



Fiddler's Rag



Vol. 48, Number 4
Celebrating 47 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.fiddlers.org

April 2020
No Jam in April

President's Note



Hello Friends, I am hoping all of you are well during this difficult time. "Cancelled" is becoming the norm for these days. This is the first SCVFA jam to be cancelled in our 46 years and we have no idea how long the lockdown may continue. If Hoover School remains closed and outdoor gatherings become permissible, we may consider re-starting jams in the

Park. Updates concerning future jams will be available on the SCVFA website, Facebook Page, Fiddler's Rag, and the Email Announcements.

Keep playing music! Imagine how good all of us will get with all the extra time available to practice. There are also innovative online possibilities to keep us playing with others. Check out www.oldtimejam.com and www.jamkazam.com. I haven't tried them yet, but others have had positive experiences.



Susan and Chloe

The Fiddler's Rag will keep coming to your inbox whether jams are happening or not. Because there will be no jam in April, there will be no pictures. I'm asking folks to share

pics of them playing during this time. If you have a pet, please do include them in your photo. Send them to me (*President [at] Fiddlers.org*) and indicate if you grant permission to display them on our Facebook page and/or the Fiddler's Rag. If there are a huge number of submissions, I may have to choose the best.



Dave and Bruno

at the local pubs. I did my part and played Irish tunes all evening. I hope others kept in the spirit as well.

Thanks to Gary Breitbard and Jena Rauti for leading the Tune Exchange in March. We learned Contradanza de Monterey. This tune is sure to be a new favorite at our jams.

Special thanks go out to Dave Thomas who stepped in to lead the Slow Jam until I arrived rather late. Everyone played and some joined in singing the tunes. A fun challenge was presented to the group and now there is plenty of time to work on it. The challenge is to learn one tune & the lyrics by ear and be ready to lead the group at our next jam, whenever that may be. You need not be a slow jam participant to be part of this challenge.

These days have been particularly difficult for Pete and Dinah Showman with the sudden passing of their eldest son, Adam. I extend my sincerest condolences and many virtual hugs.

We are a caring community of musicians. Remember; reach out to each other to *ask for* needed assistance. Reach out to each other to *offer* assistance. Some of our older members would especially appreciate a little extra help with essentials like food shopping and pharmacy runs. It takes a village... Let's all work together to get through these difficult times.

--- Susan



Condolences to Pete and Dinah Showman

Adam Showman, 51 years old, Pete and Dinah's oldest son, died suddenly on March 16th.

He was a professor at the University of Arizona and was loved by all who knew him.

Sincerest sympathies to Pete and Dinah. Our entire music community holds you in our hearts and hopes to be present for you through the healing process.

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This year, St Patrick's Day celebrations did not happen. An outside performance at Belmont Village in Sunnyvale had to be cancelled as were all the celebrations

The Fiddler's Rag is published monthly by the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association and is provided to members of the Association. The Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association (SCVFA), founded in 1973 in San Jose, California, is a nonprofit, volunteer-operated organization dedicated to the preservation, teaching, and enjoyment of traditional music. The first membership in a household includes the Fiddler's Rag; additional members sharing the newsletter are steeply discounted. To join, sign up at the jam or see www.fiddlers.org/join.

Officers and Chairs

President-Trustee	Susan Goodis	News Editor	Patrice Tanti
Vice President	Dave Thomas	Newsletter Publisher	Doug Judd
Recording Secretary .	Jessica Ollmann	Performances Contact	Susan Goodis
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Trustees

Seat 1: Bev Tracey	Seat 3: Sam Schillace	Seat 5: Peter Forrest
Seat 2: Doug Judd	Seat 4: Dave Thomas	Seat 6: Cindy Dinga

To Contact the SCVFA:

Mail: P.O. Box 2666, Cupertino, CA 95015-2666
 Email to Susan Goodis: *president [at] fiddlers.org*
Newsletter Submissions & Comments: *newsletter [at] fiddlers.org*
Address changes: *membership [at] fiddlers.org*
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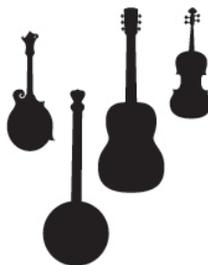
Donations to SCVFA are greatly appreciated and will assist in keeping traditional music alive by passing it on to the next generation.

Many local corporations offer matched donations for non-profits. Check with your employer... they may offer this benefit.

You can easily add SCVFA as a 501(c)(3) organization; our EIN is 51-0196154

Donate as you are able and traditional music will reap the benefits.

