



January • 2011

# the San Francisco Accordion Club NEWSLETTER

## January 16, 2011

- **Dan Newton, Daddy Squeeze**
- **Calendar Babes** (calendars still available!)
- **Rob Reich, musician composer**
- **a special screening of Steve Mobia's "Behind the Bellows"**

Fifth St. Farms is thrilled to present **Dan Newton**, aka "*Daddy Squeeze.*" Dan is a brilliant multi-ethnic unique accordion player who enjoys sharing the wonderful sound of the reeds and music from all over the world. [www.daddysqueeze.com](http://www.daddysqueeze.com)

Dan is a cheerful ambassador of all things accordion and a talented teacher. In addition to the Saturday night concert, Dan will host an accordion workshop for players of all levels on Sunday, January 16 and will play at **our club meeting in the afternoon.**



Dan Newton

Fifth St. Farms is located in a beautiful old house in West Berkeley: 1517 Fifth Street, between Cedar and Jones (upstairs).

**CONCERT • Saturday, January 15:**  
doors open at 7 pm, music at 7:30

\$15-20 sliding scale, all proceeds go to the musicians. For reservations, write to [fifthstfarms@gmail.com](mailto:fifthstfarms@gmail.com) or call 510 525-9248.

**ACCORDION WORKSHOP:**  
**Sunday, January 16,**  
**11 a.m.- 1 p.m. \$20.**  
**Bring your own squeezebox**

**and the Calendar Babes are . . .**



Big Lou

**Big Lou the Accordion Princess**—A San Francisco Favorite, Big Lou has 20 years of experience as a solo accordionist. She has played weddings, birthday parties, anniversaries, corporate parties, romantic dinners a deux, and, sadly, funerals. Lou provides the perfect atmosphere for French, Italian, German and Eastern European-themed events.

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**Tara Linda**— Equipped with a sultry voice, button accordion, and baritone guitar, chanteuse Tara Linda plays roots rock; blending spaghetti western and Latin torch. A Hohner-endorsed artist, she writes new tangos, waltzes, and boleros, and skirts global genres to blend them into a style uniquely hers. Her performances are described as “mesmerizing” (Oakland Tribune/San Jose Mercury News) and her vocals “rich” and “sultry” (The Muse’s Muse). Influenced by the early torch singers of American and Latin American cultures, Tara writes original music grounded in the Texas traditions she grew up with; Americana, blues, rock, and jazz. She has a world music heritage (Indian) and sings in Spanish and English. [www.taralinda.com](http://www.taralinda.com)

**Jetty Swart-Yeti** pronounces her first name “Yeti”, was born in the port of Amsterdam, spent half a life-time in France before landing in San Francisco. She found an accordion on her way from Prague to Berlin, passing by New York and Mexico. She sings most of her songs in French, speaks English, dreams in Dutch and calls her music “a punk-style gypsy party where Nina Hagen, Edith Piaf and Kurt Weill meet.” From playing on the streets in the south of France to performances at the Francophonie Festival in Poland, Jetty is hilarious, engaging, dramatic, energetic, touching and thoroughly original. Videos of her performances and samples of her music can be found @ [www.myspace.com/yetila](http://www.myspace.com/yetila)



Jetty Swart-Yeti



Vagabondage Photo by Su-Yin Mah

**Cindy Emcy & Vagabondage** play acoustic gypsy punk, americana, ghost town country, murder ballads and drinking songs for the proletariat with the Bay Area bands **Vagabondage**, **Rhubarb Whiskey** and the **Oakland Wine Drinkers Union**, **Local #88**. With her tall tales about drinkin’ whiskey, love, friendship, and the open road, she is sure to charm you. One can find show listings, music and booking information at [www.vagabondageband.com](http://www.vagabondageband.com), [www.rhubarbwhiskey.com](http://www.rhubarbwhiskey.com) and [www.oakland-winedrinkersunion.com](http://www.oakland-winedrinkersunion.com).

