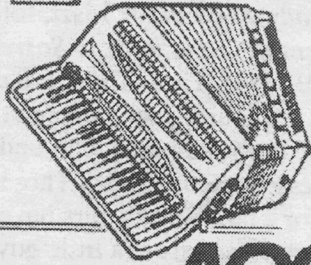


Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO



ACCORDION CLUB

A. Kestel/1960s - 34

PLEASE NOTE!!!
There will be no meeting in July because of the Picnic!!!

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May 2005

The Accordion: San Francisco's Official Instrument



President's Message

I missed most of the April meeting, and it was really one of the great ones. Everyone said that Lou Jacklich and his students were spectacular, and Roberta Rosa was outstanding. Thanks to everyone who covered for me, and especially Val Kieser.

Our May meeting is usually "Ladies' Day," but this year we are going to relax that tradition a little so we can have a special guest performer. Accordion great, **Tony Lovello**, is in the area playing at the other clubs, and we didn't want to miss him. Tony is always a big hit, and he will head up the second half of the program.

I am playing *Fiddler On The Roof* with the Napa Valley Musical Society, and if anyone is interested in attending one of the performances, please give me a call, and I'll give you the details. We have a 30-piece orchestra in the pit, and the music is spectacular.

Remember, **we are back on the third Sunday of the Month, May 15th** at 2:00 pm. Please try to be there, and bring a friend. I hope all of you Moms had a great day last Sunday.

Please **get involved in your club**, and let me know your ideas and suggestions. I look forward to seeing you at 2:00 pm on May 15th.

Play your accordion every day, and remember:

REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!

Peter Di Bono

May 15 Meeting

Was to be Ladies' Day, but . . .

Well, not entirely! We'll hear, among others,

Val Kieser and Dick Schiller

Marian Kelly

And the Great Tony Lovello

What can we say about Tony? Well, taking a break from retirement, he is making another West Coast tour. In less than 5 years he has recorded 7 CD's, performed over 100 concerts and has been coined "King and Master of the Bellows Shake" by Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini.

A real crowd pleaser—
DON'T MISS IT!!!

THE PICNIC IS ON AND BETTER THAN EVER!!! Speaking of which:

WANTED!!

Anyone wishing to prepare and contribute a side dish for the picnic—say, a salad, beans, dessert or any dish that you enjoy making, please call Val (510) 531-4836

or vtkacc@value.net

No, you would not have to make enough to feed everyone at the picnic—just a normal-size dish, as large or small as you wish!
Volunteers needed to help with decorating and directing cars in the parking lot

We also need a few donations of really nice gifts for the raffle
THANKS! (There will be **NO MEETING** in July)

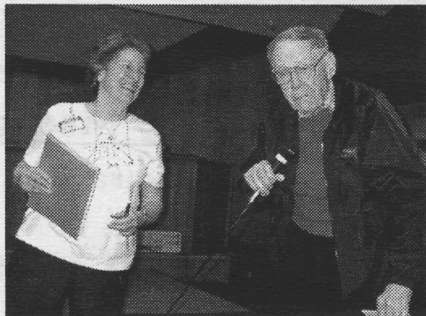
NEXT MEETING: Sunday, May 15, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the South San Francisco Senior Center, 33 Arroyo Drive, South SF

April Meeting Notes

Dennis Stoscher and I sort of shared the MC duties for this meeting. Dennis spoke first, telling about the recent concert of Stefan Hussong in San Jose (which Dick Schiller and I and also Steve Mobia attended—see article on page 4). Dennis also announced that he got a patent from the U.S. Patent Office. If I understood it even slightly, it has to do with an automatic tile-edging system using a special lift. (Dennis, I'll be glad to print a correction or clarification in the next issue if called for!) Anyway, congratulations, Dennis!

Then I (Val) got up and asked if we had any visitors—and lo and behold! We had **Roberto Rosa's** son, also named **Roberto**. Plus, we had two brand-new members, **Henry and Anna Nicora**. I also announced that the picnic is definitely ON, and the date has been changed to **July 9 at Oakland Nature Friends Park** (see announcement elsewhere in this issue).

