

## Come to Our Next Music Program

2:00 pm Sunday, January 17

Oyster Point Yacht Club  
South San Francisco

See the back cover for directions

January 2016



## Tangonero Returns in January!



### Tangonero Trio with Claudio Ortega

With members from Russia, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United States, **Tangonero** is a San Francisco-based ensemble dedicated to preserving the tradition of Argentine tango. Tangonero was started in 2008 by bandoneonist **Alex Roitman**, violinist **Michele Walther**, and former guitarist **Zac Selissen**. The three organizers met at a tango jam in San Francisco and soon decided to form a band. Along the way they have added **Richard Duke** on string bass and most recently, pianist **I-Yun Chung** after the departure of guitarist Zac in the middle of 2014, when he moved to New York City. Singer Claudio Ortega will perform with Tangonero at the SFAC's Sunday performance.

Since 2008, Tangonero has performed at concerts, milongas and tango festivals; they have also produced several tango stage shows with vocalists and dancers. They released their first album, *La Yumba*, in 2009, and the second, *Mala Junta*, was released in the fall of 2015. Tangonero was awarded the San Francisco Community Music Center's Shenson Award for their original stage production *Malena*, in collaboration with Argentine vocalist

Claudio Ortega and dancers **Count Glover** and **Chelsea Eng**.

Many people know and love the tango music of **Astor Piazzolla**, and so it was for Tangonero. Overflowing with the intense passion, lust and sorrow of his music, their performances capture the fire of the dance and the essence of the tango culture of Piazzolla's Argentina. Most Tangonero performances occur at tango dance parties known as milongas. The Bay area's thriving Argentine tango community offers several milongas every night; check [www.tangomango.org](http://www.tangomango.org) for listings.

### PERFORMERS

Born and raised in Moscow, Russia, **Alex Roitman** first studied piano and accordion, but his passion for Argentine tango led him to study the bandoneon. In addition to his bandoneon work, Alex has composed several tango pieces and continues to work on transcribing and arranging great tango music of the past.

Pianist **I-Yun Chang** is a highly sought-after performer, composer, arranger, accompanist, and teacher in the San Francisco Bay Area. She began her formal musical studies at the age of six. I-Yun holds a degree in classical piano performance from the National Taiwan University of Art and BA in film scoring from the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

**Daniel Fabricant** (standing in for regular bassist Richard Duke) may be the most versatile bassist in San Francisco—and the most in-demand. Playing upright or electric, he can adapt to a wide range of musical settings, from intimate chamber groups to sprawling dance bands and Latin ensembles.

*Continued on pg 2*

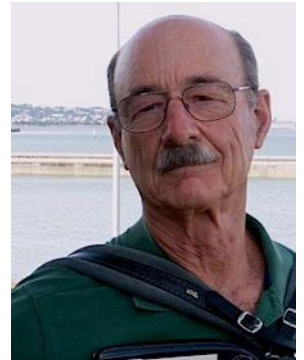
## Tangonero (cont.)



Singer **Claudio Ortega** has been singing for himself for as long as he can remember. He loves music, and he loves the melodies in the repertoire that he performs. Claudio feels that each time he sings something magical happens. Claudio feels the composers with him; he feels that they speak through him to reach the audience. He feels lucky to be the middleman for their music. ❖

## More Amazing January Music

SFAC Board member **Don Savant** took music lessons from age ten for a couple years at the **Menichetti Accordion Studio in Oakland**. As a high school junior he was inspired by schoolmate, **John Molinari Jr.**, to pick up the instrument again and purchased a **Giulietti** accordion from **John Molinari Sr.**



During Don's years working as an electronics engineer and raising a family of four children the accordion remained in the closet except on special occasions. In retirement he discovered the accordion community and the SFAC, learning that many others continue to share his love of the instrument. Don is now a student of **Mike Zampiceni** and has enjoyed his outstanding tutelage for more than 10 years.

Recently Don was thrilled to acquire (from SFAC member **Paul Cain**) the vintage **Giulietti Super** accordion previously owned by **John Molinari Sr.** Don enjoys playing the old standards and has played diverse venues from the **Filoli ballroom** at Christmas-time to **Red Wall Cavern** at mile 33 on a two-week **Grand Canyon** rafting trip.

