



**President's Message** 

Wow, there's so much going on I scarcely can think straight! First, we had Sev Garcia for the April meeting. He's always a hit! (See writeup elsewhere in this newsletter.) Then we had the great workshop with Sev that Saturday. John and I were fortunate to have Sev as our houseguest during his stay, and we had a lot of

fun. In spite of the rain, we had a good turnout for the workshop, and some of you even made it to our house for a little party for Sev Saturday evening (photos on pages 4 and 8).

A few days after Sev left, Stas Venglevski and John Simkus arrived and were also our houseguests. Again, we had a grand time. It seems so quiet around here with no houseguests! Stas and John gave a terrific concert twice in the Bay Area: once in Stockton and once here at our Moose Club in Daly City, sponsored by the M.A.P. program.

The Scholarship program is seeking applicants. See me for the forms.

If you have any **accordions or other items belonging to BAAC** or know who has any, please let me know. We want to make a complete inventory of our club's assets.

I know many of you play for retirement homes, veterans' homes, schools, etc, bringing joy to the residents and young students. Keep it up! It's also a perfect way to get over the stage fright "butterflies"—which actually improves your playing. I play regularly for three retirement homes here in the East Bay, and one school quite regularly, others from time to time. It's a great and mutually beneficial experience.

There is still space available at **Galla-Rini Camp** in San Diego July 27-Aug. 1. See me for details and sign-up forms! We'd like to honor the Maestro with as many camp participants as possible. It's an experience you'll never forget!

## April Meeting: a Little of Everything

In the first half of the meeting we were treated to the longawaited program by **Sev Garcia**, who came all the way from Porterville for this meeting. First Sev played his light jazz arrangements of *C Jam Blues* (Duke Ellington), *After You've Gone* (Creamer-Layton), *Tea for Two* (Youman), *Tenderly* (Gross & Lawrence), Magnante arrangement of *Turkish March* (Mozart—which Magnante called "Mozart's Been Around"), *Perdido* (Juan Tizol) and *Sentimental Journey* (Brown, Green & Homer).

Then Sev turned to the old Big Band sounds, using his MIDI recorded orchestral sounds behind his playing. He played *String of Pearls* (De Lang & Gray), *In the Mood* (J. Garland), *Moonlight Serenade* (Miller & Parish), and for his encore, the beloved *American Patrol* (Meacham; Big Band arrangement by Glenn Miller), which included elements of *Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean* and *The Gal I Left Behind Me*.

Sev used very rich harmonies, varied dynamics and rhythms, fills and other surprises. Some of his renditions were very unusual and absolutely beautiful. As for the Mozart piece, Sev says Mozart definitely would have played accordion if accordions had been around in Mozart's day (Joe Smiell has said the same thing). Sev has amazing control of the bellows, with nice, smooth decays at the ends of phrases and pieces, with no "Whomps" at the end. He also had a very active left hand. What a treat! Let's hope Sev comes around often! (Continued)

May Meeting: Ladies' Night! Always a favorite. We'll have a variety of acts by the ladies (and at least one male player as well).

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 8, 2003 7 PM Moose Lodge Daly City

Val

After Sev came another great program by **Frank Mon**toro, who commented that the Hispanics are going to take over the club! First Frank played Rubinstein's *Romance*; then *Por Fin Toros*, a Paso Doble; a medley of *When I fall in Love, Let's Fall in Love* and *The Way You Look Tonight; Carte Postale* (a musette); *Woman Crazy for Me; Can't Help Lovin' That Man of Mine; Begin the Beguine* (Porter); and *Inspiration*, a tango.

Frank also spoke a little about the recent ACE concerts, naming the BAAC members who showed their support by attending the concerts (Frank Schlotter, Barbara and Dale Winter, Dennis Stoscher, Ernst and Lupita Angst, Michael Sanossian), and expressing the wish that more members would attend. (There were also some members who wanted to attend but were unable to.)

Frank also discussed some aspects of accordion playing that any accordionist should be aware of: use of bellow control for phrasing, dynamics and articulation, all of which Joe Smiell emphasizes whenever possible. Frank also described tone color and other variations that make music out of plain notes. The accordion, because of the bellows, is especially well suited for all these types of musical expression, and the bellow is the most underused part of the accordion. Dynamics refers to loud and soft, Articulation refers to the degree to which notes are separated or connected, Phrasing is the equivalent of a sentence in speaking. Add to the above Interpretation (i.e. tone color), and put them all together to make music. Frank demonstrated all of the above beautifully with his playing. We thank both Sev and Frank for their splendid presentations.

