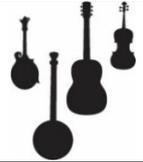




Fiddler's Rag



Vol. 51, Number 1
Celebrating 49 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.fiddlers.org

January 2023
Next Jam January 8th



President's Note

Our first jam of the New Year will be on the **2nd Sunday**, the 8th of January. That date may ring a bell for many since there is a common fiddle tune of the same name, *Eighth of*

January. This presents a wonderful opportunity for Suzy Thompson and Robert Cornelius, who will both be at the jam on Jan 8th.

[Suzy Thompson](#) will be with us to perform a mini-concert and teach a fiddle workshop. She has a wonderful new version of the Eighth of January that she is excited to teach and pass on to our community. Suzy plays rhythm-driven fiddle and is a powerful blues singer. If you don't already know Suzy, click the link above to view her full bio. Musicians of all skill levels are encouraged to participate in the workshop.

Robert Cornelius will be leading the bluegrass jam. Robert brings high energy and lots of fun to jamming. Each month, the group grows and the music gets better. Keep spreading the word so others will join in and learn from playing together.

SCVFA played at Shoup Park in Los Altos, a new location, for the 3rd Sunday jam. There were at least 20 musicians, enough for one bluegrass and one old time jam. We had quite an audience and received lots of applause. January's mid-month Sunday Jam will be 1:00-4:00 at **Ocean View Park in Santa Cruz on the 4th Sunday, January 22nd**. Dress warm, bring a chair and join us there.

Performances for local events, private parties, farmers' markets and senior residences are called "Playouts". Musicians with all skill levels are welcome to play. Remember, there is safety in numbers. A set list and music are provided. Email me (*president [at] fiddlers.org*) to receive notifications when performances are happening and participate in as few or as many as you would like. ***We need musicians to play Sunday January 15th at the Mountain View Farmers' Market.*** All tips earned are donated to SCVFA, so we are able to bring professional musicians to our jams to teach and entertain while keeping costs down.



"AFTERS" on January 8th will be at **Sam's Bar-B-Que**. Take some time to get to know your jam buddies. Top off a fun day of music with dinner just a couple of miles away at Sam's. 1110 S Bascom Ave, San Jose

As always, thank you for being part of SCVFA, a community of people who love to make music together. Your continuing support of SCVFA is keeping traditional music alive.

- Susan



SCVFA photo from the Holiday fair at Landels School (photo: Jessica Ollman)

In This Issue:

Page

President's Note	1
SCVFA Happenings	3
2022 Photo Recap	4,5
Promotion: <i>The Canote Twins</i> , a film by Larry Edelman.....	6
February Trustees Election Candidates' Statements.....	7

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-the-scvfa/.

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Seat 2: Doug Judd	Seat 4: Caleb Gum	Seat 6: Bill Boiko

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The Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association is a non-profit member-supported organization.

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.

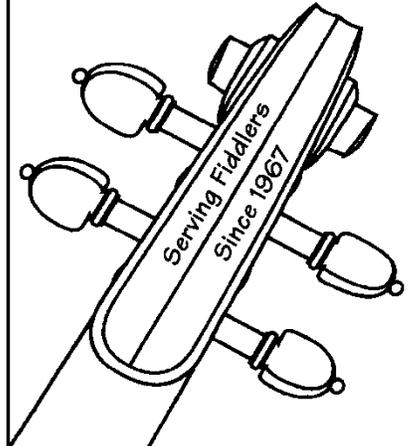


Quote of the Month

“You can't help but be happy around them”
 Musician, Songwriter Mark Graham, about Greg and Jere Canote.

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SCVFA Happenings

SCVFA Mission Statement

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

Diversity Statement

SCVFA believes that our mission is fundamentally improved by diversity and inclusion. SCVFA is at all times committed to providing an open, safe, and welcoming environment for all our members and guests. We celebrate the varied abilities, ethnicities, sexualities, ages, gender identities, religions and cultural backgrounds of our community, and do not tolerate discrimination based upon these differences.

SCVFA Jam
is on Jan 8th



No Jam on
Jan 1st

Second Sunday and first Jam of the year:
January 8th 1:00 to 5:00 pm at Hoover Middle School.

Slow jam 1:30-2:30: learning by ear is encouraged since old time music is an aural tradition. Developing your ear does take time, but it is a worthwhile skill. If you need a little help, tunes are available on our [SCVFA website](#).

Special Event: Mini-Concert (2:45-3:15) and Fiddle Workshop (3:30-4:00) led by **Suzu Thompson**.

Robert Cornelius will be leading the bluegrass jam.

Open Mic 1:30-2:30 and 3:30-4:30

“AFTERS” will be at Sam’s Bar-B-Que on January 8th immediately after the jam. Located at 1110 S Bascom Ave, San Jose.

Mid-month Sunday Jam: January 22nd 1:00 to 4:00 at Ocean View Park in Santa Cruz. Will be canceled in case of rain. This is a 4th Sunday.

