

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

June 2020

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 36 YEARS
www.silverstrings.org

Issue 422

PERKY PEGGY'S PONDERINGS ___ Peggy Kustra

Hello Everyone, Hope all of you are doing well during our isolation. Marsha and Terry Koslowski are doing a MARVELOUS JOB with our weekly Spirit Jams. Let's everyone of us give them a big Hurrah!!!! That's it nice and loud so they can hear.

When are we going back to Holy Cross to Jam? That question is still in the air with the virus. I will let you know as soon as I find out when it is possible. However, you will find in the newsletter a Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Health Advisory that we will be following when we return. Please read it carefully. These are rules that we intend to follow. The Church itself may have additions. As you can see your Board has been working and keeping your safety as our top priority.

In response to the vote on the change of duties for secretary and treasurer, we did not receive enough percentage of votes to make the change. However, those who have voted we have your name and vote. I would like to ask the people who did not vote, to please do so now. Call Peggy Kustra at 313-570-7844 or email me at peggyakustra54@gmail.com Just say yes or no. The following is what you need to vote on.

The Board has elected to amend the Club By-Laws requires the general membership to approve the revisions by majority vote. Listed below are the proposed amendments. The first part is already a part of the Secretary's duties. Points #3 and #4 are the suggested modifications

SECRETARY

1. Keeps records of all business conducted at club meetings and board meetings; delivers to Newsletter Editor summary of Executive Board meetings and any information that should be in the newsletter.
2. Is responsible for all correspondence.
3. Is responsible for enrolling new members.
4. Arranges for distribution of the membership directory as necessary, but at least once a year.

TREASURER

Remove item #9 from list of duties: Arranges for distribution of the membership directory annually.

Please review the above and respond back to me: Should the By-Laws be revised to reflect the listed changes? Yes OR No

Please get back to me for the full vote. Thank you.

Here is a piece of jolly news. John Drake used to be a member of Silver Strings many years ago. He is a Physical Education Teacher. He is trying to be very creative with his online teaching. He asked permission to use a song (Jamie Allen/Road to Boston) on our CD. He will use it as back ground music for one of his scenarios. He is using it as pirate music to motivate his students. The students are in Kindergarten through Second Grade. I think this is great fun and sharing our music with the MUCH younger generation.

Whew....lots of news. Stay home and stay healthy. If you have any questions or concerns email me at peggyakustra54@gmail.com or 313-570-7844

..... Perky Peggy still Perky

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE

- 4 - SPIRIT JAM - SSSDS.. LIVE...7:00 - 8:00PM
- 11 - SPIRIT JAM - SSSDS.. LIVE...7:00 - 8:00PM
- 18 - SPIRIT JAM - SSSDS.. LIVE...7:00 - 8:00PM
- 25 - SPIRIT JAM - SSSDS.. LIVE...7:00 - 8:00PM

Spirit Jam LIVE on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2641846032714862/>

All previous Spirit Jams on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SilverStringsClub/playlists>

VP - BUSINESS NOTES _____ Stephen Beck

There is not much to say, but hang in we will get out of this. I have been getting and reading the CDC and the State of Michigan Health Department Virus Emergency information. The SSDS board is very concerned about our members about practices or scheduling playdates. Peggy and I have been in constant contact weighing in on what the guidelines should be and then getting the information for the other board members input. I would like you to know that you are important to all of us in the Silver Strings group. So keep in touch with each other and be a blessing to other members. I have been in touch with the places where we have our playdates to find out how they are doing and they all say they can't wait to have us back in a safer time with our safety in mind. **Keep logging into the Spirit Jam on Thursdays.**

....Steve slbeck@beck-enterprise.com 313-701-7539

IT'S JUNE...LET'S CELEBRATE !

BIRTHDAYS

6...Gloria Tapper
18...Tom Koppin
25...Bob Patterson
30...Roger Davis



If you don't see your name here for your birthday or anniversary please let me know David dtsmithnet@yahoo.com

VP- PROGRAMS NOTES __ Bob & Sandi Hlavacek

Greetings !!!

