



# Notes from the Soundboard

October 2008

WEBSITE: WWW.SSDSOCIETY.ORG

Issue 9

## President's Notes

The month of September is over, and October started with a bang up party at the Italian American Banquet center in Livonia. Our annual banquet was special this year with the celebration of Silver Strings 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. All of the former leaders that we could find were honored at the dinner. As the honorees were called to the front of the room by order of year served, it was amazing to hear many of the same names several times. It is a testimony to the dedication of individuals to keep Silver Strings alive to provide a place to learn, and better our music skills.

I take this opportunity to add a special thank you to Sandi Hlavacek for the countless days and nights she spent to make the banquet celebration special. The venue was outstanding, the food was excellent, and the book....the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary book speaks for itself. She and the committee that put this event together did a fantastic job. When you see them please give them a thank you or pat on the back, as many of you already have.

But let's not forget September too quickly. It was dress up month for our play dates. The month started with the Greenfield Village Old Car festival. We played in Victorian costume both Saturday and Sunday. The following weekend was Northville's Victorian festival. We were rained out on Saturday but were moved inside on Sunday. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Model "T" Ford celebration at the Henry Ford estate (Fairlane) followed on September 27<sup>th</sup>. What great audiences we had at these performances. You know it's a hit when you sneak a peak at them and they are tapping feet, clapping hands or swinging gracefully to the music. We have found a tight semi circle configuration allows everyone to hear each other, and we sound better and better at each performance, thanks to Karen Turner and Linda Losse.

Moving back to October, the Annual Meeting will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The regular jam night will **start with the annual business meeting promptly at 7:00 pm**. This will allow us to jam afterward uninterrupted. (maybe a quick snack of brownies). The Agenda includes a "State of Silver Strings" with reports by each officer's function. There will be no other agenda items allowed unless you talk to a board member prior to the meeting date. The election committee will present the slate of officers for board elections. The election of officers will take place at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Now, on to Christmas music ! . . . . . Bob Hlavacek

*Thought for today : Life isn't about getting through the storms, it's about learning to dance in the rain.*

## VP Programs

October is our last Variety Night for this year, and I want to thank Dave Smith and Bob Niemczewski for hosting so many Variety Nights, getting the sound system set up, talking to performers, and keeping it moving along as smoothly as you do. Not only have Silver Strings members benefited from all of your work, but we've also enjoyed hearing you perform, whether with a group or solo, you've both kept me engaged in your music. Kudos to you both !

Jane Chevalier put her own personal touches on Variety Night with all of her funny and entertaining jokes between performances. What a delight! We hope to see and hear more of you before you move out west. Hearing you perform on your dulcimer is an inspiration to all of us dulcimer players. Thank you.

We'll have pizza and salad, please bring a dessert to share, and inform Bob or Dave if you want to perform. Thanks! . . . . . Linda Losse

September was a busy but very successful month for the performing part of the club. We had performances at Greenfield Village, Northville Victorian Festival, RV Escapees Club and the Henry Ford Estate. We were received exceptionally well at all of these events, playing sometimes for audiences of a hundred or more. Our music jelled and our appearance was quite “dapper”, to say the least, in our Victorian costumes.

Many times I have thought about how many people have listened to us play and how our music may have affected their lives. I mentioned this in a previous article I wrote for the May 2008 newsletter. Along that same line, I have noticed the affect that a “smile” has on both the player and the listener. Many of us have our heads down when we play for a very good reason. If we take our eyes off our strings, we hit the wrong notes! But try this sometime and don’t worry about your playing; take a moment to make eye contact with someone in the audience and smile at them. They will, 9 times out of 10, smile back at you, and this smile often lingers, both on the player and the person in the audience. It’s not just the music that affects people, but also the way we interact with our audience. Ok, I’ll get back to playing my dulcimer now.

The Holiday practices are progressing well. The tune list has been finalized. If you plan to attend a holiday play date, please attend at least one holiday practice. There are new holiday music packets to insure that everyone is on the “same page”, and some tunes have a unique beginning, middle, and tag ending. You will need to know these before the performances!