**Skyler Fell & Ariel McGurty** are on a quest to bring the accordion to new generations. Skyler is proprietress and repair woman and Ariel is her assistant. **The Accordion Apocalypse Repair Shop**—San Francisco’s accordion hub, features accordion repair, tuning, sales, lessons, music night, and more! Skyler plays accordion and sings with the dark carnival gypsy jug band **The Hobo Gobelins**, as well as **Tumbleweed Time Machine**, and the **Accordion Apocalypse House Band**.

(cont. page 3)

**Luz Gaxiola** fuses accordion with circus and comedy. She is a clown with *Circus Finelli*, San Francisco's all-women clown troupe, who specialize in pairing breathtaking circus acts with irreverent comedy. Besides accordion, Luz also plays trombone and theremin. She is based in San Francisco, and can be seen performing up and down the coast from Seattle to Mazatlan.



*Luz Gaxiola photo by Shimona Cavartios*

**Salane Schultz** has an original deep vocal quality—her made up lyrics tend to ponder life while exploring emotions which many of us share. She explores her existence through music and art. Using electronic effects, keyboards, shakers, bells, percussion, tin whistles, other various noise makers, props, masks and—she changes her look for each performance, and her music is always a surprise.



*Salane Schultz*



*Rob Reich*

**Rob Reich** is an acclaimed accordionist, pianist, and composer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. A talented instrumentalist and an inventive composer, Rob is steeped in many traditions.

In addition to being a versatile solo performer, Rob can be heard playing with many top notch ensembles. He is a member of *Tin Hat*, *Gaucho* and *The Nice Guy Trio*, and freelances with many other Bay Area bands.

Rob graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Composition from Oberlin Conservatory. Rob recently completed a commission for the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, “Sidewalks and Alleys”, performed by the Nice Guy Trio and an all-star string quartet. Rob also composes music for Circus Bella.

[www.robreich.com](http://www.robreich.com)

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## **A Special Post-Meeting Opportunity – BEHIND THE BELLOWS**

Steve Mobia has graciously agreed to offer us a special screening of his documentary film *Behind The Bellows*. Because of the otherwise welcomed natural light at the Oyster Point Yacht club, we will show the film after the sun has set following our January meeting.



*Steve Mobia*

### **About the film:**

Seven years in the making, this is the first full-length American documentary about the beloved, and often misunderstood squeezebox: its history and variety as well as its effect on popular culture.

*Behind The Bellows* contains insightful interviews with accordion legends such as **Anthony Galla-Rini**, **Guy Klucevsek** and **Dick Contino**, among many others. See the original drawings for the accordion's patent of 1829 as well as the first design of the concertina.

Visit an accordion museum and a factory where the instrument's many parts are created. Venture through several types of concertinas and button boxes, as well as a presentation of MIDI accordions. See historic clips of Guido Deiro, Art Van Damme, Lawrence Welk and Frankie Yankovic. Discover why Lady of Spain is associated with the accordion. See the first attempt to make a rock-n-roll accordion. And listen to where the accordion might be headed in the future.



*still photo from "Behind the Bellows"*

For those with an internet connection you can see a trailer on YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qyzcSfvOwc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qyzcSfvOwc)

If you haven't seen Steve's documentary, you are truly missing a wonderful tribute to the accordion – those of us who have seen the documentary are equally as excited about seeing it again. Please consider staying on after the meeting to meet the filmmaker and see this important documentary on our favorite instrument.

*Randy Hicks*

## We Wish You a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Our December meeting began with **Reno Di Bono** strolling amongst the audience and setting the mood for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon – even though . . . “*the weather outside was frightful.*”

After a few brief announcements by President Lynn Ewing, our MC for the afternoon – **Skyler Fell** introduced the first performer – a beginning accordion student, **Massimo Sciaroni**, 8 years old and playing now for 5 months! Massimo played *Jingle Bells* and set the mood quite nicely. Following her student, **Sharon Walter Greyhosky**, performed two pieces – *Nine Blind Mice* and a lovely rendition of *Christmas Time is Here*, which truly says Christmas time IS here for those of us who grew up with “A Charlie Brown Christmas.”

