

# The BAAC Page



**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!**

## President's Message

I hope everyone had a great holiday. We had a relatively quiet Christmas and enjoyed it very much.

This past year has been real challenge for me, and I hope you have enjoyed the club. BAAC has seen some new activities, including the Fun Band getting out to the public in performances in Fairfax and in the Italian Heritage Day parade in SF — and being well received! We hope to do more of that sort of playing out. ACE has given several concerts in various venues and will give even more in 2003. I'd like to see our own BAAC Ensemble play out

too. We'll work on that idea. We have a lot of talent in our club that needs to be shown off! The picnic 2002 was a huge success, which was very gratifying to me.

2002 also saw the start of a new series of workshops, to stimulate interest in and to promote better playing and musicianship.

I and the board need and want your input, including suggestions for programs and other activities, and for the newsletter. Have you enjoyed the club over this past year? Do you like "Open Mic."? Although we've always had plenty of volunteer players, we'd like to see more of you show up with your accordions, willing to play a number or two for "Open Mic."

The December meeting was exceptionally well attended and the groups played well. If I had planned a comedy act, it could not have surpassed the *unplanned* back dive off the side of the stage and onto Moose's beautiful Christmas tree! Both I and the accordion came through it just fine (that is, after Bob Smith repaired my accordion's bent-in grille!). I was totally surprised to

receive a beautiful floral arrangement from BAAC member Stella Allison and her husband Roy, who live back in Maryland, with a note saying anyone who takes a dive off a stage gets flowers, and admonishing me not to do it again!! Well, I assure you that I have no intention of doing it again!

I wish each and every one of you a most prosperous and peaceful year in 2003.

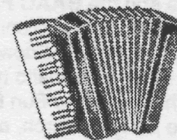
If this *BAAC Page* is a little shorter than usual, it's because I need a little break. Thanks for understanding.

Val

## Next Meeting Thursday, January 9 (see below)

You may recall the very popular Cajun/Zydeco artist, André Thierry, who, together with his rub-board player, entertained us at Patio Español. I (Val) had the pleasure of meeting him again at Kimric Smythe's accordion shop on the day we were filmed for CBS Evening Magazine. At that time I asked André if he and any of his band might be willing to come and play for us again, and he said sure — so, I followed up, and he has agreed to play for us in January! After that, we'll have lots of time for "Open Mic." and anyone else who would like to call ahead and get on the schedule.

We had originally scheduled **Lou Jacklich** to put on a real show for us in January, including himself and some of his students — but one of his stars, Jeremy, whom we all know, is going to be out of the country at that time. So, **we have re-scheduled Lou and his show for the February meeting.**



**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 9, 2003 Moose Lodge Daly City**

## A Very Merry BAAC Christmas

By Richard Schiller

It was Christmas time at our wonderful club, and our president Val created a memorable party for us all. There was a sparkling tree (courtesy of Moose Club), decorations, a sumptuous repast courtesy of **Frances and Domenic Benedetto**, and of course the holiday music of **Bob Berta** with his organ-sounding vintage *Neronde* accordion made by Bugari, playing Palmer Hughes Christmas arrangements at the beginning of the meeting. The musical gifts to our members also included the **Button Box Ensemble**, Sharon Walters leading the **BAAC Fun Band**, and Joe Smiell and his charm, conducting both the **BAAC Ensemble** and the **ACE Ensemble** in some of his stunning arrangements.



Bob Berta

Val took the stage to present **Mike Trevino**, Manager of Moose Lodge, with a gift from our club in appreciation for all the help and support he provides,



Button Box Ensemble

at

Next **Domenic Saso** took over as M.C., a fitting appearance, for over the years he has regaled us with his friendly mirth and energy. First on the musical agenda was the **Button Box Ensemble**, featuring a Polka composed by Joe Smiell, and an absolutely beautiful *Gavotte* by Handel. The button boxes provide a beautiful and unique sound that makes these pieces sound just outstanding. The seven button box players, who played without a conductor, were **Tor Arild, Chris Arild, June Diess, Mary Ann Field, Elizabeth Fink, Val Kieser and Sally Ann Smiell**. Right after the Button Box Ensemble, **Sally Ann and Mary Ann** played a



Sally Ann and Mary Ann

gorgeous duet of theme and variations on the *Wattentaler Massolka*, arranged of course by the master, Joe Smiell.

