

Official Instrument of San Francisco 1912 \$\square\$ The World's First Accordion Club \$\square\$ 2006



President's Message

Everyone who attended our first meeting at Oyster Point seemed pleased with the new place. The size is just right, the outlook is terrific, and with a little fine-tuning, it will be great for us. The parking lots are more than ample, so there won't be any problems there. We are thinking about removing tables to make a little more room, but at this time a decision hasn't been made. We also are not yet finalized on the type of snack we will provide during the break,

so we'll see what happens at the next Board meeting - stay tuned.

There is a lot of accordion stuff coming up, so look elsewhere for dates and times. I want to mention that accordionist **Ron Sfarzo** and wife, **Maryanne**, are putting on a great evening of live music during June and July. The show features a live band doing American standards, and Broadway favorites. Maryanne does the vocals. Please call Ron or Maryanne at (650) 595-2282 for details. There are only 6 shows, so don't dally.

Don't forget our **picnic** July 8; Val Kieser is planning a great day for us. Please call Val at (510) 531-4836, and get involved. The **Cotati Accordion Festival** happens on the last weekend of August – and, don't forget **Galla-Rini Accordion Camp** in San Rafael July 23-28. See info elsewhere in this newsletter.

After last month's meeting, a few of us die-hards hung around, and retired to the lounge for an adult beverage. **Dennis Stoscher** was in there thrilling the yacht club members with his playing and comedy. I was having a little quiet time by myself, when all of a sudden, Dennis threw me his accordion, and the fun and

JUNE MEETING

The entire meeting is being arranged by SFAC member Steve Balich from the North Bay. The music will include Marie Meredith's "Polkanomics" band, Steve Balich's own famous band, Tom Cordoni, Bart Beninco, and the Eurotones (button box and guitar) — and more!!

Don't miss it!

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE

NO MEETING IN JULY

BECAUSE OF THE PICNIC JULY 8.

PLEASE COME TO THE PICNIC!

dancing were on. Dennis played, I played, Sharon Walters Greyhosky played, Gus Greyhosky played, Val Kieser played - the next thing I knew I was trying to explain to my wife why it was after 7 pm and I was just getting home. The afterglow is always a great time, and you should avail yourself of it sometime.

Our next meeting is being organized by The Accordion Club Of The Redwoods with **Steve Balich** and his band

(Continued on page 7)

<u>NEXT MEETING</u>: Sunday, June 18 (Father's Day) 2:00 p.m. SHARP

Our new location!!! The Oyster Point Yacht Club 911 Marina Blvd., South San Francisco

From 101 South or 101 North take Oyster Point exit. Go east on Oyster Point 1 mile; turn right on Marina Blvd. (look for blue Marina sign) and continue to the end.

May Meeting: A great New Beginning In our New Digs!

Well, our club certainly got off to a grand start in our new location, the Oyster Point Yacht Club in South San Francisco! In spite of the new, yet unfamiliar location, the house was packed for our current club's 16th anniversary and our annual Ladies' Day. (Men: If you'd like to have a

Men's Day, speak up!)

After some pre-meeting music by Yours Truly, Pres. Peter Di Bono announced that we had four out of the five Founders at this meeting: Walter Traverso, Jim Holliday, Rusty Bartoli and Dominic Palmisano. We were very sorry that Lou Soper couldn't make it. Lou is in all our thoughts and we hope to see him again at one of our events. Peter



Val

also announced a special thanks to those who found and



Four of our 5 founders: Dominic Palmisano, Jim Holliday, Rusty Bartoli and Walter Traverso

arranged with the Oyster Point Yacht Club for us to hold our meetings there. The yacht club is not a total stranger to the SFAC, as Lee Woodall has played there from time to time for years.

The "Ladies" musical program began with Sharon Walters Greyhosky and her student from the North Bay, Glo-



ria Heinzl. Together they played one of Joe Smiell's Phrasing & Articulation exercises, which is a lovely minuet, arranged as a duet. Then Gloria played solo, June Rose, and I was impressed with her phrasing and sensitivity. Then

Sharon Walters Greyhosky and Gloria Heinzl Sharon and Gloria played together Midnight Waltz by Stas Venglevski, arranged for two accordions by Mike Alongi; and Jumping Beans, a duet from Palmer-Hughes Book 4, eliciting some enthusiastic double claps from the audience where it seemed to fit quite naturally. Thank you, Sharon and Gloria, you both played so beautifully.

