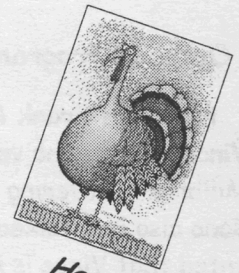


Happy Thanksgiving



Happy Thanksgiving

*Official Instrument of San Francisco
1912 ♪ The World's First Accordion Club ♪ 2007*

NOVEMBER 18 MUSIC:

*Gino Bagala, young talent from the North Bay
Sheri Mignano of Zighi Baci
John Pedone of the SF Starlight Orchestra
Mario Pedone, great performer from Texas*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the past seventeen years we have had the fortune of having many outstanding accordionists play for us at our club. They have come to us from several European countries and from all over our nation to perform at our monthly meetings. Along with our local musicians, they have not only entertained us royally but they have opened the world of the accordion by demonstrating its universality. We know these artists by name and they know us too.

We are richer for the experience but, along with the pleasure they bring us, there is also somewhat of a downside. We could easily become intimidated and reluctant to play at our club for fear of being compared with them. This is unfortunate. Each player, whether professional or amateur, is an individual with unique skills and only he/she stands before you at that time of performance to share their talent.

We encourage all players to take the opportunity and the challenge of performance at our club. We can assure them that they will enjoy the experience. And by the way, we have not heard from some of you in

some time, and we welcome your return.

Joe Smiell has a suggestion for those of you who don't feel at home before an audience: Don't play your most difficult pieces! Play the ones you most enjoy. Chances are your audience will enjoy them too.

On another subject, we are trying to draw up a list of those of you who give your time and talent to play at senior centers and convalescent hospitals. You are among the most unsung and unappreciated of all of us. Anyone who has performed this service in a community knows that there is no greater pleasure than to bring joy to people who need it most. We see it in their faces and they are saying "thank you."

We are starting with a partial list with a few names and hoping to add more each month as we hear about them. **Tony Di Bono, Jim Firpo and Walter Traverso** have given countless hours in the past but are no longer active, and we thank them for their generosity. Currently we know the following members are performing this service: **Gwyn Lister, Val Kieser, William de Michelis, Bob Smith, Sue Hirigoyen, Peter Di Bono.** *Let us know who you are so we can add you to our list!*

Frank Montoro

Directions to Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd., South San Francisco

From 101 traveling either north or south, take Oyster Point exit. Turn right on Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right on Gull Drive, just before Marina Blvd.). Continue past gate house to sign "Oyster Point Yacht Club." There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

Our Website www.sanfranciscoaccordionclub.com is incomplete and under construction

October Program: A very interesting Variety

President **Frank Montoro** passed on greetings from **Vince Cirelli**, who very sadly is in Peninsula Hospital in Millbrae recovering from a badly broken hip. **Peter Di Bono** also had talked with Vince earlier today and indicated that Vince is in a lot of pain but seems to be on the mend. Well, Vince, we send *you our* heartfelt wishes for a speedy and complete recovery. We all miss you!

Frank asked if we had any first-timers in the audience (we did), and if there were members from other clubs (there were several: from Accordion Club of the Redwoods, Silicon Valley Accordion Society and, two of our stars, Mike and Steve Trucco from the Good Time Accordion Club).

Frank also made a plea for people not to be shy about playing for our club—it is for everyone, not just experienced players. Frank then thanked **Peter Di Bono** for all his help in making the transition to the presidency a smooth one, and for helping with the sound system.

Peter also acted as our MC today.

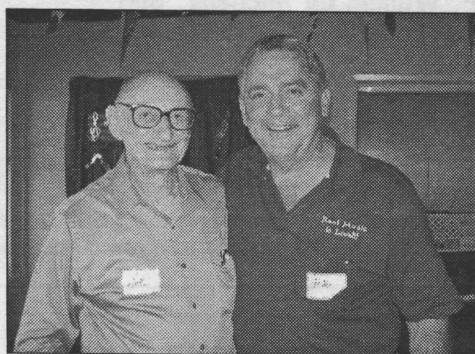
First on our musical program was **Sol Fenster**, a faithful member and an expert harmonica player!

Sol told us that

he is playing a small harmonica which he uses mostly for Yiddish tunes. His first tune was about a Jewish mother who just might have been the inspiration for Al Jolson's "Mammy." Then he played a balalaika song that is usually sung in a group: "Tomba-la-tomba-lalaika, happy we'll be," followed by *Bei Mir Bist du Schoen* and a Yiddish lullaby about a sleepy child.