Other volunteer activities include **Peninsula Open Space Trust**, **Henry W. Coe State Park** and **Filoli**, where he has been a nature docent for 20 years. ❖

**Jared Eldon Johnson** is the grandson of **Mary Alice Eldon**, a former member of the **ACE** ensemble and former program coordinator for the SFAC. Jared was inspired to start playing by his grandmother. He is a self taught musician who currently plays in many casual venues including some street performances. ❖

### Sit in with the

## Jam Band

Our informal jam band is open to everyone, regardless of experience. Learn new riffs, meet crazy new accordion friends and have **WAY TOO MUCH FUN!** We meet regularly before the monthly Sunday music program.

**1:15-2:00 pm for a traditional jam session**

COME ON DOWN! We're waiting for YOU!

## SFAC Scholarships

The SFAC awards two scholarships a year to accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact **Mike Zampiceni** for a scholarship application.

**Mike Zampiceni**  
6923 Gold Oak Lane  
Citrus Heights CA 95621  
[eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net)  
408-569-2579

### Please Remember...

Help us leave our meeting space at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Wipe up food or drink spills and recycle all trash. **THANK YOU!**

## We had Another Great Lineup in December!

Our December meeting featured very special holiday performances. **Gus Greyhosky** emceed the meeting and opened with acknowledgements of those who coordinated the meeting, including: **Lynn Ewing**, photos; **Don Savant**, jam band; **Dominic Palmisano**, door; **Paul Cain**, sound; **Ken Schwartz**, reporter; **Barb Winter**, coffee and **Nora Mazzara**, raffle tickets.

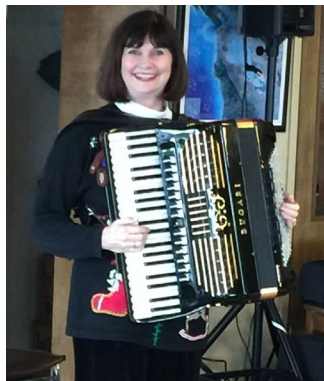


Our first performer of the day was **Pam Tom**. Pam has been studying accordion with teacher Lou Jacklich since 2011. She started studies on the piano at age eight and when 13, Pam's mom bought her a 12-button accordion. While the 12-button

was limiting in what could be played on it, Pam was hooked. As she got closer to retirement, Pam wanted a "grown-up" accordion, so with the help of the Golden State Accordion Club she was able to borrow a full-sized accordion and has been studying with Lou these last four years.

Pam performed Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus," arranged by Mario Pedone, followed by the tango "Por Una Cabeza," which she first heard in the movie *Scent of a Woman*. Inspired by a performance at last year's Las Vegas Accordion Convention, Pam treated us to the "The Swinger's Variation of the Skater's Waltz" by Waldteufel, arranged by Myron Floren. Finally, she performed Lou Jacklich's arrangement of "Who's Sorry Now" that he recorded back in 1962!

**Lynn Ewing** kindly filled in for **Jana Maas**, who was under the weather and unable to attend. We thank our President for stepping in on short notice. Lynn shared that as young girl, her parents got her an accordion, which she began



playing at age seven. It's been a huge part of her life ever since, although she took a break for many years to be a flight attendant and raise a family. Barb Montoro heard Lynn play at their church and introduced her to her father Frank, who at the time was membership chair of the SFAC—and the rest is history! Lynn is multi-talented, having been a music specialist with the El Granada Elementary School District, accordion teacher and our Club president for five years. Lynn performs with Absolut Accord and the Accordion Chamber Ensemble.

