

NEXT SFAC MEETING

2:00 pm Sunday
December 21

Oyster Point Yacht Club
South San Francisco



December's Featured Performers

The Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE) began playing together informally in 1994, led by **Mary Alice Eldon & Val Kieser**; they were joined shortly thereafter by **Harry Liedtke** and **Lee Woodall**.



By 1995, the ensemble, still playing informally, consisted of **Mary Alice Eldon, Lynn Ewing, Val Kieser, Nora Mazzara, Sharon Walters (now Greyhosky)** and **Bob Smith**. At the end of 1995 the ensemble was privileged to attract **Joe Smiell Sr.** as director and arranger of numerous pieces for the group, and the group officially adopted the Accordion Chamber Ensemble name.

During the ensuing 17 years, the ensemble has varied in size, but at one time boasted as many as 18 members. The group has performed at dozens of venues, notably the Green Room at the SF Civic Center for the 120 Alliances Françaises USA; the Oakland Museum; the French Embassy for a Symphony fundraiser; Burlingame Music

Club; San Francisco Teachers Luncheon; Filoli Holiday Traditions; the Mountain View local TV station; and the Slavonic Cultural Center. ACE has performed at numerous elementary schools, as well as offering annual performance concerts. When the Galla-Rini Camp moved to Northern California, the ensemble formed a non-profit corporation and began sponsoring the camp.

After Joe Sr's death in 2012, the ensemble continued under the baton of Joe's son, **Joseph Smiell**. Joseph's specialty is classical music and the ensemble now focuses on classic works by Handel, Hayden, Beethoven, Mozart and Dvorak. The ensemble currently consists of **Vardit Benjamin, Reno Di Bono, Lynn Ewing, Grigoriy Krumik, Norman Ortiz, Nora Mazzara, Sharon (Walters) Greyhosky** on bass, **Anne Metais**, and **Sally Ann Smiell**. **Chris and Tor Arild** have been of invaluable assistance as librarians for the ensemble's large collection of specially arranged music. ❖

It's a party!

Bring your favorite sweet or savory treats or cookies to share. Jam Band kicks us off before the meeting with holiday tunes.

Mike Zampiceni will lead us in a festive program of holiday song, and we have special entertainment from ACE, Louis Rodriguez, Lynn Ewing, & Bob Smith.

♪♪ **More December Performers** ♪♪



Mike Zampiceni has been involved with the accordion his entire life. He is the son of noted accordionist, teacher, composer, arranger and music publisher, Joseph Zampiceni. He began formal study of the accordion at age 8, and played his first paid engagements

by age 11. At 14 he joined his father's orchestra, playing accordion and drums and by 17, he was in the musician's union, as leader of his own band. While in high school, Mike's choral teacher took note of his tenor voice and encouraged him to compete in vocal competitions and further his vocal studies. Mike graduated from San Jose State University with a B.A. in Music, concentrating on voice, piano and organ. After a year's break, he returned to work on an M.A., during which time he was chosen as the tenor soloist in a performance of a Bach cantata with the San Jose Symphony. Mike recently retired from a career as a technical writer. He has always been active in the music profession, continuing to play engagements and teach students. ❖

Bob Smith

Bob began playing the accordion in Chicago at age 10, and performed for soldiers and sailors leaving for WWII while living in Los Angeles during the war. He had an interesting career in science and computers, but never stopped playing the accordion. He says his playing improved greatly after joining the SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble under Joe Smiell's direction. Bob has written a book titled *Fingering for the Accordion*, the only book of its kind as far as he knows. Bob comments, "You might notice how my accordion straps are attached to make it easy to keep the treble keyboard properly positioned without the straps cutting across my neck." ❖

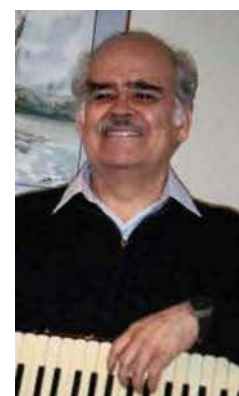


Lynn Ewing was born and raised in San Diego, California, where she began playing accordion at age seven. As a young adult, Lynn taught at the Robert Mitchell Accordion School, where she directed five accordion bands and gave accordion lessons to over a hundred young children.