Val then announced the upcoming **Stas Venglevski** and John Simkus program on Saturday, April 19, right here at Moose, sponsored by the "M.A.P." program (Lou Soper). She also reminded everyone about Sev Garcia's very important workshop on Saturday, April 12, also here at Moose, on "How to Memorize."

Following intermission was the "Open Mic." segment of the meeting, which included Peter Di Bono playing Val's small red Giullietti and making it sound terrific with a French waltz and *Flight of the Angels*. Lou Soper then played several standards, including some vocals, using Frank Montoro's Colombo accordion. Jim Hillman joined in the party, playing André Paris' accordion, with *La Vie En Rose* and several others. Val played a couple of numbers on her little red Giullietti and managed to miss a chair that someone put under her and landed "thump!" on the floor, accordion and all—again an encore to the Christmas tree incident in December!





TO ME "GOD BLESS AMERICA" IS NOT JUST A SONG BUT AN EXPRES-SION OF MY FEELING TOWARD THE COUNTRY TO WHICH I OWE WHAT I HAVE AND WHAT I AM Irving Berlin

### Word Has It ...

... that **Dominic Palmisano** has been in and out of the hospital several times in recent months. We were happy to see him at the April meeting and hope he is getting better and that we will see him more often.

... That faithful BAAC member **Kris Nelson** has been elected President of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods, a post he has held in previous years. Congratulations, Kris! And to retiring ACR president **Harry Cannata**, you did a great job and certainly earned a rest!

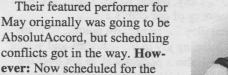
... That the **ACE Ensemble** gave two very successful concerts, one on March 30 in Piedmont and one on April 6 in Redwood City, and a few loyal BAAC members came to support us (it would have been nice to see more BAAC members there, but the ones who came were much appreciated).

... That Valarie Morris' Symphony of Light and Shadows was performed by the Sacramento Symphony to a full house. Valarie, who also gave a pre-concert lecture, had lots of excellent feedback from concertgoers, symphony staff, and musicians who played the music. The Chair of the Board of Directors said it was "fantastic"! Congratulations, Valarie! Keep up the good work! We're proud of you!

#### Welcome new member ...

A big BAAC welcome to **Don Pandori**, President of the new *Silicon Valley Accordion Society*, recently retired and a real accordion enthusiast, and a great player to boot (he calls himself a "stealth" accordionist).

Speaking of the SVAS ....



none other than **Joe Vento** of movies, The White House, "Tonight Show" and Three Suns fame. "Joe Joe," as he was called in younger years (he's now 76), has a very rich and colorful his-

where in this newsletter)

meeting on Sunday, May 4 is



tory which you can read by going to the SVAS Website, www.SVASociety.com/joe\_vento.htm. Don't miss this meeting if you can help it! (For meeting time and location see SVAC Website or "Come and Join In" else-

## Our condolences ...

go to Steve and Jennie Balich, on the passing of Steve's brother Peter, a WW II veteran, horticulturist for UCSF for 32 years and a dedicated family man.

#### Your Executive Board Met ...

.. on Tuesday, April 9. The club is where it should be financially. We have \$13,670.18 in all accounts as of April 8. The board voted to add Gordon Piatanesi, Vince Cirelli and Joe Smiell to the list of Honorary Members which already includes Art Van Damme, Anthony Galla-Rini, Dick Contino and Myron Floren. ("Honorary Member" is not the same as "Lifetime Member" although both receive the BAAC Page free of charge.) Certificates of Honorary Membership will be awarded at the June meeting.

The picnic will take place at Oakland's Nature Friends Park on Saturday, July 12. We are beginning to set up the playing schedule, with the Fun Band first on the program. We will provide a table for people who have accordion-related items to sell.

We are going to try to find out exactly what property (all kinds) that BAAC owns and write up an inventory. This is a difficult task that has been tried in the past and never successfully completed.

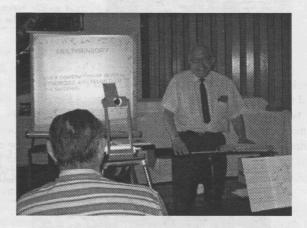
The Nominating Committee is working on finding candidates for President, Secretary and Treasurer as well as board members.



