



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

December 2009

26 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983-2009

Issue 296

Website : www.ssdociety.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I'd like to say that this year is winding down, but, with our busiest month ahead I'll just say that it is quickly drawing to a close. We started out this year busy, and we'll end it that way as well. By year's end, we will have performed around 41 playdates. We have entertained hundreds of listeners. With our Holiday CD sales going better than expected, and our You Tube postings going out all over the world, I figure the number of folks being entertained by Silver Strings numbers well into the thousands. Our music is a universal language that knows no bounds. We've had elderly people dance and sing along, and tell us how much they love it, and we've seen small children dance and clap their hands and have fun. I've seen tears in the eyes of some folks as we have played sad tunes or a tune that possibly brought back memories of years gone by. My stepbrother Tom describes our music as "music that touches the soul". As I think back on all of the adventures we have shared this year, I am so thankful for all of you who have contributed in one way or another to make it a very successful year.

Thanks to those of you who chaired a committee, got there early to help set up, stayed late to help clean up, volunteered for certain tasks or jumped in to help, put in hours of practice on tunes or starts, played at playdates, or just came out and jammed, socialized and supported the club. That's what makes our club so special. We also have some unsung heroes who deserve to be recognized. Bob Hlavacek has been our emcee at playdates and has entertained audiences with his stories, wit and humor. Sandi Hlavacek has been at most every playdate to support Bob and the group. Linda Losse and Karen Turner have been rock solid dependable at playdates, and have been our main starters and strong players. Carol Ann and Dave Matthews have been a blessing, getting to the church on time to open and set up. These are the kind of people who help make our group successful.

I couldn't let the year get away without sending a special thanks to my fellow board members for a truly outstanding job. Special thanks go to Bert Stein, Carol Ann Matthews, Janelle Pacic, Gerry Hermans and Bev Scott. It has been a pleasure to have worked with all of you, and it has been an honor for me to have served this wonderful club for the past year. Thanks to everyone for your part in making this year a truly enjoyable one for me. And from my house to yours, a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a safe, healthy, Happy New Year!

Larry Roper



On Nov. 19th, Bob Neimczewski taught an Autoharp workshop, and Tom Montelauro taught a Mandolin workshop.

PLAYDATE MATTERS _____ (VP. Business)

On November 13, 18 Silver Strings musicians traveled to Jackson, MI to perform for Trellis Gardens/Vista Grande Villa, a senior citizen living facility. We played for a large, enthusiastic audience, and something that made the event extra-special was that Karen Turner's mother, Margaret, is a resident of Trellis Gardens, was in the audience, and thoroughly enjoyed seeing her daughter and the rest of the Silver Strings group perform. On November 19, we played for a holiday party at Cleary University in Ann Arbor for members of Elderwise, a retirement organization. At both of these November events, Silver Strings received a lot of applause and many compliments and inquiries about playing for other events and other organizations.

The last of our four Holiday music practice sessions was on November 18. I want to thank all of the Silver Strings members who attended these sessions, and look forward to hearing the results of our collective efforts at the upcoming fifteen Holiday playdates scheduled for December. I also want to thank all of you who have participated in the playdates this year (40 gigs including those already played and those yet-to-be played for 2009). Thanks for all of your musical contributions, as well as for your efforts in traveling to and from these gigs, getting to them on time, and doing a wonderful job which was obviously greatly appreciated by a large number of people in our audiences. It has really been a pleasure to play music with all of you this year. I wish all of you a very happy Holiday season.
Bert Stein



Jane & Rich Chevalier surprised us with a visit from New Mexico at the Nov. 19th jam. Jane is a long time member of Silver Strings, whose move south last year left a very vacant chair at our jams. Looking happy & healthy, the move seems to agree with them.

NOTES FROM PROGRAM VPS _____

It's hard to believe this year is almost over. Where did it go? We'd like to send out a big thank you to all of you who have helped with our "programs" this year -- Our variety night emcee's and performers, our workshop leaders at Good Hope club meetings and at the campout, all of you who prepared food and/or helped with clean up at the ODPC potluck, the Myers Lake campout and the German Park picnic, all who brought snacks to our club jams, and all who chip in one way or another to make it all work. THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR !!!

Our next meeting, (December 3rd), will be our concert for Good Hope Church, starting at 7pm. We would like to have everyone bring snacks and goodies so we can invite anyone who would like to join us back to the hall for a little party and more music. It should be a lot of fun !

