

Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO



ACCORDION CLUB January 2007

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FLASH!

PLEASE NOTE !!!

!!! THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JANUARY !!!

The Oyster Point Yacht Club informed us that they have a long-standing, on-going commitment for another group on the third Sunday of January every year, so the board decided to give everyone a little hiatus until the February meeting, rather than try to re-schedule.

FLASH!



President's Message

I wish everyone a happy, prosperous, and healthy 2007. The past year was a good one for the San Francisco Accordion Club, and I am looking forward to another good year. I hope you will take a few minutes and let me know what you would like to see happen in 2007. We have a few ideas, but we always welcome your input.

Thanks are in order for everyone on the Board and the other volunteers who have worked to make the past year the success that it was. Several openings now exist on the Board, and I hope you will come forward to lend a hand. We also need people to man the front desk, sell drawing tickets, and just keep an eye out during meetings so things move along easily. Please call me and offer your assistance.

We had to cancel the January meeting because of a prior booking at the Oyster Point Yacht Club to another group. We hope to work through this issue in the future, but in the meantime, **a great February meeting is in the works**, and you'll want to be there.

Don't forget, **no January meeting!** So, I'll look forward to seeing you on **February 18th 2007, at 2:00 pm.** Play that accordion every day, and remember:

REAL MUSIC IS LIVE !!!

Peter Di Bona

Wanted

Items for the newsletter! Send me your articles: on playing tips, technique, accordion history, music theory (not too complicated!), accordion history, events, personal experiences, photos—whatever might be of interest for the newsletter.

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

Visit us at our new Website [w.w.w.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)

December Christmas Party

The room looked so festive, all decorated in Holiday style, some of which was courtesy of **Oyster Point Yacht Club** and some of which was brought by our club members. The tables each had candies and candy canes “sprinkled” around the other decorations. Pres. **Peter Di Bono** welcomed the crowd. All were delighted to hear that **Vince Ci-relli** continues to gain strength following his recent heart problems.

This being the annual Christmas party, by tradition our groups each play their Christmas programs. First up was the **San Francisco Accordion Band**, affectionately known as the “Fun Band,” directed by Yours Truly, whose directing is



The SF Accordion Band, a.k.a. The “Fun Band”

limited by the fact that I also have to play. Little by little I’m gaining experience in doing both, but it would be a lot easier if I could do one or the other—so, *we need another strong player in our group (hint, hint!)* so that I can conduct at least the pieces that have variations in speed. We played *Home for the Holidays* (two parts); *Silver Bells* (two parts); *O Sanctissima* (two parts); *White Christmas* (two parts; with Bob Smith singing the delightful verse); *Jingle Bell Rock*; *Angels We Have Heard On High* (multiple parts); *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (multiple parts); and, of course, our traditional finale, *Auld Lang Syne* (multiple parts). We heard a lot of singing along, which is always gratifying (of course it couldn’t be because words to all the songs were handed out!?).

With our “fan club” demanding one more song, we played *C’è La Luna Mezzo Mare* which has nice words and also other words—most people seem to know the “other words”!

I want to say “Thanks” on behalf of the whole band, to Scott Williamson’s beautiful daughter **Lyndie Chiou**, for playing string bass with us. She really adds that special touch to the sound of the band. Lyndie’s proud hubby **Jeff** was there too, taking care of their precious baby girl, **Nia**, who enchanted all who saw her. We also thank **Gwyn Lister** for playing saxophone on a couple of the pieces, for that extra mellow sound. And one more thanks to **Lynn Ewing** for being willing to join the band for this performance, adding some extra strength to the accordion sound. Wow! How fortunate we are to have these talented people play with our band!

Next, Bob Smith and Val played a couple of Christmas numbers: the beautiful (usually with vocal) *Gesù Bambino*

and another gorgeous carol that few people know these days: *Ding Dong Merrily on High*.

Bob then played a solo, with gorgeous organ sounds, *Brightly Shines the Morning Star* (Bach). Oh, what beautiful music, and played so sensitively!

