

# April, 2018

♪ ♪ SFAC Accordion Circle! ♪ ♪

4th Sunday in April

Sunday, April 28, 2018

Chetcuti Community Room

450 Poplar Street, Millbrae, CA

2:00 pm—5:00 pm



## Accordion enthusiasts, present thyselfes!

Maestro Lou Jacklich will be leading our vaunted Jam Band during this month's Circle Meeting. We have added several new pieces to the Jam Book, so get ready for some new accordion adventures in group play / jam band!

As you know, unlike our bi-monthly musical programs where invited performers are the center of attention, with Accordion Circle meetings our club members take over and entertain ourselves.



*Just remember, anyone can join the Circle!*

Please come armed with accordions and eager to put your names on the play-list, either as soloists or as duets, as you please. Accordionists of all skill levels are welcome - from beginners to seasoned experts, and everything in-between. And if you don't play the accordion, come anyway and cheer the players on.



# March Event Summary

by Robert Cooperstein & Ken Schwartz

Seattle, famous for its coffee and multinational tech, also has a vibrant music scene, so we were delighted to host a mostly Washington State program today with some of Seattle's Best! The program was emceed by Lynn Ewing.

**CREOSOTE** is the accordion duo of **Jamie Maschler** and **Gabriel Hall-Rodrigues**, who have already established a name

for themselves in the short few years of performing together. Both are based in Seattle. Jamie studied accordion under



three-time Latin Grammy Nominee Jovino Santos Neto at Cornish College of the Arts and also with our other featured performer, **Murl Allan Sanders**! Jamie has established her name as a performer and particularly likes to perform Brazilian music, so it was natural for her to team up with Gabe Hall-Rodrigues. Gabe is an Arizona-native accordionist, pianist and vocalist. He began playing the piano at age 7 and quickly realized his love for music and performing, particularly Brazilian music (his dad is Brazilian). Lynn has known Gabe since his teen years, when he attended the Frank Marocco camp, where he was part of a trio playing back-up for Frank, including bass, drums, and Gabe on keyboard. Gabe was much impressed with the accordion and was

able to loan one from Frank Petrilli. The rest is history! Gabe started playing and within a year was already a virtuoso!



so! In 2010, after only studying the accordion for a year, Gabe won the American Accordionists' Association's Virtuoso Solo Competition!

Creosote's performance was mostly Brazilian. Their harmonies were perfectly timed, complex, and complete with tempos and sounds of the mix which is Brazilian music. They also sang! Just a few of the titles they performed, included *Semente*, *Sarau Para Radames* (a Brazilian choro in the samba style), *Tirou*, an original samba composed by Gabriel, *Joao e Maria*, *Vestido Longo* (which featured Afro-Brazilian and samba rhythms), and other vibrant Brazilian songs.

Scholarship recipient (see p. 3) **Siyuan Donnelly** performed 3 songs, including *Le Café Paris*, followed by rousing renditions of *Crazy Accordion Polka (Fisarmonica Impazzita)* (composed by Michele Corino and last performed at our club as part of the Corino tribute May, 2018), and finally, *Flight of the Angels*, for which he received a standing ovation!



**Murl Allen Sanders**, our featured performer, took the floor after the intermission. Before he appeared at the front of the room, we could hear his



accordion emanating from parts unknown, achieving an effect that resembled the Gaelic drone of a far-off bagpipe troupe. It took us a while to detect Murl slowly approaching from behind and to the left of us. This was without doubt the most dramatic start to an accordion music performance at the SFAC, certainly in recent memory!

Continued on page 3 ...



## March Event Summary (continued)

Although there is no doubt that Murl Sanders feels at home in an uncountable number of accordion genres, we would say he chose to emphasize two styles for our Sunday event: sweet/beautiful, and zydeco-esque. Our favorite in the sweet-beautiful department was *Everybody's Talkin' at Me* (made famous by Harry Nilsson). A favorite in the purely polka singalong department was *Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da*, written by Paul McCartney and despised by John Lennon – too light-hearted for him, but not for Murl Sanders!



