



the San Francisco Accordion Club NEWSLETTER

February • 2011

The World's First
Accordion Club
Since 1912

NEXT MEETING Feb. 20

the ACCIDENTALS—This unique group of musicians who live in diverse areas of California will be performing a collection of favorite pieces from accordion events they have attended over the last 5 years, including arrangements by **Joe Morelli**, **Stas Venglevski**, **Frank Marocco** and Jana's husband, **Dan Maas** at our meeting on the 20th of February. The advantage of attending accordion events (like the most recent Frank Marocco Accordion Event, see pg. 5) is the opportunity for meeting and playing with other musicians and learning new music which each musician brings to the event.

The group consists of:

Frank Petrilli, Woodland Hills;
Gail Campanella, Santa Barbara;
Jana Maas, Modesto;
Lynn Ewing, **Marian Kelly**,
and **Sharon Walters-Greyhosky**
who all live in the SF Bay Area
and are long time members of our club.



Frank Petrilli



Sharon Walters-Greyhosky



Jana Maas



Lynn Ewing



Marian Kelly



Gail Campanella

(cont. from front page)

Duane English is the accordionist for the group “Cafe Musique.” Besides being a performer, he is involved with producing shows and concerts featuring bluegrass music and has hosted a weekly bluegrass show for KCBX Public Radio. Duane also plays the banjo and can be found performing with various groups, in musical theatre and engaged as music director for various multi-disciplinary projects. When Duane—a new member—of-fered to play for us, we were delighted to include him in our February Musical Meeting.

Dave Chelini has played professionally for more than thirty years and this past summer he released a CD - “Timeless Tunes of the 20th Century.” Dave teaches at Kline Music in Sacramento, offering Accordion lessons for all ages and accordion workshops for groups, with a positive direction toward accordion enjoyment. Dave is an active member of the Northern California Accordion Society, the Golden State Accordion Club and our own San Francisco Accordion Club.



Dave Chelini



Yeti

January Meeting

Vinny Rinaldi and **Robert Doerr** were kind enough to play music before the meeting.

The first of the *Accordion Babes* to play was **Luz Gaxiola**, who has a bubbling personality while playing accordion and singing atop a balance board! Luz is a clown with Circus Finelli, an all-women clown and comedy troupe in San Francisco.



Luz Gaxiola



Salane Schultz

Salane Schultz performed two pieces with audience participation: *Round* and a song about Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII, coming back to haunt him with her head tucked underneath her arm.

Skyler Fell and **Ariel McGurty**, a.k.a. "Tumbleweed Time Machine," played several pieces, including *Cold* written by Ariel and featured on the Babes Calendar CD.

Vagabondage consisting of **Cindy Emch** and guitarist/vocalist **John Flaw**, sang two songs.

Yeti, Jetty Swart, from Amsterdam, played two original compositions about love—the last being an amazing piece about a Snail, in love with herself, but wishing she had more options to express it. Her performance overflowed with energy, humor and surprising lyrics.

(cont. page 3)



Big Lou (Linda Seekins), whose group *Big Lou's Polka Casserole*, plays all over the Bay Area, played and sang for us several songs.

She plays French, Polish, German and Italian tunes, and performed for us her version of *La Vie En Rose*.

Rob Reich played superbly, familiar as well as new and interesting music ranging from Brazilian tangos to a waltz. He played a 100 year old tune entitled *The Deiro Rag*, as well as several of his original compositions.

Dan Newton, a.k.a. Daddy Squeeze, hails from Minnesota and plays a Planet Squeeze-box accordion. Sometimes he very cleverly weaves bits of songs into new new versions of old songs. He played a variety of styles including Blues, Cumbia, New Orleans Style Jazz, French and Irish. His wife Elizabeth accompanied him on one song playing the *guiro*, a percussion instrument.



Dan Newton

Peter Di Bono won the \$50 raffle and kindly donated it back to the club. Steve Mobia's documentary, *Behind the Bellows* was shown after the meeting to an appreciative crowd. Thank you Steve!

President's Message

A huge thank you to all of you who made our "fundraising" effort so successful. Your generosity was truly amazing. We are now able to begin our new fiscal year with a balanced budget, and can move forward with confidence into the future. For those of you who are interested, please see the detailed Statement of Income & Expenses prepared by our treasurer, Marian Kelly, on page 9 of this newsletter.

Although we try to always let you know in the newsletter when the Board makes a decision, we haven't gathered that information together recently in one place for a Board Report. The Board meets monthly on the Thursday following the club meeting to review our finances and plan programs, and we also make a myriad of decisions, large and small, that we hope will help our club function more smoothly. Our meetings are always open to our club members, and if you are interested in attending a Board meeting, please call or email Lynn Ewing.

