

June, 2017

June meeting of the SFAC

Sunday, June 18 (Father's Day)

Chetcuti Community Room, Millbrae, CA

2:00 pm—4:00 pm

"Accordion Circle" opportunities to perform

Please join us for the SFAC **Accordion Circle** meeting at the Chetcuti venue this month.

We will have a classic member centered meeting this month. We will start out with the jam band, and while we are at it, you will have a chance to ask questions and try some of the fills that Jana Maas introduced in her April workshop. (See Bionda on pages 5-7)

We all know that having a plan to perform is what gets us all practicing. We would like to have as many people as possible play a tune for us at the upcoming meeting. Start working on that piece you have been meaning to polish up, and share it with your accordion friends! No one expects perfection—we are a friendly and accepting group! We will start with one tune from each person, and then if we have time, come back for another one. Duets and trios also welcomed!

May Meeting Review

By Ken Schwartz

Those who attended our May 21 meeting enjoyed terrific accordion performances, singing, refreshments, and our new Chetcuti venue.

Lynn Ewing emceed and welcomed our performers, members and guests. She acknowledged many thanks to those whose time and creativity made this event possible including Ron Harris (cookies); Rosemary Busher (cheese and crackers); Starbucks (coffee); and Paul Cain (sound system).



Long-time SFAC member **George Chavez** opened the 1st half



with a series of fun medleys, including *Mexico*, *Giulietti Polka* (from Peter DiBono), *Yellowbird* (1958, made famous by Lawrence Welk); *Bella Bionda*, *Little Man Blue* (1958, made famous by singer Betty Johnson); and *Waltz for April* (Joe Smiell). Many thanks, George!



Rounding out the first half, we welcomed **Big Lou and Friends**. SFAC founding member Big Lou, on the accordion, was accompanied by **Kit Robberson**, playing the 7-stringed



viola da gamba, and **Dave Golia** (aka Lou's husband) on the guitar. The group entertained with a selection of tunes featuring their unique sounds of all 3 instruments, including the famous *El Choclo Tango*, *Fascination*

Waltz, the elegant *Petite Fleur*, lovely renditions of *Valse Hindoue* and *Amarcord*, and lastly *Valentine*, a polka Lou first heard while visiting a Native American tribe in Arizona. Thank you, all! By the way, many of you may be aware that Lou is the moving force behind the annual *Lady of Spain* jam at Cotati! She and her colleagues are also interested in performing for local retirement communities and other local venues.

Our Featured Performer, **Steve Albini**, is one of those rare multi-talented performers who soars equally well on the accordion as with vocals, English or Italian. Steve was accompanied by surprise guests, including talented singer, **Carlo Sullivan**,



♪♪ May Meeting Review ♪♪ (continued)

and Steve's talented young son, **Giovanni**. And, what great performances they were!

Steve opened the performance with his new acoustic Ottavianelli Super Jazz model accordion, a small lightweight from Castelfidardo, Italy, which he just acquired in March of this year. For "warmup," he performed a technically challenging Mazurka, followed by his hyper-energetic combined accordion/Italian vocal of *Guarda Che Luna*.

Giovanni is taking saxophone lessons and played for the first time in public only earlier in the week, so Steve invited him to also perform today. Giovanni opened with the melodic *Blue Bossa* on the saxophone, accompanied by his father's Roland with its various accompanying rhythms. Giovanni then smoothly performed *Angel Eyes*, accompanied by Steve on the Roland and Carlo's vocal rendition. Giovanni's inherited musical talents were abundantly evident; the next generation performing for only the 2nd time in public! Giovanni is continuing his saxophone studies and has now also just started learning the accordion on an Ottavianelli student model. We can't wait for his future appearances on the accordion!



Steve is a Roland V-Accordion® artist and for the next part of the performance, he switched to the Roland FR-4X, 37/120, which has all the sounds of the flagship FR-VX, but weighs only a bit less than 18 pounds, so it's become a favorite. It has a USB port, so multiple orchestral parts can be stored and simultaneously performed, e.g., drums and cymbals.



Steve and Carlo then performed a stunning *Theme from the Godfather*, accompanied by vocals – first Carlo in English, then Steve in Italian, and then the two singing a powerful dueling vocal duet in Italian, while Steve played various orchestral parts on the Roland! They received the first of several standing ovations.

