

June, 2026

Sunday, June 21

♪ ♪ SFAC Accordions Live! ♪ ♪

LIVE & In-Person!

Joe Domitrowich!

THE SFAC "JAM BAND" WILL GATHER

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

Chetcuti Community Room - Millbrae, CA

2:00 pm Doors Open for Club Jam Band

\$10 members / \$15 non-members

Youth free when accompanied by a parent

*SFAC Members will receive **ZOOM** link via email*



As both performing artist and self-described technician of the accordion, **Joe Domitrowich's** technical mastery of the modern-day accordion, and his innovative and capricious styling coalesce to render his performances both challenging and entertaining.

Embracing the nostalgic, old-world timbre of the accordion's reeds, Joe often orchestrates the sounds from a variety of musical instruments into his arrangements, sometimes covering the roles of all the instruments in an ensemble or band. These arrangements he then performs live on a single instrument without the use of pre-recorded tracks. In this way, Joe preserves spontaneity and "life" in his music, creating a truly unique experience that captivates audiences at public events, intimate family gatherings, or novelty concerts.

Joe's distinctive blend of tradition, innovation, and technology leaves an 'Extraordinary' and lasting impression, especially when experienced ... LIVE.

Visit Joe's website joedlive.com for more information about Joe and where you will find him performing around the Bay area.

*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*

The SFAC May Musical Program

Ken Schwartz

Last month's Accordion Circle was reminiscent of our early days, with a small but enthusiastic group of attendees.

Mike Zampiceni led a group of 9 accordionists through the jam session, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. The group is clearly ready to add some "new" songs to our repertoire, so we'll mix in various newish selections from our jam books for the coming weeks.

Solo performers:

Anand's daughters opened the solo session. **Jennifer** very nicely played *Dečja polka* (Children's polka) and **Annabelle** played *Mini Waltz* by Derbenko (Stradella) and *Waltz* by Vlasov (Free Bass). Both are growing up before our eyes and progressing so nicely in their accordion studies! Dad, Anand, wowed us with his own arrangements of *Ghostbusters* and *Thriller*, both exceptionally performed.



Roy Zheng next performed a lovely and difficult version of *Indifference*, followed by his arrangement of excerpts from the soundtrack of the movie *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Thank you, Roy!

Duane Quetzel rounded out the afternoon with his performance, via Zoom, of *Take a Chance on Me* (Abba). Well done as always, Duane. Thank you!

Mike Zampiceni wowed us with a series of spontaneous improvisations on numerous songs, including both standards and requests from the audience: *Sicilian Tarantella*, *Perfidia*, *Autumn Leaves*, *Charleston*, *Theme from the Godfather*, *Theme from Charade*, *Tico Tico*, and others. Mike has never sounded better, perhaps related to the informal, impromptu setting. You were spectacular, Mike, and made the day.



Thank you, everyone!

We continue to seek volunteers to assist with writing our monthly event summaries. Please contact info@sfaaccordionclub.com to volunteer to write up the June event.



Passing the torch: An exciting opportunity to lead our monthly meetings!

Dear San Francisco Accordion Club Members,

We have a fantastic, rewarding opportunity for a new team to step up and bring fresh energy to our monthly meetings in both **Millbrae** and **Piedmont**!

After years of hosting, Ken and Rosemary are ready to take a more passive role. To avoid burnout and to keep things fresh, we are stepping back from the organizing responsibilities. We have absolutely loved running these meetings, and now we want to share this incredibly fun task with you!

To keep our regular monthly meetings going, we need an enthusiastic team of **three people** to take the reins. **Please note: our regular monthly meetings cannot continue if a group of three do not step forward.**

Why You'll Love This Role

It's genuinely fun: You get to be the heartbeat of the club and keep everyone connected.

It's rewarding: You will directly shape our community's experience and culture.

Make it your own: You will have total freedom to put your own creative touch on how meetings are run.

What's Involved? (Hint: It's Not Rocket Science!)

You've seen us do it for years, so you already know the ropes! Working as a trio makes the workload light and highly collaborative. Together, your team will tag-team simple tasks like:

Emceeing and welcoming members.

Time management to keep the agenda moving.

Snacks and managing the door.

Zoom management (completely optional—your choice if you want to provide streaming).

Ken and Rosemary will be right there with you in the audience, cheering you on and helping you transition smoothly. If you are ready to team up with two friends—or want to be paired with other members—to keep our Millbrae and Piedmont meetings alive, please email info@sfaccordionclub.com. Thank you for your energy, your passion, and for helping our club step into its next exciting chapter!

