



Fiddler's Rag



Vol. 53, Number 12
Celebrating 52 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association

www.fiddlers.org

December 2025
Next Jam December 7th



President's Note

By Ray Chen

Happy Thanksgiving!!

The November jam was well attended. We enjoyed being back at Hoover and the weather was nice. There was also an unfortunate mixup with our reservation – it wasn't in the system which led to the bathrooms being unavailable (!) – but we've fixed that so we're good until next summer.

The old-time jam seemed smaller than usual but we had a great time anyway with our guest fiddler, Karen Heil. The bluegrass and slow jams seemed like they were in good shape and there were some smaller jams, too, which was really nice to see.

I hope those who celebrate Thanksgiving had a great one and that those who didn't had a wonderful long weekend.

SCVFA is kicking off December with the annual SCVFA Holiday potluck! (See the rather large green box on the right for more info.)

Please thank Anne and Bert Raphael and Pete and Dinah Showman for bringing the turkey and ham! SCVFA pays to buy the turkey and ham, but it doesn't happen without a lot more real work. My thanks to the four of you!!

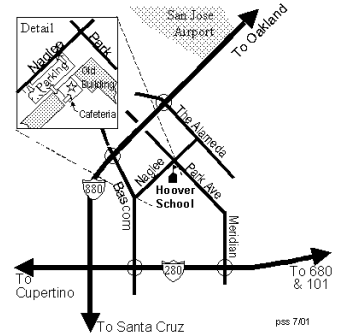
It is a potluck, so other than turkey, ham, and beverages, the rest is up to you all. Some years, we're heavy on the side dishes. Other years, we're heavy on the desserts. Either way is fine, and I'm looking forward to seeing what happens this year!

On the topic of volunteers, SCVFA could use some help. We are currently short a webmaster and a Trustee. We could use someone who knows sound. And I could use some occasional help putting together the newsletter.

If you like fiddling (har har) with web page content and layout, we need someone to give the SCVFA website some TLC. We use Wordpress and Elementor to edit the site. I think the website could

be a real resource for local traditional musicians as well as for traditional musicians that are far away. We've got lots of content from back issues of the newsletter that we should make available. We can also maintain links for folks looking for local jams, bands, teachers, stores, etc.

(continued on last page)



Holiday Potluck



What: Holiday food and the fun of our usual jams.

When: Sunday, Dec 7. Jam starts at 1 pm. Food and celebrating community at 3 pm.

Where: Hoover Middle School

Bring: Bring a side dish or dessert if you can

SCVFA will furnish ham, turkey, beverages, plates and utensils.

**** We will not have kitchen facilities available, so bring any hot dishes wrapped to stay warm. ****

Future Playouts / Performances

We have numerous opportunities throughout the year.

For more info visit: <https://www.fiddlers.org/open-band>

Dec 6th – Santa Clara Home Tours, 2 – 4:30 pm

Dec 12th – New Museum, Los Gatos, 5 – 7 pm

Dec 25th – Sunny View Senior Living, 11:45 - 12:45 pm

Jan 11th – Mountain View Farmers M, 9 am – 1 pm

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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. Membership includes electronic delivery of the Fiddler's Rag.

To join, sign up at the jam or see www.fiddlers.org/join-the-scvfa

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Seat 2: Michelle Tan	Seat 4: Danny Clark	Seat 6: Cliff Riggs

Newsletter Reviewers: Pete Showman, Dinah Showman, Vicki Parrish, Susan Goodis

To Contact the SCVFA:

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Newsletter Submissions & Comments: [newsletter \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter[at]fiddlers.org)

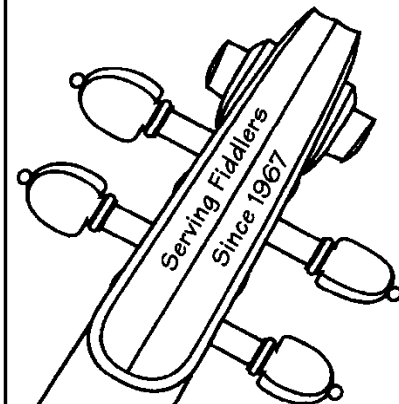
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The Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association is a non-profit member-supported organization.

