



**NOMINATIONS
AT AUG.
MEETING!**

**VOLUNTEER
FOR YOUR
CLUB!!!**



*Official Instrument of San Francisco
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***AUGUST 19 MEETING: BE READY WITH YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS!***

***NOTE!!! Due to the time restraints of some of the musicians,
nominations will take place after the intermission***

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT will include

DON NURISSO (accordion) and JOHN STAFFORD (clarinet)

INGRID NOYES (accordion) and MICHAEL HARMON (guitar)

***ZIGHI BACI: SHERI MIGNANO (accordion), CARLO SOLIVAN (tenor) and
GIANNI DOLCE (acoustic rhythm guitar) (More about our players on page 7)***



July is over, August is on the wane, and it's time to plan for Fall. These are the "dog days," the hot time of the year between July and September when everything stops. Well, things aren't stopping for our club; it's time to elect a new slate of Officers and Directors to guide the Club through 2008 and beyond.

Nominations will be made at the August meeting; the election takes place at the September meeting. This process will be "from the floor," so talk it up and be prepared to nominate your candidates. Nominees must be in attendance at the meeting in order to accept their nomination to office.

The Galla Rini Accordion Camp was a rousing success this year. Forty accordionists from all over the United States gathered for the annual get-together at Dominican University in San

Rafael. The weeklong series of workshops, lectures and master classes concluded with the Thursday night concert featuring the 40-piece accordion orchestra, solos, duets, and ensemble playing. One of the attendees said it was a very intense week of playing and learning, but is already planning for next year.

I am still looking for someone to help set up the sound system for our monthly meetings.

The Editor of the newsletter, Val Kieser, has asked me to be brief this month, so that's all I want to say for now. See you August 19th. Play every day, and remember, **REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!**

Peter Di Bono

Directions to Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd., South San Francisco

From 101 traveling either north or south, take Oyster Point exit. Turn right on Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right on Gull Drive, just before Marina Blvd.). Continue past gate house to sign "Oyster Point Yacht Club." There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

Our Website www.sanfranciscoaccordionclub.com is incomplete and under construction

Galla-Rini Camp Highlights

Our club had a huge representation at the camp, comprising about two-thirds of the campers. SFAC members were **Stella Allison, Judy Dale, Telmo Echeverría, Carole Enneking, Lynn Ewing, Joan and Dan Grauman, Sharon and Gus Greyhosky, Sue Hirigoyen, Kjell Holmes, Marian Kelly, Val Kieser, Debbie Knapp, Jana Maas, Sharon Marotte, Anne Métais, Frank Montoro, Sundi O'Mara, Bob Smith, Scott Williamson**—and, of course, **Joe Smiell**. Although most campers are from Northern California, we had one from Minnesota (**Lynda Griffith**), one from Victoria, B.C. (**Brian Money**), several from Maryland (**Stella Allison, Dan and Joan Grauman**), one from Ohio (**Sundi O'Mara**), and several from San Diego (**Sharon Marotte, Vicki Eriqat and Kjell Holmes**). A great group, and did we have fun!

Decorating the Creekside Room (where we had our ensemble practices and evening parties) were poster boards from the last several Galla-Rini camps, beautifully put together by **Sharon Marotte**. Although Sharon is moving to Texas soon, she has volunteered to make the display again for this year's camp. Thanks so much, Sharon! You do a terrific job—and besides that, you're great fun to be with!

On Party Night our own SFAC "Fun Band" played several numbers—including **Gwyn Lister** on saxophone for some of the numbers—that really got people dancing! I was very proud of them, and want to thank **Maxine Mallouf, Brian Money, Sharon Marotte, Vicki Eriqat, Carole Enneking and Sharon Greyhosky** for playing with us, very ably filling in for those band members who were unable to come to the camp.

Well, we weren't there just to play; we were there to *learn*, and learn we did—all about *phrasing* from **Joe Smiell**; and about physical aspects of sound and tone

and how they are received and perceived by the human ear and brain, expertly demonstrated with projector and screen by **Bernard Métais** with supporting cast **Joe and Joseph Smiell**.



