

President's Message There is much to report this good news. Our beloved BAAC member and ACE member Ron Harris suffered a stroke and spent quite a while in the hospital. With extensive therapy, he is on the mend and our thoughts are with him.

Another beloved BAAC member, Herb Meier, lost his wife Edie on May 21 to an unexpected and fast-moving cancer. We extend our deepest sympathies to Herb, and our thoughts are with him at this terrible time.

Jim Firpo's wife Barbara is improving after suffering a heart problem, giving us all a scare and resulting in their having to miss their much-anticipated trip to Australia. We wish them both the best of everything, they certainly deserve it.

On a happier note, our June Meeting promises to be extra special (see notice at right). Not to be missed! Gary Blair needs no introduction to those who have attended the RCAC accordion camp at Silver Falls. He is internationally known and admired, has performed all over the world and has been teaching accordion for 25 years, and it will be a special treat indeed to hear him play. We also have Hillebrand van der Veen from Holland, who will not only play a wonderful program for us, but will describe their local accordion club and what they do. It should be fascinating. And, we have a special surprise, known to only a few of us, that will evoke memories of a time in the history of the accordion in the Bay Area when accordion was king! You'll love it! We shall also give out special certificates to our new Honorary Members, Vince Cirelli, Gordon Piatanesi, and Joe Smiell. It will be exciting to see Gordon again. We've surely missed him! The ACE Ensemble will play a few numbers to honor the new Honorary Members. It will be a special meeting indeed, and a

very full one.

For July we have no meeting. Instead we have the Picmonth, and unfortunately, it's not all nic on July 12, at beautiful Nature Friends Park in the Oakland Hills (see flyer attached). Do come and join us and bring your friends and family. Send your reservation in to the Benedettos right away. And let Val know as soon as possible if you'd like a 15-minute slot on the program (or somewhat longer if you have a group).

I hope there will have been a large representation from BAAC for Art Van Damme's concert May 25 in Reno. I wish I could go, but will be in Southern California. Which reminds me, I received a lovely note from Art, saying "Dear Valerie: Got a kick out of the birthday card (from BAAC). Much appreciated. My best to all at the club. Sincerely, Art Van Damme." What a gentleman!

Lastly, I'll be "out of commission" for a while from late June, as I'll be having hip replacement surgery on June 26. We'll skip the July board meeting, and I should be "back in the saddle" (both figuratively and literally!) a few weeks after that. I'm still hoping to make Galla-Rini camp but have to be VERY careful not to do too much, too soon! (That leaves the picnic up in the air for me.) And, you will have a newsletter for July, even if it might be a bit abbreviated. Val

June Meeting: 2 Headliners GARY BLAIR, virtuoso from Scotland HILLEBRAND VAN DER VEEN from Holland - - and the ACE Ensemble honoring new BAAC Honorary Members Vince Cirelli, Gordon Piatanesi, and Joe Smiell ... Plus a special and delightful surprise!

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 12, 2003 Moose Lodge Daly City

Three Cheers for the Ladies ... & Keith

It was our annual celebration of Ladies Night at Moose Hall, and let me tell you that our "better halves" came to play, big time! It was once again a wonderful night of music and fellowship, with Domenic Saso as our MC, delightful as always with a ready smile and quip for the moment. Unfortunately this was his last stint for a while as Domenic is moving to Petaluma to enjoy the good life. Good luck and good health to you Domenic, and thank you for the many times you've entertained us. **Dennis Stoscher**, who always is entertaining us with his beautiful Fisart accordion and offbeat humor, brought with him a carload of new binders for the membership which were snapped up in a mad stampede. You say you've got a lot more where those came from, Dennis?.....Yikes!.

First up on the playing list was our Prez Val Kieser teaming up with Anne Métais to play a Frenchsounding waltz, *Waltz Bouquet*, and a Joe Smiell duet arrangement of a Swiss Ländler called *Riwalli Ländler*. Accordion duets are so nice, and the ladies more than did justice to these lovely melodies.

Then Jackie Jones combined with singer/guitarist Pauline Scholten for some delightful tunes and antics including a well-placed "oogah horn" and an electronic saw (Jackie's invention?). Pauline has a lovely voice, leading in such songs as Sam the Accordion Man, Mexicali Rose, Five Foot Two, and East Side, West Side. A very nice blend of music and hijinks. Thank you both.

