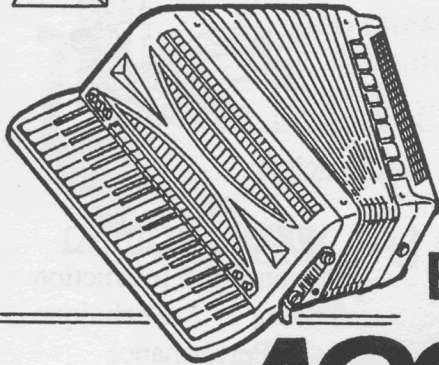


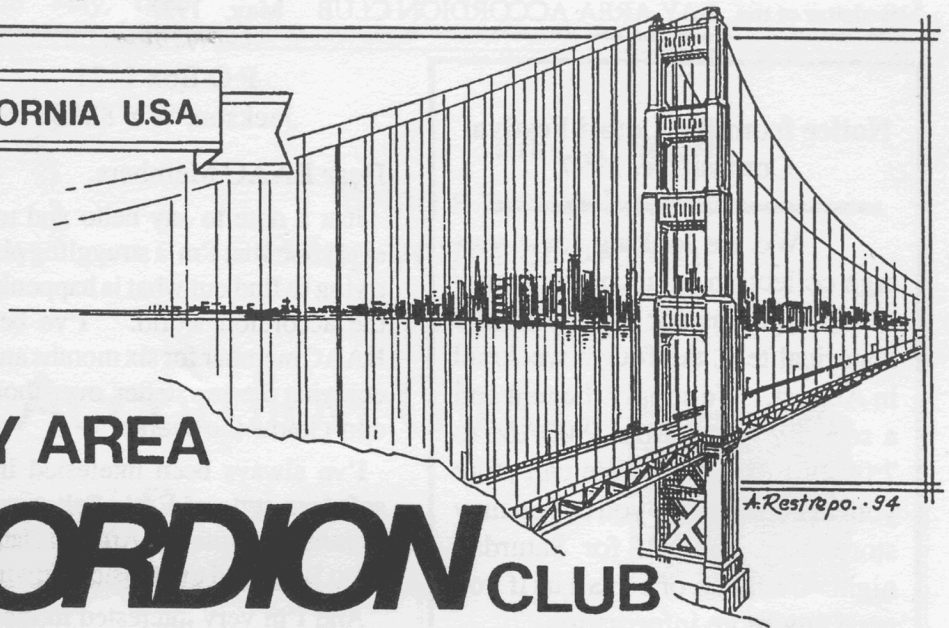
Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



BAY AREA

# ACCORDION CLUB



MAY, 1997

## MAY GENERAL MEETING

by Denny Huff

**Ladies' Night! Ladies' Night!** It's always one of the best evenings of the year, and May's meeting was no exception. President **Bob Berta** stepped up to make a few announcements and to let us know that: (1) An Idaho accordion family is looking for a home in the Bay Area for about a month this summer...need a house sitter? (2) Last month's post-meeting session at Lyons was a real winner. Try to make it some Monday after the meeting. (3) The Second Ensemble, under **Joe Smiell's** direction, is meeting again. See the Calendar for specifics. (4) The San Francisco Free Folk Festival is rapidly approaching. Then **Lou Soper** discussed the June picnic (info in this newsletter). Be sure to attend, and if you have anything to contribute to the raffle, contact **Bob Delgado**. If you'd be willing to play, contact **Lou**. So much for business.