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 was founded in 1973 to support fiddling but supports and welcomes musicians other than fiddlers. The image to the right side of the Fiddler's Rag name on the first page includes a mandolin, a banjo, a guitar and a fiddle, to illustrate the diversity of instruments played at our jams and events.



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.

First Sunday Jam: December 7th 1:00 to 5:00 pm at Hoover Middle School. Suggested donation: \$5.00 – more or less as you are able. [Click here to donate online.](#)

Old-Time Jam: 1(ish) – 5 pm

Intermediate Bluegrass Jam: 1:30 – 5:00 pm led by Robert Cornelius.

Slow jam: 1:30-2:30 pm – Tunes are available on our [SCVFA website](#).

Holiday Pot Luck: 3 pm. Bring a side dish or dessert to share if you can. SCVFA supplies turkey, ham and beverages.

NO “AFTERS” because of the pot luck!

3rd Sunday Jam: December 21st, 1-3 pm
[Mitchell Park](#), 600 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto

Great 48, January 15 – 18. Bluegrass (and some old-time) hotel jamming festival. [Bakersfield Marriott & Convention Center](#), Bakersfield, CA.

Portland Old-Time Music Gathering,

January 15 – 18. Featuring Alice Gerrard, Jerron Paxton, Cookhouse, Bobby Winstead & The Long Goodbyes, Caleb Klauder & Reeb Willms, and more. Portland, OR.

Wintergrass, February 19 – 22. Bluegrass & roots music concerts and jamming festival. Danny Paisley & Southern Grass, Woody Platt & The Bluegrass Gentlemen, Melissa Carper, Bruce Molsky & Brittany Haas, Jerron Paxton, Vasen, Hanneke Cassel Trio, and plenty more. [Hyatt Regency Bellevue](#), Seattle, WA.

November Board Meeting Highlights:

By Jessica Ollmann, Secretary

The board adopted a banking resolution with Crescent Financial so that we can open a higher yielding account.

Five SCVFA payouts in September, October and November brought in \$1261.14 in donations.

Our music is being kept alive!

We will go forward with a holiday potluck but possibly scaled down from previous years.

The board had a lengthy discussion of how to improve bluegrass jam attendance. We would like to foster a critical mass of good players while also providing an opportunity for beginners to learn. To address the first, we plan to bring in a bluegrass band for jamming and a performance, and, for the second, to try a bluegrass slow jam, which Jennifer Kitchen has offered to lead.

Trustee Elections for two seats will be coming up in February.



At the November First Sunday Jam

Some Payout Updates

By Susan Goodis



We were all in Oktoberfest costume at the Villa Sienna Retirement Community (*see picture on left*). Jena Rauti lent us dresses and aprons so the women could be authentic. Gary and Vic wore lederhosen. Robert and Michael created costumes with the German theme. We played traditional music as well as German music, including the Pennsylvania Polka and Beer Barrel Polka. What a fun gig!

We were the first performers at the Santa Clara County Martial Cottle Park Fall Festival. As more people came to the festival, the audience got bigger.

Both children and adults danced which was the best compliment!

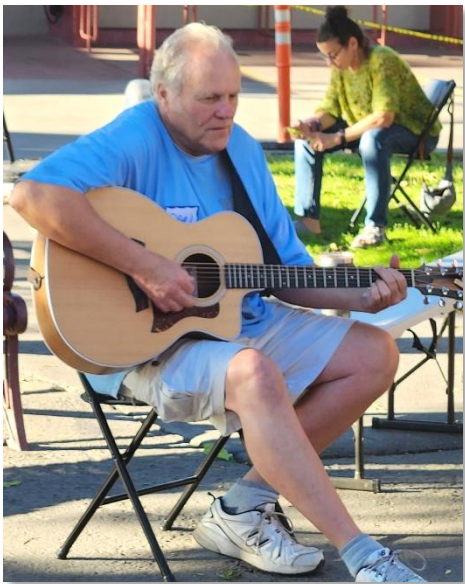
Vic Corsiglia, Cindy Dinga, Robert Guzzetta, Susan Goodis, Yvonne Murray, Trina Clickner, Ed Archer, Michael Robinson (standing, l-r). Gary Breitbard, Vicki Parrish (seated front row, l-r)



