

# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

## Soundboard

September 2009

26 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983-2009

Issue 293

Website : [www.ssdociety.org](http://www.ssdociety.org)

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This summer is getting by quick. It seems like just last week we were looking forward to our campout ! That was actually two months ago and a great deal has happened since then. The Evert Festival has come and gone and so has the Hillsdale Fiddlers Convention. Speaking of Hillsdale, our own Kaiser Family, along with Ben Catt, were the headliners. They performed an outstanding stage show to a sizable audience and once again received a standing ovation and encore. Whenever and wherever they perform, they seem to have that effect on people. Also, Ben, Greg and Kelly conducted workshops as well. I had the privilege of attending all three workshops, and I was very impressed with them all. Their presentations were very well done. I think I just got some ideas for future Silver Strings Workshops!

I would like to thank Carol Ann Matthews and Janelle Pacic for a great job organizing the annual picnic. Thanks to all who prepared food or helped with the set up and clean up, and also to George Gonyo for getting German Park for the occasion. Its covered stage and picnic area provided much needed shelter from the rain this year. Thanks to all for coming and helping to make this year's picnic a big success.

As I write this article, we are looking forward to the Midland Festival. By the time you folks read this, the festival will be history. If it proves to be as much fun as last year's, it's going to be a blast! Hope to see you there.

Also, please remember those who need our prayers. It lets them (and God) know we care.

Larry Roper

### PLAYDATE MATTERS

V.P. BUSINESS

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Silver Strings performed at the Henry Ford Estate in Dearborn as part of the celebration of Henry Ford's 146<sup>th</sup> birthday. We had a good turnout, an appreciative audience, very pleasant weather, and an idyllic outdoor setting in the Tea House, a covered ornate wrought iron structure in the Rose Garden. The inside shape of the roof of the Tea House helped the musicians hear each other well, which is often difficult in outdoor settings. There were lots of compliments on the music by the audience after our performance. Several very nice videos, taken by Ken Kaiser and Bill Smith of our performance, have been posted on the web. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sm7AAx0mxqE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sm7AAx0mxqE) provides one example which will lead you to others. Many thanks to Ken and Bill for bringing and setting up their video/recording equipment, and capturing the sights and sounds of our performance so beautifully. A photograph of our group in Victorian attire in the Rose Garden taken after the performance appears elsewhere in this Newsletter. We also played for another very appreciative audience at American House in Royal Oak on August 21 for our second time in 2009.

On another note, December is rapidly filling up with Holiday gigs (there are 10 scheduled already). To refresh our brain- and muscle-memories for the Holiday music, I am scheduling two practices in October and two in November in our usual meeting place at Good Hope Church (refer to **Mark your Calendar** for the dates/times of the Holiday music practices and also for the upcoming playdates in September and October).

Bert Stein

## Labor Day Potluck and Jam

From George Gonyo

There will be a potluck and music jam at Manfred and Judy Schmidt's cottage on Labor Day (Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>) in West Bloomfield on the lake. SSDS went a couple of years ago and everyone had a great time. Manfred erects a huge lakeside tent, we all gather around to play music, and Judy's group shares "storytelling" with our music. Dress is casual... It might be warm enough for a swim. Everyone is invited. A sign-up sheet will be out at meetings.

People begin to gather around noon on Labor Day, we will eat about 1:00 pm, then have an "informal public jam" to entertain them. Set your GPS....

**The Schmidt house is at  
6433 Walnut Lake Rd., West Bloomfield**

**Elections will take place at our meeting on Nov. 12, 2009. Here is a brief description of the duties of the elected officers. If you have questions or would like to serve, you may talk to any officer.**

### **PRESIDENT**

- \* Supervises all club affairs, meetings, festivals and, board meetings.

### **V.P. BUSINESS (MANAGER)**

- \* Performs the president's duties in the absence of the President.
- \* Manages all club playdate requests, sign-ups, and performances.

### **V.P. PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

- \* Performs the president's duties in the absence of the President.
- \* Coordinates club activities (campout, picnic, etc).

### **SECRETARY**

- \* Records all business conducted at club meetings, board meetings and all correspondence.
- \* Provides meeting minutes to the newsletter and members.

### **TREASURER**

- \* Receives and disperses all monies of the club.
- \* Prepares a written financial report for the Annual Business Meeting in October.
- \* Keeps a record of paid memberships.
- \* Arranges publication of the member directory.

### **HISTORIAN**

- \* Collects & organizes newsletters, press releases, and photos and/or CDs of photos of activities for archives.

### **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

- \* Keeps music files up to date, furnishes music for members, and music packets for new members, holiday playdates, and other special playdates (ex: campout).
- \* Collects, introduces and distributes new tunes.

