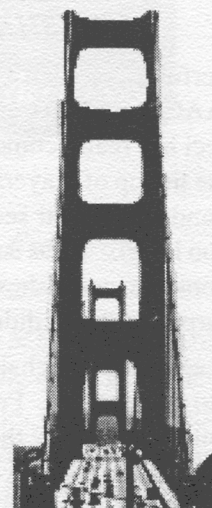


NEWSLETTER OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO
**BAY AREA
ACCORDION CLUB**



MAY, 1994

MAY MEETING

By *Bob Berta*

Welcome, everyone, to our terrific new location. May 2 was the first meeting at Donworth Hall in San Francisco. It was easy to find, was more than large enough even for the large crowd (175) attending Ladies' Night, has LOTS of nearby parking, has a great stage, well placed bathrooms, etc., etc.

President **Marian Kelly** announced, though, that this location is being tried but is not necessarily the final location. We will decide as a group whether it meets our needs.

Frank Montoro gave the treasurer's report. The club has \$6306 in our accounts. The major expenditure for the month was for liability insurance which increased \$168.

Marian said that since none of the elected offices was contested, we did not need a paper vote. She therefore called for a vote by acclamation to confirm the proposed slate of officers. That happened, so here are your new officers board members for 1 July '94 thru 30 June '95:

cont. on p. 4

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June 5, Sunday. BAAC Annual Picnic, Elks Club, Palo Alto. Save the date! The June general meeting, which would ordinarily be held on Monday, the 6th, has been cancelled.

June 8, Wednesday. BAAC Board Meeting, 7:30 PM. Ed Massolo's, 612 Lassen, So. S.F.

June 12, Sunday 2 PM. Myron Floren in concert with Lou Fanucchi. Afterwards, dancing to Gordon Kohl's orchestra. El Cajon Performing Arts Center, 210 E. Main Street, El Cajon. sponsored by ALSI (San Diego Accordion Club). Call Theater East box office for reservations *now* (619) 440-2277.

June 22 - 26th, Wed. thru Sunday. Ironwood (MN) U.S.A. Polkafest featuring Dick Contino. Three stages of non-stop music, 20 great performers, and at least 2500 visitors. Call 800-372-6437, or write IRONWORLD, P. O. Box 392, Chisholm, MN 55719.

July 4-9, Kimberley Int'l Old Time Accordion Championships featuring Myron Floren and Anthony Gallarini, Kimberley, B.C. Canada. Sign up for competition or accommodations. Call (604) 427-4877 or fax (604) 427-3922.

cont. on p. 2



Back, l to r: *Marjorie Konrad, Nora Mazzara, Lee Woodall, Mary-Alice Eldon, Kelly Koehn, Norma Parsons, Gina Avola, Laura Heller, Diana Gutkin, Marian Kelly.* Front, l to r: *Val Kieser, Renate Bixby, Irmgard Wynn, Joan Lottermoser.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was wonderful to see such a fine, large crowd of folks at Ladies Night. I think the count set a BAAC record — something like 175. How sweet it is! It seems to me as if Frank Panacci has really come up with a winner in Donworth Hall; hats off to you, Frank. And the lineup of players! So many that we kept Domenic Saso busy shaking performers' hands after their second number (since he was worried that the program would go on too long). I was sure that, after I had talked about the Board Meeting for 18 minutes, Domenic would show up on the stage with his hand outstretched toward me. I was kinda surprised that it didn't happen!

I had been ready for more challenging questions and opinions than you good people subjected me to that evening. Perhaps the low level of stated ideas means that most of you are content with the way the Club is moving; I hope that is the case. However, please do feel free to express your ideas at general meetings. Your incoming Pres, Frank Montoro will continue to allot a little time for a report on the activities of the Board and hopes you will all join into any resulting discussions.

Some late-breaking news: Jim Boggio has stepped down as a member of the Cotati Festival Committee and from his role as the provider of talent for the Festival. Jim asked me to let the Club know that he wishes the Committee well and knows that this year's Cotati Accordion Festival, which will go on as previously scheduled, will be better than ever.

Marian Kelly

Calendar, cont.