While Lynn Ewing was getting ready to join Sharon on the

stage, Peter introduced our most welcoming OPYC host and hostess, Dee and Dave Bennett, whom we thank so much for their warm hospital-

Lynn and Sharon first played the wellknown Galla-Rini



Lynn Ewing and Sharon Walters Greynhosky

piece, l'Esprit Français; followed by the Galla-Rini duet arrangement of Les Filles de

> Cadix, a piece that was also played at our meeting last month by the AbsolutAccord group, of which Lynn and Sharon both are members. Lynn announced that she very rarely performs solo, but she treated us to still another Galla-Rini arrangement, How Great Thou Art, including, besides the gorgeous harmonies, some fast motion in the right hand for special effect, and a lot of melody in the bass. Wow, it was beautiful!



Lynn Ewing

Next up was Linda "Big Lou" Seekins, with hubby/bass guitar player David Golia. Big Lou is a founder of "Those

Darn Accordions" and has her own very popular band, "Polka Casserole." Clyde Forsman was also a member of Those Darn Accordions, and Clyde was present at this meeting.

Big Lou started out playing a Petosa accordion, with The Happy

Wanderer, which included audience participation in the appropriate places (the refrain). Then she switched to an old Ancona accordion that Vince Cirelli had restored for her, and

played the lovely French Padam-



Dave Golia, "Big Lou" and Clyde

Padam, while singing

the lyr-

ics in French. Next she played the Flaco Jimenez Viva Sequín. Now it was David's turn to shine, as Big Lou and David together played Yoo-Hoo Polka to which David sang the funny lyrics, and Big Lou called out "Yoo-Hoo" in the refrain. They finished by

inviting Clyde Forsman to the stage for Beer Barrel Polka, with Clyde singing the words, and he knew every word! And the audience joined in with singing and applause. Great show, you all!

We had still another act to go before the Intermission: Skyler Fell and Melody Guzman of the "Accordion Apocalypse Side Show." With Skyler playing, and Melody juggling various items (including baby accordions!), and in bright costumes, they entertained us. First they played the Charlie Chap-

lin Nonsense Song; then the Apocalypse Instrumental, written by Skyler. Melody juggled sticks for this one. Their finale (with words) was The Carnival from the

Sour Mash Jug Band,



Melody Guzman and Skyler Fell

for

which Melody juggled and twirled gold and black fabric squares. Quite a sight!

After door prizes were awarded the Intermission began. A team of dedicated volunteers (thank you, Rosemary, Ed, Evelyn, Isabel, Leslie and Matt) purchased and set up a beautiful spread of really great food, including two sheet cakes for the club's anniversary. The break went on for about a half hour, and Yours Truly was honored to be asked to play some intermission music.

After the break, the cash drawing was held. I didn't get who the winners were, except that Peter's student Julia Farrugia



Julia Farrugia Glennon

Glennon's dad won one of the prizes.

Ed Massolo announced that we could have good food at all our meetings if we had some volunteers to bring and set up the food. (If you wish to volunteer, call Dick Schiller (510) 832-3002.)

Continuing the music

program Peter's student Julia Farrugia Glennon was the next performer, and wow, is she making progress by leaps and bounds! She played Dark Eyes and Two Guitars with poise and confidence. Then Julia and Peter played the lovely Il Postino as

a duet, after which, by popular demand, Peter temporarily took over Ladies' Day by playing Granada solo.

