



the San Francisco Accordion Club

October • 2010

NEWSLETTER



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October 17 • Three Performances

The **Peter Di Bono Trio** has been serenading Bay Area audiences for over 25 years. Venues range from an elegant wedding on Nob Hill, to a forest picnic in Carmel Valley. The music covers a very wide spectrum from Broadway to Bach, and back.

Harriet Newhart is equally comfortable playing **Mozart, Mancini**, or marches. Classically trained on piano and violin, Harriet brings such warm vitality to her music that she has been a favorite of San Francisco audiences and musicians for her entire career. Harriet and her husband, Byrne, also a violinist, are the principals of *San Francisco's Starlite Strings*, which provides classical and strolling violin ensembles for weddings, corporate events, and private parties in the San Francisco Bay Area and Wine Country.

Steve Hanson, string bass, is one of the busiest Bay Area musicians. Steve hails from Minnesota, and grew up working the family's dairy farm. He enlisted in the United States Navy, and found his way to the Navy Band where he played trombone. He was stationed in Naples, Italy for three years, and learned to speak Italian, and to love Italian food. Steve received his master's degree in music from The University of North Texas. Steve serves on the Board of Directors of The Musician's Union Local 6, San Francisco.

Peter Di Bono has played nearly every type of music, and in every setting imaginable. Performances include musical theater, guest soloist with Bay Area symphony orchestras. His many musical styles include Italian, French, and German. Peter has an active teaching practice with over 20 students, and is on faculty with *The Community Music Center in San Francisco*. He retired from The San Francisco Police Department as an Inspector, specializing in narcotic drug violations. He holds a Juris Doctorate degree from San Francisco Law School.



Peter Di Bono Trio

“Val” Valborg Floren Brewer grew up on a farm in South Dakota where she and her brother, Myron, both learned to play accordion without a teacher. They both were enthusiastic and practiced a lot. They began their professional careers by forming a trio with their father and entertaining the neighbors. By the time she finished high school Val was working for Myron, teaching the beginning students.



Now living near Sacramento, Val has continued both teaching and entertaining. Practicing two hours each day—she likes all types of music except hard rock.

Finally, from the Sacramento area we are delighted to have her play for us. Perhaps she’ll even share a few stories . . .

Valborg Floren Brewer

Bruce Metras, has been playing the accordion off and on for about the last 10 years. He also played from the age of 8 to 12 years old.

His first accordion teacher (from 52 years ago) Janet Farris, is still active playing for the accordion clubs of the Sacramento area. By day he is an Alfa Romeo mechanic running a one man shop and playing tournament level racquetball, and riding his bike regularly with a group of friends.

When he finds time to play the accordion, Bruce prefers selections based on Frank Marocco arrangements, which he has enjoyed throughout the years. Other music he likes to play are: standards, Piazzolla, Tangos, Puccini, French and Italian songs, is the music which most interests him.



September Meeting Elections & Music—*Val Kieser*

Following the elections, see pg. 5, outgoing President **Frank Montoro**, on behalf of all of us, honored Dave and Dee Bennett of the Oyster Point Yacht Club for providing us with such a magnificent setting for our musical meetings. Frank then passed the gavel to our new President, **Lynn Ewing**, who was also our MC for the day. Lynn honored Frank for three years of exemplary service as President of our club.



Frank Montoro, outgoing President, incoming Vice-President

Alex Roitman and Tangonero gave us another of their stellar performances. Alex is a former student of Peter DiBono, (see front page article). His gifted ensemble members are **Michele Walther**/violin; **Zac Sellison**/guitar; **Jacob Johnson**/bass. Bios can be read about each player on the Tangonero Website, www.tangonero.com.

A wonderful mix of tangos, milongas and waltzes were played, including the delightful French waltz, **Indifférence**. The milonga is a predecessor to the tango and is usually a bit livelier. Some pieces were written by Alex himself, including **Dancing on Tiptoe** (but in Spanish) that featured some very interesting violin maneuvers on the strings above the bridge !

A wonderful surprise was Alex playing the bandoneón! Alex taught it to himself, starting about a year ago, and wow! That is no easy instrument! The buttons are laid out in an almost random fashion—totally unlike buttons on accordion which are laid out in a very precise pattern. Alex played bandoneón for several



Alex Roitman playing his Bandoneon

This was Alex's first venture "in public" playing the bandoneón.

During the break, Lynn Ewing introduced the newly elected board members who were present. See the list of new officers on page 5 as well as the President's message and other new info about our club.

