

Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO



ACCORDION CLUB

JANUARY 2006

The Accordion: San Francisco's Official Instrument

President's Message

The New Year certainly came in wet and wild, and I hope yours was happy and dry. I had to work, and all the bad publicity about the stormy weather kept the freeway literally empty. I crossed the Golden Gate Bridge on my way to Petaluma around 6:30 p.m. and

(Continued on page 4)

January 15 Meeting

**Featuring the ever-popular
Joe Domitrowich from Cupertino
And outstanding duo from Stockton,
Father and Son
Steve and Mike Trucco**



Steve and Michael Trucco are a father-son duo from Stockton who have been playing together for over 16 years. Steve, the father, began studying accordion in 1949 at age 10. His teacher, John Pisacco, was trained by the Pezzolo brothers of San Francisco and at that time was the finest accordion teacher in the Valley. Steve started out his professional career with a four-piece band in the Stockton area. Still today, Steve has the same four-piece group and is still playing for all kinds of events.

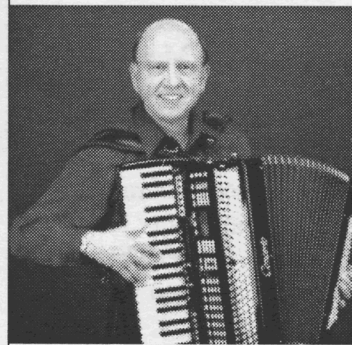
Son **Michael** has been playing since age 9, when he studied with Pam Turbetti of Stockton. After five years of lessons, he began playing professionally with his father's group and also on his own. His mentor is Dr. Harry Gay, also of Stockton, and whom we all know and love. Steve and Mike play mostly Italian waltzes and polkas. Their unique style of playing duets has been honed almost to an art form. When they play together, the two accordions seem to meld into a single accordion.

I'm sorry I do not have a photo to post here, but many of you are already familiar with this popular duo.

Joe Domitrowich has entertained and delighted us at our picnics and at some of our meetings over many years. He is an expert MIDI player. His repertoire ranges from classical and traditional European to country/bluegrass, Cajun, Tex-Mex and nostalgic standards, Latin, pop—you name it. He has something to please every taste. Joe weaves together the authentic accordion reed sounds with the wide variety of voices of the MIDI. He does not use pre-recorded rhythms—everything Joe plays is “real-time,” and

includes some beautiful vocals as well.

“Capricious Accordion,” as Joe calls his solo arrangements, can be heard regularly at Lugano Swiss Bistro in Carmel (www.swissbistro.com). You are sure to thoroughly enjoy the show.



NEXT MEETING: Sunday, January 15, 2:00 p.m. at the South San Francisco Senior Center, 33 Arroyo Drive, South SF
We will meet in a different room this month only—just follow the signs

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
TO ALL !!!**

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
TO ALL !!!**



December Meeting and Christmas Party: What a Crowd!

The postcards that Rosemary Armanino and the Massolos sent out really moved people to come see the show! It was the largest crowd we've had since moving to this venue. Today's program featured our two most prominent playing groups, **the San Francisco Accordion Band** (that we still affectionately call "the Fun Band"), conducted by **Sharon Walters Greyhosky**, and the **SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE)** conducted by **Joe Smiell**. We also had a surprise performance by **Joanne Pilgrim** of Ocean-side (see below), who came up to visit and help us out with the ACE Ensemble. She borrowed a beautiful Petosa



accordion from **Joe Greco**, who brought it down from Napa in the most inclement weather, especially for Joanne. We surely do thank you, Joe. That's real dedication!

The Fun Band provided some before-meeting music as well as its regular Christmas program. The pieces were (pre-meeting): our "signature" piece, *Angelina Polka*; the beautiful *Legend* by Tchaikovsky, arranged by Joe Smiell; *The Whistler and his Dog* (a lively jig-style number); the old favorite, *All I Want for Christmas Is my Two Front Teeth*; *The Chipmunk Song*; and *Frosty the Snowman*. For the meeting we played: *Jingle Bells* (complete with real bells); *We Three Kings* (beautiful Palmer-Hughes arrangement); *Silver Bells*; *C'E La Luna Mezzo Mare*; *Legend* (again); *Tango of the Roses*; *Angels We have Heard on High* (another Palmer-Hughes arrangement); *Jingle Bell Rock*; and that hilarious old song from the 50's, *The Thing*, for which words were provided for those inclined to sing. "Fun Band" players were **Gwyn Lister, Bob Smith, Janet Stechholz, Scott Williamson** and daughter **Lyndie Chiou, Telmo Echeverría, Barbara and Vic Corsiglia, Ron Harris, Mary-Alice Eldon, Lee Woodall, Frank Schlotter, Mary Ann Romanowski, Mel Schwing, Maxine Mallouf and Val Kieser**. (I hope I didn't leave anyone out!)