These certainly are strange times. We are really missing the jams, the people, the snacks, even making coffee. But thanks to Marsha & Terry Koslowski, playing the music lives on. They are reminding us to practice (at least once a week) and keeping the songs fresh in our minds for our next real live jam. We hope they are also inspiring you to try out new things. With all of the extra time available, you have a perfect opportunity to work up **something fabulous** for the next Variety Night.

For those who are new to SSDS, we jam on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays, and if there is a 5th Thursday, we have a "Variety Night. It's a pizza party with entertainment provided by our fellow members. It's an opportunity to show new skills on your primary instrument, or show us what you are learning on another toy (secondary instrument or another musical venue). In the past, we have been introduced to a nose flute, vocal treats, etc. in groups, solos & duets. I recall when David Smith brought in the wooden briefcase he had built, proceeded to unpack & unfold it into a full hammered dulcimer with a stand & a chair, and proceeded to play a few ditties, for the amazed audience. I've often referred to Variety Night as a "cheap imitation of the Ed Sullivan Show". (Are you old enough to know what that means?)

When we return, we will have to adapt to a "new normal". We need to keep everyone safe with a few alterations for a while. When the coast is clear, we will

have a **HUGE CELEBRATION!** Until then, would you send us your favorite coping skills for this period of limitations at datadoc@charter.net ? I'll publish a list of "How to Cope" ideas next month. It might give new ideas for the rest of us. PLEASE stay safe and healthy.Bob & Sandi datadoc@charter.net 734-663-7974

MARSHA'S MUSINGS _____ Marsha Kozlowski

Spirit Jams – We are almost through the second month of Spirit Jams. The plan right now is to continue these to the end of June. July is vacation month. After that, the Board will assess the situation and hopefully the club can meet in some way again. It is our hope that the Spirit Jams have helped you to continue playing, and that they have lifted your spirits and instilled a sense of connection. Watch your emails to get the playlists that come out on Sunday afternoon or Monday morning. Do consider being part of the collage project. Between Thursday afternoon or Friday morning, send your photo that reflects that week's theme to David Smith at: dtsmithnet@yahoo.com. These have been so much fun and add a visual connection.

Most recent TUNE OF THE MONTH: "The Distressed Soldier." Since this COVID situation, this tune has taken on a different meaning for me. I think of all who are on the frontlines of this virus situation, people like my daughter who is a nurse, my sons-in-law who are firefighters and first responders – all those who work in the healthcare field, nursing home staff, grocery store workers, truck drivers who transport the food, and other essential workers. These are The Distressed Soldiers of our time and place. The tune's melody is plaintive, yet the B part seems to contain the feeling of hope. It goes up and down much like life but ends with a major chord that seems to say we will make it.

Copyright Project – The Spirit Jams have raised issues of using copyrighted material. There are at least 15 tunes we play but do not have license to perform and have not remedied. I have given the list of these to Peggy and Karen so that we do not inadvertently use a tune we don't have permission or license to perform. We can still play them at jams, but not record them. There are tunes we play and have permission to perform but the permission does not specify recorded performance (we were cited by YouTube on two of these). I will be investigating what it takes to get a license to perform should we want to do so in performance. In the meantime, all playlists (if we have any performances) will be compliant.

... Marsha mtkoz72@gmail.com 734-239-4190

SECRETARY _____ Julie Kafkas

Well, we have one more month of Social Distancing in the rearview mirror. I hope everyone is managing to get by without the usual creature comforts. It is getting to be quite a long time and still a couple of weeks or more to go for us here. When I accepted this position, I was anticipating being able to put names with faces. Well that is not the case this year! When the rules allow us to resume gathering, the board has been dutifully

working on steps we anticipate necessary to let us do so safely. The board met on May 8th in a Zoom Meeting. This is a brief rundown of our topics:

*Health Advisory Guidelines to post and implement upon our return to Jam and Picnic.