Again by tradition, **Lynn Ewing** plays and sings her two Christmas novelty songs, *I’m getting’ Nuttin’ for Christmas* and *The Twelve Days of Vacation*. Everyone chimes in on the refrains—that is, if they can stop laughing long enough!

Intermission as always included a beautiful spread of Christmas cookies and other great food, provided and prepared by our wonderful volunteers.

Following intermission, the drawings were held—for the cash prize and for other prizes, twelve in all.

The second half of the program featured the **SF Accordion Ensemble (ACE)**, conducted by **Joe Smiell**, who also



Val and Bob



Lynn Ewing



Joe Smiell Conducting the ACE Ensemble

arranged all the music. (By the way, Joe is also our club’s Vice President.) ACE played *Sleigh Ride*, several of the wonderful Christmas “pots” (potpourris) that Joe has arranged; *White Christmas*; a medley of tunes from *My Fair Lady*; *I Left My Heart in SF*; *El Relicario*; a medley of Be-guine tunes; also a wonderful Polish *Oberek* (a national dance of Poland). Actually, I’m not sure I remember *all* of what we played, and did not take notes since I was one of

(More photos on next page)

the players, but I believe the above pretty much covers it. Judging from the ovation, I think we did a good job!

My thanks to **Rosemary Halley** for taking some notes for this meeting (on top of that she gave me the whole notebook!), and to **Cherie Schwing** and **George Chávez** for taking pictures for me since I was playing practically the entire time.

Val



Welcome table with Joe Smiell and Ruby Dezman



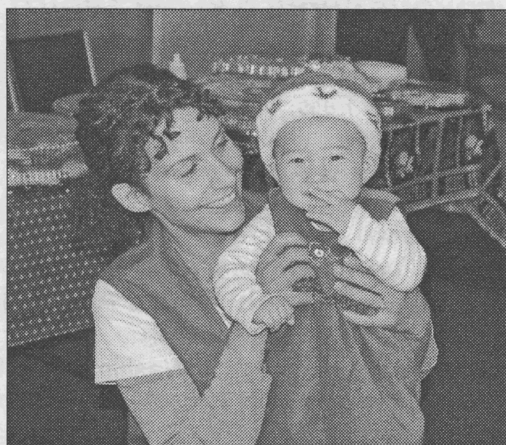
Dale and Barbara Winter



Mel Schwing playing in the Fun Band
(Do you think he's having fun???)



Frank Montoro and Lynn Ewing playing with the ACE Ensemble



Lyndie Chiou and baby Nia

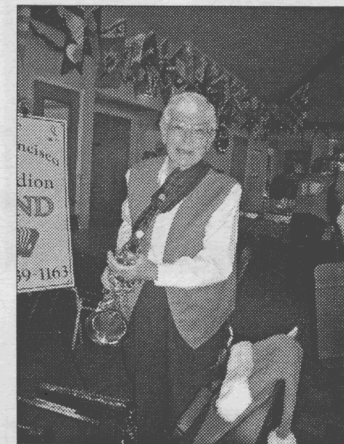


Can you locate Rosemary Halley taking notes for Val?
(Not very difficult!)

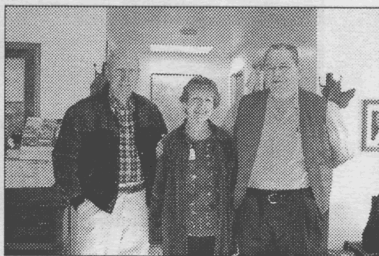


Jim Holliday and Evelyn Baulch

LOST & FOUND NOTICE !!!
Whoever left a grey and black chiffon neck scarf at the December meeting: Val has it. Call Val at (510) 531-4836 or e-mail her at vtkacc@ifn.net !



