



ACCORDION CLUB

May 2008

Official Instrument of San Francisco
1912 ♪ *The World's First Accordion Club* ♪ 2008



May 18, 2008 MUSIC:



Frank Montoro, Our President!
Reno Di Bono Trio
AbsolutAccord Precision 5-member Ensemble

President's Message

It was April 1990. Five men stood in front of the San Francisco City Hall talking about the Board of Supervisors meeting they had just attended. What interested them was the agenda item about what musical instrument should be named as the Official Instrument of the City of San Francisco. The mayor favored the violin but there was opposition to his position. Some wanted to name the accordion as the Official Instrument because of the history of North Beach and the Italian pioneers who had made San Francisco the accordion center of the West.

The men, all accordionists, thought about the discussion when one of them, **Rusty Bartoli**, suggested that they form an accordion club. **Dominic Palmisano**, **Walter Traverso**, **Jim Holliday** and the late **Lou Soper** agreed with great enthusiasm. They called the other accordionists they knew, and on May 7, 1990 the group met at Woodlake Joe's in San Mateo to form what was to be called (at that time) the **Bay Area Accordion Club**.

The first edition of the newsletter, *The BAAC Page*, announced the formation of the club with the greeting, "We're BAAC." We are told that the original accordion club was formed

in 1912 but eventually disbanded. So it was correct that we were back ("BAAC").

Eighteen years later, we are still here and doing very well. As stated in our By-Laws, "The purpose of this club shall be to enhance, promote and stimulate an appreciation of the accordion within the membership and to the general public." A stack of newsletter reviews the activities over these many years, giving meaning to those words. Countless numbers of our local musicians have shared their talents with us and, moreover, we have heard the finest accordionists from around the country and the world who continue to inspire and encourage us by playing for us at our monthly meetings. We are richer for the experience.

But what happened to the supervisors' discussion regarding the Official Instrument of San Francisco? Thanks to the diligent work of Tom Torriglia who dug into the files of one of the supervisors, he found the paper work which was full of whereas's and the words: RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors hereby memorializes the Mayor to proclaim that the piano accordion is the Official Instrument of the City. Well done Rusty, Dominic, Walter, Jim, and Lou. You started it all.

Frank Montoro

Directions to Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd., South San Francisco
From 101 traveling either north or south, take Oyster Point exit. Turn right on Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right on Gull Drive, just before Marina Blvd.!). Continue past gate house to sign "Oyster Point Yacht Club." There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

Our Website www.sfaccordionclub.com is now up and running!
Our thanks to Lynn Ewing's son Todd who is our Webmaster!

April Music and a Record Crowd!

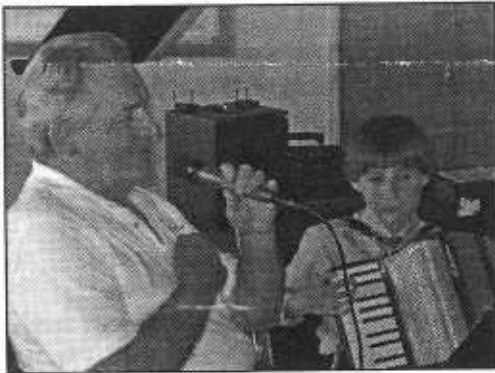
This musical afternoon saw a standing-room-only crowd! WOW!

In the anteroom **Walter Traverso** put on display all his accordion memorabilia and invited club members to help themselves: tons of great music, both books and sheet music, figurines and all kinds of accordion novelty items. He set out a basket for donations to the club for those who took any items and wished to make a donation. Several people made generous donations, for which we thank them heartily. And of course, we thank Walter for his extreme generosity.

Thanks also to **Jim Firpo** for playing some pre-meeting music.

The President, Frank Montoro, made a special welcome to **Vince Cirelli**, who was present for the first time since he shattered his leg several months ago; and also **Bob Souza**.

Our MC, **Lore Warren** introduced the **Diaz Family**, **Adonis** (11) and **Brandon** (9), both of whom were presented with scholarships to continue their accordion lessons with **Peter Di Bono**. Brandon entertained us beautifully with *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* and *This Old Man* (which has another name but I didn't get it).



Peter Di Bono and Brandon Diaz

This is a fine family with two very talented young men who are on their way to becoming proficient players. Congratulations, Brandon and Adonis!