Next the **BAAC Ensemble** took the stage with Joe Smiell as conductor. The offerings were *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, and *American Patrol* by F. W. Meacham. Players in the BAAC

Ensemble were **Aldo Argenti on bass accordion, Bob Berta, Vince Cirelli, Ron Harris, Val Kieser, Ed Massolo, Frank Montoro, Dick Schiller, Frank Schlotter, Bob Smith** (filling in for missing **Steve Mobia**), **Lynn Ewing** (filling in for missing **Michael Sanossian**), **Sharon Walters and Mark Zhagel**. I wonder how many people know that Joe writes these arrangements, up to ten individual parts, from his head where he "hears" how the orchestration will sound, without ever trying them out on an accordion. The result is exquisite orchestral arrangements, unlike any you have heard before. He does it for the love of the accordion and our club. Thank you, Joe!

**Sharon Walters** and the **BAAC Fun Band** hit the ground running with some lighthearted pieces: *Frosty the Snowman*, *Anema e Core* by Salve d'Esposito (this was a preview of the music the Fun Band plans for the dance party in March, and it brought the house down), *The Chipmunk*



Domenic and Evelyn

*Song "Christmas, Don't be Late" by Ross Bagdasarian, and All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth" by Don Gardner (1946) — plus one serious song, which was second in the order, the absolutely gorgeous*

*Coventry Carol*, in five parts. Fun Band players were **Victor Amenta (on mandolin), George Chavez,**



BAAC Fun Band

**Victor Corsiglia, Barbara Corsiglia (on guitar), Jim Firpo, Val Kieser, Frank Schlotter, Mel Schwing, Bob Smith, Scott Williamson, Scott's daughter Lindy (on string bass), Lee Woodall, and Sharon Walters**, who is also conductor for this group. Sharon is a dream come true for our club, bringing a light-hearted and fun experience to the group. She has brought the Fun Band to a new level, and it is sounding better all the time. We love ya, Sharon!

Next came **Lynn Ewing** solo, playing and singing two absolutely hilarious songs. If you listened carefully to the words, you just had to crack up laughing. The songs were, *Nuttin' for Christmas* and *The 12 Days of Christmas Vacation*. Even though the songs were comedic, one can't help but notice what a lovely, pure singing voice Lynn has. She is also an expert accordionist and a member of the ACE Ensemble.



Domenic and Lynn

Intermission is a prized time thanks to **Frances and Domenic Benedetto** and the great food they always provide. For sure, no one went home hungry! The raffle included a number of gifts donated by members, with the Grand Prize money going to — *ta-da* — **George Alves**, from the South Bay!

After intermission it was time for BAAC's first line performance group, the **ACE Ensemble (San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble)**, to play, under the direction and conducting of **Joe Smiell**. Joe, decked out in his red blazer and Christmas tie, took us on a musical tour around the world with *British Grenadiers March; Sleigh Ride* by Leroy Anderson; a potpourri of familiar carols, one of many that Joe has arranged; *Santa Maria de la Sede* by H. Simeone, which included some beautiful vocal harmony by the ladies of the group; a terrific *Beguine Medley*; a Polish Christmas Potpourri; *Church Sonata* by Mozart; and *American Folk Rhapsody*, which is another



Vince and Joe

potpourri, this one of American folk music, containing melodies from several well-known American folk songs. Vince Cirelli got up and expressed his appreciation for Joe and all he does.

After the ACE concert Joe made a surprise announcement: Tor Arild had handed him, earlier in the evening, a check from a very generous donor who is a lover of fine music — for \$5,000, for the ACE Ensemble! (No, that is not a misprint!) **Wow!** Congratulations, Joe, and congratulations, ACE! Joe's soft-spoken and retiring demeanor belies his vast musical experience in writing and arranging, along with his rarely acknowledged music performances with the San Francisco Symphony, at the Monterey Jazz Festival, and music venues around the world. He is truly an understated living legend.

This was a time to remember as our club grows with new members and fellowship and heads into a sparkling New Year!

More Photos on Pages 5 and 6 . . .

### 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 \$10. The cost for ads placed by non-members will be twice the above-quoted prices.

