

February, 2023

Sunday, February 19, 2023

♪♪ SFAC Accordion Circle! ♪♪

All Are Encouraged to Participate!

"Open Mic" solo opportunities

&

SFAC Jam Band group performance

Chetcuti Community Room — Millbrae, CA

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm PST

SFAC Members will receive ZOOM link via email

The Circle will be in-person in Millbrae and live via ZOOM



Maestro Lou Jacklich will be leading our vaunted Jam Band during our February **Accordion Circle**. The jam books will be available on site, so get ready for some accordion adventures in group play / jam band!

As a reminder, unlike our "Accordions Live!" musical programs in odd-numbered months where invited performers are the center of attention, the Accordion Circle meetings in even-numbered months invite our club members to take over and entertain each other.

Please come armed with accordions and eager to put your names on the playlist as soloists, duets, trios or more, as you please. Accordionists of all skill levels are welcome - from beginners to seasoned experts, and everything in-between. And if you don't play the accordion, come anyway to cheer on the players!



JANUARY'S EVENT SUMMARY

WE COULD HAVE DANCED ALL DAY!

By Ken Schwartz

Last month's event on January 15th was a study in contrasts: outdoors it was overcast, gray, drizzly, and punctuated with occasional torrential showers; indoors was colorful and alive with the music and singing of **Squeeze Box Opera**, with **Paul Aebersold** on Accordion and **Christine Capsuto-Shulman** singing soprano. Paul loves performing operatic and classical melodies on his magnificent accordion while Christine is a multi-talented soprano, dancer, actress, and educator. They beautifully complemented one another with a performance that soared and "defied gravity," with Christine's "High Notes" in a program devoted to arias and Broadway show tunes. We could have "Danced All Day!" - time permitting!



The duo presented a stunning program. Christine immediately captured our hearts with her performance of the instantly recognizable aria *Libiamo Re' Leite Calici* (Verdi, **La Traviata**), complemented by Paul's flawless musical accompaniment. No microphones here, Christine filled the room with her magnificent voice, hitting the high note in her finale!

Next was *Songs My Mother Taught Me* (Dvorak, Op.55 No.4), sung first in German and then in English. This piece is special to Christine; it reminds her of her late mother, who passed away just a few weeks after Christine's daughter was born in 2021. She loves this piece.

The duo proceeded with another instantly recognizable aria, *L'Amour est un Oiseau Rebelle* (Bizet, **Carmen**), needless to say, a perfect match for Christine - no red dress, today, however! Next was the beautiful *O Mio Babbino Caro* (*Oh my Dear Papa*) - (Puccini, from his opera **Gianni Schicchi**). In the opera, Lauretta is pleading with her father to allow her to marry the "love of her life," at age 16! Wonderful, Christine and Paul! This transitioned to *Quando M'en Vo* - (Puccini, **La bohème**), sung by Musetta in the opera. Christine has sung this part 3 times in her career. It was riveting!

Then, Paul and Christine successively performed:

Barcarolle (Belle Nuit) – from Offenbach's **Les Comptes d'Hoffman**. Barcarolles are songs which boatmen sing. Paul played the contralto in this wonderful duet. Paul lives on a boat named Barcarolle in Redwood City.

Due des Fleurs (The Flower Duet) - from Léo Delibes' opera **Lakmé**. Christine and Paul reversed parts of this short song.



Continued on next page ...

JANUARY EVENT REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Duetto-Sull'aria the Marriage of Figaro - from Mozart's opera **The Marriage of Figaro**; a part which Christine has previously performed.

Mon Coeur s'ouvre a ta Voix- from Saint-Saëns' **Samson et Dalila**. A powerful theme of love and eventual betrayal!

Summertime – from George Gershwin's **Porgy and Bess**.

Art is calling For Me – from Victor Herbert's **The Enchantress**," an operetta.

Switching gears to Broadway show tunes, Christine and Paul next performed *Willkommen* by Kander & Ebb, from **Cabaret**; *All That Jazz* by Kander & Ebb, from **Chicago**; *Edelweiss* by Rodgers & Hammerstein, from **The Sound of Music**; *I Could Have Danced All Night* by Loewe & Lerner, from **My Fair Lady**; and finally, *Belle Notte* by Sonny Burke, from the Disney movie **Lady and the Tramp**.

