

# July, 2023

## SFAC Picnic in the Park!

11:30 am—2:00 pm PDT

Sunday, July 30th

Beresford Park, San Mateo

RSVP: [info@saccordionclub.com](mailto:info@saccordionclub.com)



Join fellow Club members for good food, good conversation and good music at Beresford Park in San Mateo on Sunday, July 30, from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.

There will be a canopy to provide shade, but seating is limited, so bring your own folding chairs and sunshades for use on the grassy area. Make sure to bring your accordion if you'd like to play something on your own or with others. The Club will provide desserts, bottled water, paper plates, plastic utensils, napkins, etc., but please bring your own entrée, non-alcoholic beverages and additional desserts if you wish. **For safety reasons, glass containers are not allowed in the park. This will be a non-alcohol event.**

**We're in need of a foldable picnic serving table, let us know if you can bring one.**

To make sure we have enough provisions on hand, please RSVP to Ken Schwartz by July 28th at [info@saccordionclub.com](mailto:info@saccordionclub.com) so he can provide you with more details on the picnic site location.

Since there is no musical program this month, we hope to see all your smiling faces in person!

**The picnic area is adjacent to the:  
San Mateo Garden Center  
605 Parkside Way**



2022 SFAC Picnic—Photo courtesy of Linda Watson, daughter of Ed Massolo

# SFAC June 18 Event Summary

## Grammy Nominee Kevin Solecki

by Ken Schwartz



It was a bright, sunny afternoon, perfect for Father's Day! And, what could be more perfect to celebrate this special day than an afternoon with our featured performer, Kevin Solecki, who came to us via Zoom from Pittsburgh, PA.

By the early age of 10, he was playing on radio and television stations in Detroit, and at 17 he was already touring with a nationally known polka band, the **Polka Family Band**. Kevin is a Grammy-nominated recording artist who's performed with many of the best in the business.

Kevin wowed us today. Some pieces were old standards, others were modern pop or classics; all were performed with his unique modern, "bouncy" light style as performed on his Roland FR-4X. Kevin likes to play with bass sound and guitar, along with multiple instrumentations, which makes his playing even more fun.

Given his start in polka, Kevin opened with a Polish polka medley and followed with *Pennsylvania Polka*, both in traditional accordion instrumentation. Next Kevin performed a short Cajun-flavored song which he had composed, *Cha Cha Boogie Woogie*, a simple 4-line song using the piano sound; *That's Amore*, as made famous by Dean Martin; *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*, using stadium organ sound; an energetic novelty piece called *Trickling Keys*; *Crazy*, made famous by Patsy Cline and written by Willie Nelson, using reverb; *Indifference*, using musette, and finally *Magnante Boogie*, composed by Charles Magnante.

Kevin next performed an Armed Services medley, a collection of official anthems of 5 branches of the US military, in recognition of Flag and Independence Days: *Marines' Hymn*, *The Army Goes Rolling Along*, *anchors Aweigh*, the Coast Guard's *Semper Paratus*, and *The U.S. Air Force Song* (aka *Wild Blue Yonder*). Officially, there is a set order to the songs, which historically has been determined by when the service was established. Kevin performed them out of order, however, for the sake of consistency in chord progressions and keys. The official order is Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Our Club is privileged to honor its veterans; thank you for your service to our country!

Next was *Blue Streak Polka* - Kevin's fingers flew over the keys! - followed by *Theme from the Godfather*, flute treble with reverb guitar bass; *Santa Lucia*; *Rosey Posey Polka*, written by an accordionist; and a Mexican song named *Cielito Lindo*, complete with trumpets and guitars, played in mariachi style.

