

March • 2011



the San Francisco Accordion Club NEWSLETTER

The World's First
Accordion Club
Since 1912

NEXT MEETING March 20

• **Ron Harris** who played for us during the February Meeting will play again for us this month. Everyone who was at the meeting enjoyed hearing Ron share some of his favorites with us. Thanks Ron!



Ron Harris

• **AbsolutAccord** is a Bay Area accordion ensemble founded in 2001 by accordionist Richard Yaus, originally from Munich, Germany. It was Richard's goal to build an accordion ensemble based on musical excellence, whose repertoire would be eclectic and appeal to a wide variety of listeners. AbsolutAccord has been recognized as an unusual and rare musical treat and was invited last summer to perform at the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, held in Santa Clara. AbsolutAccord has also been featured on the Rengstorff House Summer Concert Series and at the Silicon Valley Accordion Society.

Among the players in the group are Lynn Ewing, Marian Kelly, David Perry, Joe Simoni, Sharon Walters Greyhosky, Norma Zonay-Parsons and Richard Yaus.

We are delighted to have **AbsolutAccord** as our featured performers for March and look forward to hearing their repertoire that will include such pieces as *C'est Si Bon*, *Torna a Surriento*, a Glenn Miller Medley and many other favorites.



AbsolutAccord



Valerie Kieser

• **Valerie Kieser and Randy Hicks** will be performing a set of several duets and Val will also treat us to a solo or two on the Austrian Button Box. Val and Randy are both members of the SFAC Executive Board.



Randy Hicks

Jam Sessions To Begin!

Before the meeting, from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m., we will have our first "quarterly" jam session, coordinated by Barbara and Vic Corsiglia. Anyone who plays accordion is invited to come and join in the fun.

All you need to bring is an accordion and a music stand. Sheet music and a great time will be provided.

We encourage performers of all levels to participate and if you don't play accordion, come anyway and be our audience. We look forward to seeing you!

A Musical February to Remember

Our warm up player was **Ron Harris**, whose smooth playing is a treat. He never loses track of the original melody of the song, while adding in beautiful harmonies.

Musicians this month also included several friends who came with **Dave Chelini: Dolores Impinna Harpham of Frank & Dolores Accordion and Dance in Sacramento, and Buddy Harpham**, big band leader. **Amy Siler**, age 11, a student of Pete Van Alstyne, surprised us all with some fantastic bass work as she played *Sparkling*. Dave's student **Virginia Fowler** played *G.I. Boogie* with a blues feel. Dave Chelini and his duet partner **Judy Clark** played several duets with some rich harmonies, including some boogie-woogie, and *Domino* Frank Marocco-style. They ended with the sing-along *You Are My Sunshine*.

Next we heard from **Gail Campanella and Frank Petrilli**, from Southern California.

Frank Petrilli was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, California. He started playing the accordion at age seven and at the age of 15, he started playing Cordovox. Soon after was playing professionally in small combos. He continued to play professionally through college till he was about 23, when family and work demands took precedence. Frank stayed active musically by playing keyboards and saxophone but his accordion playing remained dormant until 2006. Soon after he started playing again, he attended the first Frank Marocco Accordion camp and began studying with Frank Marocco which still continues today. Currently, Frank performs locally with the Cesar Mateus Latin Jazz Sextet at various jazz clubs in Los Angeles.

(cont.>)

Dolores Impinna, Dave Chelini, Amy Siler and Virginia Fowler



Gail Campanella as a youngster growing up on a farm in northeastern Colorado, showed an interest in the only musical instrument in her home, her mother's old accordion. Her formal music lessons began at the age of 10 in Ft. Morgan, Colorado, where she enjoyed lessons and participated in annual accordion contests. Gail became the town accordion teacher at age 14, when the local accordion teacher retired. During high school, she made monthly 80-mile train trips to Denver to study with **Anthony Pennetti**. She majored in piano at *Loretto Heights College* in Denver and continued her accordion studies with **Robert Davine** at the *University of Denver*. After graduation, she taught music in the Denver Public Schools for 7 years while earning certification in **Orff-Schulwerk**. She has taught various music classes to elementary school children, has subbed in the Santa Barbara Schools, and has performed on both piano and accordion. Gail currently plays in the *LA Accordionaires Orchestra*.