Robert Guzzetta, Cliff Riggs, Susan Goodis, Nick LeCuyer, Cindy Dinga (l-r)

November Pictures

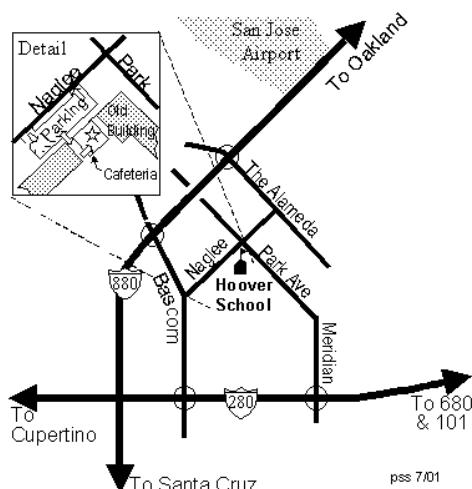
By Ray Chen





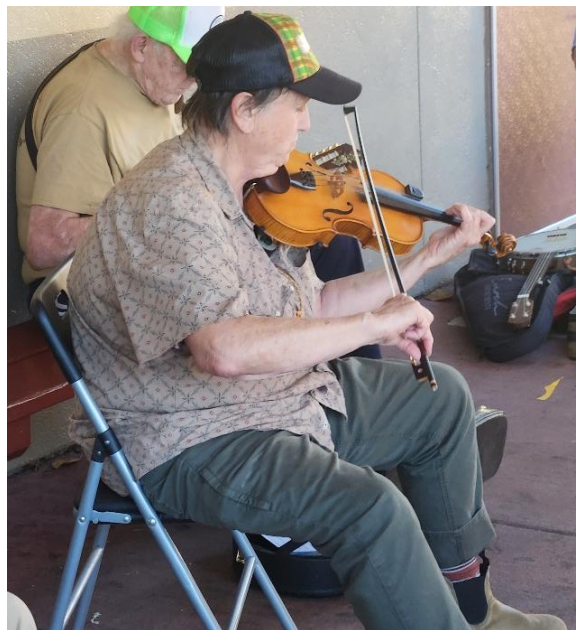
SCVFA
P.O. Box 390235
Mountain View, CA 94039-0235

The SCVFA Jam usually on the first Sunday of each month. Location: Hoover Middle School, 1450 Naglee Ave., San Jose. The school is at the corner of Naglee and Park. Cafeteria parking is on the Naglee side.



Next Jam: Sunday December 7th 1-5 pm at Hoover Middle School

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



Karen Celia Heil leading the November Old-Time jam

(continued from page 1)

We could and should do all of that but we haven't. The folks who could do it are too busy to add those tasks to what they're already doing for SVCFA. (They also have these pesky things called "lives" which I'm highly in favor of 😊.)

The Board of Trustees meet on a regular basis – typically once every two months, although we're considering meeting once a month for a while to help push some efforts along. We're both an operational Board as well as a strategic Board. This means we focus on both long-term direction of the organization as well as getting everyday stuff done. Besides attending meetings, helping out with the occasional longer-term effort, and representing the organization, each Board Member also serves as a First Sunday jam manager twice a year.

And does anyone know how to run a sound system? We've got this big sound board, lots of mics and not much experience in how to actually use them. We have a very minimalist and easy-to-use sound system that we use for farmers market playouts that we're going to try using for the potluck. We're wondering if there's a system in the middle that

would work well and be easier to set up and use for Hoover events? Is there anyone out there who could help us with any of this?

Lastly, I could use some help with newsletter layout. This involves using Microsoft Word on a Windows computer to format whatever newsletter content we have that month, and additional software to bundle the resulting pdf files into a single file. It's possible that an Apple computer could work, but we've tried this and hit some really frustrating problems.

If you think you'd be willing to help us out with any of this, please let me or Susan know. Find us at the December jam or send email to [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president[at]fiddlers.org) or [vp \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:vp[at]fiddlers.org). Or tell any Board member or Pete or Dinah Showman.

We have a couple of playout updates from Susan Goodis. Thank you to everyone who helps with the playouts! The community loves them, and the donations and fees that the playouts bring in help us keep our membership and requested jam donation fees low.

Thanks to all of you, and I look forward to seeing you at a jam sometime soon!!