First up were two attractive young ladies who are no strangers to the stage or to fun music! **Renate Bixby** and **Val Kieser** treated us to an authentic selection of Alpine fare on their Button Boxes. And they make it look so easy! A *Waltz for April* began the show, followed by *Waten Tower*, a mazurka. A special Alpine experience is seeing the red of the setting sun set the mountains ablaze with color in the evening. It's called *Alpine Glow* or *Alpengluhen*, the name of the next song, which was combined with *Burgenland*, an area in southeast Austria with a strong Hungarian in-



Sharon Walters, Val Kieser, Mary-Alice Eldon, Joe Smiell, Frank Montoro, Lynn Ewing, Nora Mazzara, Marian Kelly

fluence. The last number was one of Joe's polkas, the *Gold Digger (Goldgruber)* Polka. For a special treat, try to catch **Val and Renate** at the Friends of Nature on Mount Tamalpais in Marin County some Sunday afternoon. **Joe** plays there also at festivals several times a year.

One of my favorite acts couldn't make the show due to illness (the **Jackie Jones Trio**), but we had an outstanding last minute substitute performer. It was **Diana Gutkin**, who has played at two previous Ladies' Nights, but who missed last year, and who was new to many of us. **Diana** learned to play the bayan before she moved to the US, and she plays with an excellence and passion that we have seen before in other Eastern European players. As a side diversion (at no extra cost), **MC Domenic Saso** wrestled the piano bench into submission attempting to find a suitable place for **Diana** to sit. (**Domenic** carried the day with two falls out of three.) I probably lost a bit in translation on the song titles, which are secondary to the music in my mind, but I'll give it a shot. The first was a love song played with great accomplishment. It seemed both sad and profound. **Diana** next played a number about the Volga River, *Stradanya* — a folk dance performed by young Russian boys and girls. Followed by another Russian dance and a Russian waltz — *Over the Waves*. Not the

cont. p. 4

**Notice from the Cotati Festival Committee, 1997**

We are looking for a vintage collection of accordions and/or photographs for our Festival's historical tent, the fourth weekend in August. We supply the tent and a security guard from 9:00AM to 7:00 PM each day. We can store your accordions for you or you may store them yourself for Saturday night. Call, fax, or e-mail us if you need any more information.

(Signed) Clifton Buck-Kauffman and Rebecca Browne

tel: (707) 664-0444

fax: (707) 795-1259

cotatikid@earthlink.net

Henry Doktorski's New Book,

**The Classical Squeezebox**

is Now Available.

In speaking of his title, Henry says, "I wanted to use in the title an informal word which would apply to all (or nearly all) of the free-reed instruments, not just the accordion. This book is about much more than the accordion per se; only three chapters (four, nine and ten) deal exclusively with that instrument, as most of the other ten chapters deal mainly with other free-reed instruments, such as the concertina, harmonium, bandoneon, bayan, etc."

The thirteen chapter titles include information about the classical usage of each type of free-reed instrument, such as Harmonium, Concertina, Accordion, Bandoneon, Bayan. The last two chapters concern the "crisis of the Classical Squeezebox" and the "future of the Classical Squeezebox."

To order: send \$35 postpaid to:

Henry Doktorski  
PO Box 95  
Allison Park PA 15101  
USA

P O Box 1121  
Jackson, WY 83001

Dear BAAC Members,

Just a note to say hello and to tell everyone that I'm a struggling player, trying to find out what is happening in the accordion world. I've been a BAAC member for six months and am enjoying the newsletter, even though I don't know the people.

I've always been interested in the soft jazz style of Ernie Felice and of Tommy Gumina and Art Van Damme. Also Big Band era music, showtunes.

And I'm very interested in locating some old Ernie Felice records. If anyone has a source, I'd appreciate hearing from them!

Jim Van Nostrand

**NEW MEMBERS:**

Louis Guaraldi, So. San Francisco

Frank Lima, Santa Cruz

Steve Mobia, San Francisco

Al Monti, Phoenix, AZ

Jan Novotny, Napa

Linda Peach, Berkeley

Frances Pivnick, San Francisco

Darryl Skrabak, San Francisco

Peter Soave, Dearborn Hts, MI

Jim Van Nostrand, Jackson, WY

Larry Wisch, San Francisco

Welcome to all of you, and thank you so much for joining the Bay Area Accordion Club! Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas about our Club and about the accordion!