Steve's and Carlo's program kept on getting better and better with solos and perfect harmonies in English and Italian with *Quando, Quando, Quando*, and a blockbuster rendition of *Time to Say Goodbye*. They followed with an energetic pop/swing duet of *The Way You Look Tonight*. They followed with the well

-known Neopolitan song *Guaglione* and *Al Di La*, again on the accordion and solo/duet vocals. The professional chemistry between Steve, Carlo and Giovanni was evident with perfect coordination of accordion, saxophone, vocal solos and duets.

Completing the afternoon, Steve and Carlo stayed for the jam band and accompanied them with great vocals. Again, simply thrilling!



By the way, Steve plays regularly on Tuesday evenings at the beautiful setting of the Francis Ford Coppola Winery in Geyserville and special occasions for the director as well. He is a Roland V-Accordion® artist and the Roland U.S. V-Accordion® Product Manager.



Lynn closed the meeting noting "Who would not enjoy this on a Sunday afternoon! Everyone – Let's get more people here for July." Well-known accordionist **Alicia Baker** will be coming from Seattle for our **July** meeting; also appearing will be Tom **Torriglia**, as well as **Adam Dohner** and his violinist sister, so we're going to have extra special entertainment at our July 16 meeting! And don't forget to bring your accordion and/or your singing voice to participate in the June 18 **Accordion Circle!**

MY TIME AT A WORLD OF ACCORDIONS MUSEUM

Steve Marshall – SFAC Member

Like many amateur accordion players, I have more than enough of my time taken up by attempting to learn how to play the instrument well. I was content with allowing the interior workings of the instrument to remain an utter mystery. Whenever my accordion was not in perfect condition, I immediately headed for a local repair technician. Through some strange alchemy, my accordion would come back to me as good as new, for a fee.

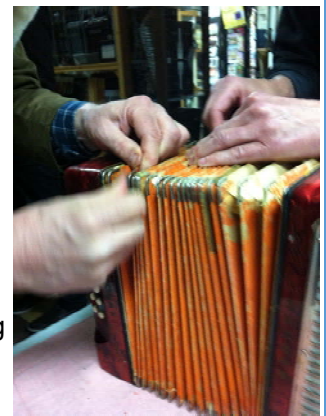
For years I was happy with this arrangement, until a strap on my backpack style case came loose, causing my accordion to fall off of my back and onto the pavement in front of my home! When I brought it to George Bachich for repairs, he made me change a few leather reed valves. From that time on, I developed an interest in the inner workings of the instrument. I bought some supplies and began changing reed leathers and doing other minor repairs.



A few weeks ago, a fellow squeezer told me about a repair course. This May, I made a trip to Superior, Wisconsin and visited *A World of Accordions Museum*. I attended a three-day "Introduction to Accordion Repairs" seminar, presented by Dr. Helmi Harrington. First of all, the museum is amazing. There are about 1300 accordions and pre-accordion instruments on display, and another 700 or so occupying virtually every room and closet of the church purchased by Dr. Harrington approximately 15 years ago. I was like the proverbial kid in the candy store when she invited me to disregard the ever-present DO NOT TOUCH signs and play any accordions in the building!



The class was incredible. Dr. Harrington led us on an information-packed, guided tour of the inner workings of an accordion. Fortunately, for my class, the museum was hosting a concert the weekend after my class, featuring Michael Bridge, the well known accordionist from Canada. It was wonderful to have several accordions demonstrated by a world class professional player. His perfect pitch came in handy when we were tuning reeds!! I also had the pleasure of taking a private lesson from Michael. One hour with him left me with plenty to think about, and plenty to practice!



If any accordion players or fans are looking for a place to visit, I highly recommend the *World of Accordions Museum*. I learned a tremendous amount and saw a new accordion every time I walked down an aisle. The repair course was also well worthwhile. Although I am certainly not a master technician, I am now familiar with the basic layout of most accordions, and confident enough to handle a number of minor repair and maintenance issues.



GUESS WHO?

This bay area native is an SFAC member now, but at the time this picture was taken (1969) she was a student of Sam Tottaro. She's a frequent monthly meeting attendee who you just might recognize. (Answer on page 11)



DISCOUNT COTATI TICKETS

Advance Purchase Only!