Debbie Knapp and Marian Kelly

Everyone had the opportunity to participate in one way or another, in the full camp ensemble, on informal "recital night," and on "party night." There was merriment going on in the "French Quarter" until the wee hours and still



SF Accordion Band ("Fun Band")

more merriment in other suites (maybe not quite so late or so loud!).

"Concert night," Thursday evening, had us all shaking in our boots because the music Joe chose for us is difficult even for the best players. From all the comments I've heard, it went well and the audience enjoyed the music. The ACE Ensemble played three numbers; there were a quartet and a duet that each played one piece; plus eight (yes, count 'em, *eight*) pieces played by the full camp ensemble. *Everyone* deserves a medal for their hard work in making the concert a success!

The Big Surprise that no one expected was that Joe invited **Bernard Métais** to conduct the French *Défilé* (March) that Joe arranged for us: the **Régiment de**



Joe Smiell, Bernard Métais, Joseph Smiell at Workshop

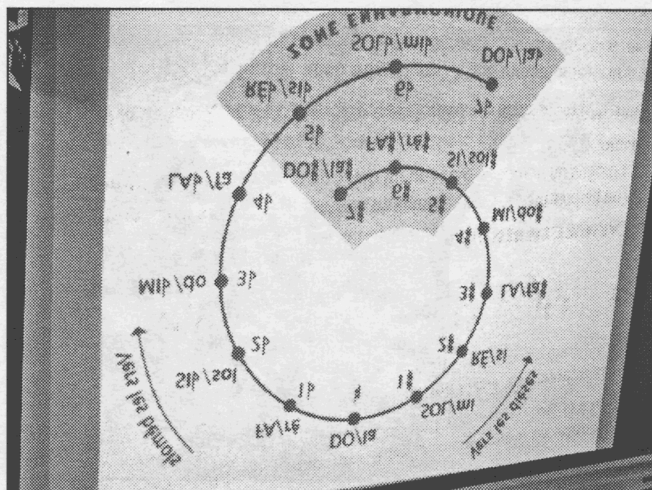
Sambre-et-Meuse (1879). Bernard did a splendid job—aided by his *Képi Militaire* (French military hat)!

Anne and Bernard had their adorable and very poised 11-year-old granddaughter **Estelle Robieux** staying with them for a few weeks this summer, and she was a hit with everyone, as was **Franz Joseph Smiell** on Concert Night.

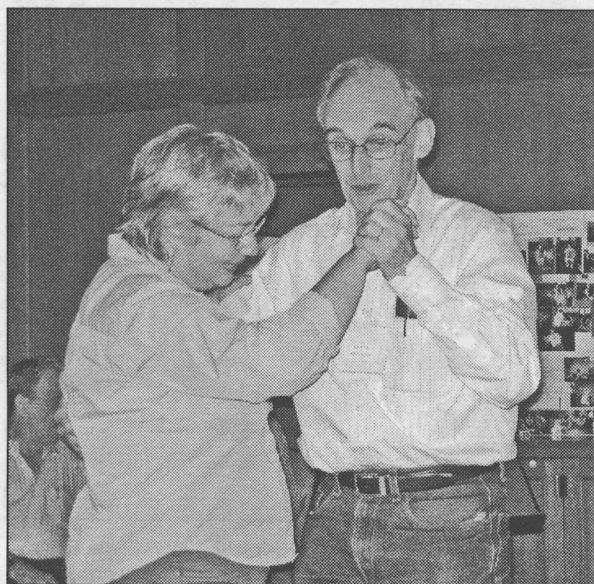
Many people this year are headed to D.C. for the *Coupe Mondiale*, or other events, and had to miss the camp. I know you all will have a great time at the *Coupe Mondiale*; meanwhile, I strongly urge you all to come to the camp next year—you'll love it—I guarantee it!

Our heartfelt thanks to **Joe Smiell, Chris and Tor Arild, Sharon and Gus Greyhosky, Anne and Bernard Métais, Gwyn and John Lister, and Lynn Ewing** for their hard work and dedication in making this one of the best Galla-Rini camps ever!

