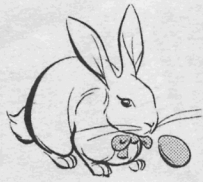
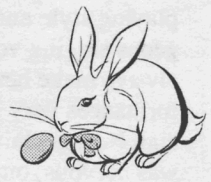


Happy
Easter !!!



Happy
Easter !!!



Official Instrument of San Francisco
1912 ♪ *The World's First Accordion Club* ♪ **2006**



President's Message

Not so long ago our Club was abruptly ejected from what had been our meeting place in Daly City for years. The reason given—well actually, no reason was given, we were just thrown out. Luckily, and thanks to Ed Massolo, we found the beautiful facility in South San Francisco, and have been content there for several months. It has been a struggle making

ends meet because of the increased rent, but we have survived, and, in fact, we have flourished. Our meetings are so popular now that we have the opposite problem: we have just been informed by the South SF Senior Center that we cannot have as many in attendance as we have been getting. We don't know the reason for the huge spike in attendance, but many have told me it's because of the cookies I baked for the last meeting.

While the Fates seem to be working against us, we are not discouraged. Several of us have been out

(Continued on page 4)

NOTE: April Meeting takes place on the FOURTH Sunday (because of Easter) Sunday, April 23 promptly at 2:00 p.m.

Featuring Margie and Aldo Bin from San Jose, John Fiore (we've tried to get Johnny for years!), the one & only George Cerutti, and (second half) AbsolutAccord. Warmup player: Jerry Choate.

About our April Performers . . .

In the first half of the program we have the very popular dance music/singers **Margie and Aldo Bin** from San Jose, **John Fiore** of San Francisco, who has been a member forever but we have never been able to talk him into playing for the club (if you haven't heard Johnny before, get ready for some amazing music), the one and only **George Cerutti**, an icon of accordion history in San Francisco from right here in the Bay Area (see photo at right from Jan. 2004 when George last played for us). In the second half we're featuring the precision quintet **AbsolutAccord**, consisting of Richard Yaus (also director of the group), Lynn Ewing, Sharon Walters, Joe Simoni and Norma Zonay-Parsons (photo on page 5). Get ready for a great Sunday afternoon!



Bill Nawrocki, George Cerutti, Mario Suraci Jan.

(See Our April Performers, page 5)

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, April 23, 2:00 p.m SHARP at the South San Francisco Senior Center, 33 Arroyo Drive, South SF The FOURTH SUNDAY this month only!!!!

March Meeting: Another Big Winner!

To a fully packed house, the music program started off with a favorite of everyone, **Norma Zonay-Parsons**. Norma's smooth, effortless playing style and gorgeous singing voice always make her performances very special. Norma claims she was nervous, but I would never have guessed it! She played *My Florence Waltz*, *Musettina*, *Blue Moon* (with vocal), *I've Got the World on a String* (with vocal); sang and played a hilarious ditty about the Irishman, the Frenchman and the Italian; and played a lovely Irish Lullaby where the audience joined in. Norma, I wish you'd come and play/sing for us more often!



Norma Zonay-Parsons

As always, the drawing was held in mid-meeting. There was a \$30 prize, a \$40 prize and an \$80 prize, but the only winner whose name I was able to get was **Jim Holliday**, who very kindly donated back his \$40 to the Scholarship Fund in memory of Ed Zaro. Thanks, Jim!



Skyler Fell and Melody Guzman

During the break, we were all surprised with a colorful and action-packed accordion and juggling show put on by new member **Skyler Fell** and her juggling friend **Melody Guzman**. We will be hearing/seeing them again!

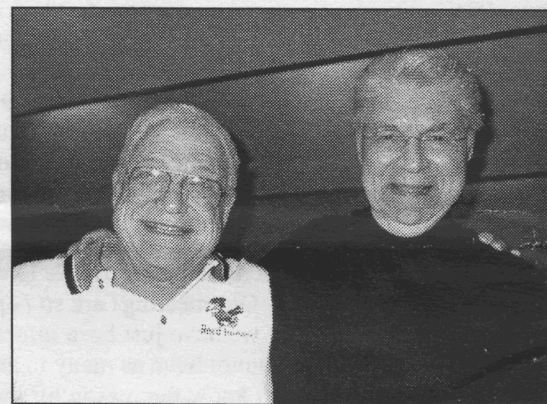
Next up was the legendary **Carl Fortina** who put on a really impressive show, both with the old Cellini accordion

recently restored by **Vince Cirelli**, and with his "regular" accordion. First he demonstrated the old Cellini, which has a piano keyboard on the bass side. Carl must have done a lot of practicing, he played such amazing melodies on the bass side! On the Cellini he played *Makin' Whoopie*, *Sophisticated Lady/Don't Get Around Much Anymore/Satin Doll* (medley), and an Ellington medley. Applause was warm and enthusiastic, both for Carl and for Vince Cirelli, the craftsman who so lovingly restored the old Cellini. Carl told the now-familiar story of how he acquired that old accordion: it had belonged to Jascha Heifetz who willed it to Carl. The

two had met about 40 years ago and became close friends. The accordion had been made specially for Jascha Heifetz when Heifetz had indicated to Cellini that he couldn't play "those adding machine keys," and hence the piano keyboard on bass side. Carl then continued (on the Cellini) with two Bossa Novas, *Wave* and *Girl from Ipanema*. He also spoke of the limitations of this accordion, such as: it has only 12 pleats in the bellows, you can't use your thumb on the left-hand piano keyboard, and the treble keys are narrower than those of modern accordions, forcing him to adjust his thinking when playing this keyboard. Carl continued with *All the Things You Are*, *Rainy Day*, *Body & Soul*. The Cellini accordion has 2 and 3 reeds and was built around 1934. Then he played the *Godfather* theme while standing and turning so everyone could see the entire accordion. Steve Cannata commented that he remembers hearing Carl play *Bumble Boogie* at age 16 at the Italian-American Club.

