

BAY AREA

# ACCORDION CLUB



A. Restrepo - 94

APRIL, 1996

## APRIL General Meeting

by Denny Huff

We were all a little disappointed that the Forever Tango group was late returning from Argentina and would miss the meeting, but our headliner, **Lou Jacklich**, quickly evaporated our disappointment with a star-studded display of talent and students. Moe on **Lou** to come.

**Domenic Saso** introduced President **Bob Berta** who quickly conducted club business, the most important piece being that the Board Members would be reconsidering the procedural correctness of a recent bylaws change (see March news-

letter and this month's President's Column). After all, we do want to remain P.C.! **Bob** then transformed himself into our first act and functioned as a late stand-in for Forever Tango.

Appropriately, one of **Bob's** numbers was an Argentine Tango, *Cantar Lorando*, delivered with authentic beat and enthusiasm. Thanks **Bob** for working this number up for the Club on such short notice! He also played an "unusual" piece composed by Henry Doktorski — *Dance of the Angels*. (An angelic sequel to last

month's *Flight of the Angels*.) Other numbers **Bob** performed were *When the Clock is Striking Twelve* and a piece which he has played on the organ, *Ariso Pagiaphi*.

Our next backup player

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**May 1st, Wed.** BAAC Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at Ed Massolo's, 612 Lassen, So. S.F. Guests welcome. Call Ed at (415) 589-8409 for directions.

**May 6th, Monday.** BAAC General Meeting. It's LADIES' NIGHT, everybody! Last year's best-attended meeting. Come and enjoy music by, among others, Val Kieser & Renate Bixby, Odile Lavault, Mary -Alice's Quinete, Jackie Jones' Trio, and Marian Kelly. Donworth Hall, 22nd & Eucalyptus, S.F., just north of Stonestown Shopping Center. 7PM.

**May 13th, Monday 7:00 PM.** BAAC Fun Band Practice, House of Parties. Call Domenic, (415) 587-7557.

**May 8th & 22nd, Wednesdays 7:00 PM.** BAAC Accordion Practice, House of Parties. Call Joe, 510-832-6938.

**June 3rd., Monday.** BAAC General Meeting featuring our guest, Bonnie Birch.

**June 21st, Making Waves** solstice celebration in San Francisco. See p. 7.

**July 1st, Monday.** July General Meeting features guest artist Henry Doktorski.

**July 7th, Sunday.** BAAC Picnic. Swiss Park in Newark.

**July 21-26th, Galla-Rini Accordion**



Lou Jacklich, Herb Meier, Jeremy Jeans

cont. on p. 4

cont. on p. 6

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by *Bob Berta*

At the March membership meeting the board proposed a couple of changes to the by-laws. The proposed changes were printed up and handed out prior to the meeting and a vote was taken at the intermission. Those changes were approved. Since than a couple of members have questioned the procedures that were used to change the by-laws since they weren't strictly as prescribed in the by-laws. The board met in April and decided that those members who brought it up were correct. We should have included the proposed changes in the newsletter prior to the meeting.

Therefore, members will again have a chance to vote on the proposed changes at the May meeting. While this delay will cause a minor scheduling glitch in the election process, we have no choice but to proceed until the process is completed. The changes are efforts to correct what have become hinderances in the workings of the club.

The changes will involve Articles VI, VIII and IX. The current restriction to a maximum of 2 years as a director results in a loss of experienced people without a smooth transition to the newly elected members. This is not intended to create long terms in office since the actual elected term is still just 1 year. The other proposed change is the revision of the schedule for the election process. The old system left us with a dead period of a month in which nothing happened.

Here are the specific changes proposed along with the current wordings:

Article VI, Item 2: Term of Office: Delete the sentence "No officer shall serve more than two successive years."

Article VIII: Delete "No Director shall serve more than two (2) consecutive years."

