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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 ENTERTAINMENT: DON'T MISS**  
*LOU JACKLICH and several of his students*  
*(they have been getting great reviews)*  
*THE ALEX GONZALES QUARTET—something new and different that is*  
*sure to please!*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As a member of the SFAC, I thought you would like to know the following: The State of the Club is sound. Get it? Sound, music? And very presidential too.

Let's look at the following categories as we look back to 2008 and plan for the new year.

**FINANCE:** Treasurer Maryanne Romanowski has done an excellent job of keeping track of our money. She presents a "Profit and Loss" statement each month to the Board of Directors. Currently we have a healthy balance of \$14,604. Our monthly expenses and income are usually in balance. Rental and food costs at our monthly meetings are offset by the door admissions, and while these vary depending on attendance, they balance out over the year.

In addition to her usual duties, Maryanne successfully was able to reapply for our tax- exempt status as a club this year, which we had allowed to lapse.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Val Kieser maintains a list of paid-up members and receives the dues, which are then deposited by Maryanne., who also maintains a list. Unfortunately, there are always a few members who choose not to continue, and we are obliged to drop them from the rolls after a grace period.

Our current membership is 243 members (i.e. newsletters mailed), not including Lifetime members, past presidents, and Honorary members.

**Recently we began transferring a few of Val's duties to** Maryanne as Treasurer to relieve Val of one of the many hats she wears. The transition is going smoothly.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Thanks to member Evelyn Baulch and our monthly raffle, we raised enough cash to grant five scholarships of \$250 each to deserving accordion students. Half of the money raised went toward our scholarship fund and the rest to the lucky members who drew the right numbers. Vice President Lynn Ewing is currently working on some new scholarship guidelines which will be made available to all accordion teachers when it is completed.

**INSURANCE:** Board members Gus Greyhosky and Maryanne Romanowski are currently studying various insurance plans that will include coverage for the Board as well as the club. Coverage is expensive and we need to be assured that it will cover all of our concerns.

**NEWSLETTER:** One of our pride and joys is our monthly newsletter. Up to now it has been the job of one sole member, Val Kieser, who has been doing the job for years. To relieve her of some of the tireless work of compiling, editing and publishing the

*(Continued on page 5)*

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

*Our Website is again active and growing—check it out! [www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)*

## A Gala Christmas Party

Before the musical meeting started, Val played a few less-known but lovely carols and Christmas songs. President Frank Montoro noted that all four of the living founders of our club were present at this gathering: Jim Holliday, Rusty Bartoli, Walter Traverso and Dominic Palmisano. A great showing! We missed the other founder, the late Lou Soper.

Frank also mentioned that Treasurer Maryanne **Romanowski's company** donated \$200 to the club, and that Secretary Lore Warren obtained the wonderful German *Stollen* cakes that everyone enjoyed. We thank both of you and also those who brought other goodies to the meeting. You are much appreciated!

MC for the day was Gus Greyhosky, who always does a fantastic job.

The first item of entertainment was Randy Hicks and Val Kieser playing three Christmas songs as a duo: *Away In a Manger* in both the familiar melodies; a cute polka called *Santa Claus Is On his Way*; and a lovely Christmas piece familiar to Italians called *Tu Scendi dalle Stelle* (From Starry Skies Thou Comest).



**Randy and Val**

Next up was Lynn Ewing playing and singing her now-famous novelty songs, *I'm Getting' Nuttin' for Christmas* and *The Twelve Days of Vacation*—and every year these two adorable songs enchant us as if



**Lynn Ewing**



**MC Gus Greyhosky**

for the first time.

A nice surprise for us all was Grigoriy Krumik with his brand new Excelsior bayan. Grigoriy gave us an expert performance of a Russian piece (I didn't get the name) and Piazzola's famous *Libertango*.