In recent months, you have probably noticed that our Newsletter has a new look and feel, thanks to our new editor, Christina Knapp. The Board is also turning its attention to our website, and we are in the process of revamping that as well so that it is more inviting and informative to both members and non members who are looking for information about the accordion. We are grateful for Chris' help in this project also. We have started sending out an email notice to let our members and friends know who is performing at the upcoming meetings, so if you aren't on our list, please contact Val Kieser with your email address. This saves us the cost of the postcard reminders that we sent out previously.

One thing we are quite excited about is the "jam session" which will precede the meetings once a quarter, beginning in March. We're so pleased that one of our members suggested this. Please see the article on page 9, and talk to Val Kieser, Barb & Vic Corsiglia, or Gwyn Lister for any ideas you might have about this.

We hope that you will invite your friends to club meetings, and take advantage of the "two for one" coupon we have in the newsletter. The Board continues to award scholarships to deserving students, and the next application deadline is March 31.

(cont. pg. 8)

Our Sincere Thanks!

It is through the generous donations from members and friends such as those listed below that we are able to continue to provide top entertainment and offer scholarships to nurture the next generation of Accordion players. We sincerely thank all who have contributed so far this year and we hope the generosity of our members and fans will continue throughout the year! The San Francisco Accordion club is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and your gifts are fully deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS.

Bronze - Up To \$50

Ross Bausone
 Kay and Bill Brachna
 Martha Bredwell
 David Chelini
 Aldo Didero
 Lou Fabbri
 Robert Foppiano
 Carolyn Grannan
 Dominic Granelli
 Randall Hicks
 Mike and Sue Hirigoyen
 Josephine Hornbrook
 Carley Koliha
 Bernard and Anne Metais
 Steve Mobia
 Bob and Jo Anne Nelson
 Gisèle Oakes
 Sundi O'Mara
 David Perry
 Paula Re
 Mary Catherine Robertson
 Alexander Roitman
 Michael Sanossian
 Kenneth Schwartz
 Bill and Gloria Tapogna
 Lou Traverso
 Mr. & Mrs. Hilbert Werner
 Barbara Winter
 Norma Zonay-Parsons

Silver - \$50 to \$100

Xavier and
 Candace de la Prade
 Peter Di Bono
 John Graziano
 Gus and Sharon Greyhosky
 Richard and Janet Landauer
 Gwyn Lister
 Lunar Design
(Employer Match)
 Herb Meier
 James Monfredini
 Ron and Claudia Montoro
 Maryanne Romanowski
 Julia Scafani
 Allan Schwartz
 Paul Thiel
 Lore Warren
 Scott Williamson
 Gabbi Yuen

Gold - \$100 to \$500

William Court
 William and Nancy DeMichelis
 Valerie Kieser
 Tor and Chris Arild
 Skyler Fell—
Accordion Apocalypse
 Saul Fenster
 Ron Harris
 Richard Yaus
 Richard Selfridge
 Phil and Cheri Marcucci
 Ken Nimmo
 Joseph Greco
 John Fiore
 Joe Bacellieri
 Gene and Judy Dale
 Gail and Lynn Ewing
 Frank Montoro

Diamond - \$500 +

Jim Holliday.



*Please contact Treasurer, Marian Kelly
 at kelly.marian@gmail.com
 or (650) 854-1896
 with any donation questions.*

Marocco Event 2011

The **Frank Marocco** Accordion Event (FMAE) of 2011 was truly a stellar experience. In celebration of Frank's 80th birthday, Joan & Dan Grauman, the directors of FMAE (and SFAC members) organized a beautiful party and tribute to Frank. His wife, his three daughters, his brother and sister, and most of his grandchildren were able to be present at the event, and they put together a moving slide show of Frank's life.

Joan & Dan arranged a beautiful papal blessing certificate, there were loads of letters from Frank's personal and professional friends, pictures and letters from participants, and most moving of all, a flag flown over the capitol on Frank's birthday in his honor, which was presented to him by Manny Bobenrieth, the accordionist and director of the Army Strolling Strings.

Guest Artists included: Jazz great Eddie Monteiro; 28 year old virtuoso Vladimir Mollov; AAA 2010 virtuoso winner Gabe Hall-Rodriguez; and assistant conductor Stas Venglevski. The evening concert to celebrate Frank's birthday and the following public concert included performances by these artists, as well as Marian Kelly, playing Frank's composition "Waltz for Vinny" for his daughter Vinny who was in attendance, and Gail Campanella and Frank Petrilli, whom we will have the privilege of hearing this month at our February meeting.