A scholarship was also given to **Caroline Grannan**,

also a student of Peter's, although she was not present to receive it.

Lore then announced our club picnic, which will take place on our regular meeting day, July 20, from 11:00 until 4:00. See page 4.



Ellen Karel

The next player was **Ellen Karel** from the North Bay. This delightful lady played two French *Javas* and a well-known and beautiful French piece called *Milord*. Ellen played with sensitivity and expres-

sion, and I (and the audience) enjoyed it very much.

Whenever the **Marotta Family Ensemble** plays, you can always expect a record crowd, and this was no exception. Mike Marotta Sr. and Mike Marotta Jr., Dave Dally on violin, and Joe the drummer (sorry I missed his last name) put on another unforgettable performance.



The Marotta Group: Mike Sr., Joe the Drummer, Mike Jr. and Dave Dally

The first piece was Mexican, with a name that Mike Sr. said he couldn't pronounce; then the familiar

Hungarian Dance #5; *Twilight Time*, then *El Choclo* (*Kiss of Fire*) together with *Chitarra Romana* as a terrific tango medley. They moved on to France with a medley of *Indifférence* and *Domino*, followed by an Aznavour piece, *She*. And on to some Latin rhythms with *España Cañí* and *Tico-Tico*. Back to France with a medley of *Hymne à l'Amour* (*If you Love Me*) and *La Vie en Rose* and WOW! Was it beautiful! The *Sabre Dance* was difficult and very well done. Then it was back to France once again with *Les Feuilles Mortes* (*Autumn Leaves*), and they ended with *Carioca* and with the audience drooling for more. This group is absolutely terrific, and we thank them heartily for coming all the way from Monterey to entertain us.

After the break, featuring Tutti's fabulous buffet, the **San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE)** was

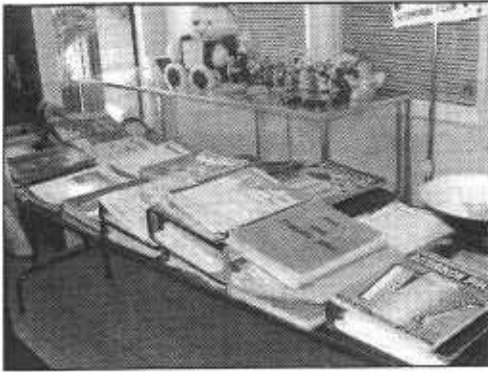


The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble

up on stage. The big problem, leaving a hole in the music, was that Yours Truly accidentally left her music at home! *Disaster!* But the others played on valiantly and did a great job. We played *Light Cavalry Overture* (von Suppé); *Il Bersaglieri* (Italian march); *Жок* (Moldovan Folk Dance; pronounced "Zhok"); *New York, New York*; *Pas des Fleurs* (Ballet by Delibes; and a Russian Dance.

Don't miss the May 18 program, featuring our President, **Frank Montoro**, the ever-popular **Reno Di Bono Trio**, and the very precision five-member ensemble led by **Richard Yaus**, **AbolutAccord**. Val

P.S. Sorry we were unable to send out postcards this month!



Just a few of the many, many items offered to club members by Walter Traverso



MC Lore Warren



Scholarships for Adonis and Brandon Diaz



Vince Cirelli and Skyler Fell



Mike Marotta Sr.



Vince Cirelli with four of the "Accordion Magic Five" from Sacramento: Dave, Vince, Jim, Roger



The proud Diaz Family



Anne & Bernard Métais (right) and friends M. et Mme Jean de Cotigny



Some lively music with Lou Di Maggio

Don't forget the SFAC Picnic !!!

Sunday, July 20, Oyster Point Yacht Club, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Bring your accordion, lawn chairs, ice chests and beverages. Jam and stroll, walk the beautiful paths of the Oyster Point Marina (see map below)