At this point I'd like to remind everyone that the "Fun Band" is just that, but not only that: it's both fun *and* a learning experience. Everyone is welcome, at any level, and we urge you to come and participate. Under Sharon's direction the band has come a long way, and you will, too!

Before the intermission we had a special treat, as mentioned above: **Joanne Pilgrim** from Oceanside, a long-time student of Anthony Galla-Rini, using Joe Greco's Petosa accordion, played the gorgeous Galla-Rini arrangement of *The Lord's Prayer*. I heard Joanne play that very piece last year, right in front of the Maestro, when we vis-

ited him. He was very moved by Joanne's performance of his arrangement, and even made conducting movements as she played! Thanks. Joanne, for coming all the way up to play for us and to fill in the missing part of our ACE Ensemble. (You were also a great houseguest!)

There were lots of prizes drawn, both door prizes and cash prizes. Winners included (I may have missed someone):

Mark Zhagel, Scott Williamson, Telmo Echeverría, Joe Lombardi, Teri Traverso, Aldo Argenti.

Along with the usual array of magnificent treats provided by the Benedettos, a special birthday cake was presented to **Vince Cirelli**! Pres. **Peter Di Bono** made a grand presentation, misleading everyone, especially Vince, into thinking he was going to honor a woman. Then at the last moment he said "Oh, did I say 'she'? I meant 'he' — **Vince Cirelli**!!!! That brought about a

good laugh! Happy Birthday Vince—and here's to many, many more!

During the break, **Dick Schiller** and **Val Kieser** played some holiday music, and **Jim Hillman** and **Don Nurisso** were also heard playing some great music together. I wonder why **Dennis Stoscher** wasn't out there playing too. Oh yes, did I mention that **Santa Claus** himself handed out candy canes to all?

The second half of the program featured our SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE), conducted by Joe Smiell, who also wrote all the arrangements. The pieces played by ACE were *Light Cavalry Overture* by Franz von



Suppè; a medley of selections from *South Pacific*; Joe's gorgeous arrangement of *White Christmas*; Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*; a Danish Hymn and Christmas Carol; a potpourri of Polish Christmas music; three potpourris of carols that everyone knows and loves; Hoagy Carmichael's *Stardust*; a fast-moving Danish Polka; and a personal favorite of Joe's that has much meaning to him from his very young years, the Italian march *Il Bersaglieri*. ACE players were: **Aldo Argenti, Jr., Peter Di Bono, Reno Di Bono, Mary-Alice Eldon, Lynn Ewing, Sharon Walters-Greyhosky, Valerie Kieser, Nora Mazzara, Frank Montoro, Bob Smith**, our expert drummer from Joe's other orchestras, **Kevin**

(Continued on page 3)

McCarthy—and, our Good Samaritan from Oceanside, **Joanne Pilgrim**.

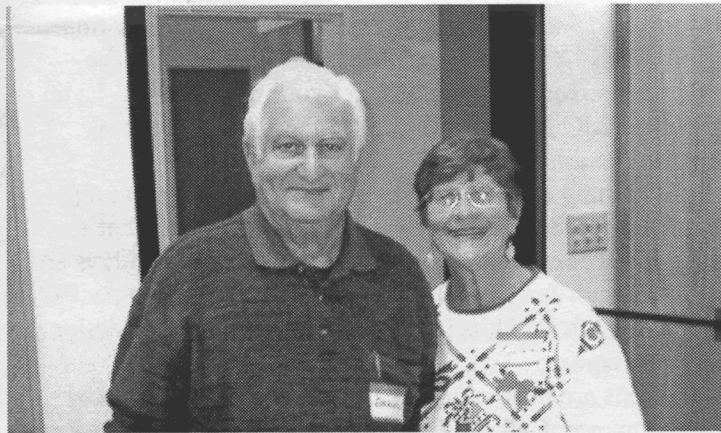
I am privileged to play in both the ACE Ensemble and the SF Accordion Band, and I do hope and trust that everyone enjoyed the music. We certainly had a great time performing it.

Also at this meeting, **Lynn Ewing** continued what has become a club tradition by treating us once again to her hilarious vocal/accordion rendition of *I'm Gettin' Nuttin' for Christmas*. This has become a tradition, and our December meeting just would not be complete without it!

