

BAY AREA

# ACCORDION CLUB



A. Restrepo '94

MARCH, 1995

## March General Meeting

The March meeting had promised to be a non-event. After **Veikko Ahvenainen's** concert the day before, we thought that most members would be worn out from the excitement of that day and forgo the monthly meeting. Additionally, there was a shortage of players for the meeting. I had a vision of a meeting about as poorly attended as a Giants on-strike baseball game.

Who would have guessed that the meeting turned out to have one of our

largest turnouts ever, and that we were able to find more than enough musicians at the last moment not only to fill out the night but also to cause us to have to extend the meeting a little longer than normal!

President **Frank Montoro** opened the meeting with the requisite business. Rapidly going through that, we commenced with the entertainment for the night. Frank turned over the mike to our MC, **Domenic Saso**, who was in

*cont. on p. 4*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**April 3rd, Monday, 7:00 PM.** BAAC General Meeting, Featuring **Don Gilbrook, Bob Smith, Algis Ratnikas, Mike Zampicini,** and the **BAAC FUN BAND!** Bring a dessert to serve four. Donworth Hall, 22nd and Eucalyptus, San Francisco.

**April 5th, Wednesday, 7:30 PM.** BAAC Board of Directors' Meeting at **Ed Massolo's, 612 Lassen, So. San Francisco.** All members welcome.

**April 9th, Sunday, 6:00 PM.** Birthday Party for **Art Van Damme** in Warren, Michigan. Organized by **Peter Soave.** Call **MCE Entertainment** for info and dinner and hotel accommodations 313-563-3376.

**April 10th, Monday.** Fun Band Practice, 7:00 PM. House of Parties. Call **Domenic, 415-587-7557.**

**April 12th & 26th, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM.** BAAC Accordion Practice, House of Parties. Call **Joe, 510-832-6938**

**May 1st, Monday.** Ladies' Night at BAAC!! Please, ladies, call **Ed Massolo** at 415-589-8409. and assure him that you'll play. Don't just hope that he finds you! Let's make this meeting even better than last year!



*March meeting: where'd all those people come from?*

*cont. on p. 2*

## Mark Your Calendars, Cont.

**May 8th, Monday.** LA area birthday party for Art Van Damme. See p. 7.

**June 11th, Sunday.** BAAC annual picnic at Swiss Park in Newark. More on this later.

**June 18th, Sunday.** Myron Floren in concert as presented by the San Diego Accordion Club, ALSI. 210 E. Main St. El Cajon, 3 to 5 PM. Call for tickets now at 619-440-2277.

**June 21st** (summer solstice) Wednesday. Making Waves, San Francisco Music Day. Looking for musicians. See next column.

**July 3 thru 8th,** Kimberley International Old-Time Accordion Championships, Kimberley, B.C. Call (604) 427-4877.

**July 7th - 12th,** American Accordionists' Association Festival, Houston at JW Marriott on Westheimer.. Reservations: 1-800-231-6058.

**July 8th, Saturday.** Festa Italiana in Lodi, at the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds, all day. Featuring Dick Contino and The Gaylords. See next column.

**July 10th, Monday.** BAAC General Meeting. Accordion "Swap" Night.

**July 20th-23rd.** Accordion Teachers' Guild International Competition and Festival, Kansas City MO. Concerts, competitions, workshops, master-classes. Call 816-756-1720.

**July 23rd to 28th.** Sixth Annual Galla-Rini Accordion Camp in Silver Falls, Oregon sponsored by Accordion World, and featuring this year, Jorgen Sundeqvist assisting Tony. Call John Bonica (Accordion World) at (503)-244-2545 or (503) 257-9648.

**August 10th - 13th,** Leavenworth, Washington International Accordion Celebration and Competition. Marian has competition info and a map. (415) 854-1896.

**August 16th- 20th.** AFNA (Accordion Federation of North America) celebrates its 40th birthday with a bangup Festival at the Hyatt at LAX. Call 213-686-1769 for info and reservations.

**August 26th and 27th,** Cotati Accordion Festival.

## Message from Your Editor

That's quite a "Calendars" listing this month, don't you think? And those are the events that I *know* about, and have information in hand about. Doubtless it is an incomplete list.....

