



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Soundboard

February 2021

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 37 YEARS
www.silverstrings.org

Issue 430

PERKY PEGGY'S PONDERINGS ~ Peggy Kustra

Hello Everyone, Happy Valentine's Day!!

I wish all of you much love and Peace this year.

Hey folks, dues be due be due be due. New members who joined at the later months of the year, you are good, no worries. Regular members just need a little reminder. \$15 to renew your membership. *Let's Do It!*

We will be having a *Live Zoom Variety Night* on February 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm. I'll send the info to join the meeting in an email. Practice your tune, sing a song or whatever. If you would like to perform please contact me at peggyakustra54@gmail.com or call me at 313-570-7844. I will let you know what the order is for your performance. Perhaps you would like to join the Zoom gathering to just watch. Either way it will be a lot of fun. Practice and participate or be the audience. Join our Zoom Variety Night.

Our next Spirit Jam will take place on February 18, 2021 at 7:00pm, so mark your calendar.

Stay safe and healthy everyone. No one at this time in SSDS has caught the Covid Virus. We are truly blessed.

If you have any ideas, questions or concerns, contact me at peggyakustra54@gmail.com or 313-570-7844.....Peggy Kustra - President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, February 18 at 7:00
Live SPIRIT JAM on Facebook

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

Thursday, February 25 at 7:00
Live VARIETY NIGHT on Zoom

All 18 previous Spirit Jams
are available for viewing on YouTube at:

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

VP- PROGRAMS NOTES ~ Bob & Sandi Hlavacek

2021 February news

*The new year came with slight fanfare.
Crowd celebrations just weren't there.*

*Closets are cleaned, now where to donate?
Places are closed till unknown dates.*

*It's February, and it's cold.
This DAMNPENDIC's getting old.*

*We want our fun and share a tune.
Will this PLEASE be done by June?*

*Social distance is getting harder.
We miss our friends!!! With God we'll barter.*

*Let us play in nursing homes,
where people sit, so all alone.*

*"Spirit jams" float 'cross the land.
The music's there, but not the band.*

*Vaccine's here but hard to get.
They haven't made enough just yet.*

*Patience is our only choice
because we have a silent voice.*

AMEN

MARSHA'S MUSINGS ~ Marsha Kozlowski

1: SPIRIT JAM #19 – February 18, at 7:00 P.M. ET. The theme will be LOVE, one word that encompasses so much. We love certain foods, we love certain activities, we love music, and the list goes on. But most of all we seek to love each other. The tune list will incorporate the strong threads of love. If your last name starts with any letter between A and G, you are invited to submit a tune choice to me. When you send me your choice, please include why it speaks of love to you. I need your choices by Feb. 5th so that I can have the tune list out early for practice and to give me time to get organized for the jam. There will be at least one new tune, "Walking with Branwyn." This was written by Silver Strings friend, Pat Tait. It is a musical tribute to the joy of grandchildren. Branwyn was a toddler when the tune was written.

While Terry and I don't get to participate in the dialogue and comments during the live jam, we play it back and enjoy the fellowship and sharing that goes on. We learn more about you and enjoy the stories, humor and banter. Each person's contribution to the evening adds something that warms our hearts. I try to respond to as many of the comments as possible.

The third element is the photos you submit to be part of the SSDS Family Picture album. If you haven't shared a photo yet, please try to send one for the February jam. To be included in our music family brings a smile and assures us you are well and okay.

2: PRACTICE VIDEOS – There are new practice videos available on the SSDS YouTube channel each month. Be sure to check them out.



3: HELPING OUT – Even though the club is not meeting in person, there is still a lot of work going on. Yes, we have been unable to perform or have our usual events and the club, like each of us, has had to figure out how to adapt and re-create its life during these times. Different projects and activities are being offered to give members musical opportunities and connection. These efforts together with your participation have kept Silver Strings active and dynamic.

2020 cut short live performances, our library outreach programs, all social events, and of course, our regular jamming, but our club has adapted. Ideas and vision came. It became clear that Silver Strings could still function. It is also clear that every idea and vision needs the help and talent of many for the vision to become a reality. Our *Spirit Jams* began. Also, with limited numbers of people and physical distancing, we did pop-up outdoor jams, a few outdoor performances and a video performance for one of our patrons. We even accomplished something entirely new, the Holiday

Video Cards. This group effort helped end 2020 on a "high note." If Cindy Semrau hadn't volunteered her talent, Karen Turner didn't make sure it was put on our website and 19 people didn't take part in the videos, the holiday season would have been much darker.

Our new year ushered in 2021. The Board continues to meet every month. We still don't know when we will meet in person, what traditional activities will be able to happen, when we will be able to perform again, or what this year holds. We have discovered that for Silver Strings to stay the vibrant organization it is, it requires "active" membership and participation. It is a challenge to figure out what the club can do, how to do it and who is going to do it. Some may feel they live too far away, some have limitations that prevent them from certain things, others may figure that someone else will step up so they don't need to. While all these factors are not wrong, they are not totally right either. To paraphrase from a quote of Edward Everett Hale:

"You are only one, but you are one of Silver Strings.

You cannot do everything, nor should you, for that deprives others the joy and satisfaction of being able to help. But you can do something!

Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do."