Jana Maas, husband Dan, and daughter Alyssa, live in Modesto, CA. Jana plays primarily solo accordion, but enjoys ensemble work, usually at various accordion camps. She is currently president and co-founder of the *Good Time Accordion Club* in Escalon, CA.

The Accidentals

Sharon Greyhosky and I dreamt of spending a weekend playing wonderful quintet music arranged for 4 parts and bass, which we had acquired while attending accordion events in various venues. While attending accordion events, we met and heard Jana Maas, Gail Campanella and Frank Petrilli play, and had the opportunity to play with them in various accidental groups, "squeezed in" between orchestra rehearsals. Jana had brought a number of jazzy arrangements which her husband Dan had created, and we loved playing those and wanted a chance to polish them up and let other people hear them. Finally it occurred to us to share this grand experiment with you, the members of SFAC. We asked our friend Marian Kelly to join us, and invited Jana & Dan, Gail Campanella and Frank Petrilli to the Bay area for a weekend of music making, to culminate in a performance at the club. Dan Maas generously agreed to conduct on the arrangements we played by Frank Marocco, Stas Venglevski, and his own as well! We hadn't realized what a challenge it would be to put these pieces together – but it was a tremendous experience! We thoroughly enjoyed it and hope you did too.

Lynn Ewing

Left to Right: Frank Petrilli, Lynn Ewing, Sharon Greyhosky, Marian Kelly, Gail Campanella, Jana Maas & Dan Maas.



Our Sincere Thanks!

It is through the generous donations from members and friends such as those listed below that we are able to continue to provide top entertainment and offer scholarships to nurture the next generation of Accordion players. We sincerely thank all who have contributed so far this year and we hope the generosity of our members and fans will continue throughout the year! The San Francisco Accordion club is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and your gifts are fully deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS.

Bronze - Up To \$50

Ross Bausone
 Kay and Bill Brachna
 Martha Bredwell
 David Chelini
 Aldo Didero
 Lou Fabbri
 Robert Foppiano
 Carolyn Grannan
 Dominic Granelli
 Randall Hicks
 Mike and Sue Hirigoyen
 Josephine Hornbrook
 Carley Koliha
 Bernard and Anne Metais
 Steve Mobia
 Bob and Jo Anne Nelson
 Gisèle Oakes
 Sundi O'Mara
 David Perry
 Paula Re
 Mary Catherine Robertson
 Alexander Roitman
 Michael Sanossian
 Kenneth Schwartz
 Bill and Gloria Tapogna
 Lou Traverso
 Mr. & Mrs. Hilbert Werner
 Barbara Winter
 Norma Zonay-Parsons

Silver - \$50 to \$100

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 Candace de la Prade
 Peter Di Bono
 John Graziano
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 Richard and Janet Landauer
 Gwyn Lister
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 James Monfredini
 Ron and Claudia Montoro
 Maryanne Romanowski
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 Lore Warren
 Scott Williamson
 Gabbi Yuen

Gold - \$100 to \$500

William Court
 William and Nancy DeMichelis
 Valerie Kieser
 Tor and Chris Arild
 Skyler Fell—
Accordion Apocalypse
 Saul Fenster
 Ron Harris
 Richard Yaus
 Richard Selfridge
 Phil and Cheri Marcucci
 Ken Nimmo
 Joseph Greco
 John Fiore
 Joe Bacellieri
 Gene and Judy Dale
 Gail and Lynn Ewing
 Frank Montoro

Diamond - \$500 +

Jim Holliday.



*Please contact Treasurer, Marian Kelly
 at kelly.marian@gmail.com
 or (650) 854-1896
 with any donation questions.*

San Francisco Accordion Club Scholarship Program

The San Francisco Accordion Club has a scholarship program to assist accordionists demonstrating need, so that they can continue their accordion studies. Scholarships are one of the ways that we can encourage and support the next generation of accordionists and in these tight economic times, this assistance becomes even more crucial to that effort. Did you know that the Scholarships are funded solely by the sales of 50/50 raffle tickets at the monthly meetings? Please buy tickets generously and know that even if you aren't the lucky winner that day, your contribution is going to a very worthy cause. Most recently we were able to help brothers Adonis and Brandon Diaz, pictured here, continue their lessons with teacher, Peter Di Bono.



