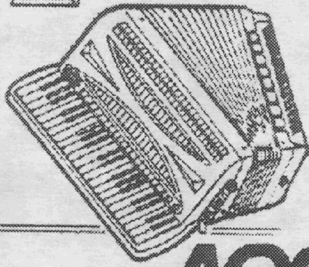


Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO



ACCORDION CLUB

**THERE
WILL BE
NO REGU-
LAR
MEETING
IN JULY
BECAUSE
OF THE
PICNIC!!!**

**HAPPY
FOURTH
OF JULY!!**



July 2005

The Accordion: San Francisco's Official Instrument

President's Message

I hope everyone comes out and supports the **Club annual picnic**. The July 9 date should be a perfect Saturday, weatherwise, in the beautiful Oakland Hills. Val Kieser and Dick Schiller are on record that "this will be the best picnic ever!" So, bring your accordions, and your dancing shoes, and plan on a great day. The \$12.00 admission covers everything: park admission, a great lunch,

a fantastic day in the out-of-doors, great music all day long, plenty of fun and surprises. **DON'T MISS IT!!!**

I didn't expect much of a turnout at our last meeting, since it was Father's Day, but it was almost a full house, and the music was terrific. You can read about it elsewhere in the newsletter.

By the way, several of our members wanted to get into the meeting room at 12:30 in order to rehearse their music, but were declined. Our agreement is that we have the room from 1 to 5 pm.

Several members have called with suggestions on how to increase attendance at the meetings, and I thank you for that. I encourage everyone with an idea to give me a call (415) 753-1502, and we will be discussing these ideas at the next Board meeting.

The **Las Vegas Accordion Convention** is full swing, **Joe Smiell's Button Box Camp** is coming up, and the **Cotati Accordion Festival** is the last weekend of August.

Don't forget, our **club picnic** is July 9th at Nature Friends Park in the Oakland hills. Get your reservations in right away (deadline: Tuesday, July 5) and join the fun. Call Val Kieser: (510) 531-4836.

DON'T FORGET:

NO REGULAR MEETING IN JULY!!!

The entire membership joins me in sending our sincere condolences to **Patricia Alves**, and **Johan Gullmes** on the passing of their loved ones.

Please get involved in your club, and let me know your ideas and suggestions. I look forward to seeing you at the picnic. **The next regular meeting will be Sunday, August 21st at 2:00 pm.**

Play your accordion every day, and remember:

REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!

Peter Di Bono

**PICNIC SATURDAY, JULY 9
FROM 10:00 A.M.**

FEATURING Harry Gay/Bob Foppiano, Mike Zampiceni, Joe Domicrowich, our Fun Band, Plus Special Guests to entertain us:

THE ARGENTINE TANGO CLUB

Plus our own JIM MURDOCK will put on a great clown show with accordion, to be enjoyed by all us "kids" both young and young at heart!

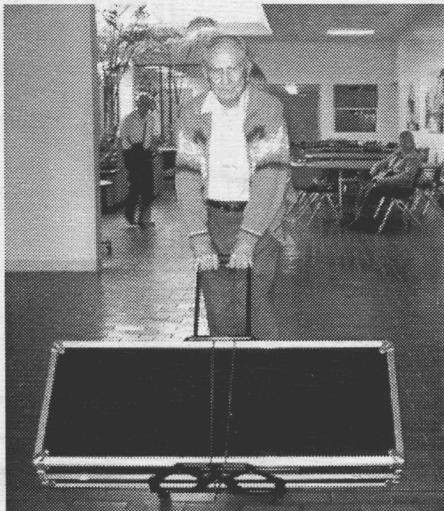
Bring your accordion for informal playing; also your appetite and your dancing shoes! We're going to have a blast! Questions: Call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@value.net

DIRECTIONS ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER. ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATION AND RECEIPT OF PAYMENT:

TUESDAY, JULY 5!!!

June Meeting a Winner

Unfortunately I missed one of our featured acts, which was **Mark Ramian** playing his “horizontal accordion,” which has a piano keyboard on the right and accordion bass buttons on the left. I heard Mark a few years ago when he played for us at Donworth Hall, and he really knows his music. He came in as runner-up to Gervasio Marcosignori in the *Coupe Mondiale* in his younger, accordion-playing days. Because of a stroke, his left arm is not up to playing accordion anymore, and hence the “horizontal” accordion. His pieces today were *Serenatella Strana* (Strange Serenta) by V. Melocchi; *Figlio Ti Ascolto* (Son Listen to Me) by L. Fancelli; *Smoke*



Mark Ramian with his Horizontal Accordion



Norma and Bruno

Gets In Your Eyes by Jerome Kern; *You Go to my Head* by J. Coats; *To Sei La Mia Vita* (You are my life) by B. Boccosi; *Fisarmonica Chiachierina* (Talkative Accordion) by E. Cambieri; and a Russian Medley by Lanaro.

