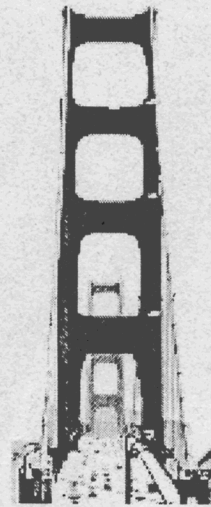


NEWSLETTER OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO
**BAY AREA
ACCORDION CLUB**

EDITORS: Marian Kelly
Dominic Palmisano



May, 1993

May Meeting

So you couldn't make it to our first **LADIES NIGHT ONLY** meeting? You missed a night to remember! It all started with 150 + members and their guest in attendance. Among the notables were **Carol Benetti, Bob Berta, Florence Del Turco**, songwriter **Mr. Roy Black, Joan Traverso, John Gullmes**, back from recuperating **Paul Freedman**, and **Jerry Tramontozzi** from Arlington, Massachusetts. Among the missing—**Rae Lembi** who was re-

covering from a little surgery. Before starting, put an asterisk after this meeting as our **Third Anniversary Night!** Let's get this evening going!

Our President, **Peter DiBono**, got the night started with a raffle. The tapes for the event were donated by **Gordon Piatinessi** of **Colombo & Sons** and our special guest performer, **Barbara Ann Martindale**.

Lee Woodall opened the program

with a wonderful medley of Italian songs. Then, one of our young performers, **Kelly Koehn** (who was a student of **John Molinari Sr.** and is now being taught by **John Molinari Jr.**) beautifully performed an Italian Polka and the *Sharpshooters March*. Next, **Odile Lavault** from France, charmed us with a selection of French tunes that included *Java*. Odile's cassettes were very popular after her performance. **Norma Parsons**, a music teacher from San Jose, entertained us with *Repasz Band March*, *Can't Get Started* and a lovely waltz. The first half concluded with the superb playing of **Marian Kelly**. Her program included *Brazil*, Grofe's *On the Trail* from the *Grand Canyon Suite* and *Decitincello Vuie* (Just Say I love Her). Marian has been very busy in the pit orchestra for the "Baker's Wife" in Palo Alto.

Before starting the second half, election results were announced. The only office for which there was a contest, that of President, was decided in favor of **Dominic Palmisano**, who will be the BAAC President for 1993/1994.

Also, **Frank Montoro** announced that the upcoming picnic on June 6 still needs donations for the raffle and volunteers for the day's activity. By the way, 100 tickets were sold in advance to the Masons of



Norma Parsons, Lee Woodall, Odile Lavault, Marian Kelly





Barbara Ann Martindale

Daly City.

Our guest, **Barbara Ann Martindale**, a beautiful diminutive bundle of talent and energy, played a fantastic second half concert. Barbara Ann was born and still lives in Vancouver. She has been well trained musically, both as an accordionist and as an operatic singer, which she aptly demonstrated for us. She maintains her association with teacher/composer/arranger Joe Morelli. In real life she also teaches music and French in the Vancouver public schools. Barbara is a professional in every sense of the word. Her performance was planned and perfected with careful attention to detail. Her focus on her performance has won for her the grand prize at the Kimberley, B.C. Old Time Accordion Championships in both 1989

and 1991 and one of four top prizes in the International Accordion Grand Prix held in L.A. in 1990. She will both perform and judge at this year's A. T. G. National Competition in Milwaukee. And she has agreed to return for this year's Cotati Festival!

The first part of her program was classical and included *Allegro Deciso* from Handel's *Water Music*, *Waltz of the Flowers* from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, and the favorite *Dance of the Hours*. The second part included novelty pieces such as *Tyrolean Echos* and two numbers written by her teacher,

Joe Morelli, entitled *Swiss Fondue Waltz* and *Kitty Whiskers*. For her finale, Barbara sang *Wien, Wien Nur Du Allein* in German, *La Vie en Rose* in French, and played a delightful rendition of *Granada*. There were standing ovations all through her performance! For encores Barbara Ann played *Come Back to Sorrento*, played and sang *O Solo Mio*, and finished with the memorable Magnante number *Green Light*. What a way to end a fantastic evening!