Next, Kevin brilliantly performed *Czardas*, again using piano instrumentation; a French musette song; Mancini's *Baby Elephant Walk*, using synthesizer sound; *Speed the Plow*, an Irish folk song, performed in a plucking banjo bluegrass style; a Cajun-style song; a jazzy version of *Blue Skies*; *The Flight of the Angels*, an accordion standard; and *Tea for Two*, using brushes, snare drum, ride cymbal, piano and saxophone. Finally, Kevin performed one of my personal favorites, Charles Magnante's *Tantalizing*. Not surprisingly, having received a "virtual standing ovation," Kevin performed an encore, Pietro Frosini's *Hot Points*.

Kevin's performance was sensational, and we hope you enjoyed this Father's Day treat! He maintains an active performing schedule, which at its peak included 600 events a year - really! Nowadays, he's still active (e.g., a 3-hour performance earlier today, prior to our event). Kevin is also the proprietor of Carnegie Music in Pittsburgh where he is an authorized Roland dealer (he performed on the Roland FR-4X for us) and even offers his own personal accordion brand, *Solloni*, custom built in Italy to order. For more on Kevin, his songs, downloads, and other information, please visit <https://www.kevinsolecki.com/>

Kevin makes accordion playing look so easy, light, and enjoyable. His performance reflected great skill and years of training, incorporating the full range of sounds on the Roland FR-4X, complementing the scores. It's no wonder he's been featured with some of the best artists around and has been nominated for a Grammy. Thank you for your sensational performance, Kevin, it was truly a special Father's Day treat!



As this SFAC newsletter goes to print, the folks presenting the Cotati Accordion Festival (CAF), have not finalized everything. Therefore, we are publishing the performers expected to be in the final lineup, but not their scheduling. The SFAC's August Newsletter will publish the final schedule.

As usual, apart from the world-class players, other events will be going on at the CAF: the Honorary Director Presentation, the traditional Lady of Spain-a-Ring, Student Scholarship Presentations, "Future Star" performances, Raffle Prizes, a Polka Dance Party, a Zydeco Dance Party, and capping things off—another great Grand Finale!

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2023 Cotati Accordion Festival presents  
**Student Scholarship Fundraiser Concert**  
**A FREE EVENT Featuring**

Mike Zampiceni - Paul Betken - Lou Jacklich performing with Colette Ogata



**Friday, August 18, 2023. 4 - 6 PM**

Donate at the Door or On-line at [www.cotatifest.com](http://www.cotatifest.com)

Church of the Oaks' Social Hall, 175 Page Street, Cotati, CA

## SFAC Rental Accordions

Do you know someone interested in renting an accordion? Our current inventory selections are perfect for an emerging player, or someone who isn't bothered by the smaller key size. Terms are 6-month minimum, payable via PayPal.

Contact [info@sfaccordionclub.com](mailto:info@sfaccordionclub.com) for more information or to arrange pick-up.

**Super Stradella:** 32 bass, 25 keys, lightweight little red accordion considered a "starter instrument". \$30/mo

**Modern:** 120 bass student size with 41 keys. \$50/mo

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**Excelsior Accordiana:** 120 bass ladies size 41 keys, white with blue sparkles - looks & plays great. \$50/mo

**Guirrini:** 120 bass, 41 keys, student size in white. \$50/mo

## Accordion Figurines for Sale

[info@sfaccordionclub.com](mailto:info@sfaccordionclub.com)

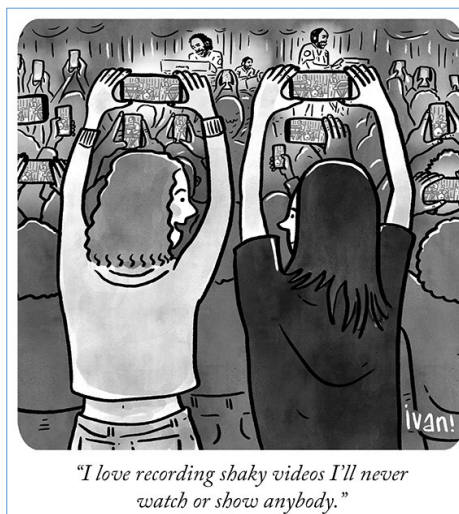


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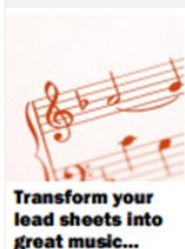
More figurines will be available at the Cotati Accordion Festival, August 19 & 20.



