

The San Francisco Accordion Club



World's First Accordion Club 1912-2009



Newsletter for August 2009

*The
official instrument of San
Francisco!*

SFAC Officers

Frank Montoro, President
(650) 574-4757
akordn@earthlink.net
Lynn Ewing, Vice President
(650) 365-1700
ewinglynn@sbcglobal.net
Lore Warren, Secretary
(510) 783-2072
lorewarren@earthlink.net
Maryanne Romanowski,
Treasurer
maromanowski@yahoo.com

SFAC Directors

Aldo Argenti
(650) 368-8791
aldosjazz@netzero.net
Gus Greyhosky
(415) 621-8284
gusgrey@mac.com
Sharon Walters-Greyhosky
(415) 621-8284
swaltersgrey@comcast.net
Valerie Kieser
(510) 531-4836
vtkacc@ifn.net

Newsletter

Valerie Kieser, Copy Editor
Randall Hicks, Production
Editor
hickr01@sprintmail.com



President's Message

As we approach the date for the election of officers of our club, we might take a look at what our Executive Board has accomplished these past few months. For most of our members it is through our monthly meetings at the Oyster Point Yacht Club and our newsletter that we keep in contact with each other. A great deal takes place behind the scenes between the members of the Board, that makes our Club happen. We meet once a month as a Board to plan programs and establish policies and work on details. We keep in constant contact with each other by email and phone calls to arrange for performers to play at our meetings, as well as many other important items that we address in order to keep our organization functioning smoothly. For your information, here are just some of these items:

We revised our By-Laws to remind ourselves of the goal of the organization. Clearly, as it is stated in Article II,

"The purpose of this club shall be to enhance, promote and stimulate an appreciation of the accordion within the membership and the general public." It is left to us, as members, to develop ways to advance this goal by our collective and individual efforts.

We reinstated our non-profit status and tax exemption by filing the correct papers, thanks to the good work of Treasurer Maryanne Romanowski.

We expanded our insurance policy to add members of the Board individually in addition to our comprehensive coverage for the club as a whole.

In order to clarify the way we give our scholarships, we worked together to establish a written policy and we made this information available to our accordion teachers.

Working with members who are knowledgeable about how things work on the internet, we established a website (www.sfaccordionclub.com).

Whenever we have our videographer available, we record performances at the Club with the permission of the participants. This practice resulted in a written policy that is made available to performers.

The election of Officers and members of the Executive Board will be held on September 20th. We have established a Nominating Committee who will present their report at our August 16th musical meeting/barbecue. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the September meeting. With this procedure in place we look to another successful year ahead as the year 2010 marks our 20th anniversary.

Thanks to our loyal members and friends, we have a good thing going. We look forward to many years ahead as we work toward advancing the goal of our organization.

Frank Montoro

Didn't We Have Fun?

July's Musical Meeting

Pre-meeting "warm-up" music was provided by the San Francisco Accordion Band, affectionately known by some as the "Fun Band," which also was the first music on the program. The band provided some upbeat music while people came in, setting a happy atmosphere.



The SF Accordion Band—on the left!
Val, Telmo, Randy, Mel, Bob

President Frank Montoro introduced and welcomed new members Patrick and Mary Carrier of South San Francisco. Frank also announced the club barbecue, which takes place on Sunday, August 16. There will be barbecued chicken with all the trimmings, and music will be provided primarily by "open mic.," whereby anyone who wishes to may play for ten minutes. We will also have a "mystery" strolling accordionist.

The band continued playing, this time its planned program, which included *The Band Played On*; *Carolina*



And on the right!
Bob, Mel, André, Vic, Judy, Barbara and Scott

in the Morning; *Colonel Bogey March* (a.k.a. *The River Kwai March*, but in its original form); *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*; *Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes* (in 4 parts); *Just Because Polka*; *The Ash Grove* (two parts); *Five Foot Two*; *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* (2 parts); *American Patrol* in 6 parts; and *Margie*. Most of the songs in parts were arranged by Bob Smith. Judging from the response of the audience, the band did a great job. Those band members performing were: Val Kieser, Randy Hicks, Telmo Echeverría, Mel Schwing, André Paris, Scott Williamson, Judy Dale, Bob Smith, Barbara and Vic Corsiglia. (This is Val speaking: I was very proud of the players and believe they did a great job!)

