

May, 2026



♪ ♪ **SFAC Accordion Circle** ♪ ♪
Sunday, May 17, 2026
♪ ♪ **SFAC Accordion Circle** ♪ ♪
“OPEN MIC” SOLO OPPORTUNITIES
SFAC “JAM BAND”

ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE
Chetcuti Community Room — Millbrae, CA
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm PST
\$5 members / \$10 non-members / ≤ 18 free with adult
Exact change appreciated

Grab your accordion and join the **May 17 Accordion Circle** live from the Chetcuti Community Room!

Accordionists of all skill levels are welcome! Be you a very beginner, someone dusting off that accordion after a "life" break or a seasoned expert, we want you to join the Circle as we all make music together. If you don't play the accordion - come anyway and enjoy the music. There will probably even be a few tunes to sing along with.

Sheet music will be provided that we can all play and enjoy as a group, or you can obtain a PDF file by emailing info@sfiaccordionclub.com if you'd like to have your own copy and practice ahead.

We also invite and encourage any person or group who has prepared a piece or two to perform in front of an audience to do so - just let Ken Schwartz know at info@sfiaccordionclub.com so that there is an opportunity for everyone that would like to perform.

The Circle will meet in-person in Millbrae and will also be open to participants via ZOOM.



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.sfiaccordionclub.com

April's Musical Program An Afternoon of Great Music, Food & Friendship

Kenneth Schwartz [*photography by Steve Mobia]

Joseph Martin once again led a well-attended jam session. Practice makes perfect!

Our featured guests were **Sam Reider**, accordionist, and guitarist **Jim Campilongo**. Both are native to the Bay Area and brought a wealth of experience as performers and composers. They've worked together for 4 years, after first performing in New York City. During the pandemic, each of them coincidentally both moved back to San Francisco and re-connected after Jim attended one of Sam's concerts with his ensemble group, **The Human Hands**. They have a new record entitled *Spaghetti*, which will be available in a month.



This program featured diverse styles and themes, mostly composed by Sam or Jim. They opened with a lovely piece, *Winter Waltz*, composed by Sam Reider for his **Human Hands Ensemble** group. Next was a bouncy cha-cha, *Miss Venezuela* (Jim Campilongo), followed by *Senescence* (Sam Reider), a moody song with tremolo, which will be featured on the record. Speaking of aging – Sam is a new father (1 ½ years) and is feeling senescence “intensely!” Next was *Denisse* (Jim Campilongo, in tribute to a girlfriend from his younger years). This was followed by *Minute Waltz* (Chopin), featuring Jim's jazzy rendition of this famous waltz and Sam's improvisations. Despite the name, it's usually not performed in a minute; today was no exception (seven minutes). Next was an instrumental “murder ballad,” *The Murder*, the only song Sam has composed for the guitar. It's based on the E minor chord, which requires only two fingers! One

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could hear Western themes, and a harmonica-like theme in the accordion accompaniment. They then performed a slow blues song with lovely accordion solos, followed by Jim's composition *Waiting for Mari Waltz*, also to be featured on the new record. Next was *La Mantira* (made famous by Frank Sinatra) and the well-known Marty Robbins tune *Devil Woman*. The duo finished with *Strawberry Moon* (Sam Reider).

Thank you, Sam and Jim, for an afternoon of original, entertaining music!



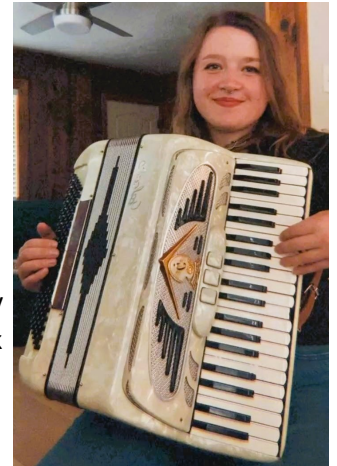
We continue to seek volunteers to assist with writing our monthly event summaries. Please contact info@saccordionclub.com to volunteer to write up the May Accordion Circle.

Membership Update

By Robert Cooperstein

The San Francisco Accordion Club has been on a roll this year in adding new members, having added 10 new squeezers so far, and it is only May! This rate of accretion, about 2-3 new members per month, is probably not sustainable, but it would be nice to see this growth trend continue. Let us welcome **Gary Drexel** of Fremont and **Anneke Heimlich** of Wawona, CA, both of whom joined in April.