Lynn treated us to a diverse selection of Christmas songs, including "Winter Wonderland" arranged by Henri Klickmann. Lynn demonstrated yet another talent by playing AND singing the novelty song "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas," singing just like a child. Lynn then treated us to "Christmas Time is Here" from *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (Frank Marocco arrangement), "Silent Night," also arranged by Frank Marocco, "O Come, All Ye Faithful," and an encore "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

**Mike Zampiceni** completed the first half of our program on his 72-bass Baffetti accordion playing a blend of Christmas, novelty and contemporary pop pieces. Mike is also a multi-talented performer and accompanied



himself and sang Christmas favorites: "The Christmas Song" (commonly subtitled "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire") and "White Christmas." This wasn't all though. Mike also included in his segment "Let it Snow," "Wave," "Greensleeves," "Flight of the Angels," "A Day in the Life of a Fool" and "Tea for Two."

Thank you Pam, Lynn and Mike for treating us to so many wonderful performances during this special holiday meeting!

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# THE MAIN EVENT



**Rene Sevieri** was our featured performer this month. Rene is a native San Franciscan who started playing the accordion at age four, and was already playing professionally by age 12. Now retired from a business career, Rene has returned to his accordion

roots and can be heard playing regularly at several San Francisco venues (more below). Rene has just returned from Vienna, so he included various European medleys in his repertoire for the day.

He warmed up with “Darktown Strutters’ Ball,” followed by his own arrangement of “Hello Dolly,” to which he also sang along. Rene took us to Italy with the Italian pop songs “Marina, Marina,” “Volare,” “Al Di La,” tango “Chitarra Romana” and waltz “Speranze Perdute.” From Spain and France, we heard “España Cañi,” a medley of French waltzes and “Under Paris Skies.” From Vienna – the Strauss favorites “The Blue Danube Waltz” and “Tales from the Vienna Woods.” We didn’t leave the European continent without Rene playing and singing some 60’s hits of the Beatles: “You Can’t Do That” and “I Saw Her Standing There.” To demonstrate how versatile Rene is and how varied his repertoire, he took a short spin south of the border with “Me Gusta” samba, “Brazil” and “Granada.” Back in the U.S.A., Rene performed several Sinatra songs, including “Strangers in the Night” and “New York, New York,” The Doors hit “Light My Fire” and the Dave Clark Five’s “Because.” To bring this whirlwind tour to an end, Rene played and sang “I’ll Be Home for Christmas.”

Many thanks for a wonderful hour of phenomenal music, Rene! For those who wish to enjoy more of his accordion music and singing, Rene can be heard

regularly on Tuesday mornings from 10 am–12 noon at Caffe Trieste in San Francisco and often during lunch hour at Sotto Mare Fish Restaurant, also in San Francisco.

December’s holiday gathering was truly memorable! Wishing everyone a wonderful 2016! ❖

**WHAT IF EVERYTHING YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW ABOUT ACCORIONS WAS WRONG?**


*Accordions Rising* is a documentary feature film about the resurgence of interest in accordion music over the last 30-40 years. Though many continue to see the accordion as the stodgy instrument of a bygone era—and accordion jokes abound—it is time to set the record straight! *Accordions Rising* is set for release in late August 2016.

**FILMMAKER’S STATEMENT:** I have often been drawn to the misunderstood. The accordion turned out to be no exception. Like many others, I grew up with an attitude embedded in the culture regarding the accordion as a kind of lowbrow instrument, corny and old-fashioned.

But then, I learned otherwise! I came to understand this attitude was overshadowing the truth: the accordion is actually an incredibly versatile instrument. The possibilities for invention and originality are endless and border on the sublime. It turns out that the accordion and those who play them are everywhere. They’re on the loose, alive and thriving. Though filmed mostly in New York City, depicting the NY cultural scene, *Accordions Rising* reflects something of the landscape of our very own America, our very own culture and our very own present.

The more in love with accordions and accordion music I became, the more determined I was to celebrate the talents of those who play and compose for them. I am so pleased to have encountered the feast of artists who appear in the film. Hats off to them for so eloquently setting the record straight.

–Roberta Cantow



# ACCORDIONS: SO HOT RIGHT NOW

Once considered glamorous and sexy, then forgotten, the instrument is making a comeback.