Next on the program was Jana Maas, President of the Good Time Accordion Club in Escalon. Jana's music is always a joy to hear, she plays so smoothly and effortlessly, while smiling the whole time! The pieces Jana played included *Moon River*; *Patricia*, a waltz composed by Jana; *Black & White Rag*; *Butterfly Musette*; *More*; *Beer Barrel Polka*; *Tic-Toc Polka*; and *Crazy Accordion*, one of her "signature" pieces. Beautiful job, Jana.



Jana Maas

Following the break, with the best sandwiches ever by Tuti, and the drawings for door prizes and cash, the program resumed with Algis Ratnikas, who played several very interesting Jewish and Lithuanian songs, plus *Bésame Mucho*. Joined by his "Café Babar Jug Band," (7 players: 4 guitars, a ukulele, an autoharp, a washboard, fiddle and accordion—some played more than one instrument), Algis & Co. continued the music with several very entertaining pieces, some in Cajun and Zydeco style. One piece was *Another Foggy Night*, folk style, by Jude Levinson with vocal sung by Jude. There was also the Babar Shuffle, There They Stand and

We Sure Did!!

July's Musical Meeting (continued)

Thin Days written by Algis. Players included Linda Grace (guitar, vocals); Peter Harris (guitar, Vocals); Jude Levinson (guitar, Vocals); Vernard Maxam (guitar, vocals); Chrissy Phaeton (autoharp, vocals); Algis Ratnikas (accordion, vocals); Jarvis Rich (violin,



The Café Babar Jug Band
Linda, Chrissy, Algis, Jude, Jarvis & Vernard

vocals). New SFAC member Mary Currier did a pantomime along with one of Algis' Lithuanian folk songs. Algis was kind enough to prepare a printed program

“Afterglow”



Dominic Palmisano and Dennis Stoscher



Skyler Fell and Dominic

with interesting tidbits and the words to some of the songs! A very interesting program brought to us by Algis, who also is rejoining the club after an absence of several years. Welcome back, Algis!



Algis with pantomimist Mary Currier
Mary is also one of the newest members of our club!

Don't miss out next event: the Club Barbecue on Sunday, Aug. 16, from noon on at the Oyster Point Yacht Club!
Val

Accordion Workshop

Presented by Mario Pedone and Lou DiMaggio

Date: August 29, 2009

Time: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Location: Delta Hawaii Mobile Home Park
875 Stoneman Avenue
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Contact: (206) 972-2623

Workshop includes:

- All lesson material
- Theory
- Harmony
- Bellows Control
- Bellows Shake
- Preparation for Solos
- Showmanship

For beginners, an accordion will be provided. All others should bring their own instrument.

Coffee will be provided, but attendees should bring their own snacks.

To apply, call (206) 972-2623 or send \$25 and your contact information to: MPLD Accordion Workshop, 8 Palm Drive, Pittsburg, CA 95465 *OR* see Val Kieser for an application form at the club Barbecue!

GALLA-RINI CAMP 20TH ANNIVERSARY A HUGE SUCCESS



This year's camp took place on the gorgeous, rustic campus of San Domenico School in San Anselmo (Marin County). Friendships were instantly renewed and new ones formed very quickly as we got started right away with ensemble practice on the very first night.

Joe Smiell, musical director of the camp and the concert, offered us some terrific arrangements of *Repsz Band* (some of us had played that one before); a medley of selections from *The Music Man*; another potpourri of American folk songs that Joe titled *American Sketch*; still another suite of Jamaican folk songs familiar to most of us; a concerto for clarinet backed by the ensemble: *Sonnambula* by Cavallini; and last, the *pièce de résistance*, another suite, this time of Scandinavian folk songs that Joe arranged specifically for one of our longest-time campers and most avid supporters of the accordion, Kjell Holmes. You could hardly keep from crying while playing that piece. Oh the goose bumps!