Article IX, Nominations and Elections: Item#2: Change "April" to "May"; Item #3, Change "May" to "June"

### April Board Meeting

#### Synopsis

- Treasurer Ratnikas reported \$ 7,654. in our combined bank accounts.
- The Board held a discussion of possible solutions to the problem of intrusive talking in the rear of the hall after the general meeting has been called to order. It was especially offensive at the April meeting, when several of the perpetrators didn't even realize that the meeting was in progress., One suggestion, that we purchase a better microphone, was approved by the Board.
- A fund-raising committee consisting of Gwynn Lister, Bob Berta, and Frank Schlotter has been formed. After Gwynn checks out restraints and guidelines based on bylaws, a plan will be formulated.
- After a long discussion of the bylaws changes which were voted into effect at the March meeting, the Board decided to correct the procedure used. After a statement is published in the April newsletter along with proposed changes, the membership will be asked at the May meeting to approve the proposed changes *for the current year only*. Next year a more complete bylaws revision will be undertaken.
- A Nominating Committee (two Board members plus three persons from the general membership) has been formed and will present a proposed slate of officers and Board members at the May meeting.
- The Board voted to give the Cotati Festival Committee \$500 this year, as we have done for the last two years. In exchange, BAAC will have booth space, a jam tent, and an ad in the program (all of which totals more than \$500.) Marian offered to chair the committee for the Cotati booth this year.
- BAAC has a busy schedule for the next few months. The Board discussed many details regarding Jim Boggio's upcoming Cajun/Zydeco workshop, the July 7th picnic, our dinner at the Irish Cultural Center on August 18th, Henry Doktorski's guest appearance at our July meeting, Stas Venglevski at our September meeting, and the possibility that in November we will host world-class accordionist Frederick Lips!

MK

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## THE BAAC—HOW IT ALL BEGAN

by Jim Holliday

In late 1989 and early 1990 occasional brief articles appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle referring to a lobby movement striving to have the accordion recognized as the "Official Instrument" of San Francisco. Few details were provided, and little did I suspect that subsequent events evolving directly from this idea would ultimately result in the formation of an accordion club, my personally becoming acquainted with several of the world's outstanding accordionists, and finally, would bring me in contact with hundreds of other people who shared my love for the accordion!

It all began in early 1989 when a San Francisco woman accordionist who called herself "Big Lou" joined up with several other players to form a group known as "Those Darn Accordions!" A charter member named Tom Torriglia became their spokesman and publicist. Always looking for ways to get publicity for the accordion in general, and Those Darn Accordions in particular, Tom and group occasionally resorted to some rather bizarre behavior. This included "Accordionista Raids" wherein the uninited group, accordions at the ready, would storm North Beach restaurants, and a "Lady-of-Spain-a-thon" during which they played "Lady of Spain" for ten solid hours! They achieved the desired results when local newspapers reported these antics in featured articles!

One day, Those Darn Accordions! played at a Giants "new ballpark" rally on Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. Tom got into a conversation with Willie Kennedy, a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and mentioned to her his group's desire to have the accordion declared the "Official Instrument" of San Francisco. Willie Kennedy liked the idea



*Dominic Palmisano, Jim Holliday, Lou Soper, Walter Traverso, Rusty Bartoli*

and agreed to officially sponsor it if Tom would supply documentation to support and justify the action. Tom complied by presenting her with well-researched material and Willie Kennedy made the official presentation and motion to the Board of Supervisors in January, 1990.

Shortly thereafter, an article in the San Francisco Chronicle mentioned an upcoming Board of Supervisors open meeting at City Hall on the "Official Instrument" question and invited any interested members of the public, pro or con on the accordion, to speak for three minutes. About a dozen people, mostly complete strangers to each other showed up and addressed the Board. Almost all were pro accordion and at the conclusion of our business the group filed out of chambers into the rotunda for a post mortem discussion of the proceedings.

Most of the group left after a few minutes but five people remained, reluctant to let go of such a precious opportunity to speak with, share thoughts, and somehow preserve this new found group relationship. Those five people were Dominic Palmisano, Jim Holliday, Lou Soper, Walter Traverso and 'Rusty' Bartoli.

At this point Walter Traverso said, "Let's all go to my house. I'd like you all to see, and try out a new Midi electronic accordion I just bought, and we can all talk some more". During the next delightful hour or

two at Walter's house somebody said, "We ought to start an accordion club". We unanimously agreed and decided that job #1 was to find a suitable meeting place.

The first-ever meeting took place on May 7, 1990 at Woodlake Joe's Restaurant in San Mateo with 25 people in attendance. One of the first pieces of business we considered was a

name for the group and the "Bay Area Accordion Club" title was born that night!