Carl Fortina with restored Cellini accordion
Note piano keys on bass side

Carl told many, many great anecdotes. He especially loves playing in an orchestra, surrounded by strings. After playing *Lover*, Carl switched to his "regular" accordion and was joined by Harry Gay on the stage. Harry told of how he met Carl (see the March SFAC newsletter). Carl was 19 at the time and Harry was in total awe of Carl's playing. Harry wore out the grooves on a 78 rpm record made in 1949 of Carl playing with Dino Bennetti. If I understood correctly, the pieces on that 78 rpm were *Rosalee Polka* and a beautiful waltz, *Quando Era Piccolina*.



Old Friends Harry Gay and Carl Fortina

Harry and Carl played several tunes together, including *Tic-Toc Polka*; Harry's favorite and signature piece, a collection of Bavarian tunes (though Harry learned it in Switzerland), *Iupali, Iupali*. Carl very cleverly tossed *Carnival of Venice* into the Iupali song!

Harry then turned his place on stage over to **Peter Di Bono**. Peter and Carl played some beautiful duets, including *La Spagnola*, *O Marie/Ciribiribin* (medley), *Granada*, both grandiose and tender; some tunes from *My Fair*



Carl Fortina and Peter Di Bono

Lady: On The Street Where You Live, I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face, and I Could Have Danced All Night. Then they played Flight of the Angels and O Masolino dei Fiori (thanks to Steve Cannata who supplied me with some of those Italian names!).

Wow! What a show!

VTK

More Photos below . . .



Carl Fortina playing to an over-capacity and appreciative audience

Letter from New Member Sue Hirigoyen

"Dear Valerie,

I recently joined your club and attended my first meeting today. What a program! What performers! Amazing is all I can say! I was deeply impressed.

I brought my family along with me (husband, daughter, son, brother-in-law and sister-in-law from MN). We all had a great time.

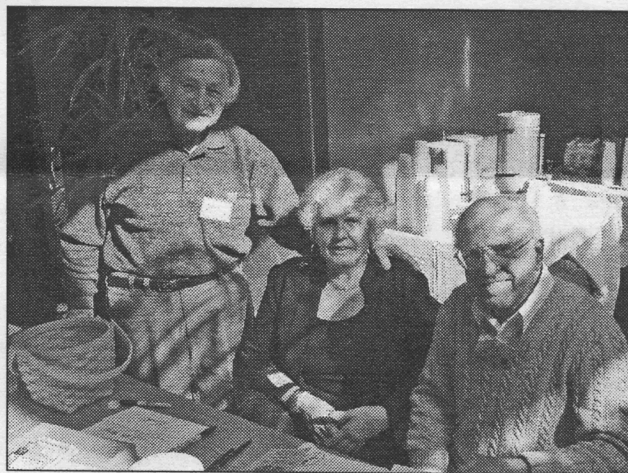
We continued on to celebrate my husband and my 25th anniversary at the Basque Cultural Center and ran into fellow accordionists there. I recognized Harry Gay in the hall and stopped to compliment him on the fine music he treated us to, got into a brief conversation with him and then realized I had to get back to my family. I told him about my anniversary celebration and he checked to see what table we were at and returned with his accordion to serenade us with *The Anniversary Waltz*!! I was touched by this gesture. What an incredibly sweet man! I did give him a hug and a kiss on the cheek and thanked him. What a special remembrance for my husband and me. Sincerely, *Sue Hirigoyen.*"

We thank you, Susan!

Val



Carl Fortina and Vince Cirelli



Welcome Table: Vince Cirelli, Rosemary Armanino, Ed Massolo



All the stars of the Carl Fortina show:
Harry Gay, Carl Fortina, Vince Cirelli, Peter Di Bono



Peter Di Bono & Vince Cirelli

Very Sad News . . .

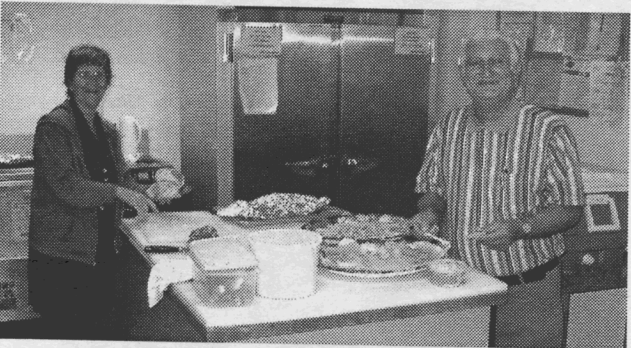


Ed Zaro

Our club has lost some very dear friends during the last month. First it was our faithful videographer, **Ed Zaro**, who lived to be nearly 98 years old! Rosemary Armanino writes, "We will miss Ed Zaro, 'Mr. South San Francisco.' He even wrote his own Eulogy over 10 years ago and it was read per his request by his dear friend Eleanor Fourie at his funeral mass. He had a successful butcher shop in South SF, City Hall Market on Grand Avenue, for over 40 years." Ed used to

drive himself to all SFAC and SVAS meetings so he could videotape the meetings. As for the SFAC, he missed only one meeting in nearly 16 years! (From editor: Ed and I had an ongoing joke wherein I would duck down to the floor every time I passed him, symbolic of ducking the video camera. We had a lot of laughs over it.) Eddie and his familiar, smiling face, will be missed. This photo, taken at the February SFAC meeting, will surely stir up memories for all our members.

