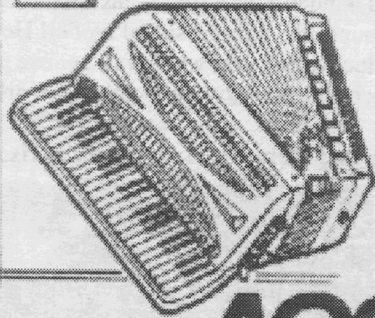


Newsletter of the

# SAN FRANCISCO



# ACCORDION CLUB

## December 2004

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL !!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL !!

### *The Accordion: San Francisco's Official Instrument*



#### **President's Message**

The Holidays are definitely upon us, I hope you are working on that shopping list and not waiting (like I always do) until the last minute. The past twelve months have been good for our Club; the change to Sunday afternoon meetings seems to be working out well. We've had some great entertainment this year, and

the November meeting was no exception. The precise musical execution of **AbsolutAccord** is something we should all strive for; and **Stas Venglevski** and **John Simkus** demonstrate a level of musicianship we can only dream about. I had to leave midway through the meeting, but the comments were all rave.

We presented a series of four free workshops this past year, and there was a lot of great information passed along. Make it a point to take advantage of some of these. I attended a workshop at the Musicians Union last week, and while it was very good, it wasn't anything that we don't offer here. The admission charge for that was \$10.00.

I will be starting an accordion program at the **Community Music Center** in San Francisco next month, and invite you to check it out to see if there is something there for you. The Center has been in existence for over 80 years, and offers instruction in every facet of music. It is a nice compliment to have the accordion offered there.

The **Scholarship Fund** is doing much better than we imagined, and I especially want to thank you generous winners who have so graciously donated your winnings back to the Fund. The monthly drawing spins off just the right amount to keep the Fund going, so we want you to keep your winnings in the future.

As I mentioned last month, Val Kieser wants to have a life in addition to her Club activities, and she is pulling the plug on the Recording Secretary position in January. We need someone to step into the Secretary position, so please give me a call, at

#### Don't Miss the Next Meeting

### Sunday, December 12

#### Featuring

*All Our Playing Groups:*

**The San Francisco Accordion Band**  
*a.k.a. the SFAC "Fun Band"*

*Directed by Sharon Walters Greyhosky*

**The SFAC Evening Ensemble**

*Conducted by Joe Smiell and*

*Sharon Walters Greyhosky;*

*all arrangements by Joe Smiell*

**The SFAC's San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble (a.k.a. "ACE")**

*Joe Smiell, Conductor and Arranger*

(415) 753-1502.

I want to thank **Mark Zhagel**, and **Ken Nimmo** for their generosity to our Club also the **Benedettos**, The Board of Directors, and The Executive Board. The Club could not operate without the tireless effort of people like **Vince Cirelli**, **Rosemary Armanino**, **Ed Massolo**, **Ed Zaro**, and The "Chairman", **Jim Holliday**. Thank you all.

Let's make a promise to make the New Year better than the last, be generous to your fellow man, pray for world peace, give thanks for our Service women and men. I look forward to seeing you on December 12th at 2:00 pm. Play your accordion every day, and remember:

**REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!**

*Peter Di Bono*

**NEXT MEETING: Sunday, December 12, 2004 2:00 p.m.**  
**Moose Lodge Daly City**

**All-Star November Meeting**

Well, don't say we didn't warn you! **AbsolutAccord** and the **Stas/Simkus** duo all outdid themselves as predicted!

**AbsolutAccord**, with just five instead of the usual 6 accordions, still had that professional, precision sound for which



*AbsolutAccord (l. to r.): Richard Yaus, Lynn Ewing, Doug Collins, Joe Simoni and Norma Zonay-Parsons*

they are so well known. Playing for this performance were **Richard Yaus** (the leader), **Lynn Ewing**, **Doug Collins**, **Joe Simoni** and **Norma Zonay-Parsons**. What a varied repertoire they have! They played the *Tic-Tac Polka* of Johann Strauss (not the popular Italian piece we all know), *Carmen*; *Padam-Padam*; a medley of *A Man and a Woman*, *Nuages*, *Take 5*, *Tie a Yellow Ribbon*, and *Caravan*; *Plaisir d'Amour* (to which a couple danced in the back of the room); *Chattanooga Choo-Choo*; a medley of *Guantanamera*, *La Bamba*, *Jarabe Tapatio Mexican Hat Dance*, ending with the first notes of *La Raspa* (very cute). The encore was a Russian medley that included *Otchi Tchornia (Dark Eyes)*. (Your Editor thanks Peter Di Bono for supplying the names of the pieces, and Norma Parsons for further verifying.)



