

The San Francisco Accordion Club

♪ *The World's First Accordion Club 1912-2009* ♪
Newsletter for April 2009

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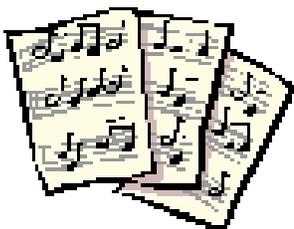
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Newsletter

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President's Message

Alex Roitman, Renée de la Prade, Sheri Mignano, Gabe Soper, Rich Kuhns, Aaron Sieman, Rob Reich, Jeff Trabucco, Naomi Zamir, Skyler Fell, Dan Cantrell—what do these folks have in common? They are some of the young accordionists who have played for us recently, or are scheduled to play for us soon. We are very pleased that they have come forth and volunteered to participate in the club's activities by performing. One of the things I know about how clubs such as ours continue to grow is by welcoming younger members. They bring different musical styles and provide a balance necessary to the vitality of our club and so we welcome them for their special contribution.

On another subject, Randy Hicks will begin sharing duties with Val Kieser in producing our newsletter starting with this issue. Randy will be the new Production Editor taking over some of **Val's many duties. For**

too long, Val has handled everything from soup to nuts and needs a break. She will continue describing our Sunday events while Randy handles such duties as formatting and production. It is very difficult to find people with the computer skills required to do the job, as we found out recently. Randy has volunteered and we are truly grateful to him for taking over this task. We know he will maintain the high standards that Val has set and we thank him.

The Board should have our scholarship guidelines ready to distribute to all accordion teachers shortly and we will be working on a policy for recording music at our meetings. In addition, we are studying various insurance plans and will act on these before June. Remember, you are welcome to attend our Executive Board meetings and we gladly accept your suggestions in writing any time.

Frank Montoro

Michelle Gallandre Member, Xavier de la Prade recently visited former SFAC member Michelle Gallandre in Tampa, FL. Michelle was once a very active member in our club and was a professional player of the French button chromatic accordion. For those who remember Michelle and would like to know what she is doing: Michelle is her stage name; her real name is Marcelle. She comes from a family of professional musicians. She and her husband (also a musician) lived and played professionally for two years in Colombia and 7 years in Mexico City before moving to SF. While in SF, she often played at the Basque Club, Domain Chandon and for many other French functions. Xavier was one of her accordion students for a while.

Michelle now has two grand children and one great grandchild. She **still has that "joie de vivre" and big smile. She misses playing accordion, which she had to give up because of a bad back.**

Continued on page 3 ...

Magic and Mirth

March Musical Meeting

"Warm-up" music was provided very tastefully by Ron Harris and Aldo Argenti, both of whom are excellent players and are members of the San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble.



Aldo and Ron in deep concentration.

Don MacKenzie, a professional videographer, had videos for sale of the last two musical meetings and an SVAS meeting.

Pres. Frank Montoro asked how many visitors we had. Two visitors—Dana Miller and Allen Klein—were sent by Rob Reich, who played for us recently (thanks, Rob!). Another visitor, thanks to André Paris, was Denis Howard.

Pres. Frank talked about the Scholarship Program, which is being revised and is almost ready. There were flyers for the Galla-Rini Camp available.

The musical program started off with the ever-popular Accordion Magic 5 from the Sacramento area. This quintet has evolved rapidly into a professional sounding group. The group consists



Aldo Argenti, our MC for the afternoon.

of Dave Chelini, Jim Shoemaker, Taffy Steffen, Vince Cukar and Roger Cromwell.



The Accordion Magic 5

Dave, Jim, Taffy, Vince and Roger

One of their mentors, who helps them occasionally, is our own Joe Smiell, **and they played one of Joe's arrangements** today. Their first piece was a Gershwin medley arranged by Carl Fortina which included *Our Love Is Here to Stay*, *Embraceable You*, and *S'Wonderful*. This lovely medley was followed by an arrangement by the late Joe Morelli of *You Are My Sunshine*, with small bits of other familiar pieces thrown in here and there, including *O Susanna*. A beautiful arrangement by a master arranger. On a sad note: Joe Morelli, who has been ill for several years, passed away just days before this meeting. He will be missed in the music world.