Since the "Mark Your Calendars" items are extremely brief, I want to expand a bit here on the information for some of these listings. If this isn't enough for you, please call me (415) 954-1896, and I will give you whatever additional details I have.

**May 8th,** Birthday Party for Art Van Damme. All BAAC members are invited to attend Art Van Damme's 75th birthday celebration, being organized by Sylvia Prior, Frank Marocco, and Kenny Kotwitz (the latter two of whom played and recorded with Art). The invitation is reproduced on p. 7 of this newsletter. As an aside, this party coincides with Art's announcement of his retirement, something that will doubtless sadden many of us who have enjoyed him so very much at our Presidio concert 4 years ago and at Cotati.

**June 21st.** San Francisco's 4th annual Day of Music, called Making Waves 1995, is a city-wide musical festival currently in preparation. Last year the Festival included over 30 stages of live music including blues, reggae, jazz, zydeco, folk, alternative, rock, etc., etc. in every corner of the City.

BAAC has received a letter asking us to participate on June 21st. Making Waves asks any person(s) interested to send their musician's form along with a publicity pack including 5 photos and a demo tape. Call Marian for address and a copy of the form (415-854-1896).

**July 8th,** Festa Italiana in Lodi. Frank Montoro read a letter at the March Board meeting inviting BAAC to set up a booth at this festival and encouraging all BAAC members to attend. It is sponsored by the Lodi Italian Club and the Bersaglieri Club of Stockton. Headline entertainment including Dick Contino, the Gaylords, the Simi Cantetori, and the Expressos will perform (twice each) from 1 PM until 10 PM. They say they are featuring Italian food, culture, and *accordions!* Paul Pasquali has accepted an invitation to attend. So we'd suggest that you bring your accordion for a day of fun. General admission is \$5.00 per person (parking included). For information, call Mike or Pam Turbetti at 209-931-3529.

**July 20th to 23rd.** ATG Festival honoring Joan Cochran Sommers, Conductor, Arranger, and Teacher of the Accordion. This is a celebration of the tremendous versatility of the accordion. The informational sheet says that activities include concerts, MIDI workshops & performances, jazz workshops and performances, ethnic, classical, chamber, and new & original accordion music, an accordion masterclass instructed by Joan Sommers, the record-setting "largest polka band" (come to help establish this record), competitions for all ages, levels, and styles.

Contact Julie & Juha Silfverberg, PO Box 22342, Kansas City, MO. C. phone the Silfverbergs at 913-648-1510.

## *President's Message*

According to the Club's by-laws, it's time to elect new officers and board members. The nominating committee was selected at our last general meeting consisting of the following members: Bob Berta, Algis Ratnikas, Val Kieser, Denny Huff, and Lou Soper. They will present their recommendations to the membership at the April 3rd meeting. Further nominations will be accepted from the floor at that time. Elections will be held at the May general meeting.

Here is the calendar of events for the following few months:

April 3 Pot Luck Dessert Night

May 1 Ladies' Night

June 11 Picnic at Swiss Park

July 10 Accordion "swap" night

At our last general meeting, I informed the members that the executive board has decided not to go ahead with the Myron Floren concert because of certain economic considerations. To provide a ten-piece band as Myron requested would probably cost the Club \$3500. The use of a suitable site such as the McKenna Auditorium at San Francisco State University would run another \$1200. In order to attract a large crowd of at least 600 people, we would have to do some heavy advertising in the local newspapers, and, of course, we would have to think of some way to thank Myron: i.e. hotel accommodations, dinner, etc.

Even though the concert seems out of reach at this time, Myron wants to keep the possibility open. Perhaps we might find a co-sponsor, or he might come to the Bay Area for another event, he said. We'll continue to look for possibilities.

*Frank Montoro*

## *IMPRESSIONS*

Before reading this article, please glance briefly at this newsletter's masthead or logo, symbolizing the accordion, Bay Bridge, and the caption "Bay Area Accordion Club." The word "club" expresses the basic reason for this organization's existence. "Club" is defined as "a group associated for a common purpose."

