



Notes from the Soundboard

February 2009

WEBSITE: WWW.SSDSOCIETY.ORG

Issue 286

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

I was walking by Hal Bain's Camper at the Midland Festival last summer and I saw Hal sitting in the shade. The more I had learned about Hal in the three years I had known him, the more I respected and admired him for his accomplishments and contributions to the music and especially his dedication to Silver Strings. I stopped to visit him and after chatting for a while, I said Hal, I need to ask you something and I'd like your honest opinion. Hal said, "That's one thing I've always been, honest". I said, well you see there are a fair amount of people asking me to run for President of Silver Strings. Do you think I can handle it? Hal chuckled, patted me on the shoulder and said, "You'll do a fine job". It was with Hal's kind words of assurance and encouragement that I chose to run, and my admiration of him and his years of dedication to Silver Strings that will inspire me to do the "fine job" that he would expect of me.

I believe that Hal left this earth proud of the club he helped to get started years before and I think we should all be inspired to carry on his work in the years to come to insure that the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society continues to be the fine organization it is today.

Larry

LEDGER NOTES _____ (Treasurer)

NEW MEMBERS

Jeff Good 248-756-1994
6765 Pontiac Trail. South Lyon, MI 48178
Email. jhgoodenor@hotmail.com
Jeff plays Hammered Dulcimer

Edie Swanberg 734-394-0497
41377 Northwind Dr. Canton, MI 48188
plays Fiddle, Recorder, Keyboard & Glockenspiel

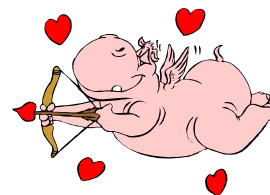
V.P. PROGRAM NOTES

Happy February Everyone!!! This being the shortest month of the year, we'll likewise keep this article short. We first want to say a big **thank you** to everyone who brought snacks to the jam last month, and an especially **big thank you** to everyone who chipped in to help with the clean up after the break. It was greatly appreciated!

Information regarding the SSDS campout at Myers Lake campground in June will be discussed in the upcoming months. **Mark your calendars for Fathers Day weekend and join us for three days of great music, good food, much laughter, loads of fun and friendship.** We will be organizing workshops for this event, and details will follow. We are also in the process of putting together some workshops that will be offered on regular club meeting dates prior to the 7:00 pm jam. We'll announce these when they are finalized.

Lastly, our thoughts and prayers go out to Hal Bain's family. Hal will be missed greatly and he will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Carol Ann Matthews and Janelle Pacic
Co-VPs of Programs



Notes from the Webmaster

Be sure to periodically check **You Tube** for Silver Strings videos. We have our own Club Channel at **<http://www.youtube.com/user/SilverStringsClub>**. or, you can just type Silver Strings Dulcimer Club in the search box. You also might want to search on hammered dulcimer or other favorite instruments. You'll be surprised at how many related videos are out in cyberspace! KT

SSDS February 2009 Play List

Key	Tune	Played
D	Over The Waterfall	3
G	Red Wing	3
G	Down Yonder	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
C	Five Foot Two	4
G	Let Me Call You Sweetheart	3
Em	Road To Lisdoonvarna / Riding Load Of Hay	3/ 3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3
D	Festival Rag	3
Am	Missouri	5
D	The Ash Grove	3
G	Fanny Power	3
D	Chinese Breakdown / Nelly Bly	2/3
G	I'll Remember You Love	2
D	Midnight on the Water	3
D/G/C	Golden Slippers	2/ 2/ 2
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
D	Possum up a Gum Stump	3
G	Southwind	3
G	Maggie	4
D	Hey Polka	5
D	Smash the Windows	3
D	John Ryan's Polka - All play first time through, then Karen Turner will select series of soloists	Karen will decide
G	Silver and Gold Two-Step	4
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3

GOOD HOPE CHURCH PASTY SALE

Good Hope Lutheran Church has 2 pasty sales per year, and this is a chance for us to help support the church, in gratitude for the use of their facilities. Advance orders will be accepted, and they hold very well in the freezer.