**TEACHERS**



San Francisco

**PETER DI BONO**

Personalized Instruction  
Theory Technique  
Performance

All Levels All Ages  
415-753-1502

**DOMENIC SASO**

Private Accordion Lessons

Sales, Repairs, & Accessories

Accordions Bought & Sold

(415) 587-7557

North Bay

**BART BENINCO**

Accordion and Piano

Beginner to Advanced

Petaluma

707-769-8744

South Bay

**Lou Jacklich**

Private Lessons

Transpose Arrange Chord

50 Yrs. Experience

(510) 317-9510

San Lorenzo

*For Sale !!*

Casio Electronic Piano (like new)

Automatic Drums

Automatic Bass Line

Asking \$395.00

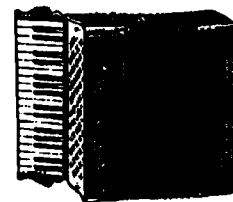
Lou Casalnuovo  
(415) 756-4670



Don't miss the boat!

Bring a friend!  
Bring a picnic lunch!  
Bring your accordion!

# Bay Area Accordion Club Annual Picnic



There will be some barbequed chickens, hotdogs and soft drinks to supplement your lunch!



*Sunday June 29th*

*11:00a to 7:00p*

*Palo Alto Elks Club*

*4249 El Camino Real*

*Palo Alto, CA*

Between San Antonio and  
W. Charleston - Next to Dinah's

Music from 1:00P to 5:00P  
(Drums and bass available)

### Raffle and Door Prizes

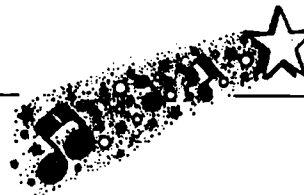
1st Prize \$50  
2nd Prize \$25  
3rd Prize \$25

**\$5/person, in advance or at the gate, 12 and under free.**

Directions: From 101 turn west on San Antonio and continue to El Camino. Turn right on El Camino and the Elks Club is about 1/4 mile on your right. Driving from the south on 280, take 85 to 101 and follow above directions. Coming from the north on 280, take Page Mill Road into Palo Alto and turn right on El Camino.

The Elks Club will be several miles ahead on the left side of El Camino.

Needed: Food Chairman and volunteers to serve chicken and hot dogs. Call Lou Soper.



## Committee Chairmen



Tickets	Jim Holiday	(510) 339-8657
PA System	Bob Berta	(415) 756-8309
Music	Lou Soper	(510) 792-8765
Raffle Tickets	Frank Schlotter	(510) 339-8657
Games	Kris Nelson	(510) 656-5125
Door Prizes	Bob Delgado	(510) 656-5125

(Call Bob Delgado if you'd like to donate a door prize!!)



*May Ladies Night Meeting, cont.*

Palmer-Hughes version! I could have listened all night, but **Diana** finished with a Ukranian song about the Cossacks. Great bellows shake! Hopefully we'll see her again soon. Maybe at the picnic.

**Nora Mazzara** reminded us that it was Cinco de Mayo and appropriately played a number of Spanish/Mexican songs. **Nora** was very relaxed and coaxed us into a few sing-a-longs. Even on songs with which not many of us were familiar! *Quanta la Gusta* got good audience reaction. Followed by *Chiapanecas*, accompanied by enthusiastic clapping. Frustrated cattlemen and cowboys jumped into help with *El Rancho Grande*, followed by *Gay Ranchero*. **Nora** finished with a very pleasing version of *Begin the Beguine*, then took a breather before playing with the chamber group in the evening's finale. She looked much too young to have remembered many of these numbers, which made sense when she



*Nora Mazzara*

explained that she had heard them years later on the radio...let's make that on the television.

About this time in the evening, **Domenic** and **Frank Schlotter**

conspired to hold the raffle and award \$39 to a deserving BAAC member, **Jim Holliday**. Hey...hasn't **Jim** won that before? **Jim** very generously suggested that BAAC add his winnings to the scholarship fund.