The orchestra consisted of 62 accordionists, and at least 14 SFAC members were in attendance at the event. The sold out concert had 275 people in the audience, and the orchestra played Frank's arrangements of "Take the 'A' Train," and a "Parisian Medley", Danny Desiderio's arrangement of Oblivion by Astor Piazzola, Amy Jo Sawyer's jazz arrangement of "All the Things You Are," Stas Venglevski's arrangement of "Finnish Polka," and an arrangement by Karl Pukara of "Russian Sailor's Dance" from the opera "The Red Poppy." Stas presented a short concert of his compositions, which were performed by SFAC members Lynn Ewing, Sharon Greyhosky, Marian Kelly and Joan Grauman. Additional performers in this set were February guest artists Gail Campanella and Frank Petrilli, as well as Stas himself and his duet partner, John Simkus, and Stas' student, Judy Moriarity.



*Frank Marocco, Las Vegas 2010
photo by Chris Knapp*



Lynn Ewing

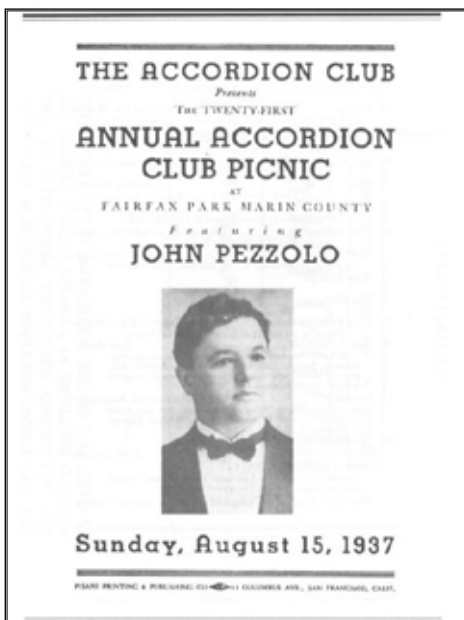
*SFAC Members @
Frank Marocco Camp 2011*

10,000 AT FRISCO PICNIC

Galla-Rini & Pezzolo Schools Take Prominent Part
(reprint from article Oct. 1935 *Accordion News*)

The *San Francisco Accordion Club* celebrated its customary yearly picnic on the immense grounds of California Park in Fairfax, a suburb of San Francisco. A huge crowd of more than ten thousand people poured into the grounds from 8 o'clock in the morning on, although the concert was scheduled to begin at 2:30 in the afternoon. Such eagerness to attend an accordion concert in the open air affords building a picture in one's mind of the enthusiasm prevailing among the people of San Francisco for the thrilling tones of the accordion. The admission price was fifty cents. By simple multiplication the concert-picnic netted the resulting figure of five thousand dollars in gate receipts. This comfortable amount goes into the coffers of the San Francisco Accordion Club, an organization composed now of a few members, not over eleven, according to our information, whose president, a Mr. Campana, is not an accordionist and neither are most of the club members. It is reported that Mr. Campana devotes his activities the rest of the year to the promotion of real estate developments, in which business he has proved to be an excellent business man.

Ticket for picnic of 1937 showing John Pezzolo



With the assistance of six or seven accordion schools of this city the great convert-picnic is carried on and exploited. Among the San Francisco schools those of the **Pezzolo Brothers** and **Galla-Rini's** figure conspicuously. **John Pezzolo** is a very good friend of Mr. Campana and apparently this friendship or perhaps tradition entitles Pezzolo to begin the concert and present his pupils before the opportunity is given to **Galla-Rini.**



It is 2:30; the concert starts; Pezzolo marks downbeat and his club bursts out with a march, and continues with other selections. The audience is in a merry mood. They have been eating sandwiches and drinking wine. Everyone brings his own and those not so fortunate as to have brought it along with them, borrow it from the next fellow.

When the accordion band composed of about 80 pupils stops, the people applaud, shout and whistle. Then begins the introduction of the individual players. While these amateurs are unwinding their numbers those of the audience near them pass loud remarks about their ailment or their private life. At times a chorus of stamping feet beating tempo forms a jolly rhythm with the melancholy tone of the accordion. One by one the players file past in an interminable procession of accordion button-pushers under a sun, fiery enough to cook an egg in its shell. Brows are wet with sweat, cheeks reflect *Sol's* redness, parched throats call for more wine but the parade of Pezzolo's pupils does not end.