"I love recording shaky videos I'll never watch or show anybody."

## Transform Lead Sheets into Melodic Music

By Laura Niland



Lead sheets express only the treble (right hand) music notes for accordion. You will often see a short-hand chord notation (ex: Cm = C minor) written above measures to indicate your left hand performance. But these lead sheets are missing LOTS of things that a composed piece of music will display. For example: there is no indication of what register to play (clarinet, bassoon?) nor is there any expression notation (p, f, ff, or crescendo, decrescendo, or accented notes or even staccato notation). As a master of fact, with all of that missing, your music is just kinda.... BLAH.... Yes just BLAH! No expression, no dynamics, NADA, nothing. So what should you do?

First go online and listen to a recording of that piece by different artists and begin to mark YOUR lead sheet with the dynamics. Realize that you will need to ADD an introduction, an ending, transitions, key changes or even adjust the music because measures are left out. Sometimes the chords are wrong too, so you need to adjust for that.

To make a lead sheet more appealing, you will need to work on it and experiment. It's always best to compare what you see to a recording of the piece. Adjust your music to bring your performance to a higher level and it will be more appealing to the audience too.

At first, this may seem daunting, so I suggest trying this in small steps. Determine an introduction you might want in order to open the piece. Play the repeat in a different register or octave. Try to change the tempo or style of music.

Does it always have to be 4/4 time? Can you play a piece with a latin beat instead?

All of these explorations improve your playing performance. Look carefully at your next lead sheet and take on the challenge. Play it at our next meeting!

### Event Reviews:

Volunteers are *very much* needed to assist with the monthly event summaries. This is a great opportunity to express your creative writing skills while assisting your Club! Please volunteer to write up a meeting review for an upcoming newsletter.

Contact: [Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com](mailto:Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com)



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 Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Pamela Tom, Rosemary Busher (+ credited contributors each issue)

**Scholarship:**  
 Mike Zampiceni (408)569-2579, eclecticguy@comcast.net

**SFAC Scholarships**

Your Club has scholarship funds available to support accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference is given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact **Mike Zampiceni** for a scholarship application. eclecticguy@comcast.net 408-569-2579

**SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy**

Members may place 1/8-page (business-card size) free of charge for one month each year.  
 Additional ads are \$10/issue or \$100/year.  
 Monthly ad prices **for members:**  
 1/8 page: \$10; 1/4-page: \$25; 1/2-page: \$50; Full-page: \$100.  
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 Contact [info@sfallaccordinclub.com](mailto:info@sfallaccordinclub.com)

*The San Francisco Accordion Club is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization whose purpose is to enhance, promote and stimulate an appreciation for the accordion within the membership and throughout the general public.*

*Donations are tax-deductible and gratefully accepted by using the **Donate** button at [www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)*



**President's Report**

*Ken Schwartz*

The Club has a busy agenda for your summer enjoyment, including the upcoming picnic and our booth at the Cotati Accordion Festival. Interested in volunteering? Please contact either Rosemary Busher or me at [info@sfallaccordinclub.com](mailto:info@sfallaccordinclub.com). With your help, both of these events will be highly successful and great fun for all. Cheers!

May featured an outstanding Accordion Circle, and June continued with the SFAC featured prominently at the Festa Italiana in San Francisco. We were encouraged that so many of you stepped up to volunteer to help, either in person or remotely, at the Accordion Circle. It takes dedicated Club members to make these events successful, so many thanks to all who volunteered. Let's keep the momentum going!