She received her certification in the Orff Method of Music instruction from Mills College, and was the music specialist at El Granada Elementary school for seven years. Currently Lynn teaches private accordion students, and performs with two accordion ensembles, the San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE) and AbsolutAccord. Lynn is beginning her third term as President of the San Francisco Club. ❖



Louis Rodriguez



We are thrilled to welcome Louis Rodriguez back again to perform for us this month. He was born in Chili and began studying the accordion when he was seven years old. In 1958, after becoming the best classical accordionist in his home country, he received a scholarship from the Hohner Conservatory in Germany where he studied with Frau Lydia Braun-Kreig. He graduated as both an accordion teacher and a concert accordion soloist. He has been an accordion teacher and also taught music theory and analysis to public school music teachers. In 1966, he offered the first classical accordion recital in the country's history, playing a program of original composition for the instrument. ❖

NOTE—February Meeting Date

Our February meeting will be held on the 4th Sunday, Feb 22, to avoid President's Day weekend.

Great November Meeting!

Accordion Club meeting, Nov 23

By Barbara Bruxvoort

November's SF Accordion Club meeting was a fun gathering. It felt very much like the accordionists living room with friendly banter among the musicians and the audience—a great afternoon sharing the language of music.

Kay Patterson

Kay, a concert pianist, picked up the accordion to provide atmosphere at The Nichelini Family Winery (her family's winery), because the winery didn't own a piano! She uses her music to set a mood for visitors to the Italian-Swiss winery, playing Italian, French and American romantic music. I could imagine the vineyard as she played.



Kay began with her favorite piece, "It Might as Well be Spring" by Rogers and Hammerstein, which she played like a glass of red wine so smooth that you hardly notice how good it is until the last swallow.

Her next selection was Kurt Weill's "Speak Low". Kay said she likes the cutting edge of his composition, and this song, because it is a mature woman's view of love: "love is golden / time is a thief / everything ends and the curtain calls...." "Les Chemins de l'Amour" by Francis Poulenc

continued the theme...the last notes fade away like the final glow of sunlight on the vineyard as the day closes.

Kay played "Quando Men Vo" from *La Boheme* especially for her cousins Leona and Lou, and encouraged us to go see the opera.

She closed out the program with "I Enjoy Being a Girl" from *Flower Drum Song*, reminiscing about how, as a Bay area girl, she loved that it was set in San Francisco.

Rene Sevieri, along with guest Ned Boynton on electric guitar moved us from wine to espresso. The duo plays at Caffe Trieste in North Beach Tuesday mornings from 10 am to 1 pm, and I was transported there by the music, drinking espresso, reading the newspaper, enjoying Washington Square street life and watching the reflection of the performers in the front windows of the Caffe.



Rene and Ned opened their set with "Indifference," featuring Ned's expert guitar work, evoking the tones of a mandolin, a steel guitar, and sometimes even the smooth vocal quality of a violin.

"Speranza per dutte" spilled out onto Washington Square as the fog burned off and I stepped out into the morning to catch the #3 bus for work in $\frac{3}{4}$ time.

"Grenada" had all the drama of the morning bus ride and the cacophonous absurdity of the first morning meeting at work.

"España Canife" was next (available on Rene's CD *Canzoni di Babbo*, which translates as *Songs of My Father*). Ned's guitar work rounded out the

sound at the bottom and lent feet to the drama. Rene introduced the samba, "La Cumana" with an anecdote about this famous bit of quick thinking by Dick Contino, (available for viewing on YouTube at http://youtu.be/K_HGIK1SGcU). We enjoyed the sliding keyboard showmanship!

Then, saying, "everyone knows this one," the duo moved into "The Theme from the Godfather." The song has a genuine 70s sepiia flavor, enjoyable for itself and the memories that it evokes.



Ron Borelli took the stage and began with the audience-pleasing "Funiculi Funicula".

Then Ron said what everyone was thinking—and that was, hey, Rene didn't sing! So he invited Rene up to the stage

for "Volare" which was pretty sweet with two accordions and Rene's powerhouse vocals.



Ron and Rene recounted their recent experience playing together for Italian night at ATT Park for the SF Giants---both before the game and also for "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" at the seventh-inning stretch.

Then Ron treated us to lovely renditions of Fatts Waller's "Jitterbug Waltz", as well as "Fairyboat Serenade."

~ THE MAIN EVENT! ~

After the break, we had the pleasure of **Peter Di Bono and violinist Harriet Newhart's** artistry. They delighted the audience with their tunes and camaraderie--listening and watching them play was like being in the living room during a jam session, or maybe the recording studio.



There was a bubble of shared experience and musical conversation between them that they expanded until it included the whole audience. They gossiped with chords and stanzas, changing from tune to tune and mood to mood as if by ESP.

They invited the audience to make suggestions, and the audience kept the suggestions coming as quickly as Peter and Harriet could perform them. The music moved smoothly from one piece to the next, sometimes quoting one tune within another. Sometimes the chord would bend and they would dive into another song. The audience would sigh and smile or sometimes start singing. It was a delightful concert, and I cannot enumerate all the songs they played, but here's a partial list: "Enamorata"... "Il Postino" by request..."Love's Greetings" by Elgar..."Dark Eyes"... A number of people asked for "Begin the Beguine" but were asked to wait... When they played "Over the Rainbow" you could feel hundreds of wistful moments gather in the room with audible sighs as we reminisced about Judy Garland's glory days. What a beautiful girl she was...

Django Reinhardt's "Nuages; Summertime" over the smell of mulled wine from the yacht club's bar down to the last gauzy, dissonant chord..."New York, New York," "The Way You Look Tonight," a beautiful Italian waltz, and "Honeysuckle Rose" with the audience softly singing along. Peter

♪♪ Scholarship ♪♪

dedicated "Fascination" to Jim Holliday (Peter said his mother liked to call it "Vaccination"). Peter and Harriet ended with the beginning... they finally played "Begin the Beguine."

The beauty of live performance can never be captured on the camera or CD. If you missed this performance, you really missed a treat. ❖

PLAY FOR US!

Playing warm up or during the break is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. In addition, our scheduled performers are drawn from professional player and groups, and talented amateurs as well. Call us—we're happy to add you to the schedule to play a 10-15 minute set, or even just a couple of songs.

Contact:

Dominic Palmisano:

(415) 587-4423

accord47@gmail.com OR

Lynn Ewing:

650-453-3391

ewinglynn@gmail.com

Our scholarships are awarded twice a year (October and April) to accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. They must have a financial need and demonstrate dedication to pursuing their study of the accordion. We are pleased to announce that Mike Zampiceni has agreed to stay on as our Scholarship Chair, although he has moved to the Sacramento area and is no longer a Board member. Contact Mike for a scholarship application.

Mike Zampiceni

6923 Gold Oak Lane

Citrus Heights CA 95621 (new address)

eclecticguy@comcast.net (unchanged)

408-569-2579 (cell—unchanged) ❖

*'HAVING ESTABLISHED THAT
ADAGIO MEANS LEISURELY
HIGGINS-MAY WE ALSO
REASON THAT IT APPLIES
TO THE MUSIC ONLY- AND
NOT THE PERFORMER?!?'*



THANK YOU

A Big THANK YOU to **Frank Montoro**, who has single-handedly mailed the paper version of the newsletter for many years. Due to a health issue, Frank must relinquish this task. We so appreciate all that Frank has done for us through the years! He has served in numerous capacities with SFAC, including past-president, and was one of the first members of the reestablished club.

Barbara Bruxvoort, husband **Joel**, daughter **Rosie**, and son **Ben**, along with **Dominic Palmisano**, are stepping in to take care of the newsletter distribution. Joel says, "We've taken this on as a fun family project." All of us at SFAC say, "THANKS!" ❖

Please Remember!

To leave our meeting space at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Clean up food or drink spills and recycle all trash.

THANK YOU!

President's Message

A Year of Celebration!

This is the time of year when I count my blessings, and high on my list of blessings is my association with the San Francisco Accordion Club.

2015 marks the 25th year of the reestablishment of the San Francisco Accordion Club, and the 100th anniversary of the original club. Great thanks to the founders of the current club in 1990! The charter members of the new club were: **Jim Holliday, Evelyn Baulch, Lou Soper, Walter Traverso, Joe Catalano, Reno Pucci, Clyde Forsman, Leo Lembi, Rusty Bartoli, Frank Montoro, Tom Serafin, George Poli, John Fiore, Florence Del Turbo, Michelle Gallandre, and Dominic Palmisano.**

In the words of the first newsletter of the new club, edited by Dominic Palmisano,

"The Beginning—we did it! It's official... we're BAAC [Bay Area Accordion Club]. On Monday, the 7th of May, 1990, a fine group of accordion people came together and decided to organize a club for the purpose of bringing together those who appreciate the accordion and want to enlighten the community of the versatility and magnificence of the official instrument of San Francisco."

The club was reestablished under the name "Bay Area Accordion Club" and was a fun play on words. At the time, the club was the only one in Northern California, and from the information I've found, it was one of the first accordion clubs to be reestablished in the USA. If anyone knows differently, please let me know—it's surprisingly difficult to track all this down! The original San Francisco Accordion Club was established, as nearly as we can determine, in 1915, and so this will also be a celebration of the 100th anniversary of "The World's First Accordion Club."

After many other accordion clubs in Northern California were inspired to form, including Accordion Club of the Redwoods, Golden State

Accordion Club (three chapters), Good Time Accordion Club, Northern California Accordion Society, and Silicon Valley Accordion Club, BAAC decided to revert to the original name of the San Francisco Accordion Club, reconnecting us with the legacy of the original club.

We plan to spend this next year honoring the members of this club who have devoted so much in time, energy and resources to making it possible. In January, we will give special attention to the charter members (of the new club) we still have with us, and in February, we would like to recognize those members who joined us between 1990 and 1995. As the year progresses, we will focus on members who have joined us from 1996-2001, and so on in approximately 5-year groups. We also plan to honor past presidents, Board members and others who have contributed in significant ways.

If you have ideas about any of this, please let us know! I am so grateful for all the blessings that have come to me through music, and especially the accordion. Without the Accordion Club, I would have missed out on all of this, and my life would be very different. Thanks to all of you who participate in this club and help it to continue.

Lynn Ewing ❖

When Did You Join the Club?

We have some wonderful performers planned for our anniversary year of 2015. In addition, we will be honoring our volunteers and long-time members throughout the course of the year.

If you have not yet let us know what year that you joined the club (this can be approximate), please **call or email Robert Cooperstein**, our membership chair, drcoop@sbcglobal.net, phone: 510-207-6009.

Woo-Hoo!!
THE LATEST ACCORDION BABES
CALENDAR IS HERE!

It is that time again when the *NEWEST*, the *COOLEST*, the *MOST AWESOME* calendar is for sale!! Many of the Babes in this calendar are members of our club, and most all have played for us at one time or another. The price is only \$20 and includes a CD! Purchase yours at the upcoming meeting and help spread the word. ❖



New Editor for the Newsletter

Beginning with the November issue, the SFAC newsletter has a new editor. **Shirley Brim** comes to us with experience in business and technical graphic presentation, writing and editing. She enjoys the relaxed style of our newsletter, and is looking forward to introducing a new feature-- images of all things accordion.

New to the world of musical accordions, Shirley went web surfing for accordion images and found accordion structures in such diverse areas as furniture, architecture and city buses. She was gobsmacked by the amazing variety of the applications of the shape of the humble squeezebox, and she'll be sharing some of her finds in upcoming issues. Appearing under the banner "All Things Accordion," you'll see them popping up here and there as space permits. Feel free to contribute accordion-related images of all kinds by sending them to Shirley at shirleyb77@gmail.com.

SFAC extends heartfelt thanks to Deena McLemore for her excellent work as our newsletter editor in recent months. We'll miss you, Deena! ❖



Star-Spangled Audition Opportunity!

To mark the 100th anniversary of the original San Francisco Accordion Club, and the 25th anniversary of the reestablishment of our club, the SFAC board is pursuing an opportunity to showcase our club and San Francisco's "Official Instrument" with an all-accordion performance of the National Anthem before a San Francisco Giants game in 2015! To do this, we will submit an audition recording to the SF Giants office in early 2015.

Preliminary practice sessions are planned before our club meetings in November, December and January at 1 PM before the jam band. A five-part arrangement by Frank Marocco will be available at the meetings or via email in advance. If you're interested, bring an accordion and music stand, and try it out! Music is right hand only and is not too difficult, but it does require being able to read and to follow a conductor. Lynn Ewing is preliminarily planned to be the conductor.

Because there is potentially extensive public exposure if we are invited to perform the national anthem at AT&T Park, we may have an audition process for the actual recording of our audition submission. We suggest that participants should be at least in Palmer Hughes book 3 to participate in the recording session. One or more practice sessions in addition to short rehearsals described above may be scheduled to prepare for the recording.

If you are interested, please email Lynn Ewing at ewinglynn@gmail.com, or call 650-867-2633. ❖

♪♪ *Accordion Events* ♪♪

Check out accordion events all over the US at AccordionUSA.com for all information about great festivals and performances.

Save the Date!



June 7-12, 2015

Contact camp treasurer:
Marlene Meissner
marlenem26@msn.com
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BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUBS

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Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma
\$3 admission donation
Contact: Tony Mustaro, President (707) 318-0474
dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO for all three chapters: Carole Enneking
(707) 864-2359 *gsaccordionclub@netfirms.com*

The Vacaville Chapter

2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm.
Pietro's No. 2, 679 Merchant Street, Vacaville
(707) 448-4588

The Humboldt Chapter

3rd Tuesday at 7pm. Humboldt Swiss Club,
5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta

The Sacramento Chapter

4th Wednesday at 7 pm.
Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd.,
Rancho Cordova

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

2nd Wednesday at 7 pm. Escalon Community Center,
1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon
Contact: (209) 545-3603

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Lutheran Church Hall,
6365 Douglas Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay
Contact: Jerry Choate (530) 345-2031

Silicon Valley Accordion Club (SVAC)

1st Sunday at 1pm. Harry's Hofbrau,
390 Saratoga Avenue (corner of Kiely), San Jose
\$5 for adults, no charge under 16

♪♪ **Performing Around the Bay** ♪♪

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SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-sized card) for one month free of charge in a given year; thereafter, the charge is \$10 per issue or \$100 per year.

Monthly ad prices for members:

Quarter-page ad - \$25.00; half-page ad - \$50, and a full page ad - \$100. Non-member rates are double member rates.

A poster (no larger than 5" x 8") advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$50 for members and \$65 for non-members.

**Join us the third Sunday of each month at the Oyster Point Yacht Club
911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco**

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Come for fun and great music!!

December 21 @ 2 pm

Admission: \$6 for members, \$8 for guests

Doors open at 1 pm for Star-Spangled Banner rehearsal

Jam Band begins at 1:15

Visit us online at www.sfaccordionclub.com



DIRECTIONS:

From 101 traveling either North or South, Oyster Point exit.

Turn right onto Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right onto Gull Drive, just before Marina Blvd.)

Continue past the gate house to the Oyster Point Yacht Club sign. There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

SFAC Membership is \$30.00 per year for individual or family. Join or renew using PayPal or a credit card at

www.sfaccordionclub.com

NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you wish.

San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter

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