Tony Gall-Rini with his students are scheduled for three-thirty. It is now four o'clock. His pupils have their accordions on in readiness to step forward to the platform. Their impatience and weariness from standing up in a suffocating heat for over a half hour is beginning to tell on their nerves and strength to a point noticeable by the public. A shout from the audience carries these words: "Professor Pezzolo (all the Pezzolo brothers assume the title of 'professor' in California) we want to hear Tony Galla-Rini!" The last syllable of Galla-Rini's name is not heard distinctly because a fight ensues immediately between the protesting picnicker and one of his neighbors. Police rush to the scene to placate the irate combatant who had opened hostilities without the consent of the *League of Nations.*

(article to be continued next month)

SFAC Officers

Lynn Ewing, President
(650) 365-1700 ewinglynn@gmail.com

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(650) 574-4757 frankmontoro@gmail.com

Randall Hicks, Secretary (510)583-1581
hickr01@sprintmail.com

Marian Kelly, Treasurer
(650) 854-1896 kelly.marian@gmail.com

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accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com

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gusgrey@me.com

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vtkacc@ifn.net

Sharon Walters-Greyhosky
(415) 621-8284
swaltersgrey@comcast.net

Newsletter

Christina Knapp, Editor/Graphic Design
snapp.chris@gmail.com

New Members

Paul Cain of Prunedale: Plays piano accordion, button chromatic, button box and free-bass. Likes "Oldies," modern/jazz, classical, and European music. He is young and personable.

Rob Reich of Oakland: Plays piano accordion and likes "Oldies," modern/jazz, classical & European music. We know what a great player he is!

Wolfgang and Susy Weisse of Danville. Wolfgang plays piano accordion and they like classical, European and Latin music

Please Remember!

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

San Francisco Accordion Club

2 for 1 Special!

Bring this coupon along with two friends to our monthly musical meeting and BOTH your friends will get in at the single guest rate of \$8.00

Monthly meeting every
3rd Sunday



Expires 7/31/2011



Scholarship Awards

Twice a year, in April and October, our club awards scholarships to accordion students demonstrating promise to further their study and knowledge of the accordion. Scholarship Guidelines and Application forms are available at the monthly meetings or can be obtained from the club secretary, Randy Hicks - by emailing: hickr01@sprintmail.com. Completed applications are to be returned to: Frank Montoro, 1448 Tarrytown St., San Mateo, CA 94402 by the end of either March or September to be considered for award the following month.

Accordion Band News

Band Practice is the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, monthly @ 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's home in Oakland. Please CALL AHEAD in case there is a change. Everyone is welcome to join. For more information, contact Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net

(Presidents message cont. from pg. 4)

We try to present a diverse program at our meetings each month, with a combination of traditional music as well as original music and ethnic music from a variety of musicians. We encourage you to play at meetings, and to offer suggestions when you discover accordionists we have not yet heard.

We have a treat coming up this month in hearing a number of fine musicians for the first time this month who are coming from quite a distance – Frank Petrilli, Gail Campanella, and Duane English. We feel sure that you'll enjoy the classic tunes which "The Accidentals" will play, which will include *Charade*, *Take the 'A' Train*, and *My Funny Valentine*, to name just a few.

Lynn Ewing

Nearby Club Meetings

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Hermann Sons Hall • 860 Western, Petaluma, CA
\$2 admission donation Contact: Tony Mustaro—
President (707) 318-0474; dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359
gsaccordionclub.net/firms.com

The Vacaville Chapter meets monthly on the second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main Street, Vacaville.

The Humboldt Chapter meets monthly on the third Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta.

The Sacramento Chapter meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. Contact for all three Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 7 p.m. at Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

meets monthly on the first Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas, Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay, CA. Contact: Vince Cukar (916) 791-304

Silicon Valley Accordion Club (SVAC)

meets 1st Sun. of each month at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, corner of Kiely. 1 p.m. \$5, under 16 - no charge.

Performing Around the Bay

Steve Balich • North Bay
(707) 874-3494

Ron Borelli • San Mateo
(650) 574-5707
rborelli@aol.com

Renée de la Prade
Culann's Hounds, San Francisco
www.sfhounds.com

Richard Denier • Carmel
rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono • San Francisco
www.peterdibono.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

Due Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano)
San Francisco
www.eurocafemusic.com or
zighi@sonic.net

Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobbelins
Oakland
www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins

Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers
kirschner@aol.com
www.klezmakers.com

Don Nurisso • Pacifica
nurisso@mindspring.com

Mike Zampiceni • South Bay
eclecticguy@comcast.net

Ed Gorzynski, Jr. • East Bay
edspolkas@yahoo.com

Play at our Meeting!