Then, all too soon, we lost our beloved and faithful member and meeting caterer, **Dominic Benedetto**, to cancer at age 78. Who could forget Dominic and Frances as they set up and provided exquisite mini-banquets for all our meetings! Dominic loved accordion music. He leaves his beautiful wife Frances, two sons, 5 grandchildren, and a great-grandchild due to arrive in July. Frances suggests that members wishing to make a contribution might like to contribute to the SF Accordion Club's Scholarship Fund.

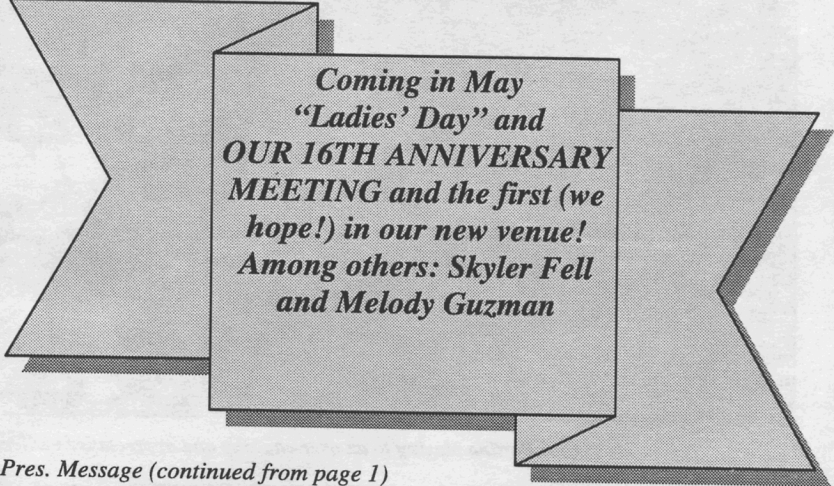
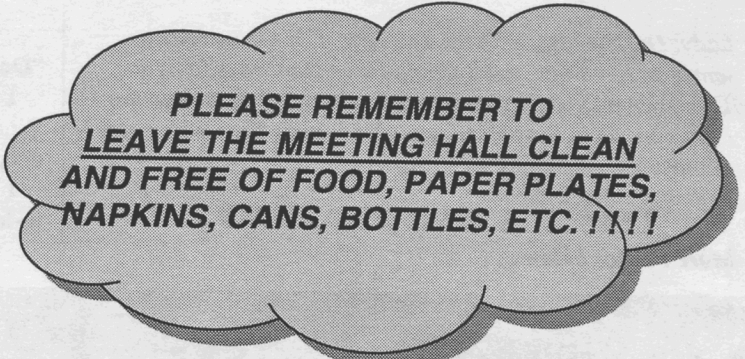


Frances and Dominic Benedetto

Longtime friend of SFAC **Eldo Bianchi** passed away April 2. Eldo was once a member of our club, when it was the BAAC, and was a founder of the East Bay Accordion Circle, which met at his home in Berkeley.

Still another loss to the accordion world is the passing of **Arthur Metzler**, accomplished musician and artist of countless adorable accordion cartoons that are familiar to many of us. (See Arthur Metzler cartoon on page 6.)

We send our sincerest condolences to the families of all those whom we have lost in the past month.



Pres. Message (continued from page 1)

looking for a new location. Dick Schiller was in South SF checking out another possible meeting site and just "fell upon" what will likely become our new home. The **Oyster Point Yacht Club** is a beautiful facility, at a price that we can afford, and has everything we require. The place has a beautiful water view, is plenty large for us, has a nice bar, kitchen, plenty of parking, is 2 minutes off the freeway, and has everything we need. Our May 21 meeting will be Ladies' Day and our club's 16th anniversary, and we're hoping to be in the new venue for that meeting.

The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble is presenting a concert in Redwood City on April 30th, and **I hope you will come out and support us**. Please look for the formal notice elsewhere in this newsletter.

Last month we had Hollywood's greatest accordionist, Carl Fortina, and this month, on the 24th, we are having some other fantastic accordionists. **John Fiore** finally has a day off from his very active playing schedule, and is slated for the first half of the meeting along with **Margie and Aldo Bin** and **George Cerruti** with his jazz combo. After the break (and some more of my famous cookies), we will hear the 5-member ensemble, **AbsolutAccord**. It will be another spectacular day!

It is with sadness that I tell you of the passing of **Dominic Benedetto** and **Ed Zaro**, two of our most dedicated members. Dominic and wife, Frances, have helped this club so much over the years; every meeting included a lavish buffet provided by the Benedettos. The picnics would not have been possible without their help, and we all owe a lot of gratitude to Dominic and Frances. Ed Zaro faithfully videotaped all our meetings for the last 15-plus years and was a most amazing man. Dominic and Ed both will be sorely missed.