When I arrived, **Norma Parsons**

and **Bruno Bianchini** were just getting ready to play—and I got there just in time for a very special treat. They played *Luci e Ombre*, *Tom’s Polka*, *Musetina*, *Tesoro Mio*, *Dolores Waltz* and *Charlie the Boxer*. Wow, what a duo! We thank them so much.

Next we heard **Lynn Ewing** and **Don Nurisso**, who had just been playing together at the Silver Falls, OR camp put on by the Rose City accordion Club. They played the well-known and beautiful *Indifférence*, followed by another lovely French number, *Je Te Veux* (I Want Thee). They make these difficult pieces seem so easy—I don’t know how they do it!



Lynn and Don

The buffet offered by **Frances and Dominic Benedetto** was, as always, sumptuous. I took two pieces of that great cake!

We had five winners of CD’s in the drawing, though I didn’t get all the names. There were three winners of the cash prizes: **Clyde Forsman** won \$10, **Elva Ercoli** won \$25, and **Anna Nicora** won \$45. Congratulations to all!



Henri Ducharme’s Quartet

The second half of the meeting was devoted to **Henri Ducharme**, playing both individually and with his groups. Henri led off with a beautiful French piece called *Virtuosité*, which he played with impressive smoothness. Because I couldn’t write fast enough, and didn’t have any list of pieces, I cannot name here all the pieces Henri and his group played, but the list included a slow piece with haunting and sometimes strange harmonies, that Henri had played at a cemetery. His accordion sounded like an organ for this piece. Henri described the piece as “hovering between heaven and earth . . . wraps around itself.” He also played a song for which he did not know the translation of the Cyrillic title, so Henri named it (appropriately for Father’s Day), “My Father Lifted Me.” Henri told the story of how his father sold his own accordion so he could buy one for Henri many years ago.

Then a quartet of Henri’s students played some of Guy Klucsevsek’s music, quite avant-garde but becoming more and more popular. *Tangocide* has a 7/8 rhythm, difficult to do well, and I was impressed with how well it was played by this quartet. Then a trio of them played a wave song, I think it was called “Wave Hill” or something to that effect, where you could feel the undulation of



Henri’s “Accordion Works” Ensemble

the waves, followed by a fast, dissonant piece with a very sudden ending, whose title I did not get.

Next came Henri’s full ensemble (or about 10 of the 15 or so total number in the group). They played *Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen*, arranged by a lovely young lady, a graduate music student who was also in the audience: **Carol O’Brien**. It was a complicated arrangement that must have been difficult to arrange, let alone play.

Five o’clock came around too soon, and the meeting had to end—but I, for one, enjoyed every minute of it. Val



Arranger Carol O’Brien

COME TO THE PICNIC SATURDAY, JULY 9 from 10:00 a.m.

Nature Friends Park in the beautiful Oakland Hills!

THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR MEETING IN JULY!!

Val MUST receive your check for the picnic (\$12 per adult)

no later than Tuesday, July 5!!!!!!

We will be featuring the Mariposa Argentine Tango Club players and dancers; also Mike Zampiceni, Joe Domitrowich, Harry Gay and Bob Foppiano; and our great clown act with Jim Murdock! Come for lots of fun, raffle and great food!

DIRECTIONS TO NATURE FRIENDS PARK

3115 Butters Drive, Oakland (510) 531-2930

From San Francisco or Northern Peninsula, take the Bay Bridge. While on the bridge, get into the second lane from the right, to make sure that you end up on the correct freeway, which is 580 east (toward Hayward). Once you are on 580, very soon you will see the exit for 24/Walnut Creek. Take that exit. From 24, take the exit "Highway 13 South/Hayward." (It is the next exit after Broadway.) From 13, take the exit "Joaquin Miller Road." (You will also see the Mormon Temple and signs "Chabot Space & Science Center.") Two left turns in quick succession will put you on Joaquin Miller Road. Butters Drive is the second right turn off Joaquin Miller Road (after Hedge Lane). The road twists and turns for a while, and then you will see Nature Friends on the right. It will be marked for the SFAC picnic.