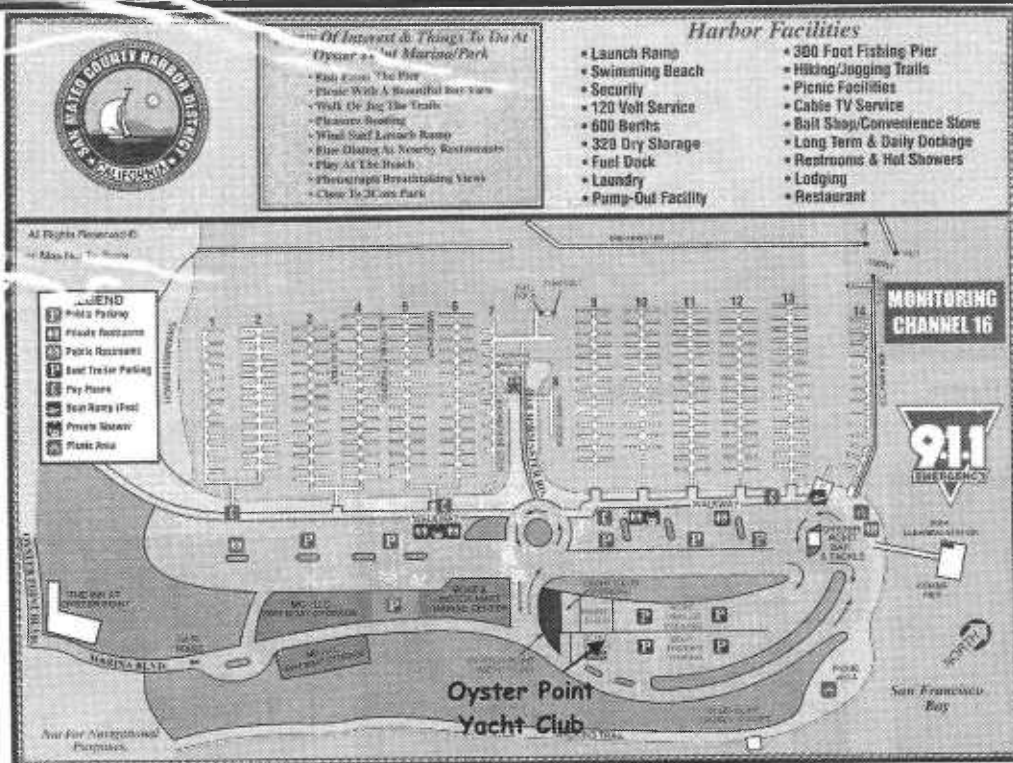
A terrific picnic lunch of barbecued chicken and salads, desserts and other goodies will be provided, prepared by our wonderful cateress, Tutti.

Price \$10 per person; kids under 12 free. Mail in form below.

The bar will open at 2:00 and we'll have Open Mike and some surprise entertainment

Reservations and advance payment a must!

Absolute deadline: Wednesday, July 16!!!



S.F.A.C. Picnic 2008 Reservation Form

Please fill out form and submit with check for \$10 per adult

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE for receiving check and reservations is **WEDNESDAY, JULY 16!!**

Name _____

Number of Adults (over 12 years) _____ @ \$10 Phone (____) _____

Make checks payable to S.F.A.C. and mail to Valerie Kieser, 3437 Crane Way, Oakland, CA 94602.
 Questions? Call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net.

Pick up your ticket(s) at the Welcome Table at the picnic!

Very sad news . . .

I am extremely sad to report the passing of longtime member and ardent club supporter and valuable member of the "Fun Band," **Lee Woodall**, on April 29. I've known Lee since I first joined the club in 1992, have played with her at picnics, in the Fun Band and other places. Lee, along with Mary-Alice Eldon and myself, were the humble beginnings of what is now the S.F. Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE). Lee will be sorely missed. We extend our sincerest condolences to Walt and the family.

And still another passing: the mother of **Bob Berta** on April 25. Bob came out from Michigan for the service and borrowed one of my accordions so that he could play *The Lost Chord* at the service. Our sympathy goes out to you too, Bob.

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The 19th Annual **Galla-Rini Accordion Camp** *Joe Smiell, Director and Conductor*

Come to Dominican College in San Rafael, California, just over the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco at the end of July to continue the tradition which Maestro Galla-Rini began and Maestro Joe Smiell is carrying on.

**July 27 to August 1,
2008**

You will make beautiful orchestral music in a beautiful setting, will enjoy a variety of workshops, will make new friends and renew old friendships, will come away with tailored to individual skill levels.

All-inclusive fees for the five nights are: \$660 double occupancy (\$440 for non-playing spouse), \$100 supplement for single occupancy. A deposit is due at registration. A discount is available for early registration.

Let us send you more details and a registration form. Contact Marian Kelly at 650 854-1896 or Kelly.marian@gmail.com

Presented by: The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble Association, a nonprofit corporation

What Else Is Going On?