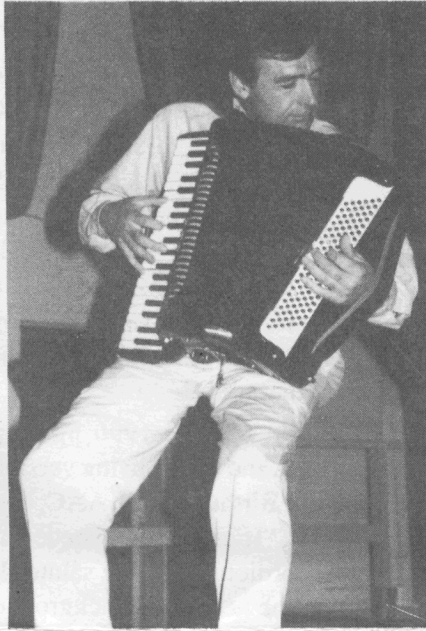
So, on May 7, 1996 pick up your accordions and do a rousing version of "Happy 6th Birthday" to BAAC, and propose a toast; "Here's to our wonderful Bay Area Accordion Club! We salute all those who do the necessary background work to keep the club functioning successfully, to those who perform and entertain us at our meetings, and those who support the club by their attendance and financial help. Long live the Bay Area Accordion Club!"

A final meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held in early 1990 regarding the "Official Instrument" question. Participants were required to make oral "yea" or "nay" votes and the resolution passed despite some strong objections from Angela Alioto (whose father and previous mayor of San Francisco, Joseph Alioto played the violin!) and her group.

The passed resolution was put on the desk of then Mayor, Art Agnos for his official signature. He considered it "too hot" politically and did nothing further with it. Ironically, it turned out that City Charter law provides that when a passed resolution of the Board of Supervisors is not signed, amended or withdrawn, it becomes the law twelve months later! So the accordion did indeed become the "Official Instrument" of San Francisco in January, 1991 — by default!

**APRIL General Meeting, from p. 1.**

was another “pro” able to step in on minimum notice and provide an outstanding show — **Reno Di Bono**, whose first number was *Migliavaca*. While I could barely spell the number with great diffi-



*Reno Di Bono*

culty, **Reno** played it with obvious ease and artistic ability. How does he do that?? His next number was *Spanish Eyes*, a great piece for the accordion, as we observed again later in the evening. Somewhere in many accordionists is a frustrated vocalist, and **Reno** couldn't resist singing his next number (in Ital-

ian!), *An Evening in Roma*. He described it as an old Dean Martin number, and Dean would have applauded the rendition. **Reno** finished with a jazz version of *Sweet Georgia Brown*. You can't really categorize **Reno's** playing because he's accomplished in so many different styles — jazz, traditional, ethnic, occasionally classical, etc. Attaboy, **Reno!!**

Last but not least for the first half of the show, was **Don Nurisso**. **Don's** an unsung hero of sorts among BAAC accordion players. He's sort of quiet, not particularly flashy, not particularly obvious in a crowd, etc., but he's an exceptionally accomplished player and his March performance was up to his excellent standard. **Don** started out with *Alice in Wonderland*, which he noted wasn't often played on the accordion. It certainly wouldn't have occurred to me, but **Don** made it sound like a natural. He followed with *But Beautiful*, which was, and *I've Got the World on a String*. When it comes to accordion playing, **Don** definitely has the world on a string.

After the break we were treated to a young fellow who put a smile on every face in the building, **Jeremy Jeans**. **Jeremy** is eight years old, and he's been studying accordion for two years. His playing was delightful, but I was also taken by his attitude and presentation. He was alternately playful and confident, and very appropriately dressed for a debut performance. Dark suit, tie, and well combed hair! After his instructor **Lou Jacklich** introduced him, **Jeremy** jumped into a *Military Medley* which paid tribute to the four military services. Put a lump in my throat. His feet didn't touch the floor, and his head just barely peeked over the top of his accordion, but he delivered his next number, *Boogie Woogie*, like a seasoned professional. Complete with bellows shake! The crowd loved it. We were “havin' too much fun” when he jumped into his last number, *Lady of Spain*. Not a few people thought of Dick Contino,

as our young virtuoso performed flawlessly. Standing ovation!! And very well deserved. **Lou** noted that **Jeremy's** aspirations are to be (1) a roofing contractor



*Don Nurisso*

like his dad, (2) an artist, and (3) a professional accordionist. He's got a lock on number three. His encore number, *Spanish Eyes*, was another crowd pleaser. Move over, **Reno** (who also played *Spanish Eyes*); this kid's gaining on you!