Our music will soon be exposed to larger audiences, thanks to the internet. Silver Strings is going YouTube! YouTube is a video site, and is a convenient and easy way to promote our club and share our music worldwide. I have set up a Silver Strings account (for free) and have started posting videos. There is only one there now, but please check back soon, as more will appear. Just go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for Silver Strings Dulcimer Society!

Be sure to read “Mark Your Calendar” for details of coming events. If you would like to attend a playdate, do sign up at the next SSDS meeting. If you are unable to attend a club meeting, and would like to sign up for a playdate, please email [karenturner@comcast.net](mailto:karenturner@comcast.net) or call (734) 455-4085. ....KT

**2008 October Playlist**

Key	Tune	Played
G	Westphalia Waltz	3
G	Red Wing	3
D	Chinese Breakdown / Nelly Bly	2/3
D	Peek A-Boo Waltz	3
D	Over The Waterfall	3
D	John Ryan’s Polka	5
G	Southwind	3
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
D	Bonaparte Crossing The Rhine	3
D	Young Roddy McCorley	5
Em	Drunken Sailor	3
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
D	Hey Polka	5
G	Jamie Allen	3
D	Road To Boston	3
G	Old Joe Clark	3
D	Viola’s Schottische	3
Em	Missouri	3
Em	Lisdoonvarna / Riding Load Hay	3/3
C	Five Foot Two	5
G	Maggie	5
D	Simple Gifts	3
	Endless Medley	
D/D	Ragtime Annie / Soldier’s Joy /	2/2/2/2
D/G	Golden Slippers	

**SSDS 2008 Holiday Play List**

Key	Tune	Time
G	Jingle Bells	C+ 2
G	Red Wing	3
G	Away In The Manger	3
G	Deck The Halls	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	3
C	Winter Wonderland	2
G	We Three Kings	3
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
C	Silver Bells	3
G	Joy To The World	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Let It Snow	2
D	Festival Rag	3
G	Oh Come All Ye Faithful	3
D	Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer	2
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
G	Up On The House + Jolly Old St Nick	2/2
D	Simple Gifts	3
D	Frosty The Snowman	2+End
G	Angels We Have Heard on High	3
G	Silver And Gold Two-Step	3
D/G	Silent Night	2/2
G	We Wish You A Merry Christmas	3 ½

## Commemorative 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book



If you missed the banquet and would like to have an anniversary book, or if you would like an extra copy, members may purchase them for \$5 (\$10 non-members, includes S&H). If you like what you have seen in black & white, and would like to have a full color copy, they may be ordered for \$20. A color copy will soon be available for viewing at regular meetings, and will also include banquet photos.

### UKULELE WORKSHOP & CONCERT

September 25<sup>th</sup>, the Uke 'n' Sing group made it possible to have Lil' Rev come to Good Hope Lutheran Church to do an hour and a half ukulele workshop and an hour and a half concert. Lil' Rev is from Wisconsin and performs throughout the U.S. He has his degree in teaching, his workshops are informative, fun and make you want to go home and practice so you can improve your level of playing.

Lil' Rev's ability to get his audience involved in his stories and songs has earned him many local and national awards. He was voted the Best Folksinger in Wisconsin in 2004, he was inducted into the Traditional Old time Music Hall of Fame in 2003 and he was the National Blues Harmonica champion at Avoca, Iowa in 1996.

Lil' Rev sings songs, tells stories and music history while he performs on the banjo, guitar, ukulele, mandolin and harmonica. He breaths new life into time honored tunes that make you want to sing along with him. He involves his audiences in his performance. One quote says it all: Lil' Rev is a phenomenal musician whose performances engage, entertain, educate and captivate audiences of all ages.

For those of you that were not able to come to the concert, you missed a great evening.