Music with the Dulcimates. Event by Deborah “DJ” Hamouris (<https://djhamouris.com/event/first-fridays-with-dulcimates-dec/>). Livestream on Facebook every month. Get details here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/370733698528475/370733705195141/>

Bakersfield Great 48 Jam – January 5 – 8, 2023
Info: <https://californiabluegrass.org/great-48/great-48-home/>

SCVFA December Board Meeting Highlights

For info, contact Susan Goodis: *president [at] fiddlers.org*.

- The board approved reimbursements and payments for hired musicians at jams. Also agreed upon was bringing in a professional musician for each of the March-June 2023 jams.
- We continued to discuss the best path forward for updating and maintaining our website and are looking into hiring a professional.
- There will be a gratis performance at Landels Elementary school in December as well as four farmers’ market playouts scheduled for 2023. The board voted to increase our standard payout fee to \$200 for the first hour and \$150 for subsequent hours.
- Our (free) Google ad brought a new person to our jam!
- The board is investigating Mailchimp as a tool to handle our member mailings.
- After seven years as treasurer Dinah Showman is looking to hand the job on to the next person. Over the next few months SCVFA will need a new treasurer.
- Caleb Gum offered to lead a slower bluegrass jam/workshop to help players advance their skills.

— Jessica Ollman, Recording Secretary

2022 Year Photos Recap (1 of 2)



JANUARY 2022: SCVFA performs for Sunny View.



FEBRUARY 2022: Slow Jam.



MARCH 2022: SCVFA performs for The Villages.



APRIL 2022: California Bluegrass Association Spring Campout 2022



MAY 2022: Against the Grain Open Mic performance.



JUNE 2022: Members of the San Francisco's Scottish Fiddlers play a short concert.

2022 Year Photos Recap (2 of 2)



JULY 2022: CHAMP Farmers Market in San Jose



AUGUST 2022: First Sunday Jam at the Rose Garden



SEPTEMBER 2022: Santana Row Farmers' Market



OCTOBER 2022: Pete Hicks Leads the Bluegrass Jam



NOVEMBER 2022: Slow Jam at Hoover Middle School



DECEMBER 2022: Shoup Park Jam



The Canote Twins

A film by Larry Edelman – Coming in 2023

The Canote Twins, a film by Larry Edelman, is a feature length documentary about Greg and Jere Canote, identical twins who have been playing music together for most of their 70-plus years. And not just any old music, but simply amazing, genetically matched singing and musicianship. They quickly bring to mind the rich tradition of singing brother duets, evoking such seminal duos as the Blue-Sky Boys, the Delmore Brothers, and the Everly Brothers. And they take it up a notch, because they're not merely brothers, but identical twins. And as musician and editor Paul Kotapish put it, "They're really 'twinny twins.'" Their delightful repertoire spans Americana including rare fiddle tunes, quirky novelty songs, and swing classics, all uniquely interpreted through their positive world view. They've shared their music for more than half a century, teaching and performing at countless festivals and workshops, and on radio and television.

But delightful music is only part of the story. Greg and Jere have another unique characteristic – they are two of the happiest people you will ever meet. And their happiness is mysteriously contagious. Anyone finding themselves in close proximity to the twins might also find themselves caught up in a vortex of joy and optimism.

This documentary spans their lifetime, right up to the present day. You'll appreciate their musical inspiration and tap into some of the secrets of their happiness. Singlers will better understand the mystical closeness of identical twins. You'll get to relive their cross-country touring with Sandy Bradley and their roles as the affable sidekicks on the weekly radio broadcast, "Sandy Bradley's Potluck." You'll get to chuckle at the Spoonoplans, the pick-passing stunt, and other legendary antics. You'll get a tour of Greg's colorful collection of American-made plastic toys from the late

1940's through the early 1950's. You'll see Jere working in his shop, building banjos with his unique combination of traditional aesthetics and crazily creative designs. You'll see Greg in his painting studio, shaping line and color for a special glimpse into his subconscious mind. And of course, you'll see and hear LOTS of music!

And after it's over, we hope you'll feel a little more joyful, a bit happier. And can't we all use a little bit more of that?

Post-production is proceeding rapidly and coming along with it is a slew of big-ticket expenses for essentials such as music licensing, color correction, sound mastering, and much more. We are so excited to share Greg and Jere's music and story and are planning on a 2023 premiere – but this can only happen with your support!

Support the film with a tax-deductible donation here:

<https://my.filmindependent.org/TheCanoteTwins>

You'll receive on-screen credit in the documentary for your tax-deductible donation!

The Canote Twins is a sponsored project of Film Independent, a non-profit independent media arts organization dedicated to helping filmmakers make their movies, build an audience for their projects, and work to diversify the film industry.

About the film: <https://thecanotetwins.com/about-the-film/>



February Trustee Election Candidates' Statements

As usual, we'll have our annual **Membership Meeting** at the February jam. The main item of business is the election of two trustees to three-year terms. There are six elected trustees, with two elected each year so their terms overlap. Seats 1 and 2 respectively held by Bev Tracey and Doug Judd, are up for election this year for 2023-2026. The Board's Nominating Committee has nominated two candidates: Zakkai Melamed for seat 1, and Michele Tan for seat 2.



