



The World's First  
Accordion Club  
since 1912

## San Francisco Accordion Club November 2011

# NEWSLETTER

### Next Meeting, Nov. 20 @ 2 p.m.

**Peter DiBono Trio**—Peter DiBono on accordion,  
**Harriet Newhart** on violin and **Steve Hanson** on bass.

This **Trio** has been serenading Bay Area audiences for over 25 years. Harriet is equally comfortable playing Mozart or Mancini and is trained on piano and violin. She brings a warm vitality to her music. She and her husband, Byrne (also a violinist), are the principals of their own group – the Starlite Strings.

Steve is one of the busiest Bay Area musicians. He is originally from Minnesota and played trombone in the United States Navy Band. Steve serves on the Board of Directors of the Musician's Union Local 6 of San Francisco.

Peter is no stranger to the San Francisco Accordion club, having been a past President. Peter has played nearly every type of music, in about every setting imaginable from playing Oktoberfests to soloing with Symphony Orchestras and playing for the Governor. After retiring as an Inspector with the San Francisco Police Department, Peter is still an active accordion instructor and is on the faculty of the Community Music Center in San Francisco.



### Val Floren Brewer and Family

Val Floren Brewer is joined by her son, Jan and daughter-in-law, Carole. This family act entertains with a variety of musical styles – including ballads, gospel, popular standards, sing-alongs, and of course a few toe-tapping polkas too. Val, as her name suggests, is a close relative of



the well known accordionist with the Lawrence Welk Orchestra – Myron Floren. Like her little brother, Val is an accomplished accordionist and entertainer in her own right. Jan plays drums and has promised to bring his spoons too. Carole is a professional singer and inspirational speaker.

### Taffy Steffen and Jim Shoemaker

Taffy Steffen has always especially liked playing the accordion with others and has enjoyed playing



duets with Jim for the last couple of years. She has recently joined the Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE) and appreciates having the opportunity to learn from Joe Smiell and being a part of the ensemble. Taffy also attends and participates in several accordion camps throughout the year.

Jim Shoemaker considers himself to be a lucky guy. He gets to play duets with Taffy, and enjoys the opportunities to hear Joe Smiell's bands and himself, plays in the band for the Alpentänzer Schuhplat-

### REMEMBER

The regular monthly meeting for January 2012 will be held on January 22, which is a week later than our usual third Sunday of the month schedule.

(continued from page 1)

tlar dancers of Sacramento. He is also active in the Northern California Accordion Society and the Golden State Accordion Club.

Recipient of the Scholarship and student of Skyler Fell: **Linus Schmitz**, 10 of San Francisco will be playing a few songs for us at the Nov. 20th meeting. (see page 5 for more details about the scholarship)

## Next JAM session

will be held before the November meeting, from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m..

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.

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

## The October meeting of the SF Accordion Club was wonderfully diverse and entertaining.

We were delighted to have our own **Frank Montoro** entertain us with a selection of Oktoberfest tunes to kick off our program. It is always a pleasure to hear Frank's smooth stylings, and we look forward to hearing him again soon.

We moved quickly to our next performer - "the Liberace of the Accordion," **Tony Lovello**, courtesy of Petosa Accordions! Tony has also been dubbed the "King of the Bellows Shake" by none other than Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini, and he demonstrated his claim to this title to our great delight. Tony's humor and showmanship combined to make a great show for us, and his generosity with giving away his CD's was a lot of fun too! He "razzle-dazzled" us with his famous glissandos, rapid runs, and outstanding arrangements, and his interaction with the audience made this a truly memorable performance.



*Molly Shannon & Tony Lovello*



*Luz Gaxiola and Molly Shannon*

After the break, we had "Miss April", **Luz Gaxiola** and two of her fellow performers from Circus Finelli, a four-women clown troupe specializing in irreverent, cartoonish circus comedy. We enjoyed Accordion Babe Luz Gaxiola on accordion, kazoo, and paddleboard. **Mahsa Matin**, known as "Mustard" had an entire percussion section strapped on her back and attached to her feet, where she sang, played guitar, and manipulated various levers and strings to activate drums and a cymbal - all at the same time and in perfect rhythm. **Molly Shannon** provided ukulele and backup dancing, as well as a few head stands, and some fancy footwork with the cymbals.

**Caroline Grannan, Jean Butler, Steve Rubenstein** and **Lynn Ewing** were joined by **Skyler Fell** and **Melody Guzman** to sing and play “The Accordion Club Anthem” (reprinted on page 4) and with the audience joining in to sing along, we had great fun. Maybe we should open our meetings with it every month! Skyler and Melody stayed on stage to entertain us with a couple of great tunes with Skyler on accordion and vocals and Melody on gut bucket - ‘La Contessa,’ a traditional sea faring song and ‘Green Balloons’, a Hobo Goblins original, written by Dan Abbot.