It was great fun, as well as an honor, to help **Clyde Forsman** celebrate his **Big 90th** (!!) and present him with a birthday card from the club.



Happy Birthday Clyde!



John

some of the music. John played a lovely waltz that started out in minor key and moved to major key, with Lou backing him up. Then together they played *Cubanero*, followed by John solo playing a piece I also like to play on button-box (slightly different version), *Tex-Mex Polka*. Good show, John!

Next up was a long-time student of Lou's whom we have heard before: **Thor Miao**, who, Lou says, is a serious student of classical

music on accordion. Thor, playing a Giuliani accordion, greeted us with *Violin Concerto in E-minor, Op. 62, #1* by Mendelssohn (14 pages entirely from memory), followed by *Hungarian Rhapsody #2* by Franz Liszt, followed by Mag-nante's arrangement of *Come Back to Sorrento*. It's obvious that you work really hard, Thor. Those are not easy pieces! Thor, by the way, is a fourth year student at Laney College.

After Thor came the young man who undoubtedly is Lou's most famous student: **Jeremy Jeans**. Those of us who have been in this club for a number of years have watched and listened as Jeremy progressed from a little guy whose feet wouldn't even reach the floor to the poised and confident young man he is today. He is a senior in high school and an Eagle Scout. He is active in "Scoutreach," a program that gives kids something to do so they stay off the streets. Jeremy plays organ, piano and drums and also track, basketball and football. He will attend Chabot College next year and hopes to take up his dad's contractor business. Well, let's get to the musical part: Jeremy hated playing chords and scales early on, but his hard work has paid off. First he played, on his Bugari accordion, *Up A Lazy River*, including some pretty fancy runs and other effects, backed up by Lou. Then he played *St. Louis Blues* with Lou, including some impressive "reed bending," and a driving rhythm. Jeremy said he likes to play really fast as it covers up a lot of mistakes. Well, it was fast, all right, as he knocked everyone over with *Dizzy Fingers!*

With his public demanding an encore, Jeremy obliged with *Accordion Boogie*, played together with Lou. I right away recognized many elements of *Bumble Boogie* that I used to play on piano a zillion years ago. And it was another fast one! I wonder what we'll hear from Jeremy in coming years. We'll all be eager to find out!

Next, **Lou Jacklich** himself did some soloing for us. I missed some of the names, but I know he played the beautiful "On the Trail" from *Grand Canyon Suite*, including some unusual effects. He played a series of familiar melodies that included samples of, among others, *Holiday for Strings*, "Camp Granada," *Pietro's Return*, and then the ever-popular *Malagueña*.

Dennis Stoscher was so impressed with Lou's students that he offered to donate a round-trip air ticket to Michigan for the AAA competition! Very, very generous, Dennis!

John Remenarich won a bottle of wine, **Maxine Mallouf** also won a door prize, **Rita D'Amico** got her pick of CD's, and **Elsie Euing** got Henry Doktorski's Christmas CD (which I have, and it's really lovely).

Intermission found us gobbling up **The Benedettos'** yummy home-made cupcakes, and an array of sandwiches and salads. I just can't get over how much **Fran** and **Domenic** give of themselves for each of our meetings. What great friends they are!



Lou and Jeremy



Lou and Thor

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from preceding page)

The \$38 drawing was won by **David Deanda**.

Following the break we were treated to **Roberto Rosa** and his famous MIDI system, an Elkavox/Iorio from the 80's with MIDI conversion and sound module. Roberto says he likes to mix MIDI with acoustic for a special sound. He played *Domino*, *Bourresque*, *Una Mañana* ("One Morning," a bossa nova from Brazil that also resembled a cha-cha-cha). He also played *Cuándo*, *Anema e Core*, *One-Note Samba*, and a couple of others whose names I didn't get. Thanks so much, Roberto!



Roberto

Well, we had to "close down the hall" at 5:00 but could have gone on much longer!
Val

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!!!!