July 11th, Monday, 7:00 P.M. BAAC July general meeting. Please note date change from July 4th.

July 24, Sunday. BAAC sponsored accordion concert featuring the Ensemble and Viatcheslav Semyonov, his wife Natasha, and Robert Sattler. 2450 Sutter St., San Francisco, \$10. admission.

July 24-29th, Fifth Annual Galla-Rini Accordion Camp, Silver Falls Convention Center, Sublimity, Oregon. Then call John Bonica (of Accordion World) at 503-244-2545 or 503-257-9648.

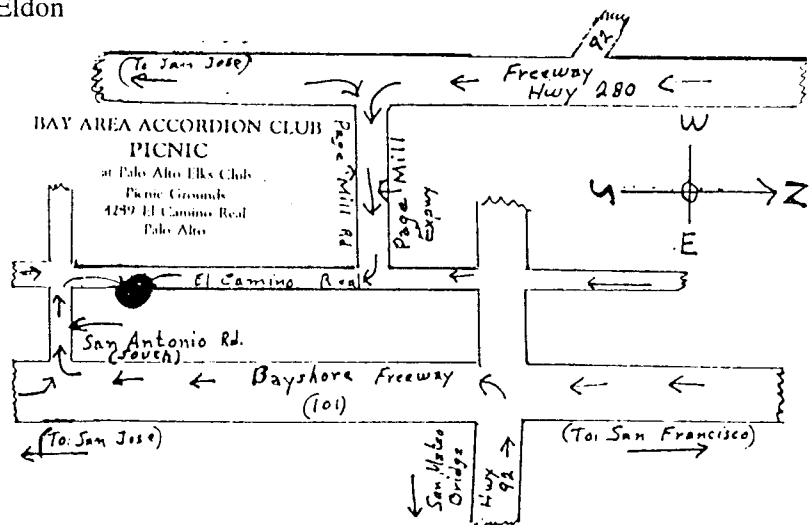
August 27, 28th. Cotati Accordion Festival. See Letter to Editor.

.....

PICNIC, PICNIC, PICNIC, PICNIC

Listen up for the latest on the BAAC Picnic, which is Sunday, June 5th, you'll recall. The gate will open at 9:30 (not before), and there'll be music all day long, with a terrific lineup of fine players:

- 9:30 to 11 A Strolling Accordions
- 11 to 12:30 Emil Ruggiero
Lee Woodall, Valerie Kieser, Mary Alice Eldon
Norma Parsons
The Debut of our Accordion Band!
- 12:30 to 1 P Strolling Accordions
- 1 to 2:35 Frank Montoro
Cindy Tuculet, Dominic Palmisano
Kelly Koehn
Tom Cordoni
Frank Panacci, Ed Massolo
- 2:40 to 4:20 Bob Delgado
The Di Bono Family
Don Nurisso
Lou Soper
Bob Smith
- 4:25 to ??? Strolling Accordions



(Note from Ed: If your name appears above, and you must cancel, *please* phone me at (415) 589-8409.

Donations for door prizes will still be accepted at the door. We have *not* brought in a caterer this year, but the barbecue pits will be fired up waiting for your gourmet goodies.

The door charge will be \$5, with children 16 and under admitted free.



**ACCORDIONS,
ACCORDIN' to GORDON**

TEACHERS

San Francisco:

PETER DI BONO

Personalized Instruction
Theory Technique
Performance
All Levels All Ages
415-753-1502

DOMENIC SASO

Private Lessons
Beginner to Advanced
Bellows – Technique
(415) 587-7557

Name Tags

As all of you faithful meeting attendees have noticed, the club has sprung for an upgrade in the quality of our badges. They're easier to read, more permanent and present a better image - as would befit our fine club. But they aren't free (what is these days?)

In order to contain the run on your club funds, we have established a few easy guidelines.

1. Badges are for paid club members. Unfortunately we can't afford badges for family members or casual guests. (There's another good reason to join!)

2. Badges need to stay with the Club. If you inadvertently take yours home and lose it, we'll make you a new one, but it will cost you \$2. 3. If you are a paid club member and do not have a badge, tell the person at the door. We'll see that you get one.

