**NEWSLETTER OF THE** 

## SAN FRANCISCO

## BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUB

Editors: Marian Kelly

Dominic Palmisano

What a meeting!! The attendance was wonderful, with many members and quite a few guests. We sometimes have to encourage you to strut your accordion stuff; not so this month! So much was happening, between music and some necessary business, that the meeting lasted much longer than usual.

If this keeps up, perhaps we should

consider starting at 6:30!

One of our favorite entertainers, Dan Cooper, started things off, playing and singing two brand new numbers, "Please Go Away And Let Me Sleep", and "Shanty in Old Shanty Town." He was followed by a surprise guest, Big Lou from Those Darn Accordions! who demonstrated her lovely, warm playing style with two highly listenable French tunes.

Then another surprise, a trio, looking like Barbary Coast regulars, Lee Woodall, John Firpo, and Tony DiBono. They were terrific, playing "La Campagnola," "Melody of Love," and "Beer Barrel" so competently that they sounded like one accordion.

Dennis Soscher told of his excursion to Castelfidardo, and demonstrated the computerized accordion he purchased there with a delightful arrangement of the theme from "Phantom of the Opera". Then he followed with two more songs which showed us a few of the instrument's many other possibilities. Nicely done, Denny!

A little business intervened. First, Lou introduced our Librarian, Frank

## APRIL MEETING

Montoro, who reminded the group that the contents of our Library were displayed in the back of the room for easy borrowing. Frank always welcomes additional Library donations.

Then Walter talked a bit about the picnic at the Elks' Club in Palo Alto on June 7th. (We'll have a location map in the May newsletter.) He wants to have lots of interest in the raffle, so he needs more items which can be included. His wife, Laverne has made a lovely afghan, and Lee Woodall has donated a beautiful framed painting of a clown with an accordion. Admission tickets for the event will be \$5.00 for anyone age 12 and above. Walter also needs volunteers to help during the event. Call him if you can help.

Barbara Lantz (wife of member Ernest) told us of the Swedish Music Festival being held at the San Mateo County Expo Center on May 30, 1992, which features several accordions. Admission is \$13/person.

Jim Boggio talked a bit of the bigger, finer, more sophisticated Second Annual Cotati Accordion Festival on August 29th and 30th, and asked for everyone's help and support.

Following intermission, Dominic Palmisano, representing the Nominating Committee, presented the Committee's proposed slate of officers and board members and called for additional nominations. These are detailed in an accompanying article on Page 3.

Reno Pucci and Clyde Forsman came

forward to introduce and demonstrate a diatonic concertina invented by Sir Charles Whetstone of London. A stuck key prevented a complete demo, but they will try again.

And then things really got moving! Joe Smiell played what he called peasant music in a most un-peasant way on an Austrian button-box. Actually, he didn't play nearly enough Peasant Music. While we were still sitting there mesmerized, he decided he was finished for the moment.

Nobody wanted to follow Joe, but Jim Boggio did mighty well with the challenge. Jim brought a terrific bass player, whose last name nobody caught but whose first name is Chris. What wonderful jazz they treated us to, making it appear effortless, with Jim tossing in his usual dose of crazy humor. As if that wasn't enough, then Peter DiBono joined them for one long, fun, capable rendition of "Blues in G."

After that, Reno DiBono upheld his end of the family with panache by rolling through three delightful up-tempo tunes, then inviting his friend Roland to join him for two more delightful jazz pieces.

Last, but not least, Lou Soper decisively closed the meeting by playing and singing in his inimitable style, several fine standards such as "Unforgettable," "Days of Wine and Roses," and "More". A most delightful evening!

Carol Benetti



## Profile of DOMINIC PALMISANO

You know him as one of the founders of BAAC, first the editor and now a co-editor of the BAAC Page, member of our current Executive Board, Nominating Committee Chairman and strolling accordionist. He is a creative visionary with energy and ideas about how to increase the popularity of the accordion.

Since he was three years old, Dominic has been fascinated by accordions. At first his parents didn't take him seriously, but one fateful day, when he was seven, his Father took the determined little boy to the accordion store and said, "Look at all the accordions. We're going home with one today." So began his love affair with the instrument. However, the early practicing years did not go as planned. Dominic confesses that he was hard on accordion teachers such as John Pezzolo, Bud Segheri, and Dino Benetti who apparently felt that he wasn't doing enough of what they wanted him to do. So at age 14, he stopped playing.

That playing break lasted 18 years. He returned to the instrument as part of his recuperation from a serious automobile accident. To help while away the hours, he became a "closet accordionist," to use his term. Subsequently he even sold his motorcycle to buy a brand new Excelsior, and he has never looked back. He loves accordions so much that he now owns six of them.

Along with his music interest, Dominic earned a BA in business, worked as a bartender, waiter, and maitre d' for twenty years, even playing a few tunes while a waiter at Nathans, a fine Peninsula restaurant.