\$15 for 1-day tickets (\$19 at the gate)

\$25 for 2-day tickets (\$29 at the gate)

Available **ONLY** in person at the SFAC musical programs of **June 18th and July 16th**. Here is a great opportunity to save some money and increase the public presence of the SFAC at this great accordion event! Thanks to Scott Goree, Linda Connor and the hard-working staff at the Cotati Festival for extending this offer to our members. Please do take advantage of it!



This beautifully framed picture of the SF Accordion Club c.2000 is from the estate of Frank Schlotter and will be available for a donation to the club.

Please contact Lynn Ewing (ewinglynn@gmail.com) or 650-867-2633 if interested.

We thought our members would like to hear the story of a Firefighter who went above and beyond the call of duty in his public service. Captain of Fire in Oakland, Rich Chew, responded to a call for help from Frank Schlotter after a fall. Noticing the cluttered living room, he asked Frank's wife Judy what their plans were to clear out the living room due to it being a fire hazard. She said they had nobody to help them, so he went back the following day and ended up helping for the better part of a year, doing basically home repairs, housekeeping and computer assistance. After Judy's passing and Frank's hospitalization, Rich moved up to paying bills, carrying out Frank's wishes for distribution of property, and so on. One of those wishes was that Frank's accordions, music and memorabilia be donated to the San Francisco Accordion Club. Rick delivered 4 accordions, a beautiful SFAC photograph (above) and sheet music to us. We are thankful that Rick is such a caring individual and was so helpful to Frank.

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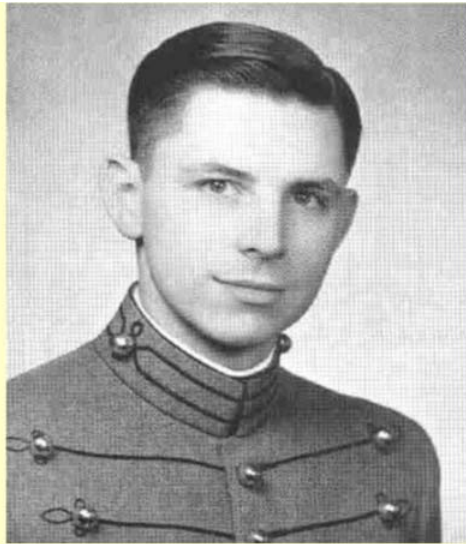
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Our Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to the Club. With each new membership year (Oct. 1-Sept. 30) we start a cumulative list of donors. If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact Elaine (elainec@sbcglobal.net or 510-921-9323) and let her know. We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized. We gratefully acknowledge donations from: Chris & Tor Arild, Evelyn Baulch, Karol Blackaby, Ron Borelli, David Braun, Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Bruno, Gail Campanella, Xavier de la Prade, William Demichelis, Lynn & Gail Ewing, John Fiore, Marja Gullmes, Bruce Kirschner, Franco Lucchesi, Mr. Mike Marotta, James & Lee Ann Monfredini, Anna Nicora, Kenneth Nimmo, Gisele Oakes, Paul Pasquali, Douglas & Kay Patterson, Joseph Petosa, Diana & Bruce Prurucker, Vinny Rinaldi, Alexander Roitman, Ed Salvador, Don & Mary Savant, Leslie Selfridge, Hilbert & Hilde Werner, Barbara Winter, & Mike Zampiceni.

Thank you, all!

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: eclecticguy@comcast.net, 408-569-2579



Frank Schlotter

[28 DEC 1933 - L2 - 20581 - 11 APR 2017]

On April 11, 2017 the San Francisco Accordion Club suffered the passing of a staunch friend and supporter of many years: Frank Schlotter. Frank, a former member of our Board of Directors, was unceasingly devoted to this Club.

In recent years age and infirmity kept him from joining us regularly, as we know he wished to do. In prior years he helped with an array of activities from conducting raffles to managing the former SFAC "Fun Band." This Club was remembered by him through a deeply appreciated bequest of four accordions, all of which appear to be in fine shape.

Frank was born in Iowa in 1933. He was a graduate of West Point, class of 1955, and was commissioned from it with the rank of 2nd lieutenant in the infantry. Frank advanced in the service, retiring from the army as a Colonel. He served America in Korea and Vietnam and received multiple decorations, including the bronze star, attesting to his valor.

