

January, 2019

Sunday, January 20, 2019

♪ ♪ SFAC Accordions Live! ♪ ♪

KLEZMORE SQUARE

&

THE RENO DIBONO TRIO

THE SFAC "JAM BAND" WILL GATHER
AFTER THESE PERFORMANCES
ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

Chetcuti Community Room — Millbrae, CA
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm



The Reno Di Bono Trio

The three "gondoliers" pictured here round out this 40 years-in-the-making musical trio! Accordionist Reno Di Bono performs with Sicilian born clarinetist Giuseppe "Joe" Divittorio and Steve Hanson on Bass. They love to serenade audiences at wineries and Italian festas and will be doing so for us at the second half of the SFAC January event. Reno learned to play *Oh Marie* as a youngster, Joe plays unparalleled clarinet polka arrangements (think Benny Goodman style!) and Steve is a heavily sought-after Bay Area bass performer.



Kicking off the first meeting of 2019 we bring you live music by **Klezmore Square**, featuring SFAC member **Daniel Cher** and playing Eastern European klezmer music, a genre that originally consisted of dance and instrumentals made for celebrations and weddings. Heavily influenced by Romanian folk music, klezmer music evolved further in the US between 1880 and 1924 when Yiddish-speaking Jewish immigrants came into contact with American jazz. Festive and steeped in history, we look forward to Klezmore Square's first appearance with the SFAC! See the performers' biographies on page 2.

Next, club favorite, **The Reno Di Bono Trio** will play a little bit of everything, especially Italian!

No special eyeglasses required and we're not sure how it relates to accordion music, but a total lunar eclipse also takes place the evening of January 20th. The moon is expected to take on a copper reddish color between 8:41 and 9:44 PST. Gaze upward to check it out. It won't cost anything, and with luck clear skies will allow good viewing. Regardless, live accordion music can be heard in Millbrae beginning at 2. Hope to see you there!

*** **2019 Accordion Babes Calendar**—these pin-up style wall calendars will be available for \$15 while supplies last***



Continued on next page ...

Klezmore Square Performing in January

How It Started

The musicians are members of Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills. Jeff, Jennifer, and Dan had been playing together in the Stanford Klezmer Band, and were looking to create another group to bring this lively, ethnic style of music to religious and festive Jewish events at their temple. Along came Daniel,

whose accordion lends the quintessentially Eastern European quality to the group's sound (and the occasional jazz chord), and Dan's wife Claudia, a professional violinist. Together they donate their talents to the congregation whenever joyous music is needed. Klezmore Square became Klezmore Square when Dan realized that several of us had lived in the Boston area at one point or another. Dan wants you to figure out the rest.

Claudia Bloom, violin

Claudia studied the piano starting at age 7 and then added the violin at age 9 when she was introduced to the Berkeley public school string orchestra. After participating in several youth orchestras and the East Bay Chamber Music School in Berkeley her dream was to play in a full time professional string quartet. That dream came true after studying at Manhattan School of Music and the Yale School of Music. Claudia became a member of the Ciompi Quartet of Duke University and taught as a full time faculty member. It was in Durham where Claudia met her husband Dan Pitt who eventually brought Claudia and their two children back to the Bay Area in 1992, settling in Palo Alto. Currently Claudia continues to play in an active string quartet, holds the position of principal second violin in Opera San Jose, and directs the Palo Alto School of Chamber Music. For pure fun and a totally liberating musical outlet Claudia joined Klezmore Square several years ago and it has been a great experience!

Dan Pitt, alto horn

Despite 12 years of piano lessons, Dan cannot play piano (except for one hand at a time) but he learned the scales. He sang in the Madison (WI) Boys Choir as a first soprano at age 11, then switched to trombone at age 12. After a fleeting and sorry affair with the bagpipe and many failed attempts at the guitar and banjo, Dan stumbled on the mandolin as a more socially acceptable instrument than the domra, which he played in the University of Illinois Russian Folk Orchestra. He traded the



trombone for a trombonium in the Byron Street Band, which plays dixieland for free and is worth every penny. But for klezmer he plays an E-flat alto horn, because he loves it. In the real world Dan is a computer scientist in Palo Alto, driving adoption of open systems in the telecommunications industry.