Don't forget to remember (that's a little Bushism) the next meeting is on the **4th Sunday, the 23rd of April**. See you then, and ferrgawdsakes, play your accordion every day, and remember: **REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!**

Peter di Bono

The following letter from Tom Bruno should have been included in the March newsletter. Here it is, a bit late (with apologies from your Editor)

From: Tom Bruno [accordiontom@yahoo.com]
 Sent: Friday, March 03, 2006 7:58 PM
 To: Dick Schiller; Valerie T. Kieser
 Subject: My letter of thanks to the San Francisco
 Accordion club

Dear Dick & Val,

Here's my letter of thanks to the club. I wanted to get it out to you sooner, but have been quite busy all day.

I want to thank the San Francisco Accordion club for so generously sponsoring my concert on February 19th. I had so many wonderful moments with the many members of the club. I was especially touched by having been personally "coached" by Mr. Joe Smiell. What a privilege!! My performance of *Waltz for Lovers* was significantly improved because of his advice on phrasing, interpretation, etc. God bless you Joe!

I had a wonderful time also visiting Vince Cirelli at his shop. He is always so interesting to talk to, and I consider him to be a real treasure to the accordion world. He and I discussed many accordion repair issues, and I enjoyed the time spent with him as well as his advice on so many repair topics.

A final word of appreciation must go to Val Kieser. I had a very comfortable stay at her lovely home. I feel so privileged to have been her guest.

I look forward to being able to present a complete Charles Magnante Workshop/Concert exclusively for the San Francisco Accordion Club in the not-too-distant future. It is my opinion that the San Francisco Accordion club is the preeminent accordion club in America. I am glad to say that I am a loyal supporter of it.

I also look forward to coming to the Galla-Rini camp in July 2006. I have been asked by Joe Smiell to give a Charles Magnante presentation at the camp, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Sincerely,

Thomas ("Magnante") Bruno

(Our April Performers—continued from Page 1)



*AbsolutAccord: Richard Yaus, Lynn Ewing,
 Sharon Walters Greyhosky, Joe Simoni, Norma Zonay-Parsons
 (photo taken Feb. 2006 at SVAS meeting)*

BOTH THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE FREE!
Tom Torriglia's Annual Day of the Accordion at The Cannery
in San Francisco

The music program starts off at noon with our own San Francisco Accordion Band ("Fun Band"). Also featuring Kielbasa (the Polish Lunch Lady), Culann's Hounds (Irish), Conjunto Romero, Big Lou's Polka Casserole, Bella Ciao (Tom Torriglia's own band; Italian swing and pop), Those Darn accordions, and the San Francisco's Main Squeeze contest finals.

The Fourth Annual "Celebrate the Accordion Day"
in Petaluma

Tom Cordoni is hard at work organizing this very successful, fun-filled event for 2006. Performers will play in two areas: Putnam Plaza and behind the Petaluma Museum. Everything is close together and easy to find, and parking is within easy walking distance. If you or your group would like to perform, call Tom Cordoni (707) 762-2231, e-mail CordAcc@aol.com. There may still be some playing slots left.

HOUSE OF MUSIC
(559) 674-0071
www.accordionexchange.com
1706 Howard Road
Madera, CA 93637

♪ **FOR SALE** ♪

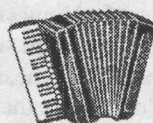
TWO FINE ACCORDIONS

Pro Model Excelsior AC Continental with hard case and custom soft case. Exquisite sounds. Tone chamber, many register switches. 140 bass. \$4,000. Amp also available.

Giulietti Model F52 with beautiful sounding reeds. Full size with 5 switches on keyboard side and two on bass side. 120 bass. \$950

CALL VALARIE MORRIS (510) 222-6672.

A young George Cerruti



To Art: "All the Things You Are!" (to us)

Whenever Art Van Damme dusts off his fabulous Van Damme Quintet arrangements for a rare public performance, it is indeed a major event! Art, with a very talented quartet of "youngsters" in tow, gave a sell-out crowd of 350 at Lodi's Hutchins Street Square, all they could want in a marathon 2½-hour concert including such

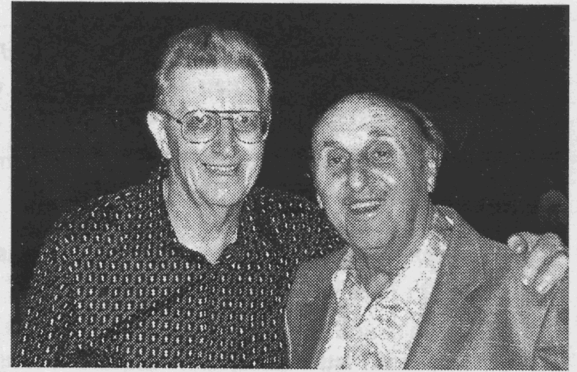


Art Van Damme

notables as Carl Fortina and Kenny Kotwitz in the audience. It was yet another precious glimpse of the man and his music who brought the accordion to life on the modern music scene, and in the process inspired thousands of aspiring musicians, young and older, showing how beautiful jazz can sound on our beloved instrument!

