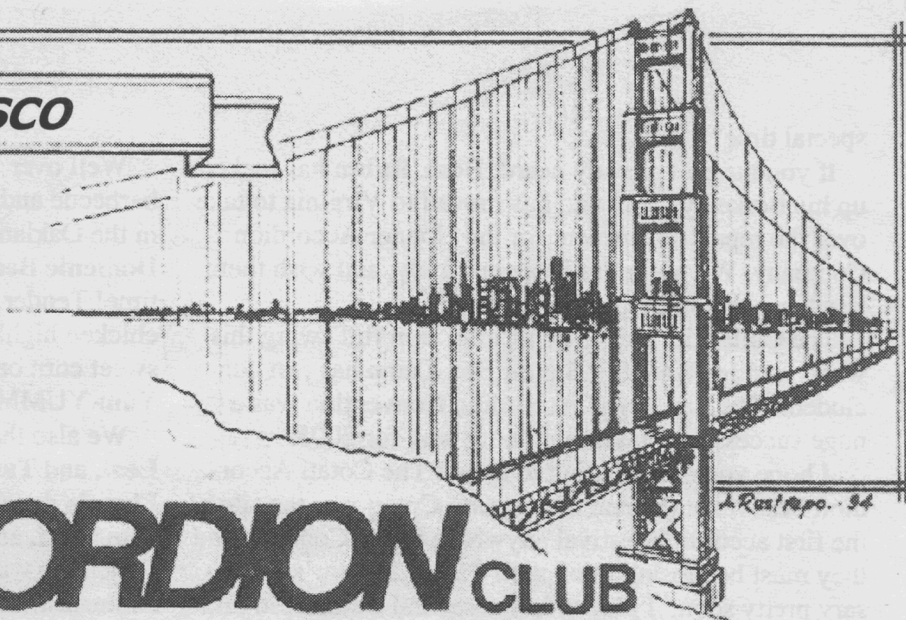
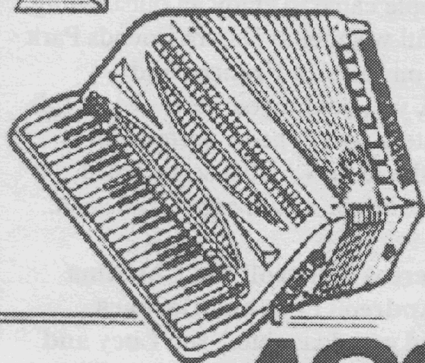


Newsletter of the

**SAN FRANCISCO**



# ACCORDION CLUB

**August 2004**

*The Accordion: San Francisco's Official Instrument*



## *President's Message*

August 2004

The first meeting on the new Sunday date will be a "don't miss". We'll have some classical music, lots

of jazz, and some polkas and singing too. So, please remember, **Sunday, August 8, 1:30pm** is the new meeting time. You can arrive early, from 11:00am, for a "Moose"-sized breakfast, and bring your accordion for a little jam session before the meeting.

I want to thank everyone who helped make the Club picnic such an overwhelming success. I won't try to list everyone by name for fear that I will leave someone out. You know who you are, and you know we appreciate your generous service. Thanks to all of you volunteers, everyone had a good time, and it was a memorable day. The weather was perfect, **Domenic and Frances Benedetto** provided a great Bar-B-Q lunch, and the music was non-stop. There was even some dancing, and I'm going to make sure we have more dance music for next year. I am sure some of you remember the good ole days when dancing under the stars was part of every accordion picnic. I wonder if we can re-create that

*Continued on page 2*

**HEAR YE, HEAR YE!!!**

**Sunday, August 8  
meeting**

**Features young piano accordion  
virtuoso from Moldova**

**Alexei Bordei**

**Plus**

**The Don Nurisso Trio**

**Plus**

**Dave Baione**

**Plus**

**The Di Bono Family**

**...and more!!**

**NEXT MEETING: Sunday, Aug. 8, 2004 1:30 p.m.  
MOOSE LODGE DALY CITY**

**NOTE  
CHANGE  
OF DATE  
& TIME !!!**

special time?

If you haven't already heard, **Boaz Rubin** has locked up his Berkeley shop, and has moved to Virginia to take over the repair department for the Hohner Accordion Company. We will miss Boaz and Judy, and wish them much success in their new venture.

The Galla Rini Accordion Camp is in full swing this week, and Joe Smiell's Button Box Camp has just concluded. The Las Vegas Accordion Convention was a huge success, and plans are under way for 2005.

I hope you are planning to attend The Cotati Accordion Festival at the end of August. Cotati was the site of the first accordion festival anywhere in the Country, and they must be closing in on their 15- or 20-year anniversary pretty soon. I played in the second Cotati festival, and will be playing again this year. Hope you come up and support The Cotati Accordion Festival. It's a full weekend of accordion music, dancing, great food, and non-stop fun in the Cotati sun.

Our September meeting is beginning to come together, and it's going to be spectacular. Special guest artist, San Francisco-born **Carl Fortina**, will be joining us for this program. Good friend, **Dr. Harry Gay**, promised to play a few duets with Carl. Carl is the accordionist heard on just about every movie soundtrack over the 40+-year span of his Hollywood playing career. He's played in over 600 movies, and until he retired from playing professionally about 15 years ago, was the first-call accordionist in movieland.

It pains me to announce that **Evelyn Baulch** has decided to turn over the raffle duty to someone else. A replacement has not been located as yet, so if you're interested in helping out the scholarship fund by taking over that position, please let me know. Evelyn has done a wonderful job for our scholarship program, and now, just wants to enjoy the music. She has agreed to continue through the August meeting however, but we need someone for September, and thereafter. Thank you Evelyn, well done!