Val



One of Bernard's Charts for his fascinating Workshop



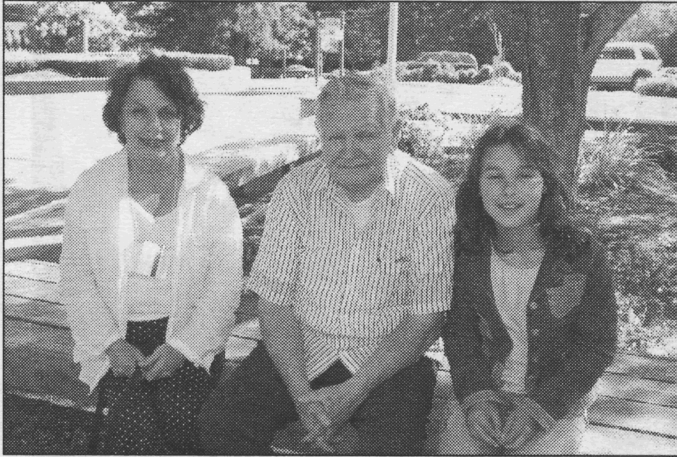
Sue Hirigoyen and Scott Williamson



Lynn Ewing and Joan Grauman at Wednesday Night Party



Galla-Rini Campers 2007



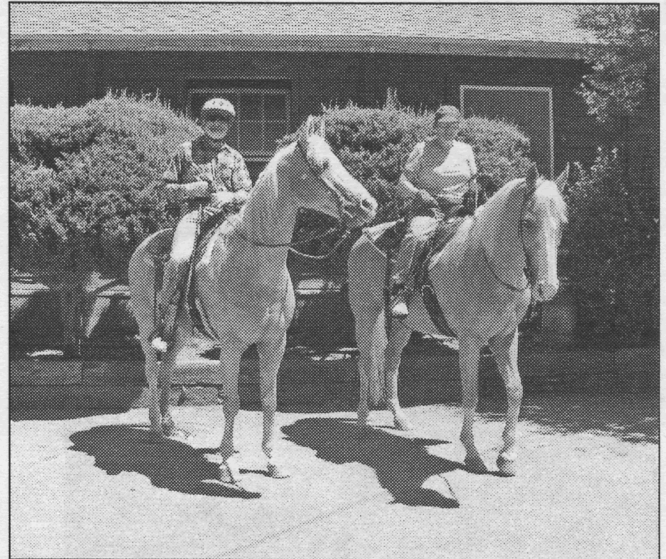
Anne Métais, Joe Smiell, and Anne's Granddaughter Estelle Robieux

DON'T MISS THIS !!!

Dick Contino will present a free concert on Saturday, September 29 from 6:00-8:00 at John Muir Amphitheater in Waterfront Park in Martinez. Hosted by Shell Chemical.

Thanks to Lou Di Maggio for providing us this information.

Tenturi
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Few accordion visitors escape a visit with Val's horses. Brian Money from Victoria, B.C. did even better: Val took him riding after Galla-Rini camp.

MANY THANKS . . .

. . . to Telmo Echeverría, Anne Métais and Sue Hirigoyen for their willingness always to help with the proofreading, folding, labeling, stamping and mailing of newsletters; and to all the generous people who bring food to the meetings and help with the serving. Even if we don't get all the names . . .

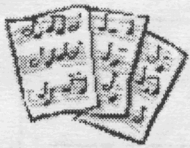
Your volunteer spirit is very much appreciated!

Talk about a Super Party!

This one was warmly and efficiently hosted by John and Renée Lister and Gwyn Lister the evening before Galla-Rini camp. Our first greeting was a cardboard cutout on the front porch of Gwyn* welcoming guests as they arrived. Food was terrific and plentiful; the beverages, food and accordion music flowed nonstop all evening as campers got acquainted and re-acquainted while having a jolly good time. Thanks so much, John, Renée, and Gwyn!

* Gwyn, having been named Woman of the Year by the Corte Madera Town Band, was represented in the lead car of their parade by the cardboard cutout, while the real live Gwyn played sax with the band elsewhere on the float! What a novel and fun idea! (If you look carefully you'll see that Gwyn is "wearing" her saxophone!)





BEARS REPEAT- ING



UPCOMING CLUB ELECTIONS !!!

Please be thinking about whom you would like to nominate for President, Vice President and four board members-at-large. **NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE AUGUST MEETING!!!**

We are fortunate to have a Secretary and a Treasurer in place (you will be confirming them). [Please do not nominate Val. The Newsletter plus countless unofficial jobs are all I can handle!] Peter Di Bono, Jim Firpo and Joe Smiell have already served their maximum of two 2-year terms in their respective positions.


PLEASE CONSIDER BEING WILLING TO FILL ANY OF THESE POSITIONS!!!

No one position is that difficult!

Let's consider some new territory here.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO PLAY THE ACCORDION TO FILL A POSITION!!! We need to get some "new blood" and new energy into the management of the club, so please revise your thinking about the officers and directors we'll be electing. Age is not a factor: young and old are not only welcome, but a good mix is desirable. THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX !!!

Nominations take place at the August meeting; election takes place in September PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

 **ONLY IN AMERICA . . .** Do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have Call Waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first

A Very Sad Note

The world has lost a very beautiful lady, **Mary Beninco**, mother of **Bart Beninco** at age 91. We are used to seeing Mary's smiling face almost everywhere we saw Bart, including our own SFAC meeting a few months ago. I have a very personal memory of Mary as she did something very special for me: when she learned of my medical problem, she prepared about a month's worth of home-cooked dinners for me and froze them, and I ate like a queen for many months (I spread out the meals instead of having them all consecutively). What a lady! Her devoted husband John passed away about four years ago, and we always enjoyed seeing them sitting together at the ACR meetings, always smiling, thoroughly enjoying the music. Mary will be missed by her many, many friends and admirers.



Val

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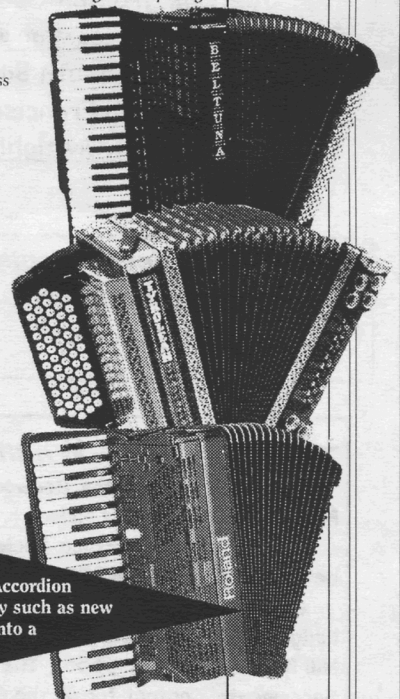
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Don't forget . . .

The Cotati Accordion Festival
Saturday and Sunday, August 25 and 26!

Featuring, among many others,
Tony Lovello, The Great Morgani, Alex Meixner
and none other than Sammy Thomas, fresh from
the Coupe Mondiale in Washington, D.C.
Not to mention The Steve Balich Band in the Polka
Tent and other accordion festivities
in nearby venues.

For complete details about the Festival, visit
www.cotatifest.com.

Northern California Accordion Society Fifth Annual
Accordion Festival Saturday, September 22
At Springview Park in Rocklin, CA. Info:
www.ncasonline.org

NEWS



Vibrant instrument: Reno Di Bono has been playing the accordion since the age of 11 and is a member of the San Francisco Accordion Ensemble.

Musician squeezes life into his music

Reno Di Bono Makes the Cupertino Courier

"Where is my friend playing?" Contact:

Steve Balich North Bay (707) 874-3494

Ron Borelli Peninsula (650) 574-5707
rborelli@aol.com

Richard Denier in Carmel rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono San Francisco peterdsf@gmail.com

Reno Di Bono South Bay ourhike@aol.com

William Di Michelis South Bay wdd777@comcast.net

Joe Domitrowich South Bay www.capricious-accordion.com or www.alpinersusa.com

Mike Zampiceni South Bay eclecticguy@comcast.net

Zighi Baci San Francisco www.zighibaci.com or
www.zighi@sonic.net



Tom Bruno Visits Binci Reed Factory in Castelfidardo

Tom wrote in an e-mail to Val: "The picture with the gentlemen in it was taken in the Binci Reedmaking factory. From Left to right: Nicola Binci (son of Claudio Binci), Claudio Binci, Tom Bruno, and another son of Claudio's (not sure of his name). It was neat to see, very rural (they had chicken coops outside of this garage-type building, goats, dogs, etc.)."

