



# the San Francisco Accordion Club NEWSLETTER

MAY • 2011

The World's First  
Accordion Club  
Since 1912

**NEXT MEETING May 15**

## Playing for us in May . . .

**The Reno Di Bono Trio** (*see right*)  
**Reno** playing Accordion, **Brent Mc Henry**  
on Drums, and **Dave Kawamoto** on Sax and  
Clarinet. The Di Bono Trio has 30 years+  
experience as a group playing jazz, swing  
and Italian style music.

Reno's specialty is Italian music and he has  
over 30 Italian songs in Sicilian, Neapolitan  
or Piedmontese dialects in his repertoire. He  
has played at Italian weddings, anniversaries,  
birthdays and a few funerals.

Reno has produced two CDs: *Songs of My  
Father*, Italian cd and *The Jazz Accordion*.  
*The Jazz Accordion* will be sold on May  
15<sup>th</sup> for \$5.00 each. All proceeds of the sale  
will go to the San Francisco Accordion club.



## *also playing at our meeting will be . . .*

**Frank Lima, the Great Morgani** (*photo at left*),  
**Don Savant** (*photo below*) and **Mike Zampiceni**  
(*photo next page*) *article continued >*



*Don Savant, playing music with others at Red Wall  
Cavern, Grand Canyon*

**Coming in June...an Accordion  
Phenomenon from Italy—  
Vincenzo Abbracciante**

(see pg. 3)

## 2

An Oakland native, **Don Savant** took accordion lessons for two years with a teacher from Menichetti Studio starting at age ten. As a junior in high school he was re-inspired by the younger John Molinari to again pick up the instrument, and purchased his white Giulietti from John Sr. It stayed in the closet most of the time he and his wife, Mary, were raising their four kids and he worked as an engineer in the electronics industry. Now in the 19th year of a second childhood, he “works” as a nature docent, hike leader, for Filoli and Henry Coe State Park, a conservation easement monitor for Peninsula Open Space Trust, and enjoys river kayaking, biking, swimming, hiking, rafting, and playing ukulele. In recent years he discovered the accordion community through a mutual acquaintance of Marian Kelly and now is thoroughly enjoying being tutored by Mike Zampiceni. He likes playing oldies from his parents era, and has played venues including the Filoli ballroom, and Red Wall Cavern at mile 33 of a fifteen-day raft trip through the Grand Canyon (see photo front page).

**Michael Zampiceni’s** father, Joseph Zampiceni, was a noted accordionist, teacher, composer, arranger, and music publisher, so accordions were part of the Zampiceni household from day one. Mike began formal study of the accordion at age 8, and had his first series of paid engagements at the age of 11 when he played for San Jose area parades.

Mike entered San Jose State University as a music major. His performance concentrations were voice, piano, and pipe organ. After graduating with a B.A. in music, Mike took a year off and then worked on his M.A. in music. It was during this time that he was chosen as tenor soloist with the San Jose Symphony in a performance of a Bach cantata.

He has performed in a wide variety of settings, ranging from strolling accordion engagements to wedding and memorial services on church organs, as well as playing with the San Jose Symphony and San Jose Civic Light Opera. His extensive repertoire includes American standards from the 30’s to the 70’s, commercial jazz, and European music.

Mike has recently concluded a long-term en-

gagement of 10 years playing accordion and singing on Saturday nights at Di Cicco’s Restaurant in San Jose, and also had a long-term engagement at A’ Bellagio in downtown Campbell. He is currently performing at Isabella’s on the Monterey wharf on weekends. Mike is available for special engagements, and is now accepting a limited number of students. He can be contacted at [eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net), or at 408-569-2579.



*Mike Zampiceni*

**The Great Morgani** is a one man show. He arrives in costume and, being a self contained acoustic show, requires no special staging, amplification or electricity. His costumes are all hand crafted and cover him from the feet to the top of the head, as well as the accordion itself. He performs on a compact portable stage. The stage is carefully crafted to match the costume and raises him about one and a half feet about the floor...so everyone gets a good view. (*see photo front page*)

For those who have never seen him perform, Frank Lima is amazing and a definite DO NOT MISS performance!

## Coming in JUNE!

**Vincenzo Abbracciante** from Italy.

Vincenzo is a third generation accordion player with mind blowing technique and style like no other. Vincenzo started his career winning the championships playing the standard accordion favorites. Now, he has flown to another level of accordion playing in the jazz world. He is one of those young players that will change the face of the jazz accordion for years to come. He will be playing at the Leavenworth Intl. Accordion Celebration this year. (seepg. 7)

We will need to charge a bit more at the door for this event. At the moment we believe the door fee will be ten dollars, for which you'll receive not only Vincenzo's artistry but also some very special food from Tuti.

*"The fellow who has really impressed me is a young Italian from Puglia: Vincenzo Abbracciante. In every song he has taken me on a journey and touched me."* **Richard Galliano**

You can view several videos of Vincenzo playing on YouTube, by putting in his name into a Google search:



*Vincenzo Abbracciante*

## The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble Association presents **THE GALLARINI ACCORDION CAMP 2011**

**Tuesday, July 5—Saturday, July 9, 2011**

**San Domenico Music Conservatory-San Domenico School,  
1500 Butterfield Road, San Anselmo, CA 94960**

Participants at all levels of competence, from beginning through advanced, will get musical parts and instruction specifically geared to their level.