*THE ATLANTIC, January 2014*

When the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame fetes Krist Novoselic later this year, it'll be well-timed recognition. Not for his band—Nirvana certainly doesn't need the publicity—but for his instrument. He may be the first accordionist ever inducted, an honor that comes at a time when the accordion is experiencing a striking resurgence in popularity.

Proudly accordion-centric acts like Mumford & Sons, Arcade Fire, and The Lumineers win Grammys and top chart spots. Older ones, like Flogging Molly, They Might Be Giants, and Neutral Milk Hotel, now enjoy cherished-cult-icon status. In 2009, Carnegie Hall hosted its first solo accordion performance in 30 years.



*Photo credit: AMC*

Accordion diehards and retailers say it really does feel like a comeback for the instrument, whose previous heyday ended in the '60s. What's surprising isn't so much that the accordion's hip now; it's how culturally dominant it used to be.

European immigrants introduced the instrument to the US in the 1800s, but it really started to take off shortly before World War I. "It was considered very cool," said Joan Grauman, a board member and historian for the American Accordionists' Association. "Beautiful actresses were portrayed in cigarette ads holding a gorgeous accordion and a cigarette."

In 1922, Italian immigrant Carlo Petosa founded the Petosa Accordion Company in the basement of his home. It joined the scores of similar stores and schools popping up all over the country. "Some towns had as many as four accordion schools in a couple of blocks," said Grauman, who also added that by the 1950s the accordion was likely one of the most studied instruments in the country.

By 1938, the AAA was founded in New York, and its first president, Pietro Deiro, became fondly known as the "daddy of the accordion." The group's initial goal was to show the public that the instrument was as serious as any other. A year later, it succeeded by helping to facilitate the first-ever accordion performance at Carnegie Hall.

The Petosa Accordion Company survives till today, as the only US-owned-and-operated accordion manufacturer around. Many of its rivals started to die out as rock and roll came to prominence in the '60s. Acts like The Beatles popularized the guitar-drums-vocals setup that remained the pop-culture standard for decades to come, though ironically, according to Grauman, both Elvis and John Lennon played the accordion before beginning the guitar.

Davis believes the rise in popularity of the accordion has a lot to do with today's anything-goes music industry, enabled by the Internet and the waning of major labels' influence.

Petosa's clientele has transitioned over the decades from early-century players who were trained in classical accordion from a young age, to lone solo accordionists pursuing it as a hobby, to, now, players affiliated with musical groups. Nirvana's Novoselic just stopped in the store a few months ago. Owner Joseph M. Petosa said the age of customers has also changed, with 60 percent now under the age of 30, whereas 10 years ago it was only 10 percent. And over the last three years, "we're almost selling more accordions than we're making," Petosa said. The company has responded to demand by introducing a second, cheaper line of instruments.

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## ACCORDIONS: SO HOT RIGHT NOW

Shenandoah Davis is one of the recent musicians to join the accordion world. The 28-year-old grew up playing classical piano and studied opera performance in college. She discovered the accordion six years ago, and after only a few days playing it, was swept up into a country-rock band called Jack Wilson and the Wife Stealers.

Davis believes the rise in popularity of the accordion has a lot to do with today's anything-goes music industry, enabled by the Internet. "I think in general people have felt a little bit braver about what kind of music they're creating," she said, "and more interested in stepping outside of the realm of what pop or rock music is supposed to sound like."

There's also the fact that the instrument is in line with the so-called "retromania" of the new millennium. While the accordion is, as Petrosa says, "one of the only instruments that's basically found in every style of music throughout the world," it's largely associated with European and American folk music. Which, of course, is cool again, as seen in the popularity of acts like Mumford & Sons and Of Monsters and Men.

Jamie Maschler, who has worked for the Petosa Accordion Company for a little over two years, knows the versatility of the accordion better than most. She has played the instrument since she was four, when a door-to-door salesman brought a kid-size accordion to her Colorado Springs home. She spent years perfecting and competing with pieces by such challenging classical composers as Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff, but has since discovered her love of the collaborative, rock and pop musical scene. Now, in addition to her work at Petosa, she focuses her time not on classical music, but on performing with a number of alternative bands.