Anneke writes "I've been taking accordion lessons with Larry Lindberg in Fresno on and off for about 3 years. My original interest in the accordion stemmed from a desire to explore my German heritage, but I've been enjoying learning about all kinds of traditional music and folk dances. Consequently, I've joined my local square-dancing club, and I have a bad habit of impulse buying lots of vintage sheet music on eBay at all hours of the day and night. I'm looking forward to meeting fellow accordionists and finding some new mentors and friends! Particularly interested in joining in on jam circles and learning to dance the polka."



A visit to the **Petosa Accordion Store**.

Founded in 1922 by Italian immigrant Carlo Petosa in Seattle, **Petosa Accordions** is a 4-generation family business renowned as one of North America's last remaining handmade accordion makers.

Pictured at left is the SFAC's own Rosemary with 4th-generation owner Joey Petosa, March, 2026 in the Seattle showroom.

Joey keeps the place running and was a pleasure to meet.

See Petosa.com

ACCORDION AMBASSADOR ADVENTURES

by Pamela Tom



A new set list theme for Pamela Tom on April 22, 2026 was "Earth Day." A local senior assisted care facility enlisted Pam to entertain their residents. She had a week to compile and rehearse a new list of tunes. "I thought of songs with earth or world in the title or lyrics. Nature topics

also came to mind." Nostalgic oldies that entertained her appreciative audience included *Joy to the World* (Three Dog Night), *Big Yellow Taxi* (Joni Mitchell), *The Birds and the Bees* (Herb Newman), *Imagine* (John Lennon), *I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing (In Perfect Harmony)* (Bill Backer), and more.



Bay Area accordionist Ron Borelli has been on the go with his accordion this year delighting California accordion clubs with his music. In January Ron performed at the No. California Accordion Society at Granite Bay (see Feb. 2026 SFAC newsletter p.6). On May 3rd he entertained the Silicon Valley Accordion Society in Los Altos. Coming up on June 14, Ron is slated to be squeezing at the annual picnic of the San Diego Accor-

dion Club at Lindo Lake Park. Ron's versatile program includes Richard Galliano compositions, opera, polkas, Django Reinhardt's *Gypsy Jazz* and American standards. Ron, thanks for spreading the joy of music with your fantastic accordion playing!

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](http://cotati-accordion-festival.square.site/shop/tickets/6) (cotati-accordion-festival.square.site/shop/tickets/6) or by mail to C.A.F. 29 Mission Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952.



Remembering Accordion Sisters, the *Koffee Koppers!*

Longtime Club member **Xavier de la Prade** often plays for the luncheons at the Petaluma Senior Center, where he “met a wonderful woman whose mother was quite a famous accordion player in the 1940’s and 50’s.” This woman, whose name is Linda, sent Xavier an email about her mother and aunt, along with some vintage photos.

Hi! It was so nice seeing both of you at the luncheon. I’m sending along a little bit of information and a few photos.

My mom kept a huge scrapbook filled with photos and other mementos from the 1930s and 40s. It’s falling apart now from age – kind of like me, haha!

My mom was Alice Kupper, born in San Francisco in 1922. Her sister, Georgette Kupper – my aunt – was born in 1920.

They started playing accordion in the 1930s, when Georgette was about 16 and Alice was 14. Georgette took lessons first, and then taught my mom. As teenagers, they performed all over the city and in surrounding areas, including USO dances and concerts during World War II.