Joe gave a couple of workshops on phrasing and articulation, much needed by almost every accordionist, and attended by everyone.

After a week of hard work and much learning, our final concert Thursday night was a rousing success. Our star clarinet player, Steve Bergman, played the clarinet part of *Sonnambula*, and played it just beautifully. (He is a long-time friend of Joe's son Joseph, another expert clarinetist.) The concert also featured two duet performances (by Brian Money and Jana Maas; and Lynn Ewing and Gail Campanella), as well as a solo performance by John Simkus of Chicago.

After a long evening of partying following the concert, we exhausted campers said our goodbyes Friday morning, weary but energized at the same time.

Val

CLYDE FORSMAN MEMORIAL AUGUST 2



Clyde's memorial was actually an upbeat musical event, as Clyde definitely would want. Nancy DeStefanis, with a lot of help from Sharon Walters Greyhosky, put on a very well organized memorial event featuring many musicians, including Ron Borelli, Michael Sanossian and Barbara Winter, Skyler Fell, Frank Montoro, Sharon Walters Greyhosky, Peter Di Bono, Nancy DeStefanis, Val Kieser, and our own San Francisco Accordion Band. We also heard from members of Those Darn Accordions, Ralph Pico, and Art Peterson.

Together with some top-notch refreshments and accordion cake, the event would have pleased Clyde (as I am sure it did!).

Val



Some of our club members attending the memorial.



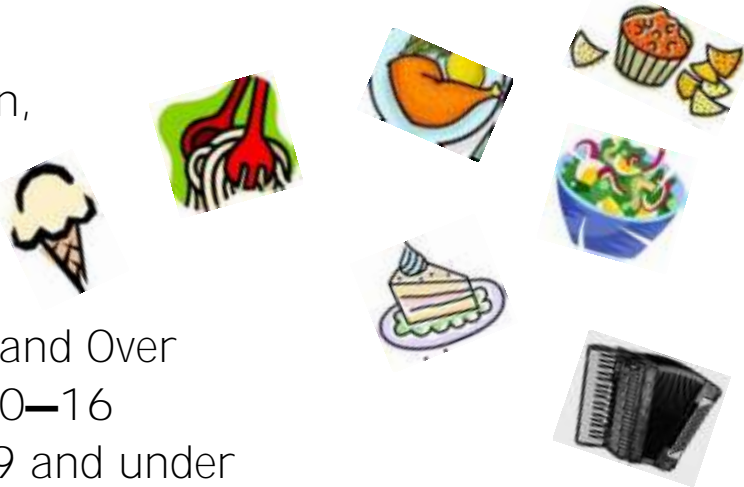
The San Francisco Accordion Club
Presents the
Annual Barbecue Picnic



When: Sunday, August 16th, Noon to ? Lunch Served at 1:00

Where: Oyster Point Yacht Club

Menu: Chips and Salsa,
Barbecued Chicken,
Pasta Salad,
Green Salad
and Dessert



Cost: \$12 for Adults 17 and Over
\$ 6 for Children 10—16
Free for Children 9 and under

Make your reservation now! Cost will be \$15.00 at the door!!!

The annual picnic is an “open mic.” event. Solos, duets, trios - all are welcome. Performances must be limited to 10 minutes. Please contact Val Kieser if you would like to perform.

S.F.A.C. Barbecue 2009 Reservation Form

Please fill out form and submit with a check made payable to S.F.A.C.

Reservation forms and checks must be received by MONDAY, AUGUST 10th !!