The accordion world's famed duo of **Stas Venglevski** and **John Simkus** just stunned everyone with their latest program. What virtuosi they are! It was the best program I've ever heard them play, covering



*Stas and John*



*Stas (here and above)*

every possible mood and including a lot of laughs. Some pieces were original compositions by Stas. Toward the end, **Vince Cirelli** came up to the stage and handed Stas a tiny 8-bass piano accordion, and Stas made it sound like a professional model! He made that little accordion produce music you would not believe possible, and everyone was in stitches, it was so funny and so remarkable at the same time.

At break time, **Frances and Domenic Benedetto** surprised **Sharon and Gus Greyhosky** with a beautiful (and tasty) First Anniversary Cake with adorable decorations (see photo). Our congratulations to Sharon and Gus. What a happy and inspiring couple they are! And what a lovely Sunday afternoon we all had. Val



*Congratulations Sharon and Gus!*



*Vince and Stas*

**Playing Tip from Father Joe Baccellieri**

When you play do not think of yourself, or be affected by the reaction of the audience. Do not think about how you are doing while playing a song. You need to concentrate on the piece you are playing. Think about falling in love with the piece you are performing, and falling in love with your instrument as the object that allows you to express yourself in a unique and intimate way. You can express just about any mood with your instrument.

**COMING IN JANUARY**  
**Chuck Berger and**  
**Diane Hagen from the Northwest. Don't miss them!!**  
 Details in next SFAC newsletter

### *An Inspiring Workshop*

Peter Di Bono's workshop on Nov. 27—in spite of the long Thanksgiving weekend—drew 13 enthusiastic people. They were: **Bob Smith, Scott Williamson, Telmo Echeverría, Lynn Ewing, Dennis Stoscher, Frank Schlotter, Jim Holliday, Evelyn Baulch, Sharon Walters Greyhosky, Gus Greyhosky, Bruce Kirschner, Vinnie Rinaldi**, and (yours truly) **Val Kieser**. This was definitely a *hands-on* workshop. Peter had us sight-read some very interesting passages, demonstrating how slurs often cross bar lines and what makes music *move*. He also had us play some rhythmic passages to help us stay on count as we play. Counting is not as easy as it seems, especially when you get into syncopation, but once you get the feeling, you can do it (one-e-and-a-two-e-and-a, etc.). **Lynn Ewing** also pitched in and helped with some points, all familiar to those of us who work closely with **Joe Smiell**, whose influence was very strong in this workshop. Thank you, Peter. All of us learned a lot.

We will be having more workshops in 2005, so watch the newsletter for the announcements!

Val



*Workshop 11-27-04*

*Frank Schlotter, Jim Holliday, Peter Di Bono, Sharon Walters Greyhosky*

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### *Excerpts from Feedback on our Recent ACE Ensemble Concert*

"Dear Joe and the SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble,  
"Judy and I attended the concert at the Zion Lutheran Church in Piedmont on the 7th (of November). It was the first time for her and the latest of many for me.

"We were entranced. What beautiful music, . . . together, in groups and in solo. . . and from original, inspired arrangements. The dedication and hard work of the players was obvious. We wish to become contributors to the ACE. A check is enclosed.

"Thank you all. Sincerely, *Judy and Frank Schlotter*" (*We in ACE thank you so very much for your generous donation, Frank and Judy!*)

. . . And from Gwyn Lister, SFAC member from Corte Madera:

"The ACE Ensemble was outstanding on Sunday, Nov. 7. . . I just wish all my friends could have attended. Beautiful playing and presentation by all of the members of the Ensemble. Next year I am going to bring all my friends—esp. the people who do not know what real accordion music sounds like. Thanks again for a great afternoon of music. *Gwyn*"

. . . and from friends who came from San Ramon:

"We thoroughly enjoyed the concert. Loved the Mozart and couldn't believe what you all did with the accordion. I know you . . . worked many hours to achieve a finished performance."