Above: SFAC 2021 picnic

**Thank You, Donors!**

*Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. We thank these members who have made extra donations during our current membership year (Beginning October 1, 2022).*

Lorna Anderson; Dr. Scott T. Anderson; Ron Borelli; Dave Braun; Gail Campanella; Gay Castellano; Raymond Celentano; George Chavez; Elaine & Robert Cooperstein; Edward Crnich; Xavier & Candace de la Prade; Ed Gorzynski, Jr.; Jerry Keifer; Nancy Leonard; Linda Lonay; Franco, Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi; Michael A. Marotta, Jr.; Ed Massolo; Nora Mazzara; Anna Nicora; Laura Jean Niland; Gisele B. Oakes; Casey & Colette Ogata; David Perry; Robert D. & Dil Pisani; Shirley Roller; Don & Mary Savant; Dr. Kenneth Schwartz; Georgia Sutherland; Bill & Gloria Tapogna; Pamela Tom; Frank Venturelli; Barbara Winter; Tseli Wu; Mike Zampiceni; Marlen Zhagel

*If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact [elainedc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elainedc@sbcglobal.net). We greatly appreciate the support and want to be sure you are recognized.*



## ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

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- ◆ Lou Jacklich\* 510-317-9510
- ◆ Joel Weber\* [www.joelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/](http://www.joelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/)
- ◆ Mike Zampiceni\* [www.mikezamp.com](http://www.mikezamp.com)
- ◆ Anand Joseph\* 614-329-9384 (beginner students)

### Peninsula/South Bay

- ◆ Reno DiBono [Reno.DiBono@gmail.com](mailto:Reno.DiBono@gmail.com)
- ◆ Marian Kelly 650-954-3711
- ◆ Joe Simoni\* [jsimoni2000@gmail.com](mailto:jsimoni2000@gmail.com), 650-867-1122
- ◆ Mike Zampiceni\* [www.mikezamp.com](http://www.mikezamp.com)
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### Outside the Bay Area

- ◆ Gail Campanella\* (Santa Barbara) [GailCampanella@gmail.com](mailto:GailCampanella@gmail.com) 805-895-0457
- ◆ Bonnie Birch\* (Seattle) [www.bonniebirch.com](http://www.bonniebirch.com)
- ◆ Pamela Tom\* (Davis) [accordionpam@gmail.com](mailto:accordionpam@gmail.com)
- ◆ Lorna Anderson\* (Pinehurst, NC) 910-215-5757

\* = remote lessons (ZOOM, Facetime, Skype) available

## SFAC COMING EVENTS

*Mark Your Calendars!*

**Sunday, July 30** – Annual SFAC Picnic  
Beresford Park, San Mateo

**August 19-20** – [Cotati Accordion Festival](#), Visit our SFAC canopy at the festival! No Millbrae meeting.

**September 17** - Gail Campanella—Live at Chetcuti!

**October 15** – Accordion Circle - Oktoberfest Edition

**November 19** - TBA

**December 2023** – No SFAC meeting - Holiday break

### SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

**RON BORELLI** San Mateo - [RonBorelli@aol.com](mailto:RonBorelli@aol.com)  
[www.ronborelli.com](http://www.ronborelli.com)

**RICHARD DENIER** Carmel - [rjd.denier@gmail.com](mailto:rjd.denier@gmail.com)

**RENO DI BONO** South Bay - [ourhike@aol.com](mailto:ourhike@aol.com)  
[www.italianaccordion.com](http://www.italianaccordion.com)

**JOE DOMITROWICH** South Bay - [www.alpinersusa.com](http://www.alpinersusa.com)  
or [www.capricious-accordion.com](http://www.capricious-accordion.com)

**ED GORZYNSKI, JR.** East Bay - [edspolkas@yahoo.com](mailto:edspolkas@yahoo.com)

**IL DUETTO MUSICA** (aka Paul Aebersold & Gloria Gazave)  
[mazurkaman@yahoo.com](mailto:mazurkaman@yahoo.com)  
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[accordionpam@gmail.com](mailto:accordionpam@gmail.com)

