

November • 2010

Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of every month
@ the Oyster Point Yacht Club in South San Francisco

the San Francisco Accordion Club NEWSLETTER



November 21 • Music and MORE

We have been hoping to hear from **David Perry** for a while and November is our lucky month.

David studied accordion from ages six to seventeen, most of that time with Ernst Gloe, who taught music at the California Conservatory of Music and at California State University, East Bay. David played the clarinet for many years in various groups throughout the San Francisco Bay Area but his accordion sat in the closet, unused for forty-eight years, until 2008 when he was invited to join the Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE). David continues to play with ACE and is a member of AbsolutAccord.

For something a little different – we offer you **“Music from the Board.”** While not a requirement, it just so happens each of our Executive Board members plays the accordion. They will perform a variety of solo and ensemble pieces for your enjoyment. Here is a little background information (in alphabetical order) on each of our board member’s relationship with the accordion.



David Perry

Lynn Ewing (President) learned to play the accordion at age 7 at the Robert Mitchell accordion studio in San Diego, and went on to teach for them and direct the studio’s 5 accordion bands, consisting of kids of all ages. She received certification as an Orff Classroom Music Teacher from Mills College, and was the music specialist at El Granada



Lynn Ewing

Elementary School for 7 years. Currently, Lynn teaches private accordion students and performs with two ensembles, *ACE* and *AbsolutAccord*.

Skyler Fell (Director) is an accordion repairwoman, sales person, teacher and proprietress of San Francisco’s Accordion hub, *The Accordion Apocalypse Repair Shop*. In the late 90’s after hearing the accordionist in an all-girl punk band, she was hooked. She soon found Boaz Accordions in San Francisco (at the time), and made a “work/trade” arrangement for her first accordion lessons and a borrowed accordion to practice on. Fast forward and Skyler is now performing with many groups of talented friends, such as *The HoboGoblins*.

Gus Greyhosky (Director) started playing on a chromatic button accordion, by ear, at about 6 or 7 years of age, switching to a piano accordion at about age 10. Drafted during WW II, the accordion was set aside until about 8 years ago. While learning to read music, Gus attended an American Accordion Association (AAA) convention in Philadelphia, met

(cont. >)



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and married Sharon Walters, and now claims to torture all men and beasts within earshot of his practicing.

Randy Hicks (Secretary) is the “baby” of the bunch – at least in terms of his acquaintance with the accordion. He was “inspired” to pick up the instrument on a challenge by a friend a little over two and a half years ago. His friend has yet to keep up her end of the challenge but today, Randy is making his solo performance debut. Randy is a student of Lou Jacklich.



Randy Hicks

Marian Kelly (Treasurer) grew up in Northampton, Massachusetts amidst a great deal of accordion interest. She joined the orchestra of and taught for the Pizzitola Music Studios. Her current accordion interests include teaching, participating in ACE, playing the bass-accordion in *AbsolutAccord*, schmoozing with her many accordion friends and helping at least a few folks in the general public appreciate the variety of musical treats that an accordion can provide.



Marian Kelly

Val Kieser's (Director) zeal for the accordion began when she took lessons at the Olmstead Studio in Palo Alto, CA from 1949-1952, and loved it. Val continued to play the accordion when she had a chance, and gives credit to Maestro Joe Smiell who took a strong hand in Val's musical education and encouraged her to play not only the piano accordion, but the Austrian Button Box as well. Val is a member of ACE and also directs the San Francisco Accordion Band. (*see photo, pg. 4*)

Frank Montoro (Vice-President) has been playing accordion for over 75 years. In those many years, the accordion helped him through college, the first six years as a public school teacher and after his retirement as a principal, playing casuals mostly around the Bay area. While Frank plays a little bit of all kinds of music, he still prefers Latin tunes and the songs of the 40's through the 60's when composers gave us many beautiful melodies and sensible lyrics. (*see photo, pg. 6*)

Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (Director) began playing the accordion at age six. She studied with (and taught in the studio of) Orlando Meni-Ketti, and later studied for several years with Ernst Gloe. Sharon is also a member of ACE and AbsolutAccord, and teaches accordion and resides with her husband Gus in San Francisco.