**Contact: Tor Arild, [tarild@gotsky.com](mailto:tarild@gotsky.com) or Phone (650) 851-7831**

Continuing a long tradition of presenting the accordion as a serious musical instrument, we invite you to join us for 5 days of good music making with the camp orchestra under the direction of Maestro Joe Smiell, conservatory-trained musician known for many years for his outstanding arrangements for accordion orchestra.

Joe's teaching emphasizes playing musically, important with any instrument; but the accordion is especially well suited for producing the nuances that make music both correct and pleasing, whether playing with an orchestra, a small group, or solo—and no matter what style of music is being played. Be prepared to learn and to have a great time!

## Music at SFAC on an April Afternoon

**Ed Massolo**, who recently dusted off his Excelsior accordion played many of the familiar Italian and French standards that we all know and love including *Anema e Core*, *Le Gamin de Paris*, *Carnival of Venice*, and many more. For years Ed and Frank Panacci played as a duo for accordion clubs all up and down the coast.

**Harper & Reed** was something refreshingly new and different. *Harper* refers to the Autoharp, which is a zither that plays chords as well as individual notes, played by **Ron Bean**; and *Reed* refers to the accordion, played by **Ann McChesney Young**. They play old Celtic music, French music, Finnish music, and many other types of folk music, and with obvious expertise. Ron Bean owns several autoharps in different keys and demonstrated the chromatic version as well as mentioning that the autoharp actually outsold the guitar around the turn of the century (1900).

**John Pedone**, who also plays several wind instruments with the San Francisco Starlight Orchestra and his own trio, soloed for us on accordion today. He played in a jazzy style several American, French and Italian pieces, including, to name just a very few, *La Mer (Beyond the Sea)*, *Satin Doll*, and an Italian waltz.

**Steve Albini** (accordion & vocal) played last with his band: **John Douglas** (woodwinds); **Jim Lehmann** (drums/percussion), and vocalist **Susan Minarich**. (see photo at right)

Steve, who is also a rep for Roland, demonstrated some techniques which are possible with a Roland digital accordion—in this case his beautiful white Roland FR-7X.

His group played mostly Italian and Latin songs and rhythms, giving each instrument a chance to be highlighted, including vocals. They kept us spellbound with nine pieces, including the familiar *Fly Me to the Moon*, *Bésame Mucho*, *Brazil*, *Al-Di-La*.



Ed Massolo



Harper & Reed



Steve Albini and Susan Minarich

## Scholarship Awards

Twice a year, in April and October, our club awards scholarships to accordion students demonstrating promise to further their study and knowledge of the accordion. Scholarship Guidelines and Application forms are available at the monthly meetings or can be obtained from the club secretary, Randy Hicks - by emailing: [hickr01@sprintmail.com](mailto:hickr01@sprintmail.com). Completed applications are to be returned to: **Frank Montoro, 1448 Tarrytown St., San Mateo, CA 94402** by the end of either March or September to be considered for award the following month.

### Please Remember!

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

## Receive Your Newsletter On-Line!

### Help our Club SAVE MONEY!

Not only will you be able to view and read it **IN COLOR**, you will save us the cost of printing and postage fees, and you will have less paper laying around your house to recycle.

to sign up for this service  
send an email to:  
[sfacnewsletter@earthlink.net](mailto:sfacnewsletter@earthlink.net)

## Accordion Band News

Band Practice is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, monthly @ 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's home in Oakland. Please CALL AHEAD in case there is a change. Everyone is welcome to join. For more information, contact Val (510) 531-4836 or [vtkacc@ifn.net](mailto:vtkacc@ifn.net)

## SFAC Officers

Lynn Ewing, President  
(650) 365-1700 [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com)

Frank Montoro, Vice President  
(650) 574-4757 [frankmontoro@gmail.com](mailto:frankmontoro@gmail.com)

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

Marian Kelly, Treasurer  
(650) 854-1896 [kelly.marian@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.marian@gmail.com)

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## Newsletter

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



## San Francisco Accordion Club

### 2 for 1 Special!

Bring this coupon along with two friends to our monthly musical meeting and BOTH your friends will get in at the single guest rate of \$8.00

Monthly meeting every  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday



Expires 7/31/2011

## 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

\$2 admission donation Contact: Tony Mustaro—

President (707) 318-0474;[dcdacapo@gmail.com](mailto:dcdacapo@gmail.com)

### Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

[gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com](http://gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com)

*The Vacaville Chapter* meets monthly on the second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main Street, Vacaville.

*The Humboldt Chapter* meets monthly on the third Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins 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 Escalon 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.

## Welcome to new member

**Heather Yager** who plays piano accordion and likes Oldies, European, Cajun/ Zydeco, and Punk/ Cabaret music!

We hope to hear her play very soon!