Joe Domitrowich & Alpiners USA at Slovenian Hall, May 17, 2008. Wonderful home-cooked dinner and old-time polka music. alpiners@alpinersusa.com or (408) 255-1259

35th Annual Old Time Accordion Competitions, Kimberley, B.C. July 7-12, 2008. 1-888-4KIOTAC or info@kiotac.ca

Eighteenth Annual Cotati Accordion Festival Aug. 23 & 24, 2008; info@cotatifest.com; (707) 664-0444

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention Sept. 29-Oct. 2 Flyer enclosed (within US)

Welcome New Members

Randy Hicks of Castro Valley, an accomplished musician who is now studying accordion with Lou Jacklich

Fanny Nudo of Oakland, friend of Randy Hicks who already plays accordion

David Perry of Hayward who plays piano accordion and enjoys all types of music

Here's a hearty WELCOME to Randy, Fanny and David

If you are a new member and I overlooked you, please let me (Val) know so that we can give you a special welcome too! vtkacc@ifn.net or (510) 531-4836



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When Do Our Fellow Accordion Clubs in the Bay Area (and slightly beyond) Meet?

Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR) regularly meets on the third Monday of the month, Hermann & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Contact: Kris Nelson krisnelson@aol.com or (707) 765-1200

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) meets on the first Sunday of the month, 1:30 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue between Keily Blvd. and Stevens Creek Blvd. Contact: Bill Topogna (408) 984-5290.

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC) has three chapters: The Vacaville club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30, at Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main street, Vacaville. The Humboldt Club meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551. The Sacramento group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. Contact for all the GSAC Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359.

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC) meets on the second Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m. in the Music Auditorium, Escalon High School, Escalon (just east of the Community Center). Contact: (209) 545-3603.

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



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"Where is my friend playing?" Contact:

- * Steve Balich North Bay (707) 874-3494 * Ron Borelli Peninsula (650) 574-5707 rborelli@aol.com
- * Richard Denier in Carmel rdenier@sbcglobal.net * Peter Di Bono San Francisco peterdsf@gmail.com
- * Reno Di Bono South Bay ourhike@aol.com * William De Michelis South Bay wdd777@comcast.net
- * Joe Domitrowich South Bay www.capricious-accordion.com or www.alpinersusa.com * Don Nurisso nurisso@mindspring.com
- * Mike Zampiceni South Bay eclecticguy@comcast.net * Renée de la Prade Culann's Hounds, San Francisco www.sfhounds.com *
- * Zighi Baci San Francisco (Sheri Mignano) www.zighibaci.com or e-mail zighi@sonic.net

SF Accordion Band Practice

Wed., May 14 and 28, 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's Home in Oakland
CALL AHEAD!! Please join us!
 Info: call Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163
 or Val (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net

Our Sincere Thanks

To those who generously donate to the Club.

Each year we start a new cumulative list of donors. If you donate and your name doesn't show up in this column, please call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net and let me know. We want to be sure you are recognized! Thanks! These donations are very much appreciated. So far this year your Editor has learned of donations from

Ray Abinanti, Leo Aquino, Thelma Bartoli (mem. Lou Soper), Lawrence Caserza, Peter Di Bono, Lynn Ewing, John Gullmes, Don Haga (mem. Lou Soper), Sue & Mike Hirigoyen, Val Kieser (mem. Lou Soper), Bruce Kirschner, Carley Koliha, Gwyn Lister (2), Herb Meier, James Monfredini, Frank Montoro, Sundi O'Mara, Vincent Rinaldi, Amil Samayoa (mem. Lou Soper), Michael Sanossian, Paul Thiel, Louis Traverso, Lore Warren (mem. Kevin McCarthy); Scott Williamson, Lee & Walt Woodall, Richard Yaus, Mark Zhagel (3)—and unnamed people who made cash donations at the April meeting

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 \$10 for each guest

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SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy
 Members may place one small ad for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$6.00 per issue. A business-card-size ad costs \$6 per issue or \$60 per year for members; a quarter-page ad costs \$15.00 for members; a half-page ad costs \$25 for members. A full-page ad costs \$50.00 for members. Discount available for ongoing ads. Ads placed by non-members will cost twice the above-quoted prices. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.



NEXT MEETING:
2:00 p.m. SUNDAY, May 18, 2008
(Directions on page 1)



Newsletter of the
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