

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

July 2021

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 37 YEARS

Issue 435

www.silverstrings.org

PERKY PEGGY'S PONDERINGS ~ Peggy Kustra

GOOD NEWS !!!

Hello Everyone, soon we will be able to Jam again at Holy Cross Church. Our very first night of jamming will be August 19, 2021, at 7:00 pm. Please bring your own snack or drink.

Holy Cross at this time has rules we must follow. These could change at any time. We must support their preferences.

- 1) Wear a mask until we enter the gym
- 2) If vaccinated we may take mask off while in the gym
- 3) We may use restrooms, however, wear a mask when doing so

4) We may use ONLY the gym and restroom
SSDS has added the following guidelines:

- 1) Temperature taken upon entering.
- 2) We are accepting the Honor System for Vaccination.
- 3) If you are sick or not feeling well, please do not come. Stay home and get well soon.

All in all, these are not tough restrictions. We are very grateful for Holy Cross church allowing us back into the building.

August 5th we will have a "**Welcome Back Picnic**" at Plymouth Township park (also known as McClumpha Park), 46640 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 48170. We'll be in the pavilion next to the fishing pond. This will be a celebration of getting back together. We will have more details in the August Newsletter and emails. So stay tuned. **SSDS IS BACK IN BUSINESS**

Thanks to George Gonyo, there will be a SSDS POP-UP JAM on Thursday, July 1, 2021, 1:00pm to 4:00pm (or so) at German Park, 5549 Pontiac Trail, Ann Arbor. The Park is located southwest of South Lyon, East of I-23, (North Territorial exit) north of M-14. We will be playing in a large pavilion. So the jam will happen, rain or shine. No refreshments will be served, so bring your own.

THANK YOU !!!! THANK YOU !!!!

Thank you everyone for sending in your response forms for the survey. I received 56 responses. All of these have shown that these folks are vaccinated. The information from the survey has shown us where to go

and grow on our music journey, your use of iphone, zoom newsletter, etc., what you prefer for social meetings, practice videos and how you personally like to help our club. This information is very valuable. Thank you for all your kind thoughts and words of encouragement. The board will use this information to make proper decisions knowing your thoughts and ideas. Again thank you.

There will be a "Zoom Variety Night" on July 29th at 7:00 pm. I will email the link closer to the date, so practice, tune up and be ready for a fun evening.

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

See you all Soon.....Peggy Kustra - President

MARK YOUR JULY CALENDAR

POP-UP JAM

Thursday, July 1

1:00 - 4:00 pm

German Park

5549 Pontiac Trail, Ann Arbor

ZOOM VARIETY NIGHT

Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 7:00 pm

TREASURER ~ Gerry Kustra

With July fast approaching, we are experiencing new beginnings. Outdoor jams are scheduled, playdates are around the corner and even the promise of indoor jams and playdates are on the horizon.

We currently have \$7,858.67 in the checking account as we move forward to face the changing times.

I hope everyone is enjoying the start of summer and are looking forward to better days upon us.

....Gerry gbkustra@hotmail.com 313-570-7843

MARSHA'S MUSINGS ~ Marsha Kozlowski

Pop-up Jams: There were two Pop-Up Jams in June. Terry and I hosted the first one on June 2 with about 10 people. The 2nd one on June 17 at Plymouth Township Park was attended by 14 members.

We are starting July off with the next Pop-Up Jam to be held July 1st at the German Park, 5549 Pontiac Trail, Ann Arbor Michigan. George Gonyo secured permission to use their large pavilion. For those who are not traveling, attending family get-togethers, etc., plan a day trip and come join the jam. Keep your musical muscles working and music friendships alive. Refreshments will not be served, but you are welcome to bring your own. The jam will run from 1:00 to 4:00 or so.

There is also be at least one pop-up jam in August – after the picnic and before we start back at Holy Cross. Stay tuned for time and place.

Evart Gathering – Terry and I will be up there from July 7 to July 15 and plan to host some SSDS jams. Hope our Spirit Jam friends and out-state members come by and get acquainted so we can all enjoy playing together in person.

SSDS Member Survey – Thank you for your input regarding music development. I will be reviewing all the feedback to help with what I do with music coordination. As I have heard from members of other clubs in other places, we do a great job and sometimes take for granted the quality of our music library, the programs we offer (Library Outreach, Spirit Jam, etc.), and the many ways we share our music and talent, individually and collectively. The willingness to learn new tunes, to perform (holiday playdates are already being scheduled) adds to our musicianship. Your input will spark my creative muse, as it always does.....stay tuned (literally and otherwise).