(article cont. on next page)



Tangonero



Bruce Kirschner and the The Klezmakers

Next to play were **Bruce Kirschner and the Klezmakers**, a wonderful group of musicians playing Israeli folk songs, Yiddish theater tunes and Eastern European folk music and dances. The members performing today were: Elaine Moise/ Percussionist; Bruce Kirschner /accordion; Kurt Conrad / Bass Guitar; Tom Belick / Clarinet; Larry Yelowitz /Keyboard; and Rachel Garb / flute and piccolo.

Several of the pieces were unfamiliar but totally delightful; some were well-known pieces such as: *Tombalalaika*, *Der Shtiller Bulgar* (or “And the Angels Sing,” which we play in our SF Accordion Band), and the popular song from the fifties, *Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen* (originally a failure, selling for only \$15, after which it became wildly popular!). Some of the songs had stories attached—my favorite was *Mama I’m So In Love*. They also played a Yiddish-style tango, a Klezmer-style waltz, and some wedding music.



President's Message—Lynn Ewing

A huge thanks is in order to our outgoing President (and incoming Vice president) Frank Montoro, who has done an outstanding job organizing our Board, and who also does countless behind the scenes jobs for the club. In addition to all the work outgoing secretary and incoming Director Val Kieser has done, Marian Kelly, Treasurer, and Randy Hicks, former newsletter editor and incoming secretary, have also undertaken a number of large projects which resulted in both a cost savings and smoother functioning of the Club, and they are continuing to explore ways to improve our Club.

Our four other Board members, who are also continuing on for another term have also contributed enormously. Gus Greyhosky has been instrumental in researching our non-profit status & insurance situation, Sharon Greyhosky has headed up our Scholarship Awards committee, and Skyler Fell is not only running our accordion rental program, but has brought lots of youth and new energy into the club. She will be coordinating the Emcee position in the future. With three former Board Presidents, Val Kieser, Marian Kelly and Frank Montoro, and three former newsletter editors (again) Val Kieser, Marian Kelly and Randy Hicks, plus the current and former directors of the "Fun Band" Val Kieser and Sharon Walters Greyhosky on our Board, I am confident that I will receive the most wonderful advice and support possible!

SFAC Scholarship Program

Deadline is coming up! Scholarships are awarded each April and October. The scholarship guidelines and requirements are available upon request and application forms are available at the monthly meetings or from any board member.

Reminder for Teachers: For scholarships to be awarded in October, applications must be received by September 30. Applications should be sent to: Frank Montoro, 1448 Tarrytown St., San Mateo, CA 94402.

SFAC gets healthy!—Randy Hicks

The Executive Board tries to provide, you, our members with the best value for your membership dollar, from world class entertainment to a snappy and informative newsletter. In order to keep the cost of membership as low as possible and still remain viable, we have to recognize opportunities for cost savings from time to time. One of our significant monthly meeting expenses is the full lunch we have provided in the past. We know that some sort of mid-afternoon nosh is important to you, as it also is to us, so we have opted to make a few healthy substitutions in the "menu." The sandwiches and pasta salads will be replaced with fresh vegetable trays with dip and fresh seasonal fruit, as well as a tray of sweets and coffee. We hope you will find the new offering refreshing, and just enough to take the edge off that afternoon sinking feeling. Buon appetito!

Election Results—Randy Hicks

The results are in from the elections held at the September Musical Meeting. Our new president is Lynn Ewing, supported by Frank Montoro, Vice-President, Marian Kelly, Treasurer and Randall Hicks, Secretary. Our Directors-at-Large are Skyler Fell, Gus Greyhosky, Valerie Kieser and Sharon Walters-Greyhosky. Thanks to those who came to the meeting to show your support.

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Play at our Meeting!

We are always grateful and accepting of anyone who wishes to play for us during the breaks or before the meeting starts. Share your talent and hone your performance skills! Contact Val Kieser to sign up.

Please Remember!

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

Special Board Announcement and Member Profile—Lynn Ewing

The Board has declared **Valerie Kieser** a Lifetime Honorary Member of the San Francisco Accordion Club. The Board acted according to our bylaws, which state that this honor may be bestowed on a member who the club feels has made a significant contribution to the accordion world. Surely Valerie, who has held virtually every possible position in the Club and has served continuously in one position or another since she joined the Club in the early 90's, is more than deserving of this unusual honor. It so happened that my first Board meeting as president fell on Val's birthday, Sept 21st. Following two hours of serious Board deliberation, the Board gave Val a beautiful certificate designed by Randy Hicks, complete with balloons, champagne, and her favorite, angel food cake (without coconut, as she had stipulated).