## A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

*I promise there will be LOTS of jamming and other fun musical events through the weekend!*

*Bill Bosler*

**Dan Landrum and Stephen Humphries** are coming back to Michigan to build on the concepts they introduced at their Evert work-shops and present a full evening concert. **Saturday, September 26th**, at Lakeside Melodies Resort in Three Rivers, they will conduct a day of workshops. The price is **\$25 per session or \$40 for both sessions**. Prior reservations are strongly encouraged.

**9: am...STICK CONTROL** - Effortless stick control is the key to speed, rhythmic accuracy, freedom of expression and will set your hammers free.

### **LUNCH with the ODPC meeting**

**2:30 pm...RHYTHMIC PATTERNS FOR SOLO PERFORMERS** -With a few trusty patterns under your belt, you can keep playing even when you run out of tunes. These are also good springboards for songwriting. They may also cover exercises for hand independence.

**At 8:00 pm, Dan and Stephen will present a full two hour concert to amaze and inspire you. The concert is \$10 per person.**

For those not in workshops, there will be indoor and outdoor jamming, and Lakeside Melodies is located on Little Pleasant Lake, which is excellent for fishing & swimming. Also available are volleyball, basketball, playground, and yard games. Limited cottage space is available on site, and can be shared. There are hotels nearby. Please **contact Bill Bosler at (574) 298-8513 or <[info@lakesidemelodies.com](mailto:info@lakesidemelodies.com)>** Please make reservations to help us in planning this event.

## **GREEN EMERGENCY CARDS**

are on the back table in the brown recipe box. If you haven't filled yours out, **please do**. The box will go with us to all SSDS functions. These cards are designed to give us contact information, in case you have an accident or a medical emergency while you are with us at festivals, playdates, or jams.

## SECRETARY'S NOTES \_\_\_\_\_

### Board Meeting August 6th, 2009

All board members were present except Bev Scott

Bob Hlavecek presented a prototype of the four page insert for the Holiday CD for the board to review, and the costs involved in producing the CD. . \$1400 to produce and \$600 to cover the costs for 5 copyrighted tunes

Bert is working with contact at the Henry Ford to possibly sell our CDs at their gift shop. Others might also sell, such as the Dixboro General Store and Three Cedars Farm.

The board further reviewed the idea of family membership rate and cost of music packets. It presently costs about \$12 to print one packet

Members' dues **must** be paid for them to play at playdates, vote on membership matters, or participate in activities as members. If dues are not paid they will be considered guests and will be required to pay guest rates.

Sandi Hlavacek asked for help in updating the newsletter mailing list for those with no internet access. Larry will put out a copy of the roster at the meetings and ask for those who wish to have a copy mailed to them mark the appropriate column on the roster.

Submitted by Janelle Pacic, in Bev's absence  
**(This is an outline of the meeting. Full minutes are available on request)**

## LEDGER NOTES \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer

"The picnic was awesome ! Thanks to George Gonyo and family for the great venue and hospitality, and of course, the many others who chipped in to make it one of the best ever!

Membership dues renewal time is just around the corner, October 1st. Dues can be renewed at meetings or by mail (Geraldine Hermans, 2584 Edgemont St. Trenton, MI. 48183). Renewal is still \$15.00.

Banquet tickets can be purchased from Theresa Smith or Sally Niemczewski for \$15.00 members or \$20.00 non-members. Save time... renew and get your banquet tickets at the same time." Gerry

### OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

**Jesse Brindle, Northville, Mi.**

Occupation: computer programmer  
Jesse plays banjo, and joined SSDS to play, improve, and have fun with other musicians

**Rita Marica, Woodhaven, Mi.**

Enjoys: Swimming, Knitting  
Rita plays violin and joined SSDS to play nice music

**If you have borrowed a skirt, blouse, tie, suspenders or hat for our Victorian playdates, and are currently not attending them, PLEASE RETURN THEM to the club so others may enjoy the opportunity. If you have an appropriate piece of clothing you can donate to the club's collection or lend out, we would really appreciate the addition to our costume supply. You may give them to Janelle, Carol Ann, or Sandi**

## VP PROGRAMS \_\_\_\_\_

Here it is, the *glorious* month of September - and those lazy, hazy, crazy days of Summer are almost gone. Time has flown by so *quickly!* It's almost time to dust off those Christmas tunes, but, before that happens, there are plenty of events coming up that will help us to transition through the changing season.

On Labor Day-Monday September 7th, George Gonyo's friends Manfred and Judy Schmidt are hosting a potluck dinner with a music jam & storytelling at their cottage. (See George Gonyo's note for details.)

