



## San Francisco Accordion Club February 2012

# NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting—Feb. 19 @ 2 p.m.

### Reno DiBono Trio

Brent McHenry (drums) is gifted with perfect pitch. He is an outstanding vocalist and an excellent drummer.

Dave Kawamoto (Clarinet and Sax) has great tonal memory and can play a song completely and accurately after hearing it once. He can also read well but never uses music. His passion is Dixie Land jazz and you may find him at many venues featuring Dixie music, including the Dixieland jazz festival in Sacramento.

Reno Di Bono (Accordion) specializes in Italian music and has memorized over 30 Italian songs in either Sicilian, Napolitan, or Piemontese dialects. He has performed at Italian weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and, a few funerals. Reno has produced two CDs. *Songs of My Father*, Italian cd and *The Jazz Accordion*.



Next JAM session will be held before the February meeting, from 1—1:45 p.m. Anyone who plays accordion is invited to come and join in the fun. All you need to bring is an accordion and a music stand. We encourage performers of all levels to participate and if you don't play accordion, please come anyway and be our audience.



### Ron Borelli

A San Francisco native and son of Al Borelli, a well known bandleader, Ron began playing the accordion at age seven. His first professional engagements began at age 13 playing for Italian parties. He became interested in jazz accordion upon listening to Art Van Damme, which led him to study with renowned accordionist, Don Haas. He also studied classical piano with pianist/composer, Julian White.

Ron has performed in a wide variety of musical settings, local and internationally. He has appeared with the San Francisco Symphony, the Berkeley Symphony, Santa Rosa Symphony, and Diablo Ballet, and was the accordionist for the **Three Tenors** in their 1999 Bay Area concert, and has worked with noted composers. From 2001 to 2009, Ron performed and gave workshops at the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention. In 2010, he was honored to perform with the Art Van Damme Quintet at the memorial service.

Ron Borelli performs for private, corporate, and public events. He is well versed in jazz, opera, American standards as well as Italian and French styles of music. He is a featured artist on many CD releases and lives in San Mateo, California.

**Don Nurisso** has been playing accordion since 1949, when he received a 12 bass accordion from relatives in Italy. When he was 12 years old, he heard an album by Art van Damme and began playing the same style of jazz accordion.

He has studied with Dino Benetti for many years and continues to study and learn from everyone and anyone he comes into contact with. He loves playing accordion.



*Don Nurisso*

### **Marc Hinchman—Drummer**

A native San Franciscan started playing professionally at the age of 16 in 1964. Since then he has played with a variety of bands and musicians ranging from swing, latin, jazz, rock, nightclubs, recording and shows. He learned drumming when you had to know swing, cha-cha's, mombo's, tango's. Waltzes, and every style that might be needed.

**Steve Auerbach** will play bass with both groups this month. He is an active composer/arranger and producer, as well as a double-bassist.

### **Please Remember!**

To leave our meeting hall at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Clean up food or drink spills and recycle all trash.



*Françoise Jallot, Skyler Fell & Linda Seekins*

**Journalist Françoise Jallot** from Paris, France was our guest at the Jan. meeting. She writes for a tabloid in Paris entitled: *Accordions & Accordionists*, and enjoyed hearing the performers and talking to club members. She met Linda Seekins (aka—Big Lou) through Skyler Fell.

### **SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy**

Members may place one small ad (business-card-size) for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$10 per issue or \$100 per year. Monthly ad prices for members: quarter-page ad \$25.00; half-page ad \$50, and a full-page ad \$100. Non-member rates are double the member rates. A flyer (no larger than 5" x 8") advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members.

**Many of you have become involved in the San Francisco Accordion Club through your friendship with Valerie Kieser who has poured her heart and soul into our Club. We owe her a heartfelt thanks for all the work she has done to make our club what it is today.**

**Valerie has been involved in a tough battle with cancer, and she is now at home with Hospice. Your cards and prayers would be much appreciated. Her address is:**

***Valerie Kieser  
3437 Crane Way  
Oakland, CA 94062***

Meeting notes Jan 22, 2012  
Rob Reich, Ocotrillo, Frank Petrilli

Neither inclement weather nor heavy traffic due to the 49er playoff game at Candlestick Park could keep away the intrepid folks who showed up at our January meeting .