Warmly,

Ken and Rosemary

SF Accordion Club Monthly Meeting Leadership Team

ACCORDION AMBASSADOR ADVENTURES

by Pamela Tom

The [Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration](#), hosted by the [Northwest Accordion Society](#), is annually held in June in Leavenworth, WA. This year the date is June 25-28. SFAC member [Bonnie Birch](#) (picture at left) is a key volunteer, and serves as both President/Treasurer of NAS and Chair/Treasurer of the LIAC committee. Kudos to Bonnie for dedicating her time and leadership in keeping both the NAS and LIAC going all these years!



[Gail Campanella](#) (right) will be a workshop presenter at the [Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration](#), to take place June 25-28, 2026 in Leavenworth, WA. Gail's workshop session, "Creating a Program That Connects with the Audience", will occur Saturday June 27 1:30 – 2:30 PM at Grange/Upper. Gail will also be performing at the [Accordionists & Teachers Guild, International Festival](#) to be held July 8-12, 2026 at the Salt Lake City Marriott University in Utah. Gail will be the musical entertainment at the *Meet and Greet* event on July 8, 7:30 – 9:00 PM, MDT.



Cotati Accordion Festival Call for Volunteers

This year's 35th Cotati Accordion Festival (CAF) will be August 15 - 16, 2026 at La Plaza Park.

Now is your chance to assist by volunteering at the 2026 Cotati Accordion Festival! If you want to volunteer, visit the CAF volunteer page to see what roles are available: cotatifest.com/volunteer/. Every volunteer gets a poster, a weekend pass, a drink ticket, and a ticket to the backstage hospitality tent.

The annual pre-CAF Student Stage Scholarship concert takes place on Friday, August 14, 2026 (4 – 6 PM) at the Church of the Oaks (about a block away from La Plaza Park). Admission is based on donation only. Information will be posted in a future SFAC newsletter.

Tickets are on sale for the 35th Annual, International, Multicultural, Nonprofit Cotati Accordion Festival, August 15 & 16, 2026. The prices remain the same as last year. Advance one-day sale: \$23.00 /\$27.00 at the gate. Advanced two-day sale: \$35.00 / \$40.00 at the gate. Senior discounts are available [online](#) (cotati-accordion-festival.square.site/shop/tickets/6) or by mail to C.A.F. 29 Mission Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952.





President's Report

Ken Schwartz

A

Small Favor

Hi all – Summer is almost upon us, so it's a good time to reflect on the year to date and request a small favor. The Club has sponsored successful meetings, granted scholarships, has welcomed a record number of new members, and is thriving.

After years of organizing and hosting many events, it's time to step back a bit, take a breather, and enjoy our meetings – just like you! Elsewhere in this newsletter is an invitation for Club members to join a committee and take on exciting opportunities to participate and lead the Club! It's fun and will ensure our future!

Thank you!

Ken

Thank you, Pamela Tom!

The SFAC has an informal process for producing newsletters. Members contribute text and photos; Robert reviews and edits submissions, while Elaine designs the layout using specialized software. Some members then review it for improvements. Contributions have been declining. Without Pamela Tom's many excellent submissions this month, we might not have had much of a newsletter. We most heartily acknowledge and appreciate Pamela's major contributions to the SFAC newsletter. (From the Editors).



Come and Join Us for the East Bay Jam Circle

We are going to be jamming...

JULY - Tuesday 7th - 4-6pm

at the

LAKEVIEW LIBRARY - Oakland

550 El Embarcadero

Oakland, CA 94610

(Paid parking in the lot - Limited FREE Parking in front)

Bring your music stand

Josephmac50@gmail.com

East Bay Accordion Jam Moves for July

Joseph Martin

The East Bay Accordion Jam is **moving to the Lakeview Library** in Oakland for our meeting on Tuesday, July 7th, 4:00 – 6:00 PM. Location: 500 El Embarcadero, Oakland. (Limited free parking in front, paid parking in lot)

We have a great group that comes and brings great music and tasty snacks. If you can join us, come to the next Jam Session with your accordion and music stand.



Thomas, Robert, Curtis, Joseph, Colette, Jane and Joel all had a great time in May. In June-July, we are introducing new songs to the mix. Send me an email and I'll send you the new book.

josephmac50@gmail.com

Hope to see you there.

Pamela Tom's SoCal Visit

Pamela Tom



Last month I headed to San Diego to attend the San Diego Accordion Extravaganza, to visit with Donna Kaspar (San Diego Accordion Club President) and Gloria Ensign (SDAC co-founding member and past president).

Whenever possible, I visit Gloria, an accordion pro at age 15 and now 98. In college Gloria majored in music with her accordion (Duluth, MN) and earned a teaching credential in special ed.

Gloria was my impetus to learn to play the accordion. We met in 2010 at a retirement party in La Jolla, CA. Hitherto I had never met any accordionists. Gloria mentioned she was an accordionist. I had taught myself to play a 12-button accordion to learn beer tunes in my junior year in high school German class. I seized the opportunity to chat about accordions for the rest of



Snapshot time at the conclusion of an open mic session at the Accordion Extravaganza. Pictured: Gail Campanella, Joseph Martin, Colette Ogata, Casey Ogata and me

the evening with Gloria. She invited me to accompany her to memory unit gigs using a spare 12-button accordion when I was in town. We played popular sing-along tunes from the 30s and 40s in the keys of C, F or G.