Then came one of our very favorite duos, Norma Zonay-Parsons and Bruno Bianchini. The Maestro Galla-Rini has a very big pres-



Normay Zonay-Parsons and Bruno Bianchini

ence in this meeting, as Norma and Bruno played another Galla-Rini composition, Maria Mia, and played it beautifully. Norma and Bruno have been playing together for a year and a half. Next they played the beautiful French waltz, Indifférence, as a duet. They got it from Lynn Ewing, who got it from Jana Maas, who wrote the second part. Their last three pieces were a waltz duet, Piccolina; On a Clear Day, with Bruno playing and Norma singing; and Musettina, a lively and cute accordion duet. I do hope that Norma and Bruno can come often to our club—they are a great musical team!

Our final performer was the long-awaited Jana Maas, President of the Good Time Accordion Club in Escalon. I've

known Jana for many years, dating back to the days when the Galla-Rini camp was held in Oregon. She is one of the finest players you could ever hear, and one of the nicest people you could ever know. Jana and her hubby came all the way from Escalon just for us and had to return the



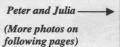
Jana Maas

same evening. That's commitment!

Jana started off with White Ribbons; and then That's Amore done as a medley with a German piece of which she didn't know the name (it sounded like a Ländler), returning to That's Amore; followed by the beautiful tango Por Una Cabeza, which she got from our tango aficionado Michael Sanossian. (I have Harry Gay's lead sheet version and play it constantly—I just love it!). Then, by popular demand, Jana played her famous I Want a Hippopotamus For Christmas, together with the hilarious lyrics. It brought the house down! But there was more to come! Jana played Harry Gay's signature piece, the Iupali medley of Bavarian tunes made into one lovely piece. Jana finished up with the popular Wedding Tarantella and Crazy Accordion Polka. Thanks so much, Jana! It is always a great treat to have you!

That was the end of the formal musical entertainment—but it wasn't the end of the day by far! Several people, including our wonderful hosts Dee and Dave Bennett, Dick Schiller, Dennis Stoscher, Peter Di Bono, Bob Hansen, Dominic Palmisano, Sharon and Gus Greyhosky, Jim Holliday and Evelyn Baulch, Yours Truly and some others stayed around and had a mini-party in the adjacent bar/lounge, passing Dennis' accordion around for anyone to try who wanted to. Well, you didn't have to twist our arms very hard! There was danc-

ing, there was laughter, and such a welcoming atmosphere that I am left with a very good and warm feeling about our new "digs"!





The Club's Annual Picnic . . .

... is going to be a bit different this year and every bit as festive! We have once again secured the beautiful grounds of the Oakland Nature Friends Park for our picnic.

The charge this year will be only \$8.00 per adult (children 14 and under free) and will include hot dogs, green salad, a fabulous chili dish prepared by a professional caterer, garlic bread, fruit, soft drinks and other trimmings. We believe that this picnic fare will leave no one hungry!

The entertainment will be first class and will include our own SF Accordion Band ("Fun Band"), Harry Gay and Bob Foppiano, Mike Zampiceni, our Pres.

Peter Di Bono and others. We are bringing back Jim Murdock, our wonderful clown, for another, brand-new act, so bring the kiddies, "grand-kiddies" and other "kiddies" of all ages!

We will have a jam "tent" (bring your accordion!) and a raffle. And don't forget your dancing shoes—let's take advantage of that terrific wooden dance floor!

WANTED: Some good, classy items for the raffle. We had some great items last year, including some unusual ones, and I know we can do as well this year, maybe even better!

Please fill out the enclosed form and send it in with your check for \$8.00 per adult and mail to Valerie Kieser, 3437 Crane Way, Oakland, CA 94602.

Absolute deadline for receiving your reservation is Wednesday, July 5!!

If you have questions, or if you'd like to donate a raffle item or an additional food item—or to Relp out!!—call Val (510) 531-4836 or e-mail vtkacc@ifn.net.

For our SVAS friends: with your picnic canceled for this year, we would love to have you join us at our picnic!

GET READY FOR A GREAT TIME!

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

NO MEETING IN JULY!!! Come to the picnic July 8. See enclosed flyer.

FOR SALE . . .

