



Merry Christmas



Happy Holidays!

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DECEMBER 16, 2007 MUSIC:

San Francisco Accordion Band

*Bob Smith * Lynn Ewing*

SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE)

Surprises ? ?



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Do you like mysteries? I don't mean murder mysteries—just everyday, ordinary mysteries that challenge the human mind. Like, where did I put my keys? I know they're in the house somewhere. I've looked everywhere but I can't find them. If you are like me, you really can't say that you like this kind of mystery.

Well, we have one going on, right here at our club. Several years ago, a number of beginners' accordions were donated to the club by our members. These included some that belonged to Joe Smiell, but that's another story. We loaned them to our members to encourage beginners. Several teachers participated in lending them to their students. The mystery? *They were never returned.*

So let's put on our Sherlock Holmes hats and solve the "Mystery of the Missing Boxes." Maybe you have an accordion in your closet and you haven't thought about it in years. Think, now, where did it come from? Did I buy it from a store, or perhaps someone gave it to me, or I traded something else for it? If you can't answer the question, chances are it

belongs to the club. Voilà! Mystery solved. So, you know what to do. Right?

On another subject, we are still looking for club members who give their time and talent to entertain folks who are in retirement homes, hospitals and senior centers. Whether you play for free or receive a small stipend, we want to know who you are so we can thank you for using your instrument to bring joy to those who need it in their lives.

We have the name of one such person to add to our list. He is **Ed Gorzynski, Jr.** Ed lives in Orinda. He was born in a neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio known as "Polka Town." He came from a musical family and started playing when he was nine. He even sat in with Frankie Yankovic on several occasions when he was in town. Ed played with a number of bands, which included the U.S. Marine Corps Band. He has played everywhere. His bio lists dozens of senior centers, retirement homes and assisted-living facilities all around the Bay Area. Ed, we thank you. You make us proud. We look forward to meeting you some day.

Very best wishes for a joyous holiday season. May the message of faith and hope remain with you throughout the new year.

Frank Montoro

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

November Program—Great Stuff!

Pres. Frank Montoro made a special Welcome to some special people who came to our program: From the South Bay he welcomed **David Deanda** (SVAS Board member and Editor of the SVAS Newsletter), **Mike Zampiceni**, **Don Pandori**. (I also spied some others from the South Bay, as well as from the Accordion Club of the Redwoods, and we appreciate their loyalty!); from San Francisco but a rare sight at our meetings, and former Treasurer of our club, **Algis Ratnikas**; and last, but certainly not least, **Father Joe Baccellieri** from Portland, OR! It was great to see all of you!

We also had two special November birthdays: **Joe Smiell** and our own Pres. **Frank Montoro**. Frank was quick to note that both of them were born when Calvin Coolidge was President!

Frank also announced that **Vince Cirelli** is home now and on the mend, slowly but surely. And we do miss him!

First on the music program was **Gino Bagala** from the North Bay. This is one remarkable young man who is a high achiever in all his activities, not just music. Having just reached the "ripe old age" of 13, Gino has already made some amazing accomplishments. For one thing, he just won an award for film animation for the Young Filmmakers' Showcase! Nominated by his teacher to participate in the competition, he won a prize for his age group for a 1 and 1/2-minute animated movie, all done on computer! His film was called "The Musician" and was about a guy who was trying to decide what instrument to learn to play, and he ended up choosing (what else?) the accordion! Besides that, says his proud mom Patty, their house is featured every year in a local paper for its Christmas display, which contains 6,000 lights and many hand-made decorations—all done by Gino! And besides all that, the local football coaches are "courting" Gino, trying to get him for their teams!



Gino Bagala

Then there's Gino's musical side and again, he has reached great heights, with his teacher **Bart Beninco**. Playing his *Da Vinci* accordion, Gino blew

everyone away with the following: first, a very fast *Tantalizing* by Charles Magnante, followed by a fast waltz called *Autumn Breezes*, and Magnante's *Accordiana*, with an encore of the Palmer-Hughes *Let's Dance the Polka*, which is also a duet that's fun to play.

Maybe I'm dwelling too long on Gino, but this is one very special young man whom I've been following for a couple of years now, seeing and hearing him here and there, especially up at the ACR meetings and parties. I've observed him not only playing music (better and better each time), but offering to help out in so many different ways, such as setting and clearing tables and other "grunt" work, yet always cheerful and polite. What a guy! Thanks, Gino!