Sol said this is a new harmonica, and he played music from many countries: *Never On Sunday* (Greek);

Santa Lucia (Italian); *Du, Du* (German drinking and love song); *Chiapanecas* (Mexican and not to be confused with the Mexican Hat Dance); *Tennessee Waltz* and



Sol and Peter

Jump Down, Turn Around (from the South); *This Land Is Your Land* and a folk dance done in a circle while holding hands.

Sol told us he is self-taught on harmonica, using the Hohner instruction book. You learned well, Sol—and



Naomi Zamir

thanks for playing for us!

Peter announced that our Fun Band won second for our float in the Columbus Day Parade! (Yes, we are very proud.)

Naomi Zamir from Menlo Park was our next player. The first thing she did was thank Sol because Naomi's father played harmonica.

Naomi continued the theme begun by Sol, by playing some beautiful

Klezmer, Gypsy and Eastern European music. Her first piece was "Have a Glass of Wine," a medley of varied tempos, major and minor, and some nice bass runs. The next piece, of which Naomi didn't know the name, was one she learned at a Klezmer camp in Canada. It's in both minor and major keys and very lively.

Naomi's last piece was music from a Balkan camp "mixed up with other stuff." Naomi does all her playing standing up and without even looking at the keyboard! Well, that very small accordion has a big sound and was beautifully played for us. Many thanks, Naomi!

Lynn Ewing and **Sharon Walters Greyhosky** need no introduction in our club! They played a brand new special program for us today. First was the *Big Chuch Tarantella* written by Stas Venglevski for John Bonica up in Portland. My understanding is that "chuch" means "donkey" so I suspect this was all in fun. The piece contained both minor and major segments.

Then they played the lovely *Beautiful Days*, Galla-Rini arrangement (but written by Pietro Deiro). Wow! What a beautiful waltz piece!

Stas Venglevski recorded a CD, "Illusions," about various animals. This one was *Cat's Ball* from that CD. The piece, again, contains both minor and major parts. Lynn started off the piece with a big "Hissss" and ended it with a "Meow." Adorable!

Sharon and Lynn then played another piece from Stas' "Illusions": *While I'm Away*, containing a modest and effective bit of bellow shake in each part, and with a beautiful ending.

Next they played Galla-Rini's arrangement of Calibes'



Lynn Ewing and Sharon Walters Greyhosky

Maids of Cadiz. We're heard them play this beautiful piece before, and it never wears out.

Lynn and Sharon's grand finale was Joe

Smiell's

"Phrasing Exercise 35," a.k.a. "Russian Roulette." Joe writes beautiful music (instead of drills) for his exercises, to which he assigns numbers. The pieces being too lovely to be considered exercises, we often end up giving them names and performing them as regular pieces. This is one of those pieces, and it is truly beautiful. Thanks once again, Lynn and Sharon, for another great performance.

Following Intermission, the drawing for door prizes was held, and winners were **Barbara Corsiglia** and **Fred Madalena**. Then came the drawing for the Big Prize of \$110, won by—*ta-dal*—Pres. **Frank Montoro** who, with red face, graciously refused the prize. So that drawing was held again, and this time, one of our most loyal members and also a member of the Fun Band, **Gwyn Lister** won! Gwyn also graciously donated \$100 back to the club—saving the other \$10 to buy a drink for Frank!

Before the music program resumed, Val, noticing that there were several Fun Band members present, got up to thank them for working together to win us the Second Prize in the Columbus Day parade in SF.

Continuing the music program, we had the tremendous pleasure of hearing **Steve and Mike Trucco**, a father-and-son duo from Stockton who never fail to bring the house down wherever they play. Steve (father) plays an Excelsior and Mike (son) plays an Ar-

peggio accordion, and what a sound they make together! They started off with a very lovely Italian waltz called (if I got it right) *Bocce Teresa*.



Mike & Steve Trucco

They continued with some all-time favorites, *La Compagnola*, *Flight of the Angels* (beautiful job!), *Spanish Eyes*, and a few bars of *Lady of Spain* for laughs. Then they played a medley of Italian polkas, "Masquerade Polka," followed by the beautiful *Tango of Roses*, *That's Amore* with vocal by Mike (I loved watching Jim Firpo clapping during this one!), *Julieta Polka* which was sung by both Steve and Mike and included audience participation (singing). They played a waltz that they dedicated to someone whose name I didn't get (was it Bill Topogna?), *I Left My Heart in San Francisco* with vocal by Mike, *Carnival of Venice*, *Tic-Toc Polka* which morphed into *Beer Barrel Polka* and then a bridge back to *Tic-Toc Polka*, including a nice bellow shake. It was great hearing the Italians in the audience singing along with Mike!

