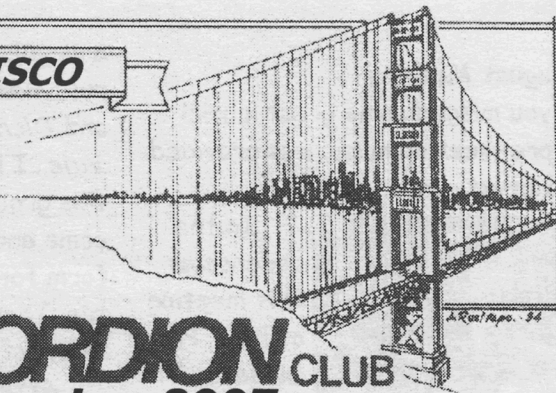


**ELECTION DIRECTORS & OFFICERS
SEPTEMBER MEETING!**

Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO



**VOLUNTEER
FOR YOUR
CLUB!!!**

ACCORDION CLUB
September 2007

Official Instrument of San Francisco
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SEPTEMBER 16 MEETING: NOMINATIONS WILL BE RE-DONE SINCE SOME NOMINEES WERE NOT PRESENT TO GIVE THEIR CONSENT AT THE LAST MEETING. FOLLOWING THE NOMINATIONS WE WILL HOLD THE ELECTION. PLEASE COME AND VOTE! THE BOARD'S RECOMMENDED SLATE OF NOMINEES WILL BE FOUND ON PAGE FIVE OF THIS NEWSLETTER!

MUSICAL PROGRAM:

Peter Di Bono's student Isaac Teich
Skyler Fell, our own local talent and accordion technician
Norma Zonay-Parsons from San Jose
Jana Maas from Escalon, Pres. of the Good Time Accordion Club



President's Message

Many chores are associated with this post that I have held these past four years, and most of them have been, if not enjoyable, then tolerable. There is one chore, however, that is not in either of those categories, and that is the writing of this article every month. Well, this is my last one, and I am ecstatic...YAHOO!!!

It has been an honor to serve in this post for the oldest accordion club in the entire world, The San Francisco Accordion Club. The Club has done well these four years, and will continue to do so. Our monthly get-togethers have been, with rare exceptions, wonderfully entertaining, upbeat, and each one a great afternoon of terrific, live music.

We've had to move a few times, that's always disruptive to every organization, but we survived. Our expenses got so high at one point, because of the rent we had to pay for a place to meet, that our outlook for continuing got pretty bleak, but we survived that too. We now have a wonderful home at The Oyster Point Yacht Club, thanks to Dick Schiller; let's hope we can stay here for a long time.

(Continued on page 7)

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

August Meeting

If you missed it, you missed some great music! Some really nice pre-meeting music was provided by **Sue Hirigoyen** and **Ernst Angst**.



Sue Hirigoyen and Ernst Angst

In the absence at this meeting of Pres. **Peter Di Bono**, VP **Joe Smiell** took the reins and announced our first musical performance of the day, a great trio of

Don Nurisso on accordion, **Bob Rizzetto** on bass, and **John Stafford** on clarinet and vocal. They played *Way Down Yonder in New Orleans* with vocal by John Stafford; *Up A Lazy River* with vocal by John Stafford; *Get Your Kicks on Route 66*; *Tea for Two/Isle of Capri* medley, very nicely arranged;

Darktown Strutters Ball with vocal by John Stafford; *Ain't She Sweet*; and *Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans* with vocal by John Stafford. We already know how



John Stafford, Bob Rizzetto, Don Nurisso

talented these men are because we've heard each of them many times before; playing together as a group they are sensational. Many thanks to all three of you!

Next on the program was the wonderful group, headed by SFAC member **Sheri Mignano**, called **Zighi Baci**, and they brought the house down! The other players were **Gianni Dolce** on acoustic rhythm guitar, and tenor **Carlo Solivan** who has one of the most beautiful voices you can ever imagine. They played *Tango Delle Capinere*, a tango with vocal that was exquisite; *Ti Voglio Tanto Bene* with vocal; *Amore, Scusami* (from the 50's) with vocal; *Romagna Mia* with

a singalong chorus; *Mamma! and Dicitencello Vuje*. I hope this group will come and perform for us often. They are terrific!