Then we were treated to still another Joe Morelli arrangement: *Mademoiselle de Paris*. **I've played** this with some fellow accordionists in the club, and it is a delightful arrangement that is supremely fun to play. The Magic 5 did a splendid job with it.

Carl Fortina has become a well-known arranger too, and the Magic 5 played his Ellington Medley, consisting of *Sophisticated Lady/Don't Get Around Much Anymore/Satin Doll*.

Roger Cromwell got up to play a solo for us on his Excelsior accordion: *I Left My Heart in San Francisco* followed by **Art Van Damme's** lovely arrangement of *Blue Moon*. Then Vince Cukar played *Summertime* in

Magic and Mirth

March Musical Meeting (continued)

Venice (one of Val's personal faves) and *Quanno Stase Cum Me*. Taffy Steffen, on her La Melodiosa accordion, played a really cute French waltz called "Frenchie," and then Jim Shoemaker played a folk dance from a part of the former Yugoslavia, with seven beats to the measure—wow! Very nicely done. Dave Chelini then played his own delightful arrangement of *Tea for Two*.

We learned that Dolores Impinna and Buddy Harpham were there to cheer on the Magic 5. Buddy is a Big Band leader in Sacramento, and Dolores operated the Frank & Dolores Accordion and Dance Studio until 2005 (Frank was Dave's accordion teacher, and he passed away about 12 years ago). Try "Googling" "Buddy Harpham Tribute" and you'll be amazed at all that Buddy has done and is doing.

The Magic 5 finale was Joe Smiell's arrangement of Bach's *Prelude & Fugue in D Minor BWV 554*. Our ACE Ensemble has played that piece many times and it is certainly one of our all-time favorites. It was great fun to hear this group play it so nicely. It is not an easy piece, especially if you want to play all the nuances correctly.

Following Intermission with Tuti's terrific spread and the drawing for prizes and cash, the musical program resumed with **Peter Di Bono's Trio**, with Peter on



Peter Di Bono's Trio
Harriet, Steve and Peter

accordion. Harriet Newhart on violin, and Steve Harmon on Bass. This handsome trio produced gorgeous music such as we rarely hear, and they brought the house down. This music included classical, semiclassical, American musicals—everything *beautiful*, and I (Val), for one, was mesmerized. They played Strauss (*Blue Danube Waltz*), *Puttin' on the Ritz*, *Innamorata* (Dean Martin tune); *Caprice* (Duet by Joe Smiell); *Moonlight in Vermont* special for Jim Holliday; *Try to Remember* / *Soon It's*

Gonna Rain from the musical *The Fantasticks* (longest running Broadway show ever); *Salut*

D'Amour by Sir Edward Elgar; *La Vie En Rose*;

Singin' in the Rain (written by Xavier de la Prade's father-in-law Nacio Herb Brown); *Volare* (sung in Italian by Peter and the audience); Medley from *Phantom of the Opera*; *Begin the Beguine*; *Passione* by Ernesto Tagliaferri; *Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 5*; medley from *My Fair Lady*. The audience went crazy and wanted More! More! More! But it had to end sometime (with a short reprise later on in the lounge).

Today's program was outstanding in every way, and if you missed it, well, you missed one of our all-time best!

Val



Harriet and Jim

Michelle Gallandre (continued from Page 1)

For anyone who might wish to write to Michelle, her address and phone number are: Marcelle Gallandre; 2946 W. Columbus Dr., Apt. 505, Tampa FL 33607; phone (727) 324-7322

Xavier de la Prade has several copies of Michelle Gallandre's CD "Michelle: On danse?" available for \$15. Val has listened to the CD and says it is great! To obtain a copy, contact Xavier at (707) 769-9880 or email: zavyay@gmail.com.

More Photos!



Harriet and Peter serenading us with *Volare*



New members Mr. & Mrs. Allan Schwarz and Gabbi Yuen



Afterglow with Dave Chelini, Byrne Newhart, Harriet Newhart, Steve Harmon and Joe Smiell



Lou Casalnuovo and John Fiore



Petaluma ACR Spring Fling pre-dinner entertainment by the SF Accordion Band



Friendly faces amongst the revelers at the Petaluma ACR Spring Fling

News and Announcements

Our Sincere Thanks!