Next, the **San Francisco Accordion Band** directed by **Val Kieser** played a variety of seasonal favorites, inviting the audience to sing along. One of the highlights was **Joe Smiell**’s arrangement of **Handel’s Royal Fireworks Music**, which the band has been diligently working on this past fall. In appreciation for all of the work Val does for the band, in addition to directing, she was presented with a card and a gift certificate from the band members.

Following the Band’s performance **Lynn Ewing** played *I’m Gettin’ Nuttin’ for Christmas* and *The Twelve Days of Vacation*. These tunes and lyrics can’t help but bring a smile to your face.

Just before the break, we took a moment to honor a very special member **Vince Cirelli**, aka “**Mr. Accordion**,” celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, which we marked by singing and serving a delicious cake. Vince offered kind words of wisdom and appreciation to the audience. Happy Birthday Vince and we hope to celebrate many more with you! It was also noted that a certain founding member has a birthday coming up in a month or two – so stay tuned!

**Linus Schmitz**, a young student of **Skyler Fell**’s, started off the second half of the program with his version of *Jingle Bells*! Linus has been able to benefit from the SFAC Accordion rental program through Accordion Apocalypse.

Our music concluded with a performance by the **Accordion Chamber Ensemble**, under the direction of **Joe Smiell**. The audience was treated to both classical and popular arrangements by Joe including the *Overture to Offenbach’s Orpheus in the Underworld*; *Begin the Beguine*; the first movement of *Mozart’s Symphony #41 (Jupiter Symphony)* and highlights from the musical, *Oliver*. Filling in on second accordion and assisting his dad in directing several of the numbers was **Joseph E. Smiell**, Joe’s eldest son. **ACE** concluded their program with an old favorite, Italian march – *Il Bersaglieri*.

Finally, the audience was not quite ready to leave and was able to coax the Ensemble to play one last piece, Joe’s beautiful arrangement of **Irving Berlin’s White Christmas**.



Massimo Sciaroni



Linus Schmitz

**The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble Association invites you to**

## **A Musical Orchestral Learning Event**

**Saturday, February 5, 2011**

**Oyster Point Yacht Club, South San Francisco**

**10 a.m. — 3 p.m.**

The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble is planning a music event for accordionists, intermediate level on up, interested in learning and experiencing the enjoyment of playing in an orchestra setting.

The purpose is to learn to work with other musicians in the orchestra, which in turn will be useful with your own musical group, as well as expand your musical knowledge.

We invite you to be our guest for this event, which will be directed by our Music Director Joe Smiell, assisted by his son Joseph E. Smiell, both conservatory-trained musicians with extensive experience in arranging accordion music for orchestra. We think you will find this event to be educational, enjoyable, and fun.

Participants should have some sight-reading skills and play at intermediate level or above. Acoustic accordions only, please.

There will be no costs associated with your joining us for this musical learning event on February 5. If we decide to go for some food after the event, that will be “Dutch Treat.”

We look forward to welcoming you to this special event. Questions? E-mail Val Kieser at [vtkacc@ifn.net](mailto:vtkacc@ifn.net) or phone (510) 531-4836. If you are interested, please return the coupon below by January 20 to:

***Valerie Kieser***  
***3437 Crane Way***  
***Oakland, CA 94602-2638***

***Yes, I will join you for the Accordion Orchestra Learning Event on February 5, 2011.***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## SFAC Officers

Lynn Ewing, President  
(650) 365-1700 [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com)

Frank Montoro, Vice President  
(650) 574-4757 [frankmontoro@gmail.com](mailto:frankmontoro@gmail.com)

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[hickr01@sprintmail.com](mailto:hickr01@sprintmail.com)

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(650) 854-1896 [kelly.marian@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.marian@gmail.com)

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## Newsletter

Christina Knapp, Editor/Graphic Design  
[snapp.chris@gmail.com](mailto:snapp.chris@gmail.com)

## New Members

Welcome Duane English of Atascadero, CA. Duane plays piano accordion and likes "Oldies," modern/jazz, Classical, European, Tex/Mex and Cajun/Zydeco music. He has his own band called "Café Musique." Upon joining our club, he also made a generous donation. Thank you Duane!