We are always grateful and accepting of anyone who wishes to play for warm up, intermission, or the first part of the meeting. Share your talent and hone your performance skills! Contact Val Kieser to sign up.



photo courtesy of www.levickis.com

Martynas Levickis Wins Talent Show

Would you believe an accordionist could be the winner of a national "You've Got Talent" contest? That is just what the 20 year old accordionist **Martynas Levickis** did when he won the National Lithuania Talent Contest in January. Martynas is a rising star on the accordion scene, garnering many awards and prizes. Martynas performed for bay area audiences back in July at the Accordionist and Teachers Guild, Intl. festival held in Santa Clara. Hopefully he will visit us in the bay area again soon! Anyone wanting to see Martynas' winning performance can check out the video on **YouTube** at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6vf6KeMFMA>

Jam Sessions To Begin Soon!

We are going to begin a regular "jam" session before our meetings at SFAC once a quarter. We'd like to make a special invitation to beginning accordionists who are less experienced and would like to have an informal time to play with others. Experienced accordionists are welcome too! This is a perfect situation to try out your "chops".

The session will take place from 1 PM to 1:45 PM., and the first session will be before the March 20 meeting. The leadership of the session will rotate among Vic & Barbara Corsiglia, Val Kieser, and Gwyn Lister. Vic & Barbara are preparing a dozen copies of a jam book with about 30 popular songs in it for the use of participants, so bring your accordions, your music stand, and your listening ears! No need to call in advance – but be aware that our parking lot is "under construction" for about the next 6 months. Hope to see you there!

Help our Club SAVE MONEY!

**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE YOUR
NEWSLETTER ON-LINE!**

**NOT ONLY WILL YOU BE ABLE
TO VIEW AND READ IT
IN COLOR,
YOU WILL SAVE US THE COST
OF PRINTING AND POSTAGE
FEES, AND
YOU WILL HAVE LESS
PAPER LAYING AROUND YOUR
HOUSE TO RECYCLE.**

**Please Give it Some Thought, and
if you would like to receive your
Newsletter via the Internet
send an email to:
sfacnewsletter@earthlink.net**

Newsletter Deadline

Submissions are welcome for consideration and inclusion in the Newsletter.

The deadline for time critical information is the second Monday following the Monthly Musical Meeting.

All other submissions will be considered as time and space permit.

Please be mindful that copyrighted material cannot be reprinted

without the author/publisher's permission.

Send items to the editor,

Christina Knapp

snapp.chris@gmail.com

SFAC Statement of Income & Expenses • Calendar Year 2010

Income		
Meeting Admissions		\$5,232
Advertising		\$480
Calendar Sales (more comit		\$630
Donations		\$3,540
Membership Dues		\$5,895
Interest Rec'd.		\$4
Raffle/Scholarship		\$783
Total Income		\$16,564
Expenses		
Advertising		\$490
Bank Charges		\$38
Calendars 4 Resale		\$350
Entertainment at Meetings		\$2,325
Insurance		\$1,199
Food at Meetings		\$2,250
Meeting Supplies		\$228
Newsletter		\$5,074
PO Box Rental		\$140
Rent		\$2,400
Scholarship Award		\$900
Taxes & Fees		\$20
Web Site		\$538
Yacht Club Membership		\$360
Total Expense		\$16,312
Net Income (Loss)		\$252



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SFAC Membership

\$30.00 per year for individual or family membership.

Meeting admission is \$6.00 for members and \$8.00 for guests.

For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Valerie Kieser, 3437 Crane Way, Oakland, CA 94602.

For new members, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you want.

Musical Meeting • February 20 @ 2 p.m.

- The ACCIDENTALS (a newly formed group of musical accordionists)
Frank Petrilli, Gail Campanella, Jana Maas, Lynn Ewing
Marian Kelly, and Sharon Walters-Greyhosky
- Dave Chelini
- Duane English

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

DIRECTIONS:

From 101 traveling either North or South, take the 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 sign Oyster Point Yacht Club. There is plenty of parking and ramp access.
Visit us online @ www.sfaccordionclub.com

NOTICE

Parking behind the Oyster Point Yacht Club will be disrupted through September 2011, while a ferry boat terminal is being built. We can no longer park behind the building and there is limited parking in the lot alongside the OPYC. PLEASE do not park in the Commodore's designated space in the front of this lot! Overflow parking must go to the next lot down the line, where the \$10 parking fee is being waived.

**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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www.sfaccordionclub.com



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