Multi-talented **Marian Kelly** appeared on stage next, accompanied by **Richard Yaus**, who has proven to be quite talented himself. They made a great duet! And we weren't surprised to hear some Bavarian music. The harmony was very well done on four songs starting with *Fidele Terzen*. A Laendler-like melody followed, and then **Richard** pulled out his multi-purpose (don't ask) ocarina for another Bavarian tune with accordion harmony provided by **Marian**. Quickly switching continents, our versatile duo next treated us to a Tango...titled *Etude #7*. They had a lot of fun and we benefited from the effort.

The feature performance of the evening was provided by the **San Francisco Accordion Ensemble**, who informed us that they have turned pro!! They gave their first concert recently and turned a profit, part of which they generously donated to the BAAC scholarship fund. That's great. I doubt if they're doing it for the money, but it's encouraging to know you can draw a paying audience. I'd pay to see them. On stage this evening were **Sharon Walters**, **Mary Alice Eldon**, **Val Kieser**, **Lynn Ewing**, **Frank Montoro**, **Marian Kelly** (subbing for **Bob Smith**) and **Nora Mazzara**. Conducted by **Joe Smiell**, of course. The first number was a piece by Handel originally written for a cast of hundreds floating down the Thames River on barges while performing a concert to a backdrop of fireworks. These folks are getting pretty good — no wonder they're turning a profit! They next performed four short, and antiquated dances. A Gavotte, a Saraband, a Minuet, and a Rigadoun. **Joe** gave us insightful background

into the pieces, including a story about 18th Century ticket scalping! It seems that nothing ever changes. We hope the Ensemble doesn't change.

And that was the evening. Please do attend our picnic on June 29th, and phone Lou if you can help.



*Renate Bixby, Val Kieser*



*Richard Yaus, Marian Kelly*



*Diana Gutkin and her Dad*

## May Board Meeting

### Synopsis

- Treasurer reports bank balances totaling \$8502.
- Arnie Krenn has prevailed upon The Internationals to play at our June meeting. Thanks very much, Arnie!
- As in past years, BAAC will donate \$500 to the Cotati Festival Committee this year. In return, we will get booth space for two days, a half-page ad in the program, and a Jam Tent.
- Herb Meier is chairing the BAAC Cotati booth this year. Current plan is to sell only the small Hero accordions and to encourage Festival attendees to join our Club. We won't try to make it a fund-raising event this year,.
- Sev Garcia's workshop on Stage Fright has been scheduled for October, after the meeting, which will end a few minutes early. Vince Cirelli's Repair Workshop has not yet been scheduled.
- Val Kieser has taken over the job of Program Chair from Mary-Alice Eldon. A committee will be formed.

MK

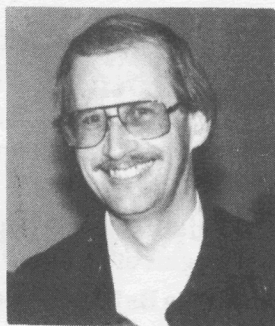
### JUNE MEETING Starring

## The Internationals!

Remember them? Those four mostly-German-music-playing-fellows who we couldn't get enough of in March, '96? THE INTERNATIONALS, will return to do the second half of the June meeting. That's Bob Maggiora on accordion; Steve McGinnis, guitar; Jan Meers on horns; and drummer Porter Goltz. Also featured at that meeting will be Dennis Stoscher, Tom Tomasello, and Bob Berta

## President's Message

by Bob Berta



The BAAC can pride itself on the quality of its newsletter. Marian, Denny and all the others who work on it and submit information help to maintain its high quality. As always we strive to constantly provide information that is of use to the membership but can't exist in a vacuum. If you have some ideas for articles for the newsletter or for a change

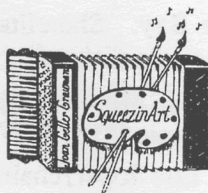
in the format Marian would like to hear from you.

