

HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY

Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO



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FATHER'S
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PLEASE
NOTE!!!
There will be no
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because of the
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ACCORDION CLUB

June 2005

The Accordion: San Francisco's Official Instrument

President's Message

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, **June 19th**. If you haven't checked the calendar yet, it's also Father's Day. How about you come to the club meeting at 2:00, and then take the old guy out for dinner afterward? This is going to be a memorable meeting and you won't want to miss it. The first half of the meeting features Mark Ramian, an Israeli-born



accordionist. I've heard a lot about Mark, and am looking forward to hearing him.

Norma Zonay-Parsons and her musical partner, **Bruno Bianchini**, complete the first half. Anything Norma plays is always at the upper end of the musical scale, and it's too infrequent that we get to hear her. I had the pleasure of accompanying Norma on some vocals a few years back, and really enjoyed her style. I look forward to hearing them both on June 19.

The second half of the afternoon features **Henri Ducharme**, who plays just about every style of music imaginable. Joining with Henri will be his ensemble, **Accordion Works**, and some of his students. I haven't heard what's on the bill from Henri, but having heard him previously, I know we're in for some great music.

The Board of Directors is exploring ways in which to increase **attendance at our meetings**. We think that the level of the musical entertainment of our meetings is always very high; we have a beautiful place to meet, and yet the attendance is not where it should be. Please let me know any suggestions you may have in this regard. Some people have suggested we go back to evening meetings, but others are very positive about the Sunday meeting time. **Let me know your thoughts on this.**

I went to **Tom Torriglia's Accordion Festival** at The Cannery in San Francisco last Sunday. In addition to our own Fun Band,

June 19 Meeting

*The Long-awaited
NORMA PARSONS and her playing
companion **BRUNO BIANCHINI***

Norma and Bruno come to us from the South Bay. Norma has entertained us many times and is definitely one of our favorites!

Also: MARK RAMIAN

Mark was born in Israel. His father told him he was born with a diatonic accordion in his hand! His mother, a concert pianist, taught him how to read and write music. Russian-born Armenian composer Aram Kachaturian was a relative of hers.

**HENRI DUCHARME, solo and with
his students and his ensemble,
Accordion Works.**

Henri is a classically trained accordionist who teaches full time from his studio in West Oakland. He also teaches frequent accordion workshops and classes and, for the younger crowd, an ongoing workshop on Punk Rock Accordion.

You will hear everything from Piazzola tangos (Henri solo) to Bei Mir Bist Du Shoen, Day-O, the theme from Amelie and the "I can't Stop Playing Polkas" polka which is described as "hilarious." (Accordion Works).

Tom had a wide variety of accordion entertainment including soloists, duets, and combos. The "Main Squeeze" competition was very close, but after several votes "Mrs. Kielbasa" who hailed from Poland, and sang her/his own composition of a song about Polish sausage won the contest. (I'll leave to your imagination the content of this song.) "The Great Morgani" (Frank Lima) came in a close second.

(continued on page 5)

**NEXT MEETING: Sunday, June 19, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the
South San Francisco Senior Center, 33 Arroyo Drive, South SF**

PICNIC NEWS !!!

SATURDAY, JULY 9 FROM 10:00 A.M.

Nature Friends Park, 3115 Butters Drive, Oakland

COME ONE, COME ALL! BRING THE KIDDIES!

*Our good friend JIM MURDOCK will present a full clown show with accordion!
Anyone who has seen Jim perform will recall what a fabulous act he puts on for "kids"
of all ages! PLUS . . .*

*We have lots of prizes for adults and kiddies alike, and party favors for the kids
PLUS . . .*

*Some terrific entertainment, including OUR OWN FUN BAND, MIKE ZAMPICENI,
JOE DOMITROWICH, HARRY GAY/BOB FOPPIANO, OUR PRES. PETER DI BONO,
AND . . .*

THE ARGENTINE TANGO CLUB

COMPLETE WITH BANDEONEON AND TANGO DANCING !!!

All-day accordion entertainment! (Bring your accordion for informal jamming)

. . . And much, much more! Don't miss this one!

RESERVATIONS AND PRE-PAYMENT REQUIRED!

*Tickets may be picked up at the picnic Welcome Table, or Val will mail them to you
if you enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your check.*

\$12 per person, kids under 14 free

Free hot dogs for the kids; free soft drinks for all

Bring your own wine or beer; no hard liquor allowed

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE for receiving your check: Tuesday, July 5!

Make checks payable to S.F.A.C. and mail to

Valerie Kieser, 3437 Crane Way, Oakland, CA 94602

Questions: Call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@value.net



Francisco from the Argentine Tango Club

TEACHERS!

How about some of your young students! They'd
LOVE the picnic!

Mariposa Argentine Tango Club

Verdi Club 2424 Mariposa St. • San Francisco, CA 94110

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Our club picnic takes place July 9th at Nature Friends Park in the Oakland hills. Val Kieser and Dick Schiller are putting on the picnic this year, and Val says "this will be the best picnic ever." The admission charge of \$12.00 buys an entire day of wonderful music, a special program for kids, a great lunch, prizes, dancing and lots of fun. (If you can convince Vince Cirelli that you are under 14 years of age, you get all of this free!)