Robert Doerr of San Francisco plays piano accordion, likes Classical, European, Latin, Tex-Mex, Cajun/Zydeco and Rock-N-Roll. He likes club meetings and activities, looks forward to playing at a meeting, enjoys playing for community events and would like to play in an ensemble.

Claudia Schmitz of San Francisco enjoys all accordion music.

## Meeting Admission Fee Increases \$1 in January

Many of you may remember a while back when we (the Executive Board) were able to lower the monthly meeting admission prices by several dollars. Regrettably, we find ourselves having to ask for a little bit back in order to continue to provide you with quality entertainment in a comfortable space. Beginning in January, the new admission prices for the monthly musical meetings will be \$6 for members and \$8 for guests. We hope you will understand and thank you for your support.

## Please Remember!

To leave our meeting hall at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Clean up food or drink spills and recycle all trash.

## Scholarship Awards

Twice a year, in April and October, our club awards scholarships to accordion students demonstrating promise to further their study and knowledge of the accordion. Scholarship Guidelines and Application forms are available at the monthly meetings or can be obtained from the club secretary, Randy Hicks - by emailing: [hickr01@sprintmail.com](mailto:hickr01@sprintmail.com). Completed applications are to be returned to: Frank Montoro, 1448 Tarrytown St., San Mateo, CA 94402 by the end of either March or September to be considered for award the following month.

## Accordion Band News

Band Practice is the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, monthly @ 7 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](mailto:vtkacc@ifn.net)



## Nearby Club Meetings

### Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Hermann Sons Hall • 860 Western, Petaluma, CA  
\$2 admission donation Contact: Tony Mustaro—  
President (707) 318-0474;[dcdacapo@gmail.com](mailto:dcdacapo@gmail.com)

### Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359  
[gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com](http://gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com)

*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 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta.

*The Sacramento Chapter* meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. Contact for all three Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

### Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 7 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) 791-304

### Silicon Valley Accordion Club (SVAC)

meets 1st Sun. of each month at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, corner of Kiely. 1 p.m. \$5, under 16 - no charge.

## We Need You!

We are seeking to increase participation with you, the Club members. We hope that you will consider helping with some of our Club's routine jobs, including emcee, helping at the door, newsletter articles, and assistance with newsletter distribution. We also hope that you will be willing to play a few numbers for warm up or the first part of the program, so that we can not only get to know you, but enjoy your music! We want to increase the diversity of music we offer on our musical afternoons, so we ask you to come with a sense of curiosity and a willingness to hear players that may not be familiar to you.

## Performing Around the Bay

**Steve Balich** • North Bay  
(707) 874-3494

**Ron Borelli** • San Mateo  
(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)

**Richard Denier** • Carmel  
[rdenier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rdenier@sbcglobal.net)

**Peter Di Bono** • San Francisco  
[www.peterdibono.com](http://www.peterdibono.com)

**Reno Di Bono** • South Bay  
[ourhike@aol.com](mailto:ourhike@aol.com)

**William De Michelis** • South Bay  
[wdd777@comcast.net](mailto:wdd777@comcast.net)

**Joe Domitrowich** • South Bay  
[www.capricious-accordion.com](http://www.capricious-accordion.com)  
or  
[www.alpinersusa.com](http://www.alpinersusa.com)

**Due Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano)**  
San Francisco  
[www.eurocafemusic.com](http://www.eurocafemusic.com) or  
[zighi@sonic.net](mailto:zighi@sonic.net)

**Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobbelins**  
Oakland  
[www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins](http://www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins)

**Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers**  
[kirschner@aol.com](mailto:kirschner@aol.com)  
[www.klezmakers.com](http://www.klezmakers.com)

**Don Nurisso** • Pacifica  
[nurisso@mindspring.com](mailto:nurisso@mindspring.com)

**Mike Zampiceni** • South Bay  
[eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net)

**Ed Gorzynski, Jr.** • East Bay  
[edspolkas@yahoo.com](mailto:edspolkas@yahoo.com)

## SFAC Membership

\$30.00 per year for individual or family membership. Meeting admission is \$6.00 for members and \$8.00 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.