Submitted by: Sharon McAuliffe

***"It takes a village to raise a child".***

*Eighty-three dedicated officers and "worker bees" (non-board, year-long positions) have headed the village... Silver Strings is the child.*

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Oct. 16.....7:pm  
Annual SSDS Business Meeting Good Hope  
Oct.17.....Playdate.....2:30pm  
American House.....Royal Oak  
Oct. 22.....Holiday practice..7-8:30/9:pm  
Oct.30.....@.Good Hope Church  
6:pm.....Board meeting  
7:pm.....Variety Night & Jam  
Come dressed as a song  
Nov. 5.....Holiday practice..7-8:30/9:pm  
Nov. 6.....7:pm  
SSDS Elections @ Good Hope  
Nov.12.....Holiday practice..7-8:30/9:pm  
Nov. 13.....Playdate.....4-6:30pm  
Hope Clinic Ground breaking Ypsilanti

### HOLIDAY PLAYDATES :

Mon, Dec 1,	TBA-PM
Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church,	Dearborn
Wed, Dec 3,	1pm
Nardineers Methodist Church,	Farmington
Thurs, Dec 4,	7pm
Good Hope Lutheran Church,	Garden City
Fri, Dec 5,	7pm
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church,	Dearborn
Sat, Dec 6,	12 noon
Soroptimist International,	Dearborn
(Victorian Dress Required)	
Tues, Dec 9,	TBA
Retired School Personnel,	Dearborn Heights
Wed, Dec 10,	11:30am
Retired School Personnel,	Ann Arbor
Thurs, Dec 11,	12:15pm
Livonia Library,	Livonia
Sun, Dec 14,	6pm
St Richards Church,	Westland
Thurs, Dec 18,	2pm
Garden City Towers,	Garden City
Thurs, Dec 18,	6pm
Henry Ford Estate,	Dearborn
(Victorian Dress Required)	

**Sat, Nov.8<sup>th</sup> Rick Thum**

**workshops at the V.F.W. Hall  
4195 13 Mile Rd. in Rockford, Mi.**

**Workshops : 10am-noon for beginners  
2-4pm for intermediate/advanced.**

**Pot luck at 5pm with**

**Jim Rathbun's deep-fried turkey.**

**Rick's concert at 7pm with a great jam to follow**

**It will be a fun day!**

**Classes @ \$25.00 each or \$45.00 both**

**Concert \$10 at the door**

**Contact: Jim Rathbun after 6pm @ 616-866-9103  
or dulcitude@gmail.com or WWW.rthum.com**

SSDS Member Kelly Kaiser won the Michigan State Championship Old Time Fiddlers Contest on October 4, 2008. It was the second win for Kelly. Her brother Greg (also a member) accompanied her on guitar this year. Three of the tunes she played; Black Velvet Waltz, Viola's Schottische, and Soldier's' Joy, were tunes she learned at Silver Strings!



### 2008 Michigan State Championship Old-Time Fiddlers Contest on October 4th

We had 7 contestants this year. Our judges this year were Glen Morningstar and Judy Raber Burns. They were seated out of sight near the stage so they couldn't see who was performing, but they could hear each contestant very well through the main speakers on stage.

Contestants were required to play a waltz, a schottische, a jig and a reel, in that order, in a manner suitable for Michigan old-time dancing, in six minutes. Contestants were judged on timing/tempo, intonation, expression and repertoire. Winners were:

- 1st Kelly Kaiser of Canton, MI age 15
- 2nd Sarah Dowell of Benton Harbor, MI age 16
- 3rd John Shipko of Sylvania, OH age 14
- 4th Mike Dandron of Monroe, MI age 17
- 5th Sonya Mandeville of Monroe, MI age 15
- 6th Tommy McKinney of Romulus, MI age 12
- 7th Bryce Robbins of Romulus, MI age 10

Kelly Kaiser also won last year's contest. Kelly's parents have posted a great collection of pictures from the contest at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/lekaiserphotos/2008FiddlersContest#slideshow>

Kelly received a plaque, \$300 and the title of Michigan State Champion Old-Time Fiddler.