. . . and from another friend, in Berkeley: "Concert was terrific! What an arranger Joe is. I liked the breadth of choices of music from Bach to *My Fair Lady*."

. . . And another handwritten note from a friend in Oakland: "Just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed the terrific concert. Please let me know when you will have another performance."

We at ACE thank all of you for taking the time to write, and we're so happy you enjoyed the performance.

We also thank **Joseph Smiell** ("Joe Jr.") for playing with us in the ensemble, and his beautiful wife **Sally Ann** for participating in the concert as part of the **Smiell Trio**, consisting of Joe and Sally Ann on button box, and Joseph ("Joe Jr.") on clarinet, for a lovely interlude of folk music. (During the reception following the performance, little **Franz Joseph Smiell** was busy stealing everyone's hearts!) And thanks, of course, to **Kevin McCarthy**, our terrific drummer (from Joe's band), as well as to **Chris Arild**, our Librarian and to **Lois Smith** and **Dick Schiller** and any others who helped out in various ways.



*Ace Ensemble Players*

*Back row: Sharon Walters Greyhosky, Joe Smiell, Kevin our Drummer, Mary-Alice Eldon, Reno Di Bono, Bob Smith, Val Kieser, Anne Métais; front row: Nora Mazzara, Frank Montoro, Lynn Ewing, Peter Di Bono; not in picture: "Joe Jr." who played with us for this performance*

### Welcome New Members

Welcome, **Corky Bennett** of Reno, Nevada! Corky worked with **Dick Contino** as his keyboardist, arranger and conductor from 1981-1993 and still does occasional gigs with him. Born in Seattle, Corky started performing at the age of 13 and proceeded to win amateur contests by the dozens. Not only does he excel on piano and keyboard—but also on accordion! (See Corky's ad elsewhere in this newsletter). How about let's see if we can get Corky to come and play for our club?

Welcome, **Kate and Dan Nelipovich** of Santa Rosa! Kate began playing accordion at the age of 7 and played steadily for 9-10 years. After that she didn't play much but kept her accordion and moved it around with her. In 1988, Kate and Dan moved to Santa Rosa—and next door to SFAC member **Marjorie Konrad**. Marjorie encouraged Kate to start playing again. Since retiring from her paralegal job last July, Kate has resumed playing on a more regular basis and plans to continue playing and learning.

### Word Has It . . .

. . . that the great **Charles Nunzio**, founding father of the **American Accordionists Association**, received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the AAA this past November 7.

. . . that SFAC member **Ann Muscatel** took a fall recently and subsequently had hip replacement surgery. We hope you're back on your feet and dancing by now, Ann! We also hear, via the Golden state Accordion Club, that Ann's surgeon is an accordion player!

. . . that the annual **Far West Slovene Button Accordion Club**, in whose famous Festival many of us button boxers (and piano accordionists) have participated every Memorial weekend over the years, has decided to end the Festival after 26 years. Sad that every good thing has to come to an end sometime — but they are ending on a high note, with last May's Festival being the best ever.

. . . that our club's float won fifth place in the Senior Novelty Unit division of the **Columbus Day Parade** last October.

. . . that the **Rose City Accordion Club's accordion camp at Silver Falls, Oregon** will take place June 5-10, 2005 and **Frank Marocco** will again be a teacher at the camp. The camp is already more than half filled. Details will follow in another issue of this newsletter.

. . . that feedback on our recent workshop with **Peter Di Bono** has been enthusiastic and gratifying.

. . . that the **American Accordion Musicological Society (AAMS)** is holding its 2005 Accordion Festival March 4-6, 2005 at the Wyndham Valley Forge Suites hotel in Wayne, PA. The 2005 honoree for the AAMS Accordion Hall of Fame will be **Tony Ettore**, accordionist, teacher, conductor, and past president of AAA. The featured performer will be **Betty Jo Simon**. Info: [www.aamsaccordionfestival.com](http://www.aamsaccordionfestival.com).

. . . That we hear from SFAC member **Leo Aquino** that his solo tapes have finally been converted to CD's,

with a few changes and improvements. (See Val for the brochure and info on how to order.) Meanwhile, Leo is working on a website that will be up and running very soon. He writes, "Wish I was close—I'd really enjoy seeing all of you again" and sends warm regards to all (and the same to you, Leo!).