I would like to hear from you if you have any ideas, or suggestions, to better our club. Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you on August 8 at 1:30 pm.

Play your accordion every day, and remember:

**REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!**

*Peter Di Bono*

#### ***A Note about our Web Address***

Please be sure you use our NEW web address:

**[www.SFACCordionclub.org](http://www.SFACCordionclub.org)**

Sometimes unscrupulous people re-register expired domains and use them for their own nefarious purposes!

#### ***SFAC Picnic a Big Success***

Well over 130 people came to enjoy an outstanding barbecue and beautiful weather at Nature Friends Park in the Oakland Hills on July 10. **Frances and Domenic Benedetto**, you outdid yourselves again this time! Tender, juicy steak and done-to-perfection chicken highlighted the food, which also included sweet corn on the cob, beans, salad, bread, and cake. Yum-YUMMY!!

We also thank **Theresa Andreoli** and **Christina Leal**, and **Tamara Andreoli (Jim and Barbara Firpo's daughters and granddaughter)** and **Lucy and Dan Ditri**, and **Bob and Dil Pisani** for their indispensable help with the kitchen and serving detail. These enthusiastic and tireless volunteers are what the club is all about.

Speaking of enthusiastic and tireless volunteers, let's hear it for our picnic performers: **Harry Gay** and **Bob Foppiano** who came all the way from Stockton; **Dennis Stoscher** who not only plays but puts on a continuous show, **Bob Smith**, **Don Nurisso**, **Adnré Paris** and **Dick Schiller** and (yours truly) **Val Kieser**. Also volunteering to play but were unable to stay that long were **Ed Burgle** of Napa and **Reno Di Bono**. We thank all of you for your help and support in making this picnic our greatest success ever. *Val*

#### ***Word Has It . . .***

. . . That both **Jim and Barbara Firpo** have had recent hospital stays, at different times and for different reasons, but both are on the mend, and we wish only the very best for them.

. . . That **Valarie Morris** in El Sobrante is starting a 6-week Arranging and Composing class in mid-August. Each class is 2 hours. Anyone interested should call her at (510) 222-8442.

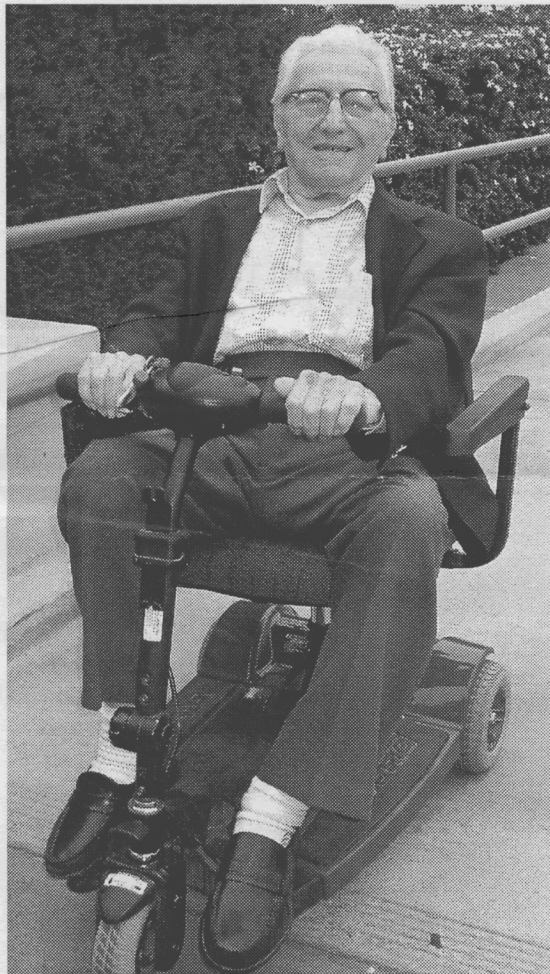
. . . That **Steve Albini** was on KPIX Channel Five's *Evening Magazine* on July 20 playing and singing Venetian and Italian songs on a gondola.

. . . That **Galla-Rini camp** was a blast, with a million laughs, great music, great friends, and the Maestro at 100 1/2 — still a real pro conductor and arranger! **Joan Cochran Sommers**, **Lynn Ewing** and **Sharon Walters Greyhosky** helped pull the camp ensemble together for a super sound. The Fun Band, directed by **Sharon Walters Greyhosky** was a hit in both the dining room and on Dance Night. The "Mini-ACE" group, a.k.a. "Finska Valsen Group" also played for Dance Night, including a couple of **Joe Smiell's** ensemble arrangements (thank you, Sharon and Lynn). More on the camp elsewhere in the newsletter and in a future article.

## Anthony Galla-Rini Provides Yet Another Wonderful Camp!

Having celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in January, the Maestro proceeded to provide his wonderful arrangements and direction for yet another memorable accordion camp at beautiful San Diego University, situated high on a hill overlooking San Diego Bay.

To be in the presence of this great icon of our accordion world was truly awe inspiring. Mr. Galla-Rini directed us every morning in 3-hour sessions focusing on the proper execution



and feeling of the beautiful musical scores which he had arranged. *To a Water Lily; National Emblem March; Chocolate Soldier; and Mardi Gras* were the pieces which were ultimately presented to the public at the Shiley Theater on Thursday. To hear a 40-piece accordion orchestra filling this large theater with beautiful music under the direction of the Great

## More about Reno Pucci . . .

In our July issue we printed a reflection on the life and career of member and friend Reno (or Rino) Pucci who passed away suddenly in May. In searching through his memoirs, his wife Joyce found a tribute which Reno had written about his first accordion teacher, Anthony Galla-Rini, the date of which is unknown. We thought that you would enjoy seeing it, and our thanks to Joyce for sending it. *Dick Schiller*

### A TRIBUTE TO MAESTRO ANTHONY GALLA-RINI

*By Rino Pucci*

Way back in the early thirties, at the age of nine, my mother took me to my first accordion lesson. The studio was an impressive Victorian located on Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. According to my uncle, Guido Simonini, a new teacher had arrived in San Francisco from New York; his name was **Anthony Galla-Rini**.