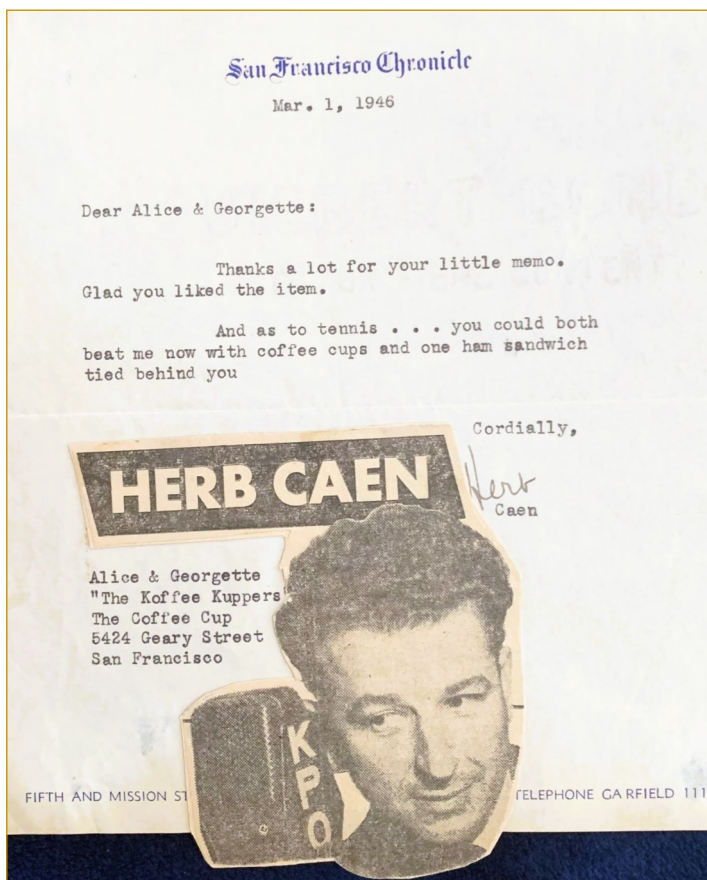
They played at places like Yosemite, Capitola, Hoberg’s Resort in Lake County, many San Francisco hotels, the Petaluma Coast Guard Station, and Will King’s Koffee Kup Restaurant and Lounge on Geary Avenue from about 1938 to 1950.

They usually got around on public transportation or rides from military drivers, and they were paid a flat fee, usually \$25 or \$50.

They had a regular gig at Will King’s Koffee Kup and called themselves the **Koffee Koppers**.

We had so many fun family parties from the 1950s through the 1980s, all with their wonderful music – “Roll Out the Barrel,” “Funiculi Funicula,” “Que Sera Sera,” and more.

Here are a few pictures:



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- 1943 -

FOLLIES, MAGIC SHOW, COMMUNITY SINGING ON SERVICE CLUB PROGRAMS THIS WEEK

Two big, free stage shows especially designed for you enlisted men of Camp Stoneman, will highlight this week's special fun-festivities in the Service Clubs. Tonight (Sunday) at 1930 the riotous "Ma Braden's Follies" of San Francisco will hold forth in the No. 1 Service Club. This Wednesday, Mar. 15, "Oakland's Magic Circle" will amaze and mystify at both clubs.

"Ma Braden's Follies" has pleased Camp Stoneman enlisted audiences to the point of hysterics in previous fine performances here, and tonight's big show is expected to be no exception.

The cast of 25 former professional entertainers now in San Francisco war work comprising "Ma Braden's Follies" is all-star, but, Camp GIs will probably be most pleased by the performances of cute little Patty Sunseri, young song and dance gal who stole the show on previous appearances.

Fancy Hulu

Ma Braden will take over the "Emcee" duties. Grace and Jackie Locklear will dance the fancy hula. Patsy Colgate will combine snappy baton twirling with curve-sliding dancing. Georgette & Alice Kupper will play an accordion duet. Cyril Dusen-berg will spice the show with assorted magic. Ardith & Betty Asp will sing and dance!! The "3 Jays" will harmonize. Herman Hofener will present deluxe impersonations. Douglas Miller, Jr., boy baritone, and Singer Connie Langdon round out the cast.

Camp Stoneman's dance orchestra will provide the smooth accompaniment for this show.

Magic plain and fancy, and more magic, is the featured offering of the "Oakland Magic Circle", which will please the crowds at No. 1 Service Club at 2000, and at No. 2 Club at 2130 this Wednesday, Mar. 15.

The cast of seven is entirely comprised of tricksters, deviat-

ing only to include Ventriloquist Claude Burke. Jimmy Eyster is billed as the "Magic "Emcee". Carol Miller will offer modern magic. Richard Scott is to appear as the "suave deceiver"; Armondo & Anita offer "magic from old Mexico"; and Ben Olson, the "dexterous deputy", deputy sheriff of Alameda County completes the entertainment lineup.