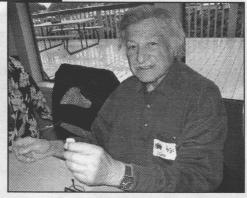
Original "out of print" vinyl LP recordings by Charles Magnante, Art Van Damme, Dick Contino, Joe Basile, Angelo Dipippo, Myron Floren and other foreign and domestic artists. Also available for sale the following "top-of-the-line" accordion models by: Universal, Ace, Bell, Stradavox, Excelsior, General, Matusek King, and Sonola. Write for details. Stanley Bozynski, 8196 Thorntree Ct., Grosse Ile, MI 48138-1517.



David Golia and "Big Lou" Linda Seekins



Enjoying the show



Vince Cirelli (our own treasure)



The Welcome Table

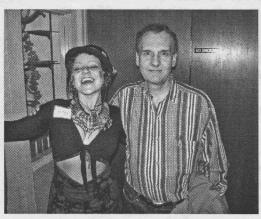




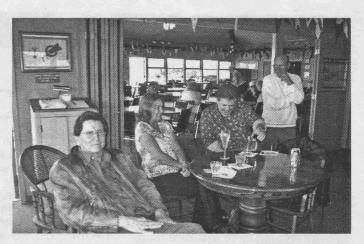
Our wonderful hosts, Dave and Dee Bennett



Dennis leading the dancing



Skyler Fell and Mike Zampiceni



The after-meeting fun begins



Some after-meeting celebrating



Total fascination (a budding accordion player?)



SF Accordion Band ("Fun Band") at SF Accordion Festival at the Cannery 6-4-06



Big Lou and Dave in non-performing mode

How an Accordion Works

The Accordion belongs to the family of reed instruments much like the Clarinet and the Oboe. However, the reeds of an Accordion are made of a thin pieces of metal rather than wood. Beside belonging to the wind and reed instrument families, the Accordion belongs to an even more exclusive family known as FREE REED instruments.

When a Clarinet is played its reed vibrates against the mouthpiece of the Clarinet and its travel is restricted. Double-reeded instruments like the oboe have two reeds that vibrate against each other and their travel is restricted. The reeds of the Accordion, when they vibrate, are FREE to travel in both directions with no restrictions. It is this FREE REED principle that inherently gives the accordion an extreme amount of expressive capability.

From The Colombo Times newsletter of Winter 1992—and the information is as useful today as it was then!

The accordion uses two sets of reeds for each tone produced. One reed is used when the bellows are pulled and another reed is used when the bellows are pushed. If a single reed were used, for both draw and push, the pitch would vary slightly depending on the travel of air over the reed. For this reason, each reed is actually a set of two reeds that are attached to opposite sides of a single reed casing. A small strip of leather is attached to the front and back side of the casing so that only one of the two reeds in the casing can sound (depending on the direction the bellows).

The reed casings are then attached to a wooden reed block using bees wax. This wooden reed block has a small cavity for each set of reeds (casing). The number of reed blocks determine the range, sound and size of the instrument. These blocks are then attached to opposite sides of the accordion. The Bass reed blocks are attached to the left hand section and the

Treble reed blocks are attached to the right hand section. The bellows which then link the two sides of the Accordion are then attached.

The bellows produce the air (wind) necessary to cause the reeds to vi-The amount of pressure the player exerts on the bellows then determines the amount of sound the reeds produce. Mechanical valves are then operated by the player when he touches the keys and/or buttons which open and close air passages to the desired reed(s).

A standard professional size accordion with 4 sets of treble reed blocks and 5 sets of bass reed blocks has a total of 448 individual sounding reeds. This same standard instrument with 120 Bass Buttons and 41 Treble Keys can contain over 4,000 individual parts. If you would like to know more about what makes an accordion work and why Colombo Accordions are so prestigious then please feel free to visit our showroom our contact us.



Upcoming Events June 23-25

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration Leavenworth, WA

> Info: Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce (509) 548-5807 or events@leavenworth.org

Saturday, June 24

The Annual "Celebrate the Accordion Day" in Petaluma. Great entertainment for free! Call Tom Cordoni (707) 762-2231

June 26-29

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention www.AccordionStars.com or (800) 472-1695 Featuring our own Joe Domitrowich and Ron Borelli; also Gina & Romany Rye, Mady Soave, Gordon Kohl, and many more!

