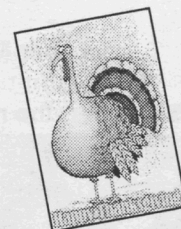




**ACCORDION CLUB**  
**November 2006**



Happy Thanksgiving



Happy Thanksgiving

*Official Instrument of San Francisco*  
*1912 ♪ The World's First Accordion Club ♪ 2006*

**President's Message**

We have had some great meetings this past year, but October ranks as one of the best ever. Seven-year-old **Isaac Teich's** first-ever performance was handled as if he's been playing for years. **Sharon Walters Greyhosky** played an exquisite tribute, and the artful, and zany, **Julio Morgani**, was, uh, indescribable. **Ron Borelli** played solo, wowing everyone, and then was joined by sister **Carole**, and they brought the



house down to a breathless conclusion. What a day! Thanks to everyone, you were all great!

The November meeting promises to be spectacular. The lineup is packed with wonderful players so plan on arriving early, this will surely sell out.

A Thanksgiving reminder, say a prayer for the safety of our brave women and men in uniform.

The holidays approach so keep in mind that we meet on the third Sunday of the month, and after the meeting you can linger at the Oyster Point Yacht Club bar. There is always lots of music, laughter, and good cheer.

The ACE ensemble will be performing at the Filoli Gardens on the Monday after Thanksgiving at 10:30 a.m.

As I mentioned last month, **IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME, SO PLEASE TAKE CARE OF IT if you haven't already.**

I look forward to seeing you on November 19, at 2:00 pm.

Play that accordion every day, and remember:

**REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!**

*Peter Di Bono*

**November 19 MEETING**

**2:00 p.m. sharp!**

**Doris Sprugasci** coming all the way from Greenfield!

**Marian Kelly**, one of our favorites from the South Bay

And, just back from Germany, **Bob Maggiora** and the Internationals!

Pre-meeting and intermission music by Val Kieser



***A Note from Jan and Ron Galla-Rini***

"Dear Peter and All,

"Thank you very much for the \$100.00 contribution for the Galla-Rini Memorial Fund.

"Ron and I are very grateful for everyone's contributions to Tony's life. He was a very special father-in-law to me and father to Ron, his only child.

"He is greatly missed.

"Thanks again and God bless all of you.

"Sincerely,

"Ron, Jan & Family"

**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](mailto:vtkacc@ifn.net).**

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

**October Meeting: Still Another All-Star Show!**

With warm-up music by the always-entertaining **Dennis Stoscher**, the meeting was off to a great start. Pres. **Peter Di Bono** announced that we are looking for volunteers to help with the food, the sound system, and the meeting writeup.



Dennis Stoscher and Josephine Hornbrook

First on the musical program was 7-year-old **Isaac Teich**, a very dedicated student of Peter's. Isaac played *Indian Song*, reading the music himself, and including a bass that sounded exactly like Indian tomtoms—amazing! He also played *New World Symphony* by Dvorak, one of my all-time favorite melodies. This youngster will go far with the accordion. He blew everyone away with his poise and confidence as he played these two fairly complicated pieces, while his proud family cheered him on. Congratulations, Isaac! And you are now a member of our club and will be receiving the newsletter for a year, no charge!

One of my personal favorite players, as I know she is for many, is **Sharon Walters Greyhosky**. Sharon has played Palmer-Hughes' *Nine Blind Mice* for us before, but we just can't get enough of this enchanting set of variations on *Three Blind Mice*, emulating the styles of Strauss, Mozart, and others. I crack up laughing every time I hear it. Someday I'm going to learn that piece, I just love it. Sharon also played a solo adaptation of Joe Morelli's ensemble arrangement of Mancini's *Charade*; then, in memoriam for the late **Matthew Lister**, she played Bach's *Sincerely I Desire*. Then she played the gorgeous modern folk song *Ashokan Farewell*, which our "Fun Band" also plays as a duet arranged by **Joan Grauman**.