The common purpose of this club is very obviously to preserve and enhance the heritage of the accordion and accordion music. In fact, the Club provides a social outlet; a place to listen to fine music and to perform for an appreciative audience. It provides a learning and teaching atmosphere for aspiring accordionists, and it brings people into contact with sources of sheet music, instruments, dealers, and instructors.

However, there is a more vital common purpose, one affecting the future of the accordion and the transmittal of "culture." One definition of the word "culture" is "refinement of intellectual and artistic taste." The Bay Area offers such a wealth of musical excellence and diversity; we have a truly unique and valuable opportunity. Our membership is composed of many ethnic traditions, each with its inherent culture, customs, and musical heritage, which they want to preserve, share, and pass on to a younger generation.

Music, being a universal language, has no nationalistic barriers, and is the best vehicle to express and transmit cultural values to the society at large, and to

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#### **MIKE ZAMPICENI**

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(408) 734-1565

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bridge cultural barriers. Let this be our common purpose — to use our diverse and unique musical wealth and the accordion to promote a refinement of intellectual and artistic taste to our membership, our audiences, and the society at large. Preserve and meld the best together and pass it on.

Bring a friend or visitor to our meetings and functions, and share the wealth!

*Eino Huhtala*  
Feb 11, 1995



### March General Meeting, cont.

fine fettle with his amusing comments.

**Clyde Forsman** took the stage to a rousing rendition of *Happy Birthday* from the audience.

**Clyde** will soon celebrate his 80th, to everyone's amazement and delight. Perhaps playing with that fun group Those Darn Accordions! keeps **Clyde** young. Anyhow, he played *La Petit Vin Blanc*, *Tulips from Amsterdam*, and *Dancing Tambourine*. Besides being a talented musician, **Clyde** is noted for the artistry on his body. Those who have seen the CD "Squeeze This" by TDA! will note the fine tatoos adorning the person on the album cover. That's **Clyde's** artistry! He has even been featured recently in a tattoo magazine.

**Jim Firpo** and **Leon Broussal** were next up with some neat duets of *Treasure Waltz*, *It Had To Be You*, and *Hofbrauhaus*. **Jim** and **Leon** did a fine job, and hopefully they will be back soon for a reprise. The shadow noted **Ken Nimmo** tapping his toes to the spirited playing of **Jim** and **Leon**.

Then **Reno Pucci**, the man who can always be called on to fill in at the last moment, played a fine assortment of numbers from his vast repertoire. It seems that **Reno** must know every tune ever written!

Next up was a brand new member. Her name is **Shen Mu Yu Kuang**. She came to join our club by way of Japan and China. She brought her Parrot accordion (made in China) and at her very first meeting asked if she could play. Not to turn down such enthusiasm, we welcomed the offer and she played a wide selection of numbers from all over the world, punctuating each one with delightful comments about the music and about herself. She played a polka, a Russian waltz, *La Paloma*, and something unique...a Chinese March from her homeland. The audience loved her playing and enthusiasm. Hopefully she will prompt those members who never play to get up on stage also.



*Jim Firpo, Leon Broussal*



*Shen Mu Yu Kuang.*



*Glenn McClelland, Denny Huff, Ken Nimmo*

### More March General Meeting.....

After a short intermission **Rick Bez** played and sang two neat numbers. **Rick** is a talented musician who matches his fine accordion playing with a really neat flexible voice. He started out with something we don't hear much of...yodeling. After that he played a medley of tunes accompanied by singing styles mimicing greats like Al Jolson and Louis Armstrong.

Yours truly (**Bob Berta**) was up next with my MIDI accordion. I started with a rendition of *Music Box Dancer* which was intended to duplicate the sound of a real music box. Next I played one of my favorite opera arias, *Musetta's Waltz* from *La Boheme*. This selection featured a complete orchestra and solo violin. Following this was a piece written by Rachmaninof for two pianos. Originally it was known as *Italian Polka*, but when arranged for solo instrument, it became the *Russian Polka*. It certainly has Russian themes in it, and is a spirited piece featuring brass band and solo trumpet. Finally, my favorite piece of all time, *Rhapsody in Blue* featured a complete orchestra with solo clarinet and piano. I was disappointed though....I told my wife that I would probably have a collec-

tion of very ripe tomatoes for the salad the next day. To my surprise, I didn't come home with a single tomato.

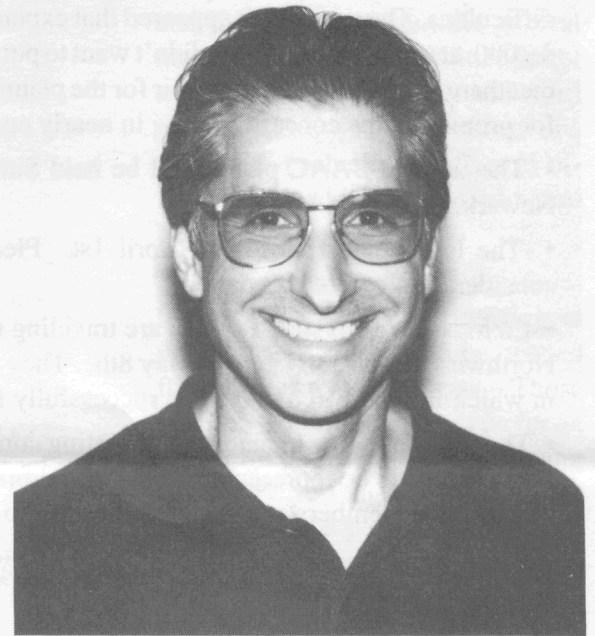
**Lou Soper** came up for a selection of waltz themes often playing non-waltz tunes in a waltz manner. One can always learn a lot about musical theory by **Lou's** playing and comments.

**Tom Cordoni** played a neat selection of tunes which included *Danny Boy*, a medley of tangos, and a medley of polkas. Of course, the polkas are always welcome, and the enthusiastic, rhythmic clapping indicated how much the audience enjoyed them. There is nothing like a little audience participation to get the blood going!

**Ron Borelli** introduced a new composer/accordionist, **Marie Dolcini** to the group. She and **Ron** played a duet of her original composition, entitled *Post-It Lament*, which was really nice. Next **Ron** and **Dave Baioni** took turns playing solo and duets of a variety

of tunes such as *Godfather*, *What's New*, *Nica's Dream*, and *If I Had You*. **Ron** and **Dave** are extraordinary musicians who are very creative in their jazz arrangements.

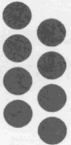
*Bob Berta*



*Ron Borelli*



*Dave Baioni*

**Accordions International**


**Paul Pasquali**

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## March Board Meeting

### Synopsis

- Treasurer reported \$ 7,363. in savings and checking combined.
- Our Treasurer also reported that BAAC has finally been granted non-profit status with the Feds. That means for all you members that you may deduct contributions to BAAC on Schedule A of your annual personal accounting to the IRS. You can also deduct the current value of an accordion which you might decide to donate to BAAC!! (Hint!)
- After a long discussion about the wisdom of BAAC sponsoring a Myron Floren concert, it was decided that we should drop the idea right now. There were two difficulties. One was that it appeared that expenses would be between \$5,000 and \$6,000, at a minimum, and we didn't want to put club money at risk. The other was that there is at the moment no chair for the planning committee, and no good plans for promoting the concert to bring in nearly enough people to cover expenses.
- The annual BAAC picnic will be held Sunday, June 11th at Swiss Park in Newark.
- The logo contest closes on April 1st. Please submit original art work for consideration before that date.
- Ed Massolo and Frank Panacci are traveling to Seattle as Guest Artists for the Northwest Accordion Club on May 8th. They are the other part of the exchange in which Bonnie Birch played so successfully for us in October.
- The time has come to name a nominating committee. Algis Ratnikas and Bob Berta agreed to be representatives on the committee from the Board; Frank will recruit three members at the March meeting to give a committee of five.
- Frank Montoro offered to organize BAAC's booth at the Cotati Accordion Festival this year.

MK

### A Yummy April Meeting

Our April general meeting will be especially tasty, because we are trying something different. We'll spend some time at that meeting sampling and sharing desserts which we are asking each attendee to bring.