*How to gather and play safely maintaining CDC guidelines and respect the safety and comfort for all attending.

*No expenses have been incurred since we met one month ago. A refund was received from the cancelled campout.

*August 6 Picnic- if we can gather in August we anticipate not providing food or beverages. You should plan on packing your non -shareable food and drinks.

*Gigs in the future? None yet. "Wind Instruments" may not be played for the time being (Those that you blow through with your mouth or nose).

*Music at spirit jams, positive feedback from those participating. Working out the sound issues and dealing with copyright permissions.

A full version of the meeting minutes is available on request. *Stay the course and stay healthy!*
...Julie juliekafcas1@msn.com 734-552-7326

TREASURER NOTES _____ Judy Pyrkosz

We have two new members:

Myra McInerney, she plays hammered dulcimer and would like to learn to read music.

Margene Scott, she plays hammered dulcimer and piano and has also tried the bowed psaltery, autoharp, mountain dulcimer, and penny whistle.

Pandemic - a poem about our times

*What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?*

Cease from travel.

Cease from buying and selling.

*Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.*

*Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.*

*And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.*

*Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)*

*Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)*

*Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.*

Reach out your words.

*Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.*

*Promise this world your love--
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.*

--- Lynn Ungar 3/11/20

Respectfully submitted

..... Judy jpyrkosz@yahoo.com 734-525-3553

HOW TO CONNECT TO SPIRIT JAM - SSDS ON FACEBOOK

Note: These instructions are for an Apple device but should be similar on an Android device. You must be approved by the Group Admin, Marsha, or have a friend invite you to the group.

1. If you haven't already loaded the Facebook App on your device or computer, do so now. To get the app, go to the store that supports your device, i.e. App Store, Google Play Store or the Microsoft Store. Search for Facebook. It is a free app.

2. If you are installing FB (Facebook) for the first time, you will need to enter your email address and a password. Be sure to write this information down for future use!

3. Once logged in or on Facebook, find your "News Feed" button and press it. Do it again just to make sure you are where you need to be. Make sure you do this so you will be at the top of the feed and not in someone's profile or the middle of the feed. This will ensure that your "Search" searches all of FB for the Spirit Jam.

4. Find the "Search Facebook" bar. On the Apple device, it is at the top middle of the screen. Enter these exact words: "Spirit Jam - SSDS" and press Search on your keyboard. Do not enter the quotes on the search bar.

5. On the Apple device, you will see all the results for Spirit Jam - SSDS. The group Spirit Jam - SSDS page should be at the top of your results. It also says "Group 212 Members".

We were at 212 members at the time of this document creation, but it could be higher in your search results. Press on this result. This should be similar on Androids.

6. This will take you to the Public Group Page entitled "Spirit Jam - SSDS". If you are not a member of this group yet, press the JOIN button. Marsha is checking frequently to approve new members so you will need to wait for your approval before continuing on or have a friend who is already a member "invite" you. If you are already a member, continue to Step 7.

NOTE: You must either be approved by Marsha (Press the JOIN button) or invited by a friend who is already a member to participate in the live feed jam. Do this a few days before so on the day of the jam you will be ready to watch, listen and/or play! This might be the reason some of you are having difficulty seeing the live jam. Once approved, start at Step 3 again to get to the live jam.

7. On the Thursday evening of the jam, set up your instrument, playlist and device 5-10 minutes before 7pm. Keep refreshing the page at 6:58pm to 7:00pm until you see Marsha's hammered dulcimer and other props they may have set up. On the Apple device, refresh the page by pulling down from top to bottom. Marsha and Terry will be turning on their camera 1-2 minutes before 7pm to give us a chance to find the broadcast and prepare for the jam.