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

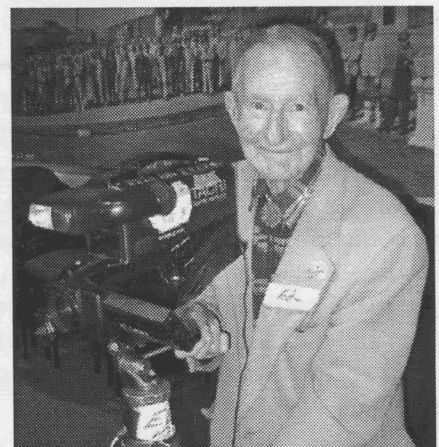


Above, left: Joe Greco and Joanne Pilgrim, with Joe's Petosa accordion he loaned for the meeting; Above, center: Kevin McCarthy, drummer for ACE, arrives at the hall; Above, right: Jim Hillman and Don Nurisso playing during the break. Below, left: Domenic and Frances Benedetto, providers of the intermission feast; Below, right: Vic Corsiglia and Mary-Alice Eldon show the Christmas spirit with their Santa hats while performing with the "Fun Band"



A Fun Band Happening: Band members were pleased and proud to offer a special Christmas gift to Sharon and Gus Greyhosky for their hard work and dedication to the Band. Presenting the gift in the photo is Frank Schlotter. ←

Right: Our favorite videographer of all time, who has recorded almost every one of our meetings from the beginning! →



ACE Ensemble Happenings

The ACE Ensemble had a very busy December and is already off to a running start in January (see the December 2005 issue of this NL). We had a grand time this past Friday playing for about 150 very attentive people at the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church (see photo this page). The pastor there, **Frank Vander Zwan**, is an accordion enthusiast (he also plays) and a member of our club. We'd see him at meetings and band practices if he weren't to totally tied up with his spiritual duties. So, Frank lives the accordion life vicariously through our newsletter! Also, our faithful follower and SFAC member **Rosemary Halley** showed up for the performance.

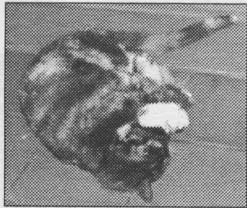
ACE has two concerts scheduled for this spring: one on the Peninsula and one in the East Bay. Stay tuned for the announcements of the dates and times.

ACE members presented a special gift to **Mary-Alice and Dave Eldon** in appreciation for generously and faithfully offering their home for our rehearsals every Monday.



Mary-Alice receives gift from ACE; Joe Smiell and Frank Vander Zwan, pastor of the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church

Hey you guys, did you hear who is coming to the SF Accordion Club in February?



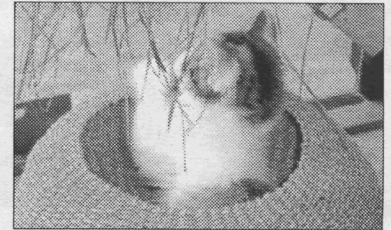
I've heard rumors! Who is coming?



Rumor has it that it's none other than TOM BRUNO, all the way from Pennsylvania, especially for us—that's what I heard!!!



WOW!!! NO KIDDING!!! I'll be there, that's for sure!!!



(Continued from page 1)

there was *one* other car on the bridge! Oh, there was also a CHP car, and he pulled over the other car, next to me. Boy, that was close!

Just in case you haven't already made your Resolutions, here are a few suggestions: play your accordion at least 20 minutes every day, and do a little technical exercise too. Spread the word about our club to your friends. Bring along a guest to a meeting once in a while. Help out with one of our club projects—we always need more hands. Support live music. I always ask if a restaurant has music before I make a reservation.

I need accordions for my students. If you have an accordion sitting in a closet, please consider selling it—I am desperate.

The January 15 meeting features **Joe Domitrowich**, a fine accordion soloist from the South Bay, and **Steve and Mike Trucco**, a father/son duo who will get your toes tapping. Lynn Ewing will be MC for that meeting, as I am, unfortunately, unable to attend this one.

I am performing in an Edith Piaf revue being staged at the Cinnabar Theater, 3333 Petaluma Blvd. in Petaluma. That's where I worked New Year's Eve. The show runs on Fridays and Saturdays through January 21, and the ten-member cast packs two hours of Edith Piaf hits into a lively, fun-filled production. I hope you can come.

Reservations are mandatory, as the house has been packed every performance. Call (707) 763-8920 for ticket information.

Play your accordion every day, and remember:
REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!