If you missed the **After Hours** at Lyon's Restaurant, you missed a very special get-together! It started with **Ted Varga** playing a selection of all time favorites. Next, **Steve Cannata** and **Jim Ragle** played soft, haunting melodies from the past. It ended with a spontaneous performance from our special guest,

Barbara Ann. She sang like a songbird; it was magic!

See you all at the next meeting June 7.

Barb Hartley and DP



Kelly Koehn



Barbara Ann Martindale



After Hours: John Volpe, Dennis Stoscher, Marian Kelly, Barbara Ann Martindale, Joan Traverso, Bart Beninco



Evelyn Baulch, Nancy Mardesich, Lee Woodall, Carol Benetti



Jim Cert

Jim Cert, you may recall, amazed everyone who attended the April meeting, both with his powerful musical style and with his instrument! His home is Prague, but he is now living in San Francisco. His music, its spirit, ideas and feelings are firmly linked to his homeland and to his experiences as a Czech. He acquired immense popularity with his wild performances in pubs and underground meetings and remained Prague's most legendary folksinger for 15 years.

Catch Jim's style at the Cafe Soma, 1601 Howard, San Francisco, on Fridays.

Kimberley, British Columbia Accordion Championships

Kimberley is a resort town with a Bavarian look, located in a valley in the Canadian Rockies, 160 miles south and west of Banff and Lake Louise. Kimberley is a bustling, picturesque town known for blue skies, fresh mountain air, the world's largest cuckoo clock, golf, skiing, arts & crafts, gardens, and much more. So, it's a natural for the Old Time Accordion Championships, extended this year to six days (July 5 - 10) and featuring this year Leo Aquino, Myron Floren, and Anthony Galla-Rini. You'll find accordion workshops, dance workshops, jam sessions, the competitions, and lots of performances.

Marian has a schedule of events, a ticket order form and a competition entry form which she will copy for anyone who is interested (415-854-1896). For accommodations, call 604-427-4877. It sounds like a delightful vacation!

Thank you
CINDY TUCULET
for all these nice photos!



Pssstt.... Actually, there *were* a few male persons at that May meeting, too, such as *Walter Traverso, Joe Smiell, Ted Varga*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June, all month. Accordion Awareness Month. Play everywhere you can!

June 6th, Sunday. BAAC picnic, Elks Club, Palo Alto. See article and map on page 4.

June 7th, Monday. General Meeting featuring Reno Di Bono's Trio.

June 14th, Monday. Lou Fanucchi in concert at the European Connection, 717 SW 148th St. Burien, WA 7 PM.

June 27th, Sunday, all day. "Day of the Accordion" and competition open to all ages. To enter, call Shirlee Holmes at 206-282-4934. Performers feature Leo Aquino, Horace Lazzari, Barbara Ann Martindale, Diane Schmidt. Sponsored by Northwest Accordion Teachers Association, Seattle Center. Call Ken Olendorf, 206-783-3593.

July 5-10, Monday - Saturday. Kimberley, British Columbia International Old Time Accordion Championships. See article on this page.

July 8-11, ATG 1993 National Competition, Milwaukee, WI.

July 25th -30th. Galla-Rini Accordion Camp, Silver Falls State Park, Oregon. See April BAAC Page for details.

August 1, Sunday. Jorgen Sundeqvist in concert at the Shoreline Community College, 16101 Greenwood Ave N., Seattle, 3 PM.

August 2, Monday. BAAC General Meeting. Plans are afoot to honor Anthony Galla-Rini. Stay tuned.

August 28, 29, Cotati Accordion Festival, bigger than ever.

Conductor's Column

May, 1993

Congratulations to Dominic Palmisano, the new Board Members and Executive Officers; the Club will be in capable hands. We have an energetic incoming President bringing new ideas which will sustain the Club's positive direction. Testament to the positive direction of our Club was the first Ladies' Night at BAAC a lively start for what is certain to become an annual tradition all those in favor, say aye! Comments all had the same message: This was the best meeting we have ever had! Over 150 attending, including guests from Boston and Sweden (especially nice to see Roy Black.) If you missed it, mend your ways !!!

Our own BAAC ladies entertained splendidly during the first part of the program, the music covering the gamut from Italy to France, American favor-

ites, and young Kelly Kohen's rousing rendition of the perennial favorite, Sharpshooters' March. The second half of the program featured Canadian virtuoso, Barbara Ann Martindale, and what a feature she was! Her round-the-world sampling of great classical tunes, French, German, all impeccably played, and a voice to match. All of this wonderful talent wrapped up in a personality that could melt an iceberg. If you were unable to get her album (40 sold out in ten minutes), send \$10.00 to Barbara Ann Martindale, 2898 West 34th St., Vancouver, B.C. Canada, V6N2J6. See you at Cotati, Barbara Ann.