Talents like her seem to be increasingly valuable. Gabe Hall-Rodrigues of the band Jared & The Mill says that while busking at the music festival at South by Southwest this past year, a number of agents approached him about their needing an accordionist for studio work or to play with a band. "It shows that stuff is going on," he said. "And if anything, there's not enough young accordionists to meet the demand of some of these things." ❖

[www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2014/01/accordions-so-hot-right-now/282782/](http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2014/01/accordions-so-hot-right-now/282782/)

### ACCORDIONS 4 U

**ACCORDIONS 4 U** is **Griff Ziegler's** new project to promote accordion music to children in elementary, middle schools and high schools in the Wallowa Valley of northeastern Oregon. He wants to introduce the next generation to the love of the accordion.

So...he needs your help.

Griff says, "**I need older but usable 12-, 24-, and 48-bass accordions, junior-sized accordions, woman's 120-bass, music stands, and music books** to begin. Please help support this project by donating whatever you can to Accordions 4 U. In return, I can offer you a tax write-off for the value you put on these donations."

We all know of someone with a dusty old accordion and accessories stashed away in a closet somewhere. Help Griff kick off the project and **give those old accordions a chance to sing again!** If there are four or more accordions from the Bay area, he'll drive down to pick them up.

Call or email him at: **208-651-2536. griffbz@gmail.com**

Or you can send your accordion directly to him at the address below:

Griff Ziegler  
504 N. College Street  
Joseph, Oregon 97846



# IN MEMORIAM

## Robert Campanella

February 25, 1955–November 6, 2015

Rob Campanella, 60 years old, died of a heart attack in November. Rob grew up in Palisades Park, NJ and learned to play the accordion as a child. He didn't play for a number of years until 1991 when he took it up again and heard about the San Francisco Accordion Club (SFAC). Rob began attending club performances, and first played for the club in April 1992, performing spirited renditions of "Sorrento," "Santa Lucia" and several other Italian pieces.

In 1993, SFAC member Tom Torriglia met Joxan Goikoetxea, an accordionist from the Basque region of Spain, who appeared unexpectedly on Tom's doorstep in San Francisco. He was traveling in the area and had been asking about things accordion, and someone told him about Tom. Naturally, Tom brought Joxan to the club meeting that was scheduled for that same evening. Joxan, a long-time student of Richard Galliani, played a chromatic Cavagnola and performed a selection of French, Spanish and Basque music, ending with a beautiful version of "Round Midnight." Joxan's appearance, style and instrument made a big impression on Rob. Joxan lingered long after the meeting, talking about his instrument and bonding with Rob. Rob became an immediate convert and soon bought a good chromatic Zero Sette from Petosa. In a short time he was playing it with style, and performed for the club soon afterwards. Later that same year he found several books of French Musette music at the Cotati Festival, and they became the major part of his playlist for the rest of his life.

Rob began playing for weddings, parties and sympathetic cafes in San Jose on a regular basis. His irrepressible charm and musical talent won enthusiastic fans for him and his accordion. Rob taught his son Brian to play a chromatic accordion and there were soon two generations of Campanellas playing accordions on the stage. Brian has also become an outstanding classical pianist with a repertoire that includes Beethoven, Liszt and Rachmaninoff.



Rob was an intelligent and talented guy; he was a mathematician, a sound designer and engineer, a graphic artist, a furniture designer and a businessman. In the deepest part of his soul however, he was an accordionist who loved his instrument and worked constantly to improve his skills to amaze and entertain his audiences. Rob was an SFAC member since 1993. The club opened a new world for him with its dedicated, talented artists and its sponsorship of performances by accordion and Bayan masters from all over the world. Rob and his wife, Karen, found the club to be a wonderful, diverse group where they found lifelong friends. He is survived by his wife, children and two sisters and a brother. ❖





## ACCORDION LOVERS— PLAN THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

Trips Depart London Heathrow

This is a bucket-list trip for all true accordion aficionados! Come to Castelfidardo, Italy—the spiritual home of the accordion—and renew your love affair with this amazing instrument. Wander the streets and sample the culture of Castelfidardo. Learn more about the artistry of accordion design and manufacture. Revel in the company of accordion lovers from all over the world. Enjoy jam sessions with your fellow travelers.