We finished the afternoon with 2012 Accordion Babe Calendar Cover Girl **Amber Lee Baker** on accordion and vocals, playing her original music. Amber Lee picked up an accordion in a music shop in 2002 and instantly fell in love. A childhood of piano and voice lessons gave her a passion for music, but it was the accordion that really allowed her to find her true voice. With a wide range of influences she paints fascinating stories in her songs, and we had the pleasure of hearing these quirky and witty songs at our meeting. Thanks Amber!



*Amber Lee Baker*



*Group performing the Accordion Club Anthem, see next page*

## The Accordion Club Anthem

**Music:** *Traditional* **Lyrics:** *Jean Butler, Caroline Grannan & Steve Rubenstein played and sung to the tune of "Those Were the Days, my Friend..."*

*Slowly and dramatically*

Dm

Once our sounds were heard across the nation.

D7 Gm

The bellows ruled; accordion was king.

Gm Dm

But Lawrence Welk fell somehow out of fashion,

E7 A7

And then guitar became the hottest thing.

A7 Dm (*start to pick up tempo*)

**But ... here ... at ... Oyster Point**

D7 Gm

**The squeezebox rocks the joint.**

Gm C F

**Those timeless tunes that always seem to please.**

F Gm

**The songs your grandpa sang**

Gm Dm

**Till grandma's eardrum rang**

Dm A7 Dm

**The tunes you hear when squeezebox players squeeze.**

(one chorus of La-La-La, then slow again)

Dm (*slow*)

Accordion Babes perform onstage this Sunday

D7 Gm

Tango, jazz and rock are played here too

Gm Dm

We hear Klezmer, opera, and on some days

E7 A7

A top 10 hit from 1942.

A7 Dm

**So ... join ... our ... club today**

D7 Gm

**And let the music play**

Gm C F

**Sweet sounds of reeds and singing fill the air**

F Gm

**Our tunes will rock the place**

Gm Dm

**(If we find a parking space)**

Dm A7

**Our bellows soon will bellow everywhere.**

One chorus of La-La-La

## 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: Mike Zampiceni—220 Tasman Dr., #106, Sunnyvale, CA 94089 by the end of either March or September to be considered for an award the following month.

The Board is pleased to announce that the recipient of the scholarship for Fall, 2011 is Linus Schmitz, who is a student of Skyler Fell. Linus has been playing the accordion for just a year, but he has been a music student for four years at his elementary school. To his credit, he already plays the accordion in his school orchestra, and has received plaudits from his school music teacher, who states “He has consistently shown a great deal of enthusiasm for music, and a very strong work ethic. Last year, with the beginning of our class orchestra, he began studying the accordion, and has brought his joy and dedication into each music class, taking up the work with sincere focus and attention.” It should also be noted that Linus playing the accordion has led several other children to express interest in the instrument.

**Mike Z., Scholarship Chairman**

### Please Remember!

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

## SFAC Membership

SFAC Membership

\$30.00 per year for individual or family  
Meeting admission is \$6 per member & \$8 per guests. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Don Nurisso, 1166 Alicante Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044. NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you want

## SFAC Officers

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(650) 453-3391 [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com)

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(415) 587-4423 [accord47@gmail.com](mailto:accord47@gmail.com)

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## Newsletter

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## 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) 791-3041

### 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.

## Accordion Instruction

Bart Beninco (707) 769-8744

Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707

David Chelini (916) 428-8764

Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502

Lynn Ewing (650) 365-1700

Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952

Lou Jacklich (510) 317-9510

Marjorie Konrad (707) 539-5308

Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896

Vincent Rinaldi (415) 824-7609

Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (415) 621-8284

Richard Yaus (650) 832-1740

Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579

Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

## 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  
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(408) 375-0001

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

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[www.eurocafemusic.com](http://www.eurocafemusic.com) or  
[zighi@sonic.net](mailto:zighi@sonic.net)

**Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobelins**  
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**Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers**  
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**Ed Gorzynski, Jr.** • East Bay  
[edspolkas@yahoo.com](mailto:edspolkas@yahoo.com)

## Membership Renewal Reminder

If you haven't yet sent in your membership renewal, we hope you will do so soon. Renewal forms and dues payments can be sent to our new Membership Chair, Don Nurisso at 1166 Alicante Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044

Please contact Randy Hicks by emailing: [sfac-newsletter@earthlink.net](mailto:sfac-newsletter@earthlink.net) or calling 510 583-1581 and leaving a message - he will get a form right out to you.



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**Club & Musical Meeting • Nov. 20 @ 2 p.m.**

**Performing in NOVEMBER**—Peter DiBono Trio; Val Floren Brewer and Family; Taffy Steffen and Jim Shoemaker & Linus Schmitz, this year's Scholarship Winner.

*Join us (almost every) third sunday of the 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)

**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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