Tonight, once again at the young age of 86, Art showed his ageless talent, leading the quintet through his vintage repertoire that has mesmerized his fans throughout his career spanning 50+ years. Hitting on all 12 cylinders, the Quintet entered the speedway with tunes including *Lonesome Road* and *Cute*, among others, spotlighting breathtaking solos by all members of this extremely talented group. And then, the magical Van

Damme sound, a wondrous blend of accordion, vibes and guitar (which Art pioneered in 1945) wafted through the hall with such jewels as *Laura*, *Rainy Day*, and of course Art's favorite, *All The Things You Are*. The King certainly showed once again that he is unique in this beautiful style. His technique, like that of no other artist of any instrument, bears his signature arpeggio riffs and stylings that put his unique stamp on so many popular songs, that upon hearing just one bar of his music, one would exclaim...."Van Damme!" How many of us in our youth have labored over those 33 rpm records, trying to pull off the very notes of those beautiful passages, to wear as a badge of honor at our next gig?



Art Van Damme and John Puppo

Yes, Art Van Damme has given to all of us a pride in our instrument and in ourselves, with music so uplifting and beautiful! So how can we possibly say a big enough thank you to this gentle giant of our accordion world? I think you know, Art, how your many, many fans feel about you, and their wishes for your good health and happiness and the continued expression of your timeless music for many years to come . . . Our Man, Art Van Damme!

D.S.

SF Accordion Band News

Sharon Walters Greyhosky and the "Fun Band" are hard at work getting ready for spring and summer events. These include, in the near future, the **San Francisco Day of the Accordion** on Sunday, June 4, where the band will lead off the festivities at noon; and the **Petaluma Celebrate the Accordion Day** on Saturday, June 24. The Band is also planning a banquet for band members and spouses/friends on Friday, May 19.

The "Fun Band" is a very active and enthusiastic group of approx. 15 players, including guitar, bass, and occasionally mandolin, button box and even concertina! The rest of the players are piano accordion players. Anyone wishing to come and participate are encouraged to do so. It is a real learning (and *fun!*) experience under the direction of Sharon Walters Greyhosky. Call Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163. See page 9 for rehearsal schedule.

More Band gigs are coming up in summer and fall—stay tuned!

The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE)

Presents its Spring Concert Sunday, April 30 2:30 p.m.

At the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2124 Brewster Ave., Redwood City

Info: Call Frank Montoro (650) 574-4757

The ACE Ensemble also will be playing for the **Accordion Club of the Redwoods** meeting on Monday, April 16

Other ACE news: the Ensemble recently gave an excellent concert in Piedmont, and also recorded a mini-concert on Mt. View channel KMTV that was enthusiastically received by the station staff.

The ACE Ensemble thanks **Marian Kelly** for her willingness to fill in at the last moment for a member who couldn't make the station taping. She did a fantastic job.

Comments from a Friend on the ACE concert in Piedmont

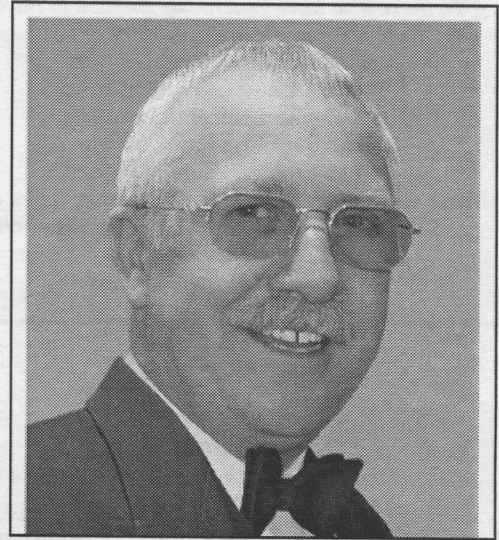
Valerie, thanks again for keeping us apprised of that concert date. My friends and husband and I thoroughly enjoyed the performance. We thought the program was so well thought out, bringing us up and down. The Polish dances were wonderful, and your Mozart so difficult but you made it look easy. The bass accordion is really a special instrument and the tone resounding from it is all-powerful. Everyone did an excellent job. (We love "Joe," he is too humble for having such great talent.)

Word Has It . . .

. . . That "King of Reno" accordionist/funny man (and SFAC member) **Corky Bennett** (photo at right) will present "From Jazz to Broadway" (and everything in between) with the Peter Supersano Trio Monday, May 29, 7:00 p.m., the Magic Underground, Pioneer Theatre, Reno. Tickets are \$20. MasterCard, VISA, checks accepted. Reserve tickets by calling (775) 287-2050.

. . . That **Margie and Aldo Bin**, who will entertain us this month, met each other in a piano bar where she worked as pianist. Aldo sang *Second Time Around* as she played it. It was to be the second time around for both of them, and they have been married for 38 years! Margie also sings in German and Italian. They are great entertainers! Thanks, Rosemary Armanino, for this tidbit!

. . . That SFAC member **Henry Doktorski** has available, among countless other items, an extensive collection of Pietro Deiro music on CDs, played by Henry. For The Deiro volume on Celebrated Polkas (there are 18 of them), there is also a book of the music, so you can play along with the CD or follow along with your eyes. Contact Henry Doktorski (412) 767-4427 or email henry@henrydoktorski.com. Address 142 Holly Hill Drive, Oakdale, PA 15071.



Corky Bennett



More Elementary School Kids' answers on religious subjects . . .

