

### President's Message

by Marian Kelly

#### Dear Members and Friends,

Sometimes I wonder what I'll write about before I begin this column -not so this month. I think I'll use this space to tell you about a variety of things in which I think you may be interested, several of which come from our Board meeting.

There's good news and bad news. The bad news is that our Vice-President, Joe Smiell, has resigned his Board position because he is already so busy squeezin' in so many places that he can't manage to squeeze in our meetings and little jobs. Obviously, that was a blow. But the good news is that we have a new Vice-President, approved by the Board at our April meeting. You all know him; he's Lou Jacklich. Lou says he wants to become more involved with our Club (a statement that he knew I wouldn't be able to resist), and we're all anticipating that he will be a wonderful and welcome addition to our group.

We're very close to ready to announce to all of you the Bay Area Accordion Club's web site. It has been clear to many of us for months that our Club needs to have a presence on the Internet, and Peter Adler is making it happen. He has spent a lot of time developing a fairly complicated (meaning several pages) site which gives a great deal of information about BAAC, its members, activities, and meeting sites. By next month, says Peter, all will be in readiness, and we'll tell all of you how to find us on the net. We'll also ask you what you think of the site, and what we might add, modify, or change. A search won't turn up the site just yet; the address comes next month. We think you'll be very impressed with Peter's work.

Our Events Committee, headed by Peter and Herb Meier, is in charge of making plans for our three annual events; our picnic, our annual dinner, and our Cotati Festival booth. Those events are happening one after another this year (Cotati in August, picnic in September, dinner in October), so the committee is anticipating a busy summer! They will begin selling tickets for both the picnic and the dinner soon to be sure they catch all of you. The picnic format will be similar to the one which the Redwood club uses, in that we'll charge \$10 and provide chicken, salad, bread, and some drinks. Obviously, we're looking for barbecue chefs (our family used to say "barbecutioners").

#### **Mark Your Calendars**

May 3. Traditional Hungarian Music workshop with Valarie Morris. At Boaz accordions in Oakland from 2:30-4:00pm. \$25. Limited to 10 students. Call 510-653-6983 for reservations.

May 4 (Monday). General Membership Meeting. Join us at our annual Ladies Night. Starts 7:00pm, Eucalyptus and 22nd Ave, San Francisco (first block North of the Stonestown Shopping Center). See page 5 for list of performers.

May 12. (and every second Tuesday). Meeting of the Golden State Accordion-Aires. 7:00pm. Pietro's No.2. 679 Merchant St. Vacaville. Ca.

May 13 (Wednesday). 7:30pm. BAAC Board Meeting at Ed Massolo's home at 612 Lassen in So. San Francisco. Guests welcome.

May 18. (and every third Monday). Meeting of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods. 7:00pm. Volpi's in Petaluma.

June 1. General Membership Meeting. The theme is "Family Night". See page 5 for list of performers.

June 7. Sea Chantey Workshop with Skip Henderson. At Boaz accordions in Oakland from 2:30-4:00pm. \$20. Limited to 10 students. Call 510-653-6983 for reservations.

June 13. Golden State Accordion-aires picnic. Call Carole (707)864-2359.

June 15-19. First Annual Accordion Accord celebrating Accordion Awareness Month. Music Building at the University of Arizona Campus at Tucson.

Cont. page 2

#### Calendar cont. from page 1

Call Prof. James O'Brien at (520)621-3388 or Email Jobrien@au.arizona.edu.

June 21. Accordion Technique Workshop with Mike Zampiceni. At Boaz accordions in Oakland from 2:30-4:00pm. \$20. Limited to 10 students only. Call 510-653-6983 for reservations.

July 8-12. American Accordionists' Assoc. Festival, New Orleans, LA. Email Ameracc@aol.com or call (516)746-3102. July 17-19. Accordion Teachers Guild Festival, Chicago, IL. Email AMYJO@APCI.NET or phone (618)632-2859.

July 19. Latin Music Workshop with Herb Meier. 2:00-4:00pm. \$25. Limited to 10 students. Call 510-653-6983 for reservations.

July 20-24. Galla Rini Accordion Camp @ Oceanside, Ca. Contact Ellen Bonica, Accordion World, 12672 S.E. Stark Street, Portland, Or. 97233 or call (503)254-2652 weekdays until 6:00pm.

