who is a Chinook pilot. They've given us 3 energetic grandchildren. My other daughter is an Electrical Engineer and my son is a Mechanical Engineer.

I've always owned a dog, all of them are large. Whatever dog we've had has always been very attached to me, and when my children were young, they liked to play hide-and-seek with me because they would just look for the dog. We also have a large pond stocked with fish. One spring it rained for 3 days and our yard flooded. It got so deep, that the pond was completely submerged. My next-door neighbor informed us our fish were swimming in his front ditch. I looked out and they were swimming in the hostas, daffodils, and on the patio. We had a fish rodeo, and, a month later a heron ate most of them.

My husband and I never cared to travel and avoid taking trips as much as possible. However, with our daughter being married to an Army captain, she moves at least once (sometimes twice) a year. So every year we go visit wherever they're living. We've visited Ft. Rucker (Alabama), Fort Campbell (Kentucky), Fort Riley (Kansas), and Fort Polk (Louisiana). We don't see much off the base, but I have a real appreciation for the Army now. We're happiest working around the house. Tony likes to build things. I enjoy needlework: macramé, counted cross-stitch, and crewel embroidery. I also belong to a Bible Study group. Right now we're studying the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

I had heard hammered dulcimers played at various events and loved the sound, but could not afford an instrument. Finally, after years of wishing, my husband bought a piece of mahogany and built a dulcimer for me. I started teaching myself to play. I discovered Silver Strings at a Livonia Library Outreach. I watched a lady in the front row the whole time (Gloria Tapper). She seemed to be having so much fun and made playing look so easy. I joined in August 2017, and have learned a lot about hammered dulcimers and new tunes. I finally felt skilled enough to try a playdate. Unfortunately, I didn't have my music, so I had to play from memory. I was also looking at Sue Tranquillo's music next to me. It was an interesting first playdate. Currently, I am serving on the SSDS board as the Treasurer. Music has always been a major part of my life and Silver Strings has been a perfect embellishment of that life. The people are wonderful and I'm glad I found this great group.

Check out the **Free Notes** website. Very useful. Has a variety of options. All tunes are public domain, midi files, sheet music, transpose on the fly to any key, save to PDF and print!

A true find!!!.....Karen Turner https://www.free-notes.net

ScanScore seems to do everything. Free trial period, then \$39.00. Expensive but may be worth it. Scan, play and edit sheet music quickly and easily with *Karen Turner* https://scan-score.com/en

Ever wondered how that interesting-looking piece of sheet music actually sounds? It's easy with **Sheet Music Scanner**. \$3.99 Just point your iPhone or iPad at the sheet and let it play the notes for you. You can choose the instrument, pick the speed and enjoy!.... *Alice Warner Gajewski* https://apps.apple.com/us/app/sheet-music-scanner/id884984324

2020 Music Festivals

Here are musical events in the Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois area that may be of interest to musicians who play or are learning to play many of the folk instruments we see at Silver Strings. It can be educational and fun to broaden our horizons and attend musical events in Michigan and beyond.

Kalamazoo Fretboard Festival

March 7, 2020 Kalamazoo Valley Museum Kalamazoo, MI kvcc.edu/fretboard

Buckeye Dulcimer Festival

April 22 - 26, 2020 Ashley, Ohio buckeyedulcimerfestival.com

North American International Banjo Convention

April 23, 24 & 25, 2020 Dearborn, MI naibc.org/index.html

Mighty Uke Day

May 8 - 10, 2020 Old Town, Lansing, MI mightyukeday.com

Dulci-More Festival

May 22 - 24, 2020 Lisbon, OH <u>dulcimore.org</u>

Eagle Creek Folk Fest

June 13, 2020 Indianapolis, IN indianafolkmusic.org

Gebhard Woods Dulcimer & Traditional Music Festival

June 13 - 14, 2020 Morris, IL gebharddulcimer.org

Midwest Uke and Harmonica Camp

June 26 - 28, 2020 Olivet, MI midwestukecamp.com

Saline Celtic Festival

July 10 - 11, 2020 Saline, MI salineceltic.org

Original Dulcimer Players Club Funfest

July 16 - 18, 2020 Osceola County Fairgrounds Evart, MI evartdulcimerfest.org

Gateway Dulcimer Festival

July 31 - August 2, 2020 Fairview Heights, IL gatewaydulcimer.org

Fiddlers Convention & Traditional Music Festival

August 14 - 15, 2020 Hillsdale County Fairgrounds Hillsdale, MI michiganfiddlers.com

Midland Folk Music Festival

August 28 - 30, 2020 Midland County Fairgrounds Midland, MI folkmusicsociety.org/p/folk-festival.html

Wheatland Music Festival

Sept. 11 - 13, 2020 Remus, MI wheatlandmusic.org

Ouibache Music Festival

September 25 - 26, 2020 West Lafayette, IN ouibache.com

Uketoberfest

October 3, 2020 Interlochen, MI

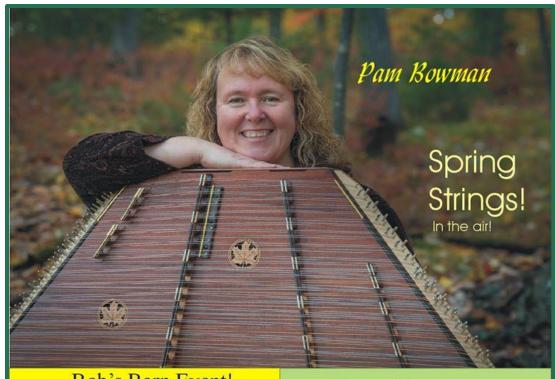
college.interlochen.org/adult-classes/uketoberfest

Dulcimer Chautauqua on the Wabash

October 15 - 18, 2020 New Harmony, IN dulcimerchautauquaonthewabash.com

North-east Ohio Hammered Dulcimer Weekend

November 6 - 8, 2020 Cuyahoga Falls, OH markalanwade.com



Bob's Barn Event!

When? March 21

Where? 1417 Johnson St.

Lake Odessa, MI 48849

Pam Bowman

& the Hammered Dulcimer! Workshops & Concert!

9:45 - 12:00 Morning Session:

Arranging - Use of Chords - Choosing chords out of your mind/muscle memory (not paper)

12:00 - 1:15 * Lunch *

1:15 - 3:30 Afternoon Session:

Learning two intermediate/advanced pieces - Clarinet Polka & Mountain House (by Jay Unger & Molly Mason)

4:00 Half hour Concert featuring Pam Bowman

You must Pre-register to attend. Cost is \$70 for the whole day. If you Pre-register by March 7 cost is \$60. You can sign up by contacting Pam via email: pambowmanmusic@gmail.com or call (231) 743-6639 Vending: There will be most hammered dulcimer needs available: Books, Recordings, Hammers, Stands * Lunch * not provided - There are several close locations for good food.

Position	Name	Contact Information	
President	Peggy Kustra	peggyakustra54@gmail.com	313-570-7844
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Silver Strings Dulcimer SocietyMeetings on the 1st and 3rd 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



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 51446 Livonia, MI 48151