Most unexpectedly, Murl covered two bona fide blues songs, *Sweet Home Chicago* and Gershwin's *I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise*. We don't often get authentic 12-bar blues songs at our musical programs, so these tunes really got our attention. Not surprisingly, Murl treated them with a zydeco cadence; sometimes he plays the harmonica, so important to many zydeco artists! *Sweet Home Chicago*, first recorded by Robert Johnson in 1936, is a something of a blues anthem; even President Obama



sung a verse of it during a 2012 celebration of the blues at the White House. Murl explained that *Stairway* came from a 1922 theatrical production called *Scandals of 1922*, music by George Gershwin, and was later included in an opulent dance sequence in the 1951 film *An American in Paris*. The closing lyrics in a way underscored the inspirational tone of Murl's performance: "Shoes! Go on and carry me there! I'll build a stairway to Paradise with a new step every day." Murl, please come back soon!



A recent Sunday at the Golden Heritage San Jose. Siyuan volunteers his time and talent bimonthly to an appreciative audience.



### Scholarship award to Siyuan Donnelly

Young Siyuan has been playing accordion since age 5. He first played for our club at the age of 6 and is now a veteran performer at the age of 9! He's been a student of Mike Zampiceni for 3½ years. At our March meeting, Siyuan performed 3 songs (see p. 2). and was awarded a San Francisco Accordion Club scholarship of \$400 in appreciation for all his hard work and dedication to the accordion, which will further his studies under Mike's guidance. Lynn Ewing and Mike both spoke proudly of Siyuan's precocity. Congratulations, Siyuan! We look forward to a great future in your accordion career!

## How to Pick the One Accordion You Really Want\*

Joe Domitrowich



The number of grill register switches will be a clue to the number of treble reed sets. A two-reed accordion could have as many as three switches. A three-reed accordion could have up to seven unique switches. And, a four-reed accordion could theoretically have 16; in practice, however, the number will be limited by the space available under the grill, and by the complexity of the selection mechanism, i.e. usually only up to 12. Then, some combinations of reeds will not be selectable.

The register switches in a modern accordion are pre-determined combinations, a sort of automatic selection mechanism. An exception to this was a 1940s Excelsior with four “rocker” switches which permitted individual reed set selection, much like the stops in an organ. This design enables selection of all combinations of four reed sets. However, these reed combinations are not “automatic”, meaning that you must often depress two or more of the four switches to obtain the sound you want...impractical to change registers in a fast-moving arrangement.

Any modern-day professional model accordion will have a palm switch on the edge of the keyboard duplicating a master grill switch for rapid selection of the full complement of reeds. I find it interesting that I have never seen a piano accordion with chin-activated switches on the top of the grill ... a feature found in high end chromatic accordions. These are often used by Eastern European virtuosos because such switches permit the accordionist to quickly select a different register without the hand leaving the keyboard at any time.

Jazz players tend to like the true in-pitch middle reed tuning. It is a purer sound. In this tuning there is little gained from having a third set of middle reeds all tuned in pitch, so two middle reeds and a piccolo set is the favored configuration. Keep in mind, however, that with two middle reeds, you can still have one tuned musette, and deselect it if you want a “dry” sound. Or, you can combine the musette reed with a bassoon or piccolo reed to get a musette tuned accordion across octaves. Of course, this is not as pronounced as when you select only the two middle octave reeds. But, your master register, which activates all reed sets, and is the only selection you can make with your palm-activated switch on the end of the keyboard, will always have a musette quality to the sound. As a jazz player, however, you will likely find yourself most often playing only the bassoon reed.

If, in the interest of reducing weight, you choose an accordion with only three sets of reeds on the right hand, you will choose to sacrifice one middle reed set or the piccolo reeds. So, be conscious of what compromise you are making. And, an accordion with only two sets of reeds will have only a bassoon reed and one middle reed.

Here's a tip: Did you know that the reeds for each key or button on a piano or chromatic accordion are duplicated with identical sets for opening and closing the bellows? (This is one major contribution to the weight of an accordion.) So, when you try out a used instrument, be sure to take the time to play each key individually with the bellows opening and closing to determine if there are any broken or out of tune reeds. Do this while selecting the register switches in such a way as to individually play each reed set.

Finally, it is worth noting, consideration of weight notwithstanding, that you can buy a five-treble reed set accordion; then you can have three middles and a piccolo...the best acoustic tuning of all worlds. But, wait...as with the 140-bass accordion, you have to lug it around! Enter, the reedless digital accordion: you can have it all...versatile tuning unrestricted by the fixed tuned set of reeds in your accordion...and, maybe, even free bass and light weight. But that's a subject for a subsequent article. Maybe I'll title it straightforwardly, “How do you pick the accordion that can do almost anything?”