The first lesson and many to come were devoted to learning to read musical notes. My first accordion was an 80-bass Cellini accordion, pink in color and Italian in origin.

I remained with Maestro Galla-Rini until he left to go East for higher achievements. He was now to be involved with the Detroit Symphony.

The years of study with Mr. Galla-Rini were the fulfillment of quite a repertoire beginning with *Neapolitan Nights, Il Sirio, Ho Detto Al Sole* and a college medley including "Stanford," "St. Mary's," and "California." Early standards were: *Rose Room, Santa Lucia, Song of the Islands, Alice Blue Gown, Sharpshooters March, the Old Spinning Wheel, Tango Delle Rose, Lonely Lane, Hand Me Down My Walking Cane, Golden Slippers, Under the Double Eagle, Mexicali Rose, Nola, Over the Clouds* (by Galla-Rini) *La Sorella, Estudiantina, Hungarian Dance No. 5* — just to mention a few.

Most of these selections are included in my playing engagements to this day.

In conclusion I would like to suggest to the new and upcoming accordionist to learn, to perfect, to memorize good musical selections, and in the long run you'll never have to worry about what to play when you are called to do so.

Many thanks to Maestro Galla-Rini who not only taught me my first lesson in music and accordion playing, but also (for) his life-long contribution to the accordionists of our generation and of those to come.

Thank you, Maestro Galla-Rini.

*Rino Pucci*

*(Continued on page 9)*

### Two Notes from Dr. Harry Gay in Stockton

On July 10, Harry wrote (in response to our thank-you for playing at our picnic): "I feel privileged to play for your club. We are always treated nicely. I played professionally as a young teenager and it ceased to be fun at that time. I quit for many years. I picked the box up again after 22 years and vowed I would not play again unless it was for fun. I really have fun playing now. Your members are very gracious. Thanks for asking us to play. Ciao, Harry"

When asked if was OK for us to print the above letter, Harry replied: "Absolutely, print what you want. The truth should always be said. We really enjoyed the picnic. Dick was a prince in setting up the sound system for us. It is really a joy for me to see how the accordion is making quite a comeback. If we all pull together and stop bashing different styles of accordion music and just be thankful that there are piano, chromatic, bayan, concertinas, etc. If it has reeds and keys and bellows we should all support it. All types of music should be encouraged. We don't have to be great fans of it all, but still we should support it. I am in awe at what people get out of a squeezebox. The more we get together and share ideas, the better it gets. My teacher taught me to listen to everybody. I asked as a child, suppose the player does something I thought was not very good. He said, well then I had learned what not

### OUR SINCERE THANKS

... to those who have generously donated to the Club or the Scholarship Fund in 2004. To date, your Editor has learned of the following:

Ed Zaro  
Janet Landauer  
Clyde Forsman  
Johan and Sheila Gullmes  
Joe Smiell  
LynnEwing  
Mark Zhagel  
George Chavez  
Val Kieser  
Marlene G. Fuller

(In honor of Joe Lombardi's 75th Birthday)

[This list will be cumulative throughout the year. If your name slipped by and did not reach the Editor, please contact Val Kieser (510) 531-4836]

to do. Boy, was he right! The SFAC thrives because of dedicate people like you who are always there to get the job done. Thanks for your efforts. Ciao, Harry"



### Tom Cordoni "Music You Will Remember"

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Private Lessons  
Bands For Every Occasion

American • Continental  
Swing • Dixie

Valerie Kieser  
San Francisco Accordion Club  
3437 Crane Way  
Oakland, CA 94602  
July 24, 2004

Dear Valerie and Members of the SFAC,

I would like to thank everyone who played, participated, set up, took down, and/or supported the "Celebrate the Accordion Day." The SFAC Fun Band, as usual, supported the celebration and sounded great even if they almost did get blown away! I have not, and will not, mention any names because there are just too many people to thank. There were over 40 musicians performing. I'm sure all the musicians who played join me in also thanking all their fellow club members who attended and supported their musical talents.

Please remember we will be doing this again the fourth Saturday of June, 2005. All clubs and individuals are welcome to help and to perform.

The accordion exhibit at the Petaluma Museum, 4th & B Streets, is running until the end of September. This exhibit is a first for California as far as I know. The Museum is open during the Cotati Festival. Be sure to check it out. I'm sure you will enjoy it. Please be sure to sign in at the Museum. It helps their funding.

Sincerely,

  
Tom Cordoni

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# 1915 Rules for Teachers

1. You will not marry during the term of your contract.
2. You are not to keep company with men.
3. You must be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function.
4. You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
5. You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board.
6. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
7. You may not smoke cigarettes.
8. You may not dress in bright colors.
9. You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
10. You must wear at least two petticoats.
11. Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
12. To keep the school room neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor at least once daily, scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water, clean the blackboards at least once a day, and start the fire at 7 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m.

Petaluma Historical Library and Museum

## Vieni A Tavola



### Save The Date Come To The Table

Saturday, August 28, 2004 at 6:30 PM

The San Mateo Public Library Foundation invites you to  
A Delightful Literary Presentation  
and a Great Italian Dinner at the

Peninsula Italian American Social Club  
100 North B Street, San Mateo

#### Speaker

Mary Lou Sanelli, author of *The Immigrant Table*, starts the evening off by taking us back to her family kitchen with her poems, recipes and memories of growing up in a first generation Italian family where meals were prepared with tradition, toil and love.

