

# Central Indiana Folk Music & Mountain Dulcimer Society

News and Notes for Society Folks

Volume 2011, Issue 12

December 2011

## December 2011 Meeting

Sunday, December 11, 2011

1:00 – 5:00 PM.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

526 E 52<sup>nd</sup> St. (52nd & Central), Indianapolis

1:00 – 2:00	Board Meeting
	Slow Jam Session
	Chair & Table setup!
2:00 – 3:00	<b>Dinner &amp; Auction</b>
3:00 – 3:15	Auction payments
	Table & Chair arranging
3:15 – 4:30 (or more)	Musical Entertainment



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## A Message from our President

By Ruth Slates

This year has gone by so quickly, but I am looking forward to being with all of you for our Holiday Party and Silent Auction. (Look on **Page 2** for more information). We will continue to share food, conversation, and music with the members who can make the event.

Please remember, the auction is a big fund-raiser for the Society, and it's a great way to move some of your musical "extras" into appreciative hands. The New Year brings a new Board of Directors to our organization. We have been very lucky for the excellent work of the outgoing Board, and want to thank Mike Raab and Rocco Brunelle for being on the Board in 2010. New Board members for 2012 are Emily Clevenger as Vice-President and David Slates returns as Music Coordinator. Those returning Board members (myself, Randi Klees, Linda Henson, and George McCord) have worked hard, and will continue to do so in their respective positions. I appreciate their great efforts, and their dedication to the Society.

I am thankful to each of you as members, for your efforts in supporting and growing our organization. I look forward to your input and ideas for 2012! We need your helping hands throughout the year; let us know how you can help keep us on track and continuing to support our mission. Please come to the Holiday party to get your holiday gift from the Board!

Thanks,  
Ruth Slates

*Happy Holiday Wishes to All*

*The Treasurer's Report*  
*By George McCord*

Please welcome back Betsey Adler and Barbara & Gary Poore.

Account status for November 2011 as of this writing (prior to reconciliation):  
\$4053.87 checking balance (about the same as last month).

\$2697.06 savings balance (essentially the same as last month).

\$1083.64 more in the treasury compared with last year at the same time.

\$470.99 operating gain this year to date.

\$925.56 operating gain over the past rolling year.

Based on the past rolling year's experience, we have sufficient funds on hand to cover about 15 months worth of expenses. The October newsletter expense and bank statement reconciliations are not included.

Membership Status: We had no new members, 6 renewals, 2 reinstatements, and lost 3 memberships in November 2011. Family memberships stand at 106 compared with 100 a year ago.

Membership Dues: Annual household membership dues remain at just \$20/year. If your membership is due or past due, please send a check to CIFM&MDS, P.O. Box 1503, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1503, or catch me at the next meeting. I'm always happy to take your money.

Songbooks: The Main Songbook is available to all members in good standing for \$25 each. Copies of the Main Songbook with Mountain Dulcimer Tabbing by Lew Mastin are available for \$35 each. Fiddle tunes are included in the Main Songbook, but a special "Fiddlers Edition" is also available as a separate supplement for \$5 each. See me at the meeting if you are in need of any of these songbooks.

Our thanks go to Jean Vance who provided treasury services at the November meeting in my absence.

It is a pleasure and privilege to serve you and our Central Indiana Folk Music & Mountain Dulcimer Society.

**CIFM&MD Society**  
**Holiday Pitch-in Dinner and Silent Auction**  
**December 11, 2011**

**2:00-3:00 pm: Dinner and Silent Auction begin.** Please watch for a new exit strategy from the kitchen after you get your food. Elf Karen Sechrist will be pointing the way. The kitchen and Silent Auction will close **promptly** at 3:00 pm.

**3:00-3:15 pm: Payments made for Silent Auction purchases and room reorganization.** Payments are made to the Treasurer for Silent Auction purchases (see below). Dining tables will be taken down and chairs put into a circle. The sound system will be setup.

**3:15-4:30 pm: Musical Entertainment.** Music provided by our members and groups (Happy Harpers, DOGS, etc.). Our Merry Music Coordinator will MC. One song per member or group, please. There will be a performer's sign-up sheet and sound system.

**Please consider getting to the church a little early to help set up the tables and chairs.**

**Auction Info:**

There are a couple of ways for you to donate to the auction:

1. Bring your treasures to the meeting/party.
2. If you can't attend, I'll come pick up your donation. Contact me at the email or phone number below.