Frank's wife, Judy, passed in 2016. They had one child, who predeceased them, and an adopted grandchild.

Frank loved the accordion. One way he demonstrated that love was through his ongoing involvement, participation and support for this Club.

He is to be interred at Arlington.

Frank will be missed by all who knew him.

A Little Something Extra ...

Lynn Ewing expands upon Jana Maas's April workshop handout, with examples from Jana's arrangement of "Bionda" (see pages 6-7):

Jana's material states: *When playing solos, use some of these suggestions to manipulate melody, especially when repeating the song. Also, these embellishments can be used when playing second accordion, insert fills when first part is sustaining long tones:*

- 1) *Chromatic patterns extracted from the chord*
- 2) *Arpeggiated chords in ascending and descending patterns*
- 3) *Grace notes, triplets and turns*
- 4) *Add sixths and thirds for harmony or break into eighths for fills*
- 5) *Tex-Mex fills*
- 6) *V7 chord-Arpeggiate only the 1, 3, and 7 scale degrees of the V7 chord*
- 7) *I chord-Play half step below the 3rd and 5th resolving quickly to the 3rd and 5th*

Lynn adds: When adding fills and embellishments, the first thing you must know is what chord you are in. Most of the time it is quite easy to tell this from your bass chords. Once you are solid on the three notes in these 3 major chords, G Major, D major and C major, the individual notes can be in any order.

Here's how the fills/embellishments are used in the top staff of Bionda on pages 6-7:

Measures 3&4, use Jana's embellishment #4, harmony notes from the G major chord (G,B,D).

Measure 8, you are playing D chords in the bass. This is an example of #2, an arpeggiated ascending D chord. (D, F#,A).

Measure 12, also an arpeggiated D chord, and in measure 16, a descending G arpeggio.

Measure 20 is an example of #3, a triplet turn on G, and in measure 25, a series of triplets in D.

Measure 28 shows #1-chromatic pattern extracted from the chord D.

Measure 31 is a couple of notes from the G Major chord. Measures 33 & 34, 37 and 38 are just triplet grace notes done after the 3rd beat to lead into the G chords.

Measure 43 is a combination, and measures 45, 46, & 47 are just C arpeggios (C,E,G) and 49, 50& 51 are G arpeggios. The piece finishes with a G scale.

Pick out a couple of these fills that you like, and that make sense to you, and try putting them in other songs you play that have long held notes or repeated notes.

Voila! You are improvising!

BIONDA

The musical score for "Bionda" is written for an accordion in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score is divided into four systems, each with a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system (measures 1-7) includes a treble staff with rests and a bass staff with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Chords are marked with 'M' (Major) and a '7' (Dominant Seventh). The second system (measures 8-14) features a more active treble staff with eighth-note patterns and a bass staff with sustained chords. The third system (measures 15-21) shows a treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes and a bass staff with chords marked 'M'. The fourth system (measures 22-28) includes a treble staff with triplets and a bass staff with chords marked 'M'. The score concludes with a final treble staff measure containing a triplet and a bass staff with a final chord.

"Bionda"

Accordion

2 35

Musical notation for measures 35-41. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). Measure 35 features a treble clef staff with a triplet of eighth notes and a bass clef staff with a 7th fret marking. Measures 36-41 show a steady bass line with 7th fret markings and chords in the treble staff.

42

Musical notation for measures 42-47. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a grand staff. Measure 42 features a treble clef staff with a triplet of eighth notes and a bass clef staff with a 7th fret marking. Measures 43-47 show a steady bass line with 7th fret markings and chords in the treble staff.

48

Musical notation for measures 48-51. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a grand staff. Measure 48 features a treble clef staff with a triplet of eighth notes and a bass clef staff with a 7th fret marking. Measures 49-51 show a steady bass line with 7th fret markings and chords in the treble staff.

52

Musical notation for measures 52-55. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a grand staff. Measure 52 features a treble clef staff with a triplet of eighth notes and a bass clef staff with a 7th fret marking. Measures 53-55 show a steady bass line with 7th fret markings and chords in the treble staff. The piece concludes with a final chord in measure 55.