#### Sev Garcia's Workshop On How to Memorize, held on April 12 ...

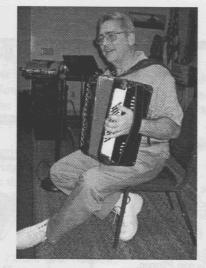
... was a huge success, with 24 participants. The material was very well organized, presented by a projector and screen, and every point made was useful. Sev handed out questionnaires for feedback and sent the results to Val. It was almost 100% favorable. Did you ever try humming with your tongue (not necessarily singing) to help you find the correct phrasing (places to take a breath)? Did you ever try to practice a piece backwards-starting at the end and working toward the beginning, mastering each phrase, one at a time, in reverse order? Sev had hoped more people would bring their accordions for more hands-on work, but he was able to tailor the workshop to accommodate the lack of people willing to play. Why were there not more accordions at the workshop? Stage fright? The rainy weather? (Stay tuned for news of the next workshop)



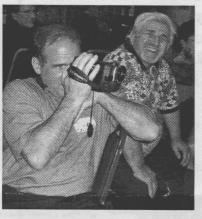


Sev Garcia's Workshop: Frank Schlotter and Sev (Another photo on page 4)



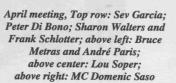






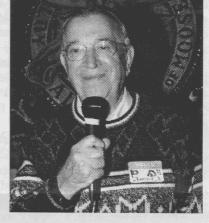






Left: Jim Hillman

Right: Sev Garcia workshop (Sev in the middle, between Evelyn Baulch and Jim Holliday)







Saturday Party for Sev Garcia Left: Marian Kelly and Dennis Stoscher; Right: Dennis Stoscher and Sev



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## Excerpts from classified sections of city newspapers

- Auto Repair Service. Free pick-up and delivery. Try us once, you'll never go anywhere again.
- Our experienced Mom will care for your child. Fenced yard, meals, and smacks included.
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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, May 17 7-10 p.m. Santa Cruz German Club, Plymouth St. (831) 427-0245 Dinner reservations required. Large dance floor Sunday, May 25 and 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 The Internationals Saturday, May 10 Teske's Germania, 255 N. First St., San Jose (408) 292-0291

Art Van Damme and his Quintet Sunday, May 25 The Sands Regency Hotel Ballroom in Reno Info: the Sands Regency (775) 348-2200



Stas Venglevski and John Simkus (M.A.P.) concert April 19 Above: Stas and John; Below: Lou and Mary Soper with Stas and John



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Thanks to Vince Cirelli for Contributing this article (2 pages)

School Guide Directory

The Nation's Leading Accordion Schools will be found listed on this and succeeding pages. You may enroll with the utmost confidence and with complete assurance that you will receive the very finest instruction available.

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JOHN CALVANO Accordion Studio Boot LOK AVENUE Bootlagton Park, Cal LA. 3217 LA. 1986

SYDNEY DAWSON Specializing in Music Fundamentals and Teaching Methods for Teachers and Advanced Sinfants 7015 RUGBY AVENUE Huntington Park, Calif.



Jerraro Accordion Center 1933 W. Manchester Avenue Los Angeles 47, Cal. Phone PLEASANT 3-6463

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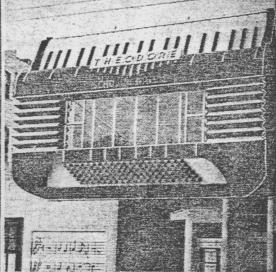
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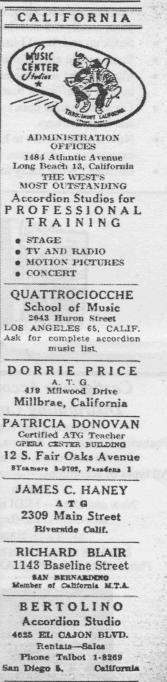
## THE MAN IN THE ACCORDION

In October 1950 San Franciscans were treated to the "unveiling" of one of the most unusual sights in architecture that it had ever been their pleasure to see and which they believe is one of the most unique buildings in the world. "The Accordion House," home of THEODORE SCHOOL OF MUSIC at 1666 Union St. The front of the top floor is built in the exact shape of an accordion with 120 basses and 43 treble keys. The keys are on the top of the house and they are regulation black and white. The accordion is black with chrome trim and red bellows. The registers on the treble side spell out the name "THEODORE" with SCHOOL OF MUSIC in large red letters below. The remarkable accuracy of this building was obtained by constructing the frame in wood in the general shape of an accordion, galvanized steel was shaped over it, then taken off and enameled, baked and porcelainized.