Our star saxophone player
Gwyn Lister



Aldo Argenti, Mary-Alice Eldon,
Frank Schlotter

Word Has It . . .
. . . That our loyal, active and enthusiastic club member **Ernst Angst** suffered a stroke but is doing very well (I saw him on Jan. 7 looking as good as ever!)—and at the same time, **Ernst and Lupita** became grandparents of a beautiful baby boy! Here's to Ernst playing his Italo-American button chromatic again very soon—and to many years of doting on that new grandson!
. . . That **Vince Cirelli** is recovering so well that he attended the SVAS meeting on Jan. 7 looking great! Oh Vince, we're so glad to see you back among us!
. . . That **Jennie Balich** is setting records in her recovery from a broken hip. Way to go, Jennie!
. . . That the **SVAS** hosted a fantastic show Jan. 7 featuring **Mike Marotta Sr. and Jr.** from Monterey and their fabulous band and Italian opera singer. They put on a show for our club about a year and a half ago, and **WOW!** We need to get them back again soon! Not only are they gifted musicians, but they are also just wonderful people to know.
. . . That **Telmo Echeverría's** brother-in-law has fallen seriously ill in Ecuador, where Telmo is at this moment. We are all pulling for him and hoping Telmo will be back soon.
. . . That **Johann Christian Smiell**, Joe and Lucy's second grandson, born last May 1, was christened at a beautiful service in Piedmont on Sunday, December 3.



Dale and Barbara Winter and
Evelyn Baulch



Our star bass player
Lyndie Chiou

... and some sad news
Michael Sanossian's wife Martha passed away in December following a long illness. The SFAC extends deepest sympathy to Michael and we hope to see him back at the club soon.

Welcome New Members
Here's a Big Hearty WELCOME to . . .
Jacqueline Davidson of San Bruno. Although she does not play accordion, she enjoys Classical, European, Latin, Tex/Mex, "Oldies," and Cajun/Zydeco accordion music. Welcome, Jacqueline! We hope to see you often at our meetings!

ACCORDION EVENTS COMING UP IN 2007 THAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT!

The Las Vegas Accordion Convention, taking place Monday through Thursday, June 18-21, 2007 at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Headline artists include **Leo Aquino** from Canada, **Daniel Desiderio**, **Tony Lovello**, **Walter Ostanek**, **Mario Padone**, **Soundscape Accordion Trio**, **Sammy Thomas**. Featured Legends will be **Art Van Damme**, **Peter and Mady Soave** and Comedian **Pete Barbutti**. Also appearing will be **Gina Branelli** from the UK, **Gordon Kohl** from San Diego, and our own **Ron Borelli** and **Joe Domitrowich**.

The Convention will be celebrating 100 years of the Piano Accordion! For details visit www.AccordionStars.com .

Rose City Accordion Camp

In Silver Falls, Oregon, June 3-8.
For info call (530) 293-0322.

Galla-Rini Accordion Camp

July 22-26, at Dominican University in San Rafael. Mark the dates now; details will follow in coming months.

The Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes' 2007 Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships

Taking place August 13-18 in Washington, D.C. Co-hosted by the AAA and the ATG. For info: www.ameracord.com or e-mail Joan Cochran Sommers sommersj@umkc.edu or call (913) 722-5625.

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

Fun Band News . . .

With the Christmas meeting under our belts, and feeling good about our performance, we're plunging into our repertoire for the coming spring and summer. We have a few gigs lined up and will be getting more. If anyone hears of an event where we might play, please let Frank Schlotter know as soon as possible (510) 339-1163, or Val (510) 531-4836 (vtkacc@ifn.net) so we can get our schedule in order.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US! We do have FUN and the music is not difficult.

Current players in the band are: Vic and Barbara Corsiglia (Barbara plays bass guitar and other special sounds as needed); Lyndie Chiou (on string bass whenever she has time in her busy life); Telmo Echeverría; Val Kieser; Gwyn Lister whenever we can get her; Mel Schwing; Bob Smith; Scott Williamson; Lee Woodall. Now: How about **YOU** ?!!!!

ACE Ensemble News . . .