Saturday, July 8

Our own SFAC Annual Picnic!

Nature Friends Park in the beautiful Oakland Hills See info and flyer in this newsletter

July 10-15

Kimberley International

Old Time Accordion Festival and Championships

Kimberley, B.C., Canada

info@kiotac.ca www.kiotac.ca (250) 427-4547

Or 1-888-4KIOTAC

July 12-16, 2006

AAA Festival, Adam's Mark Hotel, Buffalo, NY Call (201) 991-2233

July 23-28

GALLA-RINI ACCORDION CAMP!!

On the beautiful campus of Dominican University in San Rafael

Musical Director is our own Joe Smiell

Contact Gwyn Lister (415) 924-3202 listergj@peoplepc.com or Victor Corsiglia (408) 554-6275 vic3458@pacbell.net

Sunday, August 6

Silicon Valley Accordion Society Picnic

CANCELED!!!

August 26 & 27

Sixteenth Annual Cotati Accordion Festival Featuring, among many others, Dick Contino, and our own Peter Di Bono and Don Nurisso

SHOULD ORCHESTRIAL MUSICIANS PUT ON A HAPPY FACE?

Members of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra have been accused by their audiences of looking too miserable.

I have myself looked miserable in Bournemouth in the autumn. It's not an offence. But the residents of Bournemouth like their orchestras to put on a happy face. It was reported this week that complaints have been posted on the orchestra's website about how down in the dumps the players look. The distinguished ensemble has even been nicknamed The Glums.

Audience dissatisfaction with unsmiling musicians is spreading. The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Sir Simon Rattle's former outfit, has also fallen foul of its audience for not wearing sunny Birmingham grins.

I naturally assumed that orchestra officials would have reminded audiences that this isn't Strickly Come Dancing. The musicians are concentrating and can't give cheesy grins on demand. But no. This is the age of marketing departments, audience satisfaction surveys and National Smile Days. It is the orchestras, not the audiences, that are being given a lesson in concert behavior. The managements are developing smiling policies, and the issue is on the agenda for discussion at the next Association of British Orchestras conference.

Anthony Brown, the head of marketing for the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, says: "A perennial problem is that the orchestra members don't seem to enjoy themselves. It tends to be the ones that don't who people notice. The violins and the cellos, who are at the front, often get noticed." Well, it's good to know that the timpani, French horn and oboe guys are having a giggle at the back.

No doubt, the Bournemouth management will come up with a smile policy for those front-row miserabilists. In fact, it already has. This, of course, is the orchestra whose management seems obsessed with happy faces. A couple of years ago, players were ordered to look at different sections of the audience for three beats and smile.

Can it get more surreal than Bournemouth? Of course it can. There's always Birmingham. The CBSO management has formed a 'presentation committee'. Who cares if you're a virtuoso if you don't scrub up well and never show your teeth? Sara Gee, the director of communications for the CBSO, says that one woman told them that her enjoyment of a concert has been wrecked by a dour musician. "She caught one of the musician's eyes and give him the thumbs up, but he lowered his gaze. It destroyed the evening for her."

What an inconsiderate musician that was. He could at least have given a thumbs-up sign back and continued playing with one hand. Indeed, perhaps, every three beats they should smile and every six beats give a communal thumbs-up to show they are truly having a ball.

But happy and smiling? It makes playing a symphony seem like a bit of a jaunt and destroys the poignancy of the work.

There is a code of conduct for audiences at classical concerts, just as there is for the players. Don't grin, and don't expect the performers to grin at you. Be moody. Look miserable. And always cough between movements. It shows you know your music.

(President's Message—Continued from Page 1)

leading the way. This will be a great one, so be there! Sunday, June 18, 2:00 pm, the Oyster Point Yacht Club.

I have my website up and running, please check it out: http://www.peterdibono.com/

Play that accordion every day, and remember:

REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!

Peter Di Bono

Board News: We ran out of space; will report next month!

We're Pulling for you, Frank Panacci
Longtime, beloved and faithful SFAC member
Frank Panacci, by the time you receive this, will
be recovering from delicate back surgery. Hurry
back, Frank, we miss your presence and your
music!