Stay tuned (pun intended).

*Joe is a performing and recording musician with a passion to arrange and perform on solo digital acoustic accordion a diverse selection of music, sometimes mimicking all the instruments and the complex arrangement of a full band or entire orchestra. His repertoire ranges from Strauss to Santana...from Monti's Czardas to Mambo No. 5...from Brubeck to Boccherini. Joe takes pride in the fact that, despite their diversity, all his inventive and intricate arrangements – even the most complex - are played live with no use of pre-recorded sound track; everything he plays is live. Joe has appeared as a soloist or with ensemble at the Cotati Accordion Festival, the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention, the ATG Festival, and the NAA Convention in Dallas, and with his band, AlpinersUSA, at huge music festivals and Oktoberfests from Pennsylvania to Texas and the Northwest as well as the SF Bay Area where he resides.*

Learn more about Joe and where he performs at [www.capricious-accordion.com](http://www.capricious-accordion.com)

\*Note: Previous chapters of Joe's memoir appear in the May, June, Sept., Oct., Nov. (2018) and March 2019 newsletters



# The Museum of Making Music

Carlsbad, California

by Lynn Ewing

I was lucky to have a chance to visit **The Museum of Making Music** in Carlsbad, California recently. You can discover and play musical instruments at this unique museum that tells the story of how instruments were made, used and sold. To discover more about it, visit the website: [www.museumofmakingmusic.org](http://www.museumofmakingmusic.org)

The Museum's special exhibit, on display Dec 13 - August 31, "Accordions: Expanding Voices in the USA," takes a close look and listen at the current state of the accordion across the country, highlighting stories and recordings from some of the players pushing it forward. Find out where the accordion may be headed next and even play one for yourself – you may well become part of the instrument's future. This multi-media exhibit features familiar accordionists such as Jamie Maschler, Cory Pesaturo, Michael Bridge, Guy Klucevsek and Alex Meixner that you can see and hear by pushing audio/video buttons along the wall.

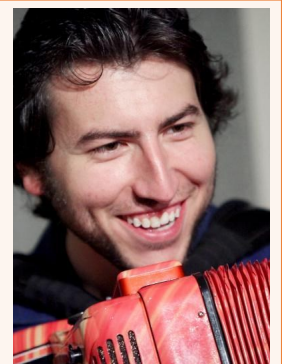
The museum is showcasing some well known accordionists in concert, and on March 22, I attended an absolutely fantastic concert with Frank Petrilli, and *Duo Creosote* with Gabe Hall Rodrigues and Jamie Maschler. Both groups were accompanied by an amazing Brazilian rhythm section with Leo Nobre on bass and Lucio Vieira on drums.



**Save the Date — May 19, 2019**

**SFAC Welcomes Cory Pesaturo!**

We are excited beyond words that world-famous **Cory Pesaturo** will perform and direct the entirety of our May 19, 2019 meeting! Among his many achievements, in 2009 Cory became the first American to win a World Accordion Championship since Peter Soave won 25 years earlier! Cory is a BIG name in our accordion world – this is one you won't want to miss.



## October Las Vegas Convention – A Good Time for Accordionists

Pamela Tom



October 14 – 17, 2019 at the Gold Coast Hotel in Las Vegas, NV marks the 20th anniversary of the **Las Vegas International Accordion Convention (LVAC)**. This year's lineup of some of the best accordionists in the world include: **Friedrich Lips, Stas Venglevski, Grayson Masefield, Cory Pesaturo, Kim & Dan Christian, and Professor Joan Cochran Sommers** (LVAC Orchestra conductor). Paul Pasquali, event organizer, hints that there will be a surprise accordionist announced at a later date. This year's theme in keeping with two decades of stellar entertainment and camaraderie is the **ROARING TWENTIES**.