The aroma of those delicious fresh-baked "meaty pies" downstairs is awesome!!! If you have ever been lucky enough to buy any, you know they are among the best in the state. Bob & I buy them by the dozen, thaw as we need them, and heat them in the toaster oven. A Good Hope pasty and a salad is an **excellent** quick lunch or supper.

The sale is the weekend of March 22nd, and price is \$4 each or 4/\$15. If you would like to place an order, a Green Folgers coffee can is in the freezer in the upstairs kitchen. You may leave your order in that can at any time, but the last chance to order is our March 19th meeting. The bakers will leave them individually wrapped and bagged, with your order and amount due attached. You may pick up & pay at our next meeting on April 2nd. Sandi Hlavacek

PLAYDATE MATTERS _____ VP Business

Our first two playdates for this year were at the Erie Ice Daze at Lake Erie Metro Park, January 17 and 18. Considering the weather (heavy snow) there was not a bad turnout Saturday, and on Sunday which had better weather, we had a full house most of the day. We had very appreciative audiences and lively interactions with them. We were able to respond to requests from the audience for tunes that were not on our January playlist even when a number of us did not have the music for those tunes with us. For one request in particular ("Shoe the Horse") by a couple originally from Ireland, none of us had even heard of the tune or the music. I asked the gentleman making the request to sing the tune and we picked it up and started playing it. He grabbed his wife and they started dancing and danced for quite some time while we played that tune for them. He was delighted and came up afterwards and shook my hand and told me it was great that we were able to pick up the tune from him so quickly and play it so well. Staff members of the museum and children in the audience danced to our music a number of times. The whole affair was great fun for the musicians and the audiences. We made up "on-the-spot" arrangements for several of the tunes to add "spice" to the music so we were not always just playing things the same way through each tune. During John Ryan's Polka Karen Turner spontaneously started pointing (with both hands) to various people in turn in our group to take a solo (with backup from the rest of the group) and we all had fun with that. I received very positive feedback on our music from staff members of the museum who said they could hear us playing throughout the museum and loved the music.

Upcoming playdates include Friday afternoon entertainment 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM, February 20 at American House in Royal Oak, and a Saint Patrick's Day celebration at Maple Heights Retirement Community in Allen Park 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Tuesday, March 17. There is still space for a few more people to sign up for these playdates at our meeting February 5.

Many thanks to all who participated in the Erie Ice Daze playdates, and signed up for the upcoming playdates. Bert Stein

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb. 5.....	Board meeting @ Good Hope.....	6:pm
Feb.20.....	Playdate	2:30-3:30 pm
	American House.....	Royal Oak
Mar.17.....	Playdate	6-7:pm
	Maple Hts. Retirement.....	Allen Park
Mar.19.....	Good Hope Pasty orders due	
April 2.....	Board meeting @ Good Hope.....	6:pm
	Good Hope Pasty pick-up night	

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Our new board members met with the church council president, Diane Rinehart at Good Hope Church on January 5th. All board members were present. The purpose of our meeting was to introduce the new board members and to renew our statement of facilities usage with the church. We are very fortunate to be able to use Good Hope as our headquarters at no cost. (We do make a \$300 bi-annual donation to the church, and we do a Christmas concert for them). Diane was very pleasant to work with and she told us that she loves our music. She is a musician herself and sings in the church quire. She explained that her six year term would be up in May and that she would introduce us to the new President at that time.

Other items we discussed included:

*Our concern that we only had one key to the church. (Diane gave us a second key).

*Emergency contact numbers in case we need to call someone from the church. (The numbers are posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen - Diane Rinehart and Jim Dote).

*Access to handicap restrooms on the first level. (Diane obtained approval from the church council to get us a gate key so handicapped people will have access to the restrooms).

*Access to another room we can use for workshops etc. (This was also approved).

The only thing they ask of us is that we clean up after ourselves and leave the church clean and orderly. Again, I think we are very fortunate to be able to use Good Hope Church for our meetings. Lets all do our part to keep it clean and show our gratitude for this opportunity.

AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT

A new local DVD was released just before Christmas. "**John McCutcheon Live**" was recorded during a performance **at the ARK** in Ann Arbor last March. Several SSDS members were fortunate to enjoy this concert performance in person. It was an evening of delightful humor and folk music.

Among the tracks are the "Mole in the Ground" and "Hail to the Chief", (the latter a spoof about George Bush). It also includes an interview with McCutcheon, who has produced more than 25 albums since the 70's. He is a master of the hammered dulcimer, and also proficient on guitar, banjo, autoharp, mountain dulcimer, fiddle and Jew's harp.

The DVD, produced by the Ann Arbor recording company, Bamboo, is available at Borders and at Amazon.com

SSDS EMERGENCY INFO. CARDS

Two years ago at Evart, our dear friend Hal Bain became suddenly and seriously ill. He was taken to the hospital, and required emergency surgery. We recognized that if he had been unable to communicate, we would have been unable to contact his "next of kin". There was talk of emergency contact cards, but they never happened.

With the very sudden losses of Derik Channing and Hal Bain recently, we must again recognize our limitations in emergency preparedness. As we gather with our musical family, we **should** know what to do and who to contact. We **should** be better prepared in case of a diabetic shock, a seizure, a heart attack, a reaction to a bee sting, or even an auto accident while at a campout, festival, picnic or playdate. Any hospital ER would want information regarding medications and allergies.

For this reason, we will be handing out emergency information cards for all members to fill out. They will be kept in a card file, and go with us to every Silver Strings event. **Please take the time to fill out your green card, and give it to Janelle Pacic, Carol Ann Matthews, Larry Roper, or leave it in the suggestion box at the back table. Thank you for your help in this safety matter.**

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

Lynne Ellen Kaiser has been helping supply the "Getting to Know You" column. We each have a life outside of Silver Strings, and it's fun to find out what other interests or activities we share.

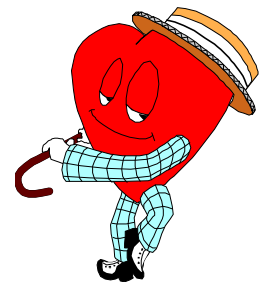
If you have been contacted with a questionnaire, and haven't responded yet, please do. We know we are surrounded by really interesting people, and we would love to know your story.

If you haven't yet received a questionnaire, and are willing to share, don't be shy... ask Lynne Ellen for it. She just hasn't gotten to your name yet.

IT'S FEBRUARY LET'S CELEBRATE !

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 10... Edie Swanberg
- 10... Bob Ewald
- 13... Sharon Dickson
- 14... Barb Davis
- 20... Lynn Hartwig
- 24... Joe Johnson
- 26... Pat Altpeter



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 5..... Jim & Evie Bain...(43rd)
- 12... Bob & Sandi Hlavacek...(43rd).
- 14... Steve & Ramona Hadley...(34th)



**Hal Bain
1917-2009**

Hal Bain left this world peacefully in his sleep on Friday night, January 16th. He was a very special member of Silver Strings, one of the original founders, and the only one who

stayed with us through our entire 25 years. Many of the early materials in our archives are due to Hal's diligence. He also founded the Suncoast Dulcimer Club in Punta Gorda, Florida, where he spent the winters.

Hal tried many instruments over the years, starting with the hammered dulcimer and ending with the marimba. He never played a note till after he retired from Ford Motor Co. He was a recognizable fixture at the Evert and Midland festivals... always cheerful and always "on the go". At age 91, he left many younger folks in his dust.

Hal was honored by the Suncoast Dulcimer Club and the Elks at a memorial service January 22nd in Florida. A second memorial service was held in Michigan on January 31st at Roseland Cemetery in Detroit, with members of Silver Strings playing some of his favorite tunes.

We can imagine this quiet, hard working, and funny man is now playing a marimba in God's band of angels. He was one of a kind, and countless share grief over this loss. A biography of Hal can be found on our website, in the July 2008 Soundboard.