Old and New/Old Music - Stan's Hambo has been in the SSDS repertoire for many years. I did a Practice Tune Video for it, but could not find any history on the tune. Judi Morningstar saw the video and kindly gave me some background. She brought the tune to Michigan after hearing it at a dance event in Berea, Kentucky from a great fiddler, Stan Kramer. She liked the tune and asked him the name of it. He couldn't remember. She notated the tune from memory and just called it Stan's Hambo. She generously shared a 3 part harmony version for us to try. Look for it in Dropbox. Maybe we will try this at one of our jams.

"Those Were the Days" – no, I am not talking about the last year and a half, but a Russian folk tune originally called Dorogi Dlinnoyu written by Boris Forman in 1924 that most people would recognize and know it as a popular tune from the 1960's. This will also be in Dropbox shortly. It is not difficult and our group could do a lot with it. My goal is to develop it as a tune for performance. Many of our audiences will enjoy singing along and we can feature several of our instruments. Have fun learning it. La, La, la, la..... be as schmaltzy as you like.

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

SECRETARY ~ Julie Kafkas

Hello Friends, hope you are having good days and a wonderful Fourth of July Celebration planned! Our last board meeting on June 23, 2021 was full of good news. I would like to say that the planning for events has been tediously looked at by the board each time we meet. The recommendations of the State and the CDC have been changing quickly. We make decisions based on the information available on the dates of our meetings. The changes that occur immediately following the meetings are something we have to adapt to. We ultimately are trying to keep everyone in a healthy state of being and accommodate all the group wishes. With that said, the club will be able to gather again in our church meeting place beginning with the first meeting to be held on August 19th! See Peggy's article regarding what is expected by the church as we gather. They have some rules we need to abide by, and it is appreciated by me if we can keep an open mind during the evolution of our pandemic progress. Thank you to all of you that returned the Survey we sent out. It was so good to get those comments back. We needed to assess our club activities past present and future. We have some gigs planned now through a couple of Holiday (Christmas already?) gigs – limited attendees as of now based on location's venue size. Watch for Pop-Up Jams! Save the date for a PICNIC on Aug 5th. You should have paid your dues by now for 2021, please do so now if you have not, to participate in all the activities! If you don't know, get in touch with the Treasurer or the President to be sure you are in good standing.

Looking forward to seeing you all as soon as we are able to! Have a wonderful summer.

Kindly, Julie Kafkas Secretary

.....Julie juliekafcas1@msn.com 734-552-7326

IT'S JULY...LET'S CELEBRATE!

July Birthdays

- 4...Regis Proulx
- 5...Karen Turner
- 14...Sally Niemczewski
- 14...Richard Rowe
- 15...Gerry Kustra
- 17...John McAuliffe
- 29...Linda Lloyd
- 29...Lynne Ellen Kaiser





Duties of the Treasurer



Silver Strings needs YOU!

Silver Strings needs YOU!

The Treasurer is the trustee of the club monies and the custodian of the checking account. This officer is in charge of picking up the club mail at the post office and as such opens, reads and processes the mail accordingly.

This officer will receive all monies generated by the club as well as pays all proper bills of the club. Documentation of receipts and disbursements is very important. The treasurer will maintain an organized checking account in which monies are deposited. He or she will make payment of bills that are approved by the executive board. All checks will require two signatures, one of which will be the treasurer and the other the President or other elected officer on record with the financial institution.

The treasurer must keep a monthly record of all receipts and disbursements. Monthly reconciliation of the bank statement is to be prepared using the records kept. He or she will present a report on disbursements and assets and present it quarterly at board meetings. Such information will be made available to any club member upon written request. In addition, an annual written financial report will be presented at the annual business meeting.

The treasurer will also keep a record of paid membership dues and will provide a listing of eligible voters. With this information, he or she arranges for the distribution of the annual directory to the membership.

Such duties and responsibilities are quite similar to those of any household and new treasurers can always rely on the expertise and guidance of those members who formerly held the office.

VP- PROGRAMS NOTES ~ Sandi Hlavacek

HAPPY 4TH of JULY !!!

This year, coming out of our hibernation, **Independence Day** carries a whole new meaning. As our society reopens, we can finally look forward to the end of our isolation & frustration, and start planning to live again. We are grateful to Marsha & Terry Koslowski for providing the threads that have held us loosely together... the Spirit Jams, Pop-Up Jams, online tune building lessons, and so many other displays of their love & commitment to Silver Strings. In spite of the pandemic, we have not just held together, but grown our numbers & our name recognition in the music world. Marsha & Terry certainly deserve the "Lifetime Member" status awarded to them during the lockdown. I can't wait to celebrate it as a group. And thank you Karen Turner & David Smith for keeping the newsletter going out to maintain connections. I am **EXCITED** by the prospect of holding our SSDS Annual Picnic in

August, and our Annual Banquet in October. I'm **THRILLED** by the thoughts of once again taking our music into the communities & senior facilities.