Arrivederci

from

**Colombo & Sons Accordion Corporation
and Gordon Piatanesi**

After eighty-seven years, the name Colombo & Sons will be retired on June 30, 1994. After forty-seven years of pleasurable work in the accordion sales and services, meeting many wonderful people, many famous people, and having the pleasure of being a member of BAAC from the beginning, this is to advise that I will be retiring on the above date.

I'm sure this will be a shock to many, so if I can be of service to you on recommendation of service and/or sales areas to carry on with service to you, please feel free to contact me prior to June 30, 1994.

I thank all of you for making my forty-seven years a pleasant experience.
ARRIVEDERCI and CIAO,
Gordon J. Piatanesi

May Board Meeting

Synopsis

- Treasurer reports \$6306 in the combined accounts.
- Picnic co-ordination was discussed (see article).
- Changed the July General Meeting from Monday, the 4th to Monday the 11th to conform with requirements of our bylaws and general agreement that the 4th was a poor choice of meeting date.
- Also changed the September meeting from the 5th to the 12th due to the Labor Day holiday.
- Decided the name tags should be made (by Dennis Huff) only for members. See Denny's notice to the left.
- Listened to the tape from Vlatcheslav Semyonov, the artist we intend to sponsor on July 24th. If the local Russian community will work with us, Marian will negotiate with them on the details.
- Decided that the 15 or 20 minutes spent at the previous general meeting when the President reported on the previous meeting of the Board of Directors was well received and that it should be continued. It appears, though, that brevity is, in this case, the soul of interest.
- Talked about BAAC policy of encouraging young people to play by making them junior members of BAAC without charge. We encourage teachers to have their young students play for us, as those students, then become junior BAAC members free.

MK



Chef
Glenn Petrucci

Reservations Call
707-765-0695

122-124 WASHINGTON STREET, PETALUMA, CA 94952

Officers

President **Frank Montoro**
 Vice-Pres. **Bob Berta**
 Recrdng Secty **Josephine Hornbrook**
 Treasurer **Algis Ratnikas**
 Financl Secty **Glenn McClelland**

Board of Directors

Marian Kelly **Ed Massolo**
Frank Panacci **John Puppo**
Joe Smiell

Congratulations (or condolences!) to the new and the returning volunteers. All of them are dedicated individuals who will maintain the high level of our club.

This meeting was the annual Ladies Night, and a very large contingent of performers volunteered to make this day very special indeed. **Domenic Saso** announced the various performers for the night.

First up was **Norma Parsons** who showed a lot of style in her playing of "Guadalajara," "Once In a While," "Glory of Love" and "Florence Waltz." And she surprised us by singing a couple of those. **Norma** is a performer and teacher from San Jose whom we hadn't seen much of since our last Ladies' Night. Too bad. Her warm personality and excellent musical talent made for a fine performance!



Norma Parsons

Next to take the stage was a young member, **Kelly Koehn**, who has also performed before for the club. Therefore, we are all able to watch her develop her skills, and she is doing so beautifully. In

Ladies' Night, cont.

particular, I enjoyed her playing of Beethoven's "Für Elise."



Kelly Koehn

Another young performer, **Laura Heller** (Bart Beninco's student), stepped up and impressed me with her playing of "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring." Then **Domenic** managed to convince her to play another, and we all gave a sigh of relief. Her performance of Pacelbel's "Canon in D" was excellent. **Laura's** use of her bellows was most appropriate and showed a feeling for the music beyond her years. **Kelly** and **Laura** are musicians who represent the future of the accordion in the U.S...and it looks bright!

Lee Woodall, Mary-Alice Eldon, and Val Kieser were next on the agenda. They played "Riwalli Landler" as arranged by **Joe Smiell**. Next they played "Wien, Wien, Nur Du Allein" arranged for mandolin and adapted for accordion. Finally they played "Taran-tella" by Joe Parente.

Gina Avola was the next fine performer. Her playing of "Yolanka," "Gina Waltz" and "Oh Marie" were outstanding. Where do these performers come from, anyway? It seems that

just when you think there can't be anybody left to play, another crop as equally talented comes forward to impress us. The BAAC is indeed lucky to have such a large number of talented people as members.