We love to play at schools! Our latest school date was Christmas music at the Mt. Carmel school in Redwood City in December. We've played there several times before and the kids love it! We also played in December for the SVAS in San Jose, and then for our own club. At the moment we're working on our spring concert music, the first of several concerts coming up in spring and summer. Stay tuned.

ACE players: Aldo Argenti, Jr., Peter Di Bono, Reno Di Bono, Mary-Alice Eldon, Lynn Ewing, Ron Harris, Marian Kelly, Valerie Kieser, Deborah Knapp, Nora Mazzara, Kevin McCarthy (percussion), Anne Métais, Frank Montoro, Bob Smith, and Sharon Walters Greyhosky. Joe Smiell is our musical director and arranger, and Chris Arild is our hard-working Librarian.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO
LEAVE THE MEETING HALL CLEAN
AND FREE OF FOOD, PAPER PLATES,
NAPKINS, CANS, BOTTLES, ETC. !!!!!**

Our Sincere Thanks

To those who generously donate to the Club.

Each year we start a new cumulative list of donors. If you donate and it doesn't show up in this column, please call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net and let me know. We want to be sure you are recognized! Thanks!

PLEASE NOTE

Club members are welcome at Executive Board meetings anytime. Board meetings are generally held at 6:30 p.m. at the Oyster Point Yacht Club on the Monday before a meeting. Always check with a board member (see last page) to confirm date & time if you wish to attend.



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THANKS FROM YOUR EDITOR

My thanks to all of you who have submitted articles, songs, and other items for the newsletter. Although I cannot print everything, especially in one issue, I am holding onto these items for possible use in future newsletters. I appreciate your response to my plea for newsletter items!

Val

AND MORE THANKS . . .

. . . to Telmo Echeverría and Sue Hirigoyen for helping with the folding, labeling, stamping and mailing of newsletters; and to all the generous people who bring food to the meetings and help with the serving. Even if we don't get all the names, your volunteer spirit is much appreciated!



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SFAC Evening Ensemble Practice

First and Third Wednesday of the month
at Ed Massolo's home, 612 Lassen ST.,
South San Francisco

ON HIATUS—members will be notified when we start up again!

SFAC Band Practice

Wed. Jan. 10 and 24, 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's Home in Oakland
CALL AHEAD!! Please join us!

Info: call Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163

Or Valerie Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net

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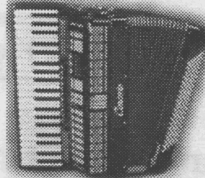
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\$30 per year, individual or family
Mail check to S.F.A.C.
C/O Valerie Kieser
3437 Crane Way
Oakland, CA 94602
Admission to Meetings: \$5 for members
\$8 for each guest

Proposed New Ad Policy (to be confirmed)

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$6.00 per issue; a business-card-size ad will cost \$6.00 per issue or \$60.00 per year; a quarter-page ad will cost \$15.00; a half-page ad will cost \$25.00; and a full-page ad will cost \$40.00. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$25. The cost for ads placed by non-members will be twice the above-quoted prices.

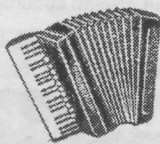
SFAC Officers

President: Peter Di Bono
(415) 753-1502 pdibono@hotmail.com
Vice President: Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938
Treasurer: Robert Hansen (650) 756-3547
rhansen50@sbcglobal.net
Secretary: Lore Warren
(510) 783-2072; lorewarren@earthlink.net

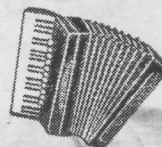
Directors for 2006-2007

James Firpo (415) 648-3674
Valerie Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net (new)
Some directorships are open! Please volunteer!
Newsletter Editor: Valerie T. Kieser
(510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net (New)

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JANUARY !!!



The next meeting will take place on
Sunday, February 18. We have a great lineup of
players for February, including Mike Zampiceni,
Vic Corsiglia's group, Naomi Zamir and more.
Don't miss it!



***Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club***

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