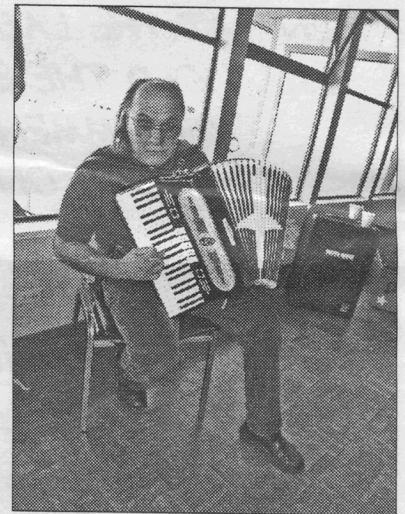
After the Intermission with all the wonderful goodies and camaraderie, and some music played by **Vinny Rindaldi**, the raffle was held. Two of the winners (I'm sure I didn't get them all) were **Lou Casalnuovo** and **David Deanda**.

(Nominations were held but according to our By-Laws they were invalid because of the absence of some of the nominees, so nominations and elections will both be held at the September meeting. You will find the board's recommended nominees elsewhere in this newsletter, and we have the consent of all the Board's nominees.)

Next on the musical program were the duo of **Ingrid Noyes** and **Michael Harmon**. Ingrid was the accordionist and Michael was the guitarist, and both did some vocals. This unusual team plays some "down home" music, some train music, some cowboy music, some Irish music—a wide variety of folk-type music. The pieces they played for us were: *West Virginia Polka*, written by Ingrid, who also did the vocal; *Cowboy Romeo* from the 40's, sung and yodeled by Michael; another original song by Ingrid, *Honey We Need a Wife*, a really cute and humorous song; *Pajama Tango*, sung by Michael, another humorous song; *There's Nothing As Sweet As My Baby*, a Hank Williams song sung by Ingrid; *I Want Those Trains Back*, written and sung by Ingrid; *Sunnydale* with words by Robert Service, Music by Michael and sung by Mi-



Zighi Baci: Carlo Solivan, Tenor; Sheri Mignano, Accordion; Gianni Dolce, Acoustic Rhythm Guitar



Vinny Rindaldi

(Continued next page)

(Continued from page 2)

chael, with three tunes interspersed: *The Gal I Left Behind Me*, *Kiowa Special*, and *Whistling at the Post Office* (the latter written by Ingrid); and finally, *Sunday River Waltz*, an instrumental composed by Pete Sutherland. Thanks to you both, and do come back!



Ingrid Noyes and Michael Harmon

Jerry Choate from Chico was in the area staying with family in Emeryville, and called to offer his talent at our meeting. I do enjoy Jerry's style as well as his choices of pieces to play. He started with Steve Balich's *Jennie's Mazurka*, written for Steve's beautiful wife Jennie; then a very lively *Always Happy Polka*; *Moonglow* from *Picnic*; the ever-popular *Daj Daj*, played by every button boxer; the beautiful *Canadian Sunset* (which I have been trying to learn myself, in a much simpler style); *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*; a medley



Jerry Choate

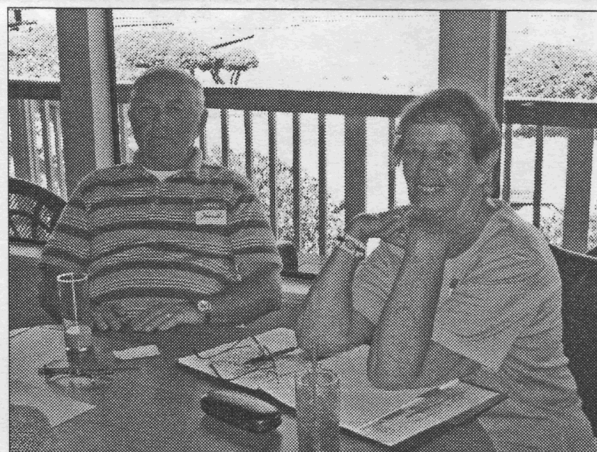
of *Spanish Eyes* and *More*, and a medley of *Sentimental Journey* and *After You've Gone*. Jerry's teacher was **John Molinari**, one of the most admired teachers of his day. Jerry, please let us know when you're down visiting your family again!

The meeting concluded, and some of us got together for some "afterglow" in the lounge.