Name _____ Phone () _____

Number of Adults (over 17 years) _____ @ \$12 = \$ _____

Number of Children 10 -16 years _____ @ \$ 6 = \$ _____

Number of Children 9 and under _____ @ \$ 0 = \$ Free

Total Enclosed \$ _____

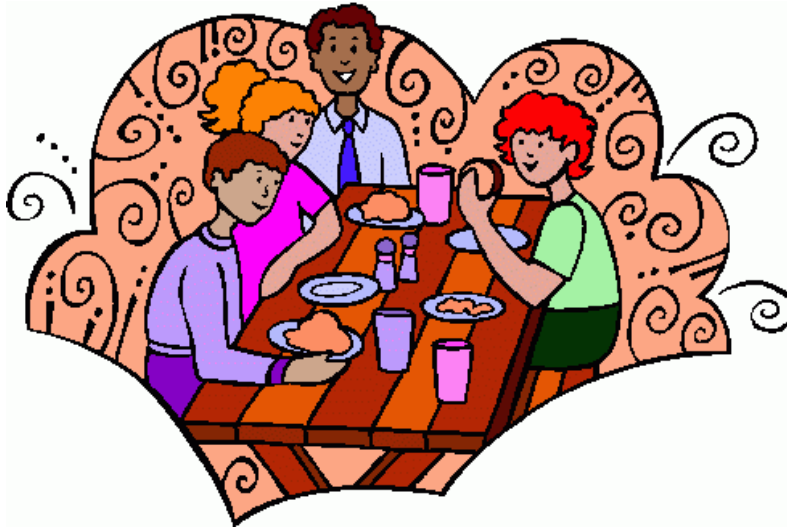
Prepaid ticket(s) will be ready for pick up at the Welcome Table at the barbecue.

*Please tell Val **if you'd like to play for Open Mic.** (10 minute limit)*

Mail checks to: Valerie Kieser, 3437 Crane Way, Oakland, CA 94602.

Questions? Call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net.

See you at the Barbecue!



Mail your barbecue reservation form and payment to:

*Valerie Kieser
3437 Crane Way
Oakland, CA 94602*

San Francisco Accordion Club

Scholarship Program

Scholarships are awarded each April and October. The new scholarship guidelines are presented below. Applications are available at the monthly meetings or from any board member and must be returned by the end of either March or September to be considered for award the following month.

Scholarship Guidelines

The objective of the SFAC Scholarship Program is to assist serious students of the accordion to continue lessons, in cases where financial hardship is a factor. If there are multiple requests, some preference will be given to younger students, and students who are applying for the first time. Scholarships may be awarded to students who are studying with and have been recommended by teachers who are members in good standing of the SFAC.

In order to be eligible for a scholarship, the student must be making good progress, be known to have financial hardship, and be recommended by a teacher in good standing with the SFAC.

Students awarded scholarships will be required to perform at least once for the SFAC in the year in which the scholarship is awarded.

Scholarship vouchers of \$300 or less will be awarded to the student's teacher to be redeemed for lessons.

The teacher will submit a "reimbursement form" to the Board, to account for the lessons which have been subsidized by the scholarship fund.

Each scholarship application will be judged on its own merit, rather than the scholarship team being bound by strict restrictions.

Scholarship applications will be accepted twice a year, in March and September, for award in April and October.

These guidelines and the specific deadlines will be publicized in the newsletter so that teachers and students are aware of them.

Procedures for administering Scholarship monies:

A Scholarship committee which will consist of a Board member and at least one member at large will make recommendations on scholarship applications.

One half the monthly drawing money will be put aside for the specific purpose of scholarship awards.

There will be a cap on the scholarship fund of \$1500. Money in excess of \$1500 at the end of the fiscal year will be transferred into the general fund, leaving a maximum of \$1500 in the scholarship fund at any given time.

A "normal" scholarship award would be \$300 for an individual. In some cases, a partial scholarship may be awarded.

We will not be awarding scholarships "in perpetuity". Scholarships will be awarded on a yearly or twice yearly basis.

News and Announcements

Our Sincere Thanks!

To those who generously donate to the Club.

Each 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. Your donations are greatly appreciated and we want to be sure you are recognized. As of publication, we have learned of donations from: Randall Hicks, Bruce Kirschner, Grigoriy Krumik, André Paris, Alexander Roitman, Maryanne Romanowski and her company Care2.com Inc., Amil Samayoa, Michael Sanossian, Ivan Sarkany & Mark Zhagel.