The first big event is our SSDS picnic at Plymouth Twp. Park (formerly McClumpha Park) in Plymouth. 46640 Ann Arbor Trail, between Beck & Sheldon. It's the same beautiful place we held our last one. The pavilion is reserved for August 5th, from 1pm till dusk (8:30 or 9:00pm). Of course, there will be jamming both before & after dinner.

Let's make a day of fun, food, fellowship, & favorite tunes !!! There will be some outdoor games to play... Yard Yahtze, Frisbee Golf, "surprises", & dominoes & decks of cards for the less agile. If you have a favorite board game, bring it along. Spouses & other friends are welcome!

The board decided, after reading comments in the questionnaire that went out, that too many of our members are not quite ready for a full potluck. So at around 5:00pm, we will have a simplified dinner served, "without the massive side dishes" we've been accustomed to. If anyone would like to make your favorite cookie or bar recipe, and bag or wrap individually in Saran, there will be baskets to put them in at the end of the line. They will be MUCH appreciated !!!

Please call or email me if you plan to attend and/or will bake & bring cookies, and also if you want to share or have a room in the motel by the fairgrounds in Evert for reconnecting with music in the 'Nonfest' in July.



THANK YOU



I have written before of the joy-filled experiences Bob & I have had in being a part of the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society family, We have enjoyed the family in good times, and supported each other in challenges. Bob & I have played with SSDS groups at many funerals. We were always happy to do it for our music brothers & sisters, but we never really comprehended just how much it could mean to the families. Now I know. To the 17 players who came to Bob's celebration of life... I can't thank you enough!!! When I had lost a HUGE piece of myself, there were many arrangements to make, and a lot of stress to work through. In my grief, I aimed toward just getting through the services. The day came, and I was exhausted and frazzled. I thank God for the dear friends who stepped in to handle details & keep me pointed in the right direction. I'm also thankful for the comforting 'heartbeat' of music that flowed & calmed me as I greeted a room full of friends & family. MANY of them said how great it was to have that wonderful music. It added a very special gift to the day. I was extremely proud of, & grateful for each one of you. You lightened my family's load. And the cards, the emails, the calls, & all of the other special signs of support our family has received have lifted us & carried us through our most difficult times.

THANK YOU from the bottom of my toes!

HUGS to each of you....Sandi Hlavacek

Sandi datadoc@charter.net 734-663-7974

VP - BUSINESS NOTES ~ Stephen Beck

We are starting to get requests for playdates for both regular and Holiday. Playdate performers are required to have the COVID vaccination, show their card and have temperatures taken before entering the event.

** This is our client's request and our SSDS Board requirement. To perform with Silver Strings, one must also be a member in good standing.

Current playdates are:

July

- Caretel Inn - Brighton 7/27/21 at 1-2pm

August

- West Bloomfield Parks & Rec. Center
8/12/21 at 12-1pm
- Cedarbrook Senior Living - Northville
08/13/21 at 2-3pm
- Brookhaven Manor 8/19/21 at 2-3pm

October

- Cedarbrook Senior Living-Northville 10/15/21 at 2-3pm

December

- Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSP) - 12/8/21 at 12:30-1:30pm
- St. Richard Catholic Church - 12/12/21 at 2-3pm
- Cedarbrook Senior Living - Northville
12/17/21 at 2-3pm

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

Silver Strings Summer 2021 Playlist

D	Whiskey Before Breakfast/Mississippi Sawyer	3/3
D	Sandy River Belle	3
D	Bucket Man Blues	3
D	Black Mountain Rag	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2*
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna / Riding on Load of Hay	3/3
G	Yellow Bird	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
G	South Wind	3*
A	Hangman's Reel	3
Em	Dancing Bear	3
D	Over the Waterfall	3
D	John Ryan's Polka	5*
D	Ashokan Farewell	2*
D	Liberty	2
G	America the Beautiful	3**
G	God Bless America (repeat pt B 2 nd time thru)	2 1/2**
G	Yankee Doodle Boy / You're A Grand Old Flag	2/2**
	Extras	
D	Hey Polka	3
Em	Tamlin	4
G	Nail That Catfish to a Tree	3

* 2nd time: HD's soft – feature other instruments ** 2nd time – feature whistles

SUMMER FESTIVAL & JAM OPPORTUNITIES

courtesy of Marsha Kozlowski

JULY -----

July 1 - 1:00 - 4:00 SSDS Jam at German Park, 5549 Pontiac Trail, Ann Arbor

July 10 - 11:00 - 5:00 - Uncle Carl's Outdoor Jam For more information, contact webmaster@unclecarls.org

July 15--18 - ODPC UnOfficial FunFest. Some come early and spend one or two weeks. Evert Chamber of Commerce, fireworks on July 3rd.