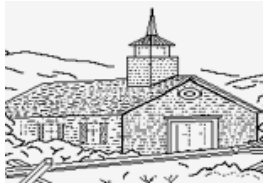
On Saturday September 26th, Linda and Ed Osgood will be hosting a jam/potluck dinner at their home at 10424 Geddes Road, Ypsilanti MI 48198 (in Superior Township). Sign up sheets for dishes to bring will be posted at the club meetings on September 3rd and September 17th. Linda will provide sloppy-joes. Bring your own chairs, drinks, and most importantly, your instruments. Festivities will begin around 3pm and last until ?. A bonfire (weather permitting) is planned and easy-ups will be set up to keep us (and our precious instruments) protected from the sun or showers. All are invited.

On Thursday October 1st, the annual SSDS banquet will be held at Park Place in Dearborn. Check Theresa Smith's note for complete information Plan to attend...it will be a great time!

There will be another fun-filled, action packed Variety Night (the last one for 2009) on Thursday, October 29th. Your host/emcee that evening will be the one, the only Bob Hlavacek !. And, since Variety Night falls so close to Halloween, we would love to see everyone dress in costume that evening. This night of FUN will again include pizza, salad and beverages (and perhaps a treat or two). Desserts of all sorts will be appreciated (we've heard Bob H. likes chocolate!) Sign up to perform that night and **bewitch** us with your talent.

As always, thanks go out to all who have brought snacks for break time at club meetings. Please keep those yummy goodies coming!

Your Program VPs, Janelle and Carol Ann



We have another opportunity to support Good Hope Church, our generous hosts who have generously given their meeting space almost any time we've asked for it since 1986.

During the first 2 weeks of Sept., they will be taking orders for their delicious pasties. If you have any left from the last sale, eat them this month, and order more !! A sign-up sheet will be on the back table to accept your orders. Cost is \$4 each, and you may order full beef, vegetarian, or "special" (specify no onions, salt or other item). **We can pay and pick them up at the Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> jam.**

Let's not forget their on-going food drive for the food bank. Times are tough. They help many families, and need consistent donations to keep it going. Please leave your donations on the table by the elevator at any time.

## RICK THUM Workshops & concert

**Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 @ Rockford V.F.W. Hall  
4195 – 13 Mile Road, Rockford, Mi.**

**Workshops \$25 each or \$45 both**  
10:am – noon (practice techniques)  
2 - 4:pm (Chords as back-up in melody)  
(Intermediate & advanced)

**Potluck dinner at 5:pm  
Concert at 7:pm \$10 each**

**All-day running jam and after concert jam  
Contact Jim Rathbun for reservations  
(616) 866-9103 / <dulcitude@gmail.com>  
Visit <www.rthum.com> for information**

## Silver Strings Annual Banquet from Theresa Smith

Save the date, Thursday, October 1, 2009, for the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Annual Banquet. It will be held at Park Place Banquet Hall in Dearborn. The cost will be \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. See Theresa, Sally or Sharon for tickets, you can purchase them now until Sept.17th.during the break time at the meetings. If you can not make the meetings and wish to come, call or email me at "[tsmithuke@yahoo.com](mailto:tsmithuke@yahoo.com)" or 313-278-5127. The evening will start at 6 p.m. for socializing, 6:30 p.m. dinner, and 8 - 11 p.m. for jamming, etc. So bring your instruments, be ready to have fun, have a delicious meal and be with great people! Any checks should be written to Silver Strings Dulcimer Society.

At the banquet we will have a trivia game called "**Name That Instrument**". There will be 10 unusual instruments from David's collection on display. See if you can name them.





## GETTING TO KNOW YOU . . . . .David Smith

I was born in Detroit in 1950. We moved to Taylor when I was a child and I grew up there until I moved to Dearborn in the 1980's. Hobbies always have been a big part of my life. As a teenager and young adult I enjoyed building and flying model airplanes, either control line, free flight or radio control. I could always be found tinkering in the garage with electricity, or chemistry, other science experiments, or building things from wood.

After high school, I attended Wayne State University and Henry Ford Community College. I graduated HFCC in 1975 with an associates degree in Electrical Technology, and soon found employment there in the

Instructional Technology Department. Our department was located in the basement of the Library and I developed a friendship with a new Library secretary. In 1993 I married my best friend and Theresa and I have been happily married for 16 years. We both worked at HFCC for 30+ years and we retired together in 2006.

While still a college student my interest in hobbies continued and I constructed clock cases, small sailboat, a canoe, weaving loom and many more model airplanes. For 15 years I sailed Hobbie and Nacra catamaran sailboats on lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie. I have sailed windsurfers for the past 25 years and still continue to windsurf on lakes Cass and Erie.