The SFAC Annual Picnic date has been changed due to a conflict with the date of the picnic of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods.

Our picnic will take place on
SATURDAY, JULY 9 from 10:00 on
Nature Friends Park in the Oakland Hills
See flyer enclosed with this newsletter.

COME ONE, COME ALL!!!

BRING THE KIDDIES!!! Kids under 14 get in free and get free hot dogs!

There's something for everyone, kids and adults alike—and Music, music, music!!!

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JULY!!!

Our Thoughts . . .

. . . are with **Frank Montoro** and his family as Frank's daughter Barbara is very ill. We shall certainly be missing Frank in both ensembles until this sad situation improves and he can return to play with us.

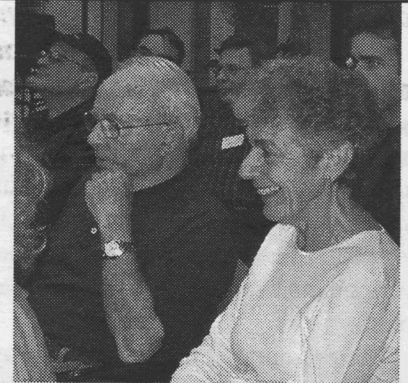
. . . are with **the Di Bono family** as Pres. Peter and brother Reno Di Bono's dad, SFAC member **Tony Di Bono**, is quite ill.

On a Happier Note . . .

Isabelle Massolo has had very successful cataract surgery and is discovering all over again what the world looks like bright and clear!

Welcome New Members

The SFAC heartily welcomes new members **Henry and Anna Nicora** of Daly City, who are friends and neighbors of **Dominic Palmisano**. We hope to see them often at our meetings!



New Members Henry and Anna Nicora

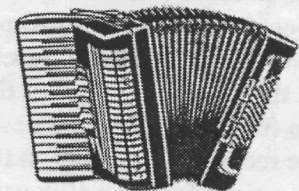
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Stefan Hussong Concert

By Steve Mobia

A very special event took place on Sunday evening, April 10. Stefan Hussong, easily one of the world's greatest accordionists, put on a solo show in San Jose's Le Petit Trianon Concert Hall, known for its classical chamber music concerts.

The hall was packed. A curious audience, many not at all familiar with the accordion in a classical context, were given a highly varied program, darting from baroque to tango to avant-garde. So few Americans have heard the accordion used this way that I'm sure many at the concert were shaken up, not only by Hussong's artistry but by the versatility and dynamic range of the accordion. Many ears were opened for the first time to the potential of the instrument.

The pre-concert talk was given by Roger Emanuels, a man steeped in musical education but who, until then, had never taken the accordion seriously. It's true that the lack of classical virtuosos in the Bay Area has limited the public's access to such music. I mentioned to Hussong during his post-concert discussion that he should send over a few of his students to reside here (he's also a professor of accordion at a college in Wurzburg, Germany).

Though at first the program might have appeared a little schizo, it was carefully picked by Hussong to show the similarities within the differences. It was a

symmetrical arrangement before and after the intermission. Both the first and second half began with a soft, contemplative piece followed by a Bach chorale. Also included in each half was a tango-inspired piece, a highly exploratory, unconventional piece—and both halves concluded with a stately sonata from the 18th century.

Hussong while performing was very much at one with his instrument. Particularly in the wildly dissonant *High Way for One* by Adriana Hoelszky, there was a union of musician and instrument rarely witnessed on stage. Despite a double jet lag (Hussong flew from Germany to Japan to San Jose) and a sudden change in the program (a cellist, Julius Berger, was originally to perform as well), his handling of the diverse material rarely flagged.

Since the ancient ancestor of the accordion was the Japanese *Sho* (the same as the Chinese *Sheng*), a mouth organ with free reeds, Hussong began the program with a traditional *sho* piece from the 10th century. Its quiet tones emanated from the high reeds to give an authentic sound to this meditative, atmospheric music.

