

# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

# Soundboard

November 2007

Year 24

Issue 11

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

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. The greeting seems appropriate since Christmas items have already been in the stores for over a month. So, I don't want to miss Thanksgiving.

Karen Turner and I met with the Good Hope Church counsel this summer, and they requested we hold our Christmas concert for them in the church sanctuary. We will honor their request on December 6<sup>th</sup> (Our first meeting in December), followed by coffee, tea, punch & cookies. Anyone who will bring a tray of holiday cookies to share with our guests that night will be very much appreciated. Please, **everyone** try to come and play. This has become an annual thank you to the church for allowing us to make it our "home base" for the past 20+ years. We will play more than just Christmas music.

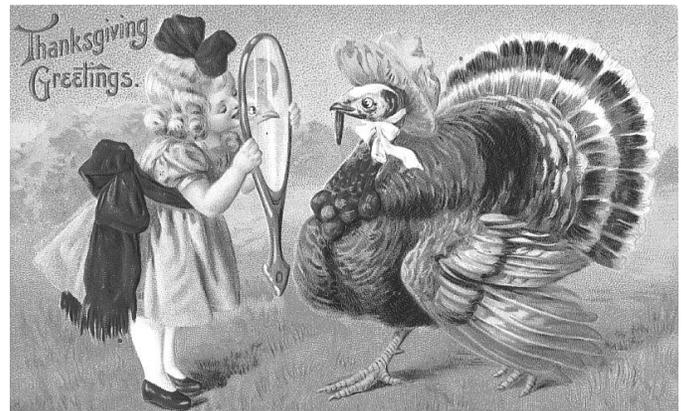
**Elections for the 2008 board will be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Your membership dues for 2008 must be paid to be eligible to vote.** Our last holiday music practices will be held Nov 15 at 6:00 pm (prior to our meeting) and November 22 at 7:00 pm.

I want to thank Evie and Jim Bain and their banquet committee (Bonnie Ream, Carol Balogh and Sue Duncan) for the wonderful event at Fox Hills. The food, friendship, new bags and jamming were all great.

Please keep Walt and Pat Jablonski in your thoughts and prayers. Their son passed away in a nursing home October 12<sup>th</sup>. I'm very sorry I did not get an email message out to all of you at that time. I guess I was preoccupied with playdates and my back issues... too many things happening in that week.

We still have **2 Ruffwater Fakebooks** by Judy Morningstar to sell at a club discount price of \$18. This has the most basic songs for Michigan jamming. If you don't have one, it's a great addition to your music collection.

Happy hammering, strumming, bowing. . . Bob Hlavacek



## PLAYDATE CHATTER \_\_\_\_\_ V.P. BUSINESS

The "Playdate Players" are on a break for the month of November. There are no scheduled playdates. This will actually give us an opportunity to focus on the holiday play list for the many December playdates. Check this newsletter for the Holiday play list or visit <http://www.ssdociety.org/sections/tunes/playlists.asp>.

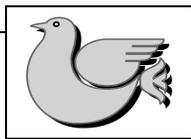
We had a variety of audiences for our October playdates (Oak Leaves Red Hat Society, Northville Girl Scouts and American House). Each audience seemed to enjoy our presentations and the use of the rhythm instruments.

As I approach the end of my first year as Business Manager, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who have participated in playdates this year. We've had 27 playdates so far and 52 different members have graciously shared their time and talents

If you would like to attend a Holiday playdate, be sure to sign up at the next SSDS meeting. The complete list appears in this newsletter. If you are unable to attend a club meeting and would like to sign up, please email [karenturner@comcast.net](mailto:karenturner@comcast.net) or call (734) 455-4085. KT

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Holiday playdates...



- Dec.1....SSDS Playdate. . . . .1-2:00pm  
Soroptimist Int'l. Holiday tea. . . . . Dearborn
- Dec.4....SSDS Playdate. . . . . 6-7:00 pm  
Garden City Historical Museum. . . . .G.City
- Dec.6....SSDS Concert for Good Hope Lutheran Church  
Meet at 7pm for setup. . . . . Concert at 7:30
- Dec.7....SSDS Playdate . . . . .7:45-8:30 pm  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. . . . Dearborn
- Dec.11..SSDS Playdate . . . . . 1-1:45pm  
Retired School Personnel. . . . .Dbn. Heights
- Dec.12..SSDS Playdate. . . . .12:45-1:30pm  
Retired School Personnel. . . . . Livonia
- Dec.13..SSDS Playdate . . . . .1-2:00pm  
Burger School Holiday Celebration . . . . G.City
- Dec.16..SSDS Playdate. . . . .9-10:00am  
Franklin Community Church. . . . . Franklin
- Dec.16..SSDS Playdate . . . . . 6-7:00pm  
St. Richard's Church . . . . . Westland
- Dec.19..SSDS Playdate. . . . .5-6:30pm  
Rivergate Terrace . . . . .Riverview

## V.P. PROGRAMS

We're getting a little rest before all of our Christmas playdates, and then we're off and running. Since the leadership of Good Hope church requested that our Christmas concert be held in the church sanctuary so more people could attend, we will have our Holiday potluck November 29<sup>th</sup> and give our Christmas concert on Dec.6<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary for the church. Please arrive Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 to set up. We will start the concert at 7:30 so everyone has a chance to get there. After the concert, the Church will serve desserts. An open jam will be optional following the concert and church members will be welcome to stay and listen.