30 years ago I became interested in kites and after learning how to use a sewing machine, I have built and flown many different designs. My collection of homebuilt and purchased kites is now over 100. I have had several kite displays at Madonna and Henry Ford colleges.

More recently, in 2005 I became interested in model trains and began collecting the Lionel train set remembered from childhood in the 1950's. This has grown to many more train items from the period and I now have an operating train layout in the basement. Recently I have had several construction articles published in Classic Toy Trains Magazine. Theresa also became interested in model trains, so I built an HO layout for her and have modeled many Dearborn locations. We regularly attend model train shows and conventions in the area. Real trains are also an interest and we both have visited many train museums, vintage train rides and train watching sites.

In 1978 while searching the music section at the college library, I came across a book titled "How to make and play the Dulcimore". I was fascinated and over the next year checked out the book several times. Finally in 1979 I constructed my first musical instrument, a mountain dulcimer. Hearing the first sounds of an instrument that I had made were truly magical to me. That was the beginning of a long list of musical instruments that I built from kits, plans or scratch built from my own designs. Over the past 30 years I have built 10 Mountain Dulcimers, 9 Hammered Dulcimers, 4 Hurdy Gurdies, 3 Ukuleles, Dulcigurdy, Nyckelharpa, 2 Harpsichords, Clavichord, Folk Harp, Bowed and Plucked Psaltery, Autoharp, Kalimba and Nail Violin. I also collect Ocarinas, Recorders, Ukuleles and several Novelty Instruments. I have instruments planned for the future that include a Hungarian version of the Hurdy Gurdy called the "Tekero" and an instrument from India the "Bulbul Tarang" that is somewhat related to the Mountain Dulcimer.

In 1985 I built my first Hammered Dulcimer using my own plans. In the fall I happened to find that lessons were being offered by Cecelia Webster at Greenfield Village, so I signed up for the 6 week class. The next year I also took Cecelia's 2<sup>nd</sup> class. In 1991 I took a Dulcimer class through Dearborn Adult Ed with Ranka Mulkern. It was there I met Stan Brown who told me about Silver Strings Dulcimer Society. So finally in 1992 I attended my first Silver Strings meeting and was amazed at the large friendly group that played tunes together. I even was offered to pick a tune (Rakes of Mallow) that first night! Wow, I was hooked and I've been a member ever since. Silver Strings has been a place for me to play the tunes that I know, an inspiration to continue learning new tunes and socially has allowed me to meet new people and make many new friends.

## September Celebrations

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 12... Lee Lack
- 13... Ellen Yanity
- 14... Mark Williams
- 20... Pat Deschamps
- 21... Sue Duncan



**Please Check the back table to see if your birthday & anniversary are registered on the list. If not, please add it to the appropriate month.**



Photo from David Smith

**Dressed for Victorian times, a group from Silver Strings took a step back in time to provide vintage sounds at Fairlane Manor in Dearborn in celebration of Henry Ford's birthday.**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### September

- 7 . . . . . **Labor Day Play & Picnic** . . . . Noon - ???  
 Schmidt House . . . . . West Bloomfield
- 10 . . . . . **SSDS Playdate** . . . . . 12:30-1:15 pm  
 Trinity Lutheran Church . . . . . Detroit
- 12 . . . . . **SSDS Playdate** . . . . . 11:am-4:30pm  
 Greenfield Village (Victorian) . . . . Dearborn
- 13 . . . . . **SSDS Playdate** . . . . . 11:am-4:30pm  
 Greenfield Village (Victorian) . . . . Dearborn
- 19 . . . . . **SSDS Playdate** . . . . . noon-1:30pm  
 Northville Victorian Festival . . . . Northville
- 25 . . . . . **SSDS Playdate** . . . . . 2:30-3:30pm  
 Baldwin House . . . . . Birmingham

### October

- 2 . . . . . **SSDS Playdate** . . . . . 2:30-3:30pm  
 Heartland Health Ctr. . . . . Canton
- 8 . . . . . **SSDS Playdate** . . . . . 11:15am-12:15pm  
 Southgate Senior Ctr. . . . . Southgate

### Holiday playdate practices 2009

- 7 PM Wed., Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>  
 7 PM Wed., Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