To those who generously donate to the Club.

Each year we start a new cumulative list of donors. If you have donated and your name doesn't show up in this column, please contact Val at (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net and let her know. Your donations are greatly appreciated and we want to be sure you are recognized. As of publication, we have learned of donations from: Maryanne Romanowski and her company Care2.com Inc., Amil Samayoa, Randall Hicks, Alexander Roitman, Bruce Kirschner & Michael Sanossian.

Mark your Calendars

The following Accordion events are coming up:

Mario Pedone/Nick Ballarini Accordion Cruise 7-day Caribbean Cruise leaving April 5 Contact Nick Ballarini ballarini@sbcglobal.net

Petaluma Accordion Celebration June 20-21 Contact Tom Cordoni (707) 762-2231 or cordacc@aol.com

Joe Smiell's Button Box Camp July 12-18 Soda Springs in the High Sierras. Contact Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938 or (707) 751-0525

Galla-Rini Accordion Camp—20th Anniversary July 26-31 Campus of San Domenico Music Conservatory in San Anselmo. Watch for details!

19th Annual Cotati Accordion Festival August 22-23 Cotati, CA with headliner Flaco Jimenez. Those Darn Accordions will also be celebrating their 20th anniversary this year. www.cotatifest.com info@cotatifest.com

La Vegas International Accordion Convention October 19-22 Gold Coast Hotel and Casino. Phone (800) 472-1695 or email vegas@AccordionInfo.com

Welcome New Members!

We are excited to welcome several new members again this month. Gabi Yuen, who actually joined the club back in December, and Mr. and Mrs. Allan Schwarz. Allan plays piano accordion and has a special interest in Tango and Klezmer music. **Allan, be sure to take note of next month's entertainment—you won't be disappointed. See picture on page 4.**

Sad News

The accordion community is mourning the loss of well-known arranger and teacher Joe Morelli who passed away on March 4. Joe was a regular instructor at accordion camps including the annual Rose City Accordion Camp in Oregon. He was highly regarded by all who knew him and he will be greatly missed.

We extend our condolences to member Xavier de la Prade and his family at the passing of his mother this past February **in Florida. Both Xavier and his daughter Renée (of the group Culann's Hounds) have performed for our club.**

Executive Board Notes

The Board did not meet in the month of March. Members are invited to attend the Executive Board meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, at 7 p.m. at the home of Frank Montoro., 1448 Tarrytown St., San Mateo. The Board will be discussing the formulation of a recording policy at our club meetings, in addition to other items of business. Please call Frank at (650) 574-4757 if you would like to attend.

San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble News

This month we will be treated to an ACE performance at our musical meeting, BUT you will also not want to miss their full Spring concert on Sunday, April 26 at 2:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church, 2124 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City. See full announcement on page 7.

San Francisco Accordion Band News (aka The Fun Band)

March 21 the Fun Band performed for the Accordion Club of the Redwood's annual Spring Fling in Petaluma. It was a fun time (why do you think we call ourselves the Fun Band?) with enthusiastic singing and dancing! See pictures on page 4.

News and Announcements (continued)

Who is performing around the Bay?

Steve Balich, North Bay (707) 874-3494

Ron Borelli, Peninsula (650) 574-5707
rborelli@aol.com

Renée de la Prade, **Culann's Hounds**,
San Francisco www.sfhounds.com

Richard Denier, Carmel rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono, San Francisco
peterdsf@gmail.com

Reno Di Bono, South Bay
ourhike@aol.com

William De Michelis, South Bay
wdd777@comcast.net

Bruce Kirschner and The Klezmakers,
kirschner@aol.com
www.klezmakers.com

Joe Domitrowich, South Bay
www.capricious-accordion.com or
www.alpinerusa.com

Don Nurisso, nurisso@mindspring.com

Mike Zampiceni, South Bay *eclecticguy@comcast.net*

Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano) San Francisco
www.zighibaci.com or
zighi@sonic.net



Please Remember!