I started attending the LVAC in 2010 when I was introduced to the accordion community and have had such a great time that I make it a priority to return annually and support this event. The quality, style and multiple genres of music performed on accordion are ear candy to the accordion enthusiast. Through the LVAC I also have made lasting friendships with accordionists across the US and abroad. There are excellent workshops, opportunities to perform in an accordion orchestra or after dinner at "Evening Concerto" (open mic session), plus banquet-style lunches/dinners all under one roof. The variety of accordion information, interaction with accordionists, and entertainment creates a fun experience. As an accordion novice, my level of familiarity with accordion standard, classic, and jazz pieces has broadened through the years via the virtuoso concert performances of talented accordionists. You don't even have to play to have a good time at the LVAC. If you like accordion music, this is definitely the venue for you! There's activity from 9 AM – 10 PM and beyond. Plus there is a well-stocked accordion shop with lots of music [I always manage to find something new], accordions, and accessories that starts the day at 8:30 AM.

Numerous and affordable Southwest Airlines direct flights exist between the SF Bay Area and Las Vegas. Southwest Airlines' entire fleet consists of 737 jets which have the overhead space to store your accordion in a soft gig bag. It is about a 20-minute taxi ride to the hotel from the LV Airport. Once you've arrived, you are set for the next four evenings!

The early bird registration rate has been extended until **April 30, 2019**. There are 4 reservation options to accommodate single and double registrations attending part or full time. The registration fee is a bargain considering the level of entertainment by world-class accordionists, lectures, master-class evaluations, and fine dining. During the LVAC, hotel rooms are only \$47/night on the LVAC's block with a special \$12.99/night resort reduced fee! There is also a \$50 discount on your registration when you book on the convention block. For LVAC registration, hotel reservation information, and the latest information about the 2019 program, visit the LVAC web site at: <http://accordionstar.com/> or, contact event organizer Paul Pasquali at [paul@AccordionStars.com](mailto:paul@AccordionStars.com) Phone: 1-800-472-1695.



Gail Campanella (L) & Lynn Ewing



Paul Betken (L) & Jerry Cigler – Jazz Concert



Pamela Tom, Mike Zampiceni, Lou Jacklich



## ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

### World Accordion Day/Dr. Willard A. Palmer Festival

May 4-5, 2019

Superior, Wisconsin

[www.worldofaccordions.org](http://www.worldofaccordions.org)

### Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

June 20-23, 2019

Leavenworth, Washington

[www.accordioncelebration.org](http://www.accordioncelebration.org)

### ATG-Accordionists & Teachers Guild International

29th Annual Festival

July 23-27, 2019

Denver, Colorado

[www.atgaccordions.com/2019-festival](http://www.atgaccordions.com/2019-festival)

### Las Vegas International Accordion Convention

LVIAC—20th Anniversary

October 14-17, 2019

<http://accordionstars.com>

Paul Pasquale (801) 485-5840

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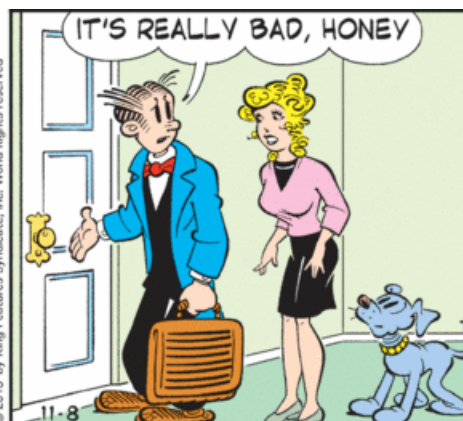
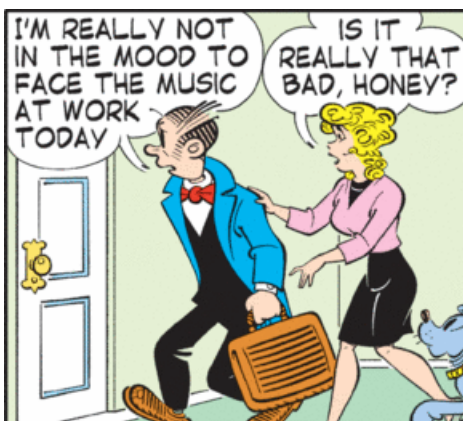
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## Got Straps?