From Central Peninsula, take the San Mateo Bridge. Continue straight through Hayward (this will automatically be Jackson Street). Stay in the middle lane. At a large bank of signals you will automatically be in the correct lane as the road bends left and becomes Foothill Blvd. Stay in that middle lane, which will take you onto 580 West toward Oakland. After about 10 miles you'll see the exit for Highway 13 North/Berkeley (immediately after Seminary Ave. exit). Take 13 north to Joaquin Miller Road exit; go right onto Joaquin Miller and proceed as above.

From South Bay: Take Dumbarton Bridge. From the bridge, go north on 880; take the Jackson Street exit, go right onto Jackson and proceed as indicated above under "Central Peninsula." There are other ways but this is the simplest.

From Marin County: Take the Richmond Bridge. Continue until freeway merges with highway 80 West. Once you're past University Avenue in Berkeley, stay out of the extreme right lanes or you might end up in San Francisco! Also stay out of the far left lane. This way you will easily get onto 580 East. Then proceed as from SF/Northern Peninsula above.

If coming from Contra Costa County, take 24 west and 13 south and proceed to Joaquin Miller Road, etc. as indicated above.

IT IS NOT AS COMPLICATED AS IT SOUNDS!

What ever happened . . .

. . . to Pietro Deiro Sr.'s beautiful accordion that Vince Cirelli restored and played for us at a club meeting a few years ago? Well, it was supposed to be destined for a museum in Italy but happily ended up in **Helmi Harrington's World of Accordions** museum, now located in Wisconsin. Here's the story:

Julio Giulietti had heard several years back that the accordion was in a pawn shop, so he went and bought it and gave it to Pietro Deiro, Jr. The accordion, in abysmal condition, lay around Pietro Jr.'s house for 3 or 4 years until Vince convinced him to send it out here, for Vince to restore to playing condition. Vince put on new sides, new front, new reeds, rebuilt the keyboard and the bass machine, and then restored and put back the metal decoration.

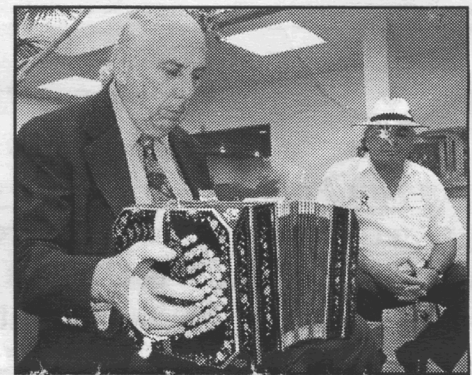
The accordion, once restored (and demonstrated for our club by Vince), was to be sent back to Pietro Jr.—but he passed away before the accordion was finished. So, the restored accordion was sent instead to Pietro Jr.'s daughter Sandra, intended for the museum in Italy that was founded by Pietro Sr. Meanwhile, **Henry Doktorski** wrote his book, *The Brothers Deiro and Their Accordions*, which of course included this accordion. Henry had donated Guido Deiro's accordion to Helmi Harrington's World of Accordions museum, and so he got Pietro Deiro Jr.'s daughter Sandra to donate Pietro's accordion to the museum so that the museum has both accordions. That's the story, lovingly told by Vince Cirelli.



Pietro Deiro's accordion, after restoration by Vince Cirelli
 Photo thanks to Henry Doktorski, from his book *The Brothers Deiro and Their Accordions*

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Sad News . . .

Since the last newsletter we learned of two very sad passings.

Longtime and faithful SFAC member, and a founder of the Silicon Valley Accordion Society, **George Alves**, passed away on June 14. He and his wife Pat were still getting settled in their new home in Yuba City. Known for his great humor and smile and generosity, George was also the lucky winner of many a cash drawing at both clubs—and he deserved it!

Another longtime and faithful member also passed away: **Sheila Gullmes** of Half Moon Bay. Sheila and her husband Johan were as active in our club as they were able to be, and I had several conversations with them about the club over the years. We send our sincerest condolences to Johan and hope we'll still get to see him from time to time.

More Photos from the June meeting . .