Sharon Walters-Greyhosky

October Music:

A Little of Everything— V. Keiser

We had excellent attendance in spite of very heavy traffic because of a 49ers/Raiders game at Candlestick.. President Lynn Ewing welcomed the crowd, visitors and first-timers. Beautiful *warm-up music* was provided by Sue Hirigoyen and Herb Meier. Herb, his wife Sabine and her son Andi are visiting from Germany. MC for the meeting were the team of Judy and Gene Dale. Judy introduced **Peter Di Bono** and his two young students, **Brandon** and **Adonis Diaz**. Brandon, the younger brother, played a delightful rendition of *Amazing Grace*. Adonis, played a very interesting musical arrangement of *Fascination*. For a finale they played *Lady of Spain* as a duet, which brought the house down. The last to perform, of Peter's very talented students, was **Taylor Pedersen**, who played the hauntingly beautiful *Chiquilin de Bachin*.

Bruce Metras performed next. He began playing accordion at age 8, studying with teacher Janet Farris, also present. He played all Frank Marocco arrangements: **Richard Rodgers** *With A Song In my Heart*; **Michael Edwards** *Once In a While*; *Domino*, *Summer*, *Nature Boy* and others.



Peter Di Bono & the Diaz Brothers



Bruce Mettras



Taylor Pedersen

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Next to perform were **Valborg Floren Brewer** and **Taffy Steffen** who played several duets: *Aus Der Heimat* (From the Homeland), *Bavarian Ländler*; and *Finska Valsen*. Val then played several solos (on her brother Myron's accordion), including *Pennsylvania Polka*; *Long, Long Ago*; *Lordags Valsen*, and *Lady of Spain*. She then told a few stories about her brother Myron and herself, when they used to play for dances. Recently while playing in Sioux Falls, So. Dakota Val met a woman who said to her "I used to take lessons ages ago with Myron Floren's sister!" To the woman's surprise Val replied, "You're looking at her!"



The Two Vals—Val Keiser and Val Brewer



Taffy Steffen and Val Brewer

A few of the tunes they played were: *Innamorata*, *Il Postino*, *Puttin' On the Ritz*, *La Vie en Rose*, *You Belong to My Heart!* *Perfidia*, *The Swan of Camille Saint-Saens*, *Autumn Leaves* and *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*.

Their finale consisted of an all-American medley which included *Yankee Doodle*, *Over There*, *America the Beautiful*, and *God Bless America*.

After the performance several of us went in to the lounge and made more music, in the afterglow of a terrific show!

Lastly, after the break, the **Peter Di Bono Trio**, took the stage. Our club has been very fortunate to hear them perform many times. With **Harriet Newhart** on the violin, **Steve Hanson** on bass and **Peter** on accordion they always put on a terrific show.



Peter Di Bono Trio serenading the crowd

News from Las Vegas

Nov. 1 — 5 • Hundreds of accordionists, professional and amateur, gathered for the 11th year to attend the *Accordion Internatioanl Convention* in Las Vegas.

Highlights were performances by: **Dick Contino, Anthony Rolando and Valerie Vacca, Frank Marocco, Sylvia Marie Barber, Gordon Kohl, Pete Barbutti, Gina Brunelli, Corky Bennett, Kim and Dan Christian, Bruce Gassman, Michael Bridge and Alex Sevastian.**

The music performed ranged from Classical to Rock n'Roll, and included music from almost every part of the world. The final evening we were treated to a performance by the *International Accordion Orchestra* which was organized and led by **Joan Sommers Cochran.**

A very promising young accordionist, Emmanuel Gasser from Canada, took us all by surprise with his original compositions and performing abilities. He has only been playing for 4 years but has already recorded a CD.