"In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world so He took the Sabbath off."

"Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an Ark and the animals came on in pears."

"Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night."

Accordionist Gets Global Play

"The Fox and the Hound," a composition by accordionist Frank Mucedola, a life member of Local 78 (Syracuse, NY), was recently performed by the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra in Olomouc, Czech Republic, and the Auckland Symphony Orchestra in Takapuna, New Zealand. This is not the first time Mucedola's accordion music has been heard beyond these shores. As a member of the Mantovani Orchestra he has toured Canada, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, and China.

Written originally for solo accordion, "The Fox and the Hound," a portrait in sound, was published by Pietro Deiro Publications in 1968. It has been used as teaching material for advanced accordion students and performed in concerts in the US and abroad. In 1969 the American Accordionists' Association selected this composition as a required test piece, to be played in their national contest for all entries in the advanced category.

Due to the composition's popularity Mucedola decided to do an orchestral arrangement of the piece. In 1991, Mucedola had experienced copyist and arranger Tom Ginsberg of Baltimore, Maryland, write a version that complimented the accordion solo arrangement. A copy of "The Fox and the Hound" for solo accordion is available free to readers of *IM* from Frank Mucedola, 3 East Genesee Street, Auburn, NY 13021-4035. Mention the *IM* and include check or money order for \$1.75 postage.

Recent article from American Federation of Musicians paper
Thanks to Walter Traverso

Your Executive Board Met . . .

. . . On Monday, March 6, 2006. The matter of establishing a club Website was tabled for the time being. There was discussion of how the **food at meetings** will be handled in the absence of the Benedettos. It will definitely be limited. Val Kieser has forgone the normal **\$100/month newsletter formatting fee** for the last year and a half. The board voted to reinstate the \$100 fee for newsletter production. The **Picnic** will take place on Saturday, July 8 at Nature Friends Park in Oakland. It will be potluck and the club will provide a grill and grilling necessities, ice, and entertainment. The month of May marks the **club's 16th anniversary**. The original founders will be recognized at the May meeting. [Account balances as of *March 20*, checking and savings, which includes funds raised at the March meeting, totaled \$10,393.25.]

Our Sincere Thanks

To those who have generously donated to the Club this year. Recent donations that your Editor has heard about:

Anonymous Donor Peter Di Bono
Paul Pasquale (accordion straps)
Mike Zampiceni (accordion)
Ivan Sarkany, Frank Montoro
Lee Woodall, Sundi O'Mara
Bruce Kirschner, M.D. Dennis Stoscher (mike cable)
Ed Zaro, Herb Meier, Al Monti, Al Puppo,
Jim Holliday (in memory of Ed Zaro)
Frances and Dominic Benedetto

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 4, 2006

San Francisco Day of the Accordion at The Cannery

Info: Tom Torriglia tom@ladyofspain.com

Our club's "Fun Band" will start the program at noon!

June 4-9, 2006

Rose City Accordion Camp

Silver Falls Conference Center, Silver Falls, OR

Info call Marlene (504) 463-9909 marlenem26@msn.com

Sunday, June 11

Golden State Accordion Club Picnic

Call Carole (707) 864-2359 accordioncarole@aol.com

June 23-25, 2006

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

Leavenworth, WA

Info: Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce

(509) 548-5807

Or Events@leavenworth.org

Saturday, June 24

The Annual "Celebrate the Accordion Day" in Petaluma

Info elsewhere in this newsletter.

Call Tom Cordonì (707) 762-2231.

June 26-29

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention

www.AccordionStars.com or (800)-472-1695

Featuring our own Joe Domitrowich and Ron Borelli; also

**Gina & Romany Rye, Mady Soave, Gordon Kohl,
and many more!**

July 23-28, 2006

GALLA-RINI ACCORDION CAMP!!

**On the beautiful campus of Dominican University
in San Rafael**

Musical Director is our own Joe Smiell

Contact Gwyn Lister (415) 924-3202

listergj@peoplepc.com

Or Victor Corsiglia (408) 554-6275 vic3458@pacbell.net

July 10-15

Kimberley International

Old Time Accordion Festival

and Championships, Kimberley, B.C., Canada

info@kiotac.ca www.kiotac.ca (250) 427-4547

or 1-888-4KIOTAC

Sunday, August 6, 2006

Silicon Valley Accordion Society first annual picnic

Vasona, Los Gatos. Watch for details

Welcome New Members

We have a lot of new members this month!

Steven Koehler of Palo Alto plays piano accordion, button chromatic and button box—WOW! Steven entertains at events, playing European music including musette, polkas, German and Italian and Latin, and also entertains as a magician and a juggler!

Bob Eserini of South San Francisco loves "oldies," modern/jazz, European and Latin music and looks forward to participating in club meetings and activities.

Alan Levine of South San Francisco enjoys modern/jazz, classical and European music.

Martha Bredwell of San Bruno enjoys "oldies" and classical music.

Stanley Bozynski of Grosse Ile, Michigan has the largest library in the US of Magnante, Frosini and Galla-Rini originals! Stanley can be reached at (734) 671-9126. Thanks to **Tom Bruno** for referring Stanley to us!

Lucille Creamer of South San Francisco who loves our meetings and likes to bring friends.

Marilyn Villarreal of Daly City, a friend of Val's from the SF Horsemen's Association who has enjoyed some of our programs in the past.