## Accordion Babes 2011

We still have available the **Accordion Babes Pin-Up Calendar** for sale at our monthly meeting. For only \$20, you will receive a calendar featuring a different make and model of accordion for each month, as well as a CD featuring performances by the lively models pictured with those accordions. *It's not too late to get one for this year, and make sure you don't miss any Accordion Events!*



### Play at our Meeting!

We are always grateful and accepting of anyone who wishes to play for us during the breaks or before the meeting starts. Share your talent and hone your performance skills! Contact Val Kieser to sign up.

## Presidents Message

Happy New Year to all our members and friends. Your Board wishes you all good health in 2011 and lots of squeezing, both of friends and accordions.

We really appreciate the generosity so many of you have shown to our Club. Your Board works diligently every month, but we realize we don't always keep you well informed about what we are up to. You may have heard that effective in January, the Club is raising the door fee at its meetings by \$1, and a few words of explanation are in order.

We love our meeting location at the Oyster Point Yacht Club, but it does cost us almost \$400 per meeting. At \$5 per person we need approximately 80 paying members at each meeting to cover the expense. Unfortunately, we haven't achieved that level of attendance consistently, resulting in a fairly regular short-fall at the door. Thus, the \$1 increase.

Thanks to the many members and friends who made donations to the San Francisco Accordion Club following our December appeal. **Our club is a 501 c3 non profit corporation, and as such, your gifts are fully deductible and are also eligible for matching gifts from employers.** If you are in a position to ask your company to make a matching donation, we encourage you to do so—it can make your donation go up to twice as far. We have been pleased to receive several matching gifts over the last few years. You can also help by coming to meetings regularly and bringing your friends!

We're delighted to be offering a program with many young players on January 16th, and we hope you will come to hear them. We seek to expand our horizons with the diverse music our favorite instrument lends such distinction to, so if you know people who play Irish, French, Russian, Conjunto, Cajun accordion of any type, please put them in contact with us!

Thanks for supporting your club – it's you, our members and friends, who make this such fun.

*Lynn Singleton Ewing*



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**Newsletter Deadline**  
 Submissions are welcome for consideration and inclusion in the Newsletter. The deadline for time critical information is the second Monday following the Monthly Musical Meeting. All other submissions will be considered as time and space permit. Please be mindful that copyrighted material cannot be reprinted without the author/publisher's permission. Send items to the editor,  
**Christina Knapp**  
*snapp.chris@gmail.com*



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**Our Sincere Thanks!** *To those who generously donate to the Club.*  
 With each new membership 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 [vkacc@ifn.net](mailto:vkacc@ifn.net) and let her know. We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized. We gratefully acknowledge donations from: Alex Roitman, Lynn Ewing, Sharon & Gus Greyhosky, Ron Harris, Randall Hicks, Sue & Mike Hirigoyen (In memory of John Puppo), Valerie Kieser, Carley Koliha, James Monfredini, Frank Montoro, Kenneth Nimmo, Sundi O'Mara, Maryanne Romanowski (and employer matching gift), Julia Scafani, Richard Selfridge, Paul Thiel, Louis Traverso, Lore Warren, Barbara Winter, Richard Yaus, Mary Catherine Robertson, Gisèle B. Oakes, Michael Sanossian, Ron Montoro and John Graziano, Caroline Grannan, Anne Metais, Joe Baccellieri, Accordion Apocalypse..

**Musical Meeting • January 16 @ 2 p.m.**

- **Dan Newton**, aka “*Daddy Squeeze*”
  - **Calendar Babes**, meet and hear several of the women featured on the *Accordion Babes Calendar* and get their autographs on your copy of this year’s calendar on sale at the meeting!
  - **Rob Reich**, local musician & composer extraordinaire
- **BEHIND THE BELLOWS**, a special film showing by **Steve Mobia** AFTER the meeting

*Join us the third sunday of every month at the Oyster Point Yacht Club,  
911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco*

**DIRECTIONS:**

From 101 traveling either North or South, take the Oyster Point exit. Turn right onto Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right onto Gull 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.  
Visit us online @ [www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)

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