

Merry Christmas

Season's Greetings

ACCORDION CLUB
December 2006

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President's Message

I played my first Christmas job yesterday in a shopping center in Santa Rosa. I was part of a quartet of musicians, and we have been doing this kind of work for years. These are some of the top players around, and it's always fun to see who will forget parts of the songs each year. *Frosty The Snow Man, Rudolph The*

Red-Nosed Reindeer, Suzie Snowflake, Holly Jolly Christmas—these songs all sound very similar, are in the same key, and have the same pattern, so it's very easy to begin in one tune, and end up in another without even knowing it. We played on two different outdoor stages in the shopping center, and it was wonderful to see everyone in the audience smiling and singing along with our music.

You'll read about our November meeting elsewhere, but I want to say how much I enjoyed **The Internationals**. Their performance was just spectacular, and I hope you all purchased an album or two. Our December meeting features Christmas music, sing-along, a new buffet, lots of fun and prizes. I hope you are planning to be there. Wear something festive, and bring along something for the dessert table.

A "Get well soon" to **Domenic Saso**, who had a nasty fall a few weeks ago. He spent several days in the IC unit of the hospital, and is just now starting to feel a little better. Always positive though, he's having cataract surgery as soon as he heals – go get 'em Domenic.

Vince Cirelli continues recuperating, and with his new pacemaker is almost ready to get back to the shop. ↗

December 17 MEETING

2:00 p.m. sharp!

Annual Club Christmas Party!

Featuring the club's own

San Francisco Accordion Band

And

The SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble

Lynn Ewing per tradition; Val and Bob;

Prizes and surprises for all

Bring your accordion for some group Christmas music

If you are wondering what to give that special grandchild for Christmas this year, how about a year's worth of music lessons? I can't think of anything that is more joyful than the ability to play music, and, it is the sort of gift that lasts a lifetime.

This has been a trying year no matter your personal philosophy. Please remember the young women and men of our military—without them we wouldn't have the freedom to say *Merry Christmas*.

I look forward to seeing you on December 17, 2:00 pm.

Play that accordion every day, and remember:

REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!

Peter Di Bono

THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOU HAVE NOT SENT IN YOUR RENEWAL!!!*

**Please see additional note under "Please Help Me Out Here" on page 4*

Wanted

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

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

Visit us at our new Website [w.w.w.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)

November Meeting—WOW!!!

Well, I (Val) got stuck in traffic picking up my brother-in-law at the Oakland airport, and the two of us arrived late. I thank **Rosemary Halley** and **Peter Di Bono** for taking some notes for me on the early part of the program, which from all accounts was excellent.

Pres. **Peter Di Bono** welcomed the crowd and announced that we'll be needing help at the welcome table. He also introduced **Barbara Petromilli**, niece of **Anthony Galla-Rini**, and **Lou Di Maggio** and his wife **Jane** (Lou replaced Dick Contino on the Horace Heidt show!). I tried to catch up with Barbara Petromilli after the meeting, in order to meet her and take a photo, but she got away. I did have the great pleasure of meeting Lou and Jane after the meeting. Lou said he'd be willing to play a bit while still there, but I never had the opportunity to get an accordion into his hands before he was gone. Lou, I hope you'll come and play for us "for real"!

I am told that a tape was played over the loudspeakers of **Vince Cirelli**, recorded by **Don Pandori** at the hospital where Vince was a patient. In the tape Vince thanked everyone for their good wishes and promised to be back soon. Yes, Vince! HURRY BACK!!

The first artist of the day was **Doris Sprugasci** who

came all the way from Greenfield—about 140 miles! Doris was surrounded by her loyal entourage of family and friends, played an electronic Petosa accordion and also has a beautiful, sweet voice. She played the lively polka *O Marie; For Your Hugs and Kisses; Mala Femmena;* *Let Me Call You Sweetheart* (Walter and Teri Traverso danced); *Tic-Toc Polka; Whispering;* and *Das Lied der Heimat* (song of the Homeland). I'm so sorry to have missed hearing Doris play. I have heard nothing but good things about her performance.



Doris Sprugasci

Marian Kelly certainly needs no introduction! She's one of the finest players in the Bay Area. Again I was sorry to miss almost all of Marian's performance. She played *Over the Rainbow* (arr. Marocco); *Andalucia* (arr. Magnante); the theme from *Out of Africa*; *Bel Viso* (Frosini); *Song for Nancy* (Marocco); *Fascination* (Galla-Rini, whose niece Barbara Petromilli was in the audience);



Marian Kelly

Green Light (Magnante). Marian played her beautiful Excelsior accordion which was overhauled by **Vince Cirelli** about five years ago—and she played almost entirely without music.

At the point when I arrived, Marian was playing her encore piece, requested by **Isabelle Massolo**: the "Chicken Polka," imitating a chicken by using the clarinet reeds. It absolutely cracked me up!

Just knowing Marian and her playing, I can say with confidence that her entire performance was first-rate.



The Internationals

After intermission (and another gorgeous spread of great food!) and the drawings, we were treated to a very professional and polished performance by **The Internationals**, featuring **Bob Maggiora** on Dallapé accordion; **Steve McGinnis** on bass guitar; **Porter Golz** on percussion; and **Jan Meere** on horns. All four of them do vocals and yodeling, and they are terrific! Their ad says "Dance music from everywhere," and that surely is true! Although they dress in Oktoberfest garb, their music covers the world. They opened with a great "Oom-pah" polka with a yodel. I did not get the name of the piece, but it was typically joyous Oktoberfest music. I love any opportunity to use the little German I know, so it's fun for me to write the names of some of the pieces played by The Internationals: *Wir Kommen von den Bergen* (We're coming from the mountains); *Pros't Kamarad* (sort of like, "Here's to you, Buddy"); *Alpenecho Jodel* (Echo from the mountains yodel). They then proceeded to Tex-Mex (or is it Norteño?) with *A Little Bit Is Better than Nada* (Sometimes You Want the Whole Enchilada), which had everyone laughing. On to Italy with *Flight of the Angels*, then a cowboy yodel (Steve was the yodeler), fast and loud; then to Russia with a medley in which I recognized *Dark Eyes* and bits of *Song of the Volga Boatmen*. Suddenly, magically, out of nowhere, a Schnapps appeared in the hand of each of the musicians! After the inevitable toast, we heard *The Fireman's Song* and *What A Wonderful World*, sung by Jan the horn player in the style of Louis Armstrong, and what a great imitation it was! After a rousing *When the Saints Go Marching In*, we got Dean Martin's *That's*

(Continued on next page)

November Meeting (Continued)

Amore then *C'è La Luna Mezzo Mare* and *Just A Gigolo*.

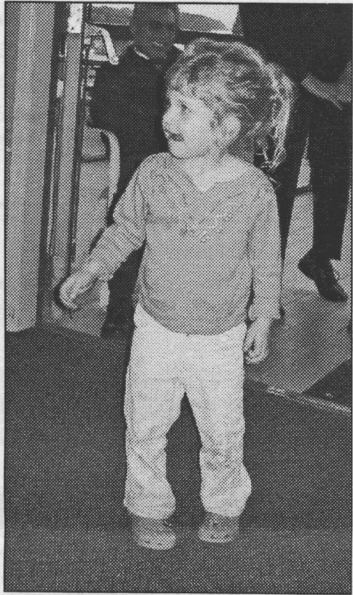
Time for audience participation: *Singin' Hi-Yi Yippy Yippy Yay* (??) where everyone sang the refrain every time it came up. Each verse represented a different country: *She'll Be Comin' Around the Mountain*; then a Hawaiian version with war drums; a Portuguese spoof; Chinese; Australian Aborigine (*Tie Me Kangaroo Down*); New York (*Hava Nagila*); hometown (lovely waltz with vocal trio). Their Finale, which I recall they performed at one of our meetings way back when we were at Donworth Hall: *I Don't Want to Go Home (The Party's Just Begun)*.

WOW!!! *Ein Prosit der schönen Musik!* What a show!!!

Val

Thanks again . . .

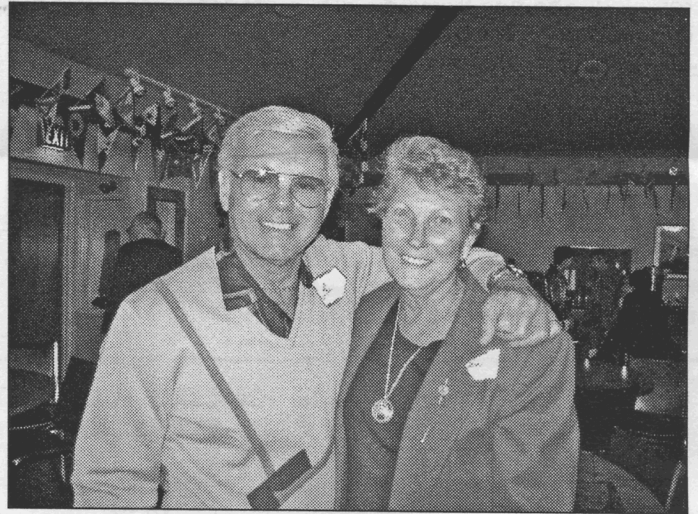
. . . to all those who brought sumptuous goodies for the buffet table and all the hard work in putting it all together into a perfect presentation!



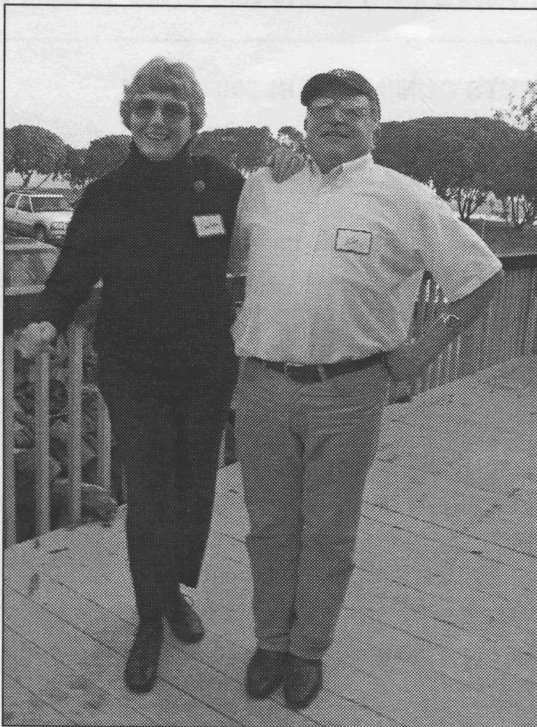
*Our star dancer
(Who is this little doll?)*



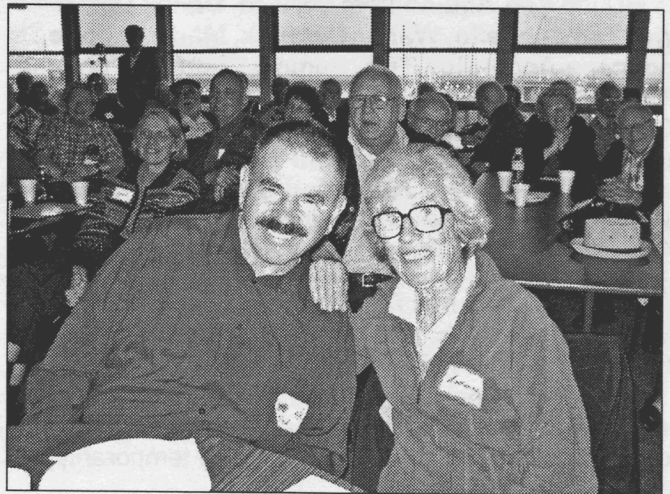
Enjoying the Show



Lou and Jane Di Maggio



Barbara and Vic Corsiglia dancing on the deck



Manfred Kieser and Rosemary Halley

Bah! Humbug!!

The anti-Christmas police have gradually been shutting down use of the word Christmas, and that includes the greeting "Merry Christmas." Anything that has any sort of religious connotation, including Christmas music, is out according to them. One shopping center in the Midwest has had a huge celebration every year on December 9th to formally open the festivities of the season. It had been called Christmas Holidays, but things have gotten so bad there now with the PC crowd that they have changed the name of this celebration. Christmas Holidays was changed to Holiday Season, and now they are just calling it December 9th. Imagine that! It's too bad because this time of year is so cheerful and upbeat and why anyone would want to change that is just beyond imagination. Three years ago I made up my mind to go out of my way to say "Merry Christmas" and not Happy Holidays when the occasion arises. It's just my little personal rebellion — "damn the torpedoes" so to speak. *Peter Di Bono*

PLEASE HELP ME OUT HERE !!!

Please Note!!! This is to be the last newsletter you receive if you have not renewed your membership!!!
Now, an embarrassing admission: Your Editor accidentally got the Renewal Date column in Excel irretrievably scrambled! She has tracked down most of the renewals but is unsure of some others. If your address label has a question mark (?) on it, PLEASE contact Val and let her know whether you renewed, if you can find that information!
Those are the ones I have been unable to track. If you didn't renew, please do so right away—or, even if you don't intend to renew, I need to know that too. **I thank you most sincerely** for helping me correct my most unfortunate error! Val Kieser (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net. (Yes, I learned my lesson: always back up an Excel document before you play around with the columns!)

Word Has It . . .

. . . That **Vince Cirelli** is on the mend—again! This time we hope for good!
. . . That **Tom Bruno** back in Pennsylvania was recently taped by station KDKA-TV, featuring Tom in his accordion repair studio. It will soon be available at w.w.w.KDKA.com if you want to check it out!
. . . That **Joe Vento's Website** is updated and contains some great clips: w.w.w.joeventomusic.8m.com.
. . . That **Bruce Metras**, on reading about Val's visit with Phyllis Madonna of the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo last month, e-mailed "I was born and raised in San Luis Obispo! (That's) where I initially started taking accordion lessons at age 8 from Janet Farris (yes, the Janet Farris who is still active in the Sacramento accordion club scene). Also, somewhat over 45 years ago, the Madonna family invited me to play solo accordion at an outdoor party function at their home as well as a time or two at the Madonna Inn . . . Now THAT goes back away . . . Haha . . ."