#### Dinner

Our Lead Sponsor, the Peninsula Italian American Social Club, will then serve a full Italian dinner of your choice: chicken cacciatore, veal scaloppine or vegetable lasagna. Musical background by accordionist Ron Starzo and a special raffle featuring California-Italian wines will top off an enjoyable evening.

Tickets: \$50 per person

Tables: for 8 at \$360 and for 10 at \$450

For early reservations call 650-522-7802. Tickets will be on sale at the San Mateo Public Library weekdays Noon - 5pm at 1100 Park Place, 3rd Floor, San Mateo starting July 26, 2004.

Event Sponsors: Peninsula Italian American Social Club, Stoneheath Winery, Sebastiant Winery Pietra Santa Winery, Lucas & Lewellen Vineyards, Camellia Cellars, Thomas Fegarty Winery and Boeger Winery

A benefit for the San Mateo Public Library Foundation's Capital Campaign for the New Main Library.  
\$25.00 per person is tax deductible. Tax I.D. #94-3191775

*Photos from Picnic 2004*



*Domenic & Frances Benedetto (our chefs)*



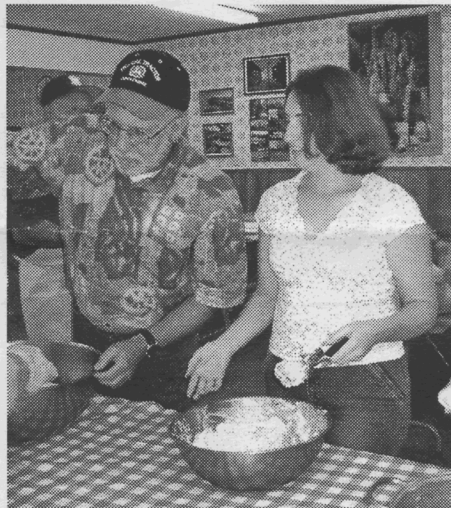
*André Paris*



*Clyde Forsman*



*Great buffet — thanks to all our wonderful helpers!*

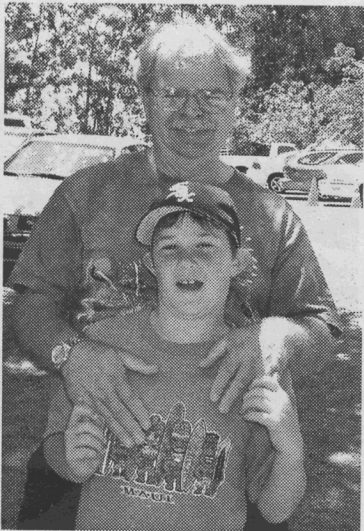


*The Corsiglias are among our best dancers*

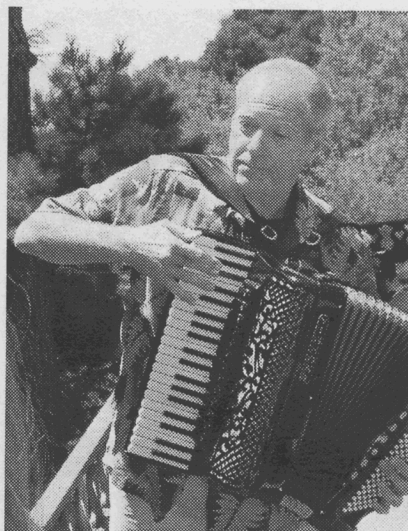


*Harry Gay, Bob Foppiano and Harry Cannata*

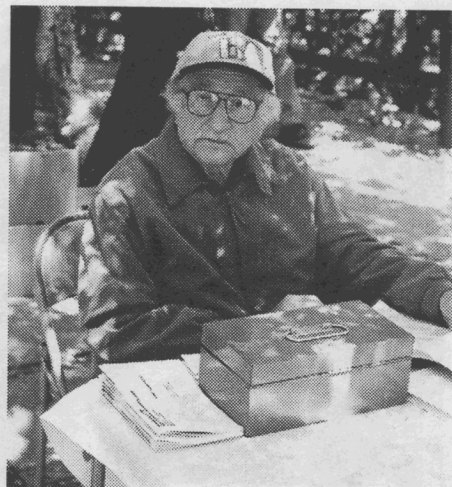
*More Picnic Photos . . .*



*Don Nurisso and Grandson*



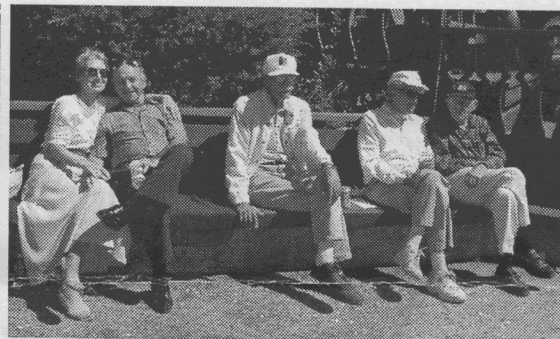
*Dennis Stoscher*



*Vince Cirelli*



*The Fun Band plays*



*. . . And a good time was had by all!*



*Kris Nelson and Pres. Peter Di Bono*



*Walter & Lee Woodall and Dominic*



*Isabelle and Ed Massolo, our dance pros!*

*The Harry Gays and Bob Foppiano*



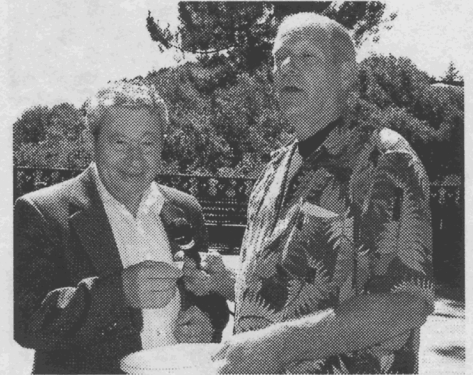
... And still more picnic photos ...



