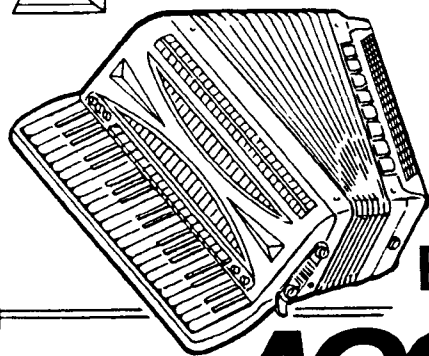


Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



BAY AREA

ACCORDION CLUB

June, 1998

President's Message

by Marian Kelly

Dear Members and Friends,

Attention, anybody in or near the South Bay: **SAN JOSE MEETINGS** to be HELD the Second Sunday of July, August, and September (not the third Sunday as previously announced. That's the big news this month! We've decided to hold a second monthly meeting, this one located in San Jose, close to so many of you who have been telling us for years that you either can't or don't wish to drive all the way to San Francisco very often. I've heard several people say that they declined to rejoin BAAC because they knew they wouldn't be able to come to meetings anyway, since they lived one to two hours away, and therefore didn't see much point in joining. Those folks won't see this message, so we're asking you to pass the word about our new meeting site on to any non-member accordion lovers that you know.

Here are some details: We'll hold the meeting at the *Germania Restaurant* banquet room, beginning at 3:00PM on Sunday, July 12th and lasting until 6 or 7 or whenever. Actually, we can stay so long as we're enjoying ourselves (reasonably sedately, of course). The address is 261 N. 2nd Street, close to downtown, in San Jose. Cross street is Julian; the building is a big blue victorian-style "house". Phone number there is (408) 295-4486. There's a parking lot right next door, you'll be pleased to hear.

The *Germania's* banquet room is about half the size of Donworth (maybe a little less.) It's outfitted with a small stage (less than a foot high, if I recall), and many tables and chairs around the stage. Off to the left is an elevated area with more tables and chairs, just a little bit separate from the main area. The *Germania* is a functioning restaurant, so you'll be able to obtain drinks in great variety (including some of that great German beer, if you wish) and, later in the afternoon, some food. A waitress will be available to serve us food in the banquet room, so we won't need to leave the accordion music.

The proprietor of the *Germania* has agreed to let us use his facilities for a three month trial period without paying him any rent. Therefore, no door charge at the *Germania*. However, he is expecting that our members will patronize the bar

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Mark Your Calendars

July 6. General Membership Meeting Music and Swap Night. Starts 7:00pm, Eucalyptus and 22nd. Ave, San Francisco (first block North of the Stonestown Shopping Center). See page 5 for list of performers.

July 12 (Sunday). BAAC San Jose meeting. Germania Rest. 261 N. 2nd. St. 3:00pm to ? Bring your accordion!

July 14. (and every second Tuesday). Meeting of the Golden State Accordion-Aires. 7:00pm. Pietro's No.2. 679 Merchant St. Vacaville. Ca.

July 11 (Wednesday). 7:30pm. BAAC Board Meeting at Ed Massolo's home at 612 Lassen in So. San Francisco. Guests welcome.

July 20. (and every third Monday). Meeting of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods. 7:00pm. Volpi's in Petaluma.

July 6-12. Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Championships, BC Canada Call (250)427-4547 for more information.

July 8-12. American Accordionists' Assoc. Festival, New Orleans, LA. Email Ameracc@aol.com or call (516)746-3102.

July 12-18. Joe Smiell's Beginning Button Box Camp, Norden, California Call (510)832-6938 for more information.

July 17-19. Accordion Teachers Guild Festival, Chicago, IL. Email AMYJO@APCI.NET or phone (618)632-2859.

July 19. Latin Music Workshop with Herb Meier. 2:00-4:00pm. \$25. Limited

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Calendar cont. from page 1

to 10 students. Call 510-653-6983 for reservations.

July 20-24. Galla Rini Accordion Camp @ Oceanside, Ca. Contact Ellen Bonica, Accordion World, 12672 S.E. Stark Street, Portland, Or. 97233 or call (503)254-2652 weekdays until 6:00pm.

July 31- Aug. 8. Lark in the Morning Summer Camp 1998. Folk music camp in Mendocino, Calif. call (707)964-5569 or Email Larkinam@larkinam.com.