Specifically, please bring with you to the April meeting enough dessert to serve *four* persons. While everyone is sampling desserts, we will allow additional time for schmoozing and comparing notes about desserts, about accordions, or whatever.

Your Board evolved this plan following a suggestion that we make one meeting a dinner meeting. While that idea, too, was tasty, it was downgraded into just dessert because of the added work involved in serving a dinner.

So...we'll see you in April with cookies or muffins or cheesecake or gingerbread or apple pie or....oh my — excuse me while I go look in the cupboard.

By the way, BAAC will provide plates, forks, and napkins.

### Accordion Strap Maker

Your Editor picked up an interesting tidbit on the Internet the other day. I've reprinted the item below but please understand that I have not tested this resource.

"An accordion strap maker in Florida ships all over the U.S. His straps are 3 inches wide in either plain leather or leather with a flowered stripe down the middle. They have incredibly comfortable padding with an auto-upholstery strength velour underside. I ordered a pair of plain and a pair of flowered (of course I gave him the required length) and he sent them to me before he had even received my check. I am delighted with them.....The kicker is that he charges only \$35.00 per pair plus \$4.00 shipping. Unbelievable! He is retired now and makes accordion straps, straps for other instruments, and accordion cases. I guess that's how he can do them at such high quality and at such a low price. In case anyone is interested, he is:

Steve Loncarevic

9634 Cavendish Court

New Port Richey, Fl. 34655

(813) 376-3000

If you order from him, please tell him that Dina and Tom Bray referred you. The reason is that if we refer 100 people, he will give us, as a reward, a musty old Uncle Archibald accordion, which we will then donate to a young deserving accordion student"

MK

#### For Sale:

Colombo, 2/4 sets hand made reeds  
Ernie Felice sound; Tone Chamber  
stereo pick up, 19" k.b. 21 lbs.

\$1200

Harry, (408) 3779707

You Are Invited to the  
Art Van Damme  
75th Birthday Celebration

Monday, May 8, 1995

No Nost Cocktail Hour 6:00 P.M — Dinner 7:30 P.M.

Ventura Club  
13920 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, California  
(West of Woodman — East of Hazeltine  
Please Use Valet Parking

\$30.00 Per Person; No Admittance Without a Reservation.

Must be at least 14 yrs. of age. Tickets will be held at the door.

Hosted by: Sylvia Prior, Frank Marocco, and Kenny Kotwitz

**Coming soon.....  
BAAC Elections**

Elections again. It seems like just yesterday, doesn't it? Well, in case you've forgotten the details, here is a reminder of how we conduct elections.

Our by-laws specify that we choose a Nominating Committee in March composed of two Board members and three persons from the general membership. That Committee deliberates between the March and April general meetings and chooses one person for each elected office (5 officers and 5 additional Board members).

They present their recommendations at the April general meeting, at which time the floor will be opened for additional nominations. Those wishing to nominate someone for an office must observe the following rules: (1) you must first obtain the consent of the person you wish to nominate; (2) no person may be nominated for more than one office; and (3) our by-laws state that two consecutive years is the maximum time that any one person may hold a given office.

The election is held at the May general meeting. Members will be asked to vote for any office which is contested.

The Nominating Committee is at work as I write and you read. Should they contact you, we hope you will be generous with your time and abilities and will agree to help. Whether they contact you or not, please consider who you think you would like to have representing you in BAAC and arrange (with that individual's permission) to nominate him/her at the April general meeting. Then be sure to attend in May and vote.

MK

\*\*\*\*\*  
PLEASE DETACH RESERVATION FORM BELOW AND RETURN WITH CHECK  
\*\*\*\*\*



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RESERVATION FORM - ART VAN DAMME 75TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

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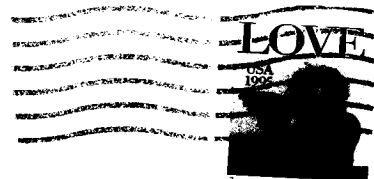
WE'RE

**BAAC**



939 HARRISON ST  
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**NEXT MEETING: MONDAY**  
April 3, 1995  
7:00 PM

Donworth Hall  
22nd & Eucalyptus  
SAN FRANCISCO

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AT A  
MEETING, CALL FRANK AT  
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