



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

May 2021

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 37 YEARS

Issue 433

www.silverstrings.org

PERKY PEGGY'S PONDERINGS ~ Peggy Kustra

Hello Everyone,

Wasn't it delightful to wake up and find snow everywhere!?! NOT!!! Let's hope May is warmer. I can't wait to get into the garden and plant flowers and veggies.

I called Holy Cross Church to see the availability of the room in which we jam. It is not available at this time due to the covid virus.

The board is looking into renting the pavilion at McClumpha Park. We can rent it for \$75 from 4pm to 9pm. We would have two jam sessions. You would sign up for the:

- The Early Birds 4pm to 6pm
or
- The Belfry Bunch 6:30pm to 8:30pm

There will be a sign up sheet for each time period. Twenty people only per session. To be able to participate: The following would be required:

- 1) Mask
- 2) Social distancing
- 3) Contact tracing
- 4) Temperature taken
- 5) Show your vaccination card

This will hopefully reach the sweet music spot in your musical soul!

We will have a Zoom Gathering on May 13, 2021 at 7:00pm. No instruments, just our adorable selves, sharing grins and giggles.

We will have a "Zoom Variety Night" on July 29, 2021 at 7:00pm. Our first one was a really big success and loads of fun. Practice a tune or two, recite a poem, tell a joke, or sing a song. Whatever your heart desires. You have plenty of time to relax and think about what you would like to do.

The board is currently working on a survey form. Because of the Covid Virus, the future of SSDS is looking different. We are being proactive and fashioning questions for you to answer that will let us know how you feel about we can and cannot do. We really need your input. That way proper decisions can

be made about your club. I will give you an update of when this will be sent out.

Please read your Newsletters and emails. If you are not receiving emails from me, please call me. I will make the appropriate changes.

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

IT'S MAY...LET'S CELEBRATE !

May Birthdays

- 1....Alice Avery
- 5...Dave Matthews
- 9...Kathy Billings
- 13...Carol Dick
- 19...Shirley Keyser
- 20...Cyndi O'Brien
- 21...Emily Smith
- 26...Peggy Kustra
- 27...Dawn Hayes
- 27...Terry Kozlowski



MARSHA'S MUSINGS ~ Marsha Kozlowski

May Spirit Jam – Thursday, May 20, 7:00 EDT.

The theme is Musical Mental Acuity – From Z to A featuring many favorite jam tunes. The "favorites" will be determined by you – send me 2 to 5 of your very favorite jam tunes. The ones that are most popular (as determined by how many people chose that tune) will be on the tune list. You have till May 6th to send them to me.

This will be the last Spirit Jam before summer break (June, July & August). The Board plans to have some outdoor jams, and everybody can and should get out to play. The Photo Collage theme is you and your initial (or your favorite letter of the alphabet, if you have one). Since this will be the last collage for a while, I hope you will participate and plan something creative and fun.

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

VP- PROGRAMS NOTES ~ Sandi Hlavacek

Thank you to our dear musical family. When Bob & I first joined Silver Strings about 20 years ago, we expected it would improve our very limited beginner dulcimer skills. What we didn't expect was that it would drastically change our lives. As we sat in each jam, waiting for 1 of the 3 songs we could play out of the 80 or so in the SSDS repertoire, we noticed we were not alone. We met 5 other beginners, and decided the 7 of us could more easily learn together at our own speed. While the SSDS jams played usually too fast for us to keep up, we met on an extra Thursday each month to teach each other new songs & practice at more comfortable speeds. After about a year, we could proudly keep up & enjoy "jamming like the big boys & girls" on more & more tunes. The Evert workshops helped a lot, too. We were becoming confident musicians.

Another surprise we experienced was the growing number of friends we were meeting, who were immensely helpful & encouraging on our learning journey. There is something about music that binds people together in really special ways. It offered endless communication & opportunities that expanded our world into places of celebration & entertainment we never imagined. When we joined the concert venues, we brought joy to a world of people. That is truly exhilarating!