On November 29<sup>th</sup> (fifth Thursday) we will begin our Holiday potluck at 7 pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Silver Strings will provide the meat, coffee and tea. It was voted by the members to make it a social time, with an informal jam after. Jane Chevalier and Rich Smith will host the first Variety night of 2008.  
..... Linda Losse

## 2007 ANNUAL BANQUET.....

...Thanks to my Committee of Jim Bain, Carol Balogh, Sue Duncan and Bonnie Ream. We received a lot of positive comments regarding the gifts, food, and jam session....thank you Karen and Linda for leading the jam. . . . . Evie Bain, chairman

*Asked to write a composition entitled, "What I'm thankful for on Thanksgiving," a student wrote, "I am thankful that I'm not a turkey."*



## MICHIGAN STATE OLD TIME FIDDLERS COMPETITION

Submitted by Jim McKinney, Director  
22nd Annual Michigan State Championship Old-Time Fiddlers Contest  
at the Huron Township Applefest

The weather for the 2007 Mich. State Championship Old-Time Fiddlers Contest on October 6th started out warm and dry and turned hot and humid as the day progressed, but at least it wasn't snowing. I started promptly at 10:00 am thanking our sponsors, introducing our judges and reading the rules to the audience. We started with about 50 people in the seats and finished with about 110. I was told the contest could be heard down the street for a block either way.

We had 12 contestants this year, eight of whom were first-time competitors with us. Contestants drew numbers out of a hat for playing order. The judges were seated out of sight behind the stage where they couldn't see who was performing. They did have a stage monitor in the tent so they could hear each contestant very well.

The contest finished around 12:00 pm. The results were:

### 1st Kelly Kaiser of Canton, MI age 14

2nd Nellie Schrantz of St. Johns, MI age 22

3rd Bob Borcharding of Okemos, MI age 52

4th Sarah Dowell of Benton Harbor, MI age 15

### 5th Phil Chen of Ann Arbor, MI age 48

6th Holland Raper of Allen Park, MI age 16

**Congratulations SSDS members Kelly and Phil.!**

**We're very proud of you !**

## IT'S NOVEMBER LET'S CELEBRATE !!!

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

5.... Phil Chen

9.... John Mercier

10... Terry Treppa

16... Marlin Harmon

30... Greg Kaiser

30... Marie Nastor



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

9.... John & Sharon McAuliffe

## NOTES FROM YOUR SECRETARY

SSDS Annual Business Meeting October 18, 2007  
President Bob Hlavacek called the meeting to order at 8:15pm and extended condolences to Walt and Pat Jablonski at the recent death of their son.

Agenda was moved, seconded and accepted  
Secretary's Report was accepted as presented in the September Soundboard. A letter from Val Karhu was read

In absence of George Gonyo, Bob gave the treasurer's report. It was accepted unanimously.

Karen Turner, VP Business... report is as follows:  
27 play dates Jan.-Oct. 2007, 14 new venues projected total for the year's play dates is \$4000  
Of 52 participants, 11 were new players this year  
Thanks to all who gave their time and musical talents!  
Karen's report was accepted as presented.

Linda Losse, VP of Programs... announced the holiday pot luck will be on Nov. 29, (Variety Night) rather than in conjunction with the Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> concert for Good Hope Lutheran Church. It was moved, seconded  
And unanimously approved to just have the holiday potluck with jamming after dinner. Strings will provide meat and beverages. All members are asked to bring a passing dish. Linda asked that people bring desserts for the Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> concert, as we will be hosting this as a "thank you" in the hall for the church after the concert in the Sanctuary.

Steve Hadley, Nominating Committee Chairman, presented the slate of officers for the 2008 election. They are as follows:

President-----Bob Hlavacek  
VP Business--Karen Turner  
VP Program—Linda Losse  
Treasurer-----George Gonyo  
Secretary-----Bonnie Ream

Bob opened the floor for further nominations. None being heard, the nominations were closed and the slate was accepted as presented. People wanting absentee ballots should contact Marie Naster. Elections will be Nov. 1, 2007, and 2008 dues must be paid for a member to be eligible to vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Ream

Why did they let the turkey join the band?

Because he had the drumsticks

What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter?

"Quack! Quack! Quack!"

What happened to the Pilgrim who was shot at by an Indian?

He had an arrow escape.

Why did the Pilgrims eat turkey at Thanksgiving?

Because they couldn't get the moose in the oven!

Whether you **know**, or **would like to know** what "contra dancing" is all about, here is the perfect opportunity. It is a **GREAT** family outing (for young or old) fun for exercise... or fun for observation.

On **Saturday, November 24th** (the Saturday after Thanksgiving), Saginaw Subterranean Strings is partnering with Glen and Judi Morningstar to host an event at Fischer Hall, next to the Historical Museum on Main Street, Frankenmuth. Fischer Hall, with its beautiful wood floor and authentic quality, will be the perfect site for a contra dance .

The club's usual Snowfest Concert has been cancelled because the Snowfest dates were changed. The 14 years of those shows always drew standing-room-only crowds. The players include part of the Ruffwater Band, which means top-notch entertainment.

The tentative format for November 24th:  
12:00-4:30 Concert (Group jams and about 3 "big name" showcase acts) - public welcome  
4:30-5:00 set up for potluck (all who attend will bring a dish-to-pass)  
5:00-6:30 potluck and socializing (for the dancers, our club, and musicians)  
6:30-7:00 set up for dance  
7:00-10:00 contra dancing

**It will be FREE. A free-will donation box will benefit the Frankenmuth Historical Museum.**

For more information contact  
Judy/Glen at [gmorning@aol.com](mailto:gmorning@aol.com) or 248-889-3013



Entertaining for the Oak Leaf Red Hat Society in Woodhaven was a treat. Almost all of us took a "scenic tour" to get there. It didn't look like a church from the outside. They participated enthusiastically.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

It's hard to be a member of Silver Strings very long and not run into George Gonyo. George has been a member since 1995, and during that time has been secretary,

treasurer, and president for the group!

George was born in Fremont, Michigan and lived in Muskegon until 1966. He earned a B.S. in engineering from MSU, and moved to Ypsilanti to work with Ford Motor Company. George married his wife Marianne in 1970, and they have three daughters and four grandchildren (two boys and two girls). He is now officially retired from Ford and Visteon.

Although he took piano lessons when very young, playing music just didn't interest him much until "I heard the hammered dulcimer back in the last century, and I liked the sound," says George. "I took some group lessons from Charlene Berry, and when I decided I liked it enough, I finally purchased a dulcimer."

When not making music with Silver Strings, you may find George out with the German Park Recreation Club, the Ann Arbor Bike Club, or the Thunderbird Ski Club. He tries to go skiing out west once a year, and he also really enjoys going to Dollywood.

"A few of us went down to Dollywood a couple of weeks ago. We had our instruments with us, jammed right in the motel, and had a good time after we toured Dollywood earlier in the day. Maybe more of us could get together and go down there in 2008."

Submitted by Lynn Ellen Kaiser



A small group gave a command performance for the residents in Karen Turner's mom's wing at Trellis Gardens Retirement Home in Jackson. They want us to come back with a larger group to entertain in the ballroom.



Our group entertained the Girl Scouts at a celebration of the life of Juliet Gordon Lowe, (founder). The sun was shining over Mill Race Village in Northville, as hundreds of girls and their leaders listened and danced to the music.



'Twas the night of Thanksgiving, I just couldn't sleep.  
I tried counting backwards, I tried counting sheep.  
The leftovers beckoned... the dark meat and white,  
but I fought the temptation with all of my might.  
Tossing and turning with anticipation,  
the thought of a snack became infatuation.  
So, I raced to the kitchen, flung open the door  
and gazed at the fridge, full of goodies galore.  
I gobbled up turkey and buttered potatoes,  
stuffing with gravy, green beans and tomatoes.  
I felt myself swelling so plump and so round,  
till all of a sudden, I rose off the ground.

I crashed through the ceiling  
 floating into the sky  
 with a mouthful of pudding  
 and a handful of pie  
 But, I managed to yell



as I soared past the trees...  
 Happy eating to all...  
 pass the cranberries, please..



The 2007 banquet at Fox Hills Golf & Country Club was lots of fun. Seventy-two dinners were sold, which gave us an extra room for jamming. The longest travel was by Sue Sandelbach's parents from Arizona, and 2 college students came to get classroom credit for attending "a musical experience other than a rock concert". (What an ingenious assignment !)  
 We learned lots of new things about each other during the game. (Who knew Evie took hula lessons?) The food was great and the jamming was, too. **THANK YOU Evie Bain and committee** for another terrific social opportunity.

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**Silver Strings Dulcimer Society**  
 Meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of every month  
 7-9p.m ..... jamming till ?

Meeting at **Good Hope Lutheran Church**  
 In Garden City, Michigan  
 Cherry Hill Road, between Middlebelt and Inkster

Featuring the hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, and other acoustic band instruments : banjo, guitar, autoharp, fiddle, string bass, washtub bass, mandolin, folk harp, recorder, tin penny whistle, and harmonica. Learn new tunes and techniques, jam together with other players, receive new music and a monthly newsletter.  
 Participate in workshops, festivals, public performances, picnics, fun and fellowship.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**  
**COME TO LISTEN OR COME TO PLAY**