

March 18 Meeting

Herb Meier, visiting from Germany, will treat us to some of his international favorites.

Two of our local favorites, **Ron Harris** and **Don Nurisso** (together with Don's mandolinist **Vince Aguiar**) each will play some of their (and our) favorite tunes and, if all goes well, we might hear from one or more ACE Ensemble players.

... and then ... Reno Di Bono "The Italian Accordion"!

Reno will play and sing many old tunes of Louie Prima, Lou Monte, Dean Martin and other "Italian populare." Reno will be accompanied by Dave Kawamoto on Clarinet and Sax and Olaf Schiappacasse on percussion.

Warmup Players will be Scott Williamson on accordion, accompanied by his beautiful daughter Lyndie Chiou on string bass.



President's Message

I hope you were able to come to our last meeting; it was a rousing start of our New Year. The room was packed, the entertainment was top notch, and the setting looking out over the yacht harbor was just perfect. **Dee Bennett** and the crew at Oyster Point Yacht Club did a yeoman's job with our buffet. Thank you girls! I am looking forward to another wonderful year for our club. Speaking of another great year.

this will be my swan song year, and it's not too early to start thinking about replacements for our officers and directors. I know there are people out there with some fresh ideas to keep the club moving forward. Let's hear from you!

We are very sad to hear of the passing in an accident of faithful and longtime member **Helen Johnson**.

The March meeting will feature my brother **Reno** and his quartet; also **Herb Meier, Ron Harris, Don Nurisso** with his mandolinist **Bob Rizzetto**, and more.

Check out SFAC member **Sheri Mignano's** "Mandolins, Like Salami," a beautifully illustrated history of the role mandolins played in the North Beach section of San Francisco, and biographical sketches of the great mandolinists from the Bay Area. The companion CD and "fake book" should be in every music-lover's library. Call Sheri (707) 765-1657. (See also writeup about Sheri as a New Member in last month's newsletter.)

Our good friend **Mark Zhagel** once again has made a generous donation to our club. Thanks so much, Mark!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all this Sunday, March 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Play every day, a	and support <i>Liv</i>	e Music!	Peter Di Bono
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J.		5	

<u>Directions to Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd., South San Francisco</u> From 101 traveling either north or south, take Oyster Point exit. Turn right on Marina Blvd. (be careful <u>not</u> to turn right on Gull Drive, just before Marina Blvd.!). Continue past gate house to sign "Oyster Point Yacht Club." There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

Our Website w.w.w.sfaccordionclub.com is live but incomplete and under construction

February Meeting

After skipping the month of January, we were geared up for a great new startup show for 2007.

Warmup music was provided by **Sue Hirigoyen** and **Val Kieser**, with **Vinny Rinaldi** joining in.

Our first performer on the program was **Xavier de la Prade** from Marin County. I am familiar with Xavier's

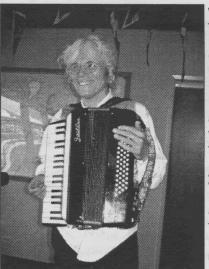
French music as well as his singalongs up at the Accordion Club of the Redwoods. Well, today he had a special treat for us: another singalong, but with a twist: the music we all joined in singing-all familiar tunes-was all composed by Xavier's father-inlaw, Nacio Herb Brown (1896-

1964)! The tunes we



Xavier

sang were Paradise, Should I?, Pagan Love Song (written at the age of 12), Singin' in the Rain, You Were Meant for Me, and All I Do Is Dream of You. Wow! I looked on the Internet and saw how many musicals this wonderful composer had a hand in writing! Xavier passed out a list of the songs that Mr. Brown composed, and it is loaded with names we all know, includ-



Naomi

ing the year each was written, and who performed them. All big names. Ever heard of Bing Crosby? Jack Benny? Marion Davies? Gene Kelly? Donald O'Connor, Ethel Merman? That's just a sampling. Thanks, Xavier, for a very special treat!

Next up was Naomi Zamir, a student of Ron Borelli. She thanked Ron and Vince Cirelli for all their help and encouragement. (Sadly, Vince was unable to attend this meeting as he was not feeling well.) Naomi, who plays standing up, played a program of Klezmer and Eastern European dances. That music is *not easy*, I can assure you! Naomi played a wedding *Hora*, a Romanian dance, a lamentation combined with Bulgar and, as an encore, *Honga* ("poor man's dance.") I hope I got that all correctly! Naomi plays musically and with confidence. I for one thoroughly enjoyed it.