Your Executive Board . . .

. . . did not meet in July but has a meeting scheduled for Monday, August 13.

When do our fellow accordion clubs in the Bay Area meet?

Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR) regularly meets on the third Monday of the month, Hermann & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Contact: Kris Nelson krisnelson@aol.com or (707) 795-4860.

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) meets on the first Sunday of the month, 1:30 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue between Keily Blvd. and Stevens Creek Blvd. Contact: Bill Topogna (408) 984-5290.

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC) has three divisions: The Vacaville club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30, Moose Lodge, 6585 Gibson Canyon Road, Vacaville. The Humboldt Club meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551. The Sacramento group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. Contact for all the GSAC Clubs: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359.

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC) meets on the second Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m. Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave., Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603.

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS) meets on the third Thursday of the month, Granite Rock Grill, 5140 Pacific Street,

ABOUT OUR PLAYERS FOR AUGUST

Don Nurisso is no stranger to our stage. We've heard him and his smooth jazz style both alone and with numerous other musicians over the years. For our show today he teams up with **John Stafford**, clarinetist, whom we also have heard and appreciated from time to time.

Zighi Baci: Well, we have met **Sheri Mignano** and been introduced to her beautiful book, of which generously donated a copy for our raffle: *Mandolins, Like Salami*. Zighi Baci features **Carlo Solivan**, *tenor robusto* with a voice that can make you weep with joy! He sang for years with the *Coro Allegro* chorus under the auspices of the North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation. Zighi Baci has been through several incarnations with various musicians, including our own **Ron Borelli**. **Gianni Dolce** plays acoustic rhythm guitar. He fronted his own band, "The Toasters" for more than two decades. Now he enjoys performing the passionate Italian music and lends his expertise to the trio's dynamic presence. If you visit the Website of Zighi Baci you will be very impressed with the information (and photos) you find there. They also perform at Caffè Trieste in SF.

I heard **Ingrid Noyes** and **Michael Harmon** at a meeting of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods last November and was impressed and immediately asked Ingrid for her card so I could get them to come and play for us. I know you will enjoy them and their good down-home music, which may include country, cowboy, Irish, train song(s), including some vocals. Ingrid also has her own band, "Rosie and the Railroaders," which plays all train songs! You can listen to a demo at www.railroadmusic.net. In that band she plays accordion, banjo and guitar!

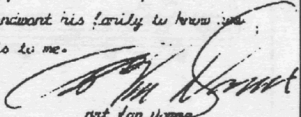
Letter from Art Van Damme for Lou Soper's memorial. Thanks to Lou's daughter Dawn Halverson for permitting me to print this beautiful letter.

Gavotte
Handel
arr. J. Smiell
May 2001

Part VI of a simple but beautiful "Gavotte" by Handel, arranged by Joe Smiell in up to 6 parts. This can be played in fewer than six parts; it was played by a quartet at the Galla-Rini camp concert. Most people find Joe's manuscript difficult to read at first, then get used to it and love it for the warmth it conveys over printed music. The above sample does not show the dynamics, which Joe teaches separately and which give the piece its real impact.

My Friend Lou Soper

I'm sorry that I am unable to join the family and friends of Lou Soper, and to say good bye to him. I thought you might like to know I met Lou in Fargo, N.D. in 1975 and that was the beginning of a long and unending friendship of many good times. I was doing a clinic in Fargo at that time when Lou and his friends came to see me. We became fast friends; in more than 30 years no matter where we might be. On the occasion of my 75th birthday celebration in Detroit, Mich. Lou was there. From that birthday on he would call me or come to see me on every birthday thereafter. He always played his accordion and sang special lyrics that he wrote in regards to our friendship. The lyrics were written to different songs such as "Ecstasy" "There will never be another you" and the final song he sang to me was on my 85th birthday called: "That Old Feeling" My favorite story about Lou was when he traveled by air. He would pack his clothing in the accordion case and go on the plane with the accordion. He would then play and sing for the fellow travelers. For me, there will never be another Lou Soper, a wonderful loving friend that we will miss in our hearts forever. We love and miss him always and want his family to know just such we appreciate their calls to me.