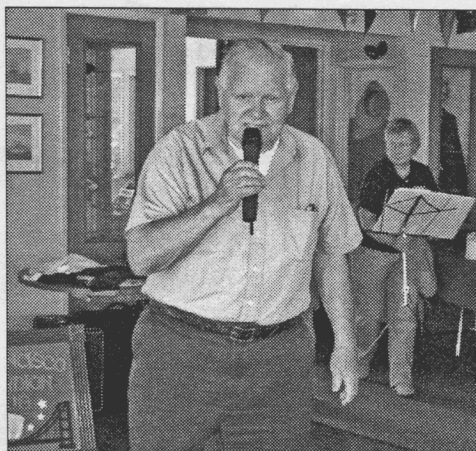
Val



Enjoying the Show



Harold and Lore Warren (Lore is our Secretary)



VP Joe Smiell our MC

Scandinavian Accordion Festival

SFAC member **Jerry Tramontozzi** of Massachusetts sent in a very nice article about — well, here's the gist (very much abbreviated): "Once upon a time the accordion was king. Now, many people consider it court jester. Yes, something happened. A musical coup occurred. Public opinion changed. And an instrument once widely appreciated fell from favor. However, (the town of) Foster is the site of tomorrow's Scandinavian Accordion Festival. 'People who criticize the accordion wish they could play it,' says accordionist Jerry Tramontozzi of Arlington, Mass., the Festivals' organizer. 'They really have not sat down and listened to an accordion.' 'Elvis came around with his guitar,' Tramontozzi says. 'He kind of took the thunder out of the accordion. So all the youngsters said, 'I want o play guitar.' Then the Beatles came along. And then youngsters said, "I want to play drums.' They want to play guitar and drums, rock n' roll. There goes the accordion.'

"Tramontozzi remains optimistic about the accordion's future. Even if teenagers and young adults aren't captivated now, 'I think we'll get them when they retire.'"

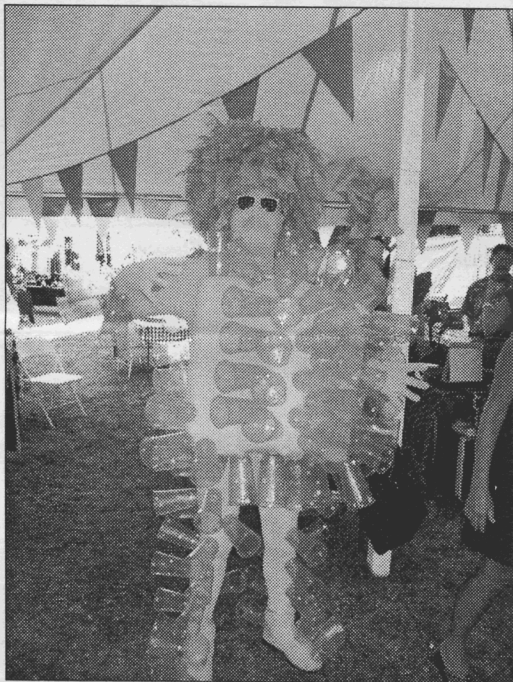
A Few Photos from Cotati . . .



Jam Tent: SFAC Members Heinz Trilck and Carole Enneking; Annie Uher



Jam led by SFAC member Vic Corsiglia



The Great Morgani

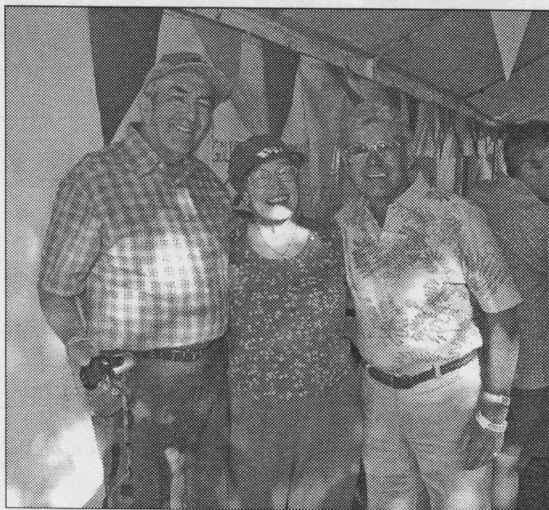


Sammy Thomas

I was at the Cotati Accordion Festival only on Saturday, and arrived late, so I didn't see much of the entertainment. These are a few snapshots that I took.