YOUR 2009 BOARD & SUPPORT STAFF

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- HISTORIAN** **Seeking a Volunteer**

Why did the pig give his girlfriend a box of candy?
It was Valenswine's Day!

Do skunks celebrate Valentine's Day?
Sure, they're very scent-imental

MUSIC FESTIVALS

It's not too soon to think about the music festivals and all of the teachings they will offer. Mark your calendars before other things get in the way. If you have any other favorite festivals, please share them through the Soundboard.

**Buckeye Dulcimer Festival
March 11-15, 2009**

Register by Feb. 15th
Contact: Louise Ziegler
232 West High St, Ashley, Ohio 43003
740-747-2326 home OR 740-815-3099 cell
www.geocities.com/buckeyedulcimer

**37th annual Non-Electric Music Funfest
July 16-19, 2009**

Osceola Fairgrounds, Evert Mi.
Funfest Info:
http://dulcimers.com
616-949-2418 OR 231-734-5125
e-mail: Jodonfitz@aol.com

**Midland Dulcimer Festival
August 27-30**

Midland County Fairgrounds
www.folkmusicsociety.org

THE THOUGHTFUL GIFT

Jim asked his friend, Tony, whether he had bought his wife anything for Valentine's Day.

"Yes," came the answer from Tony who was a bit of a chauvinist, "I've bought her a belt and a bag."

"That was very kind of you," Jim added, "I hope she appreciated the thought."

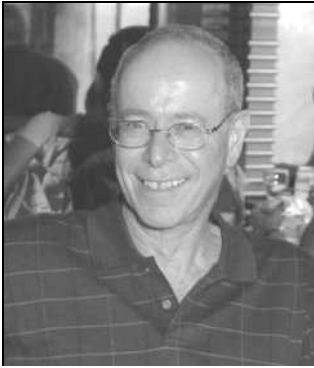
Tony smiled as he replied, "So do I, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now."

**Valentines Day Love note
Walt & Pat Jablonski**

After serving in the war, a friend and neighbor of Walt's, an Air Force fighter pilot during the war, invited him to come to a local airport for a small air show. While he was there, Walt saw a young lady holding a clipboard and escorting 8 or 9 little girl scouts. As Walt puts it, almost 60 years later, "I was nailed!" He simply had to find out who that gorgeous girl was, and when he learned that she was taking flying lessons every Sunday, he signed up on the spot! So, every Sunday Walt and the gorgeous Pat took flying lessons together. And when Walt, ever the considerate gentleman, offered (to Pat's dad) to bring Pat home after the lessons, to save him the trip, Her dad was very grateful. And so a long series of delightful Sunday flying adventures followed. Walt and Pat were married about a year later. Eventually, Walt did get his pilot's license. Pat, who was learning on an open cockpit "very fussy" plane, eventually decided to give it up. They will be married 60 years in October.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU . . .

Bert Stein, our new V.P. Business



My name is Talbert (Bert) Stein. I was born, and grew up in Detroit. I went To McKerrow and Winterhalter Elementary Schools, Durfee Intermediate School, and Cass Technical High School, where I majored in science but also played violin in their symphony orchestra. As a child, I enjoyed ice-skating, baseball, basketball, and hockey, and being pulled down the city streets at top speed on my roller skates behind my friends' bicycles (before the time of helmets, protective padding, etc.) At an early age I connected with friends who were very interested in science. We looked at the night sky through telescopes, and built our own radios and transmitters from scratch, from parts obtained by collecting old junk radios from our neighborhoods. My friends and I were also interested in chemistry, and successfully made many different exciting compounds: gunpowder, nitrogen triiodide, thermite (producing molten iron), nitroglycerin (detonated on my friend's front sidewalk – but it was a small amount).