As you know this is the busy time of the year for BAAC. There will be a lot of calendared events including Cotati, the annual club picnic, Making Waves, and various local festivals that we will be participating in. As always we appreciate volunteers. Through the efforts of all club members we can continue to keep our club the best in the US.

June is National Accordion Awareness Month. Plans are being made to have many members play at various restaurants in SF on one day in June. The restaurant would provide free meals to the musicians and make a contribution to our club which will than be placed in the scholarship fund. This will be a great way to increase the visibility of our club. Thanks to Tom Torriglia for this great idea and agreeing to approach the restaurants to get them to participate.

## SqueezinArt®

Unique Gifts for Accordionists



P.O. Box 2001  
Rockville, MD 20847-2001

Phone: 301-279-8716  
Fax: 301-279-7331  
e-mail: [squznart@erols.com](mailto:squznart@erols.com)

Joan & Dan Grauman

Boaz Rubin

# Boaz

Accordions repaired, bought & sold  
phone 510/653-6983, fax 510/595-9664  
email [schmatte@well.com](mailto:schmatte@well.com)

# Accordions

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**May 30th, Friday, and Every Friday.** Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson (8P) and music for dancing (9P). Eagles Hall, Alameda.

**June...whole month** is National Accordion Awareness Month (NAAM). Play for your friends, your neighbors, parties, businesses.....anywhere!

**June 1., Sunday, and Every Sunday.** Cajun/Zydeco dancing and music at Demarco's, Brisbane. Begins at 6:30P.

**June 2 - 5. Carnival Cruise Lines.** Cruise to Baja, with lots of Cajun/Zydeco music. Organized by California Friends of Louisiana French Music. Call Denny at (408) 354-6531.

**June 2nd., Monday.** BAAC General Meeting. Featuring the popular German group, **The Internationals!** Donworth Hall, 22nd & Eucalyptus, just north of Stonestown shopping center, SF. 7P.

**June 4 & 18.** BAAC Ensemble rehearsals at Moose Lodge Hall, 7535 Mission in Daly City. Call Joe, (510) 832-6938.

**June 7th, Sat.** Golden State Accordion-Aires Spring Picnic. How about cheering on our sister club (Suisun/Vacaville/Fairfield) by attending their picnic? Lake Solano Park, 8685 Pleasants Valley Road, Winters. Seven dollars includes chicken or steak, beans, salad, bread. Beer/wine available. Call for info (707) 864-2359.

**June 7th, Sun.** World One Festival in Monterey. Featuring C.J. Chenier & the Red Hot Louisiana Band.

**June 11th, Wed.** (note change to second Wed.) BAAC Board Meeting 7:30 PM at Frank Schlotter's, 1762 Indian Way, Oakland. Guests welcome. Call Frank at (510) 339-8657 for directions.

**June 21st.** Making Waves event in downtown San Francisco.

**June 21st.** New Orleans By the Bay. Shoreline Park, Mountain View.

**June 25th.** BAAC Fun Band rehearsal. Moose Lodge Hall, 7535 Mission in Daly City. Call Domenic (415) 587-7557

**June 29th, Sunday.** BAAC Picnic, Lou Soper, chair, (510) 792-8765. Palo Alto Elks Club, 4249 El Camino, P.A.

**June 29th, Sunday.** "The Day of the Accordion." Being celebrated by the Northwest Accordion Society at the Seattle Center, Center House, Thomas St. & 2nd. Ave. Competitions for solos, duets, and ensembles....all ages invited. Featuring Frank Marocco, Peter Soave, Ken Olendorf, Horace Lazzari, Murl Allen Sanders, and special guest Art Van Damme. Call Ken at (206)-640-9395. Denny also has info and application. Second performance day will be Monday, June 30th at Jazz Alley.

