

February, 2020

Sunday, February 16, 2020

♪ ♪ SFAC Accordion Circle! ♪ ♪

ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

Chetcuti Community Room — Millbrae, CA

2:00 pm - 4:30pm



Please bring your accordion and be ready to have fun for another meeting in the SFAC's **Accordion Circle** bi-monthly format! Just show up to secure your spot in the circle to play together from the SFAC jam book. Be sure to also add your name to the open mic playlist so others can hear what you've been working on. It's a friendly atmosphere, and cheering-on each other musically feels good. Accordionists of all skill levels are welcome - from very beginner, to someone dusting off that accordion in the closet after raising a family or pursuing a career, to the seasoned expert. If you don't play the accordion, come anyway and enjoy the music. There will probably even be a few tunes to sing along with.



January Event Summary

by Kenneth Schwartz

The long holiday weekend and football games couldn't compete with the club's January event, in which the many who attended our own club playoff were glued to their front row seats with live accordion performances.

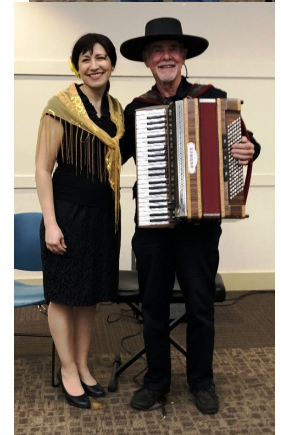
Our emcee, Steve Marshall, entertained with his witty monologue about his 2005 Brooks Brothers suit(it no longer fits). You have a future, Steve! Certainly with the club!

Il Duetto Musica

The first half of the program featured **Il Duetto Musica** with **Paul Aebersold** on accordion and soprano **Gloria Mendieta Gazave**, who always wow us with their Italian and Spanish classics. They opened



with a wonderful Spanish selection including *La Spagnola* (titled in Spanish but ironically written in Italian), *Le Filles de Cadix* (*The Spanish Girls of Cadiz*) by Léo Delibes, *Maria la O* (Lecuona), *Damisela Encantadora* (Lecuona), *Siboney* (Lecuona) and *Tanze Mit Mir In Den Morgen* (Götz). The duo then switched to tangos *Historia de un Amor* (Carlos Almaran) and *Jalousie* (a title song in the movie *Anchors Aweigh* by Jacob Gade). They then performed beautiful renditions of additional favorites, including *Seguedilla* and *Habanera* (both from *Carmen*, by Bizet); *Granada* (Agustín Lara); *Andalucia* (Lecuona); *Danza Española No. 5* (Enrique Granados); and finally, their signature *Arrivederci Roma*.

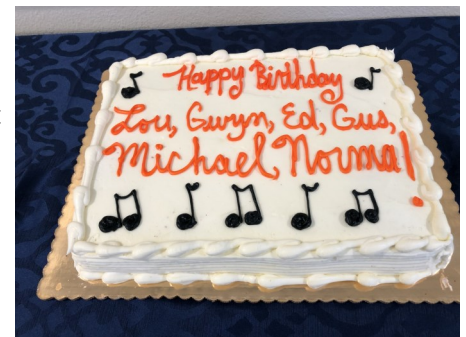


Gloria's superb soprano filled the room with the high notes that she achieves so effortlessly; she was perfectly coordinated with Paul's adept accordion accompaniments. Thank you, **Il Duetto Musica**, for your awesome performance!



Intermission

The intermission featured a special event celebrating our most senior and accomplished members, those who have achieved the milestone of 90 years and beyond. To the best of our knowledge, 6 of our members are in the 90+ group: Lou Jacklich, Gwyn Lister, Ed Massolo, Gus Greyhosky, Michael Sanossian, and Norma Zonay-Parsons. Three of this elite group were able to join us today for a "birthday" celebration, complete with cake! Many best wishes for the next 90!