Since December is going to be a very busy month, we won't be having our usual potluck holiday party. Instead, we are planning a Winterfest potluck/variety night party in January. We are planning it for the fourth Thursday in January, which would be the 28th, if the church is available for us to use. An alternate date will be chosen, if necessary. We thought it would be nice to have a potluck dinner followed by variety night entertainment. SSDS will provide ham, dinner rolls, and beverages. The rest of us can bring side dishes and desserts. Sign up sheets for sides/desserts will be set out at the first and third club meetings in January. Plan to attend this fun filled evening of good food, great friends, and lively entertainment.

Carol Ann Matthews and Janelle Pacic

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1.... Jim Bain
- 4.... Dave Lovelace
- 12.. **HAPPY HANNUKKA**
- 12... Sharon Hall
- 13... Theresa Smith
- 15... Carol Balogh
- 25... **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
- 25... Carol Harmon
- 31... Sandi Hlavacek



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 22....Bert & Elaine Stein (46 years)
- 28....Ken & Lynne Ellen Kaiser (24 years)

SECRETARIAL NOTES

BOARD MEETING November 5, 2009

There are 124 current members in good standing.
Holiday CD production expenses totaled \$2,056.00
Year to date total CD sales totals \$2,369.00 The holiday CDs are split up between Larry, Bert, Bob H. and a supply in our cabinet downstairs.

Because December is so busy, Carol Ann suggested delaying the potluck to January. The Board agreed and the members will vote at the General Meeting.

Carol Ann suggested we bring snacks and desserts to our playdate at Good Hope, on December 3, and invite the audience to join us after the concert. The Board agreed and the members will vote at the General Meeting at break.

Carol Ann discussed the T-shirt project. She needs the tax ID form to get a discount. The form will be given to her. Larry said that, a new member, Kathy Douglas, husband owns a T-shirt printing business. Kathy and her husband will be contacted about this.

Carol Ann also said we must find the digital logo for the T-shirt project. Gerry will put an updated membership roster on the table. Members are urged to check it for accuracy. Gerry will make any corrections and supply a new roster for the members.

The Board voted to make some changes on the Holiday CDs insert. Some players were not recognized properly or were omitted.

Larry suggested the following change: Dues to be paid from January to January instead of October to October. This will alleviate confusion, since the annual meeting and new officer vote is done in November. The Board will review the by-laws for this change. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. Beverley J. Scott
(These minutes are a synopsis. Full minutes available on request.)

**What do you call an ELF who sings ?.....
A Wrapper !**

Olive...

The game show contestant was only 200 points behind the leader and was about to answer the final question -- worth 500 points!

"To be today's champion," the show's smiling host intoned, "name two of Santa's reindeer."

The contestant, a man in his early thirties, gave a sigh of relief, gratified that he had drawn such an easy question. "Rudolph!" he said confidently, "and Olive!"

The studio audience started to applaud (which the little sign above their heads said to do), but the clapping quickly faded into mumbling. The confused host replied, "Yes, we'll accept Rudolph, but could you please explain 'Olive'?"

"You know," the man circled his hand forward impatiently and began to sing,

"Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer had a very shiny nose. And if you ever saw it, you would even say it glows. *Olive,* the other reindeer..."

* * * * *

ANNUAL MEETING November 5, 2009

Checking account balance = \$2,403.26. The balance at the beginning of the year was about \$ 2,900.00. \$2,369.00 is the total sales of all CDs. Holiday CD expense totaled \$ 2,056.00. \$6,179.00 total income from gigs and CD sales, which include our playdates, booked in November and December 2009.

There are 124 members in good standing in SSDS. Gerry will make revisions and print rosters for members.

We have a lot of gigs in December, and there is no room for the annual potluck. Carol Ann's suggestion to have the potluck in January was approved.

Carol Ann's suggestion for members to bring snacks and desserts to our Good Hope concert on December 3, and invite the audience to join us was approved.

Janelle suggested having a song of the month to learn and include in future playdates was approved

Larry thanked all the Board members and club members for their hard work in keeping the club going. Bert thanked the nominating committee: Sandi Hlavacek, Linda Osgood, and Linda Losse. Each board member thanked the members for continued support and Gerry explained time constraints prevented her from continued service on the Board.