Carole Enneking was absolutely the star of the Jam Tent, which her club, the Golden State Accordion Club, sponsored. Carole and her crew did a fantastic job—and they had a PR table for all the clubs, which was a very nice gesture.

Val



Dick Myking from Seattle; Val Kieser; Lou Di Maggio

YES, IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!!

Renewal time, that is! If your label has a red ink "X" on it, it's time for you to renew. If it does NOT have any X on it, that means either: (1) You've overpaid and so your expiration date is extended; (2) you are an honorary or a lifetime member; or (3) someone gave you a membership as a gift. PLEASE DON'T PAY if your label does not have an "X"!!!

**Important Notice Concerning our
Nominations and Election**

According to the By-Laws and also common sense, we are canceling the nominations made at the August meeting, because several nominees were not present to consent to their nomination.

So, both Nominations and the Election will take place at the September meeting.

The Executive Board suggests the following slate of Officers and Directors (all nominees have given their consent):

President	Frank Montoro
Vice President	Valerie Kieser
Secretary	Lore Warren
Treasurer	Maryanne Romanowski
Directors-at-Large:	
	Judy Dale
	Telmo Echeverría
	Lynn Ewing
	Sharon Walters Greyhosky

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

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FUTURE OF OUR CLUB**

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Upcoming Events . . .

Northern California Accordion Society Fifth Annual Accordion Festival Saturday, September 22 at Springview Park in Rocklin, CA. For info:

www.ncasonline.org.

Dick Contino Free Concert Saturday, September 29 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at John Muir Amphitheater in Waterford Park in Martinez.

Don't miss it!



Irving Berlin plays the piano, accompanied on the accordion by Fred Astaire, between scenes on the set of 'Top Hat' (1935). Berlin wrote the score for the movie musical.

Thanks to Barbara Winter for this wonderful photo of Fred Astaire on accordion and Irving Berlin on piano. It was part of a wonderful article by Ken Emerson, writing about a Random House book, *The House that George Built, with a Little Help from Irving, Cole, and a Crew of About Fifty*, by Wilfred Sheed (335 pages, \$29.95). "So many opera stars and aging rockers are riffing through the Great American Songbook these days that it's only a matter of time before Renée Fleming and Rod Stewart record a duet of "Side by Side." Wilfred Sheed's more expert review of the popular music standards of the first half of the 20th century—and the (mostly) men who composed them—is thus especially welcome...

"Mr. Sheed's chapters are character sketches as well as musical appreciations. When a songwriter's personality leaves him cold, his consideration of the music can be baffled or begrudging.... He lambastes the suburban sound of Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1950s musicals as a betrayal of Broadway's urbanity.

"Mr. Sheed greatly prefers the company of composers fresh off the boat from Eastern Europe (Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Harold Arlen) or the train from the American hinterland (Carmichael, Johnny Mercer, Cole Porter)." Sounds like an interesting book! (I must admit that I haven't figured out who "George" refers to, unless it's Gershwin!) Val

Condensed from *A Completely Personal and Non-Objective Report of my Experience at Coupe Mondiale*

By Lynn Ewing

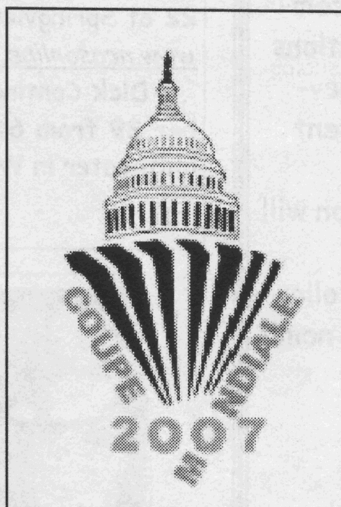
An intrepid group of five Northern Californians—Lynn and Gail Ewing, Sharon and Gus Greyhosky, and Marian Kelly traveled to the Washington, D.C. area for the World Cup Accordion Competition, which was held in the US for the first time in 25 years (the last time was 1981 in Kansas). Some *Coupe* facts: Since 1995 it has been won by a Russian every year except two: in 2005 by a Serb, and in 1999 by a Frenchman—and this year by a Canadian (but I heard he was a Russian immigrant). The *Coupe* was first held in France in 1938. The last American to win was Peter Soave in 1984.