After 20 years of sharing these experiences, we have a FAMILY that works hard together, plays hard together, and supports & loves each other. That has been abundantly clear during the past year of Bob's illness. Home from the hospital last summer & trapped in a "damn-pendic", we received a call from Marsha & Terry Koz... "How about we bring lunch & eat out by the pond.?" It was such a beautiful gesture! And just as we were finishing our lunch, a parade of cars filled with Silver Strings family came down our lane, with signs flowing, horns honking, noisemakers & instruments, spreading such joy, we couldn't hold back our tears. What a HUGE LIFT at a very low time!!! Then in January & February, when hospital visits were frequent, the flood of cards, emails, letters & photos (even a photo DVD set to music) sent to him gave him a great sense of peace that his life had mattered to so many wonderful people who mattered to him. His favorite quote was "To be a success, we must leave successors". There is not a big enough THANK YOU for your kindnesses that made him feel his success.

For you newcomers,.. Stick around & enjoy this wonderful musical family!!!

Sandi datadoc@charter.net 734-663-7974

SECRETARY ~ Julie Kafkas

Greetings from the Secretary,

Hi Silver Strings Members, hope you are all doing better every day. The long path to seeing ourselves get through this pandemic is getting or causing some

impatience. We had a board meeting on April 22, and were missing a couple of our valued members. Judith Pyrkosz has stepped down due to health issues that require her undivided attention. So our interim Treasurer is now Gerry Kustra, he is well qualified for the position. The second member missing is Bob Hlavacek; we lost our dear friend and valued SSDS Member to the long battle with cancer. Sandi attended and is looking good on Zoom holding down the VP of programs for the time being. One topic at our meetings has been nominating and replacing the current Board Member for the next year 2022. Our terms are ending this year, we all did not expect to hold them for 2 years however, Covid has ruled all the club activities now for over a year. We never thought that last March we would not be able to resume in person gatherings at our meeting place, or hold a gig, picnic, banquet, and camp out and attend Music Festivals. So here we are again, but with more knowledge and ideas on how to get a return to normalcy. Masks, sanitizing, social distancing, limited numbers gathering and vaccines are paving the way forward. You will be hearing about Pop-Up Jams and outdoor pavilion gatherings weather permitting in the near future. We have also a few gigs on the calendar but not until August. So watch for that information as we get closer to the dates. Safety of the club is our priority when performing; some locations have requests for performance members as well. You will have more details as those dates/places get nearer. We are hoping to gather information on what club members will like to do or feel comfortable doing in the near future, by way of a survey. It's in the works. YouTube practice tunes are really growing in popularity. Hope is on the horizon folks. We are all waiting for that day. *Best to all of you!*

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

TREASURER ~ Gerry Kustra

Before I start, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Judy for leaving me with very organized books and records. It is certainly easy to fill in the treasurer's role when everything is up to date. I wish God's blessings upon her as she moves ahead.

The bank statement for the end of March has arrived, and now I can report that the club has a checking account balance as of March 31, 2021 of \$8,114.03.

I wish to welcome some new members to the club:

Peggy Mohr from Harrison, Mi who plays the dulcimer (hammered & mountain), harp and fiddle; Diane & Bob Williams from Bedford, Mi who plays the hammered dulcimer and fiddle.

We welcome you to Silver Strings!

Lastly, I wanted to leave a reminder to members who have not paid their dues yet. Hopefully they will correct this oversight and continue to support the club.

I look forward to working with everyone and if anyone has any questions concerning club finances, please feel free to contact me.

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

VP - BUSINESS NOTES ~ Stephen Beck

We have a God given ability that needs to be passed on. I have been using Zoom. One idea is sharing Therapeutic Music for someone homebound during the pandemic. This emergency will end and hopefully we will be able to get together soon.