Finishing up the first half of the program was the San Francisco Accordion Band, a.k.a. the "**Fun Band**," playing several Christmas numbers, which included (not sure I recall all of them): *Home for the Holidays*, *Holly Jolly Christmas*, *Coventry Carol*, *The Night Before Christmas*, *Silver Bells*, *Toyland*, *Up on the Housetops*, *White Christmas*, and, as every year, *Auld Lang Syne*. The band members worked hard on this program, and Val was very proud of them.

Before intermission, a surprise birthday cake and song were presented to Vince Cirelli (see photo on opposite page).

During intermission Val played a few carols, accompanied at times by Caroline Grannan, and Mike Hirigoyen handed out candy canes.

The second half of the program was a performance of the San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble, under the direction of Joe Smiell, who also wrote all the arrangements. Besides several potpourris of familiar Christmas carols, the Ensemble played a few of its concert pieces, including a delightful "*American Sketch*" of familiar American folk songs;

*New York, New York*; *Grande Marcia Italiana*; *Repsz Band*; *Irish Washerwoman*; *White Christmas*; and the beautiful *Prisoners' Chorus* from Verdi's *Nabucco*.



**The SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble**



**Grigoriy Krumik**



**The San Francisco Accordion Band (Fun Band)**

(Continued from preceding page)

A fitting conclusion to another great year for the San Francisco Accordion Club!

Val

Here are a few more photos of the day . . .



Vince Cirelli Cuts Birthday Cake



Welcome Table



Jeff and Nia Chiou (Nia won the cash)



Frank Schlotter and others enjoy Tuti's wonderful buffet



Ho! Ho! Ho!



The two birthday cakes for Vince, side by side, complete the message



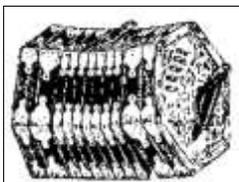
Dave Perry, Joe Smiell, André Paris



Pres. Frank Montoro



Enjoying the "Afterglow": Joe Smiell, Tor Arild, Chris Arild, Val Kieser, Telmo Echeverría





*President's Message (continued from page 1)*

newsletter, including photography, we were able to recruit member Randy Hicks to take over the formatting/production as of this coming April, and we thank him sincerely. Some others also will help with writing up the musical meetings.

PROGRAM: All of the Board members share in the job of recruiting participants to play at our monthly meetings. Because Val is so well known to the accordion world, she is often contacted by guest accordionists who plan to be in our area and ask to play for us. We depend on our members to volunteer to play, but sometimes we get together and assign a specific board member to act as contact person to issue an invitation. We are pleased that so many new people have played for us this past year, including a number of younger players.

**We were a sponsor of the recent "Accordion Babes" calendar project as a way to advertise our club to the broader community; the project was a huge success. Our club musical meeting dates are indicated in every month of the calendar.**

FINALLY: Thanks to of you who participated in some way to make 2008 another fine year.

*Frank Montoro*

## IN MEMORIAM



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The accordion world is shocked and saddened by the untimely passing of Thomas Bruno in a tragic accident in which a tree fell directly on him. Tom was just 36 years old. He had a very successful accordion repair/restoration business and was an outstanding performer on both accordion and piano. He was an expert on everything to do with Charles Magnante and had an enormous collection of Magnante memorabilia. Tom was very highly educated, with a degree in mechanical engineering, was well spoken and always optimistic, having undying faith that everything was going to be fine. We had the great pleasure of two visits to the Bay Area by Tom in 2005 and 2006, when he wowed the local clubs with his great playing. We were eagerly looking forward to his next visit, this time to be accompanied by his beloved Amber.