"Blonda"

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www.accordioncelebration.org

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www.ameraccord.com/festival.html

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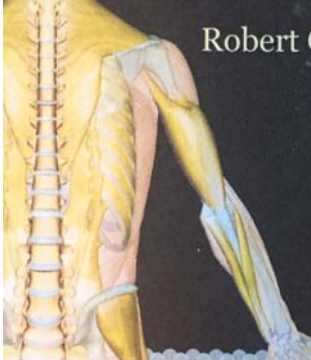
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Contact: Tony Mustaro, President (707) 318-0474
dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com
Contact: Jean Stevens, President (916) 872-8081
accordionriffs@gmail.com

Vacaville Chapter

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

Humboldt Chapter

3rd Tuesday at 7pm.
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 1pm. Harry's Hofbrau,
390 Saratoga Avenue (corner of Kiely), San Jose
www.svasociety.org
\$5 for adults, no charge under 16

PLAY WITH THE JAM BAND

Bring your accordion, other acoustic instrument, or your singing voice, and join the traditional jam session held during our 3rd-Sundays music program.

Our informal jam band is open to everyone, regardless of experience. Learn new riffs, make new accordion friends and have **WAY TOO MUCH FUN!**

On the Move ...

Two of our long term members have moved recently: Mary Alice Eldon and Frank Montoro. If you would like to contact them, or you would like to play for Frank, please call or email Lynn Ewing 650-867-2633, ewinglynn@gmail.com

Performing Around the Bay

RON BORELLI *San Mateo* - RonBorelli@aol.com
www.ronborelli.com

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PETER DI BONO *San Francisco* www.peterdibono.com

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www.italianaccordion.com

WILLIAM DE MICHELIS *South Bay*
accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net

JOE DOMITROWICH *South Bay* www.alpinersusa.com
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Newsletter Layout, Content Coordinator

(Positions open, volunteers needed!)

Scholarship

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Guess Who? Answer (from page 3)

Colette Ogata!



Two years ago Colette visited Castelfidardo, Italy where she toured both Petosa and Borsini accordion factories with her husband, and they had the time of their lives! She works as a Kaiser Health Care Spanish Interpreter and is very happy with her career choice of 25 years. When she isn't working she can be found counting frogs in Costa Rica, hiking and being outdoors, having accordion picnics and parties and attending accordion conventions

and festivals. She has been a Lou Jacklich student for many years. Be sure to say hi to her the next time you see her at the monthly meeting.

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SFAC Accordion Circle

Sunday, June 18, 2017

Jam Band & Open Stage for attendees

\$5 donation

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Joe Domitrowich:

June 11, 1-4PM, Ludwig's German Table Beer Garden: This event is the First Anniversary celebration of Ludwig's Restaurant operating out of the Hochburg von Germania building at 261 N. Second St., San Jose. This new and popular locale features modern German cuisine and has been attracting lots of clientele of all ages - both German Americans and others - who want to experience the foods and atmosphere of a first rate German restaurant. Seating is characteristic German open seating, and, for this event, they are not taking reservations. So, if your group is large, plan to come early. There is ample parking in the lot at Devine and Second Streets. Visit <https://www.ludwigssj.com/> for more information.

AlpinersUSA:

June 25, 1-4PM, Salinas Elks Sommerfest: AlpinersUSA play from 1-4PM at this event which opens at 12:30 with dinner at 1:30. Admission \$20 includes dinner and dancing. Come in your favorite German attire. German draft beer only \$3 a glass. Address: 614 Airport Blvd, Salinas. Call the lodge at 831-424-8039 for reservations.



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“Summer Fest”

Lander

Dress in your favorite German attire and,
Dance to the music of...



The Alpiners, USA

Featuring: Joe Domitrowich

Sunday, June 25, 2017

Schunkeln

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Where: | 614 Airport Blvd. Salinas |
| 12:30pm: | Table Seating |
| 1:00pm: | Music begins |
| 1:30pm: | Dinner Served |
| 4:00pm: | Auf Wiedersehen |



Menu

Traditional German Food

Complimentary Pretzels, Hot & Cold Beverage Station
German Draft Beer \$3.00

Schuhplattler

\$20 per Person

Zwiefacher

Call the Lodge office at 831-424-8039 for PAID Reservations
(Open to Elks & Guests)