Organized by **Paul Pasqualili**, this event features workshops, performances and a venue for all levels of accordionists and those who appreciate accordion music. The event is scheduled for 2011 from Oct. 31—Nov. 4 Sign up early for next year and save.

www.accordioninfo.com/convention



Dick Contino



Sylvia Marie Barber



Bruce Gassmann

Alex Sevastian



Frank Marocco



Reprinted from last issue, with the correct caption, below.



Frank Montoro is pictured here holding a copy of the Datebook section of the September 14th San Francisco Chronicle featuring an article on Joe Smiell and his band. We have had the pleasure, this year, of hearing the Joe Smiell Band perform for the club. For those who are “internet enabled”, if you missed the article in the Chronicle, you can read it here: http://articles.sfgate.com/2010-09-14/entertainment/24001932_1_big-band-brass-band-bavaria or you can go to Google and enter the words *Joe Smiell's Band Chronicle*

Scholarship Awards

Twice a year, our club awards scholarships to accordion students demonstrating promise to further their study and knowledge of the accordion. We are very pleased to award scholarships to the two young gentlemen who performed for our club in October – brothers Adonis and Brandon Diaz. Adonis and Brandon are students of Peter Di Bono. They have been past scholarship recipients and we are delighted to support these young fellows as they continue their interest in the accordion. Scholarship Guidelines and Applications forms can be obtained from the club secretary, Randy Hicks – by emailing: hickr01@sprintmail.com. (see photo pg. 2)

DiBono Plays for Governor

On Wednesday, Oct 6, 2010 Peter Di Bono played with 12 violinists for the The Governor and guests at the Consular Corps dinner in Sacramento. Way to go Peter!



The Governor, Peter Di Bono, and Maria Shriver

SFAC Officers

Lynn Ewing, , President
(650) 365-1700 ewinglynn@gmail.com

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

Randall Hicks, Secretary (510)583-1581
hickr01@sprintmail.com

Marian Kelly, Treasurer
(650) 854-1896 kelly.marian@gmail.com

SFAC Directors

Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952
accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com

Gus Greyhosky (415) 621-8284
gusgrey@me.com

Valerie Kieser, Copy Editor (510) 531-4836
vtkacc@ifn.net

Sharon Walters-Greyhosky
(415) 621-8284
swaltersgrey@comcast.net

Newsletter

Valerie Kieser, Copy Editor
vtkacc@ifn.net

Christina Knapp, Editor/Graphic Design
snapp.chris@gmail.com

Please Remember!

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

FAREWELL to TWO GREAT ACCORDIONISTS

Arlene Boddicker

K. Friedrich @ www.accordionusa.com

Accordion artist, teacher and former President of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild International, **Arlene Boddicker** passed away on October 17, aged 81.

Arlene began teaching accordion in 1946, and in 1948 she and her husband, Jerry, established the Boddicker Schools of Accordion throughout Iowa. Later, the name was changed to Boddicker School of Music and offered instruction on all instruments. Teaching more than 1,600 students a year, the music schools employed more than 60 teachers and staff.

During her career, Arlene taught many accordionists, toured in both the USA and abroad with her accordion orchestras and adjudicated and presented workshops at various accordion festivals.



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.

Charles Nunzio

K. Friedrich @ www.accordionusa.com



Accordionist and teacher **Charles Nunzio**, the last surviving founding member of the American Accordionists Association passed away on October 17, 2010.

A native of Cattafi, Italy, Charles immigrated to America at age eight in 1921. His family lived in Newark, New Jersey and in order to continue his accordion study with Frank Umbriaco in New York City, Charles and his father would travel for 2 hours every Sunday morning.

A well known composer, artist and teacher, his own advanced study was with Pietro Frosini. He would sub on radio programs for Pietro Deiro, Charles Magnante, Joe Biviano and Frosini. At one time in the 1930's, Charles would do as many as 35 radio programs in a week, plus maintain his teaching schedule and evening appearances with orchestras.

In 1938 Charles Nunzio became a founding Board member of the American Accordionists Association along with Pietro Frosini, Abe Goldman, Sydney Dawson, Anthony Galla-Rini, Charles Magnante, Pietro Deiro, Gene Von Hallberg, Joe Biviano, John Gart, Sam Roland and Byron Strep.