Recipe for "Celebrate the Accordion Day Petaluma, Saturday, June 24, 2006

Start with 50 singers and accordionists, from Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Oakland, Napa, San Rafael, Porterville, Vacaville and other communities, coming to perform and thank the people of Petaluma for recognizing the accordion as their first official musical instrument, and naming the 4th Saturday of June as "Celebrate the Accordion Day." Stir in the love of the accordion and the love of performing, because these performers travel at their own expense and receive no monetary reward. Mix in the many organizations that volunteer their products and services. Put these all together at two beautiful locations and serve to the many people who come to listen and enjoy.

The two locations are Putnam Plaza on Petaluma Blvd. from 11:45 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and at the Petaluma Museum courtyard at 4th and B Streets from 11:00 am. until 6:00 p.m.

We invite you to come and bring your family and friends for a wonderful day of music and entertainment. Because of the generosity of everyone involved, both venues are **free** of charge.

Tom Cordoni (707) 762-2231

Wanted

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

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

Our Sincere Thanks

To those who have generously donated to the Club since the beginning of this year. Donations that your Editor has heard about:

> Jim Holliday (in memory of Ed Zaro) **Frances and Dominic Benedetto** Mark Zhagel

Robert Sprugasci (2 Raffle Ticket Scramblers) This list is cumulative throughout the calendar year. Please let me know if you have contributed in 2006 and I did not print it-we want you to be recognized! Val (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net

Word Has It ...

.... that Robert Sprugasci, that clever fellow, hand-made two very useful raffle-ticket scramblers for our club (can you come up with a better description?) Thank you, Bob!

... that the ACE Ensemble, having finished its spring concert series, is already hard at work for the fall and winter. Meanwhile, on May 22, ACE put on a very well-received mini-concert for the students at Farallon View Elementary School in Montara. It was very gratifying that the kids had an endless stream of questions about the accordion! (See menu and comments to the right.)

... that our own SF Accordion Band (a.k.a. the "Fun Band") did a terrific job playing a very diverse repertoire at Tom Torrigilia's SF Accordion Festival on June 4. Thank you Sharon Walters Greyhosky and all those who participated! And thank you Tom for the warm welcome and the goodies and refreshments. (See photo on page 5.) Now, on to Petaluma June 24 and SFAC Picnic July 8!!

.... that Corky Bennett's show From Jazz to Broadway in Reno was a huge success and he hopes to put on the show in SF in the near future. Stay tuned!!



ACE Enjoys fabulous lunch at Café Gibraltar



The ACE Ensemble thanks Liam and José and several parents of students at the Farallon View Elementary School in Montara, for a fabulous, first-class lunch at Café Gibraltar on May 22. Any one of us would highly recommend this excellent restaurant. As part of our thanks to them, we proudly offer to run their business card ad for six months.

Please see below the special menu they prepared just for us!



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GATEWAY TO THE MEDITERRANEAN

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Jose Luis Ugalde, Chef/Owner Liam Durkee, Manager/Owner

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BAKED FRESH LOCAL SALMON

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ENTRECOTE ENCEBOLLADO A LA PIMIENTA

ZEEMAREEKA

Farfalle pasta tossed with eggplant, oregano, s, kalamata olives, tomatoes, onions and feta che

DESSERTS

MEYER LEMON OR CHERRY SORBET

VANILLA GELATO

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\$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.

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: Rosemary Armanino (650) 589-9088 GArmanino@aol.com

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(510) 531-4836 Vtkacc@ifn.net (New)



NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, June 18 (Father's Day)

<u>PROMPTLY</u> AT 2:00 P.M.

OYSTER POINT YACHT CLUB

911 Marina Blvd., Oyster Point Marina

Oyster Point exit from 101; east on Oyster Point; right on Marina Blvd., through gate house to sign "Oyster Point Yacht Club"

There will be NO MEETING IN JULY because of the picnic!

Newsletter of the San Francisco Accordion Chub

P.O. Box 318175 San Francisco, CA 94131-8175







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