### BAAC Officers

**President: Valerie T. Kieser**  
(510) 531-4836 [vtkacc@value.net](mailto:vtkacc@value.net)

**Vice President: Frank Schlotter**  
(510) 339-1163

**Treasurer: Bob Pisani**  
(650) 347-2559 [grnduster@aol.com](mailto:grnduster@aol.com)

**Secretary: Richard Schiller**  
(510) 832-3002 [richards38@aol.com](mailto:richards38@aol.com)

### Directors

**Vince Cirelli (415) 467-2208**

**James Firpo (415) 648-3674**

**Ed Massolo (650) 589-8409**

**Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938**

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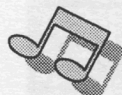
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AIR TO THE BODY* Plato

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*"Man on Ship with  
Accordian"*

**Norman Rockwell, 1923**

### **More Church Bulletin Bloopers . . .**

"The Church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment and gracious hostility."

"Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 p.m. — prayer and medication to follow."

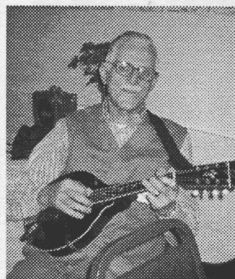
"The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday."

"Ladies' Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done."

"The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy."

"Don't let worry kill you off—let the Church help."

"Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation."



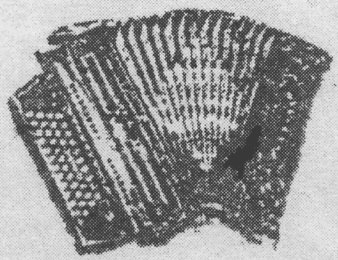
**Member Vic Amenta  
Playing mandolin  
With the Fun Band**

*Word Has It . . .*

. . . That **Michael Sanossian** had a successful triple bypass and is home concentrating on getting well and back to playing his accordion. Make it fast, Michael — we miss you!

. . . That **Tom Cordoni** has succeeded admirably in his mission to make the accordion the first and only official musical instrument of Petaluma! Our club heartily endorsed his efforts, in writing, and it is now **official!** Congratulations, Tom, on a job well done!

. . . That **Joe Smiell** and his band will be touring the southern states of Texas, Florida and Alabama late this month, where they will give nine concerts by special invitation.



**Coming Events**

**January 17-18, 2003**  
**Galla-Rini 99th Birthday Bash**  
San Diego

Info: Joan Sommers sommersJ@umkc.edu  
(913) 722-5625

**January 19-20-21**  
**16th annual Valley of Sun Polka Festival**  
Jackie Gaughan's Plaza Hotel Casino, Las Vegas  
Call (800) 634-6575

**February 9-10-11**  
**Southwest Polka Party**  
The Orleans, Las Vegas  
(800) 675-3267

**March 6-9, 2003**  
**National Accordion Convention**  
Plano, Texas  
Norman Seaton nns5522-@dcccd.edu  
11240 Drummond Drive, Dallas, TX 75228-1950  
www.accordions.com/taa

**June 1-5, 2003**  
**Silver Falls Accordion Camp, Sublimity, Oregon**  
Call Geoff Levear (503) 452-4517  
gleavear@aol.com

**June 17-21, 2003**  
**Leavenworth International  
Accordion Celebration**  
Leavenworth, WA  
Info: Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 327, Leavenworth, WA 98826  
(509) 548-5807; e-mail info@leavenworth.org

**June 22-25, 2003**

**Las Vegas International Accordion Convention**  
**Starring Myron Floren, Dick Contino, Art Van Damme,**  
**and Anthony Galla-Rini appearing for the first time**  
**together on one stage!**

And featuring Frank Marocco, Peter and Mady Soave, Tony Lovello, Gina & Romany Rye, Julien Labro, Les Accordionistes de Grenoble (France), Steve Albini, Ron Borelli, Gordon Kohl and more!  
Call (800) 472-1695 or (801) 486-1695  
Or visit www.accordionstars.com  
E-mail Vegas@accordioninfo.com  
(Val also has some flyers/forms)

**June 25-29, 2003**

**ATG Competition and Festival**  
Info: Joan C. Sommers, 2312 W. 71 Terrace  
Prairie Village, KS (913) 722-5625  
E-mail: sommersJ@umkc.edu



