

# December, 2025



## SFAC Holiday Party Potluck and Holiday Jam Session December 14<sup>th</sup> in Millbrae 2:00pm - 4:30pm PT

Let's celebrate the season together! Our **December Accordion Club meeting** will feature a **Shared Dish Celebration** — a time to enjoy music, good food, and great company. Please bring a favorite dish or treat to share (no alcohol). The Club will provide coffee (with spill-safe lids), paper plates, napkins, and flatware, but serving utensils are always welcome. We're also looking for a few volunteers to help with setup and cleanup — thank you for helping us keep the space tidy and wrapping up on time.

- ◆ How to Sign Up: Add your name and potluck dish to our online sign-up sheet (via link below) OR email **Monica Ambalal** at [mambalal@hotmail.com](mailto:mambalal@hotmail.com) and she'll add your name for you.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10sJcJvfnlh3f4340n2lifSrMuUuc4ZCIAi8Fp0-nEI/edit?gid=1265002282#gid=1265002282>

In our **Holiday Jam Session** we will play from our Club's holiday jam books. Please email us at [info@sfaccordionclub.com](mailto:info@sfaccordionclub.com) if you wish to obtain a PDF copy in advance for practicing and to bring with you.

Get ready, get set!



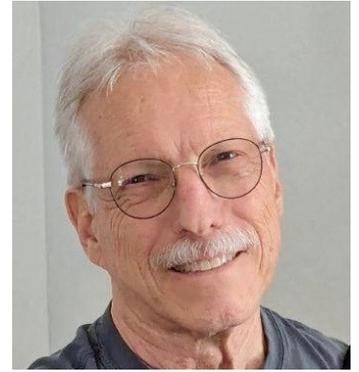
*The San Francisco Accordion Club is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization [EIN 94-3148553] whose purpose is to enhance, promote and stimulate an appreciation for the accordion within the membership and throughout the general public. Donations are tax-deductible and gratefully accepted by using the **Donate** button at [www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)*

## In Memory of SFAC member Eric Baker

By Robert Cooperstein

Eric joined the SFAC in 2018. I cannot recall meeting him or seeing him at a recent meeting of the SFAC.

Eric is survived by his wife Karen Mokrzycki, who sent me a brief note telling me of his passing, stating “the deceased loved the Accordion Club”; enclosing a very generous donation to the Club in honor of her spouse. I always wonder why we have members who never contact us yet faithfully pay their dues. In an email to SFAC President Ken Schwartz I said “Sometimes I wonder what those members who pay their dues and are not able to participate in-person think of us. I would like to think they share Eric's appreciation of what we do.” Ken replied “That’s why we give our efforts to the Club. It brings joy to many people in ways that sometimes we can’t even imagine.” Indeed.



We found an obituary in the [Santa Cruz Sentinel](https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/obituaries/eric-baker-santa-cruz/) (<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/obituaries/eric-baker-santa-cruz/>). Trust me, it’s worth reading – Eric’s vocations, avocations, and military service in the USAF comprise an amazing life. I am only going to quote the paragraph most relevant to his engagement with the SFAC: “He began working at the UC Santa Cruz University Library where he met his current wife Karen. During these years he pursued his interest in gardening and home projects, and spent many hours playing Italian folk songs on mandolin and French Musette songs on accordion, both of which he took up in his 50s, taking lessons in the morning before work.”

Eric, we thank you and your loving widow Karen for your longtime support for the mission of the SFAC.

## Membership Update

By Robert Cooperstein

We concluded our membership renewal drive on December 1, 2025. With all the numbers in, we can now report that our renewal rate was 80%. This was less than last year, which saw our most successful drive ever. On the plus side, we did receive donations far in excess of what we have seen before, which will greatly support our effort to continue putting on musical programs, the cost of which has dramatically increased, as well as provide scholarships to talented accordion students.

We remain hopeful that even now that former SFAC members who have been informed they are now “inactive” will have a change of heart, or more simply find the time to do what they had intended to do – remain involved in this amazing accordion club.

So, in a word, to those who continued their memberships, thanks!