Just a reminder

Playdate performers are required to have the COVID vaccination before June, and will have to show their card. We will be required to also have our temperature taken before entering the events facility. ** This is our client's requirement. **In order to perform with Silver Strings, one must be a member in good standing, i.e., you must have paid your membership renewal for this year.** There are a few people who I know who like to perform but have forgotten to renew.

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



We need YOU

Secretary Job Description



Are you noteworthy???

Would you consider serving as the SSDS Secretary?

The job duties consist of:

1. Attend monthly board meetings. (We used to meet in person, now we are zooming. We hope to be in person in the future.)
2. Keep the records of the business conducted at the club meetings (take notes) and board meetings. Meeting minutes are summarized for the monthly newsletter and submitted to the Newsletter editor.
3. You are responsible for all correspondence.

Think about how you can serve your club in this or any of the other board positions and committees we have.

These positions are important for the life of our club and keep us thriving. Even during a pandemic!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, May 20th at 7:00
Live SPIRIT JAM on Facebook

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

Cyberspace Ramblings ~ Karen Turner

In this world of Covid, the internet has become more important to many of us in order to stay connected to family and friends. And it has kept our Club alive! A special thanks to all club members who have helped with this! Zoom Board meetings, Zoom Club chats, Zoom Variety Nights, SSDS Website, SSDS Club Facebook page, SSDS Spirit Jam Facebook page, live Facebook Spirit jams, YouTube Club page, Christmas Card Videos, and Dropbox to name a few.

Our Club website was moved to a new server in order to provide better services. This has caused our *Photo Gallery* to "bite the dust". Our *Photo Gallery* software was very old so I decided to search for newer 3rd party software. About a month ago, I found software perfect for our website. I am in the process of converting the old page to a new page. Busy, tedious work, but stay tuned for the announcement when it's complete! Some pages of the website require a new overhaul and a committee of Peggy Kustra, David Smith and myself will be working on updating our website.

Our *YouTube Club* page has blossomed to 550 subscribers and 463 videos. Two new sections were added, the *Spirit Jams* (21 videos) and *Lesson Videos* (48 videos). Also, our *YouTube Club* page is available to the public and has helped to attract new club members from Michigan and surrounding states! Be sure to subscribe to our YouTube page using the link below. If you ever need help or have questions about our internet presence, please feel free to contact me at karenturner@comcast.net. Click on the links below for easy access and be sure to bookmark them on your device!

Links to check out and bookmark:

Silver Strings Website
<https://silverstrings.org/>

Silver Strings YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/silverstringsclub>

Silver Strings Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/groups/silverstringsdulcimer_society

Silver Strings Facebook Spirit Jam
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2641846032714862>



Robert Jerome Hlavacek

8/30/1939 to 3/1/2021

Family and friends mourn Bob's passing on March 1st, 2021, after an 11 year battle with cancer. He was born in Midland, Michigan on August 30th, 1939, moved to Swartz Creek, Mi. with his family 13 years later, and lived in Ann Arbor for his last 48 years. His parents were Charles Hlavacek and Anastazie (Nemecek), both first generation born in the United States, of 4 Czechoslovakian immigrants: Karel Hlavacek & Francis Ivan, and John Nemecek & Mary Plesner.

Bob learned about faith and respect, growing up as the 2nd of 3 children in a devout Catholic family. He learned the importance of family from strong connections with many aunts, uncles & cousins. He learned about work ethics while helping on his grandfather's farm. He discovered patriotism when he joined ROTC in high school, and during his years in the US Navy, he learned discipline, honor, devotion to his country, and found his future in electronics.

At Western Michigan University, He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and met his wife, Sandra Lee Converse. They devoted their next years to building a home with 2 daughters, Christine and Robin. After a 33 year career in various divisions of IBM, he retired at age 56, and became CEO of his own computer consulting company, Data Dr., Inc.. 12 years later, he retired again to play.