Linda Osgood accepted the Treasurer's nomination. The Board was elected by acclamation as presented: President Larry Roper, Business V.P. Bert Stein, Program Co-V.P.s Carol Ann Matthews and Janelle Pacic, Treasurer Linda Osgood, and Secretary Bev Scott.

Bev Scott

(These minutes are a synopsis. Full minutes available on request)

LEDGER NOTES (treasurer)

As the days dwindle down and the year comes to an end, I, too, am concluding my year as Treasurer, only due to time constraints. A big thank you to all for the support and confidence I've received. I wish the continuing Board another fun-filled, productive year.

We welcomed 18 new members throughout the year. I was happy to see first-hand the success of our new Christmas CD. Thanks to the Kaisers and all contributors to this exciting project.

It's always a joy to mingle with SSDS members in a musical setting. Have a wonderful Christmas filled with family and friends and opportunities for good deeds. A blessed new year. Gerry Hermans

NEW MEMBERS:

Kay Rowe.....Canton, Mi.

Plays hammered dulcimer and clarinet.

Hobbies are art (watercolor painting and teaching

Terry Kozlowski.....Plymouth, Mi.

Plays Banjo. Hobby is radio controlled airplanes

Thank you David Smith & Val Losse for photos for this issue.

Mark your Calendar now for December Playdates:

- 2.....Holiday concert 2:30-3:30pm
American House Westland
 - 2.....Holiday concert 7-8:pm
Wayne Pub. Library Wayne
 - 3.....Holiday concert 7-8:pm
Good Hope Church Garden City
 - 4.....New Beginnings Dinner 6:50-7:35
Cherry Hill Presb. Church Dearborn
 - 8.....Women's Christmas Tea – (V) 7-8:pm
Cross Pte. Meadows Church Novi
 - 9.....Mi. Retired Sch. Personnel. 12:15-1:15pm
Knights of Columbus Hall Livonia
 - 10.....Annual Christmas dinner 3-4:pm
Flat Rock Community Ctr. Flat Rock
 - 11.....Holiday lunch – (B&W) noon-2:pm
Westland Senior Center Westland
 - 13.....Holiday concert 2-3:pm
St Richard's Church Westland
 - 13.....Holiday concert 6:15-7:pm
Historic Trinity Lutheran Church Detroit
 - 14.....Holiday concert 3:45-4:45pm
Independence Village - (V) Plymouth
 - 16.....Holiday entertainment 6:30-7:30
Pine Ridge Sr. Ret. Comm Sterling Hts
 - 17.....Noontime Concert Series. 12:15-1pm
Civic Center. Library Livonia
 - 17.....Christmas Party 6-7:30pm
Henry Ford Estate – (V) Dearborn
 - 18.....Holiday Concert 6-7:pm
Maple Hts. Retirement Allen Park
- (V = Victorian dress, B&W = Black & White)**

After being away on business for a week before the Christmas Holiday, Bob thought it would be nice to bring his wife a gift.

"How about some perfume?" he asked the cosmetics woman at the Department Store. So, she showed him a bottle of \$50 perfume.

"That's a bit much," said Bob. The woman then returned with a smaller bottle costing \$30.

Bob complained, "That's still a lot of money."

Growing disgusted, the woman brought out her smallest little bottle of \$15 perfume.

Bob grew even more restless and replied, "No no... What I mean is I'd like to see something really cheap!"

So the clerk handed him a mirror!!



A group traveled to Jackson to entertain Karen's mom in her senior housing complex. Lots of music, lots of clapping, and lots of smiles & giggles made it a very good day.



Silver Strings was well represented as they played for Elderwise, a group of senior citizens who gather regularly for the joy of learning. Playing the "Hey Polka" is always a winner, and when our four harmonica players wandered down the aisle to provide "surround sound", they delighted the audience.



As usual, several players gathered after performing to celebrate. We love to play, and always make it fun.

