

ACCORDION CLUB
August 2006

Official Instrument of San Francisco
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President's Message

Joe Smiell took over the Galla-Rini Camp this year, and over fifty accordionists attended from all over North America. One of the attendees, who coincidentally is a student of mine, came in for her regular lesson the week after the camp. We were playing a duet and I stopped midway to remark how different her playing was—how it had improved

since her last lesson one week before the camp! This four-day event takes place on the beautiful campus of Dominican University in San Rafael. The camp is a wonderful opportunity to learn about music, musicianship, performance, and in a setting that is just spectacular. The camp concludes on Concert Thursday in a beautiful theater where everyone performs in an orchestral setting. Don't miss this next year!

Somewhat bittersweet: this was the largest ever Galla-Rini Accordion Camp, and certainly one of the most successful. Shortly after hearing of the great success of his 2006 camp, however, the legendary "Maestro of the Accordion," Anthony Galla-Rini, passed away, with his family and loved ones near him. The Maestro was over 102 years of age. He has earned his place in history for the legacy he left for the accor-

AUGUST MEETING
Sunday, August 20 at 2:00 p.m.
Featuring Frank Montoro, Bruno Bianchini, Don Nurisso, Jerry Choate
(all the way from Chico!),
and Roberto Rosa

dion, which he loved with every fiber of his being.

The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE) is presenting a concert to commemorate the life of the Maestro at a memorial this coming weekend. Please make a donation to the Anthony Galla-Rini Memorial Fund. Send your donations to me and I will forward them to the Galla-Rini family: Peter A. Di Bono, 25 Santa Ana Ave., San Francisco, CA a 94127.

Remember the Cotati Accordion Festival is Aug. 26 and 27. Why not get a room and attend both days? **Don Nurisso** and I are on at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Come up and say hello.

(Continued on page 5)

Very, Very Sad News
Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini passed away on July 30, at the age of 102 1/2, just after the camp in his name was over for this year. The accordion world will miss this icon of the accordion. See short article on page 3.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, August 20
2:00 p.m. SHARP

The Oyster Point Yacht Club

911 Marina Blvd., South San Francisco

From 101 South or 101 North take Oyster Point exit. Go east on Oyster Point Blvd. 1 mile; turn right on Marina Blvd. (look for blue Marina sign) and continue to the end.

Galla-Rini Accordion Camp

In San Rafael for the first time, on the beautiful campus of Dominican University, the camp was a huge success, thanks to the tireless efforts of **Vic and Barbara Corsiglia, Gwyn Lister, Bernard Métais, John Lister, Joe Smiell, Sharon Walters Greyhosky and Lynn Ewing**—and many others



Party at John Lister's: Annemarie Greenberg, Brian Money, Jana Maas, Joan Grauman

who pitched in as needed. What an organization job! I know the **Maestro Galla-Rini** would have heartily approved of the whole camp. What a shame that he passed away before we could even tell him how it went. He did know the camp was taking place and was very happy about it.

A wonderful "get-acquainted" party was hosted the evening before camp by John Lister of Corte Madera, getting everyone into the mood for fun!

Camp workshops were very well attended, and included Fingering (Bob Smith); History of Musette, a type of presentation we've never had before, and which was very well received (Bernard Métais); Fine Tuning Ensemble Play and Performance (Esther Lanting); Phrasing (Joe Smiell), Inter-relationship within Ten Commonly Used Chords and How to Locate these Chords in Any Key (Father Joe Baccellieri); Charles Magnante (Tom Bruno). I hope I didn't inadvertently leave any out!



Mary-Alice Eldon and Barbara Corsiglia dance to music of Dan Grauman

Every morning we had a couple of hours of Ensemble practice, with Joe Smiell conducting. In four days, 50 of us managed to present an excellent concert consisting of *All Through the Night* (Welsh Folk Song), *Church Sonata* (Mozart); a gorgeous arrangement by Joe of *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*, which he warmly dedicated to his wife Lucy; *Finlandia* (Galla-Rini arrangement); selections from *Oliver!*; and the theme from Brahms' Symphony #1. The Concert also featured some individual performances (duets, actually): Sharon Walters Greyhosky and Lynn Ewing; Steve and Diana



Line Dancing on Dance Night

Gordon (soprano accompanied by accordion), Esther Lanting and Heidi King on accordion and cello. These were very moving performances and included some beautiful Galla-Rini arrangements. The ACE Ensemble also played six pieces.