*Jim Firpo*



*Young Madeline picks a ticket*



*Mark Zhagel & Dennis Stoscher*

... And photos from Galla-Rini Camp ...



*SFAC Membes at  
Galla-Rini Camp*

*The Maestro  
Galla-Rini with  
his attentive son-  
in-law Bud*



*Bob Smith entertains in  
one of the dorm rooms*

*Lynn Ewing  
And the Maestro  
Galla-Rini*





One is a memory that will last and last. Sitting not far away from the Maestro as he directed, I saw the intensity in his eyes, and wondered what memories these pieces brought back to him. All the years of experience in his wonderful life culminating in the creation of these beautiful strains. Surely we are blessed to have this man in our lives and be such an inspiration to accordionists everywhere to strive for the highest ideal of their craft. Where would we be without Anthony Galla-Rini? Thank you so very much Maestro!

The camp was organized by **Kjell Holmes** Accordion Lovers Society Int'l., whose tireless efforts made our stay most enjoyable. He brought together such notables as **Joan Cochran Sommers**, who occupied first chair and provided us with her expertise in effecting many of the Maestro's wishes; **John Simkus**, whose talent and wisdom afforded us an insight into great playing and performance in an orchestra. There were many talented accordionists from around the world who participated, from Austria to Canada. And yet there were the newer accordionists like **Pat Brown** from Pacifica, (Marian Kelly's student) who fit right in with the group.

And I must tell you of **Sharon Greyhosky's** "Fun Band Lite" that took the university cafeteria by storm, with students getting up and dancing to their varied selections and rhythms, and rewarding Sharon and group with rousing applause for their efforts. The **San Francisco Accordion Band** has arrived!!

Next year, no matter what your level of playing, come join us for an unsurpassed musical experience and a just plain fun time with lovely people who make beautiful music together! *RS*



*The SFAC "Fun Band": Sharon, Gus, Vic, Val, Barbara, Bob, Frank, Gwyn*

*P.S.*

*From the Editor:* Hoping I'm not leaving anyone out, following are the SFAC members who attended Galla-Rini camp (in no particular order): **Victor and Barbara Corsiglia, Frank Schlotter, Sundi O'Mara, Sharon Walters Greyhosky, Bob Smith, Lynn Ewing, Val Kieser, Ernst Angst, Stella Allison, Larry Denier, Richard Denier, Gus Greyhosky, Kjell Holmes** (by courtesy exchange with A.L.S.I.), **Gwyn Lister, John Lister, Jana Maas, Dick Schiller, John Simkus** (by courtesy exchange with the Chicago Accordion Club). Nineteen out of 40 isn't bad!

*Val*

*For Sale by Joyce Waters (Pucci)  
from Collection of Reno Pucci  
For info call Joyce (650) 588-4351  
or [jpwaters@pacbell.net](mailto:jpwaters@pacbell.net)*

- 2 chromatic older accordions; 4 switches, black \$75.00
- Sylvestri 120-bass, black, 2 switches on right hand \$200.00
- Colombo & Sons, black, older model 120-bass \$75.00
- G. Galleazzi & Sons, white older model 120-bass \$75.00
- Lido black 120-bass, good tone \$100.00
- Hohner 12-bass, red diatonic button accordion \$300 O.B.O.
- Hohner 8-bass, red diatonic button accordion \$300 O.B.O.
- Comm Paolo Soprani & Figli older model, 120-bass, ornate, made in Castelfidardo \$75.00
- Brand new black 8-bass diatonic accordion, German make \$100.00
- 2 red concertinas, new, a \$75.00 value, buy for \$45.00 each
- Accordion cases, 2 almost new, \$130 value, buy for \$60.00 each
- Many older cases, best offer
- Brand new (boxed) music stands \$4.00 each
- 

*Also available*

*Call Lynn (650) 588-7182*

- 1 chromatic accordion, black, older model \$75.00
- 1 Colombo C. Piatanesi & Sons, 120-bass older model \$75.00
- 1 Freontaline 120-bass, white and gold, beautiful full-size accordion \$300.00
- Various piano sheet music

### Upcoming Events

**Saturday, August 28 6:30 p.m.**

**"Vieni A Tavola" (Come to the Table)**

San Mateo Public Library Foundation

Presentation and Italian Dinner

For info see ad on page 5 of this newsletter

**August 28-29**

**Cotati Accordion Festival**

For schedule and other info, visit [www.cotatifest.com](http://www.cotatifest.com)

**September 12-18**

**Joe Smiell's Button Box Camp** in the High Sierras

Intermediate-advanced, but all levels welcome

Info call Sally Ann (510) 236-3784

**Saturday, September 25**

**Lindesnes Trekkspillklubb**

Norwegian entertainment including music, comedy and dance

7:30 p.m. Turlock Community Auditorium

1574 E. Canal Drive, Turlock, CA

Tickets \$15; Reception following performance

Info: call (209) 667-1452 or (209) 632-5643

### Miscellany

- The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.
- Santa Claus has the right idea: visit people only once a year. (Victor Borge)
- Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. (Mark Twain)

### SFAC Member Valarie Morris has some items to sell . . .

- Excelsior AC Continental with 140 basses, 10 treble switches, 7 bass switches, tone chamber, electronic plug-ins.
- Black Italo-American, 7 treble switches, 2 bass switches, pearly keys and full-size keyboard.
- Black Giulietti, Model F-52, full-size, beautiful sounding reeds with 5 switches on treble and 2 on bass.
- Small white Rivoli with narrow keys. Light-weight, full number of keys, 3 treble switches and 2 bass switches. Good for small hands.
- *Songs of Patriots*, a historical collection of American music from mid-1700s (30 songs, 84 pages, \$21.99) and *Happy Polkas and Waltzes* by Frank Yankovic and Joe Rodney (50 pages of music, \$17.99). Info: [www.sandscapepublications.com/sheetmusic/accordion.html](http://www.sandscapepublications.com/sheetmusic/accordion.html).