Next on the program was a pleasant surprise that we were not expecting: **Bart Beninco** and his young student **Gino Bagala**. I have enjoyed Bart's music many, many times over the years and he

is one of the finest players I've ever heard. Bart really plays *music*, not just notes, and he is a joy to listen to. I've also heard Gino play several times up in Petaluma and recognized immediately the innate talent that he has. Gino has been

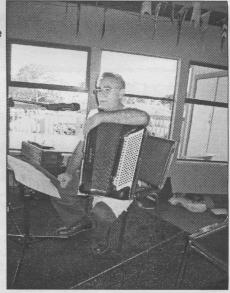


Bart and Gino

playing for two years and has been studying with Bart since October. He attends Junior High School in Santa Rosa. Gino, already a good player, was ready to move "onward and upward," and pairing up with Bart was the perfect move. Their first duet piece was *Cool Dude*, played entirely with the left

hand! Originally it was a piano solo. What a great way to learn the bass side of your accordion! Next they played *Jazz It Up*, which originally was a piano duet, as was also *Skateboard*, their next piece. Their last piece was the Palmer-Hughes duet arrangement called *Let's Dance the Polka*. I've played that last one with various people and it is lots of fun to play.

Then Bart played solo for us. He described bellow control, especially when long phrases and large chords are involved. Not easy! Bart started with



Bart

(Continued on next page)

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.

February Meeting (Continued from previous page)

one of my favorites, *The Lost Chord* (I'm in the process of learning a simplified version), followed by another of his best-known renditions: *Chitarra Romana* (Roman Guitar), both exquisitely performed. Bart brought his fan club: his beautiful mom **Mary** to the meeting. She is always such fun, and everyone loves her.

Next it was "The Corsiglias and the Topognas" Band, featuring Bill and Gloria Topogna and Vic and Barbara Corsiglia. I for one was enthralled with the



The Corsiglias and the Topognas Band

pieces they chose—pieces we seldom hear today: *Chanson d'Amour, Fräulein* (sort of cowboy/German—I often play it at the end of my "gigs" at retirement homes); *My Happiness;* the wonderful German song *Seemann* ("sailor"; Ernst Angst and I were recalling the words and singing along); *Nevertheless;* and finally a rousing *Just Because*, with the audience singing and clapping. I can see why they are such crowd pleasers!

Following Intermission with mellow music by **Jim Firpo**, and some wonderful food provided by the Oyster Point Yacht Club and some dedicated members, Peter announced that he had to leave to tend to family matters—very understandable since, sadly, his mom passed away the following day.

The music program started up again with **Joe Domitrowich** and his combination acoustic and MIDI Concerto accordion. Joe said he was inspired by Stas



Jim Firpo

Wisniak. Joe has worked very hard to put together a really nice program, which he bills as "something for everybody." We heard *Two Guitars* (did I get this right? Included was a vocal with harmony produced by the MIDI?) with some bellows shake, followed by *Dark Eyes* that included a *triple* bellow shake. Moving on to Vienna, we heard the beautiful *Blue Danube Waltz.* Then he played "*Clarinetless Polka*," a.k.a. *Woody Woodpecker Polka*.

This was a sort of complicated piece that included bits of William Tell Overture. The Woody Woodpecker Song and Clarinet Polka. It became very fast and the audience was clapping along. In a "Memories of Italy" medley I heard a bit of Non Dimenticar and a lovely waltz (I didn't get the name). Sixteen Tons with vocal I had no trouble recognizing! With Jolly Caballero you imagine a bullfight. Included were some nice bass solos. Joe told us that it is difficult

to keep the left and right synco-



Joe Domitrowich

pation right in Santana's *Oye Como Va*, which included a vocal. But he did it just fine! It also was great fun to see Joe's wife and partner **Nanette** at the meeting.

Joe finished up his program with a grand finale train medley that got everyone breathless at times. It included *Train Ride* with MIDI-generated sounds of banjo and another instrument, sounding something like the "Dueling Banjos" we all know. Very cleverly done. Then the medley went on to sound like a train speeding, including whistle, and you could hear *Folsom Prison Blues*, *Orange Blossom Special* and *Freight Train*. Using the bellows, Joe does an impressive job of imitating a train speeding up and slowing down.