I had a blast playing as Gloria's sidekick and was led to Lou Jacklich to get a solid foundation on the fundamentals and technique of playing classical music on a 120/41 accordion. I now study with Lou DiMaggio (a 1951 Horace Heidt Youth Opportunity Program Finalist and 2026 Cotati Honorary Director), who specializes in theory and jazz.

Squeeze and Play Accordion Extravaganza Recap

By Pamela Tom

Thirty-five accordionists from around the nation convened in San Diego during the long weekend following Mother's Day to participate in the 5th Annual **Squeeze and Play Accordion Extravaganza** directed by Kim and Dan Christian. Players hailed from 11 different states and Canada. A majority of accordionists were Californians including SFAC members: **Chris Boris, Gail Campanella, Joseph Martin** and **Colette Ogata**. Popular and classic tunes arranged mostly by Dan Christian and some originals by Kim Christian were performed at a matinee concert on the 4th day at the **Ronald Reagan Community Center** in El Cajon. Fun activities included a cruise around San Diego Bay, dining at the Tequila Factory in Old Town, a pool party, and going to Sea World.



Joseph Martin performing a solo at evening open mic session

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A large enthusiastic audience filled the auditorium to hear the accordion concert on May 16. The Kim and Dan Christian duo - AKA **Squeeze Play** - opened the first half of the concert with a dazzling show of jazz, classical, swing, Latin, and pop tunes synchronized with lightening-speed fingers. The second half featured a full orchestral sound with many hits arranged by



Middle row: Chris Boris (blue) and Colette Ogata (hot pink)
Back row: Joseph Martin (orange)

Dan Christian. The audience was wonderfully serenaded with *A Whole New World*, *Finale from The Firebird Suite*, *Chim Chim Cher-ee*, *Time in a Bottle*, and more.



Photo credit: Chris Boris
Chris Boris (left) and Colette Ogata (right) at rehearsal

For information on the 2027 Squeeze and Play Accordion Extravaganza, email Kim Christian: kdcstudios@gmail.com

Gordon Kohl Accordion Camp 2026

By Pamela Tom

ACCORDION WORKSHOP CAMP
ALPINE, CALIFORNIA

DATES:
FRIDAY, OCT. 30 – SUNDAY, NOV. 1

Join us for a unique **Accordion Workshop Camp** set in the beautiful Alpine surroundings of Southern California. This immersive experience is perfect for players of all levels who want to deepen their skills, learn new techniques, and enjoy music in a relaxed, inspiring setting.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Hands-on accordion instruction
- Technique, style, and performance tips
- Group playing sessions
- Scenic, peaceful camp atmosphere

PRICE:
\$119.00

Come connect, learn, and play in a
ONE-OF-A-KIND ACCORDION-FOCUSED RETREAT!

WORKSHOP CLASSES
2101 Alpine Blvd
Alpine, California

GORDON KOHL
619-395-0454

gkohl5890@gmail.com

Renowned accordionist Gordon Kohl (acoustic and electronic pro and teacher) is leading a new Accordion Workshop Camp October 30 – November 1, 2026 in Alpine, CA. The venue is located 31 miles east of the San Diego International Airport. The nominal registration fee is \$119 (lodging and meals not included).

In addition to being invited multiple times to entertain at the SFAC and Silicon Valley Accordion Society meetings, Gordon has performed regularly and presented workshops at the Accordionists & Teachers Guild, National Accordion Assn. and elsewhere for decades. He also presented and performed at past annual Las Vegas International Accordion Conventions.

During his college days Gordon earned his California secondary teaching credential, and his teaching skills are evident at his workshops. He is well prepared and provides ample handouts and tips on how to improve your skills as an accordionist. I have attended many of Gordon's workshops as well as his inaugural accordion camp in 2018.

Attending accordion workshops is a great boost for learning new ideas, brushing up on skills, playing with others and broadening your circle of accordion friends. I hope to see you at Gordon's Workshop this fall.

If you have questions about the accordion camp, contact Gordon via email gkohl5890@gmail.com or call (619) 395-0454.