### SFAC Officers

**President: Peter Di Bono**

(415) 753-1502 [pdibono@hotmail.com](mailto:pdibono@hotmail.com)

**Vice President: Don Nurisso**

(650) 359-3549 [nurisso@sirius.com](mailto:nurisso@sirius.com)

**Treasurer: Dominic Palmisano**

(408) 734-1565 [eclecticguy@earthlink.net](mailto:eclecticguy@earthlink.net)

**Secretary: Valerie T. Kieser**

(510) 531-4836 [vtkacc@value.net](mailto:vtkacc@value.net)

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**Vince Cirelli (415) 467-2208**

**James Firpo (415) 648-3674**

**Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938**

**Scott Williamson (408) 553-7519**

**Newsletter Editor: Valerie T. Kieser**

(510) 531-4836 [vtkacc@value.net](mailto:vtkacc@value.net)

### 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: Members \$3, Guests \$5

### 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.

### Accordion Teacher Listings

San Francisco/North Peninsula

**Peter Di Bono**

Theory/Technique/Performance

(415) 753-1502

**Dominic Palmisano**

(415) 587-4423

[accordion@comcast.net](mailto:accordion@comcast.net)

**Lou Soper**

Every Tuesday 3:00-6:30 p.m.

Moose Club, Colma/Daly City

(510) 841-6745

**Sharon Walters**

All levels (415) 621-8284

North Bay

**Steve Albini**

Marin/Sonoma

Private (415) 897-4131

**Bart Beninco**

Accordion and Piano

Petaluma (707) 769-8744

**Marjorie Konrad**

Button Box, Piano Accordion

& Chromatic

Santa Rosa (707) 539-5308

East Bay

**Valarie Morris**

Group & Private; Theory, Technique,

Composition; all levels/ages

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**Lou Jacklich**

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(510) 317-9510

Peninsula & South Bay

**Lynn Ewing**

All levels/ages

(650) 365-1700

**Marian Kelly**

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Individual need

(650) 854-1896

**Ron Borelli**

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(650) 574-5707

**Mike Zampiceni**

Beginner to Advanced

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(408) 734-1565

**Norma Zonay-Parsons**

(408) 246-3073



**Come and join in ...**

**San Francisco Accordion Club**

***Beginning August 2004, on a trial basis***

***The SFAC will meet on the***

***Second Sunday of the Month 1:30 p.m.***

Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St. Daly City/Colma

For information call Val (510) 531-4836

Website: [www.sfaccordionclub.org](http://www.sfaccordionclub.org)

**East Bay Accordion Circle**

Meets the THIRD TUESDAY of the month 7:30 p.m.

1540 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. Bring your accordion!

For information call (510) 548-2822

**Accordion Club of the Redwoods**

Meets 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month

Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma

For information call Harry (707) 838-2859

**Golden State Accordion Club**

**Vacaville Chapter** Meets 7 PM

the second Tuesday of the month

Moose Hall, 6585 Gibson Canyon Road

**Sacramento Chapter** meets 7 PM

the fourth Wednesday

at Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.

in Sacramento

For information call (707) 864-2359

***News flash!!***

***The GSAC Sacramento chapter is featuring young virtuoso Sammy Thomas on Wednesday, Aug. 25 7:00 p.m. at Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento***

**Northern California Accordion Society**

Meets 7 PM the third Thursday of the month

Polish American Community Hall

327 Main Street, Roseville

Info: Call Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041

**Good Time Accordion Club**

Meets 7 p.m. the second Wednesday

of the month

Community Center

1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon

For information call (209) 545-3603

**South Bay Accordion Jam**

Third Sunday of the month 2:00 p.m.

Location of meeting varies; for info call

Victor Corsiglia (408) 554-6275 or

Bill Tapogna (408) 984-5290.

**Silicon Valley Accordion Society**

Meets on the first Sunday of the Month

2:00 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau Restaurant

390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose

(between 280 and Stevens Creek Blvd.)

For Info Phone (408) 270-5003

Website: [www.SVASociety.com](http://www.SVASociety.com)

**SFAC Ensemble Practice New Days!**

First and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City

***Call first!***: Frank Montoro (650) 574-4757

**SFAC Band Practice New Days!**

Second and Fourth Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City

***Call first!***: Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163

**Who Is Playing Where**

**Reno Di Bono** and the Blue Moon Trio

Playing at Palermo Restaurant, University Avenue in Palo Alto

each Tuesday evening in August. 6-9 p.m.

Also play for dancing every second Friday of the month

at Montavalle in Scotts Valley, CA

8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

For info call Reno (408) 252-3808

**Joe Domitrowich and the**

**Alpiners USA**

Aug. 14 from 6:30 p.m.

Joan & Peter's German Restaurant

322 Third St., San Juan Bautista

Small wooden dance floor

Reservations (831) 623-4521

Admission includes excellent dinner by Chef Peter

For more info call Joe (408) 255-1259

**The Internationals** Teske's Germania,

255 N. First St., San Jose; call (408) 292-0291

**Mike Zampiceni** plays on Saturday nights

at Di Cicco's Italian Restaurant

2509 Bascom Ave., San Jose

And on Friday nights at Bellagio,

33 S. Central Ave. in Campbell (408) 370-7705.

For reservations call (408) 377-5850

**William DeMichelis** plays on

Friday and Saturday nights

At the Elbe German and European restaurant

117 University Avenue, Palo Alto

Call (650) 321-3319

or visit [www.elbe-restaurant.com](http://www.elbe-restaurant.com)

**Steve Balich, Sr. Band** [info: (707) 874-3494]

Aug. 4-13-18-25 Santa Rosa Senior Center, finley Hall 1-4 p.m.