. . . that the **Texas Accordion Association's Annual Accordion Homecoming Convention** will take place March 10-13, 2005 at the Richardson Hotel in Richardson, Texas, followed closely June 15-19 by the **Accordionists and Teachers Guild (ATG) Festival** and competitions in the same location. Details will follow in a later issue.

**YOU ARE NOW READING YOUR  
LAST SFAC NEWSLETTER  
if you haven't yet sent in your  
renewal!!!  
Membership Information  
On page 6**

!!!  
!!!  
!!!

### A Warm and Gratifying Letter from SFAC Member and Fun Band Member Mel Schwing

[Note: This letter was supposed to appear last month, but I (Val) had mislaid it, so here it is, with apologies for the tardiness.]

"Dear San Francisco Accordion Club,

"One of the nicest experiences of my life was playing the accordion on a float in the Italian Heritage Parade in San Francisco on Sunday, Oct. 10, 2004.


"With the roar of the jets flying over and the roar of the crowd cheering us on, especially when we were playing 'San Francisco' and 'California, Here I Come,' it was hard to hold back the tears.

"Dick Schiller dedicated (our participation in) the parade to Jim Firpo who was in the hospital with an illness. Thank goodness Jim is doing fine now.

"I also want to mention the great and friendly teamwork we had in decorating the float. I also . . . thank the San Francisco Police Department for treating us so nice. Everyone treated us like celebrities.

"I want to thank Val and the San Francisco Accordion Club for inviting me to participate in this great celebration.

"I am already practicing for next year's parade." *Mel*

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**A Terrific New Annual Event:  
THE FUN BAND BANQUET !!**

The **San Francisco Accordion Band**, aptly and appropriately also called the "Fun Band," just had its second year of a new tradition: the annual **Fun Band Banquet**. It was held in a very nice private room in the back of Marie Callender's restaurant at Serramonte. Twenty-five happy people were there to enjoy the sumptuous buffet, including our "surprise guest,"

**Janet Stechholz's** hubby **David**. We had a minimum of speeches and a maximum of fun! **Cherie Schwing** had produced and edited 30 minutes of video she took of our various activities throughout the year, including our appearance last summer at



*Evelyn and Clyde Forsman*

the Petaluma Day of the Accordion where the wind blew so hard that music stands and music were flying far and wide in all directions! Thank you Cherie—you did a terrific job with the video! You and Mel are both great photographers and so generous with offering your photos to us.

Enjoying the evening were Frank and Judy Schlotter, Sharon and Gus Greyhosky, Ivan and Eva Sarkany, Lee and Walt Woodall, Janet and David Stechholtz and their eldest son; Bob Smith, Mel and Cherie



*Frank Schlotter, Sharon and Gus Greyhosky*

Schwing, Gwyn Lister, Val Kieser, Dick Schiller, George Chavez, Vic and Barbara Corsiglia, Telmo Echeverría and his wife; Clyde and Evelyn Forsman, and Joe Smiell. (Joe has been a great supporter of the Fun Band and we appreciate his encouragement.)

We celebrated 11 years of the SF Fun Band, and Sharon and Gus Greyhosky's one-year anniversary. We were also proud to offer an official Lifetime Honorary Membership in the Fun Band to **Clyde Forsman**, and a special Certificate of Appreciation to **Frank Schlotter** for all his hard work over the years as Administrator and Historian of the band.

And we had **music!!!** **Bob Smith** played, both alone and with **Sharon**; **Ivan Sarkany** played for us, and Val played a couple of numbers. Too bad we didn't have time for more music—time flies when you're having fun, and we managed to shut the place down, being the last to leave—and we surely *were having fun!*

Many thanks to **Frank Schlotter and Sharon Walters Greyhosky** for their efficient work in setting up the banquet, and to Frank for helping me with this article.

*Val*

**OUR SINCERE THANKS**

*... to those who have generously donated to the Club or the Scholarship Fund in 2004. To date, your Editor has learned of the following:*

**Ed Zaro** (Twice)

**Janet Landauer**

**Clyde Forsman**

**Johan and Sheila Gullmes**

**Joe Smiell**

**Lynn Ewing**

**Mark Zhagel**

**George Chavez**

**Val Kieser**

**Marlene G. Fullmer**

(In honor of Joe Lombardi's 75th Birthday)

**Bob Smith**

**Sundi O'Mara**

**Bruce Kirschner**

**Carl Fortina**

**Ken Nimmo**

**Frank and Judy Schlotter**

(For the ACE Ensemble)

*[This list has been cumulative throughout the year. If your name slipped by and did not reach the Editor, please contact Val Kieser (510) 531-4836]*

*NOTE: A new cumulative list will be started for 2005.*

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**Please Help Your Club**

**Note from Val re Recording Secretary's Job . . .**

I have found it necessary to resign my position as Recording Secretary of the club, so that I can (hopefully) do a better job producing the newsletter. I've been Secretary for 9 years, not including the two years I was president—although even then, I took the notes at board meetings.

Please consider helping the club by taking over the Recording Secretary position. It is not a big job. You take simple notes at the board meetings (computer not necessary) and type up simple Minutes indicating what board actions were taken. And you will have a direct say in the running of the club by being a voting member of the Board. Then you have a month to type up the Minutes and make copies for the other board members. The President may ask you to prepare an Agenda for the board meetings. You will keep the Minute Books at your home.

The job in itself is not difficult, and it is fun to enjoy dinner while attending the meeting. I will help you get started and answer any questions.

If you are interested, please contact either me or Peter. Val: (510) 531-4836 or vtacc@value.net; Peter (415) 753-1502 or pdibono@hotmail.com.

Thanks!

*Val*

### ***The Accordion is Coming Back Bigtime . . .***

. . . as evidenced by a huge front-page article with color photos in the *Arizona Daily Star*, written by reporter Kevin T. Thé and forwarded to me by **Walter Traverso**. The headline says "More Than a Squeezebox," and "The accordion is similar to a portable piano and far exceeds the myth of being a polka instrument." The article was about the **Accordion Club of Tucson**, which is affiliated with the University of Arizona, and which has approximately 30 enthusiastic members. Their meetings are actually rehearsals: the club itself is a large band, with a playlist of 275 pieces. They dazzle audiences with a mix of classical arrangements, big band music, dance songs and a wide variety of ethnic music. They are currently working on their holiday repertoire for Christmas and Hanukkah. They play in parades, church functions and festivals ranging from Oktoberfest to the Greek Festival to St. Patrick's Day events.

The club was founded by Jim O'Brien six years ago, and Jim also is the musical director—and he works his players hard! The goal is to move the accordion away from the notion that it is only for fuddy-duddies, the elderly and polkas. O'Brien said, "We have really enthusiastic audiences, and they're not all old."

To learn more, check out [www.arts.arizona.edu/accordion](http://www.arts.arizona.edu/accordion) online, or contact reporter Kevin Thé at [kthe@azstarnet.com](mailto:kthe@azstarnet.com). Val

### ***Some Notes about Cajun Origins***

*Thanks to Kris Nelson of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods, who sent me this info on Cajun origins a couple of years ago, and it just resurfaced on my desk. Some fascinating stuff - - -*

"Cajuns" are descendants of New World colonists who settled in what is now Nova Scotia in 1604. These French Huguenots lived in this area, calling it "Acadée" or "Acadia." The word "Cajun" is believed to be a contracted version of the word "Acadian."

This area changed hands several times between the French and the British. The British gained permanent possession in 1713, and in 1755 exiled the "Acadians" in the name of relieving social and political pressures in the area and to make room for more British colonists. The vast majority of Acadians were loaded on to ships with no more possessions than they could carry on their backs. The colonies of the Eastern Seaboard did not welcome them, as they had limited English language skills and were thought to be a drain on local economies. The Acadians headed for the French settlements of Louisiana and were taken in.

The area now known as the "Cajun Belt" is located in central Louisiana. Its heart is located in and around the area of Lafayette and stretches over to neighboring Texas.

Cajun music started as French music played by two fiddlers. This changed in 1780-1785 when German immigrants brought the "melodeon" or single-row button box into the area. The accordion soon took over as the popular instrument of house dances in the Cajun community, partly because it could be heard over the noise created by a house or barn full of dancers and revelers.

The traditional Cajun house band consists of an accordionist, guitar player, a triangle player to keep the beat, and, frequently, a violin player.