Peter Di Bono

Magnante Tidbit from Tom Bruno

This photo is from a fishing trip in Puget Sound after one of Charlie's concerts in Seattle. The ones without an accordion are John Collins (brother of Tom Collins) and Bill Lauman, one of the senior officers with the Sea-First Bank of Seattle. He owned the yacht and was a great accordion aficionado. The white Excelsior that Tom Collins is playing (with the black treble keys) is one that Charlie had built for him, and had just delivered. Charlie is in the center, and the other fellow with the white accordion is Augie Zadra, a well-known accordionist from the northwest part of the country. The photo was taken in 1958.



Our Sincere Thanks

To those who have generously donated to the Club this year. Recent donations that your Editor has heard about:

Anonymous Donor Peter Di Bono
Paul Pasquale (accordion straps)
Mike Zampiceni (accordion)
Ivan Sarkany, Frank Montoro
Lee Woodall, Sundi O'Mara
Bruce Kirschner, M.D. Dennis Stoscher (mike cable)

Another Magnante Tidbit from Tom Bruno

It was on one of Charles Magnante's and Tom Collins' hunting trips that they happened to stop by a local restaurant for a bite to eat. Charles had the habit of never leaving his accordion in the car, so he took it into the restaurant with him. Charles and Tom were in hunting clothes and hadn't shaved for days, making them look a bit rugged. After being served by the waitress, she asked what was in the suitcase. Charles replied that it was his accordion. She then asked if he would mind to play something on it for her. He very graciously obliged. While Charles was playing, the waitress commented to Tom that if Charlie would clean himself up a little bit, he could make a living doing that!!!

Upcoming Events

March 8-12, 2006

National Accordion Convention
Richardson, TX (near Dallas/Ft. Worth)

Info: Call (972) 270-0770 or

Visit www.accordion.com/naa

March 17, 2006

Accordion Club of the Redwoods "Spring Fling" dinner-dance. More info to follow.

June 4-9 RCAC Accordion Camp, Silver Falls, OR
marlinem26@msn.com or (503) 463-9909

June 23-25, 2006

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration
Leavenworth, WA

Info: Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce
(509) 548-5807

Or Events@leavenworth.org

June 26-29

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention
www.AccordionStars.com or (800)-472-1695

July 23-28, 2006

GALLA-RINI ACCORDION CAMP!!

On the beautiful campus of Dominican University
in San Rafael

Musical Director is our own Joe Smiell

Contact Gwyn Lister (415) 924-3202

listergj@peoplepc.com

Or Victor Corsiglia (408) 554-6275

Galla-Rini Accordion Camp

The Galla-Rini Accordion Camp will be held July 23-28, 2006 at Dominican University in San Rafael, just north of San Francisco. This camp is focused on playing accordions in an ensemble. The music consists of arrangements of classical music, show tunes, popular tunes and original compositions by Joe Smiell and Anthony Galla-Rini. We will be under the musical direction of Joe Smiell. The vision for the camp is to have a good time while learning new skills. The camp will be open to accordionists of all levels of competence, with a part for each one and room for individual musical growth, regardless of skill level. We live in the beautiful new dormitories, eat in the cafeteria and have a wonderful time. There is opportunity to jam and form small music groups. On the last evening of the camp we will present a free concert for the public.

The camp is limited to forty playing participants. We will be mailing camp applications and information to interested people at the end of January. Questions? Contact Vic Corsiglia [vic3458@pacbell.net; 408-554-6275]. Vic

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Love Russian folk music?

Have an ear for arranging it? Interested in noodling around with a singer, working out some arrangements, and making a CD? This is not a money-maker, but a chance to collaborate and make some sweet music. If interested, please call Jonnie at (510) 434-1782, or e-mail me at jonniep@sbcglobal.net

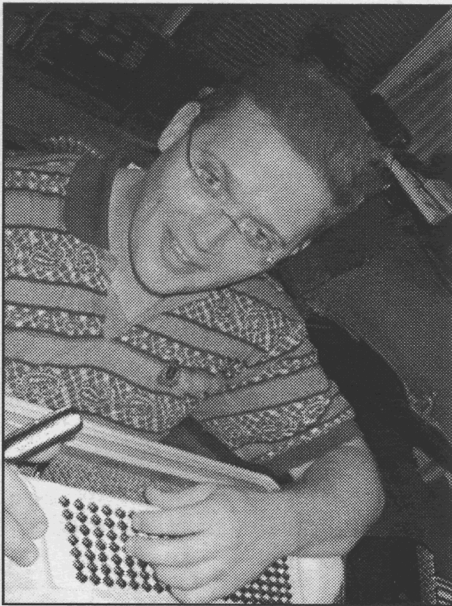
vic3458@pacbell.net

July 10-15

Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Festival
and Championships, Kimberley, B.C., Canada
info@kiotac.ca www.kiotac.ca (250) 427-4547

A Note from Your Editor . . .