Anne Métais, Sharon Walters, Lynn Ewing and Val then surprised us with an outstanding performance of Joe Morelli's arrangement of *Mademoiselle de Paris*. Wow, taking a wonderful melody and adding a combination of moving chords made this spectacular offering! We expected more....and then they stopped! Hey ladies, don't you know there is a two-song minimum? Thank you soooo much!

Well, the men had to make at least a token showing, and 8-year old Keith Church, along with his teacher Marjorie Konrad and fellow student Gloria Heinzl took the stage to bring us some great music from the Accordion Club of the Redwoods. Keith showed that we have talented youth coming along to ensure the future of the accordion. He showed his prowess with Popgun Polka and Sailing Along; then Sea Breeze with Gloria, who has been playing only one year and showing great progress; Lady of Spain, and Spanish Eyes. Quite a repertoire for such a young man, and a fine presence to boot. Marjorie and Gloria then played Solskervalsen (together), Twinkling Waltz (Gloria) and Ja, Vi Elsker Vals, (Marjorie, who also composed the piece). Thank you all for a very nice performance.

Nora Mazzara, talented member of our ACE Ensemble, regaled us first with a folk song from the Puglia region of Italy, then *El Choclo*, and *Jealousy*. Not easy pieces to play, especially in front of one's peers, but Nora did a beautiful job, and we're hoping she'll be back soon to play for us again.

Lynn Ewing and Sharon Walters then combined to play two Joe Smiell duet compositions, originally exercises, that the ladies named *Tyrolean Ländler* and *Russian Roulette*. With an intent Joe looking on, Lynn and Sharon must have made this fine teacher proud with precise execution of some very involved melodies and counterpoint. Great job!

The surprise of the evening was the return of **Marian Kelly** to play for our club. Marian is a past president of BAAC whose tireless efforts on behalf of BAAC helped our club immensely during her tenure. Her devotion to the cause of the accordion is widely known and puts her on as a member of the Who's-Who list of active promoters of our accordion nationally and internationally, and a stellar performer in her own right. On the Trail from the *Grand Canyon Suite*, and Galli-Rini's arrangement of *Brazil* were her spectacular offerings, serious accordion music performed flawlessly. Marian has played since a young lady, studying under none other that the legendary Frank Gaviani! A pleasure to see and hear you once again Marian, please come often!

The intermission was again blessed with another sumptuous repast courtesy of the Benedettos, Frances and Domenic. I've often marveled at the time and devotion that this lovely couple have spent month after month providing such a highlight to our meetings, and wondered (Continued on next page)

BAAC PICNIC 2003 ... Saturday, July 12 10:00 till ...??? Nature Friends Park in Oakland Lots of music, dancing, great food catered again this year by Frances and Domenic Benedetto Let Val know if you'd like a playing slot on the program! See enclosed Flyer and sign up now!



2

ALL MUSIC IS FOLK MUSIC. I AIN'T NEVER HEARD A HORSE SING A SONG. Louis Armstrong

(Three Cheers, Continued from page 2) how long it could possibly continue! Alas, the picnic in July will be their last "performance" for us. Frances told me how much they love our club and how they have enjoyed being able to give of their talents, but they must move on to other things. How fortunate we have been to have you, Frances and Domenic. God bless you, our wonderful friends! And then ... the raffle this month was won by-Domenic Benedetto !!

Hooray! And so, on to the evening finale ...

Our last and featured performers were none other that Big Lou of "Polka Casserole" fame along with husband David with his beautiful acoustic bass guitar. They treated us to La Quero Polka, Indifférence by Joseph Colombo and Tony Murena, Pennsylvania Polka, finishing with Big Lou's own, Is Anything Better Than Beer (a play on In Heaven There is No Beer). A lively performance mixed with humorous interaction between this talented wife and husband team. Thank you, Lou and David, for a wonderful finale, and to all of the ladies and also to Keith who made this Ladies' Night another evening to remember!