 Art Van Damme
 June 16, 2007



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Chuck Berger

... who played for us a couple of months ago, has a new polka album. He says he did all multi-tracking using accordion and 11 MIDI instruments: 1st and 2nd trumpets, 3rd trombone, 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax, 3rd tenor sax, doubled on clarinet like the real bands did back in the 60's. For rhythm there's piano, banjo, drums, tuba and accordion. This is old-time music that was very popular in the Midwestern states from the middle 40's through the late 60's when all the bands were big. A sample tune called "Clariechen Laendler" was included in the e-mail I got about this via Ed Suterko, and I found it very pleasing. If you want to know more, e-mail Chuck at midiman chuck@msn.com.

Word Has It . . .

... that **Tony Lovello** put on a terrific show (as he always does) at the SVAS meeting last Sunday—and again a few days later at the Good Time Accordion Club in Escalon. Keep it up, Tony!

... that **Judy Dale** has joined the Fun Band, and we're so happy to have her. She was a terrific suite-mate for Val at Galla-Rini Camp.

... that the ACE Ensemble is taking a month off and some of us are already having withdrawal symptoms! Several members are traveling, which makes it difficult to have a rehearsal. .

... that **Anne and Bernard Métais** returned to Paris for a couple of months. We miss Anne in both ACE and the Fun Band, and Bernard for his wonderful sense of humor.



SFAC Evening Ensemble Practice

Sadly, we have had to give up on the evening ensemble, at least for now, because Joe Smiell's schedule just does not allow him the time for it.

SFAC Band Practice

*Wed. Aug. 14 and 28, 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's Home in Oakland
CALL AHEAD!! Please join us!*

Info: call Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163 or Val (510) 531-4836

Our Sincere Thanks

To those who generously donate to the Club.

Each year we start a new cumulative list of donors. If you donate and your name doesn't show up in this column, please call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net and let me know. We want to be sure you are recognized! Thanks! So far this year your Editor has learned of donations from

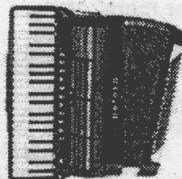
Mark Zhagel (2)

*Don Haga in memory of Lou Soper
Thelma Bartoli in memory of Lou Soper
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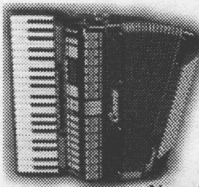
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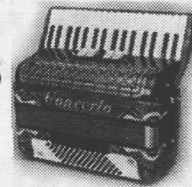
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Admission to Meetings: \$5 for members

\$10 for each guest

SFAC Officers

President: **Peter Di Bono**

(415) 753-1502 peterdsf@gmail.com

Vice President: **Joe Smiell** (510) 832-6938

Secretary: **Lore Warren**

(510) 783-2072; lorewarren@earthlink.net

Treasurer: **Maryanne Romanowski**

Maromanowski@yahoo.com

Directors for 2006-2007

James Firpo (415) 648-3674

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

Newsletter Editor: **Valerie T. Kieser**

(510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net

We need volunteers for vacancies!

Call Peter or Val (see numbers above)

SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$6.00 per issue. A business-card-size ad costs \$6 per issue or \$60 per year for members; a quarter-page ad costs \$15.00 for members; a half-page ad costs \$25 for members. A full-page ad costs \$50.00 for members. Discount available for ongoing ads. Ads placed by non-members will cost twice the above-quoted prices. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

Don Nurisso and John Stafford

Zighi Baci (Sheri Mignano and her group)

Ingrid Noyes and Michael Harmon

AND nominations for officers and directors



***Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club***

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