NOTE: Some people use headphones, ear buds or stream the sound through their hearing aids! Whether you use your device's speakers or a Bluetooth device is up to you. Enjoy the jam! Hope this will be helpful to those who were having problems connecting to the live jam! Questions, concerns or problems—contact karenturner@comcast.net

HEALTH ADVISORY RULES

for

SILVER STRINGS DULCIMER SOCIETY

1. No Entry without a Mask. One will be provided if you do not have one.
2. A non-contact TEMPERATURE will be taken as you enter the building. A person Over 99.5 degrees must return home.
3. You must fill out a form (stating if you've had a cough, been near someone who has the virus etc.)
4. Use HAND SANITIZER as you enter the building
5. If you are sick – STAY HOME
6. Maintain SOCIAL DISTANCE OF 6 FEET from each other. A new floor plan will be in place.
7. The room will be disinfected before and after the jam.
8. CEASE USE OF ALL WIND INSTRUMENTS, (harmonica, penny whistle, recorder etc.) until further notice.
9. NO DRINKS (coffee etc.) or snacks will be provided. Bring your personal drink or snack. NO sharing.

~ PHOTOS FROM OUR MAY SPIRIT JAMS ~



23 musicians submitted photos from the May 7th Spirit Jam.



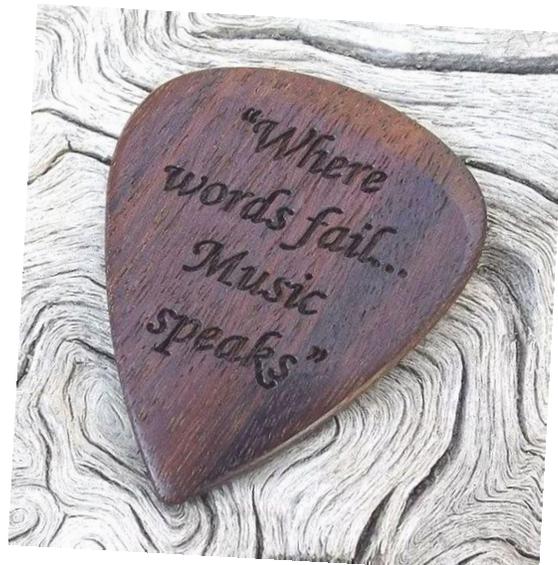
The May 14th Sprit Jam theme "Where we're not going this summer". 25 photos.



The 1950's was the theme for the May 21st Spirit Jam. 20 photos.



The May 28th Spirit Jam theme was "Names or Nicknames". 31 photos were submitted.



Position	Name	Contact Information
President	Peggy Kustra	peggyakustra54@gmail.com 313-570-7844
VP Business Manager (Contact for booking performances)	Stephen Beck	sbeck@beck-enterprise.com 313-701-7539
VP Programs	Bob & Sandi Hlavacek	datadoc@charter.net 734-663-7974
Secretary	Julie Kafcas	juliekafcas1@msn.com 734-552-7326
Treasurer	Judy Pyrkosz	jpyrkosz@yahoo.com 734-525-3553
Newsletter Editor	David Smith	dsmithnet@yahoo.com 313-278-5127
Music Coordinator	Marsha Kozlowski	mtkoz72@gmail.com 734-239-4190
Historian	David Smith / Sandi Hlavacek	dsmithnet@yahoo.com 313-278-5127
Website & Dropbox Coordinator	Karen Turner	karenturner@comcast.net 734-678-7405

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month
7:00 - 9:00 pm.... with jamming till ...?

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

30650 Six Mile, Livonia, MI

Featuring the hammered dulcimer,
and other acoustic instruments :
mountain dulcimer, banjo, guitar, autoharp, fiddle,
string bass, washtub bass, mandolin, folk harp,
recorder, tin penny whistle, ukulele and harmonica.

Learn new tunes and techniques, jam together
with other players, receive new music
and a monthly newsletter.

Participate in workshops, festivals, performances,
picnics, fun and fellowship.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT :
www.silverstrings.org



Start thinking about getting articles for the newsletter to me by the 25th.
Articles or pictures from any member are always welcome, contact David at dtsmithnet@yahoo.com

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society
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If you were on the mailing list
your name would be here.