The last performer, who unfortunately got "cheated" a bit on time because the program was running long, was **Mike Zampiceni**. Mike played two different accordions on the program: an Excelsior and a Buffetti. Mike's father **Joe Zampi**-

ceni was a well-known accordion teacher, composer and arranger.

On the Excelsior, Mike played Cumana and El Cumbanchero; Blues in the Night; and Bluesette. Then, playing his 17-lb., 72-bass Buffetti, he played The Happy Wanderer (Valderi-Valdera), Beer Barrel Polka and, from Michele Corino, Crazy Accordion Polka. Michele calls it "Pizza Polka," and it contains much glissando. Mike played I Left My Heart in San Francisco (with some altered words about sewage in the Bay!),



Mike Zampiceni

Flight of the Angels, and a very fast *Tico-Tico*. Mike's speed and precision are really remarkable. Too bad we didn't have more time so he could play longer!

Bob Berta, visiting from Michigan, joined William De Michelis, Vinny Rinaldi, Telmo Echeverría and myself for some jamming in the lounge following the meeting.

Well, we got the year off to a late but rousing start! Val (More Photos on Next Page)

Word Has It . . .

... that Lee Woodall is recovering from still another surgery-we hope the last!-and is expected to be back with us soon.

... that Cherie Schwing has encountered a serious health problem and will be undergoing surgery and treatment.

... that Ernst Angst had an unfortunate accident in his back yard that resulted in three very painful broken ribs.

We want all three of you well and back among us-so take care of vourselves! ... that the Marocco-Ballarini Accordion Camp

was a big success, and many SFAC members attended. (Photo and article on page 5.)

WANTED

Looking to purchase La Melodiosa accordion memorabilia items, such as catalog listings, model sizes and sales literature sold by the Pezzolo Bros., and a photocopy of Theodore Pezzolo's accordion house on Union Street lit up at night. Please call Phil at (707) 544-4789.



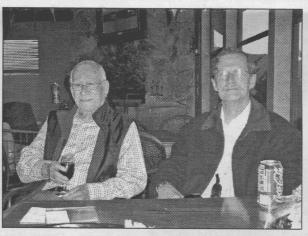
A Delighted Crowd



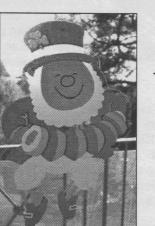
Gino wins a CD



Skyler Fell and the raffle spinner



Amil Samayoa and Bob Berta



Who is this imposter? Well, we might as well keep him since he plays accordion!

More Kids' Takes on the Bible (including their spelling) * The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments. * The First Commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

Gino Bagala, in Junior

High and already a professional accordionist!

* The Seventh Commandment is Thou Shalt Not Admit Adultery.

Mary Beninco and Lucy Smiell

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Very Sad News

Pres. Peter Di Bono's and Reno Di Bono's mom, Celine Di Bono, passed away the day after our February meeting. She was a native San Franciscan, was very devoted to her family and was much beloved by all who knew her. We all extend our deepest sympathies to Tony, Peter, Reno, their brother Jim, and the whole family.

"Where is my friend playing?" Contact: Steve Balich (707) 874-3494 Joe Domitrowich (408)255-1259 info@capricious-accordion.com or alpiners@alpinersusa.com Mike Zampiceni (408) 734-1565 eclecticguy@comcast.net Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707 rborelli@aol.com Richard Denier in Carmel rdenier@sbcglobal.net Peter Di Bono pdibono@hotmailcom Reno Di Bono (South Bay) <u>ourhike@aol.com</u> William De Michelis wdd777@comcast.net

And More Sad News

Our club has lost another longtime and very enthusiastic member, **Helen Johnson**, age 91, in an auto accident in Walnut Creek on March 8. Helen in her lifetime had been a pianist, a singer, a joke teller, and a school bus driver for many years. Barbara and Dale Winter always brought Helen to our meetings. She was an avid lover of the accordion, and we shall miss her happy face and her warm, cheerful personality.



2007 Marocco-Ballarini Accordion Camp Submitted by Dan and Joan Grauman

The 2007 Marocco-Ballarini Accordion Camp took place at the Dobson Ranch Inn in Mesa, Arizona, January 24-28, 2007. The camp, organized by accordionists Frank Marocco and Nick Ballarini, drew 38 accordionists from 10 states, who participated in an orchestra conducted by Frank Marocco. There were also workshops and evening activities. An additional 20 family members or significant others accompanied the accordionists, and everyone had a great time!

Approximately 10 hours of rehearsals over a period of three days culminated in a wonderful concert on Saturday evening, January 27, which consisted of 7 numbers played by the orchestra plus 7 solo performances and two duets. The orchestra performed Frank Marocco's arrangements of "Star Spangled Banner" (Francis Scott Key), "Chiquilin de Bachin" (Astor Piazolla), "Moon River" (Henry Mancini), and "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue" (Richard Rodgers). The orchestra also played the Marocco/Nixon arrangement of "Liverpool Medley" (Lennon & McCartney), Anthony Galla-Rini's arrangement of "The Stars and Stripes Forever" march (John Philip Sousa), and "Frank's Samba," composed and arranged by Wolfgang Russ-Plötz. Camp workshops included: "Basics and Musicianship for the Accordionist" (Nick Ballarini, TX), "Introduction to jazz improvisation -- the musical basics to getting started" (Lenny Feldmann, NY), "Duets & Don'ts - much more than just playing together" (Stella Allison & Joan Grauman, MD), "Left hand accompaniment ideas for improv solo playing" (Frank Marocco, CA), and "Accordion 911 - Emergency Accordion Repair" (Dale Wise, VA).

Sharon Walters-Greyhosky, Lynn Ewing, and Janet Hane, all from California, did a beautiful job as section leaders, helping rehearse smaller groups of players.

All in all, the camp was very successful, the orchestra sounded great, and everyone had a wonderful time. The clear blue skies, heated pool, gorgeous fragrant trees, and flowers helped to make this a perfect, delightful experience!



The Marocco-Ballarini Camp. You'll see many familiar faces in this photo!

HELP WANTED!!!

Your Club cannot function properly without a complete Board of Directors! Current positions that need to be filled are:

> Treasurer Two Directors-at-large Programs Website maintenance

We're not going to overwork anyone. No single job is that big - but having just a few people performing multiple jobs is a situation that cannot continue indefinitely.

You might have children or grandchildren who would like to keep our Website up to date.

Please Consider Volunteering

D

Call Peter (415) 753-1502 <u>pdibono@hotmail.com</u> Or Val (510) 531-4836 <u>vtkacc@ifn.net</u>

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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!

AND MORE THANKS

... to Telmo Echeverría and Sue Hirigoyen for helping with the proofreading, 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 very much appreciated!

Fun Band News . . .

The San Francisco Accordion Band, a.k.a. the "Fun Band," meets at Val's house on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The members seem to like meeting at my house, which is a wonderful convenience for me.

Next Friday, March 16, we will present our program of mostly Irish music at the Accordion Club of the Redwoods "Spring Fling" dinner-dance.

We will also be among the performers at **Tom Cordoni's "Celebrate the Accordion" weekend in Petaluma** June 23 and 24 (we'll be playing on Saturday).



ACE Ensemble News

We are enjoying rehearsing at the Oyster Point Yacht Club. **Dave and Dee** there are very gracious to open for us and prepare nice fresh hot coffee for us! We're gratified that the acoustics are very good there.

By the time you see this, we will have given a concert at **Randall Museum in San Francisco** on Sunday, March 11. We thank our member Debbie Knapp for organizing this concert. (The San Francisco concert was a success—see photo below)

Our next concert will take place **April 22 in Redwood City.** Details will follow next month. We hope club members will come and support our effort to bring the accordion to the public as a serious instrument.

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.



The ACE Ensemble at a very well-received and wellattended concert at Randall Museum in San Francisco 3-11-07 (Lynn is speaking and Joe is standing in back, to the left).

During the concert we had a Q & A session that yielded a lot of very interesting questions. We were gratified at the interest people had in learning more about the accordion.



When do our fellow accordion clubs in the Bay Area meet?

Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR) regularly meets on the third Monday of the month, Hermann & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Contact: Kris Nelson krisnelson@aol.com or (707) 795-4860.

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) meets on the first Sunday of the month, 1:30 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue between Keily Blvd. and Stevens Creek Blvd. Contact: Bill Topogna (408) 984-5290.

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC) has three divisions. The **Vacaville** club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30, Moose Lodge. 6585 Gibson Canyon Road, Vacaville. The **Humboldt** Club meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551. The **Sacramento** group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. Contact for all the GSAC Clubs: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359.

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC) meets on the second Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m. Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave., Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603.

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS) meets on the third Thursday of the month, Granite Rock Grill, 5140 Pacific Street, Rocklin, CA. Contact: Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041.