Bob loved to learn. He tinkered with all things mechanical & carved in wood. He learned to fly an airplane, and flew in a B-17. He could ski well, and he knew how to find a good fishing hole. He enjoyed camping, traveling and exploring off the beaten path. A nun taught him how to play a harmonica in the 3rd grade, and he became somewhat professional late in life. He shared that talent by teaching many others to play. He always wanted to play another instrument, so in his 60s, he & Sandi learned to play the hammered dulcimer. For 20 years, they've shared the joys of traditional music by teaching others how to play the unusual instrument, and playing in countless concerts around the state, their favorites being in senior care facilities.

His priorities were God, family, charity, and in his last 20 years, music. He was always the first to reach out to help someone, and through his church, community organizations, or personal contact, he always found a way to make things better. He was well known for his generosity in time & talent. He fried fish for the church, took his tractor to help landscape Safe House Center, made repairs at Hope Clinic, helped raise funds for various charities, made pancakes for 100 campers, and tackled gravel piles to help his neighbors. He always shared his tools and toys, and happily shared his joy of music by giving free lessons. In giving over 60 years of service to his community, and a lifetime of service to God's people, his legacy is kindness, caring, inspiration, generosity and humor. By his example, he taught others to give of themselves. His favorite quote was, "to be a success, we must leave successors". A very unassuming, humble man with a great sense of humor, Bob has left many successors in his wake.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, John Hlavacek of Byron, Mi.. He is survived by Sandi (his wife of 55 years), their 2 daughters, Christine Hlavacek of Ann Arbor, and Robin, with her husband, Michael Wilson, and his 2 grandchildren, Hanna & Shelby Wilson, (all of Rocheport, Missouri.). Also surviving are his sister and brother-in-law, Phyllis and Richard Campbell of Flushing, Mi., a sister-in law, Darlene (Sickles) Hlavacek of Byron, Mi., and several nieces and nephews.

It is difficult to say goodbye to a man so loved and cherished by so many. But Bob's latest wishes were, "Don't cry for me, because I've lived a good, long life filled with people I love, great family and friends, and so many wonderful experiences in work and at play." You may still visit him in almost 100 videos, smiling and playing music with the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society at <https://www.youtube.com/silverstringsclub>

A celebration of his life will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Mast Road in Dexter, Mi. on May 10th, with visitation from 10:00–noon and Mass at noon. A Rosary service will be held at St. Mary Queen of Angels Catholic Church in SwartzCreek, Mi. on May 11th, with visitation at 1:00pm and service at 2:00 before burial in Swartz Creek St. Mary's Cemetery.

Bob wished to be remembered as people last saw him... smiling, laughing or playing music. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hope Clinic (P.O.Box 980311, Ypsilanti, Mi.48198-0311) or Safe House Center (4100 Clark Rd, Ann Arbor. Mi.48105), or Arbor Hospice (2366 Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor, Mi. 48103) or a charity of your choice.

*A limb **has** fallen from our family tree that says **grieve not for me.**
Remember the **best times, the laughter and the song**
And most of all, the good life I lived **while I was strong.***



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
<p>* 2nd time: HD's soft – feature other instruments ** 2nd time – feature whistles</p>		

Spirit Jam Photo Collage April 15, 2021



Our 21st Spirit Jam (*can you believe it!*) was once again hosted by Marsha and Terry Koslowski. There were 152 viewing the jam and 22 submitted photos with their favorite pets. We will take June, July and August off and then revisit things. It has been good for the club and it has certainly stretched us, but when will the club be able to jam in person???

BERKELEY DULCIMER GATHERING Online

WORKSHOPS!
CONCERTS!
CLASSES!

**MAY 14-16
2021**

MUSIC BERKELEY DULCIMER GATHERING

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HAMMER DULCIMER: ILACE MEARS
STEVE EULBERG, HEIDI MULLER, ERIN MAE LEWIS,
DJ HAMOURIS, DUSTY THORBURN, KAY BOLIN

<https://www.berkeleydulcimergathering.com>

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