### 🎶 Appreciation for our Donors! 🎶

**Sincere Thanks** to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. These members have made donations during our current (October 2025 – September 2026) membership year:

Paul Aebersold, Lorna Anderson, Scott Anderson, Ron Borelli, Gail Campanella, George Chavez, Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Edward Crnich, Tony David, Xavier & Candace de la Prade, Sarah Gronquist, Heidi Hansen, Lorraine Inaudi, Arleen Johnson, Jerry Keifer, John Lister, Linda Lonay, Franco & Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi, Nora Mazzara, Steve Mobia, Karen Marie Mokrzycki, Laura Jean Niland, Colette Ogata, David Perry, Robert D. & Dil Pisani, Diana Purucker, Duane Quenzel, Richard Rauschmeier, Shirley Roller, Tibor Sarkany, Kenneth Schwartz, John Sullivan, Georgia Sutherland, Bill & Gloria Tapogna, Pamela Tom, Jane & Frank Tripi, Frank Venturelli, Barbara Winter, Carol Whitehead, Roy Zheng.

If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact [elainedc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elainedc@sbcglobal.net). We so appreciate the support and want to be sure you are recognized.

## Live Music at the Belmont Farmer's Market

by Joseph Ernest Martin

What a crazy day in Belmont! Due to rain, the San Francisco Banjo Band cancelled their appearance. I was already driving to the event ... so I decided to go anyway. Once I got there, the rain stopped, the sky was blue and the temperature was great. As I went to the SFBB spot, Jay R. (keyboardist) showed up saying he didn't know they cancelled and asked me if I wanted to play anyway. I said, "Yes."

We set up and I called **Colette Ogata** to join us. She came and the three of us played some fun and fancy music for the Farmer's Market.

We supplied music from 9am-12:30pm and we had a ball playing for the crowds walking by. We played many of the old standards from the **Great American Song Book**. Jay R. is a great musician and plays multiple instruments. That day he brought four of his instruments to play and mostly played his keyboard and clarinet. Colette and I were lucky because all we had to do was name the song and key, and Jay R. would play it with us.

I was playing a borrowed accordion, as mine is in the shop being fixed. This was Colette's first time playing a Farmer's Market and she did great.

All in all, it was a wonderful early Saturday afternoon with many loving and excited comments from people walking by.



## SFAC Members' Directory

As announced previously, a members' contact directory will be available to SFAC members who opt in. A request for you to opt-in or opt-out of the directory was mailed in September with the annual dues notice. For security reasons this directory will be distributed in a print (paper) form only.

You may email [info@sfaaccordionclub.com](mailto:info@sfaaccordionclub.com) if you have not yet contacted us via US mail or email regarding the directory. The only information we need from you is your intention to opt-in or opt-out, as well as which of the following contact information you are willing to share: first name, last name, email address, phone number, social media info (Facebook, Insta, YouTube, X, website, etc.), full residential address or city/state only.

The printed Club directory will be mailed to participating members early in 2026.



## Did You Know?!

The Club offers a **lending library of music books** available to SFAC members in good standing. It includes the two classic accordion sets, **Sedlon Accordion Method Books 1-A** through 4-B, and **The Palmer Hughes Accordion Course Books 1-10**. Any aspiring accordionist who would like to borrow one or both of these time-tested collections would need to arrange to pick them up at a Club meeting. And of course, arrange to have them returned for the next person ready to expand their repertoire. One rarely goes wrong with the classics, how about giving it a try?!

For further information: [info@sfaaccordionclub.com](mailto:info@sfaaccordionclub.com).



## Tunes in the Terminal

By Joseph Martin



The accordion is on local TV. A TV news segment about the Oakland Airport's music program featured accordion player **Joseph Martin** at the Oakland International Airport. This was reported by ABC7 News Bay Area, which aired a number of videos showing Joseph playing his accordion in the terminal.

Joseph was participating in the airport's entertainment series "Tunes in the Terminal" program, which brings live music to travelers during holiday periods and all year round.

While the exact news clip from the TV segment is not directly available in search results, the news station itself posted about hosting live segments from the airport around the holiday season, confirming their presence and coverage of the airport's festive activities.

Accordion love is everywhere.... !



The Orly Museum of Hungarian Culture will be open on Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm free of charge.

Come enjoy the Museum, listen Hungarian and American Christmas Carols with Tibor Sárkány and Friends on Accordions from 2:00 pm, as well as János Horváth on cello.