We were honored that **Father Joe Baccellieri** was willing to play for us at the last minute, even though he had not planned on it. Father Joe needs no introduction—we've had him before, and want him whenever he can come and play for us! Borrowing my 96-bass *Colombo* accordion, He played *I Love You, Love You More Each Day* by his wonderful teacher, whom I also knew, the late **Joe Parente**; the famous and fast *Tico Tico*; and what Father Joe called "one of his renditions" of *Dark Eyes*. All beautifully done, and we thank you so much, Father Joe!

Pres. Frank loves to note who was President of the U.S. when various events happened, so he did not hesitate to note that **Sheri Mignano**, our next player, began playing during Ike's second term! The last time we heard Sheri, she had her wonderful musicians from her *Zighi Baci* group with her: tenor **Carlo Solivan** and acoustic rhythm guitarist **Gianni Dolce**, and they had the audience in the palm of their hand. Well, today we heard in more detail Sheri's talent, as she played solo and with an impressive amount of feeling. Sheri played *Miralda Waltz*, written by Pete Tarzia in



Father Joe Baccellieri

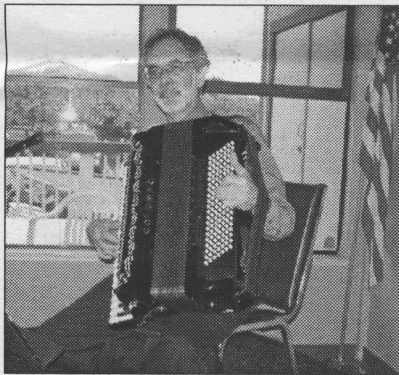


Sheri Mignano

the 1950's; *Lamento Borincano*, a slow rumba with bolero feel and much emotion, written by Rafael Hernandez in the 1930's; *Araby March*, by A. Karaboschi around 1915; a Sicilian tango, *E Vui Durmiti Ancora* by Gaetano Emanuel Cali in 1916; and *Mazurka per Caterina* by Matteo Casserino Ca. 1970's. All very well played. Thank you for coming to play for us again, Sheri! (By the way, Sheri is co-Editor of the ACR newsletter, *The Reedwooder*, a first-class club newsletter.)

After the break and the wonderful spread of goodies, we had the drawing for the door prizes (Amil Samayoa and Nora Mazzara were winners) and the cash prize of \$90, won by June Landi. (It is difficult to get all the names of prize winners because it all happens so fast, so please forgive me if I overlooked anyone!)

Resuming the musical program, we had a brand new treat in the person of John Pedone who lives and performs in the Bay Area but somehow has escaped our attention until now. John has his own band called "John Pedone's Continental Trio," specializing in Italian music and light swing. I hope we'll get to hear the trio some day—and/or the 16-piece San Francisco



John Pedone

Starlight Orchestra, in which John plays not only accordion, but also sax and clarinet—great music from the early 20th century, including Big Band and up through the 50's. Today, in his smooth, relaxed style, on his big Colombo accordion,

John played *Under Paris*

Skies, *Orchids in the Moonlight* (tango), *'Na Voce 'Na Chitarra*, *There Will Never Be Another You/ Melancholy Baby*, *It had better Be Tonight* (Henry Mancini for *Pink Panther*), and *Tangerine*.

Come back soon, John, and see if you can talk your trio into coming too!

Amazing coincidence! I've never met anyone by the name of Pedone, and yet today we had not one, but two Pedones, who had never met each other until today! Mario Pedone comes from Texas, and I was fortunate to have him as my totally delightful houseguest during his all-too-brief stay. Mario came with his wife to the U.S. from Venezuela in 1981 "for two years"—and now it has been 26 years, and somehow I think they have abandoned plans to return to Venezuela!

Mario got back to playing only in the last 8-9 years. Mario was actually born in southern Italy, and moved with his family to Venezuela to escape WWII. If you look Mario up on the Internet, get ready to be impressed—what a career he has had (and continues to have)!

Mario played for us: *Granada*; "Melodic Exercise #24;" *Pigalle/La Seine*; an American polka of which I didn't get the name; *Have I Told You Lately That I Love You*; *I Can't Stop Loving You*; *Orange Blossom Special*; *Diamonds Are Forever*; *Mala Femmena*; *Light Cavalry Overture (Wow!!)*; *Valse Allegro (Magnante)*; *Unforgettable*; and, for an encore, *Cumbanchero/Cumaná*. His



Mario Pedone

selections included some of my very favorites, especially the Country/Western tunes (I got that CD and also several others). I've never seen such an array of CD's—he has made dozens and dozens of them! Needless to say, Mario just blew everyone away. We certainly must get him back again! Many thanks, Mario, for coming all the way from Texas for us! Why have we not discovered you before this?