July 31- Aug. 8. Lark in the Morning Summer Camp 1998. Folk music camp in Mendocino, Calif. call (707)964-5569 or Email Larkinam@larkinam.com.

August 6-9. Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration. Leavenworth, Washington. Call 509-548-5807 for more info.or Email to info@leavenworth.org

August 15. Accordion Club of the Redwoods picnic. Call (707)838-2859.

August 29-30. Cotati Accordion Festival, Cotati, Calif.

September 20. BAAC Picnic at Nature Friends. Butters Dr. in Oakland.

October 17. BAAC Annual Social Dinner and Dance at the Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco.

BAAC Ensemble practice first and third Wednesday of each month at Moose Lodge in Daly City from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Contact Frank Montoro (650)574-4757 for additional information.

BAAC Fun Band practice fourth Wednesday of each month at Moose Lodge in Daly City from 7:00p.-9:00pm.Contact Tom Cordoni @ 415-333-5625 for more information.

Beginners Support Groups/Bands East Bay 510-843-9958 San Francisco 415-673-8835 South Bay 408-258-1258

Please send Calendar Information to your Editor, using the address on the last page.

#### **APRIL GENERAL MEETING**

by Arnie Krenn

The April meeting featured many of the professionals of the club performing the music of France in "A Night in Paris". Prior to the meeting and during the intermission we were treated to the fine playing of Val Kieser and Sharon Walters. Many of the performers featured during the evening's event perform professionally and we recommend that you make a point of hearing them play at the locations listed below.

The meeting started with Arnie Krenn playing La Goldandrina, a short sing along, and ended with a German polka, Marianka. Arnie is the master of the Concerto MIDI accordion and can be heard every Friday and Saturday night at the Elbe Restaurant in Palo



Arnie Krenn

Alto from 6:00 to 10:00pm. Join him for the relaxed atmosphere, music and fine German food.

Next Michael Sanossian, who is a semi-retired chemical engineer by trade, found the right mixture of tunes to delight the members. He performed Fet Musette, Boum Musette and Bourrasque.

Mike Zampiceni took us into the break with his usual impeccable performance. His selections for the night included *Under Paris Skies*, *April in Paris*, *The Last Time I Saw Paris*, *Mamselle*, and the famous singing nun's song, *Dominique*. Mike plays at Di Cicco's in Campbell every Saturday night from 6:30 - 9:00pm. This is a great spot for Italian food and music.

The intermission featured an outstanding assortment of pastries that tasted even better with the delightful entertainment provided by Val and Sharon. Thanks to all of the members who brought

goodies to share with their fellow members.

Frank
Lima was first on
the stage after the
break and explained the reason for his musical stage name of
Julio Morgani.
Turns out one of
the previous owners of his accordion was Morgan
as indicated by



The Cable Tones

the name prominently displayed on the front of the accordion. Isooo it seemed a perfectly natural way to select a stage name! He performed neat arrangements of A Man and A Woman, Gigi and a French waltz, I Will Survive. Frank is a retired stock broker who is now a street performer (they call it busking) in Santa Cruz. He plays a fine sounding 1933 Guerrini accordion that is still going strong after 60 years. If you are in Santa Cruz on a Saturday, stop and visit with Frank, whoops, Julio Morgani.

Taking the stage next was Lou Soper and his San Francisco band, The Cable Tones. Joining Lou was Bill Baillee on the clarinet and Jim O'Neil on the bass in a medley of French tunes. This included Can-Can, La Vie En Rose, Pigalle, C'est Ci Bon, Mamselle. Moulin Rouge, La Magnifique, I Love Paris, Under Paris Skies, and April in Paris. The last number featured Bill Baillee on the clarinet in a great performance of The Clarinet Polka. Lou didn't provide a current listing of where his group is performing but I am sure if you give Lou a call he will be happy to let you know where they can be



Mike Sanossian



Mike Zampiceni



Frank Lima AKA Julio Morgani

heard. He can be reached at 510-792-8765.

The last performer was new club member Roberto Rosa. Roberto moved from Puerto Rico last fall and is now a permanent resident of San Jose. Roberto provided a wide variety of numbers on his MIDI La Melodiosa - You Belong to My Heart, Pigalle, It's a Blue World, Flight of the



Roberto Rosa

Angels, Luci E'Ombre and a merengue. Roberto plays every Friday and Saturday night from 7:00-11:00pm at Los Violines in San Jose which has great Mexican food and music. Roberto installed his own MIDI system in his accordion, designed and built his mics and speaker system and can repair just about anything that is electronic from MIDI to amplifiers and speakers. He says that he is available to work on your electronic gear by calling him at (408)379-4169 or Email KingRosa@AOL.com. He is also in the process of recording some tapes for you to buy. Judging by the enthusiastic reception his performance received, Roberto will be one busy musician and technician!

May is LADIES MONTH. We have a great program lined up. This always proves to be one of our best attended events.

# Do You Have a New Address or Phone Number?

If so please let Lynn Ewing know by calling her at (650)365-1700. You can also write to her at 80 Loma Road, Can Carlos, Ca. 94070. For those who prefer to use their computer she can be contacted via the Internet at LynnEwing@AOL.com

## **Community Service Program**

by Frank Montoro

From Porterville, Calif. we received word of another volunteer. Our friend, Sev Garcia, has been sharing his great musical talent with a local Seniors Aid Care Center and a City of Hope Benefit. His program included selections from Mozart to Desmond (*Take Five*). We are sure his audience was spellbound by his artistry.

Have you played at a senior center, convalescent hospital, or school lately? Let us know by calling Frank Montoro at (650)574-4757.

### President's message cont. from page 1

#### San Francisco

Peter DiBono
Personalized Instruction
Theory, Technique,
Performance
All levels All ages
415-753-1502

## **North Bay**

Bart Beninco Accordion and Piano Beginneer to Advanced Petaluma 707-769-8744

## **East Bay**

Valarie Morris
Composition, theory, Performance
Beginning to Intermediate
MA in Music, Mills College
(510)222-8442 or (510)222-6672

Lou Jacklich
Private Lessons
Transpose Arrange Chords
50 years experience
510-317-9510
San Lorenzo

## South Bay

Mike Zampiceni
Beginner to Advanced
B.A.& M.A. in music
Sunnyvale
408-734-1565

## **Peninsula**

Ron Borelli
Accordion & Piano Lessons
All levels
San Mateo
650-574-5707

Lynn Ewing
All levels
San Carlos (650)365-1700

Lou Soper Chords & Scales You must Know. Every Tuesday 3:00 to 6:30pm Moose Club - Colma Phone 510-792-8765 Our projected expenses for the year are \$1,000 more than our projected income, so we've been talking about a fund raiser. We've explored the idea of purchasing a new accordion and holding a big raffle, but decided instead to work a raising money at our Cotati booth. We know fairly well what works there. For two years now, we've carried those little toy-like Hero accordions for \$20, and have sold as many as we stocked. This year we'll also sell some of the larger Heros plus a few very inexpensive Parrots from China. And we'll probably do another raffle of a used instrument; at \$1/ticket, last year's raffle netted us over \$200. By the way, the Cotati Festival is the LAST weekend in August. Last month's newsletter showed the wrong dates, our apologies to anyone whom we confused.

Val Kieser and I attended the Texas Accordion Association convention in Dallas in mid-March. Norman Seaton, the President of the Texas club, has put on an annual convention for 4 or 5 years now with increasing success. The Club has 800 members, with outposts in the various large Texas cities, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, etc, and those Texans do know how to have a good time!! President Norman has an infectious giggle and heads up the fun every chance he gets. The event is held in a Holiday Inn in a Dallas suburb, so that rooms are inexpensive, the group takes over a big part of the motel, and it's easy to get to know the attendees. Several orchestras and ensembles performed, including one directed by Tony Galla-Rini and one by Charles Nunzio. Apparently, Norman has been instrumental in urging Nunzio to return to active participation in the accordion world. He performed on Saturday evening, more than a half dozen pieces. We watched him enjoying the applause and becoming more enthusiastic and seemingly younger with each piece that he played; it was quite an experience!

Anthony Galla-Rini played for the entire convention too. He introduced his two pieces by saying "The second piece that I'll play is a beautiful Sicilian love song The first piece is the Lord's Prayer. And I want you to know that when I'm playing it, I will actually be praying. I'll be praying that I'm able to get through that second piece!" These two precious pieces of our accordion legacy are 92 and 94 years young.

We'll see you at Ladies' Night!



Kathleen Berta
"Hey dad... I'm ready for
the 120 bass?"



## Contact Phone #s for Officers:

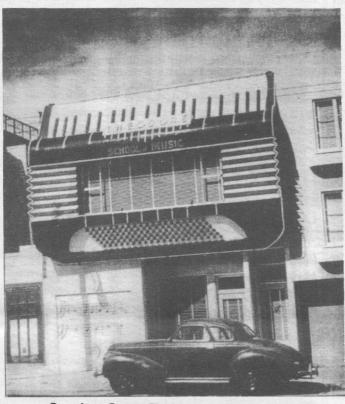
Pres. Marian Kelly (650)854-1896 Vice Pres. Lou Jacklich (510)317-9510 Treasurer Josephine Hornbrook(650)591-3009 Record. Sect. Val Kieser (510)531-4836

## Try to Play This Accordion!

by Robert Berta

You all know the story about the lady who lived in a shoe. Well, how would you like to live in an accordion!

Below is a photo of a site familiar to the accordion aficionados in the San Francisco Bay area during the '50s through the early '70s. Many of our members may not have been around than and missed this bit of local accordion history. They may appreciate the story of this "only in San Francisco" home.



Coming Soon To Your Neighborhood

Theodore Pezzolo was one of six brothers who played the accordion and among the leading playing and teaching musicians of the 1930s,40s and 50s. Theodore moved into a new house at 1666 Union Street in San Francisco in 1950. The front of the second floor was built in the exact shape of an accordion with 120 basses and 43 treble keys. The "accordion" was complete with black and white keyboard, chrome trim and red bellows. The gargantuan accordion was designed and supervised by Theodore, whose large, beautiful studio was folded within the bellows of the instrument on the second floor. There were several other studios on the same floor. He used one studio and rented several others to other musicians. The rear of the building was three stories high; it contained Theodore's own apartment. This unique building was a regular stop for tourists; people would get out of the tour busses and take photographs of it. When lit up at night, it must have been quite a sight!

It was built so that it could be easily converted to a regular home by some future owner, and unfortunately, that is what happened after Theodore's death on January 25, 1973.

Do any of our members know if that accordion facade is still in existence somewhere? You see, I am thinking about doing some remodeling work on my house.....

## **Coming Events**

By Ed Massolo

There is quite a bit scheduled for the coming months. Some traditional events and a new event should make your monthly meetings fun and entertaining.

May will be our annual Ladies Night featuring Nada Lewis, Jacky Jones, Norma Parsons, Marjorie Konrad and Marian Kelly. Also performing will be Lynn Ewing and Nora Mazzara in a duet. Bob Smith will play prior to the meeting and during the intermission. Lynn Ewing will serve as M.C. for the night. This traditionally is one of our best attended meetings so arrive early to ensure a spot.

June is our first annual Family Night and we are looking forward to seeing some great performances by the Frank Montoro, Gwyn Lister, and DiBono families, Joe Smiell and his son, Aldo Argenti and his daughter. Also a special performance by Nikolai Prisakar is slated.

July is the second annual Swap Meet. Forms to signup for this event will be available at the May and June meetings. The board decided that anything MUSICAL can be sold at the event. This will not be limited to accordions and accordion related items only....but note that common sense should be used....there is not sufficient room in the hall to bring in your grand piano or pipe organ! Rather than the club taking a percentage of each sale there will be a one time \$5 charge for each person wishing to sell anything.

# What Type of Music Do You Shop To?

From the internet, also reported in the National Geographic

For two weeks, music blared in an English supermarket above displays of comparable bottles of French and German wines. Nearby, a team of University of Leicester psychologists monitored buyers' choices. When French accordion music played, French wine outsold German varieties by a five-to-one ratio. But when German beer-hall music oompahed, buyers bought two bottles of German wine for every French bottle. Only a few buyers admitted-or were even aware-that music played a role in their decision, says researcher Jennifer McKendrick. "If you go in to buy a specific item, music won't affect your choice," she says. "But if you're uncertain, music could be an influencing factor."

#### **Accordion to Boaz**

by Boaz Rubin

#### The Truth About Tuning

#### When bad things happen to good reeds

A question I hear a lot is, "What makes an accordion go out of tune?"

You may know that rust on the reeds is one of the more frequent causes of bad notes. Rusty reeds will not hold a tuning, and rust is simpler and much less expensive to avoid than it is to remedy. Here are two primary ways to prevent a rusty accordion:

- 1. Keep your accordion in a dry location and store it out of the case.
- 2. When you shop for an accordion, beware of instruments that smell musty or look as if they've been exposed to moisture.

That said, even the best cared-for accordion will eventually develop some rust on the reeds. It may take 40 years or longer, but accordions are not immortal. Reeds go through changes from the stresses of time and hard use. It is not uncommon for old reeds to become stretched out or floppy to the point where they begin to vibrate against the reed block. Long before the reeds reach this state they will drift out of tune.

Sometimes when a reed goes out of tune it isn't the reed's fault at all. A sudden change of pitch can be caused by a reed leather that comes loose (reed leathers function as valves to control the flow of air through reeds) or by dirt jammed in a reed (which is why it is important to keep your accordion clean). Register switches that don't open or close properly can choke the reeds making the entire accordion sound out of tune.

In general, an accordion in good condition that is played regularly is likely to need tuning every three to five years.

#### Keeping the music sweet

Another question I get asked a lot is, "What does it cost to tune an accordion?

It varies, depending on how much tuning the instrument needs and if the reeds are rusty or not. Spot-tuning might take a few hours; a full tuning might take one or more days. Your repair person should be able to give you an estimate based on a thorough inspection of the instrument in question.

A full tuning isn't necessary if just a few notes are off; a spot tuning will do if only a few notes are bothering you. For best results on a spot tuning, make a written list of the notes you want tuned, specifying the key or button as well as the register. If you tell your repair person to spot-tune without specifying the notes, he or she may not pick the same notes that you had in mind!

If your accordion needs a full tuning, it's possible to have it done in stages to spread out the cost, but in the long

run this will be more expensive. Why? Because every time the repair person begins to tune your instrument he or she must disassemble your accordion. It may be necessary to block off some reeds in order to prevent them from sounding when working on a neighboring reed on the same reed block and since most accordions are not tuned to A-440, it will be necessary to calibrate the tuning meter to match your particular accordions' pitch. And of course, after tuning everything has to be put back together again until the next time. So it's less costly overall to have the whole thing done at once. It's also more satisfying to the ear.

#### I Ear Music:

"So my accordion is a little out of tune. I like the funkiness. Why should I care?"

You should care because your out-of-tune accordion is retraining your ear to its own unique scale. You may have a beloved accordion that you've played for many years and that was out of tune when you first got it. Its sound has become familiar to you and while you know it needs some tuning, you don't realize how much - or how much your musical ear has shifted to accommodate it. The musicians you play regularly with have also gotten accustomed to it.

This could happen to you: If you play an outof-tune accordion long enough, your sense of pitch may alter to the point where an in-tune accordion sounds wrong - to you and even to your fellow bandmembers! Keeping your accordion in tune isn't a luxury: it's a necessity for good musicianship. A well-tuned instrument ensures a better musical ear for beginners and experienced players alike.

#### Buyers' Tip:

An accordion with one or two notes out of tune may or may not be a bargain. Have it looked over by a professional to make sure that the out-of-tune notes are not symptoms of problems that are expensive to fix.

#### An Elephant Sat on My Accordion....

Send your funny and tragic accordion disaster stories and accordion jokes to Boaz, care of the BAAC newsletter or by e-mail to schmatte@well.com. We will print (and moralize about) the best ones in this space.

To join BAAC send a check for \$10 (until Sept. 30) to: BAAC 31 Aliso Way Portola Valley, Ca. 94028.

### FOR SALE LISTINGS

One accordion for sale. Piermaria C6. 41 treble, 120 bass. 4 treble/6 bass superior handmade reeds. Beautiful sounding and looking professional quality Italian instrument. Asking \$3,000. Call (415)924-6901.

## **Spotlight on our Pros**

by Bob Berta

In the last two months we asked our club members and professionals to let us know where the Professionals are appearing so we can get the word out. First to submit their upcoming appearances is Joe Domitrowich and his band "The Alpiners". Joe is joined by Fred Rast, Matthew Medeiros and Jay Schlotterbeck in performing at the following locations. Be sure to include one of these spots in your dinner plans and make sure that you compliment the establishment on their fine taste in selecting a group that includes the accordion!

May 9	Pine Brook Inn, Belmont
-	
May 16	Stammtisch, Seaside
May 30	Gasthaus, Milpitas
June 13	Pine Brook Inn, Belmont
June 20	Stammtisch, Seaside
July 11	Pine Brook Inn, Belmont
July 18	Stammtisch, Seaside
August 8	Pine Brook Inn, Belmont
August 15	Stammtisch, Seaside
August 29	Pine Brook Inn, Belmont

To confirm the dates, time and locations it is recommended that you call Joe ahead of time to confirm his groups appearances. Joe can be reached at (408)255-1259.

## "My new

## Armando Bugari

is the most responsive accordion that I have ever played."

--Steve Albini

## Armando Bugari

The best new accordions on the market.

Try one today!
Priced \$2,900-\$5,900 and up
Call for appointment:

## **BOAZ ACCORDIONS**

Tel. 510/653-6983

Oakland/S.F./Berkeley e-mail schmatte@well.com http://www.well.com/~schmatte

## April Board Meeting Synopsis

- President Kelly reported that Vice-President Joe Smiell had resigned his post. The Board voted unanimously in favor of his replacement, Lou Jacklich.
- Treasurer Josephine Hornbrook reported March expenses exceeding revenue by \$198, mostly due to two payments to the newsletter printer that month. Bank balances total \$10,787.
- Arnie Krenn attended the meeting to guide us on necessary forms to be completed for the State. He will provide more detailed information about deductability of gifts to BAAC at a later meeting.
- There was discussion of our meeting place and of the possibility of finding a "friendlier", less formal location. All agreed that this was a good idea, and Frank Montoro is pursuing a couple possibilities. If you have suggestions for alternate meeting places, we'd like to hear from you.
- Tickets for our Sept. 20th picnic and for our October dinner will be available in a month or two
- We will use the Cotati booth as our primary fund raiser this year. Kimric Smythe is helping us obtain toy and small accordions which have sold well for the past two years.

# Planning a Trip To Europe This Year?

You might include some of these big accordion events on your travels.

May 8-14th. International Accordion Competitions in Klingenthal, Germany. Telephone 037467-23210. Fax 037467-22275.

May 21-24th. International Alpine Accordion Festival Innsbruck, Austria. Telephone 07425/20-221. Fax 07425-20478

June 29-July 5th. Accordion Festival in Ikaalinen, Finland. Sponsored by Finish Accordion Institute. Phone 00358-3-4400223. Fax 00358-3-458-9071.

October 21-25th. Coupe Mondiale. International Accordion Competition in Nimwegen, Netherlands. Info.- Coupe Mondiale 1998 P.O. Box 578, NL-6500 AN Nijmegen, Holland.

**December 16-20th.** International Music Festival "Bayan and Bayanists" Moscow. Info. Frederich Lips 007-095-315-2824.

## I Want to Buy Your MIDI Accordion

Wanted: Accordion with MIDI II+ or similar MIDI controller in good condition. Call Joe at (408)255-1259.

#### **AD POLICY**

MEMBERS PAY \$5/ISSUE FOR SMALL ADS, \$10 FOR BUSINESS CARD SIZE ADS. (Ask about other sizes.) NON-MEMBERS PAY TWICE THE MEMBERS' RATE. SEND COPY AND CHECK TO: 4 Park Manor Drive, Daly City, Ca. 94015

(510)450-5766

The Bay Area Accordion Club Newsletter is published monthly. Editor......Bob Berta Contributors....A. Krenn, L. Ewing, Boaz Rubin, F. Montoro, E. Massolo Distribution.....Glenn McClelland

Send all newsletter-related communications to:
Bob Berta -Editor
4 Park Manor Dr.
Daly City, Calif. 94015
(510)450-5766
Deadline for each issue is the second Monday of the month.



petosa accordions
CUSTOMCRAFTED - Since 1922

313 N.E. 45th St. Seattle, WA 98105 (206) 632-2700

"Free cassette list on request."

discovery printing! 650-967-3777 Sunnyvale, Ca.

SAN FRANCISCO
BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUB
31 ALISO WAY
PORTOLA VALLEY, CALIF. 94028
415-974-9210





Conductor

**Co-Conductor** 

**Banker** 

Scribe

Marian Kelly

Lou Jacklich

Josephine Hornbrook

Val Kieser

If you would like to play at a meeting contact Ed Massolo at (650)589-8409