Their encore was *Maccolin de Fiore* (forgive my lack of knowledge of Italian spelling). Terrific show, as always, Mike and Steve!

We have another outstanding show planned for November (see elsewhere in this newsletter)—and don't forget the Christmas party on December 16! There will be some surprises for everyone, and lots of beautiful music played by the Fun Band, the Button Box Ensemble, and the ACE Ensemble plus a couple of now-traditional individual performances. Val



Left: Jim Holliday and Lou Di Maggio
Above: Frank Schlotter and Bob Smith
Right: Bob, Sharon, Val, Jonelle

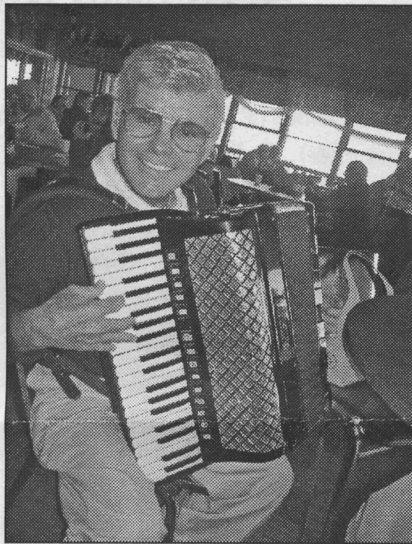




"Afterglow" in the lounge with Sharon playing



Jim Firpo and William De Michelis



Lou Di Maggio



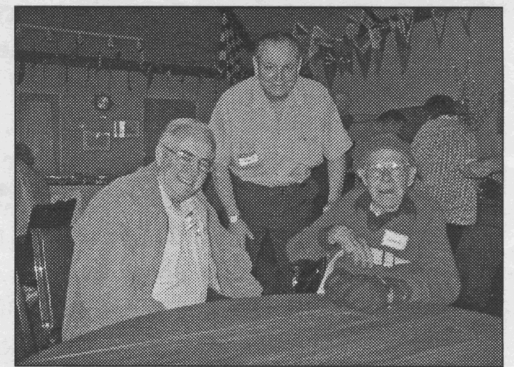
Sumptuous Buffet



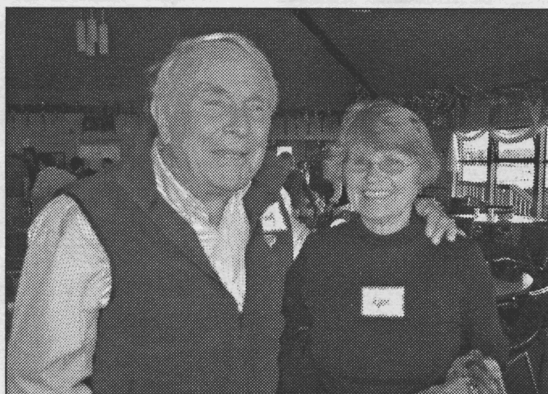
Barbara Dimattei and Lou Fabbri

Welcome New Members . . .

Dr. Martin Griffin of Belvedere phoned me to ask questions about how to learn to play his Hohner button box. I couldn't help him with that particular type of button box, but I told him about our club and sent him the latest newsletter. I was so happy to find **Martin and Joyce** at our music meeting—and they joined on the spot! A big, hearty **Welcome Aboard to Marty and Joyce!** I hope we'll see you often!



Bob Smith, Frank Schlotter, Clyde Forsman



Welcome also to **Salane Schultz**. Salane was a student of Lou Soper, and played for the club once while Lou was still with us. She stopped taking lessons when Lou was unable to teach anymore. Val ran into her in a restaurant in Alameda where Salane works, and Salane came over and re-introduced herself. She is getting back into accordion playing by starting up lessons with **Lou Jacklich**. She is a good friend and occasional helper of **Kimric Smythe** at his accordion shop in Oakland. Salane sent me more info than I have room for here, but she has a lot of experience. She is her own solo band called "Salane & Friends" where she plays two keyboards, effects, pedals, original vocals, and accordion! Plus she is also an artist. Her Website is www.missalaneous.com.