**Herb Meier**, another Jacklich student, was handed a hot stage, and he responded well. **Herb** has been a BAAC member several years, but somehow we had not previously taken note of him. He has been in the Union for 30 years, and began playing piano at age 6. **Herb** started with the accordion only 8 years ago, although he seemed like he had played it longer. He's made nine trips to South America playing aboard cruise ships, and he became intrigued with Peruvian music, which contains some very complicated rhythm patterns. Not to worry. **Herb** looked and sounded like a career accordionist as he played three Peruvian waltzes, *Limena* (Lady from Peru), *La Flor de la Canela* (The Cinnamon Flower), and *Cuando Lloro mi Guitarra* (When my



*Bob Berta, Tom Cordoni*

### APRIL General Meeting, cont.

Guitar Cries.) The music was lively, peppy, and melodic. Great job, **Herb!**



*Jeremy Jeans*

**Lou** then introduced another student, who didn't play this evening, 74 year young **Virginia Kapika**, who's been studying for eight years and taking two hour, weekly lessons. She's also a new BAAC member. Maybe we can hear her at another meeting.

**Lou Jacklich** would have done enough for the meeting to have contributed to the development of his students and to have



*Herb Meier*

brought them to BAAC for a performance, but he didn't let it go at that. Next he strapped on his trusty accordion and entertained. His selections were as varied as his performance was accomplished. Numbers included *El Cumbachero*, *Cumaña*, Augustine Lara's *Grenada*, Grofe's *On the Trail* from *Grand Canyon Suite*, *Flight of the Bumble Bee*, and *Malagueña*. I guess I'm not a true sophisticate, because when **Lou** played *Dance of the Hours*, I couldn't help but think of Allen Sherman's version of *Camp Grenada*. (Ed. note...remember "Hello mudda, hello fadda"??) **Lou's** final number was a tongue in cheek number entitled *101 Freeway*, replete with horns, trains, tire screeches and a Merry Oldsmobile. Please try to make it to more meetings, **Lou**. We really enjoyed getting



*Lou Jacklich*

to know you.

So that you too will know a little more about him....**Lou** is a professional musician who came from an accordion playing family and who has made a full time career of music and the accordion. In the late '50s, **Lou** had four accordion bands with which he toured locations as distant as Chicago and Denver. He operated a studio

with five teachers in Castro Valley and has performed as a soloist for more than twenty years. He's been playing at the Alameda County Fair for 36 years(!), played at the Marriott in Santa Clara for 11 years, and has been a regular at the San Jose Country Club. **Lou** currently has about 20 students, a number to which he'd like to limit himself to allow adequate time for more future concerts. **Lou** says that despite being an itinerant musician he tries to live a normal life and enjoy his family which now boasts 7 grandchildren. Keep up the good work, **Lou**.

**Lou** confided to your correspondent that he and **Jeremy** will appear in Walnut Creek at the Regional Center of the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, on June 8th, 8PM in a musical show "I've Heard the Song Before". Tickets are \$16. **Lou** can also be found in the Garden Area at the Alameda County Fair from 22 June to 16 July, in the afternoons. Be sure to say hello to him if you attend.

## BAAC Business Cards

Attention, members! We have a new supply of Bay Area Accordion Club business cards, and each of you is encouraged to pick up a few (about 5) and to use them. The card has two blank lines on which you may fill in your own name and address or phone. It also includes the club address and the voicemail phone number.

Cards are available at the sign-in table at all general meetings.

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## Getting to know...*Arnie Krenn*

"I learned to play accordion by accident. My Father bought a 24 bass accordion for my two older brothers, but neither of them showed any interest in music. Winter came early in Saskatchewan and TV did not exist back in 1940. With lots of time on my hands, I started to fool around with this very large instrument, and, with my father's help I learned to play a few songs.

Only one situation in my life has been more traumatic than playing for BAAC. That was shortly before my 5th birthday when my parents entered me in an amateur hour. I wasn't scared; hell, I was absolutely petrified.

There was no way I was going to go out onto that stage and play before that bunch of people. Mom and Dad tried everything from begging and pleading to threatening to kill me, but my mind was made up, there was nothing they could do to make me play.

Then Dad did the unthinkable! He sent our parish priest, Fr. William, backstage to talk to me. Fr. Bill asked me to put on the accordion and then sit down on a chair to relax. He then picked me up, chair and all, carried me out on the stage, sat me down, and told me to play.

I had been had. I knew I had to listen to my priest. So, when I found myself on a stage in front of all those people, I had no choice but to do what our parish priest had indicated. I'm certain that my undeserved third prize came from super-sympathetic judges."