**Ocotrillo** with Gabe Hall Rodriguez on accordion, Wes Anderson on drums and Sean Brogan on bass played several jazz compositions. They were joined by artist Frank Petrilli on accordion. The group was brought together because of the Frank Marocco Accordion Event held in Mesa, AZ. When Frank Marocco needed a drummer and bass player for the orchestra, he brought in Arizona State students, Wes and Sean. They in turn invited their friend Gabe to hear the concert, and Gabe was so impressed that he took up accordion! The group treated us to a wonderful selection of standards, including vocals by Gabe on *Speak Low*, and *Just Friends*. In addition, we heard the Fats Waller piece, *Jitterbug Waltz*, *Triste* by Antonio Carlos Jobim, *My Little Suede Shoes* by Charlie Parker, *It Could Happen to You*, and an original piece composed by Frank Marocco, *Home Again*.

**The Rob Reich Trio**—Rob on accordion, Beth Goodfellow on percussion and Daniel Fabricant on bass gave us a hot and diverse conclusion to our meeting. Several original pieces which Rob composed for the Circus Bella were played, including *Slack Rope* and *Death Defying*. We had *Je te Veux* with glockenspiel by Beth, the classics *Puttin' on the Ritz*, *Embraceable You*, and Scott Joplin's *WallStreet Rag*, followed by Duke Ellington's *Sophisticated Lady*, with special Bass work by Dan. The *Royal Garden Blues* written in the early 1900s and one of the first recorded pieces of Dixieland was another treat. An original composition by Rob, *Caught in Thought* captured us indeed with its haunting and melancholy melody.



Sean Brogan  
and  
Wes Anderson



Frank Petrilli and Gabe Rodriguez



Their program finished with W.A. Mozart's *Turkish Rondo*. Rob had several CDs for sale, and they were enthusiastically snapped up by the audience. Rob's calendar and information about his other groups, can be viewed on the web at <http://robreich.com>.

We are grateful and privileged to have such fine musicians entertain us at the San Francisco Accordion Club! Thanks to all!

The Rob Reich Trio

## Joseph H. Smiell 1925 - 2012

When Joe Smiell's father and other coal miners came home covered with sweat and black coal dust, they would sing to cheer themselves up. Simple folk tunes had the power to pull these men out of their grim predicament if only momentarily. At age 52, Joe Smiell's father died of black lung disease but not before seeing his son escape a future as a coal miner. He did so by winning a scholarship to the Peabody Conservatory. Though Joe later studied classical music, he never forgot the songs of the miners and the power of music which raised their spirits.

Both parents were from what was then called the "Austro-Hungarian Empire," though they met in Pennsylvania. His father was from what is now Poland and his mother from Slovakia. Joe was the third child of a family of five, all musical. Joe's father played a button box, but steered the young Smiell to the piano accordion (which he considered superior) and bought for him an instruction book written by Pietro Deiro. Joe learned quickly and soon he and a younger brother were playing at weddings. He also took up violin, clarinet and the bassoon with which he won his Peabody scholarship.

With no money, Joe and a friend took a bus to the Peabody auditions and though facing stiff competition, both won scholarships. Joe at the time had little knowledge of any classical repertoire, so he played a polka on his bassoon and his articulation impressed the judges.

Maria Lert, his conservatory teacher, taught him a curious system of remembering what chord goes where, using family relationships: "You have a favorite uncle. This chord is your uncle. You can bring this chord into your house only when your mother is home." (mother was the tonic, the father the dominant; other chords were relations or friends). Lert introduced Smiell to the world of opera (he was Toscanini's opera director) and had Joe arrange the works of Mozart and Beethoven, which became his favorite composers. Joe played bassoon with the school orchestra and later the Baltimore Symphony during his studies at Peabody.

The Second World War sent Joe Smiell from Peabody into the 11th airborne division where he served as a paratrooper in the Philippines. Near the end of the war he ended up in northern Japan where he arranged music and helped to build a military band. Moving to San Francisco from Japan, he was stationed at the Presidio where he re-enlisted with the military and met Lucy, his wife to be. Soon after his marriage in 1950, the Korean War broke out and he was sent back again. His military connections lead to his



involvement with a concert band in the Presidio as well as their first bagpipe band.

After the war, teaching and performing thoroughly occupied Joe's life. He taught music and a variety of other subjects at Bay Area high schools and middle schools for 35 years. At Francisco Junior High he was responsible for a program directed toward failing students. Using ideas from his music background he got kids to pay attention through novel means. Wearing blindfolds they completely focused on listening to specific sounds around them and would write about what they heard. The game-like structure of these and other exercises appealed to these kids and the class was very successful in reviving interest in learning as their reading and math scores would later show.

During the late 1970s he was a guest soloist touring Canada, playing his own multi-movement piece for accordion and orchestra. Another of his own works was performed with the Denver symphony. He arranged and conducted ethnic music for the 1988 Olympic games in Seoul Korea. For 3 years in a row in the early 1980s, Joe directed and choreographed the East/West college football halftime shows that were broadcast on CBS.