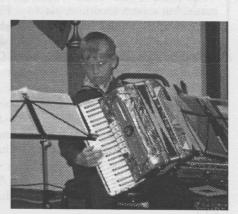


Left: Pauline Scholton and Jackie Jones Below: Lynn Ewing, Sharon Walters, Anne Métais, Val Kieser

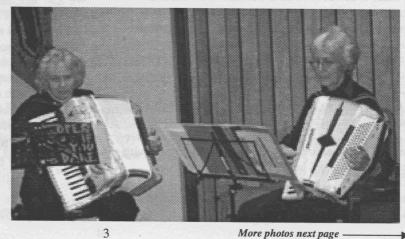








Above, left: Anne Métais and Val Kieser; Middle: Marjorie Konrad Above, right: Keith Church; left: Gloria Heinzl; Below, Marjorie Konrad and Gloria Heinzl



3

Frank Marocco's Recording: "Evergreens" A Review by Ron Pivovar April, 2003

About eleven years ago Frank Marocco made a very special solo accordion recording. Maybe some would say it is an old recording. But if you are just hearing it for the first time, it's brand-spanking new. And it sounds so fresh, it is as though it was produced just yesterday. It is a piano accordion benchmark classic.

Frank, labeled as "the most recorded accordion player in the world," has a close association with the TV and Hollywood film business. He works steadily with producers and musicians on movie sound tracks. Frank has produced a long list of jazz recordings, he plays concerts, and he is a gifted teacher. At the recent Texas Accordion Association Convention, in the Dallas, Texas area, Frank was one of the featured artists. This relaxed convention setting provided a wonderful opportunity to meet Frank, hear him play, sit in on his educational presentation on jazz playing, and to speak with him informally.

This is where I discovered *Evergreens*. This is a unique CD jewel for accordionists who appreciate not only jazz music, but superb accordion playing. From the first measure of cut number one, "Ain't Misbehavin'," you are drawn right into Frank's world of jazz wizardry. This was one of the CDs that sold out fast at the Convention; I needed to order my copies directly from Frank.

The United States Postal Service delivered mine about noon one recent day. I decided to sample a little of it right then. Fourteen songs later I snapped out of Frank's world. What an unexpected trip! His liner notes provide nice explanations about the project including a few comments on "accordion history," and his excitement and objectives about the project. The title, *Evergreens*, refers to the great musical standards written during the 30's and 40's.

Frank's left-hand work, sometimes providing counter melody, sometimes answering the questions posed by his right hand, always solidly on the rhythm, is so interesting that at times it deserves to be the focus. Yes, the left hand most certainly knows what the right hand is doing! Early years of studying and playing classical music, with all the required discipline, accompanying technique development and impeccable bellows control, explain a lot about his fluid musical movements, incredible facility, and very "breathable" phrasing.

His technique is so advanced it appears as though he can play whatever innovation or musical idea comes to mind. His "rides" are not struggled or repetitive, they are imaginative, free, and fresh. And the music is played with great emotional joy and happiness—even love. My highly credentialed musician-brother, Phil Pivovar, reacted to his copy of *Evergreens* with these comments: "Frank Marocco has great rhythm/tempo. The performance is very clean with great musical and aural balance and the arrangements are super. He never plays out of his reach. He is never tentative, always in control. The recording shows great musicianship/artistry. He reminds me of the great jazz guitarist from Johnstown, PA, Joe Pass." That's four "thumbs-up" from two Pivovars.

One of my personal favorites is "Moonlight In Vermont." He must have loved playing it, too—it's four minutes long. I do wonder if he was teasing a bit with some Erroll Garnerlike left-hand work on this one, as well as on "Early Autumn."

This recording is essential for any accordion player who even remotely likes jazz. It belongs in your collection; this one is "five-stars", plus. This is pure accordion, acoustic accordion, solo accordion. Beautiful. You can order it directly; send \$15 plus \$2 S & H to: Frank Marocco, 7063 Whitaker Ave., Lake Balboa, CA, 91406. Tell him Ron sent you. RP



More Church Bulletin Bloopers "Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days."

"The Lutheran Men's Group will meet at 7 p.m. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread and dessert will be served for a nominal feel."

"For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs."

"The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on the water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'"

ACE News ...

BAAC's San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble is pleased to announce a couple of additions to our group: Loyal BAAC member and supporter **Chris Arild** has agreed to be our Librarian. With two huge file cabinets filled with over 250 ensemble arrangements to organize—almost all of them Joe Smiell's arrangements and/or compositions—Chris has her hands full. Oh Chris, we do appreciate you!