Bonnie Birch

We were so fortunate to have Bonnie Birch as our featured performer and special guest. Bonnie thrilled us with her easy-going tunes, which covered a range of her repertoire, all beautifully performed on her Petosa. Included were Scandinavian songs *Afton Pa Solvik*, *Glad Och Livid*, and *Caffe Peter Polka*. These were followed by French tunes: *A Man and a Woman* (Francis Lai); *La Petite Valse* (Joe Heyne); and a beautiful, jazzy version of *I Will Wait for You* (Michel Legrand). Bonnie then performed two Spanish tunes: *El Cubanero*,



Continued ...

(continued) **January Event Summary** by Kenneth Schwartz



which emphasized the deep bass of her Petosa, and Tango in D (Albeinez, the Spanish composer, was a child prodigy).

Bonnie loves to perform during Oktoberfest. She performed *Punch Polka*; *Happy is the Gypsy Life* (Lustig ist das Zigeunerleben); and *The Radetsky March*. No accordion performance would be complete without some Italian, and Bonnie performed the *Theme from La Strada*; *Fasola*; *Così Cosa* (featured in the Marx Brothers film *A Night at the Opera*) and *Azzurro*, a pop song composed in 1968. She followed with *American/Dances: You Make Me Feel So Young* (Josef Myrow); *Scotch 'N Soda*, a song recorded by The Kingston Trio in 1958; and *So Rare* by Jerry Herst and lyricist Jack Sharpe, which became a hit for Jimmy Dorsey in 1957. Finally, Bonnie gave a virtuoso performance of *Flick Flack*.



Thank you, Bonnie for joining us all the way from the Pacific Northwest for your awesome performance! The afternoon was a musical touchdown, brimming with fine, live accordion music and saluting our celebrated members. Many thanks to all for making this event so memorable!



Houston Accordion Orchestra Retreat 2021

January 14-16, 2021
Kemah Boardwalk Inn
Kemah, TX

Music Director: *Stas Venglevski*
Guest Artist: *Joan Cochran Sommers*



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 - ✓ Open mic and jam session every night
 - ✓ Final public concert at Theater (Jan 16)

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This retreat is designed for the serious accordion ensemble musicians.
Limited number (**maximum of 35 accordionists-availability** on a 1st come, 1st serve basis).
Contact Megumi to participate in the retreat and secure your spot.



For more information contact Megumi (Meg) Hada, meghada33@gmail.com

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AAMS 30th Accordion Extravaganza

The American Accordion Musicological Society (AAMS) will celebrate its Extravaganza on March 6-7, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - 2349 W NJ Route 70, Cherry Hill, New Jersey (the Philadelphia International Airport is only 20 minutes away), featuring 4 workshops and opportunities to rehearse & perform in the intermediate (directed by Dee Langley) or advanced (directed by Joan C. Sommers) orchestra.

The program consists of:

- Orchestra Rehearsals
- Technique & Sight-Reading Skills - Joan C. Sommers
- Combining Studio Quality Digital Home Recording with Video Production - Joseph Natoli
- Al Terzo and Friends [Performances and composer biographies on some accordion standards] - Al Terzo
- Question and Answer Panel, Banquet honoring Joan C. Sommers, Accordion concert

For registration information: Joanna Darrow,
AAMS, 856-854-6628, acmeaccordion@gmail.com

A Giulietti Bass Rises From the Ashes: *A Hidden Gem-Part 2*

by Robert Cooperstein

The bass piano accordion is a variation of a piano accordion without bass buttons and with the piano keyboard reeds tuned an octave lower. They typically have around 3 octaves. These bass piano accordions have been made for use with accordion orchestras for the past 90 years by firms such as Excelcior, Titano, Giulietti, Sano, and others. Make no mistake about it, playing the piano bass accordion is not the same as just using the right hand of a standard accordion.

Jazz player Joe Mooney (see photo) had Giulietti and other companies build accordions for him with no reeds on the left side. Especially on those old boxes, the difference in weight was enormous. For professional musicians who travel constantly with their instruments, particularly by train and bus, that would surely would have been an incentive.



My wife Elaine played the piano bass accordion in the 2013, 2014, and 2015 accordion orchestras conducted by SFAC member Richard Yaus, who now lives in Connecticut. The orchestra sound was especially rich because SFAC member Dr. Jim Shoemaker also played a piano bass accordion in those orchestras. Taking up the piano bass accordion seemed like a natural progression for Elaine, since she had played the bass guitar in a garage band called the *Scary Tweezers* that played around

Indiana & Ohio in the 1990s.

Alas, when Richard left the Bay Area, the orchestras were no more. But Elaine was not quite finished with the piano bass accordion. Her orchestra bass had been one that was borrowed from Richard – what to do after he left? They are not so easy to find, rarely sold by vendors but occasionally popping up on eBay. It is not that easy to search online for a “bass accordion” because virtually all the hits are for something like a “120 bass accordion”, which most



certainly has left hand buttons and reeds. Elaine once snapped up a pretty inexpensive piano bass accordion that was described on eBay as in “good working condition. However, even I noticed that the pitch changed depending on which way the bellows was moving. Adios Mr. Good-Working-Condition accordion, it’s back to the seller for you! She then picked up yet another beater on eBay, who we will call Mr. Good-Working-Condition #2. It just sat and sat, not working well enough to be used but too rare to be parted with.



After literally years of looking around, Elaine incredibly located a Giulietti piano bass accordion, again on eBay. It was, of course, “in good working condition”, and was being sold by a musician whose father had used it in a band. What made this an especially exciting find is that the accordion for sale appeared to be the same version of the Giulietti Elaine had played in the Yaus orchestra; its deep resonance and smooth playability had become something of a standard for her.

When FedEx delivered an accordion case with a shipping label on it, no padding or outer box, Elaine knew instantly there would be a problem. She felt and heard shifting contents as soon as she picked up the case; her worst fears were con-

(continued) **A Giulietti Bass** by Robert Cooperstein

firmed . . . the Giulietti, which may very well have been “in good working condition” prior to shipping, looked run over by a truck.

There were reed blocks hanging out of the accordion, and worst of all the oblique joint between the keyboard and the body of the instrument had cracked apart! Talk about hopes being dashed . . . Elaine was in a state of existential despair!

What to do? The first thought was to send it back for a refund. But the only thing worse than having a busted up Giulietti bass accordion would be to have no Giulietti bass accordion at all! After all, everything changes when you are fortunate enough to have access to the skills of master accordion technician Professor Valdet Jakubovic, whose workshop is in San Jose. I know this will just sound like hype, but I must say he does not so much repair accordions as restore them. It needs a new grill? The professor will re-purpose a used grill from his immense parts inventory. Need a jewel to mark your A^b root button for easy identification, or a replacement accordion foot? No problem. In fact, the Professor’s workshop is the accordion equivalent of an auto wrecker’s yard, with an immense number of non-working instruments and parts just screaming out to be re-purposed and live again! Every accordion carcass in his workshop has a story, and the workshop is packed with accordion-themed paraphernalia, including record album covers, photographs, and concert posters for legendary mostly Bay Area players. (Dr. Jakubovic’s contact information can be found on the advertiser page of this newsletter.)

One would think having one piano bass accordion would be enough, but Elaine could not resist taking Mr. Good-Working-Condition #2 to the professor – not because she needed a second working piano bass accordion, but it was for the greater good of mankind that it be lovingly restored. Indeed, it is now pretty much as good as new, and hopefully in the near future will find a new owner to lovingly treasure it. As for the restored Giulietti, it is very much enjoying its second chance at life . . . may we all be so lucky!



Restored Giulietti Bass

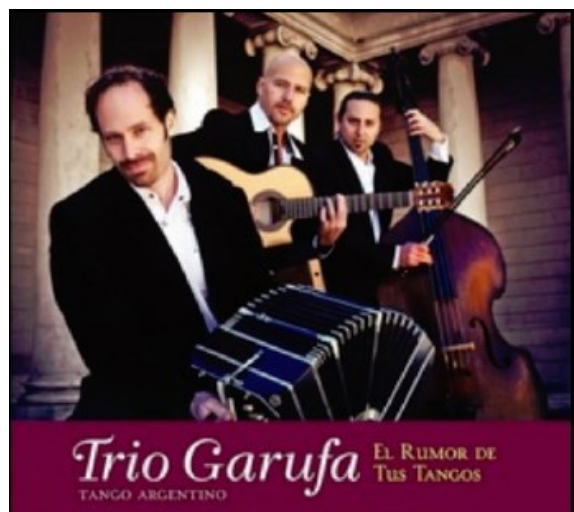
SFAC’s New Members!

Our 3 new members all joined at our January meeting at Chetcuti. **Christina Knapp** (Hayward) is actually a returning member, and we are so happy to welcome her back! **Monica Amabalal** (San Leandro) became aware of the SFAC at the Cotati Accordion Festival, and also by means of the Maestro, Mr. Lou Jacklich. Monica enjoys European-Ethnic accordion music, and also plays the cello. **Anja Hueffmeier** (San Francisco) likes oldies/standards, and discovered us on the internet. We extend a warm SFAC welcome to Christina, Monica, and Anja!



Mark your Calendars! SFAC July 19, 2020

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Elaine Cooperstein (510)921-9323, elainedc@sbcglobal.net

Dominic Palmisano* (415)587-4423, accord47@gmail.com
*Honorary Director

Webmaster & Accounting

Randall Hicks (510)750-6858, hickr01@sprintmail.com

Newsletter team: Content collection & writing, Layout, Copy Editing, Print shop pick-up, Labels/Stamps, Mailing

Elaine Cooperstein, Rosemary Busher, Pamela Tom, Robert Cooperstein [*volunteers needed*]

Scholarship

Mike Zampiceni (408)569-2579, eclecticguy@comcast.net

Area Accordion Groups/Events

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday at 7:30 pm, Hermann Sons Hall
860 Western, Petaluma
Contact: Tony Mustaro, President
(707) 318-0474, dcdacapo@gmail.com

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

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

Humboldt Accordionaires

humsqueez44@yahoo.com
3rd Tuesday at 7pm, Humboldt Swiss Club
5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta

Napa Valley Accordion Party

gbachich@accordionrevival.com
2nd Thursday at 5:30 pm, The Runway Restaurant
2044 Airport Road, Napa

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Lutheran Church Hall,
6365 Douglas Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay
Contact: Jim Shoemaker (916) 443-0974

Sacramento Jammers

accordiondave1@gmail.com

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

1st Sundays at Christ Episcopal Church
1040 Border Rd., Los Altos, CA
Doors open at 1:30pm. www.svasociety.org

Music Lessons

Peter DiBono

415-699-8674

peterdsf@gmail.com

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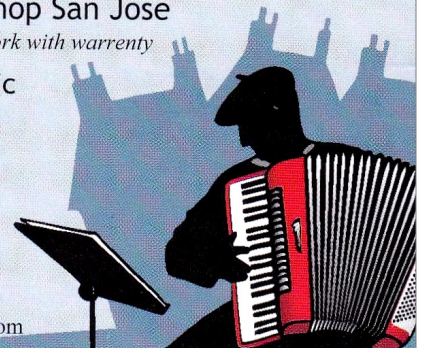
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Members may place one small ad (business-card size) free of charge for one month, once a year. Additional ads are \$10/issue or \$100/year.

Monthly ad prices for members:

1/4-page: \$25: 1/2-page: \$50: Full-page: \$100.

Non-member rates are double.

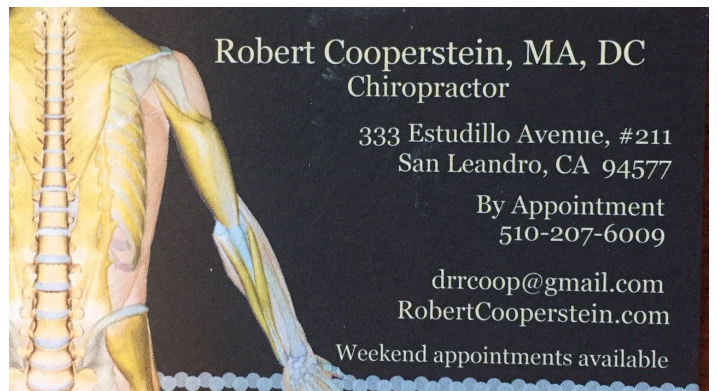
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RON BORELLI San Mateo - RonBorelli@aol.com
www.ronborelli.com

RICHARD DENIER Carmel - rjd.denier@gmail.com

PETER DI BONO San Francisco www.peterdibono.com

RENO DI BONO South Bay - ourhike@aol.com
www.italianaccordion.com

JOE DOMITROWICH South Bay
www.alpinersusa.com
or www.capricious-accordion.com

ED GORZYNSKI, JR. East Bay - edspolkas@yahoo.com

IL DUETTO MUSICA (aka Paul Aebersold & Gloria Gazave)
mazurkaman@yahoo.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Il-Duetto-Musica-992981207392410/>

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Paul Aebersold; Chris & Tor Arild; Evelyn Baulch; Anthony Bologna; Dave Braun; George Chavez; Xavier & Candace de la Prade; Aldo Didero; Ed Gorzynski, Jr.; Dominic Granelli; Gus & Sharon Greyhosky; Ron & Mary Jo Harris; Franco, Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi; Michael A. Marotta, Jr.; Stephen Marshall; Nora & Tony Mazzara; Herb Meier; James Monfredini; Anna Nicora; Gisele B. Oakes; Colette & Casey Ogata; Alexander Roitman; Michael Sanossian; Don & Mary Savant; Kenneth Schwartz & Jayne Tan; Bill & Gloria Tapogna; Pamela Tom; Jane & Frank Tripi; Frank Venturelli; Barbara Winter; Richard Yaus; Mike Zampiceni; Marlen Zhagel

If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact elainedc@sbcglobal.net. We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized.



Mark Your Calendars for March 15, 2020!

“Tutto a Dio”

Greta Staponkutė (viola)

Augustinas Rakauskas (accordion)

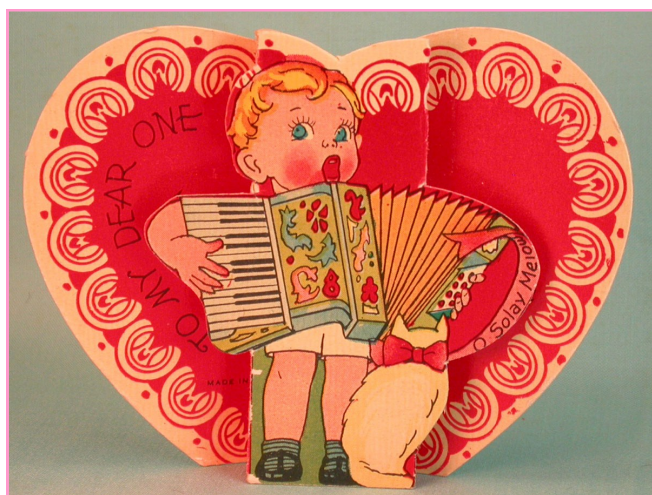
Winners of several International Competitions (Switzerland, Italy, France, etc.), this fabulous Lithuanian duo of viola and accordion will be in San Francisco just in time for our March meeting!



Check them out at [Facebook.com/tuttoadio](https://www.facebook.com/tuttoadio)

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 PAMELA TOM (530 AREA) accordionpam@gmail.com
 JOEL WEBER (510) 655-4398
 MIKE ZAMPICENI (408) 569-2579



ATTENTION:

a Message from the

Cotati Accordion Festival

Due to the Sonoma County fair moving their dates, we will celebrate our 30th anniversary on

AUGUST 22nd & 23rd, 2020

If you've already made hotel reservations, now's the time to change them.

Please visit cotatifest.com for tickets and more information.

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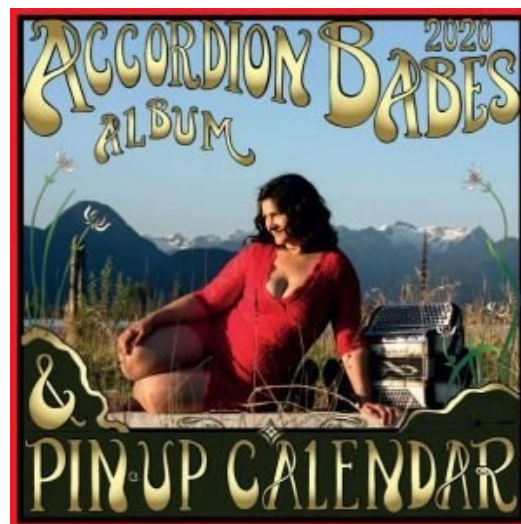
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2020 "Accordion Babes" Calendars!



Photos in the 2020 **Accordion Babes Calendar** combine a timeless 1940's pin-up aesthetic with modern photography, appreciating women and accordions in a way that's sensual, fun, and inspiring. On the 2020 Accordion Babes CD (included), each Babe has shared one of her songs on an album that's eclectic, passionate, and wildly alive. **\$15, while they last, at the club meeting!**

2020 ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

Rose City Accordion Camp

Collins Retreat Center - Eagle Creek, Oregon
June 7 - 12, 2020
rosecityaccordionclub.org

American Accordion Musicological Society

30th Accordion Extravaganza
March 6-7, 2020
www.acmeaccordion.com

Leavenworth International Accordion

Northwest Accordion Society
June 18 - 21, 2020
Leavenworth is Washington's "Bavarian Village"
www.accordioncelebration.org

Not Just Oom-Pah Accordion Concert & Workshop

Austin, Texas
June 26-28, 2020
Featuring: Alicia Baker, Kevin Solecki
www.accordioncelebration.org

American Accordionists' Association (AAA) Festival

Holiday Inn & Suites, Alexandria, VA
July 8-12, 2020
<http://www.ameraccord.com/festival.php>

Accordionists & Teachers Guild International (ATG)

2020 Festival
Los Angeles, California
August 5—9, 2020
<https://www.atgaccordions.com/2020-festival>

Cotati Accordion Festival

LaPlaza Park, Cotati, California
August 22-23, 2020
<https://cotatifest.com/>

Squeezebox International Accordion Festival

Frederikshavn, Denmark
September 10-13, 2020
<https://z-m-www.facebook.com/events/2543348092383455/>

Coupe Mondiale 2020

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)
October 2 - 4, 2020
Algrave, Portugal
www.coupemondiale.org

SFAC Meetings — Looking Ahead!

- **February 16, 2020**
SFAC Accordion Circle, participation meeting
- **March 15, 2020**
SFAC Accordions Live! - **Tutto a Dio**, from Lithuania!
[Augustinas Rakauskas, accordion; Greta Staponkutė, viola]
- **April 19, 2020**
Accordion Circle, participation meeting
- **May 17, 2020**
SFAC Accordions Live! - **Steve Albini**
- **June 21, 2020**
Accordion Circle, participation meeting
- **July 19, 2020**
SFAC Accordions Live! Featuring—
Adrian Jost/Bandoneon & Carlos Garcia/Guitar
<http://www.triogarufa.com/>

We're seeking members to perform during the 1st half of upcoming performance meetings. This is a great opportunity for our members to polish their stage skills and share a few favorite pieces! Even a few minutes of performance will be enjoyed by all!

My contact information is:

Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

SFAC Scholarships

Your club has scholarship funds available to support accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference is given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact **Mike Zampiceni** for a scholarship application.

eclecticguy@comcast.net
408-569-2579

Event Reviews:

Volunteers are *very much* needed to assist with the monthly event summaries. This is a great opportunity to express your creative writing skills while assisting your club! Please volunteer to write up a meeting review for an upcoming newsletter.

Please contact Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

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3rd Sundays – Monthly Musical Meetings

SFAC Sunday Meeting

Accordion Circle

Sunday, February 16

Come for fun and great music!

2pm – 4:30pm

Accordion Circle

“open mic” style solo opportunities

SFAC Jam Band

All are encouraged to participate!

\$5 suggested donation (Under 13 free)

Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room

Civic Center Plaza/Library Plaza

450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA



Chetcuti Community Room

450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae

Plenty of *free parking* in Library lot

Accessible location

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