For the lady who called and did not identify herself (so I could not call back), and others whose newsletters did not arrive in time for the December meeting: I do the best I can to get the newsletter out before the next meeting. This is a huge and time-consuming job, and I also have other obligations. For this reason, *Ed and Isabelle Massolo and Rosemary Armanino have been sending out postcards announcing the coming meeting, so that you can always count on getting the meeting information in time.*



COMING TO OUR CLUB IN FEBRUARY

***Accordion Virtuoso, Craftsman
and Historian TOM BRUNO***

Tom is coming to our club all the way from New Kensington, PA to present a program on the music and some of the workshop content of Charles Magnante, and will perform some Magnante selections for us. He will also play some paso dobles of Frosini.

Have your questions ready—anything having to do with Charles Magnante and other accordion subjects as well

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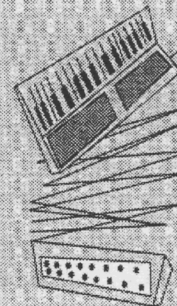
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CORRECTION...

Last month I erroneously indicated that Jan. 18 would be **Maestro Tony Galla-Rini's** 103rd birthday. In fact it will be his 102nd, but who's counting? **HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAESTRO!!**

***Happy Birthday also to
LOU SOPER who
shares the same
birthday with
Maestro Galla-Rini!***



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Come and join in ...

San Francisco Accordion Club
Our New Home and New Meeting Schedule!!
Since February 2005 the SFAC meets on the
Third Sunday of the month
2:00 p.m. South San Francisco Senior Center in
The South San Francisco Municipal Building
33 Arroyo Drive, South San Francisco
For Info call any board member.

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. Sacramento
For information call (707) 864-2359

Northern California Accordion Society
Meets 7 PM the third Thursday of the month
Venita Rhea's Restaurant, 4415 Granite Dr., #1500, Rocklin, CA
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

Medford Accordion Club
Contact: Joe Zajac (541) 476-3209 or zajac@aol.com

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



"Jazz is too good for America." *Dizzy Gillespie*
"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing
the inexpressible is Music." *Aldous Huxley*
"Music is, by its very nature, essentially powerless to express
anything at all. Music expresses itself." *Igor Stravinsky*
"Hell is full of musical amateurs." *George Bernard Shaw*
"The drummer drives. Everybody else rides!" *Panama Francis*
"Music is my mistress, and she plays second fiddle to no
one." *Duke Ellington*

SFAC Evening Ensemble Practice

PLAYERS WILL BE NOTIFIED as to day, time and location
Normal schedule: First and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Joe says that this month is too difficult for him but that we can
count on beginning February 1! Again: **You will be notified!**
Info: Val Kieser (510) 531-4836 Vtkacc@ifn.net (New)

SFAC Band Practice

Second and Fourth Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.
Hope Lutheran Church, 55 San Fernando Way, In Daly City
Call first!: Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163

Word Has It ...

... that **Father Nature's Shed** in Danville, always a favorite place
for breakfast and lunch, is now open for dinner and features **Accordi-**
onist "Uncle Don" Aldo playing a variety of world and sentimental
classics. To find out when he plays, call (925) 820-3160. Let's see if
we can get him to come and play for our club!

... that **Michael Sanossian** continues to improve as he works his
way through rehab following knee replacement surgery.

... that long-time member **Stella Allison** and hubby **Roy**, of Damas-
cus, MD are moving into a wonderful retirement village in Sykesville,
MD where they will have their own cottage and Stella can play her ac-
cordion all she wants and not have to worry about disturbing anyone!



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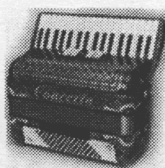
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SFAC MEMBERSHIP

\$25 per year for individual; \$30 per year for a family
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P.O. Box 318175
San Francisco, CA 94131-8175
Admission to Meetings: \$5.00

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
Newsletter Editor: Valerie T. Kieser
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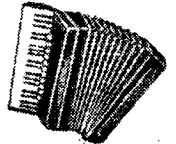


NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2006 2:00 P.M.
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO SENIOR CENTER
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

33 ARROYO DRIVE, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO

From El Camino: one block north of Westborough; turn West



Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club

P.O. Box 318175
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE