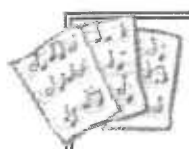




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This is Election Month!
Election of Officers and Directors will be held

Music Program:

*Special Warm-Up performance by Xavier de la Prade and Sheri Mignano
Renée de la Prade * * * The Great Morgani
And a special presentation by Sev Garcia, coming from Porterville*

President's Message

The other day I was thinking about how our lives would have been different had we not formed our accordion club back in 1990. Think of all the fine accordionists we may never have known. Well, I decided to take a look at our past accordion club newsletters, using Bob Smith's CD, and find out what we would have missed.

There were scores of names of local musicians who have been the mainstay of our club. I only knew of less than a handful of them back then before we formed the club. As we became known by other accordion clubs around the country, we began to hear from many fine accordionists outside the Bay Area, and we began to invite them to play for us. And play they did.

Here is a partial list showing some of these guest artists from outside the Bay Area who have played for our club over these past 18 years. If I have overlooked

some, please forgive me, but this should give you an idea of what the club has done for us:

Stas Wisniach, Michelle Gallandre, Art Van Damme, Anthony Galla-Rini, Jim Boggio, Don Haas, Leo Aquino (of Canada), Lou Fanucchi, Jerry Kramer, Frank Marocco, Veikko Ahvenainen, Ken Olenendorf, Barbara Ann Martindale, Jorgen Sundqvist, Peter Soave, Vladimir Kallistov, Stas Venglevski, Bonnie Birch, Ken Chambers, Henry Doktorski, Friedrich Lips, Tony Lovello, John Simkus, Gary Blair, George Cerutti, Murl Allen Sanders, Carl Fortina, Sev Garcia, David Chelini, Mario Pedone, Mike Marotta Sr. and Jr., Steve and Mike Trucco, Joanne Pilgrim, Nick Heiting, Jana Maas, Joe Vento, Joe Domitrowich, Tom Bruno, Harry Gay, Don Garibaldi, The Accordion Magic 5, ...and on and on.

We are grateful to them and to all of our local musicians who have enriched our lives by sharing their gift of music with us.
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 is again active and growing—check it out! www.sfaccordionclub.com

August Music Meeting: An Interesting Blend

Preceding the music program the nominations for the new officers and directors were held. The membership unanimously approved the slate that the Nominating Committee had recommended:

President: **Frank Montoro**; Vice President: **Lynn Ewing**; Secretary: **Lore Warren**; Treasurer: **Maryanne Romanowski**; Newsletter Editor and Director: **Valerie Kieser**; other Directors-at-Large: **Sharon Walters Greyhosky**, **Gus Greyhosky**, and **Aldo Argenti**. Congratulations to the new Executive Board.



Alex Roitman

First on the musical agenda, we had the pleasure of hearing from **Alex Roitman**, a student of **Peter Di Bono**. Alex started solo, playing a lovely piece called *Mikor az Est Mesemlé Kezd* ("Dreams of the Night," Hungarian Gypsy Waltz). Alex had great interpretation, and used his bellows beautifully. Although Alex has been

taking lessons with Peter

for only 14 months, he plays like a much more experienced accordionist. Alex does have a piano background, which surely helps, but he must have loads of talent and practiced hard to achieve the exceptional bass and bellow work that we heard.

Next, Alex played Monti's *Czardas*, and did a wonderful job on that favorite piece as



Peter Di Bono and Alex Roitman

well. He was then joined by Peter Di Bono, and the two of them played *Indifférence*, with a second part composed by Steve Navoyoskey; and then a perky Polka composed and arranged for two accordions by Joe Smiell. Congratulations to both Peter and Alex for a fine performance.

Alex plays in a tango group as well, and we hope to hear from them soon. Check him out at www.tangonero.com.

Next up was **Don Nurisso's Trio**. Don is a well-known jazz accordionist who has been playing for years. He is a native San Franciscan who was taught by Dino Benetti, and he was joined today by **Marc Hinchman** on percussion and **Bob Rizzetto** on Bass. Bob also plays mandolin, and he and

Don both play with the Aurora Mandolin Orchestra.

Don's group gave us a great mix of well-known and lesser-known pieces, and Don's stylings were superb. We've never heard Don play better, and that's saying something!

They started the set with a jazz waltz, *Alice in Wonderland*, by Sammy Paine.

Next up was a set by Steve Allen, the *Gravy Waltz*, and a lovely ballad that was new to me, *Impossible*. They continued with a great rendition of Cole Porter's *Begin the Beguine* and a wonderful Antonio Carlos Jobim piece, *Jazz N' Samba*.