Seating for the concert is limited. Please rsvp for a concert ticket at [orlymuseum.org/rsvp](https://orlymuseum.org/rsvp).



SFAC members attending our September meeting were offered gratis portraits, with or without their accordions, by professional photographer Ashley Thompson! (<https://www.athompsonphotography.com>) . This is Part II. Part I in November newsletter.



## Accordion Happenings

### ◆ National Accordion Association Conference 2026

March 18-21, 2026

TownePlace Suites by Marriott - Forney, TX

[www.accordions.com/naa](http://www.accordions.com/naa)

- ◆ Featuring: **The NAA Orchestra Experience**  
With Gordon Kohl

<https://www.accordions.com/naa/chandouts.html>

### ◆ The Santa Barbara Symphony - Bella Italia!

March 28, 2026, 7:30pm & March 29, 2026, 3:00pm

Featuring Hanzhi Wang, Accordion

<https://ticketing.granadasb.org/20385>

Promo code: AIMS20 (20% discount)

### ◆ San Diego Accordion Extravaganza & Band Camp

May 13-16, 2026

SqueezePlay: Kim & Dan Christian

Contact via: [SqueezePlay.biz](http://SqueezePlay.biz) or (719) 459-2061

### ◆ Rose City Accordion Club's 27<sup>th</sup> Accordion Camp

May 31 - June 5, 2026

Collins Retreat Center, Eagle Creek, OR

Conductors: Joe Natoli & Gail Campanella

Instructors: John Giuliana & Toby Hanson

[rosecityaccordionclub.org](http://rosecityaccordionclub.org)

### ◆ ATG Accordionists & Teachers Guild 2026 Festival

July 8-12, 2026

Salt Lake City, Utah

<https://www.atgaccordions.com/>

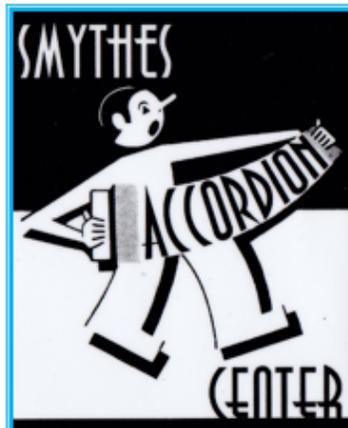
### Online/Virtual Offerings:

**Monthly: 2nd Tuesday** 4:30-6:30 PM (free)

Hosted by Laura Niland [LauraJNiland@outlook.com](mailto:LauraJNiland@outlook.com)

### Members -

If you know of an accordion-centric festival or event in 2026 that your fellow SFAC members may be interested in, please contact us at [info@sfaccordionclub.org](mailto:info@sfaccordionclub.org)



### Kimric Smythe

442 Petaluma Blvd North  
Petaluma, California 95952

Noon-6pm Wed, Fri, Sat  
Noon-8pm Thurs

510-268-4084  
[smytheaccordion@gmail.com](mailto:smytheaccordion@gmail.com)



## Rare Opportunity!

Pancordion played by Myron Floren during the 1960 Season of the Welk Show. Later owned and maintained by his sister, Val Floren Brewer.

**FOR SALE ~ \$5,995.**

Contact Jan Brewer for more details: (916) 987-1727

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Email: [Paul@AccordionInfo.com](mailto:Paul@AccordionInfo.com)



### Ron Borelli Accordionist

Supporting the  
San Francisco Accordion Club

Email: [RONBORELLI@AOL.COM](mailto:RONBORELLI@AOL.COM)

TEXT/PHONE (415)203-6700



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## ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

### San Francisco

- ◆ Sam Reider [www.samreidermusic.com](http://www.samreidermusic.com)  
[sam@samreidermusic.com](mailto:sam@samreidermusic.com)

### East Bay

- ◆ Joel Weber  
[www.joelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/](http://www.joelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/)
- ◆ Mike Zampiceni\* [www.mikezamp.com](http://www.mikezamp.com)

### Peninsula/South Bay

- ◆ Joe Simoni\* [jsimoni2000@gmail.com](mailto:jsimoni2000@gmail.com), (650) 867-1122
- ◆ Mike Zampiceni\* [www.mikezamp.com](http://www.mikezamp.com)