To leave our meeting hall at the beautiful Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Please clean up any food or drink spills and toss out paper plates, napkins, cups, etc. before leaving. Thank you!

SF Accordion Band Practice

Wednesdays, April 8 and 22, 7:00 p.m. at Val Kieser's home in Oakland. Please CALL AHEAD in case there is a change. Everyone is welcome to join. For more information, contact Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net

Our Neighboring Bay Area Accordion Clubs

Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR) meets monthly on the third Sunday, 7:30 p.m. at Hermann & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Contact: Kris Nelson krisnelson@aol.com or (707) 795-4860

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) **meets monthly on the first Sunday, 1:30 at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue between Keily Blvd and Stevens Creek Blvd, San Jose.** Contact: Bill Toponga (408) 984-5290

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC). The Vacaville Chapter meets monthly on the second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main Street, Vacaville. The Humboldt Chapter meets monthly on the third Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta. The Sacramento Chapter meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd, Sacramento. Contact for all three Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC) meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS) meets monthly on the first Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas, Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay, CA. Contact: Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041

Your Club Wants YOU!!

Don't panic— we want you to play for our musical meetings! If you think you aren't ready for the "big time" (stage) just yet, please consider playing a piece or two before the meeting and/or during intermission! Don't be shy—we are a very forgiving, appreciative and supportive audience! Just contact any of our friendly board members listed on the front of the newsletter.

SFAC Membership

\$30.00 per year for individual or family membership. Meeting admission is \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for guests. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Valerie Kieser, 3437 Crane Way, Oakland, CA 94602. For new members, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if available.

News and Announcements (continued)

Preview of our musical meeting for May

No musical meeting is to be missed—our board works hard and we are grateful for the wonderful talent they line up to entertain us each month. May is no exception - we have two exciting groups performing for us. The program will include duo *Due Zighi Baci* with accordionist Sheri Mignano and tenor Michael Van Why performing old Neapolitan classics and French cabaret songs. Also performing again, this time with his band *Tangonero*, will be accordionist Alex Roitman. Tangonero, as the name might suggest, specializes in classic tango—music to "squeeze your heart to tears and then set your feet to dancing." This is just a teaser for now, stay tuned for further information in the next newsletter. Also both of these performing groups have websites with more information. Please visit *Due Zighi Baci* at www.zighibaci.com and *Tangonero* at www.tangonero.com.

SFAC Scholarship Program

Scholarships are awarded each April and October. Requirements will be given to area teachers soon. Applications are available at the monthly meetings or from any board member and must be returned by the end of either March or September to be considered for an award the following month.



The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble

Presents

*A concert of classical, semiclassical
and folk music*

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City

2124 Brewster Ave. (at Lowell), Redwood City

2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 26, 2009

Suggested Donation \$10

Ensemble Members: Aldo Argenti, Jr., Peter Di Bono, Reno Di Bono,

Mary-Alice Eldon, Lynn Ewing, Caroline Grannan, Sharon Walters Greyhosky,

Ron Harris, Marian Kelly, Valerie Kieser, Jerry Kramer, Deborah Knapp, Nora Mazzara,

Anne Métais, Frank Montoro, David Perry, Robert L. Smith (on bass).

Music Director: Joe Smiell. Librarian: Chris Arild



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SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$6.00 per issue. A business-card-size ad costs \$6 per issue or \$60 per year for members; a quarter-page ad costs \$15.00 for members; a half-page ad costs \$25 for members. A full-page ad costs \$50.00 for members. Discount available for ongoing ads. Ads placed by non-members will cost twice the above-quoted prices. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, April 19, 2009

2:00 Oyster Point Yacht Club



Entertainment:

Reno Di Bono and Friends

The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble

Directed by Joe Smiell

Directions to Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco:
From 101 traveling either North or South, take the Oyster Point exit. Turn right onto Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right onto Gulf Drive, just before Marina Blvd.). Continue past the gate house to the sign "Oyster Point Yacht Club." There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

And come visit us online at our newly upgraded website: www.sfaccordionclub.com

*Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club*

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