*"MUSIC RESEMBLES POETRY;  
IN EACH ARE NAMELESS  
GRACES WHICH NO METHODS  
TEACH, AND WHICH A MASTER-  
HAND ALONE CAN REACH."*

*Alexander Pope*

**Who Is Playing Where**

**Reno Di Bono and the Blue Moon Trio**  
play for dancing every second Friday of the month  
at Montaville in Scotts Valley, CA  
8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.  
For info call Reno (408) 252-3808

**Joe Domitrowich and the Alpiners USA**  
Sunday, February 23 and Sunday, March 16 5:00-9:00 p.m.  
At Tyrolean Inn, 9600 Highway 9 in Ben Lomond  
Phone (831) 336-5188  
Friday, March 7 from 7:00 p.m.  
Sokol Club, Basque Cultural Center in South SF  
For info call Joe (408) 255-1259  
Thursday, March 27 2-6 p.m., "Café Vienna" theme  
The Villages Retirement Center  
Tables can be reserved for friends of the band  
For info call Joe (408) 255-1259

**Mike Zampiceni** plays on Friday and Saturday nights  
At Di Cicco's Italian Restaurant  
2509 Bascom Ave., San Jose  
For reservations call (408) 377-5850

**The Internationals**  
Teske's Germania, 255 N. First St., San Jose  
(408) 292-0291

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**Your Executive Board**  
**Didn't meet in December**

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**A Big Welcome to New  
Members**  
**André Paris and  
Bruce Kirschner**



*"WITHOUT MUSIC LIFE WOULD BE  
A MISTAKE" Nietzsche*

**Diatonic Accordions**

*By Bob Godfried, NY-based accordion builder and repairman  
From the booklet accompanying Planet Squeezebox  
Reprinted from the BAAC newsletter of August 1996, with  
permission of the author*

The earliest accordions had a single row of ten buttons, each controlling a valve which controlled the air flow to a pair of metal reeds inside the instrument. These ten pairs of reeds were tuned to a diatonic (or Western major) scale, using layout almost identical to the harmonica. For each button, as with the harmonica, 2 different notes could be obtained. One note played when the bellows were pulled open, and a different, adjacent note in the scale would play when the bellows was pushed closed, reversing the air flow through the reeds, allowing for 20 notes through the ten pairs of reeds. This "push-pull" arrangement provided a compact and simple system for playing diatonic melodies. With 2 notes per button, 4 fingers could cover a complete 8-note octave. The frequent reversal of bellows direction necessary to change notes added a rhythmic articulation of the notes very suitable for many types of dance tunes. The simple two-fingered bass arrangement allowed for a minimal yet adequate accompaniment for most folk music. These factors, combined with rugged construction, a loud sound output and relative affordability made the diatonic accordion the most widely distributed and played accordion throughout almost every county in the world.

The **One-row Diatonic Accordion**, also known as the "German style" diatonic accordion, is the earliest accordion design still being made. It features a single row of ten buttons, exposed valves and from 2 to 4 pull stops on top of the treble side of the instrument, altering tone and register of a given note by controlling which reeds will sound. It has only two bass accompaniment buttons. The four-stop model remains popular among traditional French Canadian musicians in Quebec and Cajun musicians in Louisiana. The Cajuns retune by filing some of the reeds to provide a sweeter harmony when certain combinations of notes are played together. They also tune the middle sets of reeds in unison, without the tremolo found in most other accordions.

**BAAC MEMBERSHIP**

\$25 per year for individual;  
\$30 per year for a family  
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**Reno Di Bono  
And Granddaughter  
Gianna**

**Accordions in the Schools**

Reno brought in the Hohner student 12-bass accordion for the hands-on use of four-year-olds at St. Joseph School in Menlo Park, and his granddaughter Gianna was the first to play it in front of the rest of the kids. From the photo I'd say she's definitely having fun!

During that same week, Reno was asked by his former US History teacher-colleagues (four teachers) at Monte Vista High School in Cupertino, to play European immigrant music for 6 separate US History classes. There were 300 high school students in those combined classes. Many had never seen the accordion, but they all enjoyed it and were interested in it.

Last year, Reno had two students express interest in the accordion. One boy purchased a smelly old Borsini on Ebay (he has the use of a better one now), and one girl also bought an accordion on Ebay and plays it regularly. Both are musicians with the California Youth Symphony, so there is real interest. (Thanks Reno, for sharing this with us.)