Just a small bit of background: Tom acquired the accordion repair business in 1997 from his close friend, teacher and mentor **Mario Mosti**, after apprenticing with Mosti for 12 years. **A couple of quotes: from Tom Fudala of Richmond, VA: "I, too, am very shocked by this news. Tom was a fine gentleman and really loved the music of Charles Magnante and played it well. He will be missed. The good news: He is now in heaven with Charles Magnante whom he never personally met." From Kevin Solecki of Pittsburgh: Tom was "... one of the nicest people you'd ever meet—just a very kind, genuine person. ... He was a flawless player; just to watch his hands up and down the keyboard, I was in awe." Many, many more comments can be read online by Googling Tom Bruno, or any of the larger accordion sites, or on Henry Doktorski's Website.**

We at the SFAC extend our deepest condolences to the Bruno Family and to Tom's dear Amber.



*Tom with his Excelsior Symphony Gold*



*Vince Cirelli with Tom in Vince's shop in Brisbane*

## Welcome New Members

Deeana McLemore of San Mateo is a lover of accordion music even though she is not a player. Deeana is a longtime friend and admirer of Lynn Ewing, is well known to several of us SFAC members, and has been known to attend many of our musical gatherings over **several years. She writes, "I think you all are such dedicated musicians and I am glad to have this opportunity to hear fun and beautiful music."**

Rosalind Mincher of Burlingame has just begun learning piano accordion and joined at the last musical meeting.

WELCOME ABOARD to Deeana and Rosalind, and we hope to see you often! Please make yourselves known at the next musical meeting so that we may present you to the other club members!

## "Mystery Accordionist"

revealed!

On recognizing himself, and being unable to deny it, the handsome young Mystery Accordionist did indeed step forward—and it is none other than — *TA-DA!* — our own *MIKE ZAMPICENI!*

(Our thanks to Randy Hicks for spotting the photo on a piece of sheet music from the "old days.")



More Angels Explained by Children

"Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else."—*Mitchell, age 7.* "My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science."—*Henry, age 8.* "When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath, somewhere there's a tornado."—*Reagan, age 10.*



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## When Do Our Fellow Accordion Clubs in the Bay Area (and slightly beyond) Meet?

Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR) regularly meets on the third Monday of the month, Hermann & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Contact: Kris Nelson [krisnelson@aol.com](mailto:krisnelson@aol.com) or (707) 795-4860.

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

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC) has three chapters: The Vacaville club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30, at Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main street, Vacaville. The Humboldt Club meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551. The Sacramento group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. Contact for all the GSAC Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359.

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

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

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Our Sincere Thanks

To those who generously donate to the Club.

Each year we start a new cumulative list of donors. If you donate in 2009 and your name doesn't show up in this column, please call Val (510) 531-4836 or [vtkacc@ifn.net](mailto:vtkacc@ifn.net) and let me know. We want to be sure you are recognized! Thanks! These donations are very much appreciated. So far this year your Editor has learned of donations from: Maryanne Romanowski and her firm, which is Care2.com Inc. (I know there was at least one other but accidentally recycled the sheet of paper so can't look it up now—I hope that person will contact me!—Val)

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**SF Accordion Band Practice**

**Wed., Jan. 28 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's Home in Oakland**

CALL AHEAD because sometimes there are changes!! Please join us! Info: call Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163 or Val (510) 531-4836 [vtkacc@ifn.net](mailto:vtkacc@ifn.net)



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**"Where is my friend playing?"** Contact:

- \* Steve Balich North Bay (707) 874-3494 \* Ron Borelli Peninsula (650) 574-5707 [rborelli@aol.com](mailto:rborelli@aol.com)
- \* Renée de la Prade **Culann's Hounds, San Francisco** [www.sfhounds.com](http://www.sfhounds.com)
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**SFAC MEMBERSHIP**  
**\$30 per year, individual or family**  
**Mail check to S.F.A.C.**  
**C/O Valerie Kieser**  
**3437 Crane Way**  
**Oakland, CA 94602**  
**Admission to Meetings: \$5 for members**  
**\$7 for each guest**

**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.

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**NEXT MEETING:**

Sunday, January 18, 2009  
2:00 Oyster Point Yacht Club



*Newsletter of the  
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