Though your donations do not have to be music related, here are some examples of past "best-sellers":

1. CDs
2. Musical instruments
3. Sheet music/Tune books
4. Other music related items
5. Goods and services

Please bring any Silent Auction donation as early as you can before 2:00 pm. This will allow the "auctioneers" to get the auction sheets ready. Hopefully, you'll find something that you want to take home, or would make a fabulous present. This is a big moneymaker for the Society, so bring your checkbook or cash. Sorry, we aren't set up to accept credit cards. As an incentive, it is noted that the Society is a non-profit organization and

## Mike's Musical Musings

By Mike Raab  
Music Coordinator

It has often bothered me that we end the year with a flourish, only to plod into the coldest and snowiest time of year. We celebrate the coming of a new year, thinking of personal renewal, repair, and restoration, then we hunker down, throwing another blanket on the bed, and wish for a hurried onset of Spring. I understand a little bit about why the holidays are when they are, but who's idea was it to start the year with miserable cold and end it in the freezing rain and naked trees? Was it the Romans: the same folks who dutifully assigned the names of the months according to their gods, ran out of ideas, and finished the job with numbers? Are they the reason why the tenth month is Octo(8)ber, the eleventh month is Novem(9)ber, and the twelfth month is Decem(10)ber? Shouldn't we start the year in March, when the Earth realizes the increase in its thermal bank account, the ground thaws, plants actually start budding, and hibernating critters hit the snooze button for the last time? Shouldn't we celebrate the new year when God's creation undergoes its yearly renewal?

Well, after studying about ancient Roman calendars and their subsequent reforms, I now understand why our calendar is the way it is, although I'm pretty sure it isn't interesting enough to share in this newsletter. It basically comes down to two opposing forces: tradition and change. If change were the more powerful of forces I wouldn't wonder about an archaic calendar because someone would have changed it to make sense to our modern circumstances. If tradition were the more powerful of forces we would still be observing 10 months a year and eight days a week!

Our Society experiences a similar struggle between tradition and change, each in diverse form. If it weren't for the Society membership through the years and their devotion to this traditional music style, the songs we play and the instruments we play them on might have been  
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"heard of" but never heard. The board of directors and the membership as a whole, on the other hand, are designed to change. The gigs we play from year to year change a little. I'm thankful to the directors who ask us to come back year after year. Thanks to the "backbone" members who we can all rely on to attend gigs wherever one is scheduled and therefore make the society look and sound good. Thanks to the "foot and leg" members who have got us this far from the Society's inception. Thanks to the performers who have shared a song's history, expressed their creativity, or showed some courage on stage. You're inspirational! I've enjoyed acting as Music Coordinator for a few years. Welcome back, Dave!

I hope to see you all at the next one.

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### Happy Harpers Happenings

By Christine Reneau

Happy Harpers -- Once again it's party time!  
(Anyone who enjoys autoharps, playing them or even just listening to them, is invited to come and join in our fun.)

Date: Sunday, December 18, 2011

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Location: The Reneau Residence at 11233  
Garrick Court, Fishers  
(Contact the Reneaus at (317) 842-2741 or  
dreneau@iquest.net for directions.)

Bring: Your favorite party food  
(Beverages will be provided.)

Bring: A guest, any spouse, relative, or friend who has been supportive (or at least tolerant) of your autoharping endeavors, or anyone who has expressed an interest in our beloved instrument is welcome.

Bring: Your autoharp  
(Also bring any other instrument that strikes your fancy, this won't be an autoharp exclusive affair.)

## Dulcimer News from Lew

By Lew Mastin

The Dulcimer Only Group wishes all you music lovers a wonderful holiday season and the most fantastic 2012 for each of you.

The Dogs will meet on Wednesday Dec 7 for our last practice of 2011. We will resume our normal 2nd and 4th Wednesday schedule in January. Meetings, as always, are held at Robin Run Village on west 62nd Street in Indianapolis. All Dulcimer Players are welcome.

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**(Party/Auction continued from Page 2)**

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**Dinner Info:** Be thinking of what type of food you'll be bringing for the Pitch-In Dinner. Kitchen will open to receive food at 1:30 pm. Serving will start at 2:00 pm. Don't miss the dinner! The kitchen will close at 3:00 pm to allow the kitchen elves time to clean up, put away the food and enjoy the entertainment. Contact Cathy Platt at 317-495-5010 or email:

CIFM&MDS  
P.O. Box 1503  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1503

## **2012 Board of Directors**

President – Ruth Slates; ruth.slates@gmail.com

Vice Pres. - Emily Clevenger  
emilyjclevenger@gmail.com

Secretary – Linda Henson; lhenson@taftlaw.com

Treasurer – George McCord; gmccord@pol.net

Member at Large – Randi Klees;  
tiddleywinks2000@hotmail.com

Music Coordinator – Dave Slates  
mandomaddave@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor- Phil Slates;  
trainphil2002@yahoo.com

Past President – Chuck Morgan;  
cmorgan002@yahoo.com

Webmaster – Barry Levitt; balcpa@iquest.net

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