At forty, Dominic changed his line of work. He had always enjoyed children and decided to go back to S.F. State and work on a teaching

## SYNOPSIS OF MARCH 25TH BOARD MEETING

- The Treasurer reported \$3727 in our checking account and \$1172 in savings.
- Members are all encouraged to consider what material might be published in the BAAC Page and to submit articles and/or ideas to Marian Kelly. Since we publish monthly, it is difficult to have enough good material.
- Walter reported in detail about our June 7th picnic. We voted to have new t-shirts available for sale there, and are in search of someone who can create an eye-catching design.
- Carol Benetti has donated some wonderful music to our Library.
- The Nominating Committee reported its selections to the Board. See article elsewhere in this issue.
- Marian Kelly, as BAAC's representative to the Cotati Festival, questioned the Board about what role BAAC should play during that weekend. No specific decisions were made.

credential. He joined the teaching profession almost two years ago and now teaches eleventh and twelfth grade learning disabled students specializing in computer science at South San Francisco High School.

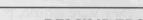
Dominic likes to play tunes which have a nostalgic quality. He plays with a passion he describes as "ballads which tug at the heart strings". He especially likes strolling or playing background music.

Always on the search for a new challenge, Dominic helped to organize the San Francisco Accordion Ensemble. Paul Pasquali asked him to play bass accordion with the group. Dominic soon realized it would not be easy since he, like most of us, is not as familiar reading bass clef as pianists are, but he accepted the challenge. A lot of hard work went into converting him to the instrument, but it has paid off handsomely as anyone who has heard the group will recognize.

We said earlier that Dominic is a visionary. His greatest hope is that our club will grow in stature to be recognized as an integral part of the Bay Area community's cultural life. To that we say, "Amen."

Frank Montoro

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## **REMINDERS**

May 4th.....General Meeting

June 7th..... BAAC Picnic

August 29th, 30th...Cotati Festival

January 18th '93.....Lou Soper's Birthday

## ELECTION UPDATE

Our May 4th general meeting will be the setting for BAAC's annual election of officers and board. The Nominating Committee presented its proposed slate at the April meeting, and additional nominations were received from the floor at that time.

The Nominating Committee recommended that the following persons be elected to office:

President: Peter DiBono Vice-President: Marian Kelly

Treasurer: Frank Montoro

Financial Secretary: Rusty Bartoli

Recording Secretary: No recommendation
Board of Directors: Reno DiBono, Roy Helsing,
Paul Pasquali, Algis Ratnikas, Joe Smiell.

These members were nominated in April from the floor:

President: Joe Smiell

Vice President: Walter Traverso

Recording Secretary: Barbara Hartley

Board of Directors: Jim Holliday, Domenic Saso,

Lou Soper.

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Your editors have solicitated statements from each nominee. They were asked why they wish to hold a BAAC office and what direction they see the club taking in the future. Statements which were received by press time appear below.

#### **OFFICERS**

Peter DiBono: The most important priority for the Bay Area Accordion Club should be the restoration to prominence of our instrument. The present course for has taken the accordion from a premier, universally popular instrument to an object of ridicule and joke. BAAC can lead the accordion world in reversing this image. Positive new thoughts combined with action can restore the brilliance that was THE ACCORDION.

Joe Smiell: No statement

Marian Kelly: Now that our club has reached 200 members, we have both the potential and the responsibility to set greater goals for ourselves than listening to one another play our favorite instrument. If we are to continue to grow and prosper, we need leadership, planning, follow through, and coordination with others who hold similar interests.

Walter Traverso: No statement

Frank Montoro: Marian Kelly has done an outstanding job of setting up a budget for the club and it would be my hope to continue this model. I would like to keep the members informed about our finances through frequent reports in the newsletter and at the meetings.

Barbara Hartley: No statement

Rusty Bartoli: This Accordion Club is a dream come true for me. So, naturally, I enjoy doing what I can to help. I'm still amazed at how the club has grown in such a short period, and I also enjoy the many new friends I've made.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Reno DiBono: No statement

Roy Helsing: No statement

Jim Holliday: I believe that BAAC has beautifully accomplished its original goal of providing a haven where those who love the accordion can listen to one another. I support our playing in the schools to encourage young people to carry on our tradition. Beyond that, I have no specific agenda for changing our successful group.

Paul Pasquali: It is a privilege having been recommended by the nominating committee as a nominee for the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Accordion Club. If it is the members' aspiration, then serving BAAC in this capacity and offering my time, talents, and ideas in assisting the Club's future success would be a distinct honor.

My overall goal would be to have BAAC sponsor more concerts which include members as well as guest performers.

Algis Ratnikas: My congratulations to the outgoing Officers and Board for an excellent job in getting the Club rolling. Among other ideas I would have the club consider for the long term a fund for a permanent BAAC home. For the immediate future I would promote a BAAC annual student recital and an annual yearbook or video summarizing BAAC highlights.

Dominic Saso: No statement

Joe Smiell: No statement

Lou Soper: No statement

We are following some guidelines for the conduct of this election:

- a. One written ballot will be handed to each paid BAAC member when he/she arrives at the May meeting.
  - b. There is no provision for absentee ballots.
- c. No further nominations will be accepted at the May meeting.

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BAAC 48 POPE ST SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94112





Frank Montoro 1448 Tarrytown St San Mateo, CA 94403

**NEXT MEETING: MONDAY** May 4, 1992 7:00PM

Conductor Co-Conductor Peter DiBono Lou Soper

HOUSE OF PARTIES 22 HILLCREST DR. DALY CITY

**Public Relations** Walter Traverso

CALL DOMENIC SASO IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AT THE NEXT MEETING..415-587-7557

Banker Marian Kelly

Teller & Scribe Carol Benetti