Another terrific program—and still another one to come in December! Don't miss it! Val

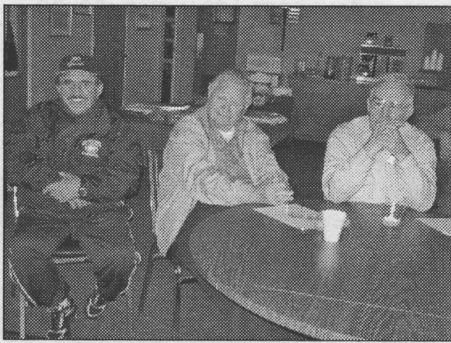


Music by Jim Firpo and Steve Cannata

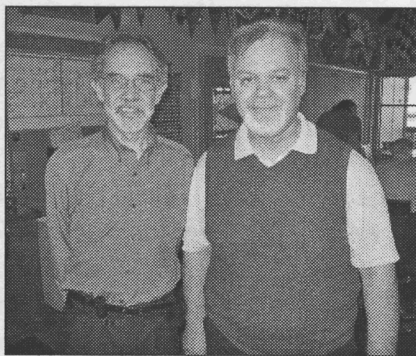


Beautiful old Sherman, Clay accordion brought for us to admire by Walter Traverso





André Paris, Joe Smiell, Bob Smith



The "Two Pedones" John and Mario



The Zhagels, the Sister who brought Father Joe, and Father Joe



"Afterglow" Gus Greyhosky, Judy & Gene Dale, Anna and Henry Nicora,



"Afterglow" Mario Pedone, Val Kieser, Dennis Stoscher



Break in **Fun Band** practice Nov. 28: Back row: Val Kieser, Anne Métais, Frank Schlotter, Telmo Echeverría, Judy Dale, Barbara Corsiglia, Gwyn Lister, Mel Schwing, Scott Williamson; Front row: Vic Corsiglia, Lyndie and Nia Chiou (Scott's daughter and granddaughter—and we hear Nia already likes the accordion!), Sue Hirigoyen (soon to join us permanently we hope!). Missing: Bob Smith
Photographer: Jeff Chiou



ACE Ensemble Concert at Zion Lutheran Church in Piedmont Nov. 25, one of several ACE performances this season. ACE also played for the Filoli Gardens Christmas "Holiday Traditions" on Nov. 26 and for SVAS in San Jose on Sunday, December 2, and will perform for SFAC on Dec. 16 before beginning preparation for the spring concert series.

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Welcome Back

André Paris of Vallejo has re-joined the club after an absence of a couple of years. He attended our last program (November) and decided to re-join. Welcome back, André! We're glad to have you and hope to see you often! (See photo of André on p. 4)

Your Executive Board met . . .

. . . On Monday, November 19. Discussion included proposed changes to the by-laws that will be submitted later to the membership for ratification; protocol of board meetings; getting performers for upcoming meetings; our Web-site which is finally being constructed and should be up and running soon; our sound system; the December Christmas party; the newsletter: We will try having some color in the January issue and possibly having an occasional issue in color, finances permitting. Almost all renewals have come in and we are in very good financial shape.

Word Has It . . .

. . . That (thank goodness!) Vince Cirelli is still on the mend and gaining strength every day.
. . . That member Myrle Dahl sent me the photo at right. She writes: "The Federated Teachers Conservatory of Music had six accordion instructors, wind, string, and dance studios in Minneapolis. I'm playing the white accordion (in the picture)." Note the date: 1947!

REMINDER !!!

This is the last newsletter you will receive if your dues are not paid! If you're not sure whether you have paid or not, call Val (510) 531-4836 or email vtkacc@ifn.net.

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Carmelo, Celebrating the Accordion

A Review by Joan Grauman

Newly Released Piano Accordion CD—A TRUE MASTERPIECE!

Four years in the making, this magnificent compilation celebrates not only a technically and musically flawless accordion performance, it also showcases the amazing composing and arranging skills of this accomplished and acclaimed accordionist, Dr. Carmelo Pino.

The album features twenty-one musicians considered by Carmelo to be among the finest, and includes his award-winning composition, "Concertino for Accordion and Strings," which has been performed by several symphony orchestras. There are a number of beautifully arranged jazz pieces featuring the accordion with solos by the well-known trombonist, Dave Steinmayer, plus Carmelo's celebrated medley of Gershwin tunes, "Gershwiniana," and David Diamond's "Night Music," a composition for accordion and string quartet commissioned by the American Accordionists' Association.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from Page 5)

The CD also includes three very lovely and uniquely different Italian dance tunes, which were composed by Carmelo for the Italian film, "54 Roses." Accordion great, Peter Soave, is featured in Carmelo's jazz arrangement of J. S. Bach's "Two Part Invention in A Minor." This piece is just wonderful.