Sue Hirigoyen of Fremont, a student of Lou Jacklich, who also plays piano and cello. (See letter on page 3)

Lydia Hansen of San Francisco.

Lloyd and Mary Jane Dallara of San Mateo. Lloyd plays piano accordion and enjoys many types of accordion music.

Verena and Walter Grenn who have attended meetings and enjoyed our programs.

Richard Pollick of Apollo, PA, referred (with our thanks) by **Tom Bruno.**

Debbie Stearns of Half Moon Bay who enjoys oldies and classical accordion music even though she is not a player herself.

Ciro and June Landi of South San Francisco.

Skyler R. Fell of San Francisco, who plays piano accordion and does accordion repairs, and enjoys "Circus and Gypsy" music. You will recall that Skyler and her juggling friend Melody Guzman put on an entertaining show during intermission at the March meeting. Their show is called "Accordion Apocalypse Circus Sideshow."

Welcome Back to **Rita D'Amico** of San Francisco, **Ray Abinanti** of Lodi, **Don and Lynne Bonino** of San Martin and to **Robert and Doris Sprugasci** of Greenfield. The Sprugascis came to our Tom Bruno/Marotta concert and helped out with selling Tom's CD's.

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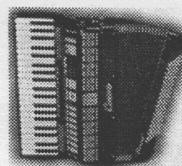
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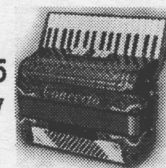
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SFAC MEMBERSHIP

\$25 per year for individual; \$30 per year for a family
Mail check to S.F.A.C.
P.O. Box 318175
San Francisco, CA 94131-8175
Admission to Meetings: \$5.00

SFAC Officers

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(415) 753-1502 pdibono@hotmail.com
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Ed Massolo (650) 589-8409
massolo612@aol.com
Newsletter Editor: Valerie T. Kieser
(510) 531-4836 Vtkacc@ifn.net (New)

Ad Policy

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$5.00 per issue; a business-card-size ad will cost \$5.00 per issue or \$50.00 per year; a quarter-page ad will cost \$10.00; a half-page ad will cost \$20.00; and a full-page ad will cost \$35.00. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$20. The cost for ads placed by non-members will be twice the above-quoted prices.

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, April 26, 2006

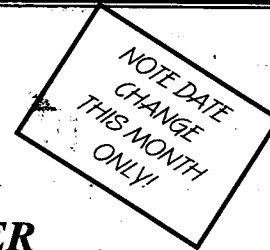
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PROMPTLY AT 2:00 P.M.

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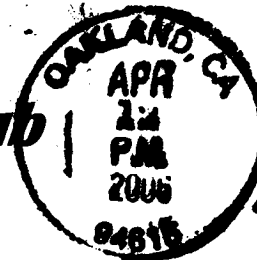
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From El Camino: one block north of Westborough; turn West



**Newsletter of the
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

International Accordion Convention
Las Vegas

June 26-29, 2006
at the Gold Coast Hotel



Starring
Iona Reed Pukara, Don Lipovac,
Bernadette Conlon, Mario Tacca & Mary Mancini,
Kevin Solecki & Mike Zawojsky, and The K Trio

Legends...

Dick Contino
Art Van Damme

*Special
Appearance*

Pete Barbutti
Peter Soave

4

Nights
and 3 full
days of
accordions
and fun!

GUEST
ARTISTS

Joe Domitrowich, Gina & Romany Rye,
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Come join us Monday June 26 through Thursday June 29
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Four nights and three full days of unforgettable entertainment, inspiring workshops,
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two meals each day, and join friends – new and old – for the best accordion event ever!

All meals, concerts, events and classes are included in one low price!

Monday afternoon we begin with Registration from 2-5 PM, including a Welcoming reception. That evening we will have a Las Vegas Style Buffet followed by the Welcome Concert at 8 PM.

Tuesday through Thursday – each day begins with a full morning of workshops. At noon we break for lunch and entertainment. Then it's back to workshops

and master classes until 5 PM. At 6:30 each evening, the doors open, Dinner is served at 7 PM and a fantastic concert follows. Later, more music and dancing are just a few steps away in the after- hours hot spot – Club Concerto.

Thursday evening is our Grand Finale Las Vegas Concert with Prime Rib dinner!



Dick Contino

Honorary Conductor 2004

A man who once had over 500 fan clubs nationally, and who appeared on the "Ed Sullivan Show" a record number of 48 times, Dick still maintains a breathless schedule of concerts, festivals and club gigs. Dick is a legendary performer who has experienced the turmoil of early stardom and the successes of show biz.



Art Van Damme

Honorary Conductor 2000

Internationally recognized as a legendary musician, Art has collaborated with such great names in Jazz as Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee and Dizzy Gillespie. His successful recording career with NBC and Capitol Records spans more than 30 years, and he has taken the accordion to the pinnacle of the Jazz music world.



Peter Soave

Honorary Conductor 2005

Peter has appeared as guest soloist with more symphony orchestras than any other accordionist in the world. Recently he and his wife Mady moved to Lyon France where he travels extensively through Europe giving concerts, conducting master classes, and teaching. His home is in France, but his heart is Italian, and his friends are worldwide.

Starring...