#### **San Francisco/North Peninsula**

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**Vice President: Don Nurisso**

(650) 359-3549 [nurisso@sirius.com](mailto:nurisso@sirius.com)

**Treasurer: Dominic Palmisano**

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**Secretary: Valerie T. Kieser**

(510) 531-4836 [vtkacc@value.net](mailto:vtkacc@value.net)

#### **Directors for 2003-2004**

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**Newsletter Editor: Valerie T. Kieser**

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#### **SFAC MEMBERSHIP**

\$25 per year for individual; \$30 per year for a family

Mail check to S.F.A.C.

P.O. Box 318175

San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

Admission to Meetings: Members \$3, Guests \$5

#### **Ad Policy**

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$5.00 per issue; a business-card-size ad will cost \$5.00 per issue or \$50.00 per year; a quarter-page ad will cost \$10.00; a half-page ad will cost \$20.00; and a full-page ad will cost \$35.00. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$20. The cost for ads placed by non-members will be twice the above-quoted prices.

#### **Your Executive Board Met . . .**

. . . on Tuesday, November 9. Most of the meeting was discussion of the budget. Also, Scott Williamson is investigating our purchasing of license plate frames with the club name, as a fundraiser item. The board is working on the possibility of having a big concert in spring, featuring a big name. As of Oct. 31 we have \$3,322 in checking, \$1,559 in the Scholarship Fund, and \$2,904 in savings outside the Scholarship Fund. These totals do not include the special account for the benefit of the ACE Ensemble. Val Kieser submitted her letter of resignation as Recording Secretary of the club.

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**Irving Cardoza** (408) 264-9755

***Come and join in ...***

**San Francisco Accordion Club**

***Beginning August 2004, on a trial basis***

***The SFAC will meet on the***

***Second Sunday of the Month 1:30 p.m.***

Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St. Daly City/Colma

For information call Val (510) 531-4836

Website: [www.sfaccordionclub.org](http://www.sfaccordionclub.org)

**East Bay Accordion Circle**

Meets the THIRD TUESDAY of the month 7:30 p.m.

1540 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. Bring your accordion!

For information call (510) 548-2822

**Accordion Club of the Redwoods**

Meets 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month

Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma

For information call Harry (707) 838-2859

**Golden State Accordion Club**

**Vacaville Chapter** Meets 7 PM

the second Tuesday of the month

Moose Hall, 6585 Gibson Canyon Road

**Sacramento Chapter** meets 7 PM

the fourth Wednesday

at Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.

in Sacramento

For information call (707) 864-2359

**Northern California Accordion Society**

Meets 7 PM the third Thursday of the month

Venita Rhea's Restaurant, 4415 Granite Dr., #1500,  
Rocklin, CA

Info: Call Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041

**Good Time Accordion Club**

Meets 7 p.m. the second Wednesday  
of the month

Community Center

1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon

For information call (209) 545-3603

**Medford Accordion Club**

*(See announcement below, right)*

Contact: Joe Zajac, 424 Girard Dr., Medford, OR  
97504; (541) 779-3420 or zajac@aol.com

**South Bay Accordion Jam**

Third Sunday of the month 2:00 p.m.

Location of meeting varies; for info call

Victor Corsiglia (408) 554-6275 or

Bill Tapogna (408) 984-5290.

**Silicon Valley Accordion Society**

Meets on the first Sunday of the Month

2:00 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau Restaurant

390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose

(between 280 and Stevens Creek Blvd.)

For Info Phone (408) 270-5003

Website: [www.SVAsociety.com](http://www.SVAsociety.com)

**SFAC Ensemble Practice** *New Days!*

First and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City

**Call first!:** Frank Montoro (650) 574-4757

**SFAC Band Practice** *New Days!*

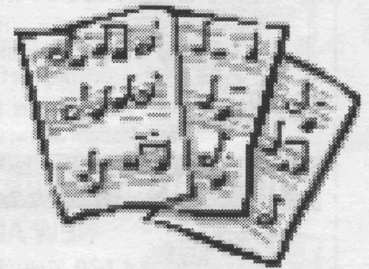
Second and Fourth Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City

**Call first!:** Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163

***Regarding Our SFAC Musical  
Groups***

All our club groups continue to do well! Since the **Silicon Valley Accordion Society** had to cancel its December meeting, the **ACE Ensemble** is now planning to play at the SVAS January 2 meeting, and we hope you can be there! **The ACE Ensemble**, the **SFAC Evening Ensemble** and the **SFAC Fun Band** (a.k.a. San Francisco Accordion Band) will all perform at the December 12 meeting.



**Who Is Playing Where . . .**

**Reno Di Bono and the Blue Moon Trio**

For info call Reno (408) 252-3808

**Joe Domitrowich and the Alpiners USA**

Will be playing at Germania in San Jose for Kameval

Saturday 1-29-05. For info call Joe (408) 255-1259

**The Internationals** Teske's Germania,

255 N. First St., San Jose; call (408) 292-0291

**Mike Zampiceni** plays on Saturday nights

at Di Cicco's Italian Restaurant

2509 Bascom Ave., San Jose

And on Friday nights at Bellagio,

33 S. Central Ave. in Campbell (408) 370-7705.

For reservations call (408) 377-5850

**William DeMichelis** plays on Friday and Saturday nights

at the Elbe German and European restaurant

117 University Avenue, Palo Alto. Call (650) 321-3319

or visit [www.elbe-restaurant.com](http://www.elbe-restaurant.com)

**Steve Balich, Sr. Band** info: Call Steve (707) 874-3494

**Steve Albini** will appear solo at Tagliaferri's Petaluma on Saturday,

Dec. 11 and Thursday, Dec. 23, noon-3:00 p.m.; also at Tagliaferri's

Novato on Saturday, Dec. 18 and Friday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve)

noon-3:00 p.m.; also New Year's Eve with his band at Angelino's, 621

Bridgeway in Sausalito [info call (415) 331-5225].

Steve Albini regularly appears at Piccolino's Italian Café,

1385 Napa Town Center (First Street). Info (707) 251-0100 or

[www.piccolinoscafe.com](http://www.piccolinoscafe.com)

**Tom Torriglia's Bella Ciao** band ..

Info: (415) 440-0800 or [www.ladyofspain.com/bellacioa.html](http://www.ladyofspain.com/bellacioa.html)

**Rick Corrigan and the Pickpocket Ensemble** will perform Friday,

Dec. 3 at 8:00 p.m. at Epic Arts Center, 1923 Ashby (near MLK) in

Berkeley, and on Sat., Dec. 11 at The Albatross Pub, 1822 San Pablo

Ave. (near University), Berkeley. Info: [rickcorrigan@earthlink.net](mailto:rickcorrigan@earthlink.net)

**Peter Di Bono** will be playing on Saturday, Dec. 18 at 8:00 p.m. at

the Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., San Francisco; on

Sunday, Dec. 12 at 5:00 p.m. (following our meeting) at Pena

Pacharmama, 1630 Powell St., San Francisco; and Sunday, Dec.

19 at 12:30 at St. Cuthbert's Church, 7932 Mountain Blvd.,

Oakland. These events feature traditional Mexican holiday and folk

music played in an Afro/Peruvian style—very rhythmical and spicy.

Admission \$10.00.

**NOTE: Please keep your editor informed of where you are playing, dates, times, contact information. I would also like to**

**know of any special playing jobs you've had that are**

**noteworthy. Val Kieser (510) 531-4836; [vtkacc@value.net](mailto:vtkacc@value.net)**

**Bob Smith** delighted the residents of the Livermore Senior Services Center last month.

I (Val) play regularly at the Mercy Retirement and Care Center

in Oakland, the Senior Day Care Center in Moraga, Sunrise

Senior Living in Oakland and the Pinole Senior Village.

It is amazing and gratifying to see these old folks light up when

they hear their favorite old tunes. They often sing along and

sometimes even dance!

I also recently played for the opening of a new Italian (Tuscan)

restaurant in Alameda, called "C'Era Una Volta," meaning

"Once Upon a Time." The mayor and other dignitaries were there.

It was my first all-Italian job, and it was great fun!



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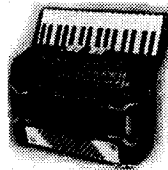
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## SMYTHE'S ACCORDION CENTER

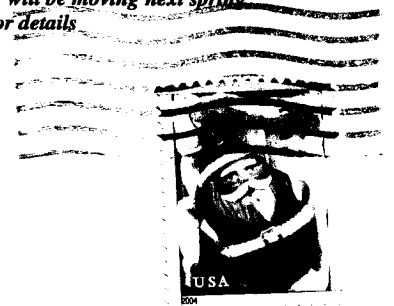
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~~Smythe's Accordion Center will be moving next spring~~  
Watch for details



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