Most of you know Val as the "go to" gal—she is the one taking pictures, writing program notes, and hosting guests and fielding questions about anything and everything in the SFAC. We asked Val to give us a list of the jobs she was doing for the club, and it was a complete typewritten page! The accordion is a huge part of her life but following is a more complete picture of this remarkable woman.

Val was born and raised in California. Her zeal for the accordion began when she took lessons at the Olmstead Studio in Palo Alto from 1949-1952, and loved it. She attended Boarding School in Arizona, and it was there she developed her next lifelong passion, horses! She still has 2 beautiful horses, one of which was shown to several championships. She completed her last two years of college at Mills, and it was there that her third passion, that of foreign languages, especially French, was nurtured.

After graduating from Mills she attended the American Institute for Foreign Trade in Glendale, Arizona and earned a *Bachelor of Foreign Trade*. It was there that she met the love of her life and husband for 42 happy years, John Kieser. Val continued to play the accordion off and on when she had a chance, but in her words "I still sounded like an elementary student until I met Joe Smiell in 1994, and the rest is history." Val discovered the Club (BAAC back then), and the Galla-Rini Accordion Camp and attended both faithfully. Joe Smiell, our beloved ACE director, took a strong hand in Val's musical education, encouraging her to play not only the piano accordion but the Austrian Button Box as well. Val has taken to heart Joe's belief that the instrument is the vehicle you use as you learn to play 'musically.'

A few accordionists looking for others to play music with, formed what became the SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE), and Joe "adopted" the group and began arranging music and conducting weekly rehearsals, which are still going on. Val also joined what was affectionately known as the "Fun Band,"

and is now the director of that group, which practices twice a month. Val continues to be a stalwart presence at Galla-Rini camp, Button Box camp, and of course, the San Francisco Accordion Club!

Congratulations to Val, and may we all find as much friendship, music and satisfaction in the SFAC as she has done!



Val Kieser • 2009

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Ron Borelli • San Mateo
(650) 574-5707
rborelli@aol.com

Renée de la Prade
Culann's Hounds, San Francisco
www.sfhounds.com

Richard Denier • Carmel
rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono • San Francisco
www.peterdibono.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

Due Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano)
San Francisco
www.eurocafemusic.com or
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Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobbelins • Oakland
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Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers
kirschner@aol.com
www.klezmakers.com

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San Francisco Accordion Club

Bring Your Friends 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 \$7.00.



Two For One Special!

Musical Meetings Monthly -
every 3rd Sunday!

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TWO for ONE

I hope you noticed our two guests for one price coupon in this newsletter (above), which means that you can bring two guests for \$7 instead of paying \$14! We encourage you to bring friends to hear you/us play and to hear some of the truly amazing artists that we have the privilege of having perform at our club. Peter Di Bono's trio, coming up this month, is just one example!

Dates to Remember

2010 Las Vegas International Accordion Convention • November 1 – 4
Gold Coast Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas NV
Phone (800) 472-1695 *or* visit
www.accordionstars.com

We NEED you!

We are seeking to increase participation with you, the Club members. We hope that you will consider helping with some of our Club's routine jobs, including emcee, helping at the door, newsletter articles, and assistance with newsletter distribution. We also hope that you will be willing to play a few numbers for warm up or the first part of the program, so that we can not only get to know you, but enjoy your music! We want to increase the diversity of music we offer on our musical afternoons, so we ask you to come with a sense of curiosity and a willingness to hear players that may not be familiar to you.

Accordion Band News

Band Practice is the 2nd and 4th 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

Our Sincere Thanks! *To those who generously donate to the Club.*


With each new membership year we start a new cumulative list of donors. If you have donated and your name doesn't show up in this column, please contact Val at (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net and let her know. We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized. We gratefully acknowledge donations from: Sharon & Gus Greyhosky, Ron Harris, Randall Hicks, Sue & Mike Hirigoyen (In memory of John Puppo), Valerie Kieser, Carley Koliha, James Monfredini, Frank Montoro, Kenneth Nimmo, Sundi O'Mara, Maryanne Romanowski (and employer matching gift), Julia Scafani, Richard Selfridge, Paul Thiel, Louis Traverso, Lore Warren, Barbara Winter and Richard Yaus.

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 Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502
 Lynn Ewing (650) 365-1700
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Members may place one small ad (business-card-size) for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$6 per issue or \$60 per year. **Monthly ad prices for members:** quarter-page ad \$15.00; half-page ad \$25, and a full-page ad \$50. Discount available for ongoing ads. Ads placed by non-members will cost twice the above-quoted prices. 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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Bruce Metras

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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.
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