July 31-Aug. 2. Rocky Mountain Accordion Celebration, Philipburg, Montana. Call (406)859-3450 for more information.

August 8-9. Cabrillo Music Festival in Santa Cruz. New York Tango Project and Frank Marocco are playing.

August 6-9. Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration. Leavenworth, Washington. Call 509-548-5807 for more info. or Email to info@leavenworth.org

August 15. Accordion Club of the Redwoods picnic. Call (707)838-2859.

August 29-30. Cotati Accordion Festival, Cotati, Calif.

September 20. BAAC Picnic at Nature Friends. Butters Dr. in Oakland.

September 13-19. Joe Smiell's Intermediate and Advanced Button Box Camp, Norden California. Call (510)832-6938 for more information.

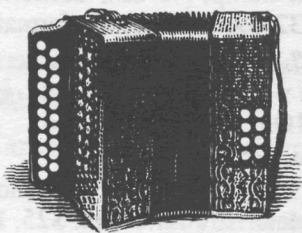
October 17. BAAC Annual Social Dinner and Dance at the Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco.

BAAC Ensemble practice first and third Wednesday of each month at Moose Lodge in Daly City from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Contact Frank Montoro (650)574-4757 for additional information.

BAAC Fun Band Will not meet the months of July and August. Contact Tom Cordoni @ 415-333-5625 for more information.

Beginners Support Groups/Bands
East Bay 510-843-9958
San Francisco 415-673-8835
South Bay 408-258-1258

Please send Calendar Information to your Editor, using the address on the last page.



A TWO-ROW BUTTON ACCORDION

JUNE GENERAL MEETING

by Peter DiBono and Bob Berta

Members at the June meeting were greeted by the duct of Leon Broussal and Jim Firpo who also provided the tunes during the intermission. Leon and Jim really have a great act and a special thanks for the fine music. Master of Ceremonies for the night, Peter DiBono, brought president, Marian Kelly, on stage for a few brief announcements. The big news was that BAAC will be having two meetings per month for a while! In addition to our regular meeting an additional meeting will be held each month in San Jose. The first one will be on July 12th which is a Sunday. See the President's column for more information about this exciting news. These meetings will differ from our normal general membership meetings in San Francisco in that they will feature the ability to enjoy fine German food and "libations" mixed with plenty of social interaction and of course great accordion music.



Leon and Jim

After all this great news it was time to role out the evenings entertainment. A new twist was added to the entertainment for the night. Rather than performing on the stage all musicians were located on the floor in front of the stage as an experiment. Future plans will try other alternative layouts in a search for the best acoustics. First to take the stage (or in this case the floor), was the BAAC Fun Band under the baton of Tom Cordoni. Val Kieser, Frank Schlotter, Jim Firpo, Vic and Barbara Corsiglia joined in a great ensemble performance of *Too Fat Polka*, *That's a Beautiful Italian Girl*, *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* and *Sing*. The Fun Band is a great place for you to start if you want to play with others but are unsure of your abilities. They can provide music for you to play at what ever level you feel comfortable with. Another big reason to consider joining the Fun Band is that there is no other way to as quickly increase your playing skills as playing with others. The ensemble will be taking a summer "vacation" July and August but if you would like to join in the fun after that give them a call (the phone number is in the Calendar section on page 2).



The Fun Band

The theme for the evening was Family Night and several members brought their families to the meeting to entertain us. Judging by the enthusiastic reception the families received this looks like an annual event at BAAC! Now is the time for your family to start putting together an act for next year.



Rachel and Bob Rossi

Bob Rossi brought his 7 year old daughter Rachel up to join him in a
cont. on page 3

Meeting review cont. from page 2

series of duets. Rachel gave a polished performance. She looked quite relaxed and in control of her accordion as the duet performed *Dreaming*, *There's No Place Like Home*, *Can Can* and *Old McDonald*.

The next family reminded me of the Von Trappe family from the musical "*The Sound of Music*", everyone played an instrument! Gwyn and Eric Lister, both on accordions, were joined by Michael on Drum, Lauren on Saxophone and John on trumpet. Michael even had the family name printed on his drum set....this was a class act! Their selections included *Pennies from Heaven*, a neat medley including *Little Brown Jug* and *Sing, Sing, Sing*. Hopefully we will see more return performances by this family on the BAAC stage.