**MIKE ZAMPICENI** East Bay & South Bay  
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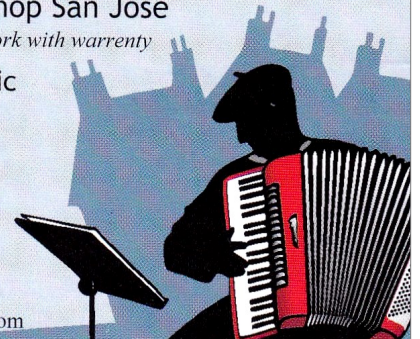
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# Great American Songbook CD – Released by Joe Soprani

by Pamela Tom

Joseph Soprani's recent **Great American Songbook** CD of 13 retro pop standards from the Golden Age of the accordion is now available. Enjoy Joe's arrangements of easy listening jazz featuring the accordion and accompanied by piano, guitar, bass and drums. The CD's smooth music style complements the ambiance of receptions, parties, and *dîner et danse pour deux*. Cruise down the highway with this versatile track of pop favorites:

- \* Blue Moon
- \* Breezin' Along with the Breeze
- \* Caravan
- \* Cheek to Cheek
- \* Estralita
- \* Fly Me to the Moon
- \* Georgia On My Mind
- \* Hey There
- \* I'm in the Mood for Love
- \* Lullaby of Birdland
- \* More
- \* Once in a While
- \* Stardust



You can hear examples and order on-line single tracks or the CD from: <https://joesoprani.bandcamp.com/album/joe-sopranis-great-american-songbook>

**Joe Soprani** is a noted professional accordionist, educator, arranger-composer who has dominated the accordion scene in Philadelphia for 40+ years. He has performed in major concert halls, theaters, and TV shows. He is the only accordionist to have appeared as a featured soloist under Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra. He

was the accordion soloist with the USAF Band and the Army National Guard Band. He has appeared with Luciano Pavarotti, with Peter Nero, and has performed at the White House. He has also performed numerous Broadway shows, as well as Verdi's opera, **La Traviata**. Check out this biographical YouTube site: **Dizzy Fingers: the Life of Joe Soprani** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9VYGp-dBgI> )



## Cory Pesaturo on Accordion Aspects of Yankovic Movie

by Pamela Tom

Cory Pesaturo, 3X World Champion (Acoustic, Jazz, Digital) accordionist, gives historical, facts, and expresses personal comments about the filming of last year's free on-line movie, **Weird: The Al Yankovic Story** starring Daniel (*Harry Potter*) Radcliffe and a cameo of Al Yankovic ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRYaNh\\_uHw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRYaNh_uHw) )

A majority of the behind-the-scenes accordion tunes, including *Roll Out the Barrel* and *Helena Polka* were performed by Cory. He admitted that the "weirdest" thing about this movie is his playing the polkas and noted that "Everything in my

career is not to play this [polka]... Life is total irony." One of the horrific vignettes that Cory commented on is the movie dad's abusive treatment of the accordion. Find Cory's name at the end of the film in the main credits as "Featured Accordionist."

This is the only movie I know of that highlights the accordion in a plot. [Ed. note: there is also **Polka King**, featuring Alex Meixner on the accordion]. You can stream **Weird: The Al Yankovic Story** after creating a free account on the Roku Channel <https://therokuchannel.roku.com/>



"Weird Al" Yankovic (left), who also appears in the film, is portrayed by Daniel Radcliffe (right).



# ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

## 2023 IN-PERSON & ONLINE EVENTS

**Monthly: 1st & 3rd Monday - Joseph Natoli** (Virtual)  
JANPress University - Topics vary monthly (\$) [janpressmusic@yahoo.com](mailto:janpressmusic@yahoo.com)

**Monthly: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30-6:30 PM** (Virtual, Free)  
Hosted by Laura Niland [LauraJNiland@outlook.com](mailto:LauraJNiland@outlook.com)

**Monthly: 3rd Sunday - Gordon Kohl Workshop** (Virtual)  
Topics vary (\$) [gkohl5890@gmail.com](mailto:gkohl5890@gmail.com)

**July 12-16 American Accordion Association Festival**  
Conshohocken, PA <http://www.ameraccord.com/>

**July 19-22 Accordionists & Teachers Guild  
International Festival** Lisle, IL (Chicago)  
<https://www.atgaccordions.com/>

**July 28-30 Accordion Seminars:**  
In the Shadow - In The .....!! – Virtual (On-line)  
[accordionbill@gmail.com](mailto:accordionbill@gmail.com)

**August 19-20 Cotati Accordion Festival**  
La Plaza Park, Cotati, CA [www.cotatifest.com](http://www.cotatifest.com)



## Friends of SFAC— Accordion Groups/Clubs

*Some clubs are on hiatus or meeting virtually (online) only. Check each club's website and/or club contacts to verify meeting schedules*

**Accordion Club of the Redwoods**<sup>1</sup> (Santa Rosa)  
Meetings 3rd Wednesdays—Cibo Rustico Pizzeria  
(707) 318-0474, [dcdacapo@gmail.com](mailto:dcdacapo@gmail.com)

**Accordion Lovers Society International (ALSI)**<sup>3</sup>  
2nd Sundays—Mt. Miguel Covenant Village  
Spring Valley, CA  
[gkohl5890@gmail.com](mailto:gkohl5890@gmail.com) (619) 427-4344

**Accordionaires of Los Angeles**  
Online 4th Sundays<sup>3</sup> - Meetings 3rd Tuesdays<sup>1</sup>  
Victorio's Ristorante, North Hollywood, CA  
[dnorferi@aol.com](mailto:dnorferi@aol.com) or "Accordionaires" on Facebook

**Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)**<sup>1</sup>  
2nd Saturdays—Roseville, CA  
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection  
[cvalashan@aol.com](mailto:cvalashan@aol.com) (610) 209-4496

**San Antonio Accordion Society**<sup>2</sup>  
2nd Tuesdays online - Meetings on last Tuesdays  
Chester's Hamburgers, San Antonio, TX  
[LauraJNiland@outlook.com](mailto:LauraJNiland@outlook.com)

**Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)**<sup>1</sup>  
1st Sundays, online (in person schedule TBD)  
Christ Episcopal Church, Los Altos, CA (pending)  
[www.svasociety.org](http://www.svasociety.org)

<sup>1</sup> In person meeting only

<sup>2</sup> mixed: in-person and ZOOM meeting

<sup>3</sup> ZOOM only meeting

## Announcing Los Angeles Accordionaires Pops Orchestra Concert Dates



**Sunday, July 30th, 2023, 2:00 pm**  
Swiss Fair at Swiss Park 1905 Workman Mill Road,  
Whittier, CA 90601

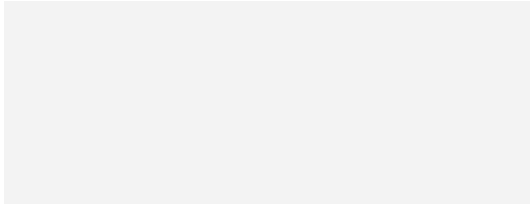
**Sunday, October 29th, 2023.** ( 2:00 pm ) Good Shepherd Church 380 North Fairview Ave., Goleta, CA 93117

**Tuesday, November 14th, 2023, 7:00 pm**  
Victorio's Ristorante 10901 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606



c/o 10233 Bay Avenue  
Englewood, FL 34224  
[www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**



**Upcoming Events:** SFAC Picnic (July 30), Cotati Accordion Festival (August 19-20)

**SFAC Members' Picnic!**  
**Picnic in the Park**  
**Beresford Park — San Mateo, CA**  
**Sunday, July 30, 2023**

RSVP for details [info@sfaccordionclub.com](mailto:info@sfaccordionclub.com)



This gathering will be in lieu of our monthly program at the Chetcuti Center.