It was interesting to note that the most unusual material in the concert was written by women: Sofia Gubaidulina and Adriana Hoelszky. Gubaidulina's *De Profundis* in par-

ticular is a work of awesome scope and emotional power and has achieved great status as a test piece in international accordion competitions. Many players have recorded it, but Hussong is the only one I've heard perform this difficult work on a piano keyboard accordion. Its use of breathing sounds, deep bending notes and tremolo clusters have inspired a generation of composers writing for the instrument. Hoelszky's *High Way for One* was a distillation of a larger piece written for accordion and 19 instruments. Its harmonic density and impulsive energy were a wonder to behold.



Steve Mobia and Stefan Hussong

Another highlight of the show was *Fantango*, written by Jukka Tiensuu in 1984. The title derives from "fantasy" and "tango" and aptly describes the craziest, most complex tango-derived piece I've ever heard. Other tangos in the program were written by Isaac Albeniz and Igor Stravinsky and served to illustrate how broad a range the form could encompass.

Though John Cage is often the whipping boy for some who dislike his worship of noise and chance, his *Dream* from 1948 was among the most euphonious pieces in the program, with its gentle, serene melodic line and open consonances. Other mellifluous works included Scarlatti's C Major Sonata and the familiar *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* by J. S. Bach.

A 1967 Hohner Gola was his instrument of choice (he owns two Golas). It featured three rows of "free bass" notes alongside the traditional 6-row "Stradella" buttons, giving Hussong easy access to both systems without reliance on a switch. SM

A Further Note from Val . . .

Dick Schiller and I also attended the concert. I was struck by the fact that Hussong is a fairly young man, in his early 40's, and so will have many years to show the world what the accordion can do. In the post-concert informal Q&A session, Hussong demonstrated the very broad range and the layout of the basses; indicated that he prefers acoustic accordion and has no interest in any electronic sounds; described reed-bending and how it works (best only on very low notes). I was gratified to see how many non-accordion people stayed around for the Q&A session and were totally fascinated.

Signs of (Old) Times . . .

His cheek was rough . . . His chick vamoosed
And now she won't . . . Come home to roost

Burma-Shave

On curves ahead . . . Remember, Sonny
That rabbit's foot . . . Didn't save the bunny

Burma-Shave

The place to pass . . . On curves, you know
Is only at . . . A Beauty show

Burma-Shave



**NOTES ABOUT THE EVENING ENSEMBLE
and the FUN BAND:**

Beginning this month (May 2005) the club's Evening Ensemble with Joe Smiell will hold rehearsals at the home of Ed and Isabelle Massolo, 612 Lassen Street, South San Francisco. Rehearsals are normally on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, although the Ensemble is on hiatus for the moment. Members will be notified of the next rehearsal. Directions are simple: From 280 take the Westborough Ave. exit and drive east to El Camino. Turn right (south) on El Camino for several blocks to Ponderosa Road. Turn right on Ponderosa and continue past the school to Lassen Street; turn right on Lassen and drive to the cul-de-sac at the end. 612 is on the right of the cul-de-sac and is well marked.

The Fun Band will continue to meet at the Hope Church in Daly City on the second and fourth Wednesdays.

SPEAKING OF THE FUN BAND, the group has been invited to play several jobs this summer. We'll be playing at the Day of the Accordion at the Cannery in San Francisco at noon Sunday, June 5; at the Petaluma Accordion Celebration Saturday, June 25, and in Marin County at two venues in August—these will be announced in the newsletter this summer.

Word Has It . . .

. . . that SFAC member **Joe Domitrowich** has a brand new CD out called "Something for Everyone." It includes some beautiful and familiar music such as *Dark Eyes, Czardas, Train Ride, Take 5, Sixteen Tons, Blue Danube Waltz* plus some Italian and some Latin. Joe will be playing at our **Picnic** July 9, so *don't miss it!*

. . . that **Clyde Forsman** has turned 90 years old (young)!! What a guy! He acquired his first accordion—a 12-bass purchased from a Montgomery Ward catalog—at the age of 17. He was a founder of Those Darn Accordions, which also included Linda Seekins ("Big Lou"), Tom Torriglia and Ron Borelli!