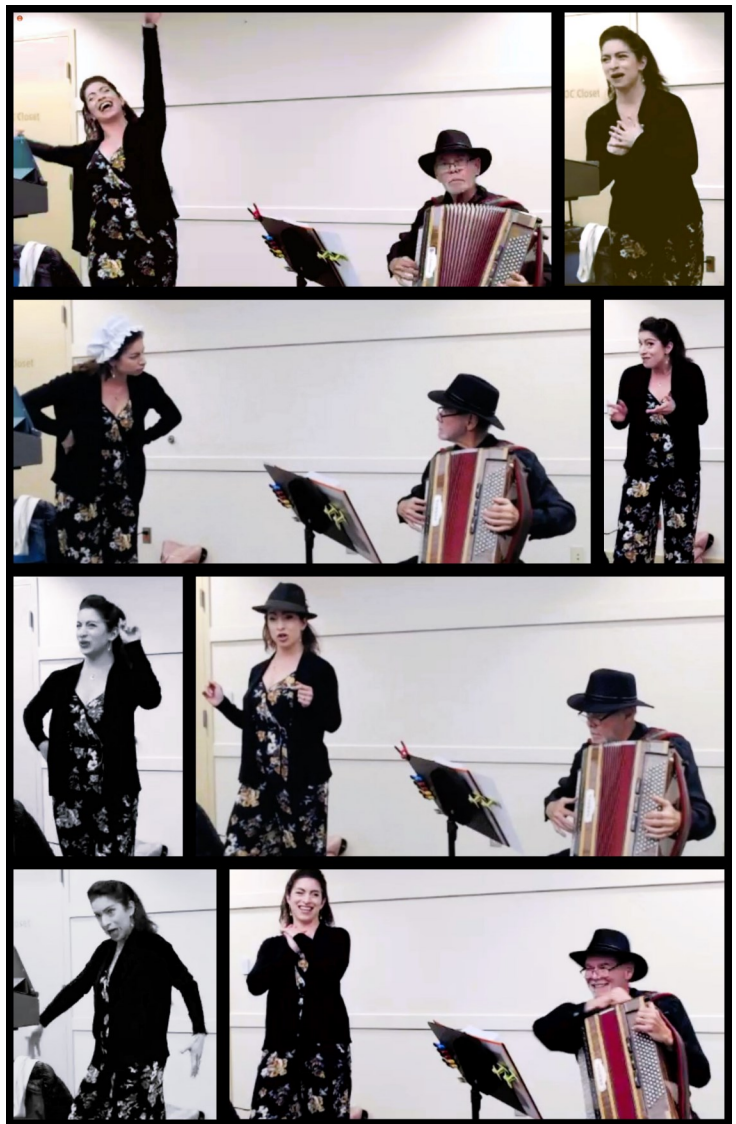
A few closing notes:

Paul's accordion, which resembles a vintage, wooden accordion, is actually modern, complete with internal microphone, and comes from Italy.

This remarkable duo was destined to meet. Paul previously performed with Gloria Mendieta Gazave, soprano, who later relocated out of the area. While Paul and Gloria were performing at a weekend Farmers Market in San Jose's Willow Glen neighborhood, a young woman spontaneously joined them in song; she was, of course, Christine. And so, Squeeze Box Opera was born and the rest is history!

Many thanks for your wonderful performance, **Squeeze Box Opera**! Bravo! We'll look forward to your return!

Finally, we hope those of you who attended this musical program, in person or virtually, enjoyed your "front row box seats" to this opera and Broadway performance!



Notes in the Margins

Rosemary Busher

Rising inflation is a big concern these days, as was the case years ago. Below is a time capsule from the early 1940's.