We also welcome new member **Grigoriy Krumic** into our group. Grigoriy is a bayan player and a great sight reader, and we are to pleased to have him.

ACE also has some sad news. Beloved member **Ron Harris** suffered a stroke and has been in the hospital. He is receiving excellent therapy, and we hope and expect to have him back playing with us again as soon as he is able.

> MUSIC IS THE ONLY SENSUAL GRATIFI-CATION WHICH MANKIND MAY INDULGE IN TO EXCESS WITHOUT INJURY TO THEIR MORAL AND RELIGIOUS FEELINGS. Joseph Addison

Who Is Playing Where

Reno Di Bono and the Blue Moon Trio play for dancing every second Friday of the month at Montavalle in Scotts Valley, CA 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. For info call Reno (408) 252-3808 Joe Domitrowich and the Alpiners USA Saturday, June 22 7-10 p.m. Santa Cruz German Club, Plymouth St. (831) 427-0245 Dinner reservations required. Also every Sunday evening 5-9 p.m. At Tyrolean Inn, 9600 Highway 9 in Ben Lomond Phone (831) 336-5188 Music played outdoors, weather permitting For more info call Joe (408) 255-1259 Mike Zampiceni plays on Friday and Saturday nights At Di Cicco's Italian Restaurant 2509 Bascom Ave., San Jose For reservations call (408) 377-5850 William DeMichelis plays on Friday and Saturday nights At the Elbe German and European restaurant 117 University Avenue, Palo Alto Call (650) 321-3319 or visit www.elbe-restaurant.com

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5



Top: Keith church and Gloria; Lynn Ewing and Sharon Walters Above: Nora Mazzara; Marian Kelly Below: "Big Lou" and David

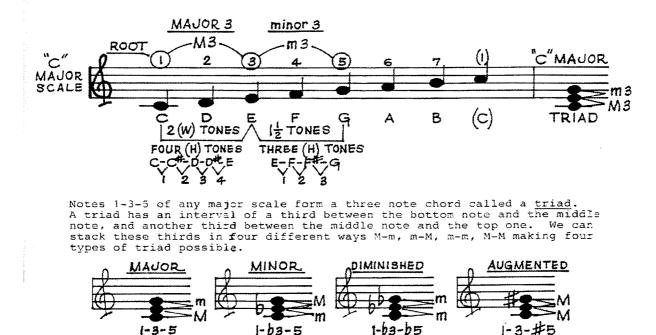


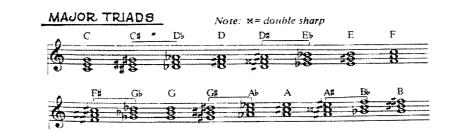
(BASIC MUSIC 2.)

The Major Third and Minor Third by Jim Holliday (Bay Area Accordion Club)

An <u>interval</u> is the distance in pitch between two notes. The smallest interval is the halftone (H) C-C#, Ab-A, E-F. An interval of two halftones is a whole tone (W) C-D, Ab-Bb, E-F#.

When two notes are separated by <u>four</u> halftones, that interval is called a <u>major third (M3)</u> C-E, Gb-Bb, A-C#. When two notes are separated by <u>three</u> halftones, that interval is called a <u>minor third (m3)</u> C-Eb, Gb-A, A-C.