Back into lesser-known territory with *Dansero* by Richard Hayman, and then on to a saucy piece by the legendary Charlie Parker, *My Little Suede Shoes*. Next, the trio featured their drummer, **Marc**, on *Cute*, with lots of surprising stops and starts that really kept our attention; and then the spotlight was on bassist **Bob Rizzetto**, who sang *Do you Know What it Means to Miss New Orleans?* Bob had some great reminiscences about playing with Peter and Don, and Charlie Kreider, a drummer who could not and would not allow unplanned changes in tempo. The encore was *Satin Doll* by Ellington, and a fine time was had by all. Wow, what a great set!

After the break with its wonderful goodies by Tuti, and the raffle, the music program continued with **The Klezmakers**. We had a brief introduction to Klezmer music before we heard SFAC member **Bruce Kirschner** and the Klezmakers. What a show! We were educated, entertained, and privileged to hear this large group of outstanding musicians. To see them at upcoming performances, please check their Website at



The Don Nurisso Trio



The Klezmakers

www.klezmakers.com.

Member **Bruce Kirschner** was featured on accordion, and he was joined by **Tom Belick** on Clarinet; **Kurt Conrad** on Bass; **Daphna Rahmil** on Violin; **Rachel Garb** on Piccolo and Percussion; **Larry Yelowitz** on keyboards; **Alan Rappoport** on

guitar; and **Elaine Moise** on vocals and percussion.

The set started with *Kamen 1 & 2 freylekhs*, "freylekhs" being the Yiddish word for joyful, and it certainly was. Next was a *doyne*, a contemplative and emotional piece leading directly into *Der Shtiller*, another freylekh. **Elaine Moise** guided us through the intricacies of the history and forms of Klezmer music with her introductions to the pieces, and she began her vocals with a well-known piece, *Tum Balalaika*, with a 3/4 rhythm.

Bruce Kirschner on accordion was featured on the next piece, *Kolomeika*; and then we heard *Der Heyser Bulgar*. Elaine was back to tell us the story of *Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen*, which she sang in both Yiddish and English, and then we had *Broyges Tanz*, a piece about two mothers-in-law at a wedding who view each other with suspicion, and then end up with reconciliation. We heard a lively piece, *Tantz, Tantz*, which means "Dance, Dance" and which featured each player individually. They all had a chance to play some fun licks

from various well-known pieces, and the audience really responded. Then Elaine was back on vocals with *Oy Mame*, about a young girl so in love with a Klezmer player. Elaine composed the next piece in honor of her 10-year-old son, Daniel, who has plenty of energy, called *Daniel's Tantz*. All the pieces were full of such interesting rhythmic patterns.

Next up was *Kolomeika 20*, a rhythmic dance that had the audience clapping, and then we heard a plaintive and lovely lullaby, *Raisins and Almonds*, about a widow mother singing her boy to sleep. The Arabian influence was on display in *Araber Tantz*, and then we were treated to *Alex's 1*, a piece written by a friend of the band, Alex Eulenberg.

For an encore, they played *Terk in Amerika*, based on Turkish melodies. What a terrific afternoon. The Klezmakers appreciated the attentive audience, and we appreciated a rare musical treat!

Lynn Ewing

(Editor's Note: Many thanks to Lynn Ewing for writing up the meeting this month.)



Front: Telmo Echeverría, Lou Di Maggio
In back: Bob Smith, Val Kieser



Sharon Walters Greyhosky, Pres. Frank Montoro, & Jonelle Priesser

Enjoying the "Afterglow"



Jane Di Maggio and Evelyn Baulch



Thank you, Mel Schwing, for sending me this photo of you and Cherie with Dick Contino at the Cotati Accordion Festival

Cotati 2008

Well, the Cotati Festival Committee did it again, and I have a feeling that this festival will be around for many, many years! Although the musical program is always fun and varied, and the polka tent is very popular, and the jam tent, sponsored by the Golden State Accordion Club, is always full, and the food is good, my favorite part of the Cotati Accordion Festival year after year is the opportunity to see friends from all over the country who come to enjoy this event.

Val

From "Famous Failures"

Jimmy Stewart, a graduate of Princeton University with a degree in architecture, got a job playing the accordion to entertain guests at the Old Silver Black Tea Room in West Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Thanks to Judy Dale



Who is this handsome young man?
Answer on next page

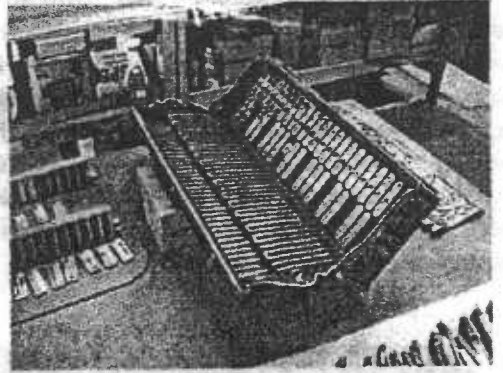
From our newsletter ca. mid-90's:

A Piece of History is Restored

by Vince Cirelli and Bob Berta

Master craftsman and club member, Vince Cirelli was given the opportunity to restore a remarkable bit of history. It is Pietro Dicro's Guerrini accordion. The process has started and we were able to inspect the disassembled accordion and found some fascinating bits and pieces. Inside the accordion Pietro wrote his name, in addition we find the names of the makers of the accordion, Piatanesi (Gordon's grandfather)

and Petromilli. The inside is stamped with the date of manufacture, 1917. The grill and most external surfaces are covered with intricately cut and engraved artwork in



The Restoration Begins

plated brass. The black keys are made of ebony wood as are some beautiful carved scrolls at each end of the treble keyboard. The accordion was found by the late Jullio Giulietti in a pawn shop. While the accordion is in pretty rough condition, Vince Cirelli will be able to work his miracles and restore it to its former glory. Vince will keep us informed as the work progresses, Bob Berta will document the restoration photographically and hopefully Vince will be able to bring it to a club meeting for the rest of us to drool over in about 3 or 4 months.



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August 6, 2008

Dear Val and Each and Every Member of the SF Fun Band!

Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you for participating in the most successful Celebrate the Accordion Days in the six-year history of this event.

Your performance was outstanding. I appreciate all that you did for this celebration, giving of your time, talent and gas money! I know what a long day this made for each of you coming from the Bay Area as you did. This was most generous of all of you. I hope you can be with us again.

I believe we all struck a blow for "Live Music is Best!"

Sincerely,

Tom
Tom

We thank you too, Tom!

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The handsome young man on the previous page? None other than **Vince Cirelli!**



One of our early logos

IMPORTANT!

The Meeting September 21 is our annual election meeting. Be prepared to vote! The slate approved at the August meeting was:

President: Frank Montoro; Vice President: Lynn Ewing; Secretary: Lore Warren; Treasurer: Maryanne Romanowski; Newsletter Editor and Director: Valerie Kieser; Directors-at-large: Sharon Walters Greyhosky, Gus Greyhosky, and Aldo Argenti

Very Sad News

We recently learned with great sadness of the passing of **Jerry Venturi** of Venturi House of Music in Madera. Always cheerful, always helpful, Jerry will be missed. Jerry came with his wife to one of our meetings about a year ago, looking fine and happy. We send deepest condolences to Jerry's family.

Word Has It . . .

. . . That **Lou Jacklich's** mom just turned 100!!! Heartiest congratulations to a lovely lady and her proud accordion-teaching son!

. . . That the Jam Tent at Cotati, now that it is beautifully organized by **Carole Enneking** and her helpers, is a true joy to visit. While I'm at it: Thanks, Carole, for generously offering table space in the Jam Tent for other clubs to place their newsletters and promotional material!

. . . That **Vince Cirelli** was spotted at Cotati being interviewed by a lady with a microphone. Hmm—I wonder what that was all about!

More Cotati Photos . . .



Hey Gus, we didn't know you play Chromatic!



Joe Domitrowich on Stage



The Jam Tent

What Else Is Going On?

September 6-7: Festa Italia in Monterey, Custom House Plaza (more below)

Joe Smiell's Button Box Camp Sept. 14-20 Call Joe (510) 832-6938

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention Sept. 29-Oct. 2.

Saturday, September 13: Italian Festival, Pippo Ranch, Vacaville. Call (707) 448-1409

(If you can't make SFAC of course): Sunday, Sept. 21: German Days, Centennial Hall, Hayward, featuring our own Joe Domitrowich

And . . . Make this one if you can!

Mike Marotta Jr. tells me they have a very special Festa Italia planned for September 6-7 at the Custom House Plaza in downtown Monterey (right in front of Fisherman's Wharf) and it's FREE! Now get this: Frank Marocco will be performing two times each day as a special guest performer in the Tony Galla band! Mike Marotta, Jr. will be playing too. This sounds terrific!



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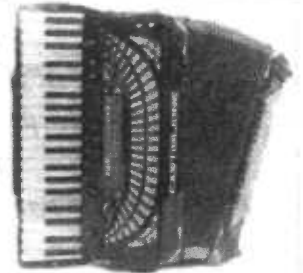
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When Do Our Fellow Accordion Clubs in the Bay Area (and slightly beyond) Meet?

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) 795-4860.

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:

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- * 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., Sept. 10 and 24, 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 (2: mem. Lou Soper & Mem. Lee Woodall), 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, Walter Traverso (lots of music and accordion accessories and memorabilia); Lore Warren (mem. Kevin McCarthy); Scott Williamson, Lee & Walt Woodall, Richard Yaus, Mark Zhagel (4)—and unnamed people who made cash donations for Walter Traverso's donated items at the April meeting

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\$7 for each guest

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Treasurer: Maryanne Romanowski
Maromanowski@yahoo.com

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.

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NEXT MEETING:
Sunday, September 21, 2008
2:00 Oyster Point Yacht Club



**Newsletter of the
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