Mark your Calendars

The following Accordion events are coming up:

19th Annual Cotati Accordion Festival August 22-23 Cotati, CA with headliner Flaco Jimenez. Those Darn Accordions will also be celebrating their 20th anniversary this year. www.cotatifest.com info@cotatifest.com Note: The GSAC will again be sponsoring a jam tent and providing a table for clubs to display promotional materials.

Accordion Workshop presented by Mario Pedone and Lou Di Maggio Saturday August 29th from 11:00 am

to 4:00 pm at the Delta Hawaii Mobile Home Park, 875 Stone-man Ave, Pittsburg, CA 94565. Topics to be covered: theory, harmony, bellows control and shake, and performance preparation. Cost of the workshop is \$25 per person. Participants should bring their lunch. See Val Kieser for an application or phone (206) 972-2623.

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention October 19-22 Gold Coast Hotel and Casino. Phone (800) 472-1695 or email vegas@AccordionInfo.com

Accordion Cruise Festival April 17–24, 2010. San Francisco **Accordion Club members are invited to receive a € 25 per person** discount on 1 or 2 bed bookings in a double cabin. For more details visit the English language section of www.fisarmonicheincrociera.com.

Welcome New Members

This month we welcome new members Patrick and Mary Currier of South San Francisco. Although Patrick does not play **accordion, he enjoys the instrument and the "oldies," modern/jazz, and classical music genres. Mary performs pantomime** with the Café Babar Jug Band.

Executive Board Notes

We now have a complete nominating committee for the upcoming Executive Committee elections. The Committee consists of Val Kieser, Marianne Romanowski, Evelyn Baulch, Jim Firpo, and Dominic Palmisano.

San Francisco Accordion Band News (aka The Fun Band)

The San Francisco Accordion Band had the honor of performing at the memorial program for Clyde Forsman on August 2. The band is also preparing for several upcoming engagements: An evening concert at the Piccolo Pavilion in Mill Valley at 5:00 p.m. Sunday August 16., and a program of German music with the *Deutscher Musikverein German Band* at the Park Chalet Restaurant in Golden Gate Park on Saturday, September 26.

Unfortunate News

We are saddened to hear of the tragic news of the damage caused by fire to the Marotta building in Monterey on July **10, that housed the Maratta family's offices and a collection of vintage accordions and accordion music. Firefighters** were able to save 14 of the instruments. We extend our support to the Marotta family as they begin recovering and rebuilding their offices and this important piece of accordion history.

On a Happy Note ...

There has been a new arrival into our accordion community—Johannes Antonin Smiell, who arrived on June 2, 2009. The proud parents are Joseph and Sally Ann Smiell, and Johannes is the newest grandson of Joe and Lucy Smiell. We extend our congratulations to the Smiell families on this happy event.

News and Announcements (continued)

Who is performing around the Bay?

Steve Balich, North Bay (707) 874-3494

Ron Borelli, Peninsula (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
peterdsf@gmail.com

Reno Di Bono, South Bay
ourhike@aol.com

William De Michelis, South Bay
wdd777@comcast.net

Bruce Kirschner and The Klezmakers,
kirschner@aol.com
www.klezmakers.com

Joe Domitrowich, South Bay
www.capricious-accordion.com or

www.alpinerusa.com

Don Nurisso, nurisso@mindspring.com

Mike Zampiceni, South Bay *eclecticguy@comcast.net*

Due Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano) San Francisco
www.zighibaci.com or
zighi@sonic.net



Please Remember!

To leave our meeting hall at the beautiful Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Please clean up any food or drink spills and toss out paper plates, napkins, cups, etc. before leaving. Thank you!

SF Accordion Band Practice

Wednesdays, August 12 and 26, 7:00 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

Our Neighboring Bay Area Accordion Clubs

Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR) meets monthly on the third Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Hermann & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Contact: Kris Nelson krisnelson@aol.com or (707) 795-4860

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) **meets monthly on the first Sunday, 1:30 at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue between Keily Blvd and Stevens Creek Blvd, San Jose.** Contact: Bill Toponga (408) 984-5290

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC). 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

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

Your Club Wants YOU!!