Aug. 6 Vella Farms, Salida, CA 7-10 p.m.

Aug. 8 Little Switzerland, El Verano 5-9 p.m.

Aug. 14 Fratellanza Club, Oakland 9 p.m.-midnight

Aug. 15 Swiss American Italian Barbecue, Gonzales, CA 1-6 p.m.

Aug. 26 Little Switzerland (Cotati kick-off) 7-10 p.m.

***Your Executive Board . . .***

*. . . did not meet in July.*

**Thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter: Tom Cordoni, Mel Schwing (photos), Joyce Pucci, Harry Gay, Dick Schiller, and whoever sent in the "Rules for Teachers"—I failed to write down who that was. I hope I haven't inadvertently left anybody out!**

*Val*

***Regarding Our SFAC Musical Groups***

All our club groups are doing well! The **ACE Ensemble** is working on its fall concert repertoire; The **Fun Band (SFAC Band)** played at the Petaluma Celebration of the Accordion and at the club picnic July 10. the Band will be playing at **Fairfax Park** in Marin County on Aug. 8. The **SFAC Ensemble** is working on some gorgeous arrangements written especially for us by Joe Smiell. People are discovering the joys of group playing!

## A Special Opportunity For Fellow Accordionists

### Accordion's "Group Class Teacher" is needed in America:

As fellow musicians, many of us share the passion and dream of bringing this world into a brand new music age by filling the air with joyful, peaceful, and beautiful accordion music. Most accordionists would agree that the best way to bring this instrument back into our society is to teach children the accordion while they are very young, even as early as 6 years old.

### Now is your chance to be a part of an accordion revival, while enhancing and growing your accordion career.

Besides playing the accordion in fancy cafes, restaurants, senior homes, and various venues or teaching private lessons, have you considered the prospect and value of becoming a group accordion teacher? Think of the possibilities and novelty of opening accordion classes in your local preschool, elementary & secondary schools, church programs, and home school gatherings! You could introduce young children and other prospective musicians to the accordion by offering them "After School Accordion Programs" in small group settings.

The facts are:

1. Many children think that the accordion is one of the most cool and fun instruments because it is unique and unusual.
2. Due to budget cuts, many schools are losing music programs while many parents are looking for substitute classes for their children.
3. With well-orchestrated lesson plans, you could teach up to 20 students per accordion class. This is very popular in other countries like China.

However:

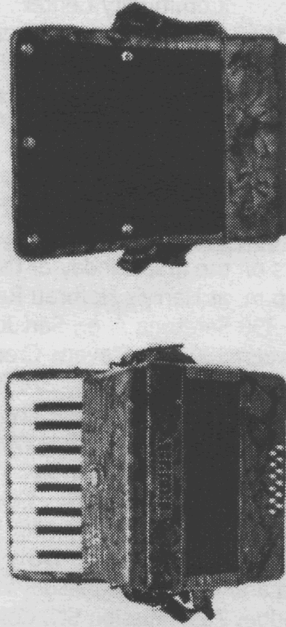
4. The accordion is too heavy, complicated, and expensive for most young beginners.
5. It is costly to stock a large quantity of high quality, small accordions to meet this need.

### TROPHY/GOLD: The Accordion Booster

#### Accordions 4 All is offering special products to make starting an accordion music program affordable and a dream come true:

We carry beautiful, TROPHY/GOLD 21/12 accordions suited for children from 6 years old to full-sized, adult ones. Besides looking elegant and colorful, the accordions are durable and affordable. For these reasons, parents would easily be attracted to these special and valuable accordion music classes for their child(ren). Students would readily be drawn to the accordion because of the high quality, small size, lightweight, extended bellows, and unique musical expression of the TROPHY/GOLD 21/12. In addition, this product comes with a back bellow pad, black leather straps, a deluxe soft bag, and three choices of colors (pearl red, pearl blue or pearl white). The TROPHY/GOLD 21/12 model is best for school class settings or individual instruction, satisfying most students' needs for the first four years of learning with accordion courses like the ones listed below:

1. Palmer-Hughes Accordion Course, Book 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b.
2. Palmer-Hughes Reading, Writing, Rhythm, Note Book 1 and 2.
3. Palmer-Hughes Recital Book 1 and 2.
4. Palmer-Hughes Accordion Band Book 1 and 2.
5. Most children's songs, hymns, and holiday music.



TROPHY/GOLD is top-of-the-line Chinese accordions welcomed by many European accordionists. Come and see them for yourself at the Cotati Accordion Festival / Golden State Accordion Club Booth! Try them out and see the beauty and quality personally! You will love them.