Welcome New Members

Lou Fabbri of Daly City joined at the November meeting. Lou is not a player but loves all types of accordion music.

Barbara DeMattei of South San Francisco used to play piano accordion but hasn't played in years. She loves all types of accordion music. (Barbara, it's time to bring out that old accordion again!)

Naomi Zamir of Menlo Park plays piano accordion and also plays the recorder. She likes Classical, European, Latin, Cajun/Zydeco, and especially Klezmer music on accordion. I met her at the recent meeting when Bruce Kirschner and Ron Borelli played Klezmer together.

Here's a Big Hearty WELCOME to all of you!

THERE ARE SOME BIG ACCORDION EVENTS COMING UP IN 2007 THAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT!

The Las Vegas Accordion Convention, taking place Monday through Thursday, June 18-21, 2007 at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Headline artists include **Leo Aquino** from Canada, **Daniel Desiderio**, **Tony Lovello**, **Walter Ostanek**, **Mario Padone**, **Soundscape Accordion Trio**, **Sammy Thomas**. Featured Legends will be **Art Van Damme**, **Peter and Mady Soave** and Comedian **Pete Barbutti**. Also appearing will be **Gina Branelli** from the UK, **Gordon Kohl** from San Diego, and our own **Ron Borelli** and **Joe Domitrowich**.

The Convention will be celebrating 100 years of the Piano Accordion! For details visit www.AccordionStars.com.

Best wishes for a fast recovery

. . . To **Jennie Balich**, wife of **Steve Balich**, who took a bad fall and broke her hip.

. . . To **Barbara Ann Barnett** who, due to an auto accident a year ago in which she was rear-ended, has had to give up her accordion playing (we hope only temporarily).

Jennie and Barbara Ann, we're all pulling for you and want you back among us as soon as possible!

Your Executive Board . . . Didn't meet in November.



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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, or through the December issue.

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

THANKS FROM YOUR EDITOR
 My thanks to all of you who have submitted articles, songs, and other items for the newsletter. Although I cannot print everything, especially in one issue, I am holding onto these items for possible use in future newsletters. I appreciate your response to my plea for newsletter items!

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 (twice);
 Robert Sprugasci (2 Raffle Ticket Scramblers);
 Lee and Walt Woodall; Ken Nimmo; Johan and Marja Gullmes;
 Sue Hirigoyen; Peter Di Bono; Bruce Kirschner

*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!*



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www.AccordionApocalypse.com

PLEASE NOTE
Club members are welcome at Executive Board meetings anytime. Board meetings are generally held at 6:30 p.m. at the Oyster Point Yacht Club on the Monday before a meeting. Always check with a board member (see last page) to confirm date & time if you wish to attend.

AND MORE THANKS . . .
. . . to Telmo Echeverría for helping with the 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 much appreciated!

- 
- Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.
 - The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.
 - God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer for her first question.
 - I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.
 - Aspire to inspire before you expire.
 - The First Commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
 - The Seventh Commandment is Thou shalt not admit adultery.

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

SFAC Band Practice

Nov. 29 and Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's Home in Oakland
Please join us!

Info: call Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163
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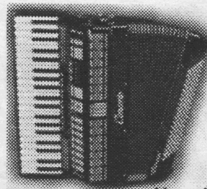
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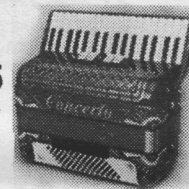
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Email - paul@accordioninfo.com



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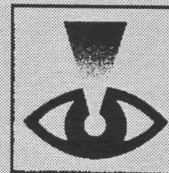
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Admission to Meetings: \$5 for members
\$8 for each guest

Proposed New Ad Policy (to be confirmed)

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$6.00 per issue; a business-card-size ad will cost \$6.00 per issue or \$60.00 per year; a quarter-page ad will cost \$15.00; a half-page ad will cost \$25.00; and a full-page ad will cost \$40.00. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$25. The cost for ads placed by non-members will be twice the above-quoted prices.

SFAC Officers
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Valerie Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net (new)
Some directorships are open! Please volunteer!
Newsletter Editor: Valerie T. Kieser
(510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net (New)



NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

PROMPTLY AT 2:00 P.M.

OYSTER POINT YACHT CLUB

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through gate house to sign "Oyster Point Yacht Club"**



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