Jeff Wolfeld, clarinet

Jeff's piano career began at age 7 and ended at age 9, when it became apparent that playing piano involved making his left and right hands do different

things at the same time. Fortunately he had started playing recorder by then, which soon matured into a clarinet. Since then he's played in every sort of classical arrangement from bands to orchestras to solo performances to too many sorts of chamber groups to mention. He currently plays regularly in the Stanford Philharmonia orchestra. Jeff's klezmer career started in 2008 when he inexplicably answered an ad to join the Stanford Klezmer Band as a founding member. The students there taught him everything he needed to know, and then they graduated, leaving Jeff to lead the band. During the day, Jeff squeezes in his career as a software engineer at Cisco Systems.

Jennifer Wolfeld, piano

Jennifer grew up in Palo Alto, and has wowed bassoon-loving audiences in the Bay Area, in the Boston area, and in Munich, Germany. Together with Dan and her husband Jeff, she also cut her klezmer teeth in the Stanford Klezmer Band, as a pianist providing the essential klezmer rhythmic style. Jennifer is also a linguist, and works at Carnegie Mellon University, Silicon Valley as a communication and language specialist. She believes language fluency and musical performance both require the same inescapable activity: practice!

Daniel Cher, accordion

To his mother's delight, Daniel began violin at age nine. Before concentrating on medicine, Daniel played violin professionally in New Haven Symphony and New Century Chamber Orchestra. For 10 years, Daniel was violinist in Saint Michael Trio. At age 50, he had an epiphany – in a former life, he apparently played accordion. To achieve musical nirvana, he started playing accordion 4 years ago and is inching ever closer. Daniel runs clinical trials at SI-BONE, a medical device manufacturer in Santa Clara.

SFAC December Meeting Review *by Ken Schwartz*



Our annual holiday meeting has become a tradition to welcome the season with cheer and great music of the season. This year was no exception, and we were blessed with an abundance of great talent for this month's event.

The SFAC jam band was well-attended and was moderated by Lynn Ewing. Each participant noted how long or at what age they'd been playing accordion; they ranged from starting at age 3 (Siyuan) to just a couple of years ago (Barbie, who is also an accomplished piano player). It was, to say the least, a diverse group. The group played many holiday favorites from our club's special holiday jam books, compiled just for this occasion by Robert Cooperstein.

Next, we were treated to short solos by our talented members. **Siyuan Donnelly**, now only 8 years of age, demonstrated an ability beyond his years with lovely renditions of *O Sole Mio*, *Two Guitars*, and *Romanian Rhapsody #1*, complete with bellows shake! Siyuan shines brightly with each year!



On the other side of the spectrum, our octogenarian **Don Savant** performed smooth renditions of two of his favorites:

The Portrait of Jennie, that was sung by Nat King Cole and was from a movie of the same name, and a great old standard Duke Ellington tune, *In a Sentimental Mood*.



Clarence Witzel, Jr. appeared as a delightful elf this year and performed some of his favorites, including *Love Theme from the Godfather*, *Amazing Grace*, *Star Wars*

Main Theme, and *Für Elise*. **Ken Schwartz** performed *Czardas* followed by *Gitanerias*, both arranged by Charles Mag-nante. New member **Tom Herman** performed lovely renditions of *In a Little Spanish Town*, *El Choclo Tango*, and a song some of us are "young enough" to fondly remember from our 1960's teen years –

Under the Boardwalk!



Lou Jacklich performed his original arrangement of a medley of songs from *Fiddler on the Roof* followed by *Rhapsody in Blue*, which featured five tonality changes and was interspersed with short themes from a number of other Gershwin favorites, including *The Man I Love*, *'S Wonderful*, *An American in Paris*, *Fascinating Rhythm*, and *I Got Rhythm*. Both pieces so well demonstrated the spectrum of tonalities that can be achieved and why the accordion is such a wonderful instrument with Lou's artistry!

In yet another holiday tradition, **Mike Zampiceni** entertained with his talented vocal and accordion renditions of all-time holiday favorites, including *Jingle Bells*, *White Christmas*, *The Christmas Song* (commonly subtitled *Chestnuts Roasting on An Open Fire*), *Cumana*, and *Silent Night*. A few snowflakes would have completed the holiday effect after Mike's great vocal/accordion performance.



Continued on next page ...



With best wishes for the New Year and an exciting 2019 season!



The afternoon rounded out with a very special performance by the **Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE)**, directed by Joseph Smiel, who also does the musical arrangements. The group has been in existence since 1995. Performers in the group today included: **Ron Borelli, Reno Di Bono, Lynn Ewing, Anne Metais, Barbie Wong, Tseli Wu, and Michael Zampiceni** — all of them SFAC members!



The **ACE** ensemble performed an innovative short program, starting with Mozart's *String Quartet No. 11 in E flat Major, K. 171*, arranged for accordion. Maestro Smiel noted that Mozart was only 20 when he composed this; his brilliance as a composer was already evident even at this early age. Next, the Ensemble performed Mozart's *Adante Rondo K. 616, [Andante für eine Walze in eine kleine Orgel KV 616]* which was composed for a wealthy patron's mechanical clock, which can be heard in the composition. Finally, in keeping with the holiday season, the **Accordion Chamber Ensemble** performed its version of *Sleigh Ride*. Those in attendance were treated to very special Mozart orchestrations and a holiday favorite, all performed beautifully on our favorite instrument.

So that's it, everyone! It was a wonderful holiday gathering for all!



Focus on Developing Solo Arrangements at SDAC

The 2nd annual **San Diego Accordion Camp (SDAC)** will be held on April 4-6, 2019 from 9 AM to 4:30 PM daily at the Mangia Italiano Restaurant in Chula Vista, CA.

Gordon Kohl's 2019 San Diego Accordion Camp promises to be another winner for accordion enthusiasts. This year's 3-day camp will focus on customizing tunes and transforming them to our own signature solo arrangements. In addition to reviewing basic accordion techniques, chord theory and experimenting with chord progression will be introduced. The emphasis of the camp is to enjoy playing music and learning in a relaxed atmosphere.

Camp provides an opportunity for group play, in contrast to an orchestra rehearsal. Both electronic and acoustic accordions are welcome. Gordon will provide suggestions for switches and voices as the group works on numerous well-known tunes (e.g., *La Cumparascita*, *La Vie En Rose*, *Libertango*, *Zorba the Greek*, etc.).

\$189/person includes: textbook ("First 50 Songs" arranged by Gary Meisner), parking, course materials, notebook & lunch. Sign-up by March 15, 2019. The textbook will be mailed in advance for practice of the selected tunes ahead of camp. Extra class notes and exercises will be provided at camp in your notebook.

For an enrollment form or further information, contact Gordon Kohl at GordonKohl@GordonKohlAccordions.com or (619)395-0454 [mobile]



32nd ANNUAL NATIONAL ACCORDION CONVENTION By Pamela Tom

The **National Accordion Association (NAA) Convention** will take place (near Dallas) in Richardson, Texas at the Hyatt Hotel during **March 7-9, 2019**. The convention is in its 32nd year and it is getting better and bigger. There will be over 50 presentations, workshops and round-table discussions, orchestra practice, open mike sessions, a dance band evening, and nightly concerts. The sessions cover acoustic accordions, digital accordions, performing, jazz improvisations, and much more. This is the opportunity for every accordionist to learn, share experience, meet fellow accordionists and most importantly have fun!



Our own SFAC member, **Gail Campanella**, will be an NAA workshop speaker on "Keys to a Successful Performance". A performance is a gift-giving opportunity." Gail will share her performance experience, including the preparation, the performance itself and the reflection afterwards. Workshop participants will be invited to share their wisdom with the other participants.

I have attended several NAA meetings and have had a chance to extend my national accordion network and friendships with outstanding accordionists and accordion enthusiasts. The NAA program is thoughtfully planned to meet the interests of a wide accordion-appreciative audience. The ambiance is warm Southern hospitality so that you have a chance to cordially meet and interact with people who share their love of the accordion. The workshops are very informative and have broadened my knowledge of accordion music, techniques and history. It is easy to fly from the SF Bay Area to Dallas TX. Richardson is half-way between the Love Field and Dallas-Fort Worth Airports. If you plan to fly and bring your accordion, head to Love Field via Southwest Airlines which has a user-friendly fleet of 737s with generally sufficient overhead space to fit a Petosa professional-sized accordion in a gig bag.

Among the vendors at this event, SFAC club member and advertiser, the Petosa Company will be represented. Be sure to stop by their booth (hosted by Nick Ballarini).

Over the next few months, the NAA organizers will highlight individual classes and performers. The current schedule can be viewed here: <http://accordions.com/naa/sandbox/sandboxConv/conv3Work.html>

2019 "Accordion Babes" Calendars!



Photos in the 2019 **Accordion Babes Calendar** combine a timeless 1940's pin-up aesthetic with modern photography, appreciating women and accordions in a way that's sensuous, fun, and inspiring. On the 2019 Accordion Babes CD (included), each Babe has shared one of her songs on an album that's eclectic, passionate, and wildly alive. \$15

Our last few calendars will be available for sale at the Jan. 20 meeting

Event Reviews:

Member volunteers are needed to assist with the monthly event summaries. This is a great opportunity to express your creative writing skills while assisting your club!

Please contact Ken Schwartz at Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card size) free of charge for one month, once a year. Additional ads are \$10/issue or \$100/year.

Monthly ad prices **for members**:

1/4-page: \$25; 1/2-page: \$50; Full-page: \$100.

Non-member rates are double.

Save the Date — May 19, 2019 SFAC Welcomes Cory Pesaturo!

Looking ahead, we have some truly exciting performers lined up for our March and May programs. We are excited beyond words to announce that world-famous **Cory Pesaturo** has accepted our invitation to perform and direct the entirety of our May 2019 meeting! In all likelihood Cory will take advantage of his trip to the Bay Area to appear in some other venues – we will keep you informed as soon as more details emerge. Among his many achievements, in 2009 Cory became the first American to win a World Accordion Championship since Peter Soave won 25 years earlier! Cory is a BIG name in our accordion world – this is one you won't want to miss.



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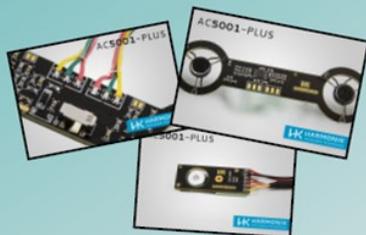
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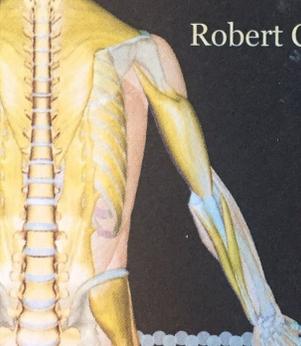
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Membership Update & Welcome New Members!

I am happy to report that our membership drive for next year was the most successful since I took on the role of Coordinator in 2014. For the first time there was no attrition at all, with exactly 16 members not renewing and 16 new members joining! We now have 139 dues-paying members, in addition to 10 Lifetime members (mostly former Club Presidents. On behalf of the SFAC Board, I would like to thank all of our members for their continuing support, not just for our Club but more generally for the accordion music scene. (And I say that as someone who doesn't even play the accordion but has grown really fond of that scene!)



Let's all welcome our 3 newest members, all of whom joined in January. **Tseli Wu** from Saratoga, **Sarah Yan** from San Mateo, and Cheryl **Zhang** of San Francisco. Cheryl is from China and learned accordion in her home country. She found the SFAC by coming across our website, which is maintained by our fabulous webmaster, Randy Hicks.

Robert Cooperstein
Membership Coordinator, SFAC



Waltzing Matilda (see page 9) uses most of the chords in its "chord family group". This song lends itself to a walking bass, and pretty right hand harmony such as thirds.

It is therefore not just a really beautiful song, but a good chord training song. What chords go together?

Key of C Chords

Primary (I, IV, V)	Secondary (ii, iii, vi)
I: C (C-E-G)	ii: Dm (D-F-A)
IV: F (F-A-C)	iii: Em (E-G-B)
V: G7 (G-B-D-F)	vi: Am (A-D-E)

The I, IV, and V (1, 4, and 5) chords are enough for most songs such as church hymns and folk songs, with the ii, iii, and vi (2, 3, and 6) chords adding color.



Ron Borelli and the Art Van Damme Tribute Band

Every 1st Thursday of the month performing @ The Double Tree Hotel, 835 Airport Blvd., Burlingame—6PM to 9PM, no cover, great dinners & drinks, reasonably priced.

To connect with Ron: 415 203 6700 cell or ronborelli@aol.com

ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

National Accordion Association 2019 Convention

March 7-9, 2019

Hyatt-Regency - Richardson, Texas

www.accordions.com/naa

San Diego Accordion Camp

April 4-6, 2019

Manga Italiano Restaurant - Chula Vista, California

Contact Gordon Kohl: GordonKohl@GordonKohlAccordions.com
619-395-0454

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

June 20-23, 2019

Leavenworth, Washington

www.accordioncelebration.org

ATG-Accordionists & Teachers Guild International

29th Annual Festival

July 23-27, 2019

Denver, Colorado

www.atgaccordions.com/2019-festival

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention

LVIAC—20th Anniversary

October 14-17, 2019

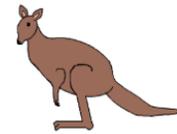
Gold Coast Hotel, Las Vegas

<http://accordionstars.com>

Paul Pasquale (801) 485-5840



Waltzing Matilda



Australian



Once a jol-ly swag - man camped be-side a bil-la-bong, Un - der the shade of a
 Down came a jum-buck to drink at the bil-la-bong, Up jumped the swag-man and
 Up came the squat-ter, mount-ed on his thor-ough-bred, Down came the troop - ers,
 Up jumped the swag-man, sprang in-to the bil-la-bong. "You'll ne-ver catch me a -



cool - i - bah tree, And he sang as he sat and wait - ed till his bil - ly boiled,
 grabbed him with glee, And he sang as he stowed that jum - buck in his tuck-er bag,
 one, two, three: (saying) "Where's that jol-ly jum-buck you've got in your tucker bag,
 live," said he. And his ghost may be heard as you pass by that bil-la-bong,



"You'll come a-waltz-ing Ma-til - da with me." Waltz-ing Ma-til - da, Waltz-ing Ma-til - da,



You'll come a - waltz - ing Ma - til - da with me. And he sang as he sat and
 And he sang as he stowed that
 Say - ing, "Where's that jol-ly jum-buck you've
 And his ghost may be heard as you



wait-ed till his bil - ly boiled, "You'll come a-waltz-ing Ma - til - da with me."
 jum-buck in his tuck-er bag,
 got in your tuck-er bag,
 pass by that bil-la-bong.



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Balanço Brasil Presents

XAXADO MISSION

Dance Lesson:
Alessandra Meirelles & Júlio César

+ accordionist
(NYC) **FELIPE HOSTINS**

Thursday Jan 24th @7pm
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special guest
Alex Calatayud of Boca do Rio




Thank You, Donors!

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to the Club. We would like to thank the following regular and lifetime members who made a donation during the past renewal campaign (October 2018 - September 2019 membership year):

Paul Aebersold, Anthony Bologna, Scott Anderson, Chris & Tor Arild, Evelyn Baulch, Dave Braun, Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Bruno, Gail Campanella, George Chavez, Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Xavier & Candace de la Prade, David G. Deanda, Peter & Victoria Di Bono, Aldo Didero, Lynn & Gail Ewing, Ed Gorzynski Jr., Dominic Granelli, Gus & Sharon Greyhosky, Johan & Marja Gullmes, Ron & Mary Jo Harris, Lou Jacklich, Jerry Keifer, Marian Kelly, Gwyn Lister, Franco & Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi, Nora & Tony Mazzara, Herb Meier, James Monfredini, Anna Nicora, Julie Norman, Gisele Oakes, Colette & Casey Ogata, Paul Pasquali, Diana Purucker, Alexander Roitman, Ed Salvador, Michael Sanossian, Don & Mary Savant, Kenneth Schwartz, Richard & Leslie Selfridge, Georgia Sutherland, Bill & Gloria Tapogna, Pamela Tom, Jane & Frank Tripi, Barbara Winter, Clarence Witzel Jr., Richard Yaus, and Mark Zhagel

If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact elainedc@sbcglobal.net. We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized.

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Elaine Cooperstein, Rosemary Busher, Robert Cooperstein

(Newsletter volunteers needed!)

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peterdsf@gmail.com

www.peterdibono.com



BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUBS

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday at 7:30 pm. — \$3 admission
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma
Contact: Tony Mustaro, President (707) 318-0474
dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com

Contact: Jean Stevens, President (916) 872-8081
accordionriffs@gmail.com

GSAC Napa Valley Chapter (formerly Vacaville)
2nd Thursday at 6:00 pm.
The Runway Restaurant
2044 Airport Road, Napa

GSAC Humboldt Chapter
3rd Tuesday at 7pm.
Humboldt Swiss Club
5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta

GSAC Sacramento Chapter
3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm (starting Jan. 2019)
Elks Lodge No. 6
6446 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

2nd Wednesday at 7 pm. Escalon Community Center
1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon
Contact: Ed Sciarini (209) 545-3603

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Lutheran Church Hall,
6365 Douglas Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay
Contact: Jim Shoemaker (916) 443-0974

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

1st Sundays at 1pm. Sadly, Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose has closed. SVAS will keep you posted on their website as they determine places and dates for future meetings. www.svasociety.org

SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

RON BORELLI San Mateo - RonBorelli@aol.com
www.ronborelli.com

RICHARD DENIER Carmel - rjd.denier@gmail.com

PETER DI BONO San Francisco www.peterdibono.com

RENO DI BONO South Bay - ourhike@aol.com
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www.alpinersusa.com
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PAMELA TOM Yolo & Solano Counties
accordionpam@gmail.com

MIKE ZAMPICENI East Bay & South Bay
eclecticguy@comcast.net
www.mikezamp.com

SFAC Scholarships

Your club has scholarship funds available to support accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference is given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact **Mike Zampiceni** for a scholarship application.
eclecticguy@comcast.net
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San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o 539 Elsie Avenue

San Leandro, CA 94577

www.sfaccordionclub.com

First Class
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3rd Sundays—Musical meetings in Millbrae

SFAC Sunday Meeting

Accordions Live!

Sunday, January 20

Come for fun and great music!!

2pm—5pm

Klezmore Square

The Reno DiBono Trio

SFAC Jam, final 30-60 minutes of the meeting

All are encouraged to participate!

\$10 general public/\$8 SFAC members (Under 13 free)

Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room

Civic Center Plaza/Library Plaza

450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA



Plenty of free parking in Library lot

Accessible location

Close to public transit



fb.com/sanfranciscoaccordionclub