*BAAC's heartiest congratulations to Tony and Celine Di Bono, who celebrated their 58th Wedding Anniversary on April 20th!!*

*Calendar, cont from p. 1.*

**Camp, Silver Falls, OR.** Call Accordion World, (503) 244-2545.

**August 8 - 11th. Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration,** Leavenworth, WA. Featuring competitions, tropics, workshops. Call Anne Koenig at (509) 548-5807 for more info.

**August 18th, Sunday.** BAAC Inauguration and Honors Dinner. Plan to attend!

**August 24th and 25th.** Cotati Accordion Festival. This year's headliner...Golden Bough!

**September 9th, Monday.** BAAC General Meeting featuring guest artist Stas Venglevski.

## *Nominating Committee*

It's that time again! Your nominating committee is hard at work preparing a slate of officers which they will propose at our May general meeting. They are scratching their heads trying to identify members who might be willing to help us continue to grow our Club. They are particularly interested in finding enthusiastic people with new ideas.

If this sounds like you, or if you have been whispering to your buddies asking why BAAC doesn't do such-and-such that sounds pretty obvious to you, please consider stepping forward. This year several persons who have been on the Board for a long time believe that it is time for them to step aside; obviously, therefore we will need to find replacements.

The Committee Chair, Frank Schlotter, would like to hear from you. Call him at (510) 339-1163 or at (510) 339-8657. Or speak to any of the other four committee members, Val Kieser, Peter Di Bono, Josephine Hornbrook, and Denny Huff.

This committee will recommend one candidate for each office at the May meeting. At that time, additional nominations from the floor will be solicited. Should you choose to nominate someone at that meeting, please first make certain that that individual has agreed to be nominated.

Elections will be held at our June general meeting. The new officer and board positions take effect on July 1st.

MK



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BAAC

*Celebrate 1996 - Year of the Accordion*

## ACCORDIONISTS WANTED!!!

Dear Musicians,

**Making Waves 1996**, San Francisco's 5th Annual Summer Solstice Music Day is now in the works and we're inviting your participation! San Francisco is the first American city to celebrate the summer solstice in conjunction with 80 other countries on June 21st, also International Music Day. Inspired by the Fête de la Musique in France, **International Music Day** is built on the concept that music is a universal language that can bring the world's communities together.

Last year's festival was a resounding success thanks to the many talented and spirited people who contributed their respective musical magical talents. There were 200 different music groups and close to 1200 musicians Making Waves on twenty-five different music sites up Market Street, in the Financial District, and at the Ferry Plaza and on the ferries.

We cannot offer any pay for this festival, because there is very little money involved. We do offer publicity, a good sound system, competent sound engineers and stage managers, good natured volunteers, complimentary ginger juice, interesting locations and sunshine. No one is selling any products at this festival; there are no vendors. (Musicians may bring their tapes and CD's.) Making Waves is strictly non-commercial; the focus is on the ritual of the day celebrated through music and the people who play it. Music will sound in the air from 11 AM to 7 PM in most locations. Sets are 40 minutes. If your group is able to participate this year, please fill out the enclosed Musician Form and send everything requested thereon to Making Waves. (Please complete all questions...we need the info for our publicist.) If you have questions, please call us at 487-9329 or leave a message at 431-9962.

Sincerely,  
Toni Hafter  
Festival Director

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LOCAL MEDIA HISTORY \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL RADIO PLAY (STATIONS AND DJS) \_\_\_\_\_

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PLEASE SUPPLY US WITH THE FOLLOWING BY MAY 21ST:

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TECHNICAL QUESTIONS:

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DO YOU PLAY ACOUSTICALLY \_\_\_\_\_

ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKING WAVES**

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Editor's Note: Dear BAAC Members: We're printing this letter which we received from **Making Waves** because this sounds like such a fine way for us to celebrate **The Year of the Accordion!** How wonderful it would be if this year's Making Waves musicians included an accordionist at every music site! We encourage you to participate in this happy event. We've reduced the form to fit here but will be happy to provide you with a full sized form. Call Marian (415) 854-1896.

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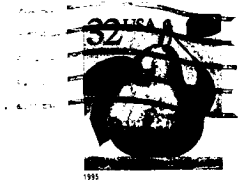
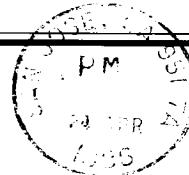
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**NEXT MEETING: MONDAY  
MAY 6th, 1996  
7:00 PM**

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SAN FRANCISCO**

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