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: Kristofer
Nelson, President: krisnelson@aol.com

East Bay Accordion Circle

Meets: Second Thursday of the Month
Location: 1517 5th Street, Berkeley, CA
Contact: (510) 548-2822

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359
gsaccordionclub.net/firms.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, 7:00 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta.

The Sacramento Chapter meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd, Sacramento. Contact for all three Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

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
Oakland
www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins

Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers
kirschner@aol.com
www.klezmakers.com

Don Nurisso • Pacifica
nurisso@mindspring.com

Mike Zampiceni • South Bay
eclecticguy@comcast.net

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

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.

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

*The San Francisco
Accordion Chamber Ensemble
Presents a program of
Classical, Semiclassical and Folk Music*

*2:30 p.m. Sunday, November 28, 2010
Zion Lutheran Church
5201 Park Boulevard, Piedmont, CA
Suggested donation \$10
Children 12 and under free
Refreshments will be provided*

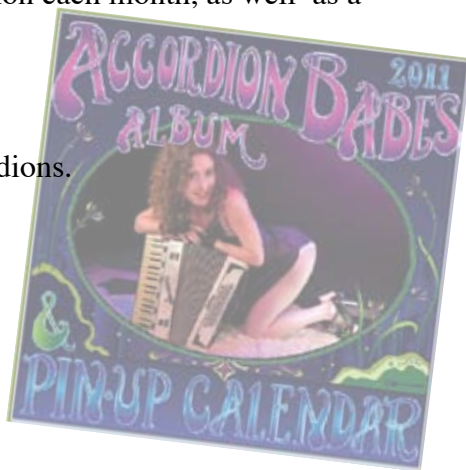
*Come hear your friends and fellow club members
in a full orchestra of 15 players!*

*Musical Director, Arranger and
Conductor: Joe Smiell
Music Librarian: Chris Arild*

*More info:
Val Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net
Lynn Ewing (650) 365-1700 ewinglynn@gmail.com*

Accordion Babes

Do your holiday shopping with the San Francisco Accordion Club! We still have 2011 Accordion Babes Pin-Up Calendars for sale at our monthly meetings. For a mere \$20, you get a calendar featuring a different make and model of accordion each month, as well as a CD featuring performances by the lively models pictured with those accordions. Make sure to get one for yourself and everyone on your holiday shopping



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 vtkacc@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, and Michael Sanossian.

Congratulations

Martynas Levickis, who many of us heard at the ATG Festival in Santa Clara, where he took second place in the Galla-Rini Classical Accordion competition, was the winner of the Coupe Mondiale International Competition for Piano Accordion that took place October 19-25 in Croatia. This is the most difficult and widely recognized competition for Piano Accordion in the World, and he took 1st prize amongst 14 other contestants. Congratulations Martynas - we hope you will be playing back in the Bay Area again soon!

SFAC Membership

\$30.00 per year for individual or family membership. Meeting admission is \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 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.

New Members

Wei Meng of San Francisco joined at the September meeting. She trained extensively in China and is interested in joining the Fun Band.

Taylor Pedersen of San Francisco and a member of the ACE Ensemble, joined at the October meeting. Taylor plays piano accordion and likes classical music.

Kenneth Schwartz of San Mateo joined at the October meeting, plays piano accordion, plays a Sonola Rivoli and likes and plays everything—many of his own arrangements.

Mary Catherine Robertson and Gisèle B. Oakes both live in Daly City and both enjoy Classical, European, Latin, Tex/Mex and Cajun/Zydeco music.

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 FX: 650-692-8798

E: KIRSCHNER@AOL.COM

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.

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Send items to the editor,

Christina Knapp

snapp.chris@gmail.com

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Musical Meeting • November 21 @ 2 p.m.

Music from the Board and David Perry

*Come 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

Be Planet Friendly &
help us **SAVE MONEY**
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email
hickr01@sprintmail.com

**Newsletter of the
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San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

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