SSDS 2009 Holiday Play List

Key		Times	Special arrangements
	Note: Highlighted bold print: 1 hour long gigs; Non-highlighted Italics : Add these for 1.5 hour background music gigs Note: If highlighting doesn't show in your print-out, note that bold print tunes are for 1 hour gigs; <i>Italicized</i> tunes added for 1.5 hour		Note: Backup (BU) plays all cycles; HD =Hammered dulcimers; MD =Mountain dulcimers; Fid = fiddles, harmonicas; AH =Autoharps; Rec =Recorder; FL =Flute, Harm =Harmonica; Rest =everyone except HD
G	Jingle Bells	C+ 2	Santa Stick
G	Red Wing	3	
<i>D</i>	<i>Peek-A-Boo Waltz</i>	3*	2 nd time: fiddles, harmonicas, backup: HD's softly
G	Away In The Manger	4→	(1:HD) (2:All) (3:Fid) (4 All);Slow last 2 meas.
<i>D</i>	<i>Mississippi Sawyer</i>	3	
G	Westphalia Waltz	2	
G	Deck The Halls	4→	Lively:(1:HD) (2:All) (3:Fid) (4:All) (Tag by starter)
G	Red Apple Rag	3	
<i>G</i>	<i>Southwind</i>	3→	<i>(1 HD) (2:Harm) (3:All)</i>
G	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	3→	(1 HD) (2:Fid) (3:All) Slow last 2 measures
<i>Em</i>	<i>Tamlin</i>	3	
<i>D</i>	<i>Painter's Polka</i>	3	
C	Winter Wonderland	3→	(1 HD) (2A:All - 2B:HD Call / Rest Answ) (3 All)
<i>D</i>	<i>Chinese Breakdown/Nelly Bly</i>	2/3	
<i>G</i>	<i>Hundred Pipers</i>	3	
G	We Three Kings	2→	(1A intro by MD or Man or Fid+FL) (1 All) (note F# & A in 1st meas. line 3 should each be dotted half notes) (2: Anyone move up octave). (Tag by KT)
G	<i>Columbus Stockade Blues</i>	3	
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3	
C	Silver Bells *** (remove dot from last note)	3→	(1 HD) (2A:All--2B:HD whole thing / BU join for Answ.) (3:All) (End by walking C chord down & back up)
<i>D</i>	<i>Soldier's Joy</i>	3	
<i>Em</i>	<i>Road To Lisdoonvarna/Riding Load Hay</i>	3/3	
G	Joy To The World	3→	(1 HD) (2:Rest) (3:All) (At end of each cycle, Karen's 3 "bong" filler to re-start together) (Tag by Bass)
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3	
G	<i>Sophrina</i>	3	
G	Let It Snow	2	(1A HD--1B All) (2:All) (Tag end by starter)
D	Festival Rag	3	
<i>D</i>	<i>Over the Waterfall</i>	3	
G	Oh Come All Ye Faithful	3→	(Intro: Fiddle) (1 Fid, MD Guit, bass) (2 Man+MD+Fid+AH+ Harm) (3:All) (Retard last 4 measures)
<i>D/G</i>	<i>Golden Slippers</i>	2/2	
<i>G</i>	<i>Maggie</i>	3	
D	Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer	2	(2 B+Tag Santa stick) (@Westland Sr.Ctr: God Rest Ye)
<i>G</i>	<i>January Waltz</i>	3*	2 nd time: fiddles, harmonicas, backup: HD's softly
<i>D</i>	<i>Bonaparte Crossing Rhine</i>	3	
<i>D</i>	<i>Flop Eared Mule</i>	3	
G	Up On The Housetop / Jolly Old St Nick	2/3	(No extra beats House) (Remove last 1/2-note from Jolly) (1 A MD / 1 B add harmony by fiddle) (2 harmonicas) (3:All) (4 MD with Fid harmony)
D	Simple Gifts	3→	(@ Westland Sr.Ctr: What Child is This)
D	Frosty The Snowman	2+End	
<i>D</i>	<i>Young Roddy McCorley</i>	3	
<i>D</i>	<i>John Ryan's Polka</i>	5	
G	Angels We Have Heard on High	3→	(Intro: AH, MD, Man, or Fid) (1 AH, MD, Man, Fid + HD softly) (2 All with HD playing softly) (3 All with HD normal volume) Emphasize & retard last 3 measures
G	Silver And Gold Two-Step	3	
G	Dreidel Song	3	Only for library gigs and St. Richard's
D/G	Silent Night	2/2	(1 Harm) (2:vocal German in D with HD soft) (3 Starter transition to G; Vocal English & HD soft) (4 All-medium)
G	We Wish You A Merry Christmas	3 ½	

Em..God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen..3X...(1 MD, Mand, Fid, FL, Rec, Harm) (2 All).(3 All)

Dm..What Child is This..3X...(1A MD, Guit / 1B add Fid) (2 All) (3 All)...NOTE: all 'B' notes should be natural