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

The Las Vegas Accordion Convention,

takes 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 <u>www.AccordionStars.com</u>.

Rose City Accordion Camp

In Silver Falls, Oregon, June 3-8. Info call (530) 293-0322. Galla-Rini Accordion Camp

July 22-26, at Dominican University in San Rafael. Musical Director is Joe Smiell

For info contact Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896 or e-mail kelly.marian@gmail.com

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: <u>www.ameracord.com</u> or e-mail Joan Cochran Sommers <u>sommersj@umkc.edu</u> or call (913) 722-5625.

AAA Spring Festival

March 30, 31 and April 1 Holiday Inn, Hazlet NJ Includes banquet & concert featuring Connecticut Accordion Orchestra and much more Call (203) 335-2045 or e-mail <u>AAA1938@aol.com</u> or visit <u>www.ameraccord.com</u> See Val for flyer and registration application **The National Accordion Association of Dallas, Texas** is sponsoring the **NATIONAL BUTTON ACCORDION FESTIVAL**

May 25-26-27

Yukon Czech Hall In Yukon, Oklahoma. For all types of button accordions. Three fun-filled days of music and dancing; polka Mass and concert on Sunday; Info: Val has the flyers, or visit www.accordions.com/naa or e-mail <u>rpivovar@verizon.net</u>

Your Executive Board . . .

... Met Monday, March 12. We will soon be asking the membership to approve a few changes to the By-Laws, the main one being to change the term of office for Directors and Officers from two years to one year. We are considering an entirely new and exciting idea for the club picnic — stay tuned. Until we have a Treasurer we cannot provide an accurate bank balance, other than the fact that we are in good shape financially.

About our March Performers . . . Herb Meier

Herb, who now lives in Germany, is a real world traveler and experienced musician. He has lived and traveled in Latin American countries, speaks Spanish, (and now German as well), and plays a lot of Latin music. He has played piano and accordion in numerous restaurants and on ocean cruises. He also is a singer. Herb's wife Sabine is a classical pianist and piano teacher, so Herb is developing renewed interest in classical music. Herb's main inspiration for playing international music has been Lou Jacklich, whom he first met at one of our club's early meetings, and from whom he has learned a lot about professionally performing international music.

Reno Di Bono's Program

Reno, aka "The Italian Accordion," who really needs no introduction, will play and sing many old tunes of Louie Prima, Lou Monte, Dean Martin and other "Italiana Populare." Dave Kawamoto will play Clarinet and Sax and add a crisp Benny Goodman "swing feel" to the show. Olaf Schiappacasse on percussion will join the trio. Olaf is the regular drummer at Café Fino in Palo Alto.

You'll love this show! Reno's Website: <u>www.italianaccordion.com</u>

Don Nurisso and **Ron Harris** need no introduction—they have been among our favorites for years and years (and many years to come, I am sure!).

Time permitting, we're working on persuading one or more players from the ACE ensemble to treat us to some of their favorites.

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 <u>vtkacc@ifn.net</u> and let me know. We want to be sure you are recognized! Thanks! So far this year your Editor has learned of a donation from Mark Zhagel

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

SFAC Evening Ensemble Practice

First and Third Wednesday of the month <u>ON HIATUS</u>—members will be notified when/if we start up again! Joe Smiell's schedule is making it difficult for Joe to be there.

SFAC Band Practice

Wed. March 14 and 28, 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 <u>vtkacc@ifn.net</u>

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SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$6.00 per issue. A business-card-size ad costs \$6 per issue or \$60 per year for members; a quarter-page ad costs \$15.00 for members; a half-page ad costs \$25 for members. A full-page ad costs \$50.00 for members. Ads placed by non-members will cost twice the above-quoted prices. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

SFAC Officers

President: Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502 pdibono@hotmail.com Vice President: Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938 Secretary: Lore Warren (510) 783-2072; lorewarren@earthlink.net

<u>Directors for 2006-2007</u> James Firpo (415) 648-3674 Valerie Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net <u>Newsletter Editor</u>: Valerie T. Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net (New) We need volunteers for vacancies! Call Peter or Val (see numbers above)

The next meeting will take place on Sunday, March 18. Featured will be Reno Di Bono "The Italian Accordion." See you there! (Directions on front page)

Newsletter of the San Francisco Accordion Club

P.O. Box 318175 San Francisco, CA 94131-8175 <u>www.sfaccordionclub.com</u>

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