### Outside the Bay Area

- ◆ Bonnie Birch\* [www.bonniebirch.com](http://www.bonniebirch.com) (Seattle)
- ◆ Gail Campanella\* [GailCampanella@gmail.com](mailto:GailCampanella@gmail.com)  
(805) 895-0457 (Santa Barbara)
- ◆ Pamela Tom\* [accordionpam@gmail.com](mailto:accordionpam@gmail.com) (Davis)

\* = remote lessons (Zoom, Facetime) available

## SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

**RON BORELLI** San Mateo - [RonBorelli@aol.com](mailto:RonBorelli@aol.com)  
[www.ronborelli.com](http://www.ronborelli.com)

**JOE DOMITROWICH** Entire SF Bay Area –  
[Joe@JoeDLive.com](mailto:Joe@JoeDLive.com) or [www.JoeDLive.com](http://www.JoeDLive.com)

**PAMELA TOM** Yolo & Solano Counties  
[accordionpam@gmail.com](mailto:accordionpam@gmail.com)

**MIKE ZAMPICENI** East Bay & South Bay  
[eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net), [www.mikezamp.com](http://www.mikezamp.com)

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# ATG 2026 FESTIVAL HEADS WEST

Join us in Salt Lake City, Utah for the 84<sup>th</sup> ATG Festival with featured artists including Radu Ratoi, Joey Miskulin, Stas Venglevski, and more.

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- WORKSHOPS
- COMPETITIONS
- ATTEND A TABERNACLE CHOIR PERFORMANCE
- LUNCHEONS AND BANQUET

JULY 8-12, 2026 [atgaccordions.com](http://atgaccordions.com)

## SFAC Board & Key Club Functions

**Ken Schwartz**, President, [Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com](mailto:Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com)

**Rosemary Busher**, Vice-President,  
(510) 220-2931, [rosemary@busher.org](mailto:rosemary@busher.org)

**Paul Cain** [paulrussellcain@gmail.com](mailto:paulrussellcain@gmail.com)

**Robert Cooperstein** (510) 207-6009, [drcoop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drcoop@sbcglobal.net)

**Elaine Cooperstein** (510) 921-9323, [elainedc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elainedc@sbcglobal.net)

**Randall Hicks** (510) 750-6858, [hickr01@sprintmail.com](mailto:hickr01@sprintmail.com)

**Dominic Palmisano** (Honorary) [accord47@gmail.com](mailto:accord47@gmail.com)

**Anand Joseph** (614) 329-9384

**Roy Zheng** [roycraft3@gmail.com](mailto:roycraft3@gmail.com)

### Scholarship Awards:

Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579, [eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net)

**Webmaster & Bookkeeping:** Randall Hicks

**Newsletter:** Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Pamela Tom, Rosemary Busher, Ken Schwartz (*and credited contributors each issue*)

**Accordion Rentals:** Rosemary Busher

**Live Meeting Sound & Amplification:** Paul Cain

**Live Meeting Zoom Camera & Sound:** Ken Schwartz

**Membership:** Robert Cooperstein

**Event Photography:** Steve Mobia



San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o Cooperstein

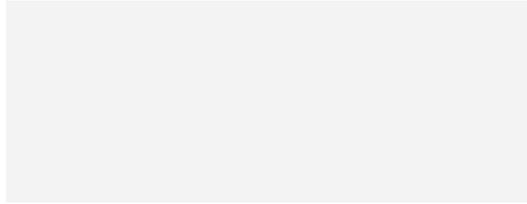
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First Class  
Postage

## FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



### Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar:

- ◆ *December 14 [Second Sunday]* Accordion Circle—Holiday Edition - Millbrae [See p. 1 for details]
- ◆ *January 25, 2026* Brother & Sister Duo, Adam & Emma Dohner, Accordion & Violin - Millbrae
  - ◆ *February 15, 2026* Accordion Circle (details TBD) - Millbrae

**Sunday, December 14**

❄️ **Holiday Accordion Circle** ❄️

**Doors open at 2:00pm - 4:30pm PT**

❄️ **Second Sunday in December** ❄️

**\$10 members / \$15 non-members**  
**Youth free with parent**  
*-Exact change appreciated-*



**Chetcuti Community Room**  
**SFAC Monthly Meetings:**  
*Plenty of free parking in Library lot*  
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Come join us for fun and great music!  
BYOS (bring your own music stand!)  
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