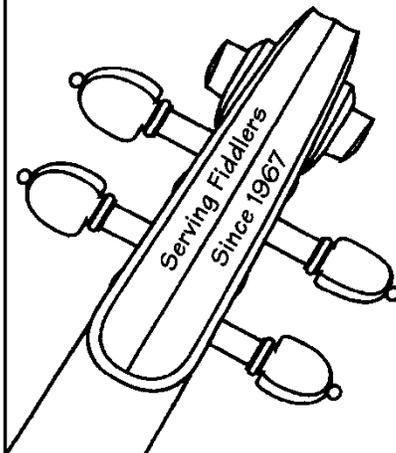
SCVFA wants musicians to know that we are “not just for fiddlers”. The image to the right side of the Fiddler's Rag name on page 1 includes a mandolin, a banjo, a guitar and a fiddle, to illustrate the diversity of instruments played at our jams and events.



Quote of the Month
 “Where words fail, music speaks.” — Hans Christian Andersen

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SCVFA Happenings

SCVFA Slow Jam current tune list

www.fiddlers.org/learning/#slowjam

Angeline The Baker (D)	Red-Haired Boy (A)
Arkansas Traveler (D)	Red Wing (G)
Barlow Knife (G)	Shoo Fly (D)
Girl I Left Behind Me (G)	Soldier's Joy (D)
Jaybird (D)	Squirrel Hunters (A)
June Apple (A)	St. Anne's Reel (D)
Liberty (D)	Swallowtail Jig (E)
Mississippi Sawyer (D)	Whiskey Before Breakfast (D)
Over The Waterfall (D)	Wildwood Flower (C)

Slow Jammers, time to practice!

Let us know your routine and favorite tunes. Share your challenges, and personal stories overcoming obstacles. Email *newsletter [at] fiddlers.org*. Include a selfie of you playing next to your favorite pet, stuffed animal, anything...

Recording Academy and MusiCares Establish Covid-19 Relief Fund

The Recording Academy and its affiliated charitable foundation MusiCares have established the COVID-19 Relief Fund to help people in the music industry affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak and subsequent cancellation of multiple music events.

Musicians need help

"On top of the sadness and anxiety of the virus situation, every musician I know is now facing bankruptcy. We cannot pay our rent, we cannot buy food, and we see no relief from this situation"

Interview of classical violinist Miriam Davis on Classic FM

<https://www.classicfm.com/music-news/coronavirus-cancellations-impact-musicians/>

Interested in playing some bluegrass?

By Beverly Tracey

Since jams are being canceled for now, it's a good time to get familiar with, or brush up on, basic bluegrass jamming guidelines, AKA "The Ten Jammandments". You will find them on page 6 of this edition.

March SCVFA Virtual (conducted on Hangouts) Board Meeting, March 18, 2020

Reimbursement fees for the 2020 Member directory have been approved.

Our April jam at Hoover Middle School has been cancelled due to Covid-19 precautions. The board will be discussing whether future jams will be canceled or held at the Rose garden.

The hosted bluegrass jams have been going really well, and possible leaders for future jams were discussed. Potential candidates in addition to Pete Hicks, are Billy Pitrone and Suzanne Suwanda.

Bev Tracey is compiling a list of jam rules to publish in the Fiddler's Rag (See on page 6). Bev will also work on a sign for the jam with rules to help newcomers.

The board discussed encouraging donations from trustees, officers and members.

SCVFA finances are in good shape with our account benefiting from \$1515 in annual revenue from playouts as well as the SVCcreates grant. We will be applying for a SVCcreates grant again this year.

For the future, The board is considering the logistics and implementation of an electronic member directory.

The board unanimously approved a new more concise mission statement for SCVFA:

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association (SCVFA) preserves "fiddle" music and other traditional genres that feature the fiddle and other acoustic instruments. SCVFA takes pride in "passing it on" to musicians and listeners of all ages, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24th, 2020 (first choice) or Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020 (second choice).

Jessica Ollmann
Recording Secretary

March Jam Photos by Susan Goodis



Very well attended Slow Jam led by Dave Thomas last month. It was spring-like already. Looking at this snapshot now feels a different time we long for. While the Coronavirus will come and go, jam circles may never feel the same again...



New members Dean and Kristen Scott

The Old-Time Rambler

MONTHLY

A Pretty Much Weekly Feature Brought to You by Geff Crawford

The Old-Time Rambler would like to present the following Old-Time Music Horoscope:

Aries the Ram March 21 - April 19

So, Aries, ready for another year of ramming ahead? Push on then, but don't be surprised if you notice your jam partners in retrograde motion. It might be time to reinvent you.

Change is important to you for sure, which is good because in the tip jar of your life, there are very few bills.