Mark your calendars for the 24th Annual Michigan State Championship Old-Time Fiddlers Contest on October 3, 2009.

Submitted by Jim McKinney, Director, 2008 Michigan State Championship Old-Time Fiddlers Contest at the Huron Township Applefest

### IT'S OCTOBER LET'S CELEBRATE !

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1..... Ernie Stewart
- 12... Nancy Straky
- 17... Carol Ann Matthews
- 20... Sharon Meggason
- 21... Kathy Harrison
- 23... Larry Allen
- 26... Ben Catt
- 27... Marilyn Catt
- 28... Valerie Karhu



#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 19... Bob & Sally Niemczewski.(34<sup>th</sup>)
- 22... David & Theresa Smith.(15<sup>th</sup>)
- 29... Walt & Pat Jablonski.(59<sup>th</sup>)

### From your editor

I apologize for the late posting of the October Soundboard. Normally I begin piecing it together by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

My September was totally taken with the anniversary banquet preparations and "the book". Bob & Karen also put so much time into the book, they did not have time to do their articles till after the banquet was over. The "dust has settled" and we are getting back to normal.

**PLEASE THANK OUR DONORS WITH YOUR BUSINESS.**

Many merchants have been generous with donations of door prizes for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet. Almost every vendor at Midland donated, along with area businesses and music friends we cherish.

**Judy Morningstar**

"Ruffwater" CD

**Prussia Valley Dulcimers**

Harmonica

**Cliff's Custom Crafts**

Dulcimer Coasters

2 pens

**Harrison Harps**

"Unfailing Love" CD

**Kaiser Family Band**

Their First CD

**Picks & Sticks Stringband**

"Bandwagon" CD

**Pam Bowman**

"Just Jammin" CD

"Hammered Holidays" CD

"Hammered Halleluia" CD

**Joe Wojciechowski**

Happy Note Dulcimers

Music Holder

**Rick Thum**

"Hammered Fiddle Tunes" CD

"A Reason to Dance" CD

"Front Porch Waltz" CD

**Kendra Ward**

Count Your Blessings" music book

Dulcimer tote bag

**Wood'N'Strings**

Fiddle Pin

**Blue Fish Music Store**

Plymouth Mi.

3 - \$30 Gift Certificates

**Thankful Praise**

(Ida & Ron O'Dell)

Custom printing

2 25 year logo Sweatshirts

**Fed-Ex Kinko's**

(Sue Duncan)

Amazing service to print

our Anniversary Book

**Staples**

2 "easy buttons"

**Guy George**

"Band in a Book"

2 "Dream Castle CDs

**Bob & Sandi Hlavacek**

3 leather tote bags

4 sets musical note cards

5 knit hats

**Blues Airmen**

Garden City, Mi.

Set of Guitar Strings & Picks

**Dee Dee Tibbits**

"Tapestry" CD

The SSDS archives contain many old photos and clippings which are deteriorating, due to storage in acid containing albums. Many have darkened too much to save. Scrapbooking and computers are popular hobbies. Are there members who would be willing to take a year at a time, scan photos onto discs, and/or re-mount the good photos into non-acid albums ? There is no timeline, and it doesn't need to be fancy. People really enjoyed looking through the displays, and it would be very nice to have the photos better sorted, preserved, and protected. If you would be willing to work on this project at your leisure, please let me know.

Sandi Hlavacek....datadoc@sbcglobal.net....(734) 663-7974



**18 Silver Strings players entertained in Victorian costume at the Henry Ford Estate for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Model T**



**Silver Strings at Greenfield Village**

This year, a new kind of fun has been added to Silver Strings playdates. We have gathered pieces from thrift shops and seamstresses to costume our performers in styles of the Victorian era for some of our more unique performances. Linda Losse has become quite proficient at decorating the ladies' hats. Our five costumed September performances generated a lot of interest from the public, and led to more invitations to play.

At the Northville Victorian Festival, our group was rained out on Saturday, but they found an indoor spot for us to play on Sunday. It's a fun festival, as the whole town comes out in costume.