**June 29th, Sunday.** FOTA Dinner/Concert honoring Alice Hall on the occasion of her 80th birthday! Barcone's Restau-

rant, Sherman Oaks, 3PM. Per person, \$25 includes banquet dinner, wine, cake, concert. Checks payable to FOTA sent to 15210 Sherman Way, S. 50, Van Nuys, 91405.

**July 11th** Odile Lavault and the Baguette Quartet at Freight & Salvage, 1111 Addison, Berkeley. 8P.

**July 7-12,** Kimberley Olde Time Accordion Competitions in Kimberley, British Columbia. Featuring Frankie Yankovic and Myron Floren. Call (250) 427-4547.

**July 13-19 and Sep 14 - 20:** Joe Smiell's Button Box Camp at Norden. Call (510) 832-6938 for info.

**July 9 to 13th,** American Accordionists' Association Festival, Sheraton City Center Hotel, Washington, D.C. Competitions in all categories and levels, massed band, concerts, banquet. Denny has app. Call (800) 526-7495 for special \$78 room rate.

**July 17-20,** Accordion Teachers' Guild 35th Annual Festival and Competition in Grand Rapids, MI. Orchestras, Workshops, and guest artist, Peter Soave. Call the chair, Trudy Dudley, for info at (319) 396-6443.

**August 1, 2, 3, Fri, Sat, Sun.** Rocky Mountain Accordion Celebration. The First Annual Accordion celebration in Philipsburg, Montana, a quaint historic mining town. Featuring **Bonnie Birch and Lindy Kao.** Sponsored by Five Valley Accordion Association. Call (406) 859-3450 for info. Or Denny has list of hotels and events.

**August 3rd, Sunday.** Accordion Club of the Redwoods PICNIC. Danish Club Picnic Grounds, near Kastania Ave and Hwy 101 in So. Petaluma. Time and price not defined. Doubtless, Steve Balich will cook, so phone him for more info (707) 874-3494.

**August 4th, Monday.** BAAC General Meeting featuring Jorgen Sundqvist. Jorgen is also scheduled to play in Portland on July 25th, San Diego on August 10th, Seattle on August 11th, and Chicago on August 18th. Call Joe Petosa for details (206) 632-2700.

**August 7-10th, Thurs-Sun.** 4th Annual Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration, Leavenworth, WA. Competitions, parade, dancing, concerts, workshops. Call Anne Koenig at (509) 548-5807 or check the web at [www.leavenworth.org](http://www.leavenworth.org).

**August 23 & 24, Sat/Sun.** Cotati Accordion Festival. This year's featured guest (both days) will be Dick Contino.

**Sept. 8th, Monday.** BAAC General Meeting featuring Vyatcheslav Semyonov (bayan) and his wife Natasha (domra), with Robert Sattler (bayan).

*Please send Calendar Information to Your Editor, using the address on the last page. Thank you.*



## The Accordion-Concertina Repair and Technician's School (ARTS)

by Bob Smith

During April I was able to participate in a wonderful month-long seminar at the only accordion repair technician's school in the US! There is only one other in the world — at the Hohner factory in Germany. The school is connected with the only true Accordion Museum in the U.S., containing over 600 accordions and related instruments such as diatonic button boxes, bandoneons, concertinas (with many Chemnitz types as well as early Anglo and English types). The collection includes some of the very earliest accordions from around 1830.

The museum is located in a former church in Duluth. I like to think of it as a shrine to the accordion, with its patron saint, Our Lady of Spain.

As participants, we were allowed to handle and play on almost all of the instruments. We were required to learn to play at least a few simple songs on all of the major types of instruments. We were able to understand the relation between the simple one-row button box, the multi-row models, the diatonic concertinas, and the bandoneons. We played not only on piano accordions, but also on button chromatic accordions of the "C" and "B" systems, including some Russian bayans of world class caliber. We played on a wide range of quality of instruments from inexpensive student models to "world class" instruments. I was very pleased to be allowed to play on some very fine Titano accordions, and on the Hohner "Gola" and "Marino" accordions.