Every evening at camp there was something fun going on. On Tuesday evening we all got together to "jam" with "Mama Stella"—except that "Mama" Stella Allison was unable to come to camp at the last moment, so Sharon Walters Greyhosky led the session, which included some music and a lot of laughs and comments about how we missed Stella. On Wednesday



Sharing a laugh in the “French Quarter” with Joe Smiell
George Chavez, Chris Arild, Tor Arild, Anne Métais



SFAC Member Sundi O’Mara with
Bob Smith and Chris Arild

night we had our traditional “Dance Night” when everyone had an opportunity to play, whether dance music or not. Especially fun were line dances led by Joan and Dan Grauman (owners of “Squeezin’ Art”—check the Internet), and parties in individual rooms later in the evening. (Some campers will recall the “French Quarter” and the “milk” that was making the rounds!)

Joe Smiell and Frank Montoro both commented on what an exceptional group of people attended the camp. They were notably quiet and respectful during rehearsals, referred to their music while individual questions were being addressed, and gave

their full attention all the time. Remarkable!

Also notable was the number of accordion clubs represented at camp: Our own SF Accordion Club; Accordion Club of the Redwoods; Good Time Accordion Club; Golden State Accordion Club; Accordion Lovers Society International (ALSI of San Diego), Washington (D.C.) Metropolitan Accordion Society; American Accordionists’ Association; Los Angeles Accordionaires—and last but not least, represented by Brian Money, The Vancouver Island (B.C.) Accordion Club!

If there is a chance you can make the camp next year, don’t miss it! I’ve never seen so much learning mixed with pure fun packed into one short week! *Val*



Winding Up Bernard Métais Workshop on Musette



Dance Night Buffet
Gus Greyhosky, Tom Bruno, Jana Maas

Farewell to the Beloved Maestro

By now everyone has heard that **Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini** passed away on Sunday, July 30, at the age of 102 1/2, just after the end of the 2006 camp in his name. He knew we were having the camp this year and was so pleased that Joe Smiell had agreed (several years ago, in San Diego) to take it over when the time came.. The ACE Ensemble is honored to have been asked to play at the Galla-Rini memorial on Saturday, Aug. 12.

The Maestro had a long and very interesting life, including a rich history in San Francisco. For his life story, you can simply “Google” his name on the Internet and you’ll find it in many places. I personally have some very precious memories and mementos of the Maestro that will be with me always. I first met him at his camp in 1992. *Val*

Our Sincere Thanks

To those who have generously donated to the Club since the beginning of this year. Donations that your Editor has heard about:

Jim Holliday (in memory of Ed Zaro)

Frances and Dominic Benedetto

Mark Zhagel

Robert Sprugasci (2 Raffle Ticket Scramblers)

This list is cumulative throughout the calendar year.

Please let me know if you have contributed in 2006 and I did not print it—we want you to be recognized!

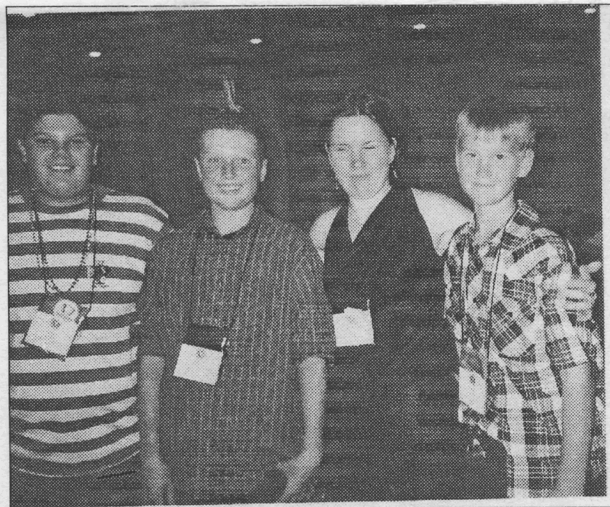
Word Has It . . .

. . . that SFAC member **Lucille Creamer**, who has been a very active volunteer in our club, is aging. We are all pulling for her.

. . . that your Editor neglected to report last month that member **Joe Domitrowich** was one of the star players at the Las Vegas Accordion Convention.

. . . That **Anne and Bernard Métais'** 10-year-old grandson from France, **Benoît**, was a real hit at Galla-Rini camp, as was **Franz Joseph Smiell**.

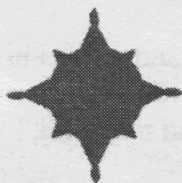
. . . that **Marjorie Konrad's** grandson, **Keith Church**, also played at Las Vegas, and Marjorie herself won Teacher of the Year. By the way, Keith is very often asked to play for events, retirement homes, clubs—and played for the Sonoma County Fair. With the help of Keith's grandmother, Keith, Gino and Tyler (see photo below) are getting to be quite well established in the accordion world.



Las Vegas: l. to r. Gino Bagala, Tyler Carpenter, featured accordion artist Bernadette Conlon, Keith Church

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO
LEAVE THE MEETING HALL CLEAN
AND FREE OF FOOD, PAPER PLATES,
NAPKINS, CANS, BOTTLES, ETC. ! ! ! !**

**August 20 Meeting: Featur-
ing Frank Montoro, Bruno Bi-
anchini, Don Nurisso, Jerry
Choate and Roberto Rosa**



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Wanted

Items for the newsletter! Send me your articles: on playing tips, technique, accordion history, music theory (not too complicated!), accordion history, events, photos—whatever might be of interest for the newsletter.

Call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net.

“FUN BAND” PLAYERS PLEASE NOTE:

The San Francisco Accordion Band (“Fun Band”) will be on hiatus until October. You will be notified then the time comes! Questions: Call Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163.

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(Pres. Message—Continued from page 1)

Our August meeting will be at the Oyster Point Yacht Club on Sunday, Aug. 20 at 2:00 p.m. Some great playing is in the works for this meeting—don't forget.

I have my Website up and running—please check it out: <http://www.peterdibono.com/>. Play that accordion every day, and remember:

REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!

Peter Di Bono

Out of the Mouths of Babes . . .



A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

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The SF Accordion Club warmly thanks Hunan Yuan Restaurant for offering us a gift certificate for the raffle at the picnic. To thank them we shall run their business-card ad for six months.

Your Executive Board . . .

. . . did not meet yet this month.

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

And from Science exams . . .

- Q. Name the four seasons.
- A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.
- Q. How is dew formed?
- A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.



"Official" Galla-Rini Camp Photo

SFAC Evening Ensemble Practice

*First and Third Wednesday of the month
at Ed Massolo's home, 612 Lassen ST.,
South San Francisco*

ON SUMMER HIATUS—members will be notified when we start up again!

SFAC Band Practice

ON HIATUS until October.
Band members will be notified.

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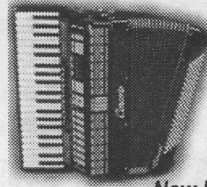
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SFAC MEMBERSHIP

\$25 per year for individual; \$30 per year for a family
(Beginning Oct. 2006 dues are \$30 for everyone)

Mail check to S.F.A.C.

P.O. Box 318175

San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

Admission to Meetings: \$5.00; beginning Sept. 2006,
admission will be \$5 for members and \$8 for each guest

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.

SFAC Officers

President: Peter Di Bono

(415) 753-1502 pdibono@hotmail.com

Vice President: Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938

Treasurer: Robert Hansen (650) 756-3547

rhansen50@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Rosemary Armanino

(650) 589-9088 GARmanino@aol.com

Directors for 2005-2006

Vince Cirelli (415) 467-2208

James Firpo (415) 648-3674

Valerie Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net (new)

Ed Massolo (650) 589-8409

massolo612@aol.com

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(510) 531-4836 Vtkacc@ifn.net (New)



NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, August 20

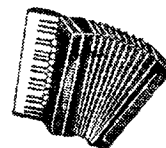
PROMPTLY AT 2:00 P.M.

OYSTER POINT YACHT CLUB

911 Marina Blvd., Oyster Point Marina

**Oyster Point exit from 101; east on Oyster Point; right on Marina Blvd.,
through gate house to sign "Oyster Point Yacht Club"**

There is NO MEETING IN JULY because of the picnic!



**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

P.O. Box 318175

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