Bingo Monday

This Monday (tomorrow) Bingo will be played at No. 1 Service Club at 2030, with a "community sing" scheduled for the same time at No. 2 Service Club. Tuesday night Bingo will be offered at No. 2 Service Club at 2030.

Thursday night Rev. Benedict of Pittsburg will lead the open "community sing" in No. 1 Service Club at 2010. Friday night will be "game night" at No. 2 Service Club, with a special invitation to the Negro soldiers to participate.

On Stage at the Chamber Music Festival in Oregon

By Chris Boris



On April 11, 2026, I had a unique opportunity to perform with my duo partner, Dr. Matt Cooper, at the 40th annual season of the **Chamber Music Festival** in Pendleton, OR. It was quite remarkable for our accordion debut to be advertised as the Boris-Cooper Duo on Facebook by the **Oregon East Symphony & Chorale** in conjunction with other professional musicians and their featured artist, Connor Chee, a Navajo composer and pianist. Other musicians included a string quartet performing Hayden's *No. 3 String Quartet, Op. 76, No. 3* ("Emperor"); and Schubert's *String Quintet in C major, D 956, Op. 163*, posthumous; and delightful surprises of a harpist, clarinetist, and Connor Chee on the piano with a violinist performing one of his compositions, *Coyote*.

Matt and I performed a selection of classical, tango, jazz and maxixe works arranged for accordion duo: 2 tangos, a classical Faure piece,

Sicilienne, with Matt on the piano and myself on the accordion, 2 Italian musettes, and a maxixe (a lively, syncopated ballroom dance and music style that originated in Rio de Janeiro). It was a unique venue for us to showcase the versatility and musicianship of our accordion instruments to an audience of over 100 people. It was truly an amazing experience and a culmination of hours upon hours of dedicated practice.

While in Oregon, I visited Fran Maddox (Rose City Accordion Club president) at her home in Portland, and we recorded two duets together for the RCAC monthly zooms. I also visited and played accordions with Larry McCullough of Vancouver, WA, a former student of the same accordion teacher we had as kids. Much to my delight, it was an extraordinary week of accordion music in the beautiful state of Oregon!

"Accordion duo Christine "Chris" Boris and Matt Cooper bring a vibrant and wide-ranging performance to our Chamber Music Festival. With roots in award-winning festival appearances, accordion orchestras across the country, and performances from California to the Pacific Northwest, Chris and Matt have built a dynamic partnership—despite living in different states—recording 15 duets remotely and appearing together at festivals like Squeeze Play and the Leavenworth International Accordion Festival."

I'm speaking at
play@TED
May 14, 2026
New York, NY
Maria Telesheva
Accordionist
TUNE IN
LEGO
LEGO Foundation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqB-S0PNE6g>



*Joseph Martin
with the San Francisco Banjo Band
Belmont Farmers Market 2026*

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

Randall Hicks (510) 750-6858, hickr01@sprintmail.com

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

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

SFAC Scholarships

Your Club has scholarship funds available to support accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Contact **Mike Zampiceni** eclecticguy@comcast.net for a scholarship application.

🎶 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 Happenings

◆ Rose City Accordion Club's 27th 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

◆ 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@ymail.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 June-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@sffacordionclub.org



Ron Borelli

Accordionist

Supporting the
San Francisco Accordion Club

Email: RONBORELLI@AOL.COM

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442 Petaluma Blvd North
Petaluma, California 95952

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

510-268-4084
smytheaccordion@gmail.com



San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o Cooperstein

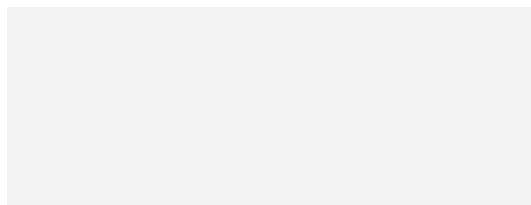
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Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar:

- ◆ **May 17, 2026** SFAC Accordion Circle! - Chetcuti Community Center
- ◆ **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

SFAC Sunday Meeting

Accordion Circle

Millbrae - Chetcuti Community Room

Sunday, May 17

2pm—5pm

\$5 member/\$10 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