The *Coupe Mondiale*, recognized as the most prestigious annual accordion competition of international scope, takes place in a different country every year, under the auspices of the *Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA)*.

Nearly \$25,000 in cash prizes was given to the winners of the six international categories for performers under 32 years of age. In addition, this year there was a one-time-only, women-only competition with no age limit, held in honor of the late Maddalena Bel Fiore, a noted accordionist, educator and composer associated with the AAA.

For me, the experience was special in a number of ways. First, my husband and I and the Greyhoskys were fortunate to be hosted by our good friends Joan and Dan Grauman, known to many of you as proprietor of "Squeezin' Art" and to others from recent attendance at various accordion camps. Joan also is a member of the AAA board and designer of the *Coupe Mondiale* logo.

The first thing Sharon, Gus, Gail and I did was visit the Kennedy Center, where we took a marvelous free tour of the entire venue and attended the first night concert, where we heard two terrific orchestras, the *Akkordeonorchester Hof* from Germany and the Jarosh Accordion Orchestra from Canada. The Kennedy Center holds nightly free concerts on their Millennium Stage at 6 p.m., 365 days a year; and from Aug. 14-17 various world accordion orchestras were the featured performers. I would particularly recommend checking out the night the fantastic orchestra from China performed, on Friday, Aug. 17. These performances are archived and can be accessed at any time by going to the Website www.kennedy-center.com/

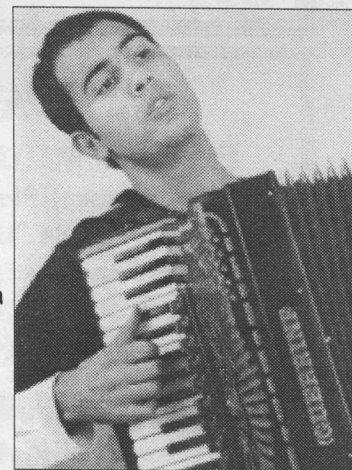


millennium.

The next day, I attended most of the competition at the Women's event. With the huge range of styles and pieces performed, I didn't think I would be able to tell how the judges would evaluate the players, but I came away with a strong opinion of who I thought should be in first, second and third place. To my surprise, these were exactly the winners the judges selected: Betty Jo Simon from Kansas took first; 17-year-old Barbara Slavinska from Poland took 2nd, and Patricia Bartell from Spokane, WA, a wonderfully creative player with an exuberant personality, came in 3rd.

In the evenings, not only did we have terrific orchestras from all over the world playing for us, but we heard the "Senior Virtuoso Entertainment" category. This category was dominated by French chromatic players. Here we truly heard the fastest fingers on the planet. Our own Sammy Thomas literally stood out in this competition by being the only player who stood to perform, and for his superb connection with the audience. He received the only standing ovation from the audience in both rounds. By the end of the competition, I had a clear choice for first and 2nd place, and was hoping for a 3rd for Sammy. I feared that Sammy's repertoire, though most pleasing to the audience, was not at the same level of difficulty as the French players, and he came in 5th. However, my first two picks won the top two spots, although in reverse order from my choice.

I originally thought that I would not spend that much time at the competitions, but the more I listened the more fascinated I became! The next day I decided to listen to the Senior Piano Accordion competition, in which Sammy was also competing. Sammy unfortunately made a serious goof in the middle of his second piece, which was very sad as he had a beautiful program. This knocked him out of placing. However, a young man from New Zealand, Grayson Masefield, really impressed me with the passion and clean technique in his performance. Then a young man from Serbia, Stanislav Jusufovic, absolutely knocked my socks off. I thought wow, if this kid doesn't win first, there is NO justice! Well, he did win first, and Grayson came in third. The competition was so close, there was less



Stanislav Jusufovic from Serbia

than .5 between the first three places. Virtually all of these accordionists played free bass and extended keyboards, and I must say that there was some astounding left hand work. I can't imagine that a Stradella Bass player, no matter how talented, could seriously compete.

Marian Kelly volunteered to help Coupe coordinator **Faith Deffner**, and did an outstanding job introducing the players for this category.

Being a dedicated ensemble player, I decided to attend the ensemble competition next. This was surpris-



The German Akkordeonorchester Hof

like apples to pork chops.

One of the fun parts of being at the Coupe was connecting with friends from camps in the recent and distant past, and comparing notes on the performances we attended. In particular, **Michele Scheffler**, **Lynda Griffith** and **Karen Lee** happened to be at a lot of the same performances I attended, and we had a surprising degree of consensus among us, which was amazingly similar to how the actual results came down from the judges.

The very last competition I attended was Round Four of the Senior Coupe Mondiale performance. This was the best of the best—the final six contestants each played for half an hour. For this round, many contestants played Scarlatti or Vivaldi or Pachelbel for one of the required pieces, and many played pieces by Viatcheslav Semionov. There, I had a musical peak experience—**Alexander Sevastian from Canada** played a program that I will never forget. His virtuosity and mastery brought tears to my eyes. I was truly thrilled when this young man received the first place of a \$5,000 cash prize (award from the ATG in honor of Anthony Galla-Rini) and a concert tour to Portugal.

Anyone interested can check out what is new and what is happening in the World Cup of Accordion. Websites are: www.accordions.com/cia and www.coupemondiale.org. The details of requirements are all list on the Coupe Website.

Next year the Coupe will be in Scotland, and in 2009, New Zealand. I have the program, so if anyone is truly interested in the details of the performances, names of all the pieces played, players and composers were listed, you can e-mail me at ewinglynn@sbcglobal.net Lynn



Dan and Joan Grauman, Gail and Lynn Ewing, Stella Allison, Stas Venglevski, Sharon and Gus Greyhosky having a blast! Thanks to the Graumans for the photo.

ingly small, and dominated by Germans. I felt sorry for the judges on this one, as the choices and combinations of pieces varied so widely that I described it to my husband as being not comparing apples to oranges, but more

(Lynn also said she could have gone on for another 5 pages because there is so much to say. She indicated that there were wonderful workshops given by Lynda Griffith, Helmi Harrington, Henry Doktorski and Robin Hodson. She added, "Also, the FANTASTIC US Army String Band that played at the luncheon concert was a huge highlight.")

(President's Message—Continued)

The Club owes high marks to several key people who have kept us afloat during some tough times, and worked to make The Club what it is. I specifically want to mention **Val Kieser**, who routinely does the work of an entire committee; **Joe Smiell**, always available, and up for everything; **Jim Firpo**, one of the most loyal people I know.

I also wish to thank **Vince Cirelli**, **Ed and Isabelle Massolo**, **Dick Schiller** and **Rosemary Armanino**, and their friends, for without their effort, we would not have attained level we have. I thank **Dominic Palmisano** and **Bob Hansen**, past Treasurers, who kept the books in order. I thank **Frances and Dominic Benedetto** who fed us lavishly for so many years. Thanks to **Telmo Echeverria**, **Ruby Dezman**, **Sonny and Ruth Puppo**, **Sue Hirigoyen**, **Vinny Rinaldi**, **Skyler Fell**, **Lynn Ewing**, **Evelyn Baulch**, and for many years the "chair" man, **Jim Holliday**. I hope I've remembered all of you who have helped out, if not, I apologize, and I thank you.

I wish I could mention individually every one of the musicians and entertainers who have taken the stage, and performed so beautifully for us, but you know who you are, and I thank you.

Lastly, I wish to thank the loyal members who have attended our programs every month; without you, there would be no Club.

The future looks bright; there is a new administration ready and eager to take over. I urge everyone to take an active part in the future of our Club. We all derive a lot of enjoyment because of our favorite instrument, and let's do our part to keep it thriving.

We will redo the nomination/election of Club Officers and Directors at the beginning of our September meeting because it wasn't done correctly last month.

A wonderful afternoon of live music is on tap for September 16th at 2:00 pm. I look forward to seeing all of you then.

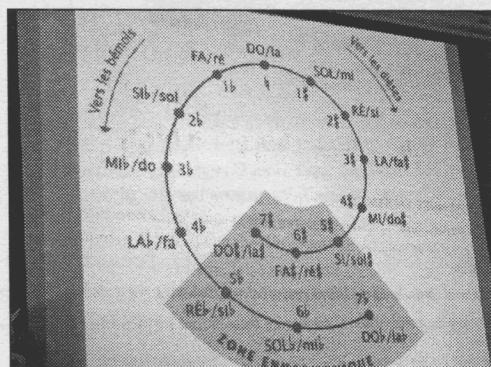
Play every day, and remember,
REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!

Peter A. Di Bono

Word Has It . . .

. . . that **Clyde Forsman** fell and broke his hip in July. He is in physical therapy and in good spirits.

. . . that your Editor discovered that the chart used by **Bernard Métais** printed both upside down and backward in the last newsletter! Here's how it should have appeared—and it was very interesting, even in French.



. . . that the **Cotati Accordion Festival** was once again the smashing success we have come to expect.

. . . that **Ernst Angst** just had a "landmark" birthday and he and Lupita are taking a well-deserved trip. Here's to many more birthdays, Ernst!

. . . that **Bruno Bianchini** landed in the hospital with a heart problem. *Get well fast, Bruno!* We want you to play for us!

. . . that Val had the first of two cataract surgeries and it was "a piece of cake" and she can't wait to get the other eye done on Sept. 26!

. . . that **Lou and Jane Di Maggio** don't miss a beat—they show up at every accordion event they can get to within a 200-mile radius! And what warm and wonderful people they are!

VERY SPECIAL THANKS

To **Mark Zhagel** who loves this club so much that he has made no less than 3 donations to the club since the beginning of the year. Thanks Mark, for your generosity!

Your Executive Board Met

. . . On Wednesday, August 29. The Board came up with a recommended slate of nominees for officers and directors to present at the September meeting, to be followed immediately by the election. Lore Warren's friend will populate our Website as soon as feasible. Val will supply info and photos. We are in good financial shape with around \$7,000 in our checking account, just before membership renewals come in.

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: This is a new location!** Contact: Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041.



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MANY THANKS . . .

. . . to **Telmo Echeverría, Anne Métais** and **Sue Hirigoyen** for their willingness always to help with the proofreading, folding, labeling, stamping and mailing of newsletters; and to **all the generous people who bring food to the meetings** and help with the serving. Even if we don't get all the names . . .

Your volunteer spirit is very much appreciated!

"Where is my friend playing?" Contact:

Steve Balich North Bay (707) 874-3494

Ron Borelli Peninsula (650) 574-5707

rborelli@aol.com

Richard Denier in Carmel rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono San Francisco peterdsf@gmail.com

Reno Di Bono South Bay ourhike@aol.com

William Di Michelis South Bay wdd777@comcast.net

Joe Domitrowich South Bay www.capricious-accordion.com or www.alpinersusa.com

Mike Zampiceni South Bay eclecticguy@comcast.net

Zighi Baci San Francisco www.zighibaci.com or www.zighi@sonic.net

SFAC Evening Ensemble Practice

Sadly, we have had to give up the evening ensemble, at least for now, because Joe Smiell's schedule just does not allow him the time for it.

SFAC Band Practice

Wed., Sept. 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

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

Mark Zhagel (3)

Don Haga in memory of Lou Soper
Thelma Bartoli in memory of Lou Soper
Valerie Kieser in memory of Lou Soper

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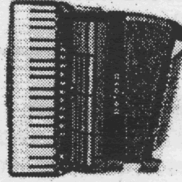
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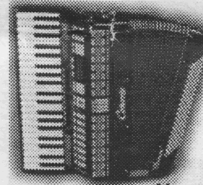


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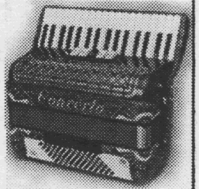
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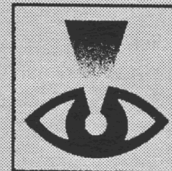
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Members may place one small ad for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$6.00 per issue. A business-card-size ad costs \$6 per issue or \$60 per year for members; a quarter-page ad costs \$15.00 for members; a half-page ad costs \$25 for members. A full-page ad costs \$50.00 for members. Discount available for ongoing ads. Ads placed by non-members will cost twice the above-quoted prices. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

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NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, SEPT. 16

AND Election of Officers and Directors

Music: Isaac Teich, Skyler Fell,

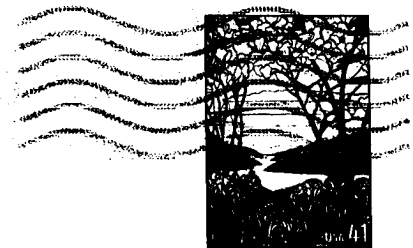
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