I enjoyed playing on some of the unusual instruments such as one with the piano keyboard that curved around to follow the hand as it swings

around with the elbow position fixed in space. Another accordion was extremely narrow and squat, with keys on the right hand curved around to approximately follow the curve of the hand. The buttons on the left followed a similar pattern. My favorite of the unusual types is one with a very strong slant (about 45 degrees) on the keyboard. I found it very easy to play, since it virtually eliminated the bent wrist that most of us use while playing a standard piano accordion.

In the repair workshop we learned the fundamentals of accordion repair and maintenance. That included evaluation, basic cleaning, bellows repair (including corners and re-taping), disassembly of the right and left keyboards, repairing key pallets, marking bass buttons, celluloid repair, re-waxing reeds, and various tuning techniques. Even more important, since this was only a one-month course instead of the full nine month course (which leads to a certification), we learned a number of things NOT to do. For example, many older accordions (generally made before about 1935) have brass keyboard rods. These should never be removed. The likely result of such removal is far more troublesome than whatever would lead one to try to remove the key rods.

While we were there we saw many accordions which were badly "botched" by home repairs, frequently adding to the problems of a good repair. We also saw many cases of cheap accordions in bad need of repair, but for which the cost of repair would greatly exceed the value of the accordion. That was frequently the case for some of the simple one-row diatonics, unless they had some redeeming features that might make them suitable for museums.

The museum holds a very extensive collection of accordion music and related technical reference material. Many of the items are very difficult or impossible to obtain. I was able to study some highly technical books written in East Germany which described a scientific study of the accordion. We have nothing remotely similar from our high tech country. I also studied a very detailed book on various tuning methods from the 18th to the 20th century. I learned, for example, that when Bach wrote the "Well Tempered Clavier," he did NOT mean the "Equal Tempered" scale that we commonly use today. There is a great deal of mis-information on this topic, including information appearing in current dictionaries.

Our teacher, Helmi Harrington, is a remarkable woman. She has had extensive training herself. She has three degrees in musicology, including the PhD. She was a concert pianist, but has always loved the accordion. She learned accordion repair at the Hohner factory in Germany, as did her mother before her. Helmi keeps up a schedule that would leave most of us in the dust. In addition to teaching accordion repair, doing accordion repair, keeping up the museum, she teaches about 90 students weekly. She also performs on piano and chromatic accordion and the concertina. She sleeps only a few hours a night. She spends Monday through Thursday at the museum in Duluth, then drives to her other studio near Minneapolis to teach and repair accordions there. Her mother lives in Texas, and she still teaches and repairs accordions there!

**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  
31 ALISO, PORTOLA VALLEY, 94028

The *Bay Area Accordion Club Newsletter* is published monthly .

Editor . . . . . Marian Kelly  
Editorial Assistant . . . . . Denny Huff  
Contributors . . . . . Bob Smith  
Photography . . . . . Kathy Greenfield  
Distribution . . . . . Glenn McClellan

Send all newsletter-related communications to:

Denny Huff  
20605 Oak Creek Lane  
Saratoga, CA 95070

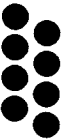
Deadline for each issue is the *second* Monday of the month.



**petosa accordions**  
CUSTOMCRAFTED - Since 1922

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

Accordions  
International



**Paul Pasquali**

Accordions International  
2330 South Main Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84115

Tel/FAX (801) 485-5840

**discovery printing!** (415) 967-3777 Sunnyvale, CA

SAN FRANCISCO  
**BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUB**  
31 ALISO WAY  
PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028  
415-974-9210



Conductor  
Bob Berta

Co-Conductor  
Frank Panacci

Banker  
Peter Adler

Teller  
Bob Smith

Scribe  
Val Kieser