Henri Ducharme and Norma Zonay-Parsons

Galla-Rini Camp in San Diego

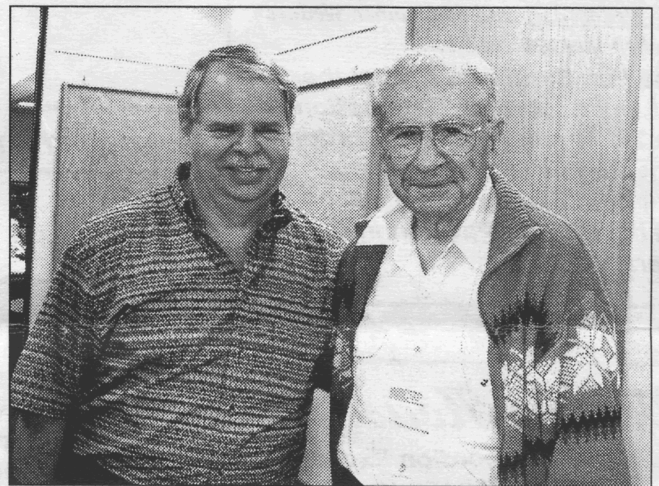
July 24-29

YES, YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP !!!

I just spoke with **Kjell Holmes**, and he says that although it's a late date and the camp has a lot of enthusiastic participants already signed up, there is still room for more. You won't regret it—we have **Joan Cochran Sommers** as one of the orchestra conductors, and our own **Joe Smiell** as the other one. There will be workshops and jam sessions, private lessons, dancing and other great activities galore. We always have a blast!

Place: University of San Diego campus. **Cost:** \$585 double occupancy including meals, materials and everything. Single occupancy: add \$100 for the week.


Call Val (510) 531-4836 or call Kjell Holmes direct (858) 543-5486. **You'll be glad you did!!!**



Don Nurisso and Mark Ramian

A Smile from an Internet Friend

Thanks to Dave Jones

 To commemorate her 69th birthday on October 1, actress/vocalist Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of AARP. One of the musical numbers she performed was "My Favorite Things" from the movie "The Sound of Music." However, the lyrics were deliberately changed for the entertainment of her "blue hair" audience. Here are the lyrics she recited (keep the melody "Raindrops on Roses . . ." in mind):

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in strings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts and hearing aids and glasses
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favorite things
And then I don't feel so bad.
Hot tea and crumpets, and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heat pads and hot meals they bring
These are a few of my favorite things.

Back pains, confused brains, and no fear of sinnin'
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin'
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames
When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had
And then I don't feel so bad!

Julie Andrews received a standing ovation from the crowd that lasted over four minutes and repeated encores.

**NEWS OF THE EVENING
ENSEMBLE and the FUN BAND:**

The Evening Ensemble with Joe Smiell, for the foreseeable future—once we start up again after the current hiatus—will hold rehearsals at the home of Ed and Isabelle Mas-solo, 612 Lassen Street, South San Francisco. Rehearsals are normally held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, although the Ensemble is on hiatus for the moment. Mem-
bers will be notified of the next rehearsal. Directions are simple: From 280 take the Westborough Ave. exit and drive east to El Camino. Turn right (south) on El Camino for several blocks to Ponderosa Road. Turn right on Ponderosa and continue to Lassen Street; turn right on Lassen and drive to the cul-de-sac at the end. 612 is on the right of the cul-de-sac and is well marked.

The Fun Band will continue to meet at the Hope Church in Daly City on the second and fourth Wednesdays and some other Wednesdays when they are available.

The Fun Band was a hit at the Petaluma Accordion Celebration June 25! Thank you, Tom Cordoni, for inviting us to play!

Our next Fun Band gig will be July 16 at the Piccolo Pavilion in Corte Madera.



Kimric Smythe

*Come visit us at our new address
416—25th Street (at Broadway)
Downtown Oakland
Phone (510) 268-4084*

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Your Executive Board did not meet in June.

**WANTED: Players for our August meeting, which is
Sunday, August 21
Call Don Nurisso (650) 359-3549**

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**NOTE ABOUT
TEACHER LISTINGS:**

For names and phone numbers of accordion teachers in the Bay Area (San Francisco/North peninsula, North Bay, East Bay, Peninsula and South Bay) please contact Val at (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@value.net.

More signs of (Old) Times . . .