I just love spirituals and play a few of them myself—but not



Peter Di Bono and Isaac Teich



Sharon Walters Greyhosky

like Sharon! She played *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen*, *Goin' Home* (which is the Dvorak melody that Isaac played), and *Deep River*. Sharon played them so beautifully! Last, she played a Bach piece that is often



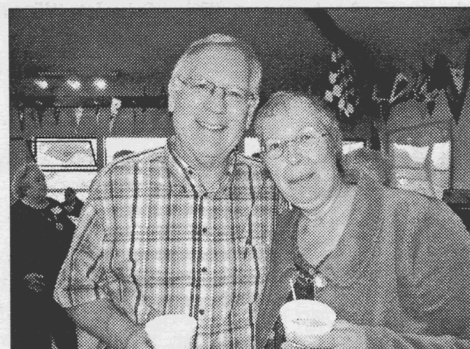
The Great Morgani

played at celebratory occasions, *Bist Du Bei Mir*. Absolutely gorgeous! Thanks, Sharon!

Next we were treated to another great performance by the **Great Julio Morgani**! I won't even try to describe his costume—just look at the pictures! Amid jokes and stories about sitting on sunglasses, being accused of looking like Hitler when he wore a certain mustache as part of his costume, and announcing that he is down to 39 accordions from 40, and other tidbits, Morgani played *Hernando's Hideaway*, *See the USA in Your Chevrolet* (after announcing that he would be playing at Justin Her-

man Plaza in SF for *Ford!!*); *Nuages*; a waltz that he played starting from three random notes; then, after changing his head gear to one featuring a bird and autumn leaves, he played *Autumn Leaves*; and then a song from *Cirque du Soleil* that he has played for years but doesn't know the name. I just don't understand how one can play so smoothly and confidently while wearing these amazing costumes! I know I missed the title of at least one piece that Morgani played but hope I got most of them! What a performance!

After Intermission, Peter announced that SFAC member **Herb Meier** and his wife **Sabine** are visiting from Germany and in fact just got off the plane and came straight to our meeting! It was great to see them again.



Herb and Sabine Meier

**Dennis Stoscher** was one of the winners of the drawing. I didn't get the names of the other winners.

Next on the music program were **Ron Borelli** and his student **Bruce Kirschner**, who played a series of Klezmer and gypsy pieces, in various styles of that part of the world: Ukraine, Hungary, Romania, and even Turkey. These two played together so nicely, and the rhythms got people clapping. Bruce was playing a MIDI and Ron an amplified acoustic accordion. It was difficult to get all the names of the pieces, but they included *My Dear Odessa*, a Hora about a guy's love for Odessa;

(Continued on next page, including more photos) —>



**Bruce Kirschner**

we love hearing him.

Ron and Carole together offered us Gershwin's *Our Love Is Here to Stay*; *Bésame Mucho*; and *There'll Never Be Another You*. Everyone chimed in to sing Happy Birthday to **Bruce Kirschner** (tomorrow). Then it was Group Participation Time: *Down By the Boardwalk*, in which the audience was told when to chime in. It was great fun!

Everyone wanted more, so Ron and Carole's encore was *Don't Take Your Love From Me*.

Many thanks to all the stars of the day, including our all-star volun-



**Ron Borelli and Bruce Kirschner**



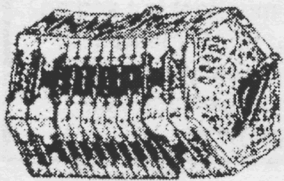
**Morgani Sans Headgear**



**Ron and Carole Borelli**

teers—Lucille, Isabelle, Evelyn—who set up the magnificent buffet!

Val



**The Welcome Table**



**Anna Nicora, Thelma & Rusty Bartoli, Henry Nicora**



**A Very Proud Teich Family**

### A Letter from Verena La Mar-Grenn

SFAC member Verena wrote: "Dear Valerie, "I thoroughly enjoy reading your always newsy newsletter. One can see that you spend an enormous amount of time to get all the articles right, well written and fascinating to read.

"I'm sending you an article and story about the "Schwyzeroergeli" published in last months' Peninsula Swiss Club mail. You might enjoy it since you play button accordion as well. (My dad was actually born in Langenau in 1910 and always enjoyed good Ländler music.)

"I should also mention that my husband Walter (93) and I have attended 2 (SFAC) concerts in the past 4 months and came home filled with music and appreciation for the dynamic players to make us smile until the next one. Our first was still in the old venue, and the last time we enjoyed the gorgeous view and the beautiful weather at Oyster Point Yacht Club. The buffet (yum) rounded out a perfect afternoon.

"It is Jim Holiday who introduced us to SFAC and he is definitely an authority on the club. Evelyn filled in on the other tidbits. We live in the same complex as Jim since 1981.

"Thank you Valerie for doing such an 'enjoyable work for us.'

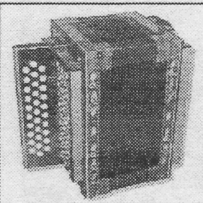
"Sincerely, Verena La Mar-Grenn"

*Editor's note: Thank you for your kind words, Verena! We are so happy you are enjoying the club! (Below is the article that Verena sent)*

### Schwyzeroergeli

By Claudio Bui

The basic mechanical principal of a Schwyzeroergeli, a free reed, is actually already thousands of years old. It is based on a reed that is actuated by an air stream, creating a sound as the reed begins to vibrate. The first "accordion like" instruments appeared in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, where increasing numbers of such reeds were used and could be actuated in parallel. Cyrill Demian of Austria was the first to register a patent of an "Accordion" in 1829. They started out with only 5 - 10 flaps, each of which created a different tone when air was pushed or pulled through it.



Johan Ulrich Herrmann was the first to build a Schwyzeroergeli in 1836, the "Langenauerli". Although the initial version did not have a resonance chamber, it exhibited superior tone quality compared to prior instruments. The demand for such instruments started to rise, and by 1843 they had built more than 100 Langenauerli.

A few years later, Robert Iten born in Unteraegerli started out modifying a Langenauerli, and then ended up building his own improved version. In 1883, Iten created the first instrument with the name "Schwyzerorgel". His instruments were well received and spread as far as the region of Bern. Unfortunately, with Iten's death, the quality of his instruments soon decreased as well.

Three important pioneers of the Schwyzeroergeli as we know it today are Alois Eichhorn, Josef Nussbaumer, and Ernst Salvisberg. Their instruments were made with so much craftsmanship that many of the original instruments still work perfectly today, 90 years later. These instruments and the "Volksmusik" that is played with them are still very popular, as is evident by the still respectable number of manufacturers. Today there are still about a dozen makers of Schwyzeroergeli in Switzerland, and they are all still made by hand. What a great contribution by all of these talented craftsmen, without whom our culture would hardly be as unique and rich as we still enjoy today.

### Word Has It . . .

. . . that **Vince Cirelli** had a recent heart scare that had him in the hospital for a few days. We're so thankful that Vince is on the mend and will be back with us soon! Vince, we love you and miss you!

. . . that the **ACE Ensemble** will be playing at Filoli Gardens in Woodside on Monday, November 27 at 10:30 a.m. It is a half-hour program as Filoli has other holiday musical entertainment as well, but we're thrilled to be invited to play at Filoli and thank **Marian Kelly** for making it possible. ACE will also be playing at the club's Christmas meeting, and we have a couple of dates set up at other venues in the early part of 2007. These will be announced.

. . . that the **SF Accordion Band (a.k.a. "The Fun Band")** is back to having regular rehearsals, only now Yours Truly (Val) is directing. It is quite an experience to direct the band, and not just play in it! **Sharon**, we miss you! We're working on getting some nice music ready for the club's Christmas program. The Band is a dedicated bunch of people, willing to brave impossible conditions to get to Oakland from all over the Bay Area for our rehearsals, and I am so gratified.

. . . that **Joe Domitrowich** and his Alpiners U.S.A. will be playing in Santa Cruz and Newark on Nov. 18 and 19 respectively. See the Website [www.alpinersusa.com](http://www.alpinersusa.com) for details. Joe also plays solo as "Capricious Accordion." Visit [www.capricious-accordion.com](http://www.capricious-accordion.com) for his schedule.

. . . that **Henry Doktorski** has the complete works of Guido Deiro printed music available, individually (or as a anthology in the next couple of years). Visit the Website: [www.stores.ebay.com/The-Classical-Free-Reed-Inc](http://www.stores.ebay.com/The-Classical-Free-Reed-Inc), or E-mail: [henrydoktorski@yahoo.com](mailto:henrydoktorski@yahoo.com); phone (724) 693-8752. (One more on page 5) →

### Very Sad News

Your Editor overlooked a very important but sad announcement in last month's issue: SFAC member Gwyn Lister's son Matthew was tragically killed in San Francisco in September. Our sympathies and our hearts go out to Gwyn on this tragic news.

### Welcome New Members

**Isaac Teich**, age 7, of San Francisco, who enchanted us with his musical accomplishment at the October meeting.

**Lily Germano** of South San Francisco, who loves all kinds of accordion music, but especially "Oldies," Latin and Tex-Mex.

### Your Executive Board Met . . .

. . . on Monday, October 9, 2006. The club cleared just over \$3,000 with membership renewals and new members, but lost about \$300 if you don't count memberships. Ed Massolo will be leaving the board and the Entertainment Committee due to pressing family matters. He will be sorely missed. We have programs lined up through the end of the year. We welcome our new Secretary, Lore Warren of Hayward, who will begin with us in November.

 **PENINSULA SWISS CLUB**  
Newsletter No. 5 September 2006  
President: Walter Gyger    Newsletter Editor: Jurk Van Caenegem    Assistant Editor: Anna Raasdon  
[www.peninsulaswissclub.com](http://www.peninsulaswissclub.com)

**Excerpts from an Article from Bay News 9 in Tampa, Submitted by Michael Sanossian  
Accordions Are Cool in One N.D. Town  
Monday, October 23, 2006, WISHEK, N.D. (AP)**

A few miles off the Lawrence Welk Highway is a community where the sound of "O Du Lieber Augustin" is as common as anything by Britney Spears, Jay-Z or Garth Brooks. Wishek calls itself the "Sauerkraut Capital of the World," and German is almost as common as English. High school music teacher Janet Wolff isn't afraid to teach the accordion.

Her teenage students don't balk at picking up the instrument or performing in an auditorium full of old-timers who take their German traditions seriously. "It's something different," said 17-year-old Kasandra Huber. "I though it would be fun. And it is fun."

Wishek High School has 110 students. Huber is one of seven who play the accordion.

Wolff, who grew up in the Minneapolis area, married a German with accordions after taking the teaching job in Wishek in 1988. (She) started teaching accordion four years ago, using instruments borrowed from people in town.

Said Jason Hochhalter, 18, who looks like he would be more at home in a weight-lifting room than a music room, "I was just going to play it for a day, and then I ended up keeping it."

Helmi Harrington, who runs music studios in the Minneapolis suburb of Burnsville and in Superior, Wis., is the Director of *A World of Accordions* museum in Duluth, Minn. She is not surprised to hear that teenagers in N.D. play the accordion. "In the 1990's there was a trend toward nostalgia, toward finding our roots in America," she said. "That always brings people back to ethnic connectors." Harrington, who has played accordion for more than half a century, said the instrument is unique in that it creates melody, harmony and rhythm like a piano or organ, but is more portable. However, with its keyboard, pushbuttons and bellows, "it is a very difficult instrument to play well," said Harrington.

Wolff said she cannot envision teaching the accordion in a big city like Minneapolis, but has never had a student in Wishek refuse to try it.

*(Word Has It—Continued)*

. . . that Yours Truly (Val) had a couple of great experiences on a recent trip south to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara: I had a wonderful lunch with SFAC member **Phyllis Madonna** of the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo. How can I complain about being busy when Mrs. Madonna is the busiest person I know! She also is beloved in the entire county for her tireless efforts for various charitable causes. Her late husband Alex is similarly revered. The Madonnas have been friends of my family for many, many years. Mrs. Madonna is also a singer and accordion player, and we have played together on family occasions in past years.

On that same trip I met up with **Heinz Trilck** of the **Accordion International Music Society** (Santa Barbara's accordion club). Heinz and I had lunch together in the Danish town of Solvang. We wanted to do some accordion playing but didn't know where it would be OK. We ended up putting our chairs on the street in the shade (the temperature was around 85 degrees!) in front of Solvang's Theaterfest building and became "buskers"! We played for two solid hours and had a blast! Some people danced to our music, others sang, one guy offered us colas, another said he wanted to learn to play accordion. Little kids danced to "It's a Small World" and touched the keys and buttons with total delight. Such fun! *(Photos below).*

*Please send me YOUR accordion stories for the newsletter!*



*Phyllis Madonna and Val*



*"Busking" with Heinz Trilck*

***A reminder . . .***  
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***There is also info on***  
***page 4 of our October***  
***newsletter***



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The SF Accordion Club warmly thanks Hunan Yuan Restaurant for offering us a gift certificate for the raffle at the picnic. To thank them we shall run their business-card ad for six months, or through the December issue.

Announcement

SFAC member **Skyler Fell** invites you to MUSIC NIGHT JAM at 7:00 p.m. every *third Sunday* of the month at the Accordion Apocalypse Repair Shop Warehouse, 2626 Jennings St., SF. (This is in the evening, following our regular SFAC meetings, also on the third Sunday—Ed.) For info call (415) 596-5952 or visit [www.AccordionApocalypse.com](http://www.AccordionApocalypse.com).

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 (twice);  
Robert Sprugasci (2 Raffle Ticket Scramblers);  
Lee and Walt Woodall; Ken Nimmo; Johan and Marja Gullmes;  
Sue Hirigoyen; Peter Di Bono; Bruce Kirschner

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!

PLEASE NOTE

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

Some takes on the Bible by kids, including the misspellings:




"In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off."

"Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built and (sic.) ark and the animals came on in pears."

"Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day but a ball of fire during the night."

"Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah."

"Samson slayed the philistines with the axe of the Apostles."



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San Francisco, CA 94124  
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AccordionApocalypse@yahoo.com  
[www.AccordionApocalypse.com](http://www.AccordionApocalypse.com)

AND MORE THANKS . . .

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

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## **SFAC Evening Ensemble Practice**

First and Third Wednesday of the month  
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**ON HIATUS**—members will be notified when we start up again!

## **SFAC Band Practice**

Nov. 29 and Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's Home in Oakland  
Please join us!

Info: call Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163  
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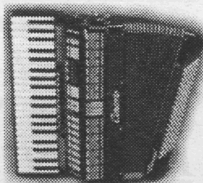
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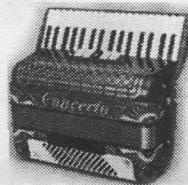
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\$30 per year, individual or family  
Mail check to S.F.A.C.  
C/O Valerie Kieser  
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Oakland, CA 94602  
Admission to Meetings: \$5 for members  
\$8 for each guest

**Proposed New Ad Policy** (to be confirmed)

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

**SFAC Officers**

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

**Directors for 2006-2007**

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



**NEXT MEETING**

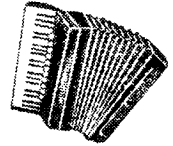
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

**PROMPTLY AT 2:00 P.M.**

**OYSTER POINT YACHT CLUB**

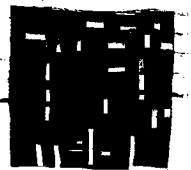
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**Oyster Point exit from 101; east on Oyster Point; right on Marina Blvd.,  
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