Because he could read music very well, American composers such as Paul Creston and Virgil Thompson often called upon him to play accordion parts in their works. Joe Smiell was a treasured presence at the San Francisco Accordion Club, where he freely shared his advice and instruction in the "fun band" ensemble later coordinated by Val Kieser, and the ACE ensemble, and also through directing the Galla-Rini Accordion Camp since Galla-Rini's death. He also performed with his band, both locally and internationally as well as solo performing. He was a guest professor leading a summer seminar at the University of Alaska and was an inspiring instructor for students there. His wealth of experience as an arranger was legend in the way he orchestrated for the group—achieving a great variety of sound and expression.

*Steve Mobia*

## Accordion Babes Revue

I had the pleasure of attending the Accordion Babes Revue that was held at Rhythmix Cultural Works in Alameda in early December. The place was packed, some familiar with the Babes and others who came to hear them for the first time. They would not leave disappointed.

**Luz Gaxiola** opened the show as emcee and sang a lively Czech song before introducing **Amber Lee**. Amber not only has a lovely voice but a wonderful talent for songwriting. She performed emotional songs such *Waltzing By Just Holding Hands* to fun upbeat tunes like *Alpha* and had an audience participation number for *The First Pancake Polka*.

**Renee de la Prade** joined Amber for a couple tunes, first playing the ukulele before switching to her button box. After a couple rockin' tunes she had to exit the stage briefly when her bass reed block detached but was back on stage in short order and brought the house down with her foot stomping lively tunes including *Nerd Love* and *Gutterpunk*. **Luz** took the stage again with her string bass player. They played a number of tunes including the country-style tune, *Chicken Bread*, and the classic *Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen*. For one of the songs Luz managed to balance on a bongo board, play accordion and kazoo while hitting a paddle ball!

**Tara Linda** and her band followed with their blend of Tex Mex and jazzy tunes. Tara Linda's sultry voice mesmerized the audience with her blend of lively Spanish tunes like *Teresita*, as well as more mellow songs with a jazzy flavor such as *Mirabel*.

**Yeti** took the stage with a very creative and enjoyable set that included a love song to her accordion and a song about a guru and some tunes sung in French. She also created and recorded her own backup vocals on the spot then replayed in a loop as she continued the song- a very interesting and creative technique. The show ended with **Yeti** joined by **Tara Linda** singing *Ring of Fire* by Johnny Cash.

**The Babes** received a well-deserved enthusiastic response. If you get a chance to catch a show by any of these women, I would recommend you take the opportunity as they truly know how to entertain.

*Maryanne Romanowski*



*Amber Lee*

## Accordion Instruction

- Bart Beninco (707) 769-8744
- Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707
- David Chelini (916) 428-8764
- Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502
- Lynn Ewing (650) 365-1700
- Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952
- Lou Jacklich (510) 317-9510
- Marjorie Konrad (707) 539-5308
- Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896
- Vincent Rinaldi (415) 824-7609
- Joe Simoni (650) 867-1122
- Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (650)731-6010
- Richard Yaus (650) 832-1740
- Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579
- Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

## Nearby Club Meetings

Accordion Club of the Redwoods  
3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.  
Hermann Sons Hall • 860 Western, Petaluma, CA  
\$3 admission donation Contact: Tony Mustaro—  
President (707) 318-0474; dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)  
President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359  
gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com  
The Vacaville Golden State Accordion Club meets  
monthly on the second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Court-  
yard by Marriott • Vacaville 120 Nut Tree Parkway  
Vacaville, CA 95687 707-451-9000  
The Humboldt Chapter meets monthly on the third  
Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tomp-  
kins Hill Road, Loleta.  
The Sacramento Chapter meets monthly on the fourth  
Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401  
Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. Contact for all three  
Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

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

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)  
meets monthly on the first Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at  
Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas, Blvd, off Hwy  
80 , Granite Bay, CA. Contact: Vince Cukar (916) 791-  
3041

Silicon Valley Accordion Club (SVAC)  
meets 1st Sun. of each month at Harry's Hofbrau, 390  
Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, corner of Kiely.  
1 p.m. \$5, under 16 - no charge.