Music started early for me. My mother was addicted to piano, playing beautiful jazz standards every day. She also sang in choral groups. In retirement, she had a regular paying gig, playing piano in Harbor Springs at Stafford's Pier Restaurant until she was 82 years old. I started playing violin when I was around 7 years old in Detroit Public Schools and played in orchestras at Durfee and Cass Tech (pretty much all classical). I have 2 younger brothers... Roy who plays clarinet, sax, and piano (all jazz) and Mickey who plays jazz guitar, and played professionally for a number of years. In spite of the need to have well-functioning fingers to play our musical instruments, we are all sufficiently infected by the motor-city love of cars that we still repair our own cars, from transmissions to engines

After high school, I stopped playing violin, and focused on learning physics. There was a 45 year period with no violin. I did my undergraduate studies at Wayne State University, and graduate work at Brandeis University where I received a Ph.D. in Physics. I did postdoctoral work at the University of Washington in Seattle with Professor Hans Dehmelt, who some years after I left received a Nobel Prize in Physics. I met Elaine (a chemistry undergrad) at Brandeis while I was a graduate student, and we were married in 1963. Our son, Joshua was born in Seattle and was very musical from the get-go. He loved Bach from the age of 2 (put recordings of the Brandenburg's on our turntable himself at that age so he could listen), played flute, and learned piano completely on his own playing Bach's Preludes and Fugues very well, among many other things. Along with all of his energy and talent, it turned out that Josh was also mentally ill (bipolar affective disorder) and had multiple sclerosis, which eventually took away his ability to walk, stand, sit up, play flute, and on and on. Josh passed away at the age of 39 in 2007.

After postdoctoral work, I returned to Michigan and joined the physics department at Wayne State University. I was on the faculty for 33 years until I retired in 2004. In addition to my teaching and research responsibilities as a professor in physics and astronomy, I developed and thoroughly enjoyed teaching a course in musical acoustics for music majors for many years.

In 1973, Elaine and I adopted a cute 9 month old red-head, Jessica Anne, one of the great blessings in our lives. Jessie is married to Kurt, has 2 children, Deborah (6) and Daniel (2), and lives in Sunnyvale, CA. She is about to return to working as an occupational therapist.

I was reborn into music as a fiddler, when I retired. It is interesting to me that my wife and I, both scientists, made a switch into artistic things when we retired. Elaine is big time into quilting, and I went crazy over music. I still love, and am interested in science, but the transition back into music has been magical and so joyful for me. I joined Silver Strings in 2004. I enjoyed the group right from the start, and appreciate its simple focus on just enabling people to play music together. I love many different types of music (Celtic, bluegrass, international folk music, jazz standards, classical...). I love playing music with other people, including my brothers. Elaine has been wonderfully supportive of my absorption in music and I have been very enthusiastic about her parallel absorption into the world of quilting.

I have not held any office in Silver Strings prior to my recent election to be Vice President / Business Manager. I'll do my best to help continue the good work done by the prior board and look forward to working with the current one.

Bert Stein



Holiday C D Recording



The CD recording group met for the 2nd time on Friday the 23rd of January. We had a very productive evening from 6:00 until 10:00pm. We were overjoyed to get nine more tunes finished ('In the Can' as they say). We have a total of 12 good ones now, with about nine more to go. We hope to finish in one more session. I think we will have a product that Silver Strings can be proud of.

Many thanks go to Ken Kaiser and the whole family for toting all of the equipment in, doing the recording and editing for us. Thanks also to Terry Treppa for the use of St Richard's Church as a studio. The next session is planned for Friday Feb 6th at 6:00pm.
Bob Hlavacek

All photos on this page submitted by Bill Smith

Erie Ice Daze at Lake Erie Metropark is the most fun & relaxing playdate we do. We have been invited back each year since the snow fest began. They love our music, bouncing throughout the building, and many people come back every year to hear us again. Our set-up is so informal, it feels very much like a jam. The ever-changing audience is fun and responsive, with lots of banter and dancing.

During breaks we can visit the exhibits, learn an old-time craft, watch the sled dogs, or play games the American Indian children played over 100 years ago. It is the ideal "first time" playdate for newer players wanting to experience public performance.