Does anyone have a spare set of **accordion straps** sitting around? The club owns a few accordions in need of updated strap assemblies. We will gratefully accept gently used straps as a tax-deductible donation to SFAC. Good condition only, please. Contact Lynn at [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com)



[https://comicskingdom.com](http://comicskingdom.com)

## BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUBS

### Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday at 7:30 pm. — \$3 admission  
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma  
Contact: Tony Mustaro, President (707) 318-0474  
[dcdacapo@gmail.com](mailto:dcdacapo@gmail.com)

### Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

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

Contact: Jean Stevens, President (916) 872-8081  
[accordionriffs@gmail.com](mailto:accordionriffs@gmail.com)

**GSAC Napa Valley Chapter** (formerly Vacaville)  
2nd Thursday at 6:00 pm.  
The Runway Restaurant  
2044 Airport Road, Napa

**GSAC Humboldt Chapter**  
3rd Tuesday at 7pm.  
Humboldt Swiss Club  
5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta

**GSAC Sacramento Chapter**  
3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm  
Elks Lodge No. 6  
6446 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento

### 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 Sundays at Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border  
Rd., Los Altos, CA  
Doors open at 1:30pm. [www.svasociety.org](http://www.svasociety.org)

### SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card size) free of charge for one month, once a year. Additional ads are \$10/issue or \$100/year. Monthly ad prices for members:  
1/4-page: \$25; 1/2-page: \$50; Full-page: \$100.  
Non-member rates are double.

### Event Reviews:

Member volunteers are needed to assist with the monthly event summaries (see pp. 2-3). This is a great opportunity to express your creative writing skills while assisting your club!

Please contact [Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com](mailto:Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com)

## SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

**RON BORELLI** San Mateo - [RonBorelli@aol.com](mailto:RonBorelli@aol.com)  
[www.ronborelli.com](http://www.ronborelli.com)

**RICHARD DENIER** Carmel - [rjd.denier@gmail.com](mailto:rjd.denier@gmail.com)

**PETER DI BONO** San Francisco [www.peterdibono.com](http://www.peterdibono.com)

**RENO DI BONO** South Bay - [ourhike@aol.com](mailto:ourhike@aol.com)  
[www.italianaccordion.com](http://www.italianaccordion.com)

**JOE DOMITROWICH** South Bay  
[www.alpinersusa.com](http://www.alpinersusa.com)  
or [www.capricious-accordion.com](http://www.capricious-accordion.com)

**ED GORZYNSKI, JR.** East Bay - [edspolkas@yahoo.com](mailto:edspolkas@yahoo.com)

**IL DUETTO MUSICA** (aka Paul Aebersold & Gloria Gazave)  
[mazurkaman@yahoo.com](mailto:mazurkaman@yahoo.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/Il-Duetto-Musica-992981207392410/>

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[kirschner@aol.com](mailto:kirschner@aol.com) [www.klezmakers.com](http://www.klezmakers.com)

**BIG LOU**, aka LINDA SEEKINS San Francisco  
[www.accordionprincess.com](http://www.accordionprincess.com)

**KAY PATTERSON** Napa Valley & Surrounding  
[AccordionKay@comcast.net](mailto:AccordionKay@comcast.net)

**TANGONERO** [www.tangonero.com](http://www.tangonero.com)

**PAMELA TOM** Yolo & Solano Counties  
[accordionpam@gmail.com](mailto:accordionpam@gmail.com)  
April 27—Davis Farmer's Market, 8:30am—12:30pm

**MIKE ZAMPICENI** East Bay & South Bay  
[eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net)  
[www.mikezamp.com](http://www.mikezamp.com)

## SFAC Scholarships

Your club has scholarship funds available to support accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference is given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact **Mike Zampiceni** for a scholarship application.  
[eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net)  
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## World Accordion Day & Willard Palmer Festival to Live-Stream on Facebook

The Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) has been promoting World Accordion Day (WAD) since May 6, 2009 which commemorated the 180th birthday of the accordion - May 6th 1829, when the accordion was first patented, in Vienna, Austria, by Cyrillius Demien. WAD has been very successful, generating a lot of positive publicity for the accordion!

A World of Accordions Museum (AWAM) will host *WAD (May 4)* with a slate of renowned professional concert accordionists: **Mary Tokarski**, **The Univ. of Missouri at Kansas City Chamber Accordion Ensemble** (directed by Joan Cochran Sommers), **Murl Allen Sanders** (modern music recording artist, from WA), **Betty Jo Simon** (MIDI entertainer of Fred Waring Orchestra fame), **Henry Doktorski** (scholar and concert accordionist offering a lecture/concert on the Deiro Brothers), and **Joan Cochran Sommers** (Professor emeritus and international conductor/ spokesperson) in duet with **Stas Venglevski** (bayan artist and composer).