## Performing Around the Bay

**Steve Balich** • North Bay  
(707) 874-3494

**Ron Borelli** • San Mateo  
(650) 574-5707  
[rborelli@aol.com](mailto:rborelli@aol.com)

**Renée de la Prade**  
Culann's Hounds, San Francisco  
[www.sfhounds.com](http://www.sfhounds.com)

**Richard Denier** • Carmel  
[rdenier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rdenier@sbcglobal.net)

**Peter Di Bono** • San Francisco  
[www.peterdibono.com](http://www.peterdibono.com)

**Reno Di Bono** • South Bay  
[ourhike@aol.com](mailto:ourhike@aol.com)

**William De Michelis** • South Bay  
[wdd777@comcast.net](mailto:wdd777@comcast.net)

**Joe Domitrowich** • South Bay  
[www.capricious-accordion.com](http://www.capricious-accordion.com) or  
[www.alpinersusa.com](http://www.alpinersusa.com)

**Due Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano)**  
San Francisco  
[www.eurocafemusic.com](http://www.eurocafemusic.com) or  
[zighi@sonic.net](mailto:zighi@sonic.net)

**Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobbelins**  
Oakland  
[www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins](http://www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins)

**Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers**  
[kirschner@aol.com](mailto:kirschner@aol.com)  
[www.klezmakers.com](http://www.klezmakers.com)

**Don Nurisso** • Pacifica  
[nurisso@mindspring.com](mailto:nurisso@mindspring.com)

**Mike Zampiceni** • South Bay  
[eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net)

**Ed Gorzynski, Jr.** • East Bay  
[edspolkas@yahoo.com](mailto:edspolkas@yahoo.com)

## Play at our Meeting!

We are always grateful and accepting of anyone who wishes to play for warm up, intermission, or the first part of the meeting. Share your talent and hone your performance skills! Contact Val Kieser to sign up.



## Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

**June 16 – 19, 2011** in Leavenworth, Washington  
 Concerts, Competitions, Jam sessions, Workshops, and More!  
 The 2011 Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration, organized by the Northwest Accordion Society, will be an exciting event - full of talented musicians, enthusiastic music lovers, friendly competitors of all ages and lots of surprises including the Annual Accordion Parade down Front Street!  
 For more information go to [www.accordioncelebration.org](http://www.accordioncelebration.org) or call 206-622-4786.

## Japanese Accordion Appeal

People in Japan were impacted in many ways by the recent catastrophic earthquake and ensuing tsunami. Not immune to the tragedy were our fellow sisters and brothers in the accordion world. Many aspiring and accomplished accordion players lost their instruments due to flood damage or literally being swept out to sea.

Working with the Japan Accordion Association, the San Francisco Accordion Club is organizing a drive to collect and send forgotten, abandoned and otherwise unused accordions to Japan and help the accordion community in the most devastated areas continue to make and share music on the instrument we all love so well.

If you or someone you know might have a spare accordion(s) in playable condition and would like to donate it to the drive, we would be most grateful to hear from you. All donations to the SFAC are tax deductible. Details are being worked out and more information will be available on how to donate in the next newsletter. For now we just ask that you consider our appeal and help spread the word to friends, family, neighbors or anyone who might have an accordion they are not quite sure what to do with. *Thank you! Your Executive Board*



## 2011 LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL ACCORDION CONVENTION

**Oct. 31 — Nov. 3**

Sign up for this fabulous convention set in Las Vegas, the city of Sin, and don't forget to bring a masquerade costume for the first evening, which starts on Halloween! This is the 12th year for this event and having attended twice, I recommend it as a fun packed event, with workshops, concerts, jam sessions and the final performance which includes the *Internatioanl Accordion Orchestra* lead by Joanne Sommers. If you get tired of hearing accordion music, you can always gamble or take in a Las Vegas show!


Early Bird Specials are still available, go to:  
[www.accordioninfo.com/convention/](http://www.accordioninfo.com/convention/)

*Christina Knapp/Editor*

**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
- Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (415) 621-8284
- Richard Yaus (650) 832-1740
- Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579
- Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

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**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.

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## Newsletter Deadline

Submissions are welcome for consideration and inclusion in the Newsletter.

The deadline for time critical information is the second Monday following the Monthly Musical Meeting.

All other submissions will be considered as time and space permit.

Please be mindful that copyrighted material cannot be reprinted without the author/publisher's permission.

Send items to the editor,

**Christina Knapp**

**snapp.chris@gmail.com**

We wish a speedy recovery  
for those members who because  
of health reasons, are not able  
to join us at our monthly  
meetings!

## SFAC Membership

\$30.00 per year for individual or family membership.

Meeting admission is \$6.00 for members and \$8.00 for guests.

For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Valerie Kieser, 3437 Crane Way, Oakland, CA 94602.

For new members, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you want.

**Musical Meeting • May 15 @ 2 p.m.**  
Jam Session will resume in June.

- Reno Di Bono Trio • Frank Lima, *the Great Morgani* • Don Savant • Mike Zampiceni

*Join us the third sunday of every 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 through September 2011, 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.

**Newsletter of the  
San Francisco Accordion Club**

P.O. Box 318175

San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

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



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