*The San Francisco
Accordion Chamber Ensemble*

Presents

*A concert of classical, semiclassical
and folk music*

*Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd., Piedmont
(below Highway 13, north side of street)
2:30 p.m. Sunday, November 25, 2007*

Suggested Donation \$10

*Ensemble Members: Aldo Argenti, Jr., Peter Di Bono, Reno Di Bono,
Mary-Alice Eldon, Lynn Ewing, Sharon Walters Greyhosky,
Ron Harris, Marian Kelly, Valerie Kieser, Debbie Knapp, Nora Mazzara,
Kevin McCarthy (Percussion), Anne Métais, Frank Montoro, Robert Smith (on bass).
Music Director: Joe Smiell. Librarian: Chris Arild*



ACE Ensemble News . . .

In addition to the concert in Piedmont shown at left, the ACE Ensemble will also be performing at the Silicon Valley Accordion Society meeting on December 2.

We hope to see you at one or the other!

The Ensemble has also begun (finally!) making our first CD. We've recorded three songs and will be making more recordings, three pieces at the time, until we have a CD. Too late for Christmas, but we hope to have our CD ready in early 2008.

Word Has It . . .

. . . That **Clyde Forsman** was spotted at our October music meeting, looking chipper and enjoying the show (see photo page 4)!

. . . That **Vince Cirelli** is working hard at getting well, and meanwhile we all miss him.

. . . That **Ernst Angst** gave us another scare by landing in the hospital again. He's home now, sporting a pace-maker, which should improve his health and life considerably. Get well quick, Ernst!

. . . That **Telmo Echeverría** is enjoying a visit in Brazil and will be back by the end of the month. I'll miss his help this month with all the stuff I have to carry to the music meeting, as well as his help with the newsletter!

. . . That **Don Nurisso** will be participating in a jazz concert at City College of San Francisco on Tuesday, December 11 at 8:00 p.m. Don will be featured in a special arrangement of *Blues for Wolfie*, an original composition by Frank Marocco.

. . . That the **Fun Band** is working on the Christmas program and has several good numbers lined up for performances next year.

. . . That **Bruno Bianchini** was back to attending the SVAS Nov. meeting—and looking good!

. . . That Val received a nice letter from **Leo Aquino**, notable accordion performer up in Vancouver, B.C. Leo wrote that he has sold his home and is now living in it as a renter, which gives him a chance to relax after 46 years. He adds, "I had a marvelous time in Las Vegas in July—met up with many fine fellow accordionists—and I performed a solo concert, and gave two workshops. . . One of my workshops devoted a large segment addressing the subject to 'Self-Esteem,' ... a big problem in this very competitive world. . . More of this subject should be taught to children growing up. . . I enjoyed socializing with **Art Van Damme** and **Mady and Peter Soave**. I took some great photos of them, and **Ron Borelli** and **Pete Barbutti** and **Walter Ostanek**, and I must mention an OUTSTANDING accordion trio called SOUNDSCAPE (John and Madalynn Neu, and Larry Miller) (*Note from Val: I'm familiar with this trio and they are great!*). . . All in all, it was quite an experience. . . ." Leo included the brochure of his CD's, which includes his Website www.leoaquino.ca. On that Website you'll hear some sound-bytes. (*Val will bring the brochure to the November 18 music meeting.*) Good to hear from you, Leo! Let us know when you come down to California! We'd like you to play for us and maybe give a workshop too!

Your Executive Board Met . . .

. . . On Monday, October 22. The board worked on possible changes to By-Laws, budget for the coming year, our Website under construction, programs and plans for the Christmas party. Most renewals have come in, and we are in good financial shape.

About our performers for November . . .

You already know and have enjoyed tremendously **Gino Bagala** and **Sheri Mignano** of Zighi Baci. Both are from the North Bay. Gino is a young and talented student of **Bart Beninco**. Sheri not only has her wonderful performing group Zighi Baci (remember that wonderful tenor?), but she is also co-editor of the ACR newsletter, *The Reedwooder*.

John Pedone performs with the San Francisco Starlight Orchestra, an 18-piece orchestra that specializes in old-time ballroom music from the 20's, 30's, 40's and 50's and Big Band sounds. Well, we can't get the full orchestra, but it will be a wonderful treat to hear just John. For a treat, Google "SF Starlight Band" and listen to the clips.