SFAC Board & Key Club Functions

Ken Schwartz, President, Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

Rosemary Busher, Vice-President,
(510) 220-2931, rosemary@busher.org

Paul Cain paulrussellcain@gmail.com

Robert Cooperstein (510) 207-6009, drrcoop@sbcglobal.net

Elaine Cooperstein (510) 921-9323, elainedc@sbcglobal.net

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Dominic Palmisano (Honorary) accord47@gmail.com

Anand Joseph (614) 329-9384

Roy Zheng roycraft3@gmail.com

Scholarship Awards:

Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579, 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, Roy Zheng

Membership: Robert Cooperstein

Event Photography: Steve Mobia

🎶 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, Anthony Bologna, 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, Sabrina Moyle, Laura Jean Niland, Colette Ogata, David Perry, Robert D. & Dil Pisani, Diana Purucker, Duane Quenzel, Richard Rauschmeier, Cat Reilly, Shirley Roller, Tibor Sarkany, Don and Mary Savant, Kenneth Schwartz, John Sullivan, Georgia Sutherland, Bill & Gloria Tapogna, Pamela Tom, Jane & Frank Tripi, Frank Venturelli, Barbara Winter, Carol Whitehead, Andrew Zheng, Roy Zheng.

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

ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

San Francisco

- ◆ **Sam Reider** www.samreidermusic.com
sam@samreidermusic.com

East Bay

- ◆ **Joel Weber**
www.joelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/
- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com

Peninsula/South Bay

- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com

Outside the Bay Area

- ◆ **Bonnie Birch*** www.bonniebirch.com (Seattle)
- ◆ **Gail Campanella*** GailCampanella@gmail.com
(805) 895-0457 (Santa Barbara)
- ◆ **Pamela Tom*** accordionpam@gmail.com (Davis)

* = remote lessons (Zoom, Facetime) available



This month's AI accordion imagery celebrates Juno, Goddess of Marriage! Did you know the reason for so many June weddings?

Accordion Happenings

◆ Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

June 25-28, 2026 — Leavenworth, WA
Sponsored by the Northwest Accordion Society
www.accordioncelebration.org

◆ GR8 IDEAS Digital Accordion Symposium 5.0

June 21-24, 2026. The Grand Resort - Warren, OH
www.thegrandresort.com Email : josephnatoli@gmail.com

No other digital accordion event focuses on digital accordion education as does **GR8 IDEAS**: in depth workshops on the Roland FR-4X & FR-8X, the Bugari Evo, and the Korg Fisa Suprema, audio and video recording tools & music notation tools. Registration provides eligibility to perform in the GR8 IDEAS Orchestra on the Tuesday night concert if you are so inclined. Also, the final night will include a concert by some of the finest digital accordionists on the globe, including Matthias Matzke, Cory Pesaturo, Eddie Monteiro, and Joseph Natoli.

◆ ATG Accordionists & Teachers Guild 2026 Festival

July 8-12, 2026
Salt Lake City, Utah
<https://www.atgaccordions.com/>

◆ SFAC Annual Picnic

Sunday, July 26, 2026
Sequoia Grove Group Picnic Area
1120 Hopkins Ave, Palo Alto
See July newsletters for further details



◆ The 2026 Accordion Seminars

ONLINE July 31— August 2, 2026
Information & Reservations: Accordionbill@gmail.com
See April 2026 newsletter (p. 4) for additional description

◆ Cotati Accordion Festival

August 15-16, 2026
At La Plaza Park, Cotati, CA
<https://cotatifest.com/>

Online/Virtual Offerings:

Monthly: 2nd Tuesday 4:30-6:30 PM (free)
Hosted by Laura Niland 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 info@sfaaccordionsclub.org



Ron Borelli
Accordionist

Supporting the
San Francisco Accordion Club

Email: RONBORELLI@AOL.COM

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

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San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o Cooperstein

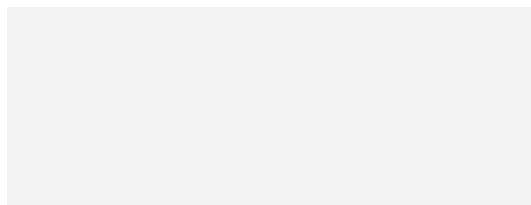
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Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar:

- ♦ *June 21, 2026* SFAC Accordions Live! - Joe Domitrowich - Chetcuti Community Center
- ♦ *July 26, 2026* SFAC Annual Picnic - Sequoia Grove Group Picnic Area, 1120 Hopkins Ave., Palo Alto
- ♦ *August 14-16* Cotati Accordion Festival (see page 4)—La Plaza Park, Cotati, CA (www.cotatifest.com)

SFAC Sunday Meeting

Joe Domitrowich - Accordions Live!

Millbrae - Chetcuti Community Room

Sunday, June 21

2pm—5pm

\$10 member/\$15 nonmember (< 18 free with adult)

-Exact change appreciated-

Join us in Millbrae for fun & great music!

SFAC members will receive ZOOM link via email

Watch your email for details, or contact

info@sfaccordionclub.com

<https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoAccordionClub/> 



Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room

Civic Center Plaza/Library Plaza

450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA

SFAC Monthly Meetings:

Plenty of *free parking in Library lot*

Accessible location

Close to public transit