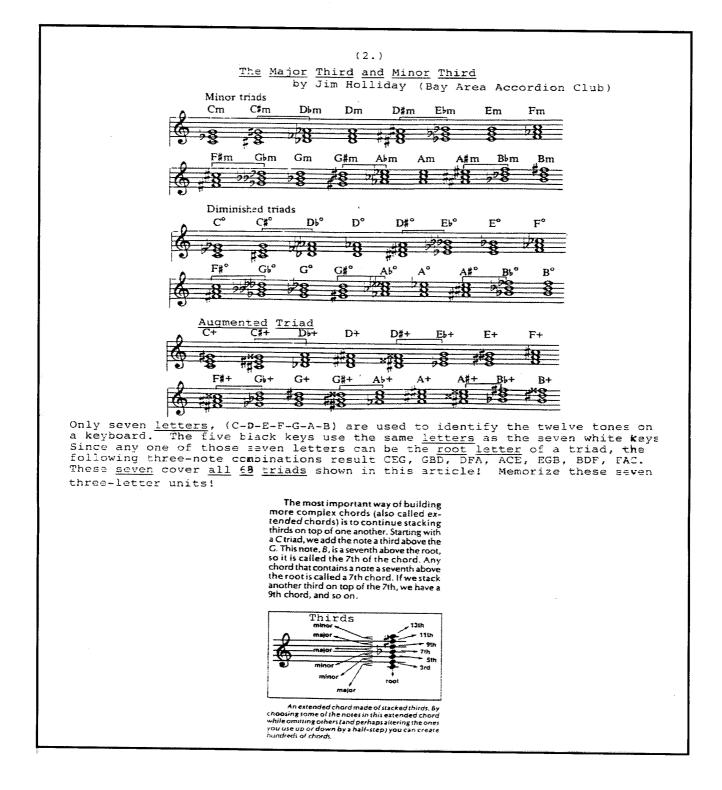




* bracketed chords are enharmonically related. Same pitch, different names.

When you sharp a note that is already sharp, it becomes a <u>double sharp</u> (X). When you flat a note that is already flat, it becomes a <u>double flat</u> (bb).

FOR SALE: RUSSIAN BAYAN, "B" SYSTEM Call Grigoriy Krumik (415) 387-3714 FOR SALE: Yamaha Electric Keyboard 61 keys, no amp. required Has rhythm section Asking \$295.00 Call Lou Casalnuovo (650) 756-4670



Word Has It . . .

... that **Barbara Firpo**, wife of our indispensable BAAC member **Jim Firpo**, had an unwelcome hospital visit but is home now and doing much better.

... That the Accordion club of the Redwoods has a terrific picnic planned, for July 19, just one week after the BAAC picnic. It will be held at Penngrove Community Park, Penngrove (near Petaluma), from 10:00 a.m. Cost: \$10 adult, \$5.00 children under 12. For info call John Pordon (707) 935-7334, or mail check made out to ACR, to 349 Francisco Drive, Sonoma, CA 95476. Let's support our fellow clubs!

... that (so I hear) the police chief on the TV series *The District* plays accordion!—and also that **Frank Marocco** has appeared on the program! So, now I'll begin watching that show (even though it is in reruns by now)!

... that the **BAAC Ensemble** played at the Accordion club of the Redwoods and, from all accounts, was a hit! Meanwhile, the **Fun Band** is hard at work preparing for the BAAC picnic and some gigs in August in the North Bay.

Come and join in ... Bay Area Accordion Club

Meets 7 p.m. the second Thursday of the month Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St. Daly City/Colma For information call Val (510) 531-4836 Website: www.baaccordionclub.org East Bay Accordion Circle Meets the second Thursday of the month 1517 – 5th St., Berkeley. Bring your accordion! For information call (510) 548-2822 **Accordion Club of the Redwoods** Meets 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma For information call Harry (707) 838-2859 Golden State Accordion Club Meets 7 PM the second Tuesday of the month At Pietro's #2, 679 Merchant St. in Vacaville And 7 PM the fourth Wednesday at Sheepherders Inn, 11275 Folsom Blvd. in Rancho Cordova For information call (707) 864-2359 Northern California Accordion Society Meets 7 PM the third Thursday of the month Polish American Community Hall 327 Main Street, Roseville Info: Call Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041 Good Time Accordion Club Meets 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month Community Center 1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon For information call (209) 545-3603 South Bay Accordion Jam Third Sunday of the month 2:00 p.m. Theatre Room of Sunny View Manor, 22445 Cupertino Road (Off N. Foothill Blvd.) in Cupertino (Note change of venue from Campbell to Cupertino) Silicon Valley Accordion Society Meets on the first Sunday of the Month Seventh Day Adventist church 5265 Carter Ave., near Camden & Kooser For Info Phone (408) 570-5003 Website: www.SVASociety.com **BAAC Ensemble Practice** Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Moose Lodge 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City For information call Frank (650) 574-4757 **BAAC "Fun Band" Practice** First and Third Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Moose Lodge 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City For information call Frank (510) 339-1163





MUSIC WASHES AWAY FROM THE SOUL THE DUST OF EVERYDAY LIFE. Berthold Auerbach

Your Executive Board Met...