. . . that **China** is now considered the "unknown superpower of accordion," and has the largest population of accordionists, estimated to be larger than the sum total of accordionists in all the rest of the world!

. . . that **Tom Torriglia's** big accordion festival at The Cannery in San Francisco on June 5 includes the **SF Main Squeeze Pageant**. Tom is looking for contestants. Contestants come onstage, explain why they should be SF's Main Squeeze, play a tune for the assembled multitude and dazzle the audience with their fabulous outfits. Lots of prizes to be won for the top three contestants. Contest open to men/women/children of any age who have not won in the last 5 years. Contact tom at tom@ladyofspain.com. By the way, our own SF Accordion Band (a.k.a. the Fun band) will be performing at the festival at noon, so come on down and support your club band!

. . . that **Jason Webley** will be making a Northern California tour from May 7 till May 15, if you like avant-garde music. www.jasonwebley.com.

. . . That SFAC member **Henry Doktorski** has published an 11,228 word book with 20 full-page photographs, *The Brothers Deiro and Their Accordions*. \$20 postpaid, order directly from Henry Doktorski, 142 Holly Hill Drive, Oakdale, PA 15071 or through his Website www.henrydoktorski.com or call (724) 693-8752. It's 40 pages, 8 1/2 x 11; soft cover.



**Quotes from Kids in a Primary School project
about "the Sea"**

"I like mermaids. They are beautiful, and I like their shiny tails. How do mermaids get pregnant?" (*Helen, age 6*)

"If you're surrounded by sea you are an island. If you don't have sea all around you, you are in continent." (*Wayne, age 7*)

"When ships had sails, they used to use the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes, when the wind didn't blow, the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would be better off eating beans." (*William, age 7*)

"Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting. Electric eels can give you a shock. They have to live in caves under the sea where I think they have to plug themselves into chargers." (*Christopher, age 5*)

"When I grow up, I want to be captain of a big ship, and have lots of sailors." (*Valerie, age 6*)

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Study Accordion in Alaska this summer!



Come study accordion in the "Land of the Midnight Sun" with Henry Doktorski, at the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival to be held at the scenic University of Alaska Fairbanks Campus from Sunday, July 17 through Sunday, July 31, 2005. Doktorski, a well-known concert accordionist, recording artist, and educator, will teach group classes and private lessons for beginner through advanced students, including diverse styles such as folk, popular, jazz, and classical. Teacher and students will also perform in recital.

In addition to enjoying the spectacular scenery, the incredibly long daylight hours, and the accordion, there will be plenty to do at the arts festival, which features multifarious activities in music (strings, woodwinds, guitar, harp, piano, voice, percussion, jazz, and theory), theater, dance, opera, story telling, creative writing, healing arts, visual arts, and ice skating!

Comfortable and inexpensive housing is available at the University of Alaska campus. For more information, visit the Festival's web site, or contact Jo Ryman Scott, founder and producing director, at the address listed below.

Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival
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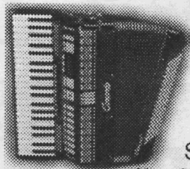


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San Francisco Accordion Club

Our New Home and New Meeting Schedule!!
Since February 2005 the SFAC meets on the

Third Sunday of the month

2:00 p.m. South San Francisco Senior Center in the
South San Francisco Municipal Building
33 Arroyo Drive, South San Francisco
For Info call any board member.

NO MEETING IN JULY because of the Picnic

East Bay Accordion Circle

Meets the THIRD TUESDAY of the month 7:30 p.m.
1540 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. Bring your accordion!
For information call (510) 548-2822

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

Meets 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma
For information call Harry (707) 838-2859

Golden State Accordion Club

Vacaville Chapter

Meets 7 PM

the second Tuesday of the month

Moose Hall, 6585 Gibson Canyon Road

Sacramento Chapter

meets 7 PM

the fourth Wednesday

at Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd. Sacramento

For information call (707) 864-2359

Northern California Accordion Society

Meets 7 PM the third Thursday of the month
Venita Rhea's Restaurant, 4415 Granite Dr., #1500,
Rocklin, CA

Info: Call Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041

Good Time Accordion Club

Meets 7 p.m. the second Wednesday
of the month

Community Center

1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon

For information call (209) 545-3603

Medford Accordion Club

(See announcement below, right)

Contact: Joe Zajac, 424 Girard Dr., Medford, OR
97504; (541) 779-3420 or zajac@aol.com

South Bay Accordion Jam

Third Sunday of the month 2:00 p.m.