The Lister Family

Aldo Argenti on accordion was joined by Gina who sang and played guitar and Diana who sung. It was immediately obvious that both had very fine voices and the trio performed very beautiful renditions of *Autumn Leaves*, *Stella Alpina*, a selection from *Fiddler on the Roof*, *De Colores* and performed *Alleluia* as an encore.



The Argenti Family

The intermission gave everyone a chance to share some sweets and hear more of the fine playing by the duet of Jim Firpo and Leon Broussal. Before the second half of the meeting started, Vice-President Lou Jacklich, came on stage to announce that plans are being made to bring Tony Lovello, famous accordionist with the Three Sons, to our stage in a special concert later in the year.



Dad Shows the DiBono Sons Some Hot Licks

The next family to take the stage was the Di Bono family, Reno, Peter and dad Tony. Watching this family perform is always a real treat. They have as much fun as the audience. They performed a series of Italian tunes and medleys with an encore performance of *Somewhere My Love*.

Both Reno and Peter are incredibly fine accordionists but Dad can still show them a few tricks.

Joe Smiell on button box was joined by his son Joe Jr. on piano accordion. They performed some beautiful Slovenian tunes including *Across the Plains* and one of the fine compositions that Joe Sr. is so noted for writing. The BAAC is certainly lucky to have such a talented and giving individual as Joe Smiell Sr. His tireless efforts as conductor of a couple of ensembles, and his writing of compositions and arrangements for us is truly wonderful. And it goes without saying that both his playing and Joe Jr.'s are without peer. If you have any inclination towards playing the diatonic button box I would recommend checking out one of the button box camps that Joe runs. They are listed in the calendar section of this newsletter.



Joe Smiell and Joe Smiell

Final performer for the night, Nicolai Prisakar, is always a special treat when he performs. He plays a piano accordion but many would swear that the accordion is possessed as he plays it in incredible displays of technic and at a speed that defies the laws of reason. As he plays we expect to see his accordion burst into flames through spontaneous combustion! He performed the music of his homeland, Eastern Europe. The exciting and tremendously difficult rhythms of Bulgaria and Moldavia were played with breathtaking passion and left the audience gasping at the extraordinary feat they were witnessing. Little wonder that he was a top prize winning accordionist in his homeland.



Nicolai Prisakar

That's it for the June meeting. The July meeting promises to have some wonderful entertainment and also the opportunity to add (or subtract) from your accordion collection at our 2nd annual Accordion Swap Night. And don't forget the SECOND club meeting in San Jose. Bring your accordion and you will have ample time to jam with other fellow club members. See you there!

San Francisco

Peter DiBono
 Personalized Instruction
 Theory , Technique,
 Performance
 All levels All ages
 415-753-1502

North Bay

Bart Beninco
 Accordion and Piano
 Beginner to Advanced
 Petaluma
 707-769-8744

East Bay

Valarie Morris
 Composition, theory, Performance
 Beginning to Intermediate
 MA in Music, Mills College
 (510)222-8442 or (510)222-6672

Lou Jacklich
 Private Lessons
 Transpose Arrange Chords
 50 years experience
 510-317-9510
 San Lorenzo

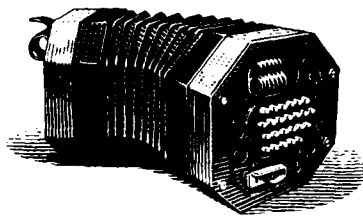
South Bay

Mike Zampiceni
 Beginner to Advanced
 B.A.& M.A. in music
 Sunnyvale
 408-734-1565

Peninsula

Lynn Ewing
 Accordion Lessons
 All Ages - All Levels
 San Carlos (650)365-1700

Lou Soper
 Chords make playing easier!
 Every Tuesday 3:00 to 6:30pm
 Moose Club - Colma
 Phone 510-792-8765



A CONCERTINA

and the restaurant as well. Should that not happen, obviously, we'll need to negotiate with this kind fellow. (*Hint...come hungry and thirsty...editor*)

We plan to follow a more informal format than we do at Donworth, largely because it's a very different facility. We will still have some formal program, but it will be fairly brief, one to one and a half hours. And we won't necessarily line up the program ahead of time. If you're there, we may ask you to play! During the informal time you may jam or talk or wander into the restaurant, or whatever. We haven't tested the acoustics, but the plan would be to find a few spots in which one or several of you can play at the same time. We're obviously going to play that by ear (there must be a pun in here someplace!), so we invite you to help us experiment to find the best and most congenial use of our new facility. Obviously, you'll want to **BRING YOUR ACCORDION.**

Arnie Krenn is the genius behind this neat idea. Arnie has known the proprietor for many years, and Arnie has made the arrangements for us to try out the first Bay Area Accordion Club Outlying Location. A very big THANK YOU to Arnie!