### FOR SALE

**UKELELE—NEW, played once**  
soprano OHANA brand, blue painted body  
with hardwood finger board  
comes with soft padded carrying case,  
UKE CRAZY brand (zippered main compart-  
ment and small zippered pocket in front)

### *plus*

songbook—Jumpin Jim's  
UKULELE FAVORITES  
30 great Uke songs  
Edited by Jim Beloff  
\$135

Contact Chris Knapp 510-582-2744  
or email [snapp.chris@gmail.com](mailto:snapp.chris@gmail.com)

## SFAC Officers

Lynn Ewing, President  
(650) 453-3391 [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com)

Dominic Palmisano, Vice President  
(415) 587-4423 [accord47@gmail.com](mailto:accord47@gmail.com)

Randall Hicks, Secretary  
(510)583-1581 [hickr01@sprintmail.com](mailto:hickr01@sprintmail.com)

Marianne Romanowski, Treasurer  
(650) 595-8105  
[maromanowski@yahoo.com](mailto:maromanowski@yahoo.com)

## SFAC Directors

Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952  
[accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com](mailto:accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com)

Don Nurisso (650) 359-3549  
[don@nurisso.com](mailto:don@nurisso.com)

Scott Williamson (650) 493-3075  
[aswy01@gmail.com](mailto:aswy01@gmail.com)

Mike Zampiceni (408) 734-1565  
[eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net)

## Newsletter

Christina Knapp, Graphic Design  
[snapp.chris@gmail.com](mailto:snapp.chris@gmail.com)

for the artist who appreciates quality. . . . Since 1922



**petosa**

[www.petosa.com](http://www.petosa.com)

Seattle, WA • (206) 632-2700

**Advertisements—**  
Please support the businesses  
which help support us.

**CONCERTO - BORSINI - PIERMARIA**

**Accordions International**

*"Home of the Concerto"*

- ◆ Italian artisan accordions
- ◆ Large Showroom
- ◆ Straps Cases, Music
- ◆ Factory Repair Facility

**(801) 485-5840**

1760 South 450 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84115  
www.AccordionInfo.com  
email: Paul@AccordionInfo.com



**Lamorinda Music**  
Sales | Rentals | Lessons | Gifts

Colleen & John McCormick  
Owners

81 Lafayette Circle  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 385-0963 main  
(925) 385-0965 fax  
colleen@lamorindamusic.com  
http://www.lamorindamusic.com



Your Friendly  
Neighborhood Music Store

**Castiglione**  
Accordion and Distributing Co., LLC.

**JOHN CASTIGLIONE** Director

13300 E. 11 Mile Rd. Suite A  
Warren MI. 48089-1367

Tel: 586 755 6050  
Fax 586 755 6339

E-Mail johncast@bignet.net  
internet www.castiglioneaccordions.com



**Smythe's**




**Kimric Smythe**

**Accordion Center**

2511 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510-268-4084

1828  
EL CAMINO REAL  
SUITE 404  
BURLINGAME CA 94010

**BRUCE KIRSCHNER, M.D.**  
OPHTHALMOLOGY  
LASER VISION CORRECTION



PH: 650-692-8788  
FX: 650-692-8798

E: KIRSCHNER@AOL.COM


**VICTORIA**  
ACCORDIONS

**Frank Petrilli**

20654 Bahama Street  
91311 Chatsworth CA - USA  
Phone 818-406-2010  
www.accordions.it  
victoria.accordions.usa@gmail.com

**THE ACCORDION APOCALYPSE REPAIR SHOP**

San Francisco



**415-596-5952**  
www.accordionapocalypse.com

**Club & Musical Meeting • Feb. 19 @ 2 p.m.**

Performing in JANUARY • **Reno DiBono Trio • Ron Borelli • Don Nurisso • Mark Hinchman & Steve Auerbach**

Join us (almost every) third sunday of the month at the Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco

**DIRECTIONS:**

From 101 traveling either North or South, take the Oyster Point exit. Turn right onto Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right onto Gull Drive, just before Marina Blvd.) Continue past the gate house to the sign Oyster Point Yacht Club. There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

Visit us online @ [www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)

**NOTICE**

Parking behind the Oyster Point Yacht Club will be disrupted while a ferry boat terminal is being built. We can no longer park behind the building and there is limited parking in the lot alongside the OPYC. PLEASE do not park in the Commodore's designated space in the front of this lot! Overflow parking must go to the next lot down the line, where the \$10 parking fee is being waived.

**SFAC Membership is**

\$30.00 per year for individual or family.

Meeting admission is \$6 per member & \$8 per guest. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Randall Hicks, 21071 Gary Drive, #212, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you wish.

Newsletter of the  
San Francisco Accordion Club  
P.O. Box 318175  
San Francisco, CA 94131-8175  
[www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)



FIRST  
CLASS  
POSTAGE

Receive your Newsletter Online!  
Be Planet Friendly &  
help us SAVE MONEY  
sign up @:  
[SFACNewsletter@earthlink.net](mailto:SFACNewsletter@earthlink.net)