The Squirrel's Nest will be there. Pam Bowman will have her canopy.

Rick Thum and A-Z workshop. Jim Janofski with his Dixieland music

SSDS member Kay Rowe will do "**Sharing the Gift of Healing Music**" workshop on Saturday, July 17, 2021

Part 1 1:00 p.m. -2:00 p.m. "Adapt the Music You Already Know to Promote Healing and Comfort" Kay Rowe will demonstrate on Hammered Dulcimer - Discussion and Q&A.

Part 2 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. "What are the skills needed to present Healing Music and how do you acquire them?"

Kay will demonstrate on H.D. a typical "session" and discuss the techniques used to choose and adapt music for healing and comfort. No instruments are needed for either, and all levels appropriate.

July 31 - Thornapple Valley Meeting/Jam - Nashville, MI Grange

AUGUST -----

August 5 - SSDS Picnic, at Plymouth Township Park, 46640 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth MI. 1:00 - to dusk.

August 13 - 14 - Fiddler's Convention and Traditional Music Festival - many musicians come for the week 8-15th. Many of the Fiddlers you know from jams. Some SSDS members have attended this festival, enjoyed the jams and said all instruments were welcome. Hillsdale County Fairgrounds. Camping is \$20/night. The fee to enter the festival is \$5. <http://www.michiganfiddlers.com/>

August 14 - Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club Jam – 11:00 – 5:00 p.m. Spring Arbor

August 21 - Thornapple Valley Meeting/Jam at Nashville, MI Grange.

August 26 - 29 - Folk Music Society of Midland Music Festival.

Campers may arrive starting on August 23. For information: <http://www.folkmusicsociety.org/p/folk-festival.html>

~ June Pop-Up Jams ~



Chris and Patty Wolschon hosted a jam at their home in early June.



Ten musicians gathered for a Jam in the backyard of Marsha and Terry's home on June 2.



Marsha and Terry led a Pop-Up Jam at Plymouth Township Park on June 17th. Fourteen members had the opportunity to share live music and fellowship on a beautiful summer day and share a perfect spot for a summer music jam.

Position	Name	Contact Information
President	Peggy Kustra	peggyakustra54@gmail.com 313-570-7844
VP Business Manager (Contact for booking performances)	Stephen Beck	slbeck@beck-enterprise.com 313-701-7539
VP Programs	Sandi Hlavacek	datadoc@charter.net 734-663-7974
Secretary	Julie Kafcas	juliekafcas1@msn.com 734-552-7326
Treasurer	Gerry Kustra	gbkustra@hotmail.com 313-570-7843
Newsletter Editor	David Smith	dtsmithnet@yahoo.com 313-278-5127
Music Coordinator	Marsha Kozlowski	mtkoz72@gmail.com 734-239-4190
Historian	David Smith / Sandi Hlavacek	dtsmithnet@yahoo.com 313-278-5127
Website & Dropbox Coordinator	Karen Turner	karenturner@comcast.net 734-678-7405

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

GOOD NEWS!

We will be back for in-person live jams starting on
Thursday, August 19, 2021

at
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
30650 Six Mile, Livonia, MI

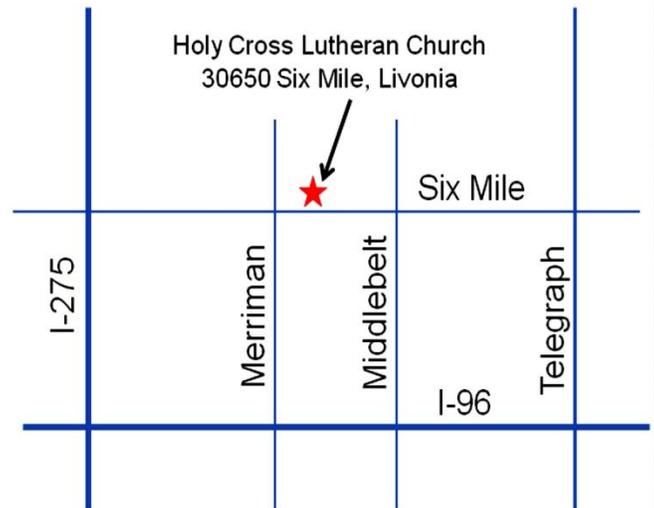
Featuring the hammered dulcimer,
and other acoustic instruments :
mountain dulcimer, banjo, guitar, autoharp, fiddle,
string bass, washtub bass, mandolin, folk harp,
recorder, tin penny whistle, ukulele and harmonica.

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

Everyone is welcome!
Come to listen or come to play.



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 dsmithnet@yahoo.com

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society
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