What ideas and vision could become reality in 2021? Where is help needed? How could you become involved? The pandemic has taught us that there are new ways to be a club if we are open to it, that we are still learning and that we can meet the challenges together. Here are some of the ideas and vision that the Board has been working on. We need active participation for these activities to become reality:

- **Mentors** - New members are coming into the fold. Having a mentor helps them to integrate into the club, provides them with a personal connection, explains the traditions and programs, and is a "go to" resource person and buddy. Do you make a good buddy?
- **Practice Videos** - The goal is to have a practice video available for all 200+ official repertoire tunes in the SSDS Music Library. As of now, at the rate of 2 or 3 a month, it will take me at least 10 years to complete this goal by myself. This could be accomplished much sooner if others would help. *Lights, Camera, Action!!! Calling all Silver Strings Hammered Dulcimer Players!*

A *Practice Video Project* kick-off meeting will be held Thursday, March 11 at 7:00 PM, ET via a ZOOM session. We will discuss the project goals, how it will be coordinated, the various elements of creating the video, and most importantly, answer any questions you may have. Coming to the meeting does not mean you are committing to do this, but it will give you the information and hopefully the encouragement needed to participate. Please let me know if you wish to receive an invitation to the ZOOM meeting, what questions you hope to see answered in this session, and what you perceive as the biggest obstacle to you

in doing this. My email is mt.koz72@gmail.com. This will help me in the planning.

- **Website Update** - our webmaster manages the site but it is up to us to keep the content updated and relevant. The Board has made it a goal to update the website by bringing the written descriptions up to date, to add, consolidate or eliminate pages as needed, update the photos, add a Paypal option to purchasing CDs or paying for membership. If a team of people cohesively combined their talents to work on this, the task would be made easier and the results better.
- **ZOOM social meetings** - Have you been to one yet? It is not difficult to participate. Each session has a different "flavor" as the topic theme and participants change. These have helped strengthen our bonds and better know each other. As we share our stories, there are smiles and laughter. If you haven't participated yet, you are missing us and we are missing you. So please check in for the next one!
- **Variety Nite** - A long standing tradition is being adapted for the times. Peggy is ZOOM hosting the first one this month. You can be a performer, a viewer or both. What will it be? Are you a new member and wondering what this means? See Peggy's article for the details.
- **Serving on the Board** - Because of COVID and the inability to hold elections last fall, all board members agreed to stay on past their term. This year we should be able to have elections. Our current board has served the maximum 2 years, so we will need at least 4 new members to run for office. Start thinking about it now. Ask questions and read the bylaws. The leadership of the Board directly affects how well your club works.

No matter how long you have been a member, the club is better for your being here. By helping out in some way, you are a thread in Silver Strings' musical tapestry, strengthening its ability to hold together. You are that precious thing known as a volunteer or as was once described, "Love in motion."

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



IT'S FEBRUARY...LET'S CELEBRATE !

February Birthdays

10...Bob Ewald
10...Christine Hurt
10...Edie Swanberg
13...Ed Konstal
14...Barb Davis
15...Maureen Treppa
18...Jocelyn Shaw
25...Nancy Sullivan



VP - BUSINESS NOTES ~ Stephen Beck

Here is a great fact about you and your brain.
from: Focus on the Family 01/26/2021

8605 Explorer Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920

"Musicians have super-connected brains compared to people who don't play an instrument."

from [Study Finds:](#)

It's long been believed that children who learn a musical instrument generally perform better in school. A new study may explain this musical connection. Researchers from the University of Zurich say musicians have super connected brains compared to people who don't play instruments.

Their findings reveal those who begin practicing an instrument at a younger age (like musical geniuses such as Mozart) have stronger connections than those who pick up an instrument later in life. The discovery shows how people's experiences can shape their brain.

Whether it's playing the piano, the clarinet, or the trumpet, researchers find musicians have stronger structural and functional connections in comparison to people who don't play instruments. This applies regardless of whether musicians have innate pitch ability, according to the study.

Music Therapy

How does music cure depression?

1. Music helps you work through your problems.
2. Music inspires creativity.
3. Music affects your breathing.
4. Music can reduce blood pressure.
5. Music is used to treat addiction.
6. Music might prevent suicide.
7. Music in the operating room.
8. Music reduces pain.
9. Music jars your memory.

To our SSDS members, you are the ones that can give training to all ages of people to help them use music as a means of peace and sanity.

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

TREASURER ~ Judy Pyrkosz

We are well into the New Year. An email message was sent out reminding people to renew their membership. As of this writing, there are about 40 members who have not renewed their membership for 2021 and about 75 active members who have renewed. If you haven't already done so, you can send in your \$15 check or money order (payable to SSDS) to renew. The address to send it to is:

SSDS
PO Box 55146
Livonia, MI 48151

If you are not going to renew, drop me an e-mail or note so I can make sure our membership rolls are accurate and Karen can remove you from Dropbox access.

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

Barb Davis has a few musical items she would like to sell.

**McSpadden Mountain Dulcimer
Auto Harp
Various Music Accessories**

If you are interested please call her at 517-295-4292

QUARANTUNE 3.0

Virtual Dulcimer Fest

Happening This Weekend

February 5-7, 2021

Workshops, Concerts, & more!

<https://www.virtualdulcimerfest.com/>

Music
Unlocks
Self-expression
Intelligence
Creativity



Our first Spirit Jam of 2021 took place on January 21st. 35 photos were submitted for the collage and many more attended another wonderful virtual jam hosted by Marsha and Terry Koszowski.