Let us take a moment here to honor the lifelong commitment to excellence of **Joe Petosa**. The recent passing of Joe is a sad loss to the entire accordion world. There is no doubt that Joe Jr. will carry on his Dad's dedication to creating the finest accordions in the world. It is a wonderful irony that just a few weeks ago the international accordion community came together to honor Joe on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Please get involved in your club, and let me know your ideas and suggestions. I look forward to seeing you at 2:00 pm on June

19th.

Play your accordion every day, and remember:
REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!

Peter Di Bono

Your Executive Board Met . . .

. . . on Thursday 19 May 2005. Total in checking and savings accounts, including Scholarship, as of May 19: \$4,809.81. The board voted to maintain the Scholarship Fund at \$1,000 in any given year, with any overflow to go directly into the checking account. It also voted to have all discretionary spending run through both the President and the Secretary, so that three people are involved in every transaction. The board also authorized the club to offer \$25 donations for suitable occurrences without securing special board approval. We are going to try producing a flyer about our meetings, for people to hand out to anyone who might be interested, in an effort to increase attendance at meetings. The membership will be asked to vote on a couple of amendments to the By-Laws in the near future, including changing the fiscal year (not the membership year) to January-December from October-September. Val Kieser and Dick Schiller are working on the picnic.



The SFAC "Fun Band" at The Cannery (photo courtesy Tom Torriglia)

Word Has It . . .

. . . that the SFAC "Fun Band" led off the Accordion Festival at The Cannery in SF on Sunday, June 5. Thanks Tom Torriglia!

. . . that **Big Lou** (our own **Linda Seekins**) got a big splash in the SF Chronicle Datebook, May 24 issue. Big Lou's Polka Casserole was also one of the groups performing at The Cannery June 5. So Linda, when are you going to come perform for us?



KATY RADDITZ / The Chronicle

Linda Seekins, a.k.a. Big Lou
the Accordion Princess.

. . . that SFAC member and good friend in Vancouver, B.C. **Leo Aquino** writes: "It's been a long time since I've had the pleasure of performing for the club (many years ago) but I still have fond memories of my visit there. Lots of interesting people and talented accordionists. I am no longer performing full-length solo concerts (due to minor left hand problem). I'm getting the word out about my newly designed website.

It has graphics, bio material, title lists, sound bites and ordering instructions. The Web address is www.leoaquino.ca. Thanks, Leo! It's great to hear from you!

. . . that, according to **Rosemary Armanino**, **Tony Lovello** has been having a spectacular West Coast tour. Comments overheard were how he performs with incredible accuracy, precision and stamina. She adds, "He truly is an amazing accordion player who loves what he's doing and communicates with his audience and explains how he performs his fancy glissandos and bellows shake and demonstrates this, and they love it!" Tony performed for just about every accordion club in California, receiving honorary memberships and various awards along the way. Way to go, Tony!

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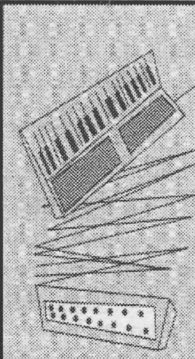
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**THE EVENING ENSEMBLE and
the FUN BAND:**

The Evening Ensemble with Joe Smiell, for the foreseeable future, will hold rehearsals at the home of Ed and Isabelle Massolo, 612 Lassen Street, South San Francisco. Rehearsals are normally held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, although the Ensemble is on hiatus for the moment. Members will be notified of the next rehearsal. Directions are simple: From 280 take the Westborough Ave. exit and drive east to El Camino. Turn right (south) on El Camino for several blocks to Ponderosa Road. Turn right on Ponderosa and continue to Lassen Street; turn right on Lassen and drive to the cul-de-sac at the end. 612 is on the right of the cul-de-sac and is well marked.

The Fun Band will continue to meet at the Hope Church in Daly City on the second and fourth Wednesdays.

A reminder: that THE FUN BAND WILL be playing at the Petaluma Accordion Celebration Saturday, June 25 AT 2:30 and in Marin County at two venues in August—these will be announced in the newsletter during the summer.



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**Don't miss
The Third Annual "Celebrate the Accordion Day"**
In Petaluma Some of the artists scheduled to perform are: Our own SAN FRANCISCO ACCORDION CLUB "FUN" BAND; Sev Garcia; Bart Beninco: Steve Balich; Ben Creed; Tom Cordoni: the Eurotones and the chorus "Coro Allegra." All this takes place in two locations in Petaluma: behind the Historical Museum at 4th and B streets from 11:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m., and at Putman Plaza on Petaluma Boulevard between East Washington and Western Streets, from 11:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. There is a two-hour parking limit downtown. Once you have parked, everything is within walking distance!