**These people are here to serve SSDS. If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact them.**

- PRESIDENT** . . . . . **Larry Roper**  
 Larry-janelle@ameritech.net (248) 437-5403
- V.P. BUSINESS** . . . . . **Bert Stein**  
 Bertstein76@gmail.com (248) 544-0033
- Co-V.P. PROGRAMS** . . . . . **Janelle Pacik**  
 Larry-janelle@ameritech.net (248) 437-5403  
**Carol Ann Matthews**  
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- TREASURER** . . . . . **Geri Hermans**  
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- SECRETARY** . . . . . **Bev Scott**  
 bj.scott@att.net (734) 722-8153
- MUSIC COORDINATOR** . . . . . **Kelly Kaiser**  
 lekaiser@comcast.net (734) 844-1525
- SOUNDBOARD EDITOR** . . . . . **Sandi Hlavacek**  
 datadoc@sbcglobal.net (734) 663-7974
- WEBMASTER** . . . . . **Karen Turner**  
 karenturner@comcast.com (734) 455-4085
- HISTORIAN** . . . . . **seeking a volunteer**

**What does a banjo player get on an IQ test ?**

Drool

## SSDS September 2009 Play List

Key	Tune	Play
<b>List of tunes for 1 hour long gigs</b>		
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Westphalia Waltz (Bob's Club talk)	2
G	Red Wing	3*
C	Five Foot Two	4
G	Maggie	3
G	I'll Remember You Love in My Prayers	3*
D	Over the Waterfall (Bob's Story)	3
D	Festival Rag	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
D	Midnight on the Water	3*
G	Down Yonder	3
D	Smash the Windows (Bob's Story)	3
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/Riding Load of Hay (Bob's Story)	3/3
C	Black Velvet Waltz	3*
D	John Ryan's Polka (Karen chooses players)	5
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
D	Hey Polka	5
D	Simple Gifts	3
D/D	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (If gig longer than 1 hour, skip this & use it as final medley)	2/2/2/2
<b>Add next list for 1.5 hour long gigs</b>		
G	March of St. Timothy	3
D	Painter's Polka	3
D	Chinese Breakdown/Nelly Bly (Bob's Story)	2/3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3*
D	Angleworm Wiggle	3
Em	Tamlin	3
D	Young Roddy McCorley	5
G	Silver and Gold Two-Step	3
G	Southwind (Bob's Story)	3*
D/D/	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (If gig longer than 1.5 hour, skip this & use it as final medley)	2/2/2/2

<b>Add next list for 3 hour long gigs</b>		
G	Red Apple Rag	3
D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3*
G	Dusty Bob's Jig	3
Em	Dancing Bear	3
D	Viola's Schottische	3
G	Sophrina	3*
G	Bellman's Jig	3
D	Swinging on a Gate	3
G	Old Joe Clark	3
G	Fanny Power	2*
D/A	Maple Sugar	3
D	Angeline the Baker	3
D	Ashgrove	3*
G	Flowers of Edinburgh (Bob's Story)	3*
D	Road to Boston	3
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
G	January Waltz	3
D	Possum up a Gum Stump	3
G	Hundred Pipers	3
G	Rosin the Beau	3
D	Lover's Waltz	2
Em	Missouri	3
D	Saint Anne's Reel	3
Em	Scollay's Reel	3
G	Larry's Waltz	3*
D/D/	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (Use this as final medley in all Sept. gigs)	2/2/2/2
<b>Extra Tunes</b>		
D	Pay de Haut	3
G	Nail that Catfish to a Tree	3
* = 2 <sup>nd</sup> time: Fiddles, Harmonicas, backup; HD's softly		

"We must look for the opportunity in every difficulty instead of being paralyzed at the thought of the difficulty in every opportunity" Walter E. Cole

### HISTORIAN

\* Collects & organizes newsletters, press releases, and photos and/or CDs of photos of activities for archives.

**Do you like to organize things ?**

**Do you enjoy "scrap-booking" ?**

**Are you interested in history ?**

Perhaps you would like to be the SSDS Historian! Here is a job you can do at your leisure at home. The club has been without one this year, and we need someone who can help preserve the memories we are making, in an orderly way. Some computer skills might be helpful, as many photos from the past 3 years are on discs. See Larry Roper if you would be willing to share your skills.

### CONTRA DANCING

Are you familiar with "contra dancing"? Here is a GREAT chance to learn, and introduce your kids or grandkids to this fun source of exercise. We play a lot of music that is designed for it, but how many of us have never seen or done it ?

Bring the whole family (young and old)... or scout troop... or church group... for a really fun time and a chance to see and hear our "Picks 'N' Sticks" friends in action on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> in Salem Twp. Between Ann Arbor & Metro-Detroit. The Salem Historical Society is sponsoring a Fund Raiser for restoration of the oldest barn in Washtenaw County. The dance (7-10:pm) is at Six Mile and Currie Rd , with John Freeman as caller.