At Accordions 4 All, one of our primary goals is provide exceptional, portable products, which encourage students to learn to play the accordion because of their quality sound, modern-looking, beautiful expression, and affordability. These are our products:

- |                |           |                 |         |   |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|---------|---|
| 1. 41/120 Echo | 4/5 Reeds | 11+1/6 Switches | \$1,795 | (professional with tune chamber)              |
| 2. 41/120 P6   | 4/5 Reeds | 13+1/6 Switches | \$995   | (professional without tune chamber)           |
| 3. 41/120 P2   | 4/5 Reeds | 13+1/2 Switches | \$845   | (professional with simpler bass)              |
| 4. 41/120 DM   | 4/5 Reeds | 7/2 Switches    | \$845   | (professional with double musette)            |
| 5. 41/120 ST   | 3/5 Reeds | 7/2 Switches    | \$745   | (9 <sup>th</sup> grade students to adults)    |
| 6. 37/96       | 3/5 Reeds | 7/2 Switches    | \$645   | (without extra weight if you don't need them) |
| 7. 37/80       | 3/5 Reeds | 7/2 Switches    | \$595   | (prefer smaller size and lighter weight)      |
| 8. 34/72       | 3/4 Reeds | 5/0 Switches    | \$545   | (traveler's best companion)                   |
| 9. 34/60       | 3/4 Reeds | 5/0 Switches    | \$495   | (5 <sup>th</sup> grade students to adults)    |
| 10. 25/16      | 2/3 Reeds | 0/0 Switches    | \$245   | (best holiday gift to all)                    |
| 11. 21/12      | 2/3 Reeds | 0/0 Switches    | \$195   | (Kindergarten students to adults)             |

\* Ask us about teacher's group discounts on TROPHY/GOLD accordions.

\* 60B and up come with a deluxe wood, hard-shell case with wheels, 12B and 16B come with a deluxe soft bag.

\* All model come with high quality back pad to protect the bellow from wearing out.

\* An assortment of products is available to buy or order. Order today and you could receive your TROPHY/GOLD accordion before Thanksgiving.

\* We also sell a full line of Zupano, Fisitalia, Hohner, and Welmeister accordions.

You may also contact Accordions 4 All at:

Phone & Fax: (916) 351-1113

Cell: (916) 607-7326

E-mail: [accordions4all@comcast.net](mailto:accordions4all@comcast.net)

Web: [www.accordions4all.com](http://www.accordions4all.com)

## ***A Tool for the Accordionist***

*By Bob Barnes*

*Extracted with permission from the  
Tualatin Valley Accordionists, newsletter  
Compatible vs. incompatible tunings*

In our practice room, Irene and I have a small tape recorder into which are connected two pretty good microphones from our old recording days. From time to time, we turn it on and never fail to learn a great deal from that little recorder.

Some time back we bought a Beltuna Euro piano accordion with musette turning. It continues to be a beautiful little instrument. Even though the reeds were not handmade, the instrument provided a powerful, pleasing sound. Later on, we acquired a Zupan button box. It has the same kind of sound as the Beltuna. We played them for some time and always enjoyed their individual tunings. More importantly, we enjoyed the way their sounds blended with we played them together in duet pieces. They had a great sound. We understand that the Zupan, which was originally manufactured in Slovenia (a country of accordion players), later on came to be built in the Beltuna factory in Castelfidardo. We surmised that the reeds for both instruments were probably built by the same reed makers, and that explained their seemingly identical tunings.

### ***Blending Sounds vs. Discord (Eeek!)***

In due course, we traded in the Zupan on a Strasser button box and continued to play together. The Strasser seemed to blend well with the Beltuna. Then one day we recorded some of our pieces and listened to them over the stereo system in another room. We were stunned. These accordions clearly were not in tune with each other. They sounded awful together. The tunings weren't totally different, but they made an ugly sound when played at the same time. You will have some understanding of what was happening if you think of playing a C tone and a C-sharp tone. They are only a half-step apart, but you won't listen to them being played together for very long!

We reflected for a while on this new revelation. Why hadn't we heard the discordance when playing? We could hear it distinctly on the recording. We harkened back to an old trick that you use when considering an accordion for purchase: *It will sound different from the back than from the front.* It is always wise to play it (listening from the back) and listen to it being played by someone else while you are in front of it (where the microphones

were). The difference in the sounds will be very distinct.

That lesson being learned, we sold the Beltuna and purchased another instrument with compatible tuning to the Strasser button box. We learned that the French musette tuning for a piano accordion was a nice match for the Steirische tuning of the Strasser. The recorder also gave a confirmation that these tunings were a good match in these instruments.

### ***Bellows Control***

Later on, I recorded some solo pieces on the recorder. Once again, I was shocked. My bellows work was so poor that I couldn't believe it. The sound was gasping. There was no smoothness or consistency in either compression or expansion. I was pulsing—that is, doing rapid and periodic crescendos and decrescendos. I couldn't give any real expression to the music I was playing because my bellows work was so erratic. It was the most dreadful stuff I can remember hearing, and *it was me playing it!* If any competent teacher had listened to the noise I was making with that accordion, I would have been consigned to a set of appropriate exercises until I had regained some control over the bellows of that accordion.

### ***Listen to Yourself***

You see, back in the old days when we played everything at the level of a jet engine scream, it didn't matter. Now that someone thinks that I should play with some feeling, and maybe even some phrasing and spacing, it's all different. To move between high and low levels of volume requires some serious bellows skills—a lot more than I was showing at the time. It was the recorder that revealed these awful flaws to me. Now I have to do something about it. Try it yourself sometime. Make some out-front recordings of your playing. You might hear some noises you didn't even know you were making.

*Bob Barnes*

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### ***Accordion Fact from Mr. Smarty Pants***

In 1929, Joseph Falcon became the first popular Cajun accordionist to get a recording contract. Accordionist Amedee Ardoin, who was actually black creole, also was popular about this time.

### ***Sad News***

Bob Berta's brother passed away recently after a long bout with cancer. We send our sincerest condolences to Bob and his family. Otherwise, Bob and Nancy and the kids are fine and enjoying life back in Michigan. We surely do miss them.

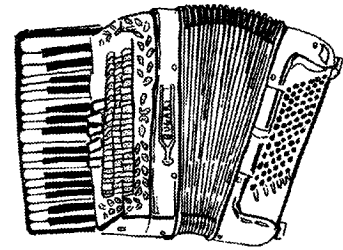
*Val*

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