The entire CD is truly a gem. It flows seamlessly from one mood and musical style to another. Dr. Carmelo Pino has taken our beloved instrument to a new level. His new CD is a real masterpiece. BRAVO!

(Joan Grauman, a member of our club, is on the governing board of the American Accordionists' Association, is vice president of the Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society, and performs nationally with accordion duet partner, Stella Allison.)

To obtain a copy of the CD, please contact Carmelo Pino by phone (202) 342-0669, or by mail at 1066 Papermill Ct., NW Washington, D.C. 20007
CD's are \$20 each, plus \$2 shipping (within the US)

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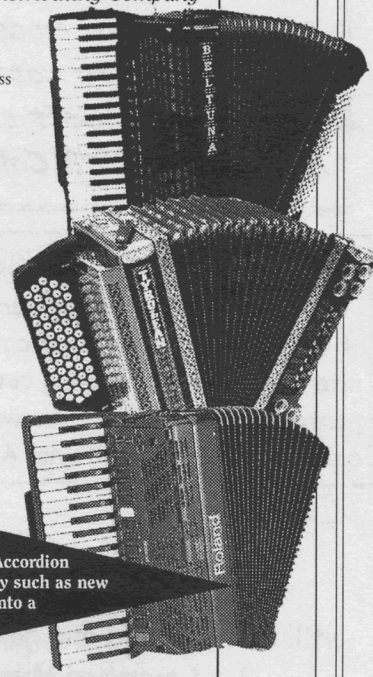
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When Do Our Fellow Accordion Clubs in the Bay Area (and slightly beyond) Meet?

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.

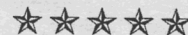
Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) meets on the first Sunday of the month, 1:30 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue between Keily Blvd. and Stevens Creek Blvd. Contact: Bill Topogna (408) 984-5290.

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC) has three chapters: The Vacaville club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30, at a new location: Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main street, 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 Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359.

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC) meets on the second Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m. in the Music Auditorium, Escalon High School, Escalon (just east of the Community Center). This is a New Meeting Place beginning in October. Contact: (209) 545-3603.

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS) meets 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas Blvd, off Highway 80 in Granite Bay, CA. Note: This is a new location! Contact: Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041.

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- * Richard Denier in Carmel rdenier@sbcglobal.net * Peter Di Bono San Francisco peterdsf@gmail.com
- * Reno Di Bono South Bay ourhike@aol.com * William De Michelis South Bay wdd777@comcast.net
- * Joe Domitrowich South Bay www.capricious-accordion.com or www.alpinersusa.com * Don Nurisso nurisso@mindspring.com
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- * Zighi Baci San Francisco (Sheri Mignano) www.zighibaci.com or www.zighi@sonic.net

SFAC Band Practice

Wed., Dec. 12, 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
Or Valerie Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net

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

Ray Abinanti, Leo Aquino, Thelma Bartoli (mem. Lou Soper), Lawrence Caserza, Peter Di Bono, Lynn Ewing, John Gullmes, Don Haga (mem. Lou Soper), Sue & Mike Hirigoyen, Val Kieser (mem. Lou Soper), Bruce Kirschner, Gwyn Lister, Herb Meier, James Monfredini, Frank Montoro, Sundi O'Mara, Vincent Rinaldi, Amil Samayoa (mem. Lou Soper), Paul Thiel, Louis Traverso, Scott Williamson, Lee & Walt Woodall, Richard Yaus, Mark Zhagel (3)

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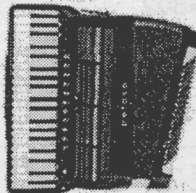
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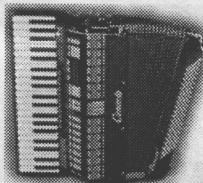
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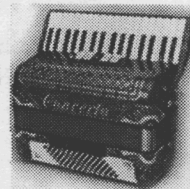
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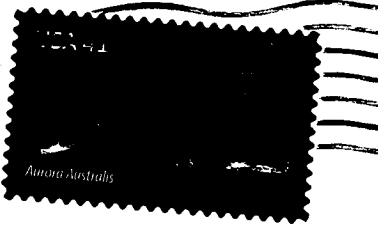
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 **NEXT MEETING:** 
2:00 p.m. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16
(Directions on page 1)

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