Peter LeGeyt of PLG Marketing offers trips to Castelfidardo and other destinations. Travel options, costs and trip highlights are available upon request. For more information contact:

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## PLAY FOR US!

Playing warm up or during the break for our Sunday music program is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. Our scheduled performers are drawn from professional players and groups, and from talented amateurs as well. Call us—we're happy to add you to the schedule to play a 10-15 minute set, or even just a couple of songs.

Contact:

**Dominic Palmisano**

(415) 587-4423

[accord47@gmail.com](mailto:accord47@gmail.com) OR

**Lynn Ewing**

(650) 453-3391

[ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com)

## Join in the Fun!

Helping with the monthly music programs is a great way to meet new people and help make the program run smoothly. We welcome people to help emcee the program, take photos or write a lively report about the music program. You don't need experience—just a willingness to help while you have fun with the group.

Discover your inner entertainer, photographer or writer and help us host our monthly events.

Call Lynn Ewing, (650) 453-3391, and find out how to get in on the action!



# JANUARY



## BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUBS

### Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday at 7:30 pm. — \$3 admission donation  
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma  
Contact: Tony Mustaro, President (707) 318-0474  
[dcdacapo@gmail.com](mailto:dcdacapo@gmail.com)

### Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO for all three chapters:  
Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359  
[gsaccordionclub@netfirms.com](mailto:gsaccordionclub@netfirms.com)

#### Vacaville Chapter

2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm.  
Pietro's No. 2,  
679 Merchant Street, Vacaville

#### Humboldt Chapter

3rd Tuesday at 7 pm.  
Humboldt Swiss Club  
5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta

#### Sacramento Chapter

4th Wednesday at 7 pm.  
Old Spaghetti Factory,  
12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova

### Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

2nd Wednesday at 7 pm. Escalon Community Center,  
1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon  
Contact: Ed Sciarini (209) 545-3603

### Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Lutheran Church Hall,  
6365 Douglas Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay  
Contact: Jim Shoemaker (916) 443-0974

### Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

1st Sunday at 1 pm. Harry's Hofbrau,  
390 Saratoga Avenue (corner of Kiely), San Jose  
(no contact phone available)  
\$5 for adults, no charge under 16

## ♪♪ Performing Around the Bay ♪♪

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### WILLIAM DE MICHELIS South Bay

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### JOE DOMITROWICH South Bay

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### ED GORZYNSKI, JR. East Bay

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### TANGONERO

[tangonero.com](http://tangonero.com)

### MIKE ZAMPICENI Sunnyvale and Sacramento

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Italian-style chromatic button accordion, a French Musette, made in Paris in (probably) the late 50's. This instrument is in nearly perfect condition and has

exceptional reeds. It was brought back from Paris by Arrigo D'Albert in 1982.

Debra Dawson, Arrigo's long-time partner, is selling this accordion; call her to arrange to see this beautiful accordion. The estimated value is \$4000; serious inquiries should be directed to Debra at (707) 964-0509, or [goodthym@mcn.org](mailto:goodthym@mcn.org).

### ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

- BART BENINCO** (707) 769-8744
- RON BORELLI** (650) 574-5707
- DAVID CHELINI** (916) 428-8764
- MYRLE DAHL** (415) 897-2283
- PETER DI BONO** (415) 753-1502
- LYNN EWING** (650) 453-3391
- LOU JACKLICH** (510) 317-9510
- MARIAN KELLY** (650) 954-3711
- NADA LEWIS** (510) 243-1122
- VINCENT RINALDI** (415) 824-7609
- BIG LOU (LINDA SEEKINS)** (415) 468-5986
- 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



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Come for fun and great music!!

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Admission: \$6 for members, \$8 for guests

The jam band will play from 1:15-2:00

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



## Amp up THE FUN!

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Turn right onto Marina Blvd and continue 0.7 mile, past the Oyster Point Marina gatehouse to the Oyster Point Yacht Club sign on the left. There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

### San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter

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