This gargantuan accordion was designed and supervised by Theodore whose large and beautiful studio is within the bellows of the instrument. On the same floor there are several other studios. Theodore's own apartment is on the



floor below the rear studios and to the rear of the store which is on the main floor front. Underneath the apartment is the garage and basement, making the building three stories in the



ACCORDION WORLD

• New School Guides, changes or corrections can be inserted only if received by the 10th of the month preceding publication ! !

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FEBRUARY, 1952 - Student-Tutor

This was written entirely for accordion in order to show the magnificent possibilities of that instrument. During the war something happened to make

Theodore Pezzola and his charming wife and partner.

Theodore alter his decision to become a priest, so after his discharge from the army he returned to his studies in Genoa where he obtained his teachers degree but was prevented by poor health from continuing and receiving the law degree that had been his aim.

Theodore had relatives in America and so de-cided that he might be able to find a place for himself here. He arrived in America in October 1921, a period of depression for everyone and for an immigrant with little much more so knowledge of English. He traveled the road of all immigrants, adapting himself to new cus-toms and a new language, doing the most menial tasks for his livelihood until he became accustomed to our ways and learned our language. He made every obstacle a stepping stone toward his goal and spent every spare moment in the further study of music and composition and harmony. Living in the North Beach section or the "Little Italy" of San Francisco he heard quite a lot of accordion playing and became in-terested in learning to play it. As he mattered the fundamentals of the accordion he became more and more excited about the possibilities of this instrument. It was being used for dance music, both popular and folk dances such as polkas, mazurkas, schottisches, etc., a little one-piece orchestra for parties and picnics and camping trips, which was wonderful—but peo-ple didn't seem to realize that this was an instrument with a future, a glarious future. If the world could just be made to realize that this was not just a toy, it was a real instrument, capable of performing passages that no other one instrument could, capable of concert work and





More Church Bulletin Bloopers For a national Prayer & Fasting Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals."

"Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you."



## Remember the "Mystery Player" behind Dinah Shore (page 8, April issue of The BAAC Page)?

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for one year

The response came quickly from **Gordon Piatanesi**, who writes: "Ernie Felice playing accordion next to Dinah Shore. What I know of this fine accordionist: I believe he was originally from San Jose. Played in the Bay Area for years. In the 1940's, he purchased a new Colombo accordion from us, at that time we were manufacturing in San Francisco. The unit was made with two sets of reeds on treble, four sets on bass. Both treble sets were clarinet reeds with on/off switch for each set. He would use one set of reeds for a while, then turn off that set, turn on the other set and play those for a while. This way reeds would not be strained and would hold their tone longer....

"Reason for the cover, he was hired by Benny Goodman to play with the B.G. quintet. Ernie and B.G. would play duets, and by using clarinet reed on muted accordion, it would blend beautifully with B. G. Clarinet. Ernie moved to L.A. to be with B. G.

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(Continued) -

While in L.A. connections were made with a movie studio. Ernie was the studio's accordionist for years. At times you would see him with band, other times as soloist. But always in the background. Since Felice lived in Southern Calif., when the time arrived for a new accordion, he purchased a new Sonola from a distributor and service center in LA. Later on, Sonola came out with a Felice model.

"From what I heard, Ernie started having arthritic problems in hands and shoulders, so he quit playing in the late 70's. For a while he was back in the Bay Area in the insurance business. Last I heard, he left the Bay Area. A great loss of a terrific accordionist. Hope this is helpful to you.

"Sincerely, "Gordon"

Thank you, Gordon!





Anyone staying with the Kiesers is in for a "horse fix"! Above: "Chico," Val, Sev, "Chulo"

Right: Stas aboard "Chulo," John Simkus holding the bridle





Left: Saturday party for Sev Garcia: Lou Soper, Don Pandori

Below: At Stas and John Simkus' **Concert: Anne and Bernard** Métais, Stas, Lynn Ewing



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 – 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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





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THE MAN THAT HATH NO MUSIC IN HIMSELF, NOR IS NOT MOVED WITH CONCORD OF SWEET SOUNDS. IS FIT FOR TREASONS, STRATAGEMS AND SPOILS

## **Coming Events**

Monday, May 19 7:30 p.m. The BAAC Ensemble will perform a short program at the Accordion Club of the Redwoods meeting Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma June 1-5, 2003 Silver Falls Accordion Camp, Sublimity, Oregon Call Geoff Levear (503) 452-4517 gleavear@aol.com 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 AAA 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 Kiell Holmes (858) 453-5486





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 Directors 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 guarter-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-quoted prices

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## THE BAAC PAGE

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





## FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