Mario Pedone (the same last names are pure coincidence), most recently from Texas, has a very interesting story to tell. He performs all over the world in a variety of musical genres, from country/western to classical. He was born in Southern Italy, then moved with his family to Venezuela to escape the ravages of WWII. He studied with Miguel Casas Auge, the conductor of the Valencia Symphony. That maestro then referred him to Roberto Ruscitti, a renowned classical accordionist. Oh, there is so much more to Mario's story—maybe we can get him to us some of it! Anyway, Mario moved with his wife to Texas in 1981 and the rest, as they say, is history.

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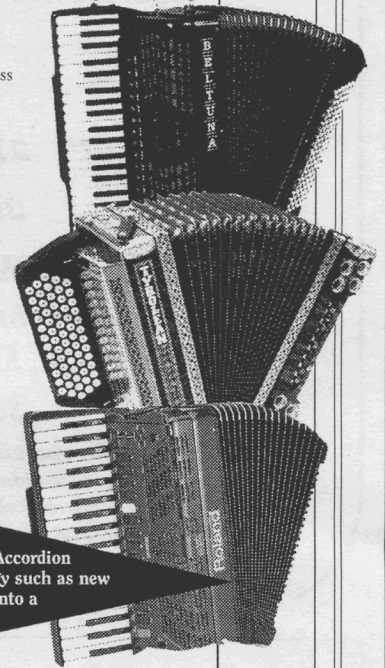
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When Do Our Fellow Accordion Clubs in the Bay Area (and slightly beyond) Meet?

Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR) regularly meets on the third Monday of the month, Hermann & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Contact: Kris Nelson krisnelson@aol.com or (707) 795-4860.

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) meets on the first Sunday of the month, 1:30 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue between Keily Blvd. and Stevens Creek Blvd. Contact: Bill Topogna (408) 984-5290.

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC) has three chapters: The Vacaville club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30, at a new location: Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main street, Vacaville. The Humboldt Club meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551. The Sacramento group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. Contact for all the GSAC Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359.

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC) meets on the second Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m. in the Music Auditorium, Escalon High School, Escalon (just east of the Community Center). This is a New Meeting Place beginning in October. Contact: (209) 545-3603.

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS) meets 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas Blvd, off Highway 80 in Granite Bay, CA. Note:

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- * Richard Denier in Carmel rdenier@sbcglobal.net * Peter Di Bono San Francisco peterdsf@gmail.com
- * Reno Di Bono South Bay ourhike@aol.com * William De Michelis South Bay wdd777@comcast.net
- * Joe Domitrowich South Bay www.capricious-accordion.com or www.alpinersusa.com * Don Nurisso nurisso@mindspring.com
- * Mike Zampiceni South Bay eclecticguy@comcast.net * Renée de la Prade Culann's Hounds, San Francisco www.sfhounds.com *
- * Zighi Baci San Francisco (Sheri Mignano) www.zighibaci.com or www.zighi@sonic.net

SFAC Band Practice

Wed., Nov. 28 & Dec. 12, 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's Home in Oakland
CALL AHEAD!! Please join us!
Info: call Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163 or Val (510) 531-4836
Or Valerie Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net

Our Sincere Thanks

To those who generously donate to the Club.

Each year we start a new cumulative list of donors. If you donate and your name doesn't show up in this column, please call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net and let me know. We want to be sure you are recognized! Thanks! So far this year your Editor has learned of donations from

Ray Abinanti, Leo Aquino, Thelma Bartoli (mem. Lou Soper), Lawrence Caserza, Peter Di Bono, Lynn Ewing, John Gullmes, Don Haga (mem. Lou Soper), Sue & Mike Hirigoyen, Val Kieser (mem. Lou Soper), Bruce Kirschner, Gwyn Lister, Herb Meier, James Monfredini, Frank Montoro, Sundi O'Mara, Vincent Rinaldi, Amil Samayoa (mem. Lou Soper), Paul Thiel, Louis Traverso, Scott Williamson, Lee & Walt Woodall, Richard Yaus, Mark Zhagel (3)

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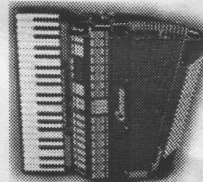
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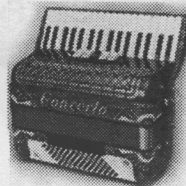
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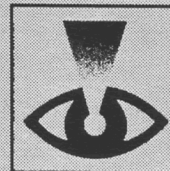
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 **NEXT MEETING:** 
2:00 p.m. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18
(Directions on page 1)

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