Twinkle, twinkle . . . One-eyed car . . . We all wonder . . . Where you are
Burma-Shave

A whiskery kiss . . . For the one you adore . . . May not make her mad . . .
But her face will be sore *Burma-shave*

When super-shaved . . . Remember, Pard . . . You'll still get slapped . . .
But not so hard *Burma-Shave*

The whale put Jonah . . . Down the hatch . . . But coughed him up . . .
Because he scratched *Burma-Shave*

These signs . . . We gladly dedicate . . . To men who've had . . .
No date of late *Burma-Shave*

Burma-Shave . . . Was such a boom . . . They passed the bride . . .
And kissed the groom *Burma-Shave*

Violets are blue . . . Roses are pink . . . On graves of those . . .
Who drive and drink *Burma-Shave*

A guy who drives . . . A car wide open . . . Is not thinking' . . .
He's just hopin' *Burma-shave*

If your peach . . . Keeps out of reach . . . Better practice . . .
What we preach *Burma-Shave*

To kiss a mug . . . That's like a cactus . . . Takes more nerve . . .
Than it does practice *Burma-Shave*

Candidate says . . . Campaign confusing . . . Babies kiss me . . .
Since I've been using *Burma-Shave*



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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.**

**NO MEETING IN JULY because of the Picnic
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

Upcoming Events

**Saturday, July 9, 2005: SF Accordion Club Picnic, Nature
Friends Park in the Oakland Hills. **THERE WILL BE NO JULY
MEETING!** Info: Call Val (510) 531-4836.**

**July 9-16: Joe Smiell's Button Box Camp, Soda Springs, CA.
Call (510) 832-6938 or (510) 236-3784.**

**Thursday, July 14: Peter Di Bono playing at Restaurant Anjou
in SF for Bastille Day. It is a fine French restaurant in tiny Campton
Place, between Stockton and Grant, opposite the Hyatt. Reserva-
tions: (415) 392-5373 and say you want to be seated near the accor-
dionist.**

**Saturday, July 16: Accordion Club of the Redwoods Picnic.
Save the date! Details to follow.**

**Sunday, July 24-Friday, July 29, 2005: Galla-Rini Accordion
Camp, San Diego, CA. Call Val (510) 531-4836, vtkacc@value.net
for info, or call Kjell Holmes (858) 453-5486 or kjell@sanrr.com.**

**Saturday-Sunday Aug. 27 and 28: Cotati Accordion Festival!
Featuring Flaco Jimenez and Queen Ida, both days! Also our own
Peter Di Bono and his group.**

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, 424 Girard Dr., Medford, OR
97504; (541) 779-3420 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

**SFAC Evening Ensemble Practice currently on
hiatus! New Location beginning when we start
up again: at the home of Ed and Isabelle Mas-
solo, 612 Lassen Street, South San Francisco**
First and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Call first! : (for now) Val Kieser (510) 531-4836

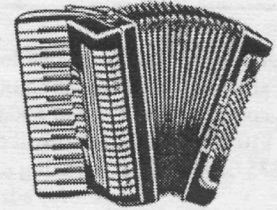
SFAC Band Practice

Second and Fourth Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.
Hope Lutheran Church, 55 San Fernando Way,
In Daly City

Call first! : Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163

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Who Is Playing Where ...

Following are names and phone numbers to call to *find out where
your favorite player is performing.* Anyone wishing to have his/
her name added to this list, please contact Val (510) 531-4836 or
vtkacc@value.net.

Steve Albini in Napa, North Bay and East Bay (415)
892-5381.

Steve Balich, Sr. in North Bay, El Verano and Sacramento
(707) 874-3494.

William DeMichelis in Palo Alto (650) 321-3319.

Joe Domitrowich and the Alpiners USA in the South Bay
(408) 255-1259. Website www.capricious-accordion.com or
www.alpinersusa.com.

Tom Torriglia and the Bella Ciao Band mostly in SF (415)
440-0800; www.ladyofspain.com/bellaciao.html

Mike Zampiceni in the South Bay (408) 734-1565.

Rick Corrigan and the pickPocket Ensemble café-style mu-
sic of various ethnicities. E-mail Rick Corrigan
rickcorrigan@earthlink.net.

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SFAC MEMBERSHIP

\$25 per year for individual; \$30 per year for a family
Mail check to S.F.A.C.
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.

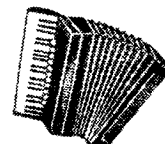
THERE WILL BE NO JULY MEETING
Come to the picnic July 9 !!

SFAC Officers

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Scott Williamson (408) 553-7519
Newsletter Editor: Valerie T. Kieser
(510) 531-4836 vtkacc@value.net



NEXT REGULAR MEETING
SUNDAY, AUGUST 21 2005 at 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
NO MEETING IN JULY—COME TO THE PICNIC INSTEAD !!!

Newsletter of the
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