Thanks to Gordon Piatanesi, Colombo and Sons Accordions, for donating the Veikko Ahvenainen tapes; helped raise over \$150 from a spur of the moment raffle. We are fortunate to have support

like Gordon and Gloria have demonstrated, AND we would like to see you more frequently. Happy Birthday to Clyde Forsman; wishes for a speedy recovery to Dave Baioni's father; and Rae Lembi reports that she is nearly fully recovered from recent eye surgery.

Hope you're planning to attend our Third Annual BAAC Picnic on Sunday June 6th, Palo Alto Elk's Club. Call Walter Traverso, 415-585-0144 for tickets and/or information. Come early, stay late, and for goodness sake for crying out loud, BRING AN ACCORDION!

The Cotati Festival is quickly approaching, August 28/29; make hotel reservations early, as all indications are that this year's will be bigger than last.

Peter Di Bono

(lame duck)

PICNIC TIME!

Come early and stay late at BAAC's annual picnic, fast becoming a tradition. It will be held as before at the Palo Alto Elks Club on 4239 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Walter is in charge again (who else?) and he has provided a little map a copy of which is printed here.

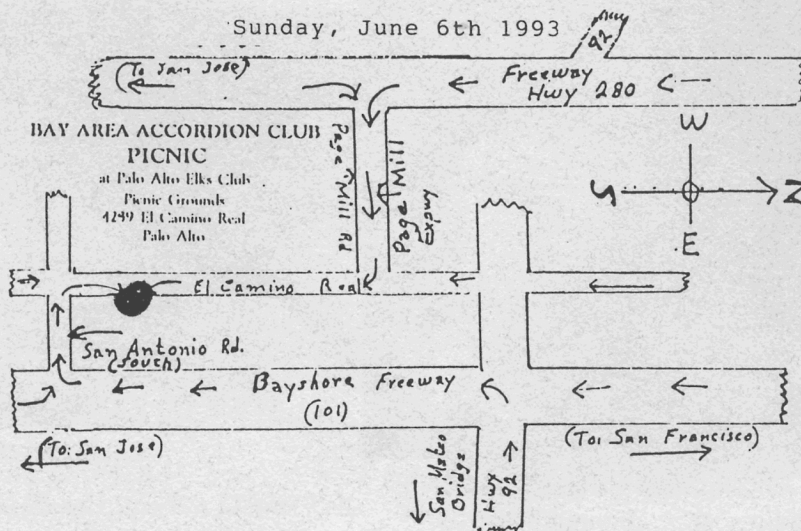
Should you wish to purchase food, there will be a good variety of hot and cold items available from a caterer who will be on site. However, of course, the bar-

becues will be fired up early, and we will have ample space for you to cook your own gourmet specialties. Beer and soft drinks

will also be available for purchase.

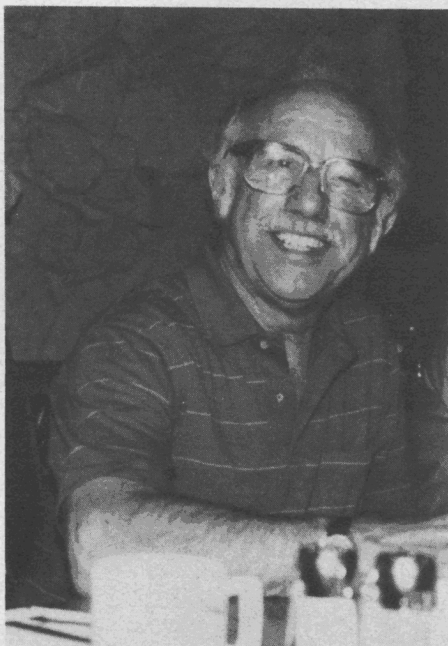
Doors open at 10 A.M. The organized musical entertainment will begin around 1:30 or 2:00; Domenic Saso is in charge. Raffles will be conducted throughout the day.

Admission to the picnic is \$5.00 per person, with children 12 and under free. Swimming is available in a huge Olympic pool for a slight extra charge. If you can help Walter during the event, call him at 415-585-0144.



Profile of.....*Frank Montoro*

Working behind the scenes, Frank Montoro has been a tremendous force in shaping our club. As a member of the executive board, he has been involved in the decision making since the beginning. Frank says, "I've never heard so much fine accordion music in my lifetime since joining the accordion club." He also says that he particularly enjoys the friendships that have developed through his association with BAAC. How did Frank come to be among us?



He began playing accordion when he was ten years old. He received a ten button, two bass diatonic toy accordion for Christmas and started playing by ear. The following year he started taking lessons from Mr. Frank Gilmore. Then his parents bought him a 48 bass Wurlitzer accordion, including 50 free lessons, for \$125. Frank studied the instrument from 1935 to 1942. Then he joined the U S Coast Guard for the next three and a half years. During his military career, he performed for U.S.O. shows and war bond rallies, and kept his instrument aboard ship to play for his fellow mates.

After returning to civilian life, he studied under Mel Dunn and Aldo Roselli. Also, he enrolled at San Francisco State where he received a teaching credential in 1950. All through college and as a teacher, he played accordion to supplement his salary. During those years, he performed in many Bay Area hotels, restaurants and private homes.

Then he had to give up playing professionally to concentrate on his profession as a school principal until he retired in 1986. However, he was able to continue using the accordion while training and accompanying children's choral groups at various schools where he was assigned.

Presently Frank is performing on a Colombo Midi II with an RA90 sound module. He virtually can sound like a small combo or an entire orchestra with the touch of a switch! He says he tries to think of how each instrument is played as he plans the orchestration. He especially enjoys Latin and haunting melodies from the past. It's obvious after hearing him that he has perfected his skills to a high level!

As we all come to know him, we see a guy dedicated to advancing the accordion. Also we see a man dedicated to his family! His wife Esther has also been an active participant in helping the club grow. Together they're enjoying retirement by spending more time with family and traveling.

We would like to thank him for his contribution to BAAC. It's rare to find a person willing to give his time and expertise without seeking recognition! Frank's reason for being a behind-the-scene player is, "I'm doing the job hoping to give back to the club a little of what the club has given me."

Dominic Palmisano

Across the Editor's Desk.....

Dear Editor:

The Executive Officers and Board of Directors, past and present, have individually contributed unselfishly of his/her time and talent, and are responsible for the success which the Bay Area Accordion Club has experienced. I appreciate each of them, and in no way intend the following opinion as even the slightest hint of a criticism.

I am opposed to the election of Club officers as we presently do it at BAAC. The election more resembles a personality contest than anything else, and I do not see any point to having a winner, and therefore, by implication, a loser. The recent elections did not identify or focus on any issues affecting our instrument or the Club, and I don't think they should. I abhor the politics involved in all of that.

After serving two years, first on the Board then as President, my experience has been that BAAC's governing body is too large. Our governing board and the process of selection should be re-designed. The Board should consist of five people who are committed to furthering the interests of the accordion and our Club. They would serve for two years, handling such projects as the picnic, monthly meeting entertainment, special projects, concerts, etc. This streamlined, new Board would elect a Vice President each year (they know who would be better able to guide BAAC) or ask the current President to continue for a second year (maximum term). The Vice-president then matriculates to President. New members to the Board could volunteer, be proposed, or be invited to serve. The system we now employ ought to be replaced.

Peter A. Di Bono

TOM'S TANTALIZING TIDBITS

May, 1993



Well, Dominic Palmisano won the election as the Club's new President. It was a landslide. What about the election. What

kind of an election was it? Not much as far as I can tell. What did we really know about the candidates? Did they get to present their ideas for the coming year in the newsletter? No. Did they hold a debate at the meeting? No. Why wasn't there any absentee voting allowed? Why wasn't a ballot included with last month's newsletter?

It doesn't seem that this club is very PC—even when it comes to politics! What did we actually vote on? Personality? Age? Dominic stated that as president, one of his biggest goals would be to push for a more member-involved club. Lou didn't express any goals to me. He said he ran because there should be more than one candidate and since Peter wasn't running and some members thought he should run, he ran. Dominic plans to introduce a concept he developed called BOS (BAAC Operating System). Rules, regulations and duties are going to be spelled out so that if any of the key people is unavailable, the Club will continue to function.

And now on with the news. I received a call the other day from a free-lance writer who called to do an article about National Accordion Awareness Month (June). He said he was going to write the piece on spec for a syndicate. Please, oh please, have it picked up. Just think, 400 newspapers extolling the virtues of the accor-

dion. We'll see.

Speaking of NAAM, Cheri Thurston of CAPA is going to have posters made announcing NAAM. Down in Texas, the Dallas, Fort Worth, and Austin clubs are getting together for a party to celebrate NAAM. Up in Seattle, they're going to be putting on their Day of the Accordion celebration. BAAC is having their annual picnic in June. And on and on.

Remember a couple months ago I asked people to send me letters about unusual gigs they played? Well, the responses I've received total up to zero—sort of like the number of responses I've received to all the questions I've posed. Anyway, I've got an unusual story to pass on. A couple weeks ago, I did a solo gig at a small wedding reception with Ron Borelli. There was this striking woman there that we of course talked to. Turns out, NBC is doing a mini-series about her. She said she got framed for murdering her husband's former wife and spent 11 years in the joint! Ahh!! Her name is Lawrenceia Bembenik (Bambi). The name of the show is Woman on Trial, airing on May 16th and 17th. (Sorry, Tom...couldn't make the publication date that early in May...but some readers probably caught the show). The whole thing took place in Milwaukee so I of course called Mrs. Schmidt of

the MAC to get the dope. Mrs. Schmidt said, in essence, that there actually was a lot of evidence to convict her. Kind of chilling, isn't it. And no, she didn't ask to hear Folsom Prison Blues.

Gumbalaya A Go-Go. On Wednesday, July 7th, Those Darn Accordions! will be performing a 20 minute set at Wrigley Field in Chicago! Think about that. Thirty thousand people hearing us play The Chicken Boy Polka. The Cubs' management said we have to play Viva Las Vegas or no deal...no problem. Needless to say, we're very excited. On Friday, July 9th, we're possibly performing for the ATG convention outside of Milwaukee. I'll have complete Midwest tour information by next month's letter.

Road Trip. This Labor Day, TDA will be winging their way north to perform at the prestigious Bumpershoot Festival in Seattle. (Hey, Ken, any room at your house for 10 accordionists? No? Barbara said it was OK if we stayed with you.) The letter we received stated, "Congratulations! Our performance juries have completed screening close to 1,300 performer applications. You have been selected to be invited to participate in Bumpershoot 1993" That magical door just keeps opening further and further. President Peter spoke of the ongoing struggle of the accordion at the last meeting. Hello, Peter? I think the accordion is really thriving. When the door

opens for one of us, it opens for all of us. Once again, this is not an accordion festival TDA is playing at, but a music festival. The fact these people want an accordion band to perform is great news.

Five hundred dollars says nobody will write a Letter to the Editor of this newsletter for 6 months. Any takers?

Tom Torriglia

COLOMBO & SONS ACCORDION CORP.

1201 ANDERSEN DR.
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901
415-457-2222

WED.- FRI. 9 AM TO 4 PM; SAT 9AM TO NOON
SALES & REPAIRS
SINCE 1907

BAND IN A BOX

"Midi accordion explained for the electronically declined."

by: Bob Berta

I first started playing accordion 36 years ago when I was 9 years old. My faithful Giulietti amazed me with its ability to switch to three different sounds on the treble and 2 on the bass. Why, I could make my accordion sound like several different instruments...it was a band in a box!

At the same time my younger sister started taking organ. Her Lowery captivated my imagination with its canvas of sounds. I learned to play organ myself and became good enough to land a job with Conn organ company setting up for and playing in concerts around Humboldt county during my high school and college days. I moved to San Francisco in 1967 and discovered Colombo Accordion down in North Beach. When I saw the Iorio Accorgan I fell in love with an instrument that combined both of my favorite instruments. I bought that Accorgan and it served me well up until recently when it decided to go to accordion heaven (sob).

Needing a replacement I again looked up Gordon and considered the alternatives. Should I go back to a straight accordion? That Polka model was real inviting...on the other hand if I splurged I could get into an Elka Midi II+ accordion. My old Iorio was basically a primitive electronic organ/accordion...the new Midi accordions are completely different instruments. It allows you to reproduce very accurately the sounds of dozens of other instruments or create sounds that are purely electronic in nature. Since the money was burning a hole in my pocket I decided to make the plunge and haven't regretted my decision since.

Even before Midi found its way to the accordion I had some experience with early synthesizers and realized that the accordion would one day become the ultimate Midi instrument due to its basic design...a separate bass and treble section. Those early synthesizers were a mass of cables, dials, and switches. They were only able to play monophonic (one note at a time). Yes, in the hands of a musician/technician like Walter Carlos (Switched on Bach), and through multi-track tape recording, they were capable of incredible things...but there wasn't much spontaneity due to inherent limitations in those early synthesizers.

As the years progressed synthesizers became sophisticated and gained the ability to play polyphonically (many notes at once). Not only that, the sound devices became multi-timbral (able to play many instruments/sounds at once). This sophistication has had an interesting effect on sales of instruments. As I mentioned earlier I am also an accomplished organist (hey...when you are as great as I am it's hard to be humble). Like the reduction in popularity of accordions due to electric guitars a few years ago, I am sorry to report sales of organs are falling to extremely low levels. Now days people buy electronic keyboards...not home organs. Virtually all of the large electronic organ manufacturers in the US have either folded or gotten out of the organ business. What is left goes to Japa-

nese keyboards in an organ console but aimed at the novice. They are heavy into auto rhythm and auto accompaniment but very poor in organ sound. For accordion fans this is a familiar theme. The difference is that the accordion is, in my opinion, primed for a resurgence of popularity. Perhaps the very technology that is killing the organ business and put the accordion on the "back burner" during the electronic guitar age will breath new life into the accordion.

Are you a purist who resists the new fangled midi accordions. Before you condemn them you might review the history of the accordion. (*An excellent source for learning about accordion history is "The Golden Age of the Accordion" by Flynn, Davison and Chavez.*) The accordion has the distinction of being a very adaptable instrument. Today you can look at all the derivations...button boxes, chromatics, diatonics, musette, tone chambers, 12 base, 120 base, 140 bass, stradella, bassetti. All of these variations and more allow the accordion to be, perhaps, the most versatile instrument on earth. Whether your taste runs to polka, the classics, cajun, ethnic, jazz, punk, rock, etc. there is an accordion that fits right in. The ability to adapt has made the accordion a survivor

Those early synthesizers I mentioned were difficult to play but the new Midi instruments are very easy to use. Perhaps you are scared by the electronics or "computer" technology. If you can operate your TV you can play a Midi accordion. Certainly there are plenty of willing people in the BAAC, myself included, who would love to let you experience playing a Midi accordion prior to making the decision to obtain one. Give me a call at (415)756-8309 if you want to give mine a try.

LOU JACKLICH

Private Lessons
Transpose Arrange Chord
510-357-8279

PETER DI BONO

Personalized Instruction
Theory Technique
Performance
All Levels All Ages
415-753-1502

Unique Accordion Accessories

Affordable New Products for the Care, Comfort, and Protection of
your Instrument

- °Accordion Covers
- °Strap Pads
- °Front Support Straps
- °Portable Alarm Systems
(anti-theft device)

For information and/or ordering, call
BOB DELGADO at 510-656-5125



George Meier

Wholesale / Retail
Service & Repairs
Buy-Sell-Trade

3865 Clover Valley Rd.
ROCKLIN, CA 95677
(916) 624-2900

Accordions / Buttonboxes



petosa accordions

CUSTOMCRAFTED - Since 1922

(206) 632-2700 313 N.E. 45th St. Seattle, WA 98105

AD POLICY: MEMBERS PAY \$5/ISSUE
FOR SMALL ADS, \$10 FOR LARGE.

NON-MEMBERS PAY TWICE THE
MEMBER'S RATE. SEND COPY AND

CHECK TO 31 ALISO, PORTOLA VALLEY, 94028

WE'RE

BAAC



48 POPE ST
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
94112



NEXT MEETING: MONDAY
June 7, 1993
7:00PM

HOUSE OF PARTIES
22 HILLCREST DR.
DALY CITY

CALL DOMENIC SASO IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AT THE
NEXT MEETING..415-587-7557

<u>Conductor</u>	<u>Co-Conductor</u>	<u>Banker</u>	<u>Teller</u>	<u>Scribe</u>	<u>Membership</u>
Peter Di Bono	Marian Kelly	Frank Montoro	Rusti Bartoli	Barb Hartley	Walter Traverso