**A light moment with Lou Casalnuovo and Dennis Stoscher**



**Dee and Harry Cannata (Pres. Of ACR in Petaluma)**

**The BAAC Ensemble Assembling**

**Shown: Mark Zhagel, Val Kieser,  
Lynn Ewing, Sharon Walters,  
Bob Smith, Bob Berta,  
Ed Massolo, Aldo Argenti,  
Frank Montoro, Ron Harris,  
Frank Schlotter** →

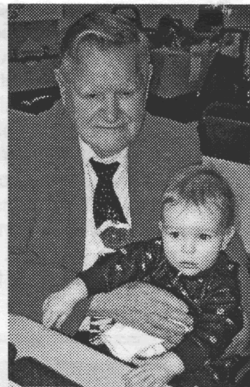


**The ACE Ensemble**

**Shown: Sharon Walters,  
Joe Smiell, Lynn Ewing,  
Peter di Bono, Ron Harris,  
Nora Mazzara,  
Reno Di Bono** ←



**Welcome Table  
Val, Vince Cirelli, Rosemary Armanino, Jim Firpo**



**Proud Grandpa Joe  
With grandson  
Franz Joseph**



**Buffet table**



**Peter Di Bono and Val  
After the Meeting**

*Come and join in ...*

**Bay Area Accordion Club**

Meets 7 p.m. the second Thursday of the month  
Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St. Daly City/Colma  
For information call Val (510) 531-4836  
Website: [www.baaccordionclub.org](http://www.baaccordionclub.org)

**East Bay Accordion Circle**

Meets the second Thursday of the month  
1517 – 5<sup>th</sup> St., 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**

Meets 7 PM the second Tuesday of the month  
At Pietro's #2, 679 Merchant St. in Vacaville  
For information call (707) 864-2359

**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

**South Bay Accordion Jam**

Meets 2:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month  
Seventh Day Adventist Church  
5265 Carter Ave., near Camden & Kooser

**BAAC Ensemble Practice**

Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.  
Moose Lodge  
7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City  
For information call Frank (650) 574-4757

**BAAC "Fun Band" Practice**

First and Third Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Moose Lodge  
7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City  
For information call Frank (510) 339-1163

\* \* \* \* \*

***Accordion Teacher Listings***  
**San Francisco/North Peninsula**

Peter Di Bono  
Theory/Technique/Performance  
(415) 753-1502

Lou Soper  
Every Tuesday 3:00-6:30 p.m.  
Moose Club, Colma/Daly City  
(510) 841-6745

Sharon Walters  
All levels (415) 621-8284

**North Bay**

Steve Albini  
Marin/Sonoma  
Private (415) 897-4131

Bart Beninco

Accordion and Piano  
Petaluma (707) 769-8744

Marjorie Konrad

Button Box, Piano Accordion  
& Chromatic  
Santa Rosa (707) 539-5308

**East Bay**

Valarie Morris  
Group & Private; Theory, Technique,  
Composition; all levels/ages  
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Lou Jacklich

Private Lessons; Technique,  
Arranging & Chords  
(510) 317-9510

**Peninsula & South Bay**

Lynn Ewing  
All levels/ages  
(650) 365-1700

Marian Kelly

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(650) 854-1896

Ron Borelli

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(650) 574-5707

Mike Zampiceni

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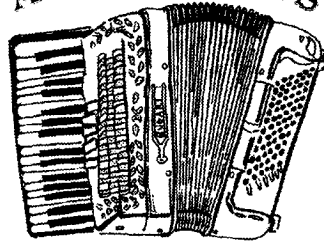
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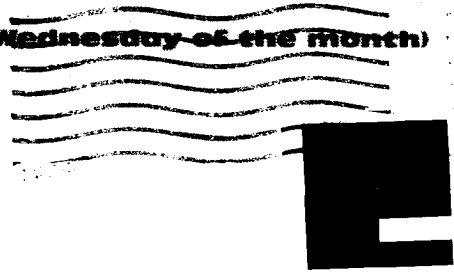
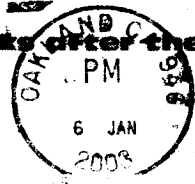
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(Submissions to BAAC PAGE are due 2 weeks after the 1st Wednesday of the month)



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**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