Diana Gutkin was a special guest for the night. She is a Russian bayan performer and teacher. The bayan, a button box relative, shows an amazing versatility, and **Diana** did a fine job of bringing out the nuances of her instrument in her playing of "Beautiful Blue Danube," several Russian dances, and a neat Tango. She is one

talented lady, and the crowd gave her very appreciative applause.



Gina Avola



Laura Heller

LADIES" NIGHT, cont.

After intermission, **Marian Kelly** took the floor to give the membership an update on the last board meeting. Some discussion was held concerning the desirability of changing the format of the meeting. Although the subject is still open, it appears that the general consensus is that we maintain about the same setup as we are not using, the exception being that the membership seemed to appreciate the report of the Board's activity. No vote on a donation to the Cotati Accordion Festival was taken due to the uncertainty whether the Festival would actually happen. Discussion was held on a proposal to trade talent across clubs. This sounds like a good way to get some top drawer performers down here and to share our wealth of fine BAAC musicians.

The entertainment continued with **Marjorie Konrad** playing a selection of Scandinavian songs. Scandinavians have a rich tradition of fine accordionists and accordion music, as those who have heard Veikko would agree. Marjorie proved to be very musical in her interpretations, and I want to hear more at upcoming meetings.

Next up was another trio, **Irmgard Wynn, Renate Bixby,** and **Joan Lottermoser,** playing a selection of Austrian folk music on two button accordions and one piano accordion. The audience got into it, and the three accordions were accompanied by toe tapping and hand clapping. Nothing like a little German/Austrian folk music to get your blood going!

Nora Massara was next on the list to entertain us. She played "Fernando's Hideaway", "Just Say I Love You," and "Czardas." I enjoy ballroom dancing,

and it was all I could do to keep from jumping up, grabbing the nearest lady and taking a couple of spins around the room!

Last but not least was our President, **Marian Kelly,** who played four selections which were technical dazzlers. The jazz waltz "Pupazetti" wowed everyone. She followed with an excerpt from Prokofieff's "Love of Three Oranges" then with Fancelli's demanding rumba, "Acquarelli Cubani". For frosting, she played Gallarini's arrangement of "Fascination".



Diana Gutkin



Mary-Alice Eldon, Lee Woodall, Val Kieser

The meeting closed with everybody feeling great about the fantastic musical entertainment, about the new location, and about the upcoming PICNIC. Next meeting is July 11th...there will be no June meeting because of that PICNIC. See you then!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear BAAC,

Yes, there will be a Cotati Accordion Festival on August 27th & 28th, 1994! That's first and foremost. The committee believes that the continuity and credibility of this event are paramount. This is a festival to showcase the accordion and our community, to bring in the premier accordion talents and to provide a platform for our great local Bay Area accordionists.

We will be charging a nominal fee. Advance sales will be \$4 /day or \$7 for both days. At the event, the price will be \$5 /day or \$8 for both days. Children under 12 will be \$2, and for those who are young at heart and bring an accordion, you pay \$2 as well.

Even though Jim Boggio is no longer the musical director, we are well on our way toward procuring the best talent ever for the 1994 program. Again, we will have the Historical Accordion tent, the wine tent and (with your donation) the BAAC Jam Tent. This year since we are charging admission the whole park will be enclosed by fencing so the BAAC Jam Tent will be placed back to where it was in 1992.

For three years we have enjoyed the generous support of the club and appreciated the opportunity to work with Marian Kelly, Peter Di Bono, Lou Soper, Gordon Piatanesi, and many other talented members. We know this quality event has played a significant role in the ongoing rehabilitation of the accordion's image. We hope we can continue to rely on the support and understanding of the BAAC. If any of you have questions or concerns please feel free to call us at (707) 664-1302. We look forward to seeing you, your families and friends on the last weekend of August in Cotati.

Sincerely,
The Cotati Accordion Festival
Committee

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

May 3, 1994

To Marian, the Board, and all the members of the Bay Area Accordion Club:

I would like to put in a pitch for future developments of our fine club. If the vision of our club is to provide opportunities for accordionists of professional caliber to be heard at meetings, we have accomplished our goal. It is a joy to be able to hear superb playing at meetings and planned concerts.

However in the area of encouraging the accordionist with modest skill to perform, I offer the following suggestions:

1. We have made a start of encouraging accordionists by offering a band practice once a month on Mondays with everyone welcome. These players will get experience by playing occasionally for the Club and will gradually be much more at ease at this skill. I commend Domenic Saso for donating his time and talent to make this event possible.
2. However there is a great pool of talent out there still to be tapped. Between the level of skill needed in an "everyone welcome" band and a first-class ensemble, there are competent accordionists who would like to learn more, be committed to an agenda where they are learning how to play properly in a group which develops different parts for harmony and dynamics.
3. There is probably room for a first-class ensemble, a beginning and intermediate orchestra, and an everyone welcome band. However one might ask, who could organize this undertaking? I think that besides having a pool of good accordionists, we also have talented teachers and conductors in our Club. I do believe that anyone who conducts these groups should be paid a stipend. What better use for our dues than to develop and encourage and challenge our members to excel at whatever level they can attain?

We certainly have fine social gatherings and the opportunity to hear professional playing. We do very well in this

area. I know that everyone is welcome to play at meetings, but it is only the courageous few who will risk revealing their skills in a format where world-class accordionists are also performing. Another point worth noting is the wealth of knowledge and skill that an accordionist learns by playing in a well-conducted group at the proper skill level. Having a good teacher, of course, is of prime importance to learn to play, but group playing enhances the skills of listening to other players, modulation, rhythm, dynamics, and discipline. And it is fun creating a wonderful piece of music together, formed from the skills of the group. One of the reasons that the accordion is not as popular an instrument today is that it is a lonely occupation being a closet musician; one longs for the companionship of other players. Most music teachers do not have the resources to form groups from among their students, but by combining with the resources of our Club this could be possible.

It is a fine idea to spend our money supporting festivals and even traveling to other clubs and inviting other musicians to play for us.

However, in my opinion, if we really are interested in the concept of reviving the art of accordion playing among the population, we need to do something to spark interest in playing the instrument, in public, among our members. Otherwise, the activity of our Club is primarily to create the spectator sport of watching and listening to the professionals.

Do we want a Club of Couch Potato Accordionists or do we want a vibrant robust group of playing accordionists who are eager to perform at community events?

My vote is to use some of our funds for the teachers and conductors in our membership willing to train and develop a cadre of players. We need at least a beginners' band, an intermediate and advanced level orchestra, and a semi-professional ensemble. We already have

two of these in place, but the vast majority of our members probably fit somewhere in the middle. Certainly, this is a call for auditions, learning new music, discipline, and commitment, but it is also a chance to aspire to be better at our craft. It is a dream, a vision upon which our individual talents can flourish and be refined.

We would overflow auditoriums of our annual or semi-annual concerts would include some presentations from each of these groups. All the families and friends would flock to see their loved one performing. Some won't come out to see a professional act or even the Ensemble, but they would not miss the performance of one of their own. A nice format would be: the Band doing a few pieces, followed by a few contributions from the intermediate, advanced, and professional group or solo performer. And these groups we would be teaching and nurturing would partially evolve into duets, trios and quartets, then many would develop the confidence to try a solo performance.

I thank you for your patience in reading this letter. It has been in my heart for a long time to approach the Club with the ideas contained here. I would welcome feedback and hope that you have the space to print it so that members can respond.

Sincerely,

Mary-Alice Eldon
1004 Edgewood Rd.,
Redwood City, 94062
(415) 366-7819 - h
(415) 369-2139 - w

P.S. Our Club needs a roster of membership so that we can get to know the other accordionists in our town. Anyone who does not want his or her address or phone published can, of course, be omitted, but we certainly could benefit by knowing how to reach other. I will be happy to help compile this list.

MID SUMMER CONCERT

On Sunday, July 24th at 3:00 PM, your favorite accordion club will sponsor, along with the Russian community of San Francisco, a concert by a full Professor of Accordion at the famed Gnessin Institute of Moscow. Viatcheslav Semyonov graduated from the Gnessin Institute in 1969 and has been an instructor, then a professor, one of three such, there since 1974. (Vladimir Kallistov studied there with him).

Those who have seen and heard him report that he is a magnificent accordionist. They talk about his being one of the very finest accordionists in the world, an absolute master of the bayan, and also a composer of some renown. He and his wife Natasha, who plays the domra with him, will be in the U.S. in July as guests at the annual convention of The Balalaika and Domra Association of America



Viatcheslav Semyonov will present for us a concert with something for everybody. He will play Russian folk music; he will play some of his own compositions; and he will play light easy-listening music familiar to all of us. His wife will sometimes accompany him on the domra.

will present for us a concert with something for everybody. He will play Russian folk music; he will play some of his own compositions; and he will play light easy-listening music familiar to all of us. His wife will sometimes accompany him on the domra.

Additionally, Robert Sattler will demonstrate what he has learned from Mr. Semyonov. Robert earned a degree in Accordion Performance from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. In 1976, he was named U.S. Accordion Champion at the annual ATG competition. A few years ago he began studying the bayan and has now become a student and protege of Prof. Semyonov.

The San Francisco Accordion Ensemble, directed by Joe Smiell will open the program. They, of course, need no introduction!

The Russian Community of San Francisco is cooperating

with us on this concert. It will be held at their facilities at 2450 Sutter Street. More details about this exciting concert in the next newsletter.

to be held in Reno the week before he appears with us. As a matter of fact, on Saturday, July 23rd, he will be featured at a concert which ends that convention. Should you be in the area, it will be held at Nightingale Hall on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. Tickets are \$15. Should be an interesting evening!

But back to us. It's on to San Francisco on the following day, then to a concert tour at several other U.S. locations. On Sunday, Mr. Semyonov, along with his wife and with Robert Sattler of Atlanta,

WHO'S PLAYING??

Cafe Babar Jug Band
at **Malloy's**
1750 Mission St., Colma
Sat., May 28th

and at **Cafe Soma**
12th & Howard, San Francisco
Friday, May 27th

BUTTON BOX CAMP

(Alternate title:
Learning More about Music)
July 10th - 16th
Lake Tahoe Area
Button Boxes Supplied
For Info, write to
Button Box Camp '94
P O Box 414
Point Richmond, CA 94807-0414
or phone
(510) 832-6938 or
(510) 236-3784

For Sale:

SANO
Stereo Tube Amplifier
75 Watts
\$275

Lou Casalnuovo (415) 756-4670

CLEARANCE SALE

BUY AT WHOLESALE PRICES OR LESS
COLOMBO & SONS ACCORDION
CORP.

1201 ANDERSEN DR.
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901
415-457-2222

AD POLICY

MEMBERS PAY \$5/ISSUE FOR SMALL ADS, \$10 FOR BUSINESS CARD SIZE ADS. (Ask about other sizes.)
NON-MEMBERS PAY TWICE THE MEMBER'S RATE.
SEND COPY AND CHECK TO
31 ALISO, PORTOLA VALLEY, 94028

The *Bay Area Accordion Club Newsletter* is published monthly .

Editor Marian Kelly
Editorial Assistant Denny Huff
Contributing Writers ... Bob Berta, Enio Huhtala
Photography Bob Berta
Distribution Glenn McClelland

Send all newsletter-related communications to:

Marian Kelly
31 Aliso Way
Portola Valley, CA 94028

Deadline for each issue is the *second* Monday of the month.



George Meier
Wholesale / Retail
Service & Repairs
Buy-Sell-Trade

3865 Clover Valley Rd
ROCKLIN, CA 95677
(916) 624-2900

Accordions · Buttonboxes



petosa accordions
CUSTOMCRAFTED - Since 1922

(206) 632-2700 313 N E 45th St Seattle, WA 98105

WE'RE

BAAC



939 HARRISON ST
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107

415-974-9210



NEXT MEETING: MONDAY
JULY 11, 1994
7:00PM

Donworth Hall
22nd & Eucalyptus
SAN FRANCISCO

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AT A
MEETING, CALL JOE AT 510-832
-6938 OR ED AT 415-589-8409

Conductor
Marian Kelly

Banker
Frank Montoro

Teller
Rusty Bartoli

Scribe
Josephine Hornbrook