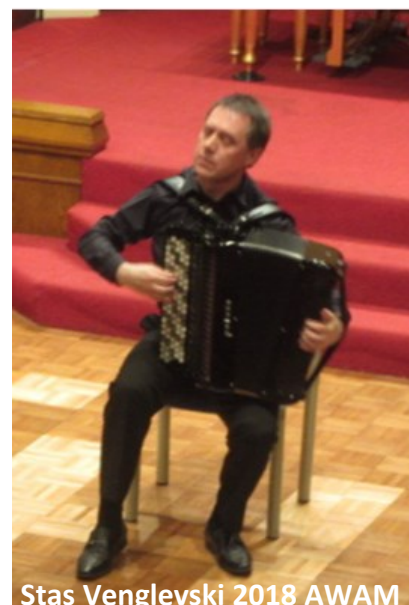
The 7<sup>th</sup> annual *Dr. Willard A. Palmer Festival (May 5)* program will have performances by: **Dance Attic**—Suzi and Jimi (modern original duo, from MN), **Dr. Michael Middleton** (MIDI entertainer), **Jane Christison** (accordionist and “singer with a smile”), **Stas Venglevski** and **Aydar Salahov** (duo bayan artists focusing on Russian serious music), Electronic Accordions—Evolution and Future (panel discussion with demonstrations), **Willard A. Palmer, III** (Master of Magic, Mirth and Music), and **Accordion Concertina Music Orchestra**: World Accordion Music (30+ instrumentalists conducted by Tracey Gibbens under direction of Helmi Strahl Harrington, Ph.D.). **Stas Venglevski** concludes the festival with a concert that is bound to please and awe all.

Both all-day festivals will take place at Harrington ARTS Center, 1401 Belknap St., Superior, WI. Admission is charged at \$25 per event, \$75 per day, or \$125 for both days. Food and refreshments are included. Call (218) 393-0245 for advance ticket purchases.

If you are interested in these events but are not able to attend, AWAM will be **live streaming** some of the performances on their Face Book page (<https://www.facebook.com/AWorldofAccordions/>). These will be available for free, but please consider making a donation to AWAM (<http://www.worldofaccordions.org/>). AWAM is working to ensure any copyright concerns are resolved before listing the schedule of performers. Any of the videos that are live streamed will be available on Facebook for later viewing as well.



SFAC members: Lynn Ewing center back row, Pamela Tom 1st row/white accordion





### SFAC Directors

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Mailing: Elaine Cooperstein, Rosemary Busher, Robert Cooperstein, Pamela Tom

(Newsletter volunteers needed!)

### Scholarship Awards

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\*Honorary Director

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JOEL WEBER (510) 655-4398  
MIKE ZAMPICENI (408) 569-2579

## **Thank You, Donors!**

*Sincere Thanks* to those who generously donate to the Club. We would like to thank the following regular and lifetime members who made a donation during the past renewal campaign (October 2018 - September 2019 membership year):

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If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact [elainedc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elainedc@sbcglobal.net). We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized.



## *Ron Borelli*

### *& the Art Van Damme Tribute Band*

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month performing at The Double Tree Hotel, 835 Airport Blvd., Burlingame 6PM to 9PM, no cover, great dinners & drinks, reasonably priced.

To connect with Ron:

- ◆ 415 203 6700 cell
- ◆ or [ronborelli@aol.com](mailto:ronborelli@aol.com)

San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

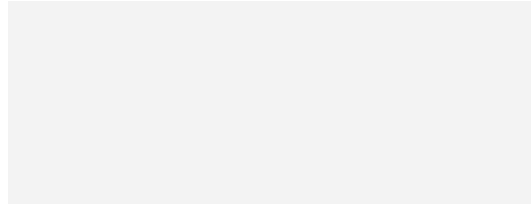
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First Class  
Postage

## FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



3rd Sundays (4th Sunday in April 2019) – Musical meetings in Millbrae

SEAC Sunday Meeting

Accordion Circle

Sunday, April 28

Come for fun and great music!!

2pm – 5pm

*All are encouraged to participate!*

**\$5 Suggested Donation (Under 13 free)**

**Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room  
Civic Center Plaza/Library Plaza  
450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA**



Chetcuti Community Room

*Plenty of free parking in Library lot  
Accessible location  
Close to public transit*



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