**A NOTE FROM HERB
MEIER IN GERMANY**
Herb writes, "Thank you for the nice article in the last SFAC Newsletter about us. Also, please thank Peter Di Bono for his kind words and, of course, as Peter said, I wouldn't have played if Dennis hadn't let me borrow his accordion! I am playing both of my accordions whenever I have time and am practicing mainly my 'mixed bag' of international songs." Herb sent me a very nice CD of his "easy listening" piano. Thanks, Herb—it is very enjoyable! Val



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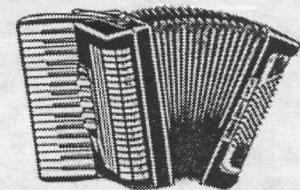
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Thomas Bruno (724) 339-1507

Come and join in ...

San Francisco Accordion Club

Our New Home and New Meeting Schedule!!
Since February 2005 the SFAC meets on the
Third Sunday of the month

2:00 p.m. South San Francisco Senior Center in the
South San Francisco Municipal Building
33 Arroyo Drive, South San Francisco
For Info call any board member.

NO MEETING IN JULY because of the Picnic

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. 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

Upcoming Events

June 5-10: Rose City Accordion Club Accordion Camp, Silver Falls, Oregon. For info call Geoff Levar (503) 293-0322.

Sunday, June 12, 11:00-4:00: Golden State Accordion Club's Annual Picnic, Pippo's Ranch, Vacaville. Call Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359; e-mail accordioncarole@aol.com.

June 15-19, 2005: Accordionists & Teachers Guild Festival, Richardson, TX featuring first-time-ever **Art Van Damme International Jazz Competition**. Info: John Simkus (847) 683-2528; simkus@mc.net.

Saturday, June 25, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.: Third Annual Day of the Accordion Celebration in Petaluma, held in two downtown locations: Putnam Plaza and Petaluma Historical Library & Museum. For info or to participate call Tom Cordoni (707) 762-2231. **Our Fun Band will be playing!**

June 26-29: Las Vegas International Accordion Convention, Gold Coast Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas. Call (800) 472-1695; Hotel info (888) 402-6278.

July 4-9, 2005: 31st Annual Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Championships (KIOTAC) festival, Kimberley, B.C., Canada. Reservation deadline May 31. See Val for registration form, or call (888) 454-6822. E-mail info@kiotac.ca; Website www.kiotac.ca.

Saturday, July 9, 2005: SF Accordion Club Picnic, Nature Friends Park in the Oakland Hills. **Save the date! THERE WILL BE NO JULY MEETING!** Info: Call Val (510) 531-4836.

July 9-16: Joe Smiell's Button Box Camp, Soda Springs, CA. Call (510) 832-6938 or (510) 236-3784.

Saturday, July 16: Accordion Club of the Redwoods Picnic. Save the date! Details to follow.

Sunday, July 24-Friday, July 29, 2005: Galla-Rini Accordion Camp, San Diego, CA. Call Val (510) 531-4836, vtkacc@value.net for info, or call Kjell Holmes (858) 453-5486 or kjell@sanrr.com.

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

SFAC Evening Ensemble Practice *New Location beginning May 2005: at the home of Ed and Isabelle Massolo, 612 Lassen Street,*

South San Francisco

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

Call first! : (for now) Val Kieser (510) 531-4836

SFAC Band Practice

Second and Fourth Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

Hope Lutheran Church, 55 San Fernando Way,

Daly City

**NOTE ABOUT
TEACHER LISTINGS:**

**For names and phone numbers of
accordion teachers in the Bay Area
(San Francisco/North peninsula,
North Bay, East Bay, Peninsula and
South Bay) please contact Val at (510)
531-4836 or vtkacc@value.net.**

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Who Is Playing Where . . .

Following are names and phone numbers to call to *find out where your favorite player is performing*. Anyone wishing to have his/her name added to this list, please contact Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@value.net.

Steve Albini in Napa, North Bay and East Bay (415) 892-5381.

Steve Balich, Sr. in North Bay, El Verano and Sacramento (707) 874-3494.


William DeMichelis in Palo Alto (650) 321-3319.

Joe Domitrowich and the Alpiners USA in the South Bay (408) 255-1259. Website www.capricious-accordion.com or www.alpinersusa.com.

Tom Torriglia and the Bella Ciao Band mostly in SF (415) 440-0800; www.ladyofspain.com/bellaciao.html

Mike Zampiceni in the South Bay (408) 734-1565.

Rick Corrigan and the pickPocket Ensemble café-style music of various ethnicities. E-mail Rick Corrigan rickcorrigan@earthlink.net.

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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: \$5.00

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.

THERE WILL BE NO JULY MEETING
Come to the picnic July 9 !!

SFAC Officers

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(415) 753-1502 pdibono@hotmail.com
Vice President: Don Nurisso
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Treasurer: Dominic Palmisano
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Scott Williamson (408) 553-7519
Newsletter Editor: Valerie T. Kieser
(510) 531-4836 vtkacc@value.net



NEXT MEETING
SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO SENIOR CENTER
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
33 ARROYO DRIVE, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO
From El Camino: one block north of Westborough; turn West



Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club

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