... on Tuesday, May 6. We have a total of \$13,493 in all accounts as of end of April (this includes the money donated for the benefit of the ACE ensemble last December). The Nominating Committee is hard at work lining up a recommended slate of officers and directors for the election, which takes place in September. We are in the process of making an inventory of all the club's physical assets. No one has seen our stage sign for a while. We need to find out where it is. We are planning a continuation workshop by Peter Di Bono as soon as we can get a firm date. The club picnic takes place July 12 We will begin listing past presidents and Honorary Members in each newsletter.



Question for BAAC Members! Would you like to have a workshop, or series of workshops, for <u>total beginners</u>? Some people seem intimidated about attending workshops because they fear that they aren't "good enough." The board proposes that we offer beginning workshops, free to BAAC members, if there is any interest. PLEASE LET VAL KNOW!! (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@value.net



<u>Coming Events</u>

June 1-5, 2003 Silver Falls Accordion Camp, Sublimity, Oregon Call Geoff Levear (503) 452-4517 gleavear@aol.com Thursday, June 12, 2003 7 p.m. BAAC Meeting featuring GARY BLAIR Moose Club, 7535 Mission St. Daly City June 17-21, 2003 Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration Leavenworth, WA Info: Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 327, Leavenworth, WA 98826 (509) 548-5807; email info@leavenworth.org June 22-25, 2003 Las Vegas International Accordion Convention Starring Myron Floren, Dick Contino, Art Van Damme, and Anthony Galla-Rini appearing for the first time together on one stage! And featuring Pete Barbutti, Pino Di Madugno, Kenny Kotwitz, Don Lipovac, Gina Branelli and much, much more! Call (800) 472-1695 or (801) 486-1695 Or visit www.accordionstars.com E-mail Vegas@accordioninfo.com June 25-29, 2003 ATG Competition and Festival Info: Joan C. Sommers, 2312 W. 71 Terrace Prairie Village, KS (913) 722-5625 E-mail: sommersJ@umkc.edu July 9-13, 2003 American Accordionists' Association AAĂ Festival Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia International Airport Info: AAA, 580 Kearny Ave., Kearny, NJ 07032 (201) 991-2233; FAX (201) 991-1944; e-mail isoleyreed@aol.com Or see Val who has the form July 7-13, 2003 Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Championships (KIOTAC), Kimberley, B.C. Info: KIOTAC, Box 473, Kimberley, B.C., VIA 3B9, Canada (250) 427-4547 or (800) 4-KIOTAC KIOTAC@monarch.net Saturday, July 12 **BAAC Annual Picnic** Nature Friends Park, Oakland July 27-Aug. 1, 2003 14th Annual Galla-Rini Accordion Camp Held at the University of San Diego campus Info: see Val, or call Kjell Holmes (858) 453-5486 Saturday, July 19 10 a.m. on Accordion Club of the Redwoods Picnic Penngrove Park See notice on page 7 "Word Has It"

BAAC Honorary Members

Vince Cirelli Dick Contino Myron Floren Anthony Galla-Rini Gordon Piatanesi Art Van Damme Joe Smiell

BAAC Past Presidents

Lou Soper Dominic Palmisano Peter di Bono Frank Montoro Bob Berta Marian Kelly

BAAC Officers

President: Valerie T. Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@value.net Vice President: Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163 Treasurer: Bob Pisani (650) 347-2559 grnduster@aol.com Secretary: Richard Schiller (510) 832-3002 richards38@aol.com <u>Directors</u> Vince Cirelli (415) 467-2208 James Firpo (415) 648-3674 Ed Massolo (650) 589-8409 Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938

BAAC MEMBERSHIP

\$25 per year for individual;
\$30 per year for a family Mail check to B.A.A.C.
P.O. Box 318175
San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

Ad Policy

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$5.00 per issue; a business-card-size ad will cost \$5.00 per issue or \$50.00 per year; a quarter-page ad will cost \$10.00; a half-page ad will cost \$20.00; and a full-page ad will cost \$35.00. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$10. The cost for ads placed by non-members will be twice the above-guoted prices

Teacher Listings

... Will reappear in the next issue of The BAAC Page. If needed, please refer to a recent issue or visit www.BAACcordionclub.org or www.info@boazaccordions.com





Newsletter of the San Francisco BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUB P.O. Box 318175 San Francisco, CA 94131-8175 www.BAACcordionclub.org



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