Zakkai Melamed

When I was 13 years old, I told my parents that I wanted to play an instrument. My lovely, but not musically inclined, parents brought me to Guitar Center for advice, and were nice enough to buy me a cheap guitar. They signed me up for lessons, and just like you'd expect from a 13 year old with a short attention span, I played it for 3 weeks, decided practicing was overrated, and begrudgingly went to lessons for the next 5 months until I stopped playing music.

Fast forward to 2020 and COVID, and I found myself looking for things to do. I was listening to a lot of Caamp and Trampled by Turtles and the idea popped into my mind to try an instrument again. There I was, an adult who always regretted not trying to pursue music as a kid, a bit jealous of my partner's skills on violin and viola, and I decided, "What have I got to lose?" Now 2 years later, I play banjo nearly every day and I can't remember what else I did with my free time.

So how did I get here? I found a community through music especially during a time when community was hard to come by. After moving here from across the country, a random search for local jams brought me to Pete Showman's site and by extension the SCVFA. Since then I've made lifelong friendships and wonderful community connections through the SCVFA, which keep me coming back and renewing my love for music. Only through a supportive community like this was I as an adult learner able to find such joy in music, and for that I want to give back to this community that's helped welcome me to the Bay Area. Everyone, from adult learners to more motivated kids than I was, deserve a community like this, and I'd love to help continue that tradition. Thanks for considering me for the SCVFA board!



Michelle Tan

I grew up studying classical music and not really listening to or playing anything else. I played in the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra for 4 years and played in the MIT symphony orchestra for 4 years. I was always really drawn to being able to find a strong community of people to play music with.

But at the same time, I started finding musical interests outside of classical music. After playing in a couple pit orchestras, I grew to love musical theater. In college I got to play in one of Jacob Collier's album releases and it really inspired me to meet so many people who were passionate about mixing musical genres. I'm constantly discovering music that I really should have heard about before. After discovering the music of Natalie Macmaster, Mark O'Connor, Michael Cleveland, Chris Thile, etc. during the pandemic I really wanted to get more into learning how to fiddle but before finding the SCVFA it was hard to get started and stay motivated

I stumbled upon a SCVFA jam recently after moving to the bay area and googling around. The group has been super welcoming in teaching me about fiddle music and I love getting to learn tunes from people every month. It's really such a friendly and welcoming community and I've learned a whole ton since joining. I want to help keep the community going strong.

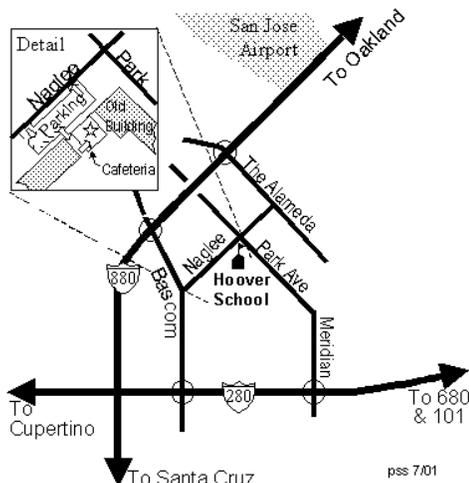


SCVFA
P.O.Box 2666
Cupertino, CA 95015-2666

**Next Jam:
Sunday January 8th
1-5 pm at Hoover Middle School**

SCVFA Jam usually on the first Sunday of each month.
Location: Hoover Middle School, 1635 Park Ave., San Jose. The school is at the corner of Naglee and Park. Cafeteria parking is on the Naglee side.

**Damaged or Missing Issue? Call us,
or email to: [newsletter \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter[at]fiddlers.org)**



The 10 Jamandments

As a public service, below are the “unofficial” rules of a bluegrass jam.

By Larry Carlin

1. **Thou Shalt Tune Thy Instrument.**
~ Electronic tuners make this easy.
2. **Thou Shalt Keep Steady Rhythm.**
~ Count beats if necessary.
3. **Thou Shalt Take Turns Choosing Songs.**
~ Announce the key. Vocalists always choose their key.
~ Choose a song you can complete.
4. **Thou Shalt Not Speed.**
~ Start songs at a reasonable tempo. Speed up according to abilities.
5. **Thou Shalt Signal Who Has the Solo.**
~ Follow a pattern when taking solo leads.
6. **Thou Shalt Listen to Others.**
If you can't hear the lead, consider yourself too loud.
7. **Thou Shalt Welcome Others.**
~ Include everyone in your jam. Help everyone sound as good as they can.
8. **Thou Shalt Not Steal Other Musicians from An Active Jam.**
~ With time, players move around anyway.
9. **Thou Shalt Try New Material.**
~ Original & different tunes are OK occasionally.
10. **Thou Shalt Be Considerate of Pickers (and Others).**
~ Explain when you're rehearsing, not jamming. Help beginners.