Don't panic— we want you to play for our musical meetings! If you think you aren't ready for the "big time" (stage) just yet, please consider playing a piece or two before the meeting and/or during intermission! Don't be shy—we are a very forgiving, appreciative and supportive audience! Just contact any of our friendly board members listed on the front of the newsletter.

SFAC Membership: Renew Now—Forms are enclosed with the Newsletter!

\$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.

Advertisements

Help support our advertisers, who in turn help support our club.

Accordion Instruction

Gene Bartolomei (209) 886-5532
Bart Beninco (707) 769-8744
Irving Cardoza (408) 264-9755
Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707
Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502
Lynn Ewing (650) 365-1700
Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952
Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (415) 621-8284
Lou Jacklich (510) 317-9510
Marjorie Konrad (707) 539-5308
Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896
Richard Yaus (650) 734-1565
Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

Accordion Repair



ACCORDION APOCALYPSE
REPAIR SHOP

SKYLER FELL
Accordion Repair-woman
Performer
by appointment
2626 Jennings Street
San Francisco, CA 94124
415-596-5952
accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com
www.accordionapocalypse.com

Since 1997

Smythe's Accordion Center

New & Used Instruments
Repairs & Restoration
Accessories & Sheet Music

416 25th St. Oakland ,CA
510-268-4084



Accordion Sales

Accordion Apocalypse (see ad under Accordion Repair)

CONCERTO – BORSINI - PIERMARIA

Accordions International

"Home of the Concerto"

- ◆ Italian artisan accordions
- ◆ Large Showroom
- ◆ Straps Cases, Music
- ◆ Factory Repair Facility

(801) 485-5840

1760 South 450 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84115
www.AccordionInfo.com
email: Paul@AccordionInfo.com



Castiglione

Accordion and Distributing Co. LLC.

JOHN CASTIGLIONE Director

13300 E. 11 Mile Rd. Suite A
Warren Mi. 48089-1367

Tel: 586 755 6050
Fax 586 755 6339

E-Mail johncast@bignet.net
internet www.castiglioneaccordions.com



SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$6.00 per issue. A business-card-size ad costs \$6 per issue or \$60 per year for members; a quarter-page ad costs \$15.00 for members; a half-page ad costs \$25 for members. A full-page ad costs \$50.00 for members. Discount available for ongoing ads. Ads placed by non-members will cost twice the above-quoted prices. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

Advertisements

Help support our advertisers, who in turn help support our club.



petosa accordions
CUSTOMCRAFTED - SINCE 1922



313 NE 45th Street • Seattle, WA 98105
(206) 632-2700 phone
(206) 632-2733 fax
www.petosa.com

Other

ITALIAN AMERICAN
SOCIAL CLUB OF
SAN FRANCISCO
25 Russia Ave., SF 94112
Open for lunch and dinner
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
Also specializing in catered parties,
large & small
In three nicely decorated halls
See our Website
www.iascsf.com
Phone (415) 585-8059
Richard Guaraldi, Mgr.



Smythe's Accordion Center (see ad under Accordion Repair)



Venturi
HOUSE OF MUSIC
(559) 674-0071
www.accordionexchange.com
1706 Howard Road
Madera, CA 93637

FOR SALE

Roland RA-800


"Realtime Arranger"

Asking \$1,350.00

Call Dick Cruikshank (408) 258-1258

1828
EL CAMINO REAL
SUITE 404
BURLINGAME CA 94010
PH: 650-692-8788
FX: 650-692-8798
E: KIRSCHNER@AOL.COM

BRUCE KIRSCHNER, M.D.
OPHTHALMOLOGY
LASER VISION CORRECTION



Our thanks to cartoonist:
Jim Davis



NEXT MEETING:



Sunday, August 16, 2009

12:00 p.m. Oyster Point Yacht Club

Note the earlier start time!



Entertainment:

Open Mic.—You will be the entertainers!

Mario Pedone?!!

Directions to Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco:
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.

And come visit us online at our newly upgraded website: www.sfaccordionclub.com

*Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club*

P.O. Box 318175

San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

www.sfaccordionclub.com

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