Don Lipovac – In 1958 Don won first place in the American Accordion Association National Championship. Don went on to represent the United States at the world competition in Brussels, Belgium. He attended the Kansas City Conservatory of Music and has degrees in music theory and education. He has appeared on "The Lawrence Welk Show," been the director of the St. John Tamburitians for more than 35 years, and has been inducted into both the Tamburitza Association of America Hall of Fame and the Polka Hall of Fame.



Bernadette Conlon – At 15 she was the Australian National Champion and the Open Age Champion of the Australian Accordion Teachers' Association and the Accordion Society of Australia. From '95 to '99 she competed in the South Pacific Accordion Championships in Auckland, N.Z., winning first place. She has won over 100 competitions. She received music scholarships from both England and the Ukraine, enabling her to receive training from several famous teachers. She is based in Melbourne, where she now has her own music school.



Kevin Solecki & Mike Zawojsky – Kevin Solecki began accordion lessons at the age of 6. At 16 he joined the "Polka Family" polka band. Kevin has performed across the US, Canada, Mexico, and Europe. Mike Zawojsky began taking accordion lessons at age 7 from jazz great Tony Dannon. At 11, Mike began playing with the band "New Generation". Mike is a Detective for the Sterling Heights Police Department! Mike and Kevin met each other in High School. They both love the accordion, and would get together and practice as often as they could. We know you'll love their unique musical styling, and we are happy to welcome them to this year's event!



Mario Tacca & Mary Mancini – Together, Mary Mancini and Mario Tacca make up this "World Class Duo." Their international performances have taken them individually and together to England, Switzerland, China, France, Italy, and Canada. They have headlined in concert halls and festivals across the United States and have performed for the Costa and Celebrity Cruise Lines. Endearing themselves to every audience, Mary Mancini and Mario Tacca are truly performers "from the heart!"



The "K" Trio – The "K" Trio (Mary Kasprzyk Tokarski, Julie Kasprzyk Cardona and Walter Kasprzyk) performed nationwide in competitions and concerts as youngsters. As young adults, life moved them to different areas of the United States. After 25 years apart, they all relocated to Connecticut again and soon after began performing as The "K" Trio. As soloists, as a duet team, and as a trio, they have performed both classical and contemporary music in concerts and performances all over the United States and have cumulatively earned over 450 trophies and awards during their years in competition.

Also Appearing...

Joe Domitrowich,

Gina & Romany Rye,

Gordon Kohl,

Ron Borelli,

Peter Clegg,

and many more!

Honorary Conductor 2006



Iona Reed Pukura – Iona has spent her life surrounded by music as an entertainer, teacher and world-renowned accordionist. In 1962 she became the CIA Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Champion in Prague, Czech Republic, the first Canadian to ever hold this title. For years she performed with her late-husband Karl Pukara in the Karl Pukara Trio. In 1998, Iona assumed the role of leader for the trio, to the continued delight of her audiences. Her current trio's latest CD is entitled "For Lovers Only". We know you will fall in love with Iona's talent and beautiful music!

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Ask for the Special Accordion Convention rate.

Registration Information...

Registering is simple — fill out the attached form and mail it with your check or money order to the Salt Lake City address. You will receive a confirmation letter and invoice. Final payment is due by May 15, 2006. A reminder invoice will be mailed to you before May 15th.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I register now?

The early bird gets the worm. There are a limited number of seats available for the convention and when they are sold the convention will be closed to registration. Also, the earlier you register the better your seats.

Should I bring my accordion?

We realize most people are traveling by plane and therefore we have planned the convention to be an "Accordions Optional" event.

What about my hotel room?

You must reserve your hotel room directly with the Gold Coast Hotel (1-888-402-6278) — the special rate this year is \$45 per night. Make sure you tell them you are with the Accordion Convention.

What is the dress code?

During the day, dress is casual. Each evening we encourage you to dress business casual or semi-formal.

Join Us June 26-29, 2006!

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Attendance Options

Please check only one. Your balance must be received by May 15, 2006.

	ATTENDEE FEE	DEPOSIT (Due Now)	BALANCE (Due by May 15)
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Attendee Package Includes all daily events, 7 meals, and evening concerts for all four days for one person.	\$435	\$60	\$375
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Attendee with Evening Partner Includes all daily events, 7 meals and evening concerts for all four days for one person PLUS includes one guest admission to each of the four evening dinner/concerts.	\$665	\$75	\$590
Call toll-free 1-800-472-1695 for additional evening partner options.			
Additional Attendee's Name: _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Double Attendee Package Includes all daily events, 7 meals, and evening concerts for all four days for two people.	\$765	\$85	\$680
Additional Attendee's Name: _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Evenings-Only Package For those who only wish to attend the four evening dinner concerts (dinner is included).	\$295	\$50	\$245
Dinner and concerts are already included in the Single and Double Attendee packages.			

Tear off, fill out, and return this entire form along with your check.

Tell Us About Yourself...

- Do you play the accordion? Yes No
- Do you belong to an accordion club? Yes No
- If yes, which club? (Also, let us know if you are a club officer.)

Payment

I have enclosed a deposit check and await a confirmation letter. I agree to pay the balance due by May 15, 2006. I understand I may cancel my reservation up to 21 days prior to the event for a full refund minus \$25 processing fee. Mail this form with your check to: Las Vegas Accordion Convention, 1760 South 450 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84115

Signature _____ Date _____

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 at 1-888-402-6278. See inside for Hotel information.

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