We'll try this additional meeting location for three months...July 12th, August 9th, and September 13th. All second Sundays of the month. If attendance is good (an average, say, of 50 people), and the proprietor still enjoys hearing accordion music, we'll establish the Germania as our permanent second location. Otherwise, we'll go back to asking you to drive to San Francisco!

So please, folks, help us spread the word!



**Cotati Accordion Festival
 1998**

Now is the time to mark your calendars for the annual accordion extravaganza, *The 8th Annual Cotati Accordion Festival.*

It is scheduled for Saturday, August 29th and Sunday, August 30th, 1998. It is held in downtown Cotati in the La Plaza Park from 9:30am to 7:00pm both days. Admission is \$8 for one day or \$15 for the two days. Children under 12 are FREE. Cotati is located 50 miles north of San Francisco (off of highway 101).

For additional information you can call the Festival Hot Line at 707-664-0444 or go to the Web Site/Homepage at [HTTP://www.cotatifest.com/accordion](http://www.cotatifest.com/accordion).

The Festival will showcase the finest accordionists; local, Bay Area, out of state, and international stars on two stages. Music styles include, but is not limited to, Classical, Cajun, Jazz, Tex-Mex, Russian, Irish to Scandinavian. The Cotati Accordion Festival is a multi-cultural extravaganza, not a competition, which makes this event unique. There will be craft and food booths too! We encourage all visitors to bring their accordions....(*or they can purchase one at the BAAC booth...editor*).

The proceeds from this nonprofit event benefits our community's youth groups and the Performing Arts and Music programs in local schools. The event has already donated in excess of \$40,000 in past years to those programs!

The SF Bay Area Accordion Club will sponsor a "jam" tent open to all those who bring their own instrument. The Accordion Club of the Redwoods will feature a wooden dance floor for Polka afficiandos to the music of the Steve Balich Band. Other events you won't want to miss include accordion and performance workshops at local schools and a Cajun Dance Party at the Inn of the Beginning, 2pm to 6 pm both days.

Following is a tentative schedule in order of the various performers and musical groups:

SATURDAY

- PVDS Youth Ensemble
- Jeremy Jeans & Lou Jacklich
- Bart Beninco
- Roberto Rosa
- Blue Circus
- Arizona Button Accordion Band
- Limonim
- Cajun Coyotes
- Kerry Christensen
- Lone Prairie
- Gina and Romany Rye
- Dick Contino
- Those Dam Accordions!

SUNDAY

- PVDS Youth Ensemble
- Steve Albini
- Nicolai Prisakar
(performer not confirmed)
- Cabletones
- Cobblestone
- Tour de France
- Delta Cajun Band
- Kerry Christensen
- Strictly Tango
- Gina & Romany Rye
- Dick Contino
- Polkacide

If you bring your accordion to the Festival you can join in playing the infamous accordion "anthem" *Lady of Spain* at 3:00pm on both days. This has become a Cotati Festival annual tradition and we intend to break the record for the number of people playing *Lady of Spain* at the same time by a significant amount.

If you require lodging you might check out some of the following spots but get your reservations in early!

- Good Nite Inn (707)584-8180
- Cavanaugh Inn (707)765-4657
- KOA (707)763-1292
- Casa Grande Motel (707)762-8881
- Days Inn (707)793-9500
- Goltermann Gardens & Country Inn (707)762-1761
- Motel 6 (707)765-0333
- Best Western (707)584-7435 / 763-0994
- Quality Inn (707)664-1155

Board Meeting Synopsis

(both May and June)

"FINANCES: At the end of April, we had \$9960.88 in our combined bank accounts. Normal monthly expenses for rent (Donworth, \$150, Moose, \$90, newsletter about \$375) always exceed revenue, so the bank numbers has been dropping. In May, though, we incurred some once-a year expenses. We paid \$775 for liability insurance and \$500 to the Cotati Festival (we'll recoup it selling accordions during the Festival) , resulting in a net loss for the month of \$1901. We'll publish detailed financial statements at the end of the year.

"MEETING LOCATION. We've held several discussions about Donworth and other possible meeting locations. All agree that the stage at Donworth is too high necessitating formal performances, that the acoustics make it very difficult to have more than one person playing at a time and rendering jamming impossible, that the parking is wonderful and the rent quite reasonable. We'd like to find a less formal spot, but haven't figured out where yet. So for now, we are tinkering with the Donworth setup. We'll experiment with arranging chairs differently, not using the stage, not turning on all the lights, moving our vendors around. If you have suggestions, we'd like to hear from you.

"SAN JOSE LOCATION: We'll test BAAC's second meeting place, the Germania

**Swap Night
July 6th**

Your chance to sell anything musical!
(Fee \$5.00)

Program highlights:
Alex Yaskin, Mike James, the Nurisso/Borelli duo, Frank Montorero, Frank Panacci, Bob Berta and the BAAC Ensemble.

**BAAC Picnic
Sept. 20, 1998**

Tickets available at the July meeting.

**Cotati Festival
August 29,30**

Tickets available at the July meeting.

**Community
Service
Program**

by Frank Montoro

Joining the list of regular music givers are Frank Schlotter and Mike Sanossian who played at the Gem and Mineral Society of Castro Valley in April. Frank played for the Oakland chapter of AARP in May.

Have you played at a senior center, convalescent hospital, or school lately? Let us know by calling Frank Montoro at (650)574-4757.



**The Accordion
Goes to School**

by Professor Allan W. Atlas

The Graduate School and University Center of The City University of New York has recently established a CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF FREE-REED INSTRUMENTS (CSFRI). This unique research center will foster and serve as a resource for scholarly research on all aspects of all free-reed instruments. Beginning in Fall 1999, it will publish the Free-Reed Journal. In addition, it is in the process of building a core library/archive of primary and secondary materials, this to be made accessible to those interested in the subject. For further information, please see our web page: <http://web.gsuc.cuny.edu/freereed>.

Accordion to Boaz

by Boaz Rubin

In my last column, I discussed five major factors that affect the value of an accordion: reeds, manufacturer, tone chamber, size and color. In that column I covered reeds. This month I will tackle the tone chamber.

Chamber Music

First of all, just what is a tone chamber? Even experienced accordionists have asked me this question. The short answer is that it is a resonating chamber that adds quality to the sound of the instrument and its operation. Imagine your accordion as a box: with the bellows as the sides, the bass soundboard as the bottom, and the treble soundboard as the top of the box; the tone chamber runs the length of the box and is mounted beneath its top, the treble sound board. The chamber is open at the top, so that if you were to look down into your accordion with the grill off, you could see into the tone chamber. The set or sets of reeds that are said to be "in the chamber" are mounted to the side of the tone chamber in such a way that they are parallel to the sound board.

Part of the effect of the tone chamber is caused by this turning of the reeds on their sides. This creates a more efficient surface for the pressure from the bellows to act on, making the reeds more responsive. The increased responsiveness allows you to play softer, faster, and with less work because the reeds need less air.

Some manufacturers (notably Guerrini) have attempted to duplicate this increased efficiency without a tone chamber, by building a T-shaped reed block that presents the reeds at a similar angle. But the tone chamber does more than just increase the responsiveness of the reeds. It also improves sound projection, operating something like a horn. Most importantly, it changes the sound of the accordion. A good quality reed in a tone chamber sounds less bright and more mellow, like a saxophone. This is particularly important to jazz musicians, those who play pop standards, classical musicians and those who play the classic Italian repertoire.

Chamber of Horas

The tone chamber is not all a bed of roses. Tone chambers have two valves for every key instead of one, a valve in the chamber and one outside the chamber. This increases the up-front cost of the accordion, and the maintenance cost down the road. A keyboard overhaul on a tone chamber-equipped accordion is much more time consuming and therefore more expensive. Any repair work on such an accordion needs to be done by a well-trained and experienced mechanic, because of the complex mechanisms involved. Improper repairs to an accordion with a tone chamber can result in poor compression.

To top it off, a tone chamber adds considerable weight to an accordion. That said, many accordionists - including yours truly - wouldn't want to be without one, at least for their main instruments. For them, the quality of the sound and the responsiveness of the reeds are worth the weight and expense. To shave the weight, 96 bass accordions with tone chambers are now standard items, though like all top quality 96 basses, they are rare on the used market.

There are plenty of situations where you might not want a tone chamber. Certainly where weight is the primary concern a tone chamber is to be avoided. For most folk dance music, a tone chamber doesn't fill the bill. Musicians who play Zydeco, Norteno, Irish, Balkan and other folk dance music usually prefer the bright and lively tone of a chamberless model, often with a moderate mussette tuning.

Buyer's tip:

Some accordion names have stronger followings than others. Such instruments are preceded by their reputations and often command higher prices than instruments of comparable quality (but less renown). For instance, La Melodiosa or Columbo may sell for half the price of a comparable Giulletti.

When sizing up a used accordion, consider the name ... but don't let it blind you to the real quality of the instrument. This applies to new instruments as well. New accordions come at all levels of quality, and a new squeezebox isn't automatically better than a used one. Never trade in your top quality used accordion in good shape on a poor quality new accordion. Don't be led astray by a glamorous name, a new price tag or a pretty color. If you aren't sure, get an appraisal and a second opinion from someone you trust.

Accordion answer man Boaz Rubin is a professional repairman based in Oakland. Send your accordion-care questions to Boaz care of this newsletter or e-mail Boaz at: schmatte@well.com.

.....

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BAAC

31 Aliso Way

Portola Valley, Ca. 94028.

Board Meeting Cont. from page 5

Restaurant in San Jose, for three months, July thru September. As currently structured, there is no cost to the club beyond promotion. See Pres. Message this month.

"Cotati booth plans are coming well (Aug 29, 30). We'll encourage BAAC membership, sell several kinds of small accordions, and (hopefully) BAAC t-shirts. Plus we'll do another accordion raffle. More later!

"The picnic location (Nature Friends in the Oakland Hills) is apparently lovely! Views of the Bay and the City are prompting the committee to do a video of our new picnic site to show the membership. Peter says the steep driveway in will be challenging, but that the grounds are wonderful. So do plan to come!

.....

San Jose Meeting Sunday, July 12, 3:00pm

Germania Restaurant

261 N. 2nd. St. (cross st. Julian)

Call BAAC at (415)974-9210 if you wish to play formally. Bring your accordion anyway to jam with other members.
Food and drink available.

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The South Bay "Beginner's" Group

by Dick Cruikshank

Three beginner groups are quite active in the Bay Area Accordion Club. Evidently they are the place to be as reported by Dick Cruikshank of the San Jose group. Dick sent the following letter to the News Letter Editor and as you will see these groups are really getting into accordion playing and social functions. If you would like to contact one of these beginner groups in your area look at the information provided on page two at the end of the calendar section.

The South Bay "beginners" group meetings commenced in February of this year and have been a great success. We meet at my house - 2277 Bluebell Ave. in San Jose on the 3rd Saturday in every month from 2-5 pm.

In March we all went to have dinner at **Las Violines Restaurant** and listened in awe to fellow club member Roberto Rosa. While he was at break, the gracious Norma Parsons, Bill Demichellis and Bill Taponga took turns filling in for Roberto with my Hohner which I keep in the trunk of my car for occasions such as this.

In April we all went to hear and see Mike Zampicini at **DiCicios** in Campbell. A great show- what a Player.

Recently we went to see *The Alpiners* at the **Gasthaus** in Milpitas. Great musicians. In the past three months I have gained quite a bit of weight - great food at all 3 locations!

On Memorial Day Norma Parsons had us all over to her house for a barbecue...what a gracious lady. Bill Demichelles brought along his Iorio and we set it up on the patio. All of the 5 "Beginner's Group" members played with experience ranging from 1 year to ???

I told my wife Betty we are going to have to buy another larger house to accommodate all these fine people we have had the privilege of meeting over the last six months.

If any one else is interested please give me a call at 408-258-1258 or Bob Clark at 408-437-8725.

.....

Contact Phone #s for Officers :

Pres. Marian Kelly	(650)854-1896
Vice Pres. vacant	
Treasurer Josephine Hornbrook	(650)591-3009
Record. Sect. Val Kieser	(510)531-4836

AD POLICY

MEMBERS PAY \$5/ISSUE FOR SMALL ADS, \$10 FOR BUSINESS CARD SIZE ADS. (Ask about other sizes.)
NON-MEMBERS PAY TWICE THE MEMBERS' RATE.
SEND COPY AND CHECK TO:
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(510)450-5766



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Marian Kelly	Vacant	Josephine Hornbrook	Val Kieser

If you would like to play at a meeting contact Ed Massolo at (650)589-8409