March 31 is also the deadline for applications for scholarships to be awarded in April. Scholarship Assistance application forms are available at the monthly meetings or from the Club Secretary, Randy Hicks. Completed forms should be mailed to Vice-President, Frank Montoro at 1448 Tarrytown St., San Mateo CA 94402.

The Scholarship Guidelines are as follows:

The objective of the San Francisco Accordion Club Scholarship Program is to assist serious students of the accordion to continue the study of the instrument, in cases where financial hardship is a factor. If there are multiple requests, some preference will be given to younger stu-

dents, and students who are applying for the first time.

Scholarship assistance may be awarded for accordion lessons with an instructor who is a member in good standing of the San Francisco Accordion Club. An instructor who is a member of the San Francisco Accordion Club may also recommend the applicant to receive assistance for the purposes of attending an accordion workshop or camp, or for the purchase, repair or upgrade of an accordion to be used for study.

In order to be eligible for scholarship assistance, the student must be making good progress, be known to have financial hardship, and be recommended by a teacher who is in good standing with the San Francisco Accordion Club.

Students awarded scholarship assistance will be expected to perform at least once for the San Francisco Accordion Club in the year in which the scholarship is awarded.

Vouchers of \$300 or less will be awarded to the student's teacher to be redeemed for lessons, the organization sponsoring the workshop or camp to be attended, or the Accordion sales or repair service selling, or repairing or upgrading the applicant's accordion.

The instructor will submit a "reimbursement form" to the Board, to account for the lessons which have been subsidized by the scholarship fund.

Each application for scholarship assistance will be judged on its own merit, rather than the scholarship team being bound by rigid restrictions.

Applications will be accepted twice a year, in March and September, for award in April and October.

These guidelines and the specific deadlines will be publicized in the newsletter so that teachers and students are aware of them.

10,000 AT FRISCO PICNIC

Galla-Rini & Pezzolo Schools Take Prominent Part
(reprint from article Oct. 1935 *Accordion News*)



(article continued from last month)

. . . simultaneously another distant group spouts trouble, followed by three or four more. For the moment it seems that the accordion club picnic is going to terminate in a free for all fight. A burst of laughter from the audience near the platform explodes like a bombshell diverting the attention of the excited belligerent groups to one of the Pezzolo amateurs who instead of playing *Over the Waves* attempts to play *The Flight of the Bumble Bee* so in the case of trouble his flight could be short and dashing.

It's 4:15 and finally Tony Galla-Rini and his pupils make a triumphal entrance onto the concert platform amid a deafening ovation. Professor Pezzolo looks somewhat disturbed and shows signs of surprise. Galla Rini plays the *Semiramide Overture*. His accordion band follows. Order is restored. A conscientious preparation by Galla-Rini's pupils for the event is proved in the audience's attention. The affair ends at five o'clock. And new discussions arise while the audience is abandoning the grounds. The San Francisco Accordion Club is the target of embittered criticism. Most of the audience agrees that undue favoritism was shown by the Club, as organizer of the traditional event.

John Pezzolo, or rather Professor Pezzolo, as he is called in San Francisco, is an accordion figure with a large following and well-deserved reputation. Tony Galla-Rini is a master of the accordion, whose ability as an accordionist and musician is well known throughout the nation. The San Francisco Accordion Club, however, is apparently a business enterprise whose main objective is the collection of a huge pile of gate receipts. The history of this club is picturesque and lengthy. The narrative would be out of place at this time. We might unnecessarily hurt the susceptibilities of prominent accordionists who are not now connected with the Club. Suffice it to say that in the downgrade of its evolution even motion-picture try-out studios were established on its locale. The accordion-minded public of San Francisco anxiously desires the continued celebration of these accordion picnics that have been taking place year after year. It is to be assumed that if the accordion leaders of Frisco would get together, moved primarily by their love for the accordion, and respect for accordion-lovers, these picnics could be restored to their sterling splendor, eliminating motives of undue speculation which undermine and threaten the existence of such an enormous accordion event.



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San Francisco Accordion Club

2 for 1 Special!

Bring this coupon along with two friends to our monthly musical meeting and BOTH your friends will get in at the single guest rate of \$8.00

Monthly meeting every
3rd Sunday



Expires 7/31/2011



New Members

We welcome: **Krista Hanson** of Burlingame who sings in Masterwork Chorale. She loves the music of Yann Tierson, Astor Piazzola and Balkan music of all sorts; **Frank Petrilli** who played for us last month; and **Ann McChesney-Young** who enjoys folk and dance music from various countries.

Please Remember!

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

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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

DON'T MISS THIS!

On April 2, there will be another Ensemble playing workshop with Joe Smiell at the Yacht Club, our meeting place. It is scheduled from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. Bring your own lunch. There will be a small fee \$10 for this session.

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

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359
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) 791-3041

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.

Performing Around the Bay

Steve Balich • North Bay
(707) 874-3494

Ron Borelli • San Mateo
(650) 574-5707
rborelli@aol.com

Renée de la Prade
Culann's Hounds, San Francisco
www.sfhounds.com

Richard Denier • Carmel
rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono • San Francisco
www.peterdibono.com

Reno Di Bono • South Bay
ourhike@aol.com

William De Michelis • South Bay
wdd777@comcast.net

Joe Domitrowich • South Bay
www.capricious-accordion.com or
www.alpinersusa.com

Due Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano)
San Francisco
www.eurocafemusic.com or
zighi@sonic.net

Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobbelins
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www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins

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Don Nurisso • Pacifica
nurisso@mindspring.com

Mike Zampiceni • South Bay
eclecticguy@comcast.net

Ed Gorzynski, Jr. • East Bay
edspolkas@yahoo.com

Play at our Meeting!

We are always grateful and accepting of anyone who wishes to play for warm up, intermission, or the first part of the meeting. Share your talent and hone your performance skills! Contact Val Kieser to sign up.

On March 1st, the San Francisco Accordion Club lost one of its founders, **Oreste (Rusty) Bartoli**, who passed away of congestive heart failure. In recent years Rusty and his wife Thelma attended meetings frequently but quietly, as was their habit, so that probably not a lot of folks knew who they were. But things were different in the early years of the Club. Rusty and his good buddy Walter Traverso had talked about founding an accordion club, then they attended the gathering at City Hall which resulted in the accordion being named the *Official Instrument of San Francisco*. At that grand event, the decision was made and they teamed up with Dominic Palmisano, Jim Holliday and Lou Soper and decided to start an accordion club. What a fine idea that was! Originally, Rusty was very active in the mechanics of setting up and running the club. He and Walter, for example, solicited donations of food for the very large annual picnics at the Elks Club in Palo Alto, reminiscent of accordion picnics in the '30s and '40s. Also, Rusty and Thelma were in charge of labeling and stamping the newsletters for distribution for many years. In truth, Rusty could always be counted on to jump in and help with whatever needed doing. He didn't much enjoy the spotlight but preferred a quiet, supportive approach. He almost never missed a Club meeting. Rusty played and loved the accordion for a great many years, having studied with John Pezzolo. He played at home, at parties, at weddings, for birthdays . . . anywhere he could until the last year or so. He played regularly at the monthly spaghetti feed that the Immaculate Conception Church put on. He influenced his nephew Dave Baoni to play also... Dave was at Rusty's home playing for him a couple days before Rusty died..

Rusty was a teamster all his life. He was a stylish dresser, always wearing one specific small-brimmed hat. He cared greatly about how he looked, how he played the accordion and especially about Thelma. We'll all miss very much, Rusty. Thank you for being such an essential part of the San Francisco



Pictured below is Jim Holliday at the last meeting, enjoying his birthday cake. Happy Birthday Jim!



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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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\$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 you want.

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Musical Meeting • March 20 @ 2 p.m.

Jam Session Begins 1 - 1:45 p.m.

- **Ron Harris will play for our Intro.**
- **ABSOLUTACCORD**—Lynn Ewing, Marian Kelly, David Perry, Joe Simoni, Sharon Walters Greyhosky, Norma Zonay-Parsons and Richard Yaus.
- **Randall Hicks and Valerie Kieser**

*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

NOTICE

Parking behind the Oyster Point Yacht Club will be disrupted through September 2011, while a ferry boat terminal is being built. We can no longer park behind the building and there is limited parking in the lot alongside the OPYC. PLEASE do not park in the Commodore's designated space in the front of this lot! Overflow parking must go to the next lot down the line, where the \$10 parking fee is being waived.

**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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