Location of meeting varies; for info call

Victor Corsiglia (408) 554-6275 or

Bill Tapogna (408) 984-5290.

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

Meets on the first Sunday of the Month

2:00 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau Restaurant

390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose

(between 280 and Stevens Creek Blvd.)

For Info Phone (408) 270-5003

SFAC Evening Ensemble Practice

New Location beginning May 2005: at the home of Ed and

Isabelle Massolo, 612 Lassen Street,

South San Francisco

First and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

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

SFAC Band Practice

New Days!

Second and Fourth Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

Hope Lutheran Church, 55 San Fernando Way,

Daly City

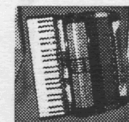
NOTE ABOUT

TEACHER LISTINGS:

Please hold onto your old newsletters for the teacher listings, as that is an item we'll need to cut out of the newsletter for a while. If you need names and phone numbers of accordion teachers in the Bay Area (San Francisco/North peninsula, North Bay, East Bay, Peninsula and South Bay) please contact Val at (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@value.net.

The ACE Ensemble

... gave another very successful concert on Saturday, April 17 in Redwood City. Our thanks to those club members who attended. We hope and trust that you enjoyed the concert!



Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 5: 15th Annual San Francisco Accordion Festival at The Cannery, noon-6:00 p.m., celebrating National Accordion Awareness Month as well as highlighting San Francisco's official musical instrument. The event is free. For info call Tom Torriglia (415) 771-3112 or e-mail tom@ladyofspain.com. **Our own Fun Band will be playing at noon!**

June 5-10: Rose City Accordion Club Accordion Camp, Silver Falls, Oregon. For info call Geoff Levear (503) 293-0322.

Sunday, June 12, 11:00-4:00: Golden State Accordion Club's Annual Picnic, Pippo's Ranch, Vacaville. Call Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359; e-mail accordioncarole@aol.com.

June 15-19, 2005: Accordionists & Teachers Guild Festival, Richardson, TX featuring first-time-ever **Art Van Damme International Jazz Competition**. Info: John Simkus (847) 683-2528; simkus@mc.net.

Saturday, June 25, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.: Third Annual **Day of the Accordion Celebration** in Petaluma, held in two downtown locations: Putnam Plaza and Petaluma Historical Library & Museum. For info or to participate call Tom Cordoni (707) 762-2231. **Our Fun Band will be playing!**

July 4-9, 2005: 31st Annual Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Championships (KIOTAC) festival, Kimberley, B.C., Canada. Reservation deadline May 31. See Val for registration form, or call (888) 454-6822. E-mail info@kiotac.ca; Website www.kiotac.ca.

Saturday, July 9, 2005: NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!!! SF Accordion Club Picnic, Nature Friends Park in the Oakland Hills. **Save the date! THERE WILL BE NO JULY MEETING!**

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

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

Who Is Playing Where ...

Editor's Note: It has been fun including the playing dates and locations of our various Bay Area accordion artists. However, at least for now, I will offer you names and phone numbers to call to *find out where your favorite player is performing*. Anyone wishing to have his/her name added to this list, please contact Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@value.net.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Admission to Meetings: \$5.00

Ad Policy

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$5.00 per issue; a business-card-size ad will cost \$5.00 per issue or \$50.00 per year; a quarter-page ad will cost \$10.00; a half-page ad will cost \$20.00; and a full-page ad will cost \$35.00. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$20. The cost for ads placed by non-members will be twice the above-quoted prices.

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NEXT MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO SENIOR CENTER
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
33 ARROYO DRIVE, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO



Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club

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