In my collection of old accordion books is a copy of *Everybody's Favorite Accordion Pieces*. Originally published by **Amsco** in 1939, it was once quite popular. In this copy that belonged to a boy name Tom is a marginal note apparently from a parent to Tom's teacher:

Why is Tom having the same thing every week? A \$1.50 and bus fare is quite a lot for same thing 4 weeks. RSVP

It is hard to imagine a music lesson for only a dollar and a half, and that the poor child traveled by bus, most likely while hauling his accordion. It must have cost a whole nickel to ride the bus in the 1940's.

It appears that expectations were not in alignment. For instance, does the note say more about the music teacher, the parent, or Tom? So much to speculate! Maybe the teacher, whoever they were, happened to be a taskmaster and wanted a certain level of play before moving on. Maybe the parent didn't realize it takes time and effort to be musically proficient; if they lacked music training themselves, they might not know that "doing the work" sometimes takes more than four weeks. Maybe Tom was more interested in sports or reading than practicing accordion. Did they come up with a plan and work it out? We get to finish the story for ourselves, since there is no further correspondence recorded. How did the accordion teacher answer the parent and did Tom continue his musical studies?

Music lessons are an investment that can pay dividends throughout a lifetime, inflation be damned! Everybody needs a little music in life, right?!

Other notations in the same book include: "watch counter basses" and "memorize by Feb 19"; and my favorite, "*Bring Robert E. Lee!*"



PS: Do you have something to share? We are always looking for a good story, photo, or other accordion-related information to include in our club's newsletter. No need to be lengthy. Questions? Contact info@saccordionclub.com

Paul Cain's Accordion Collection

By Rosemary Busher

It was the day after Christmas when three students and their accordion teacher, Mike Zampiceni, made a visit to Paul Cain's carefully curated accordion collection. OK, let's just call it a museum! The display room sits atop Paul's warehouse that contains a vast quantity of sound, audiovisual, and lighting equipment, which are the components he uses in his business (cainsound.com).



This is one impressive display, and Paul's warmth and enthusiasm were evident as he explained the finer points about some of the more obscure and never-seen-before (by us, anyway) instruments in his collection. It is truly amazing! Paul doesn't collect run-of-the-mill accordions but rather seeks out rare and unusual vintage accordions. There is no accordion too far away in this country for him to not consider owning it. He has a broad knowledge of accordions and manufacturers, which assists him on focusing spe-



cifically on the more desirable and lesser-known instruments for possible acquisition. His collection room is fastidiously arranged and maintained with instruments as well as accordion memorabilia and miscellanea.

There are over 100 (who's counting?) accordions of all sorts: piano accordions, chromatic button accordions, bandoneons, squeezeboxes, and concertinas. Hands-on participation was totally encouraged at this museum, and each of us got to test-drive at least one accordion. Paul demonstrated a couple of the rarer, more unusual instruments. One such curio is the gray Hohner with the curved keyboard pictured on page 6. Manufacturers would periodically launch unusual features they considered superior to the norm at the time or to occupy a certain niche. In this case, the curved keyboard won over the accordion commu-

Continued on next page ...

(Continued) Paul Cain's Accordion Collection

By Rosemary Busher



nity as much as the ill-fated Edsel of 1958 won over auto enthusiasts! Speaking of Hohners, Paul has more of them in his collection than any other brand, so he's definitely a Hohner owner!

Too bad we ran short of time due to the long drive home, but stay tuned. There just may be a return visit again sometime in May. Let us know if you would like to tag along!





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

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

Dominic Palmisano (Honorary) accord47@gmail.com

Webmaster & Bookkeeping: Randall Hicks

Newsletter: *Content, Layout, Edit, Print shop pick-up, Labeling, Mailing*

Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Pamela Tom, Rosemary Busher

Scholarship:

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

President's Report



The year started off with a bang with a great performance by **Squeeze Box Opera**, reviewed on pages 2-3.

We're busy planning 2023's schedule, which will feature live in-person and Zoom meetings as well as a July picnic. As technology continues to progress at "warp speed" – the computer-generated "Oh Accordion" poem on page 8 was written in 15 seconds! – we're reminded that the accordion can't be learned with a simple "click of the mouse." Playing is a skill acquired over years; the result provides a lifetime of enjoyment!

So, please continue practicing, volunteer and entertain us with your fine music. And, if not playing, we hope you'll be able to join in-person to enjoy the live music.

See you soon!

Ken

SFAC Members At Stas Venglevski's Houston Accordion Orchestra Retreat

Summarized by Pamela Tom

SFAC members Gail Campanella, Pamela Lister, and Laura Niland were in Texas last month to participate in the 5th Houston Accordion Orchestra Retreat under the direction of Stas Venglevski. Our members had a fun time performing in the *Modern Movie Magic... Concert* which featured music from **Titanic** and **The Godfather**, as well as a medley of 15 pieces from **Harry Potter**, **Downton Abbey**, **Jurassic Park**, **Star Wars**, and other movies. Coming from across the USA and Canada, the orchestra had 40 musicians, including 13 talented members of the youth ensemble which premiered their original compositions.



Pamela Lister, Back Row, Center (waving)

Pamela Lister, Gail Campanella, & Laura Niland



ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

2023 IN-PERSON & ONLINE EVENTS

Monthly: 1st & 3rd Monday - Joseph Natoli (Virtual)
JANPress University - Topics vary monthly (\$) janpressmusic@yahoo.com

Monthly: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30-6:30 PM
Hosted by Laura Niland (Free) LauraNiland@outlook.com

Monthly: 3rd Sunday - Gordon Kohl Workshop (Virtual)
Topics vary (\$) gkohl5890@gmail.com

Mar 15 - 19 NAA Accordion Convention
Hilton Hotel Richardson, TX
<http://accordions.com/naa>

May 17 - 20 Kim & Dan Christian's Accordion Extravaganza & Band Camp
Branson, MO <http://SqueezePlay.biz>

May 22 - 27, May 29 - June 3
Jacques Mornet Workshops, New Orleans, LA
<http://cnima.com/usa>

June 4 - 9 Rose City Accordion Club
Accordion Camp, Eagle Creek, OR
maddoxfran43@gmail.com

June 22 - 25 Leavenworth (WA) International Accordion Celebration
<http://accordioncelebration.org>

July 12-16 American Accordion Association Festival
Conshohocken, PA <http://www.ameraccord.com/>

July 19-22 Accordionists & Teachers Guild, International Festival Lisle, IL (Chicago)
<https://www.atgaccordions.com/>

July 28-30 2023 Accordion Seminars:
In the Shadow - In The!! – Virtual (On-line)
accordionbill@gmail.com



San Antonio Accordion Association Welcomes Accordion Friends to Monthly Zoom Meetings

By Laura Niland SFAC Member and SAAA President

The San Antonio Accordion Association invites you to its Valentine's Day Zoom meeting on February 14. Our meeting format consists of Greetings and Announcements, Play-Along, Solos, Closing Comments, and a TOAST to the next Zoom session. We will have play-along songs (see lists below) for participation.

There will be four February group songs from shelialee.wordpress.com. Search at TOP for PLAY LIST CATEGORY: *All My Loving; Auf Wiedersehen, Sweetheart; Hey Good Lookin';* and *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*. Also, here are three February group songs from donquattrochi.com. Search at TOP for Sheet Music Directory and find these songs in alphabetical order: *Bye Bye Love; Somewhere My Love; and Those Were the Days*.

We will have time for folks to play 1-2 solos. The SAAA Zoom meeting regularly takes place on the second Tuesday of the month. Check-in starts at 4:30 PM Pacific Time for conversation and pre-show. The accordion music takes place from 5:00 – 6:30 Pacific Time.

You may join our monthly meetings by emailing me at LaurajNiland@outlook.com to receive a Zoom link and a list of play-along tunes!

Oh Accordion! *Written by ChatGPT*

Oh Accordion, with buttons and keys,
Your melodies rise with the breeze.
A sound so unique, so full of life,
A musical joy, free from strife.

With each press and squeeze,
A symphony of air you release.
Accordion, you are a treasure,
A source of joy beyond measure.

With roots in folk, and heart in jazz,
Your sound inspires, your spirit surpasses.
A world of music, in your hold,
Your notes unfold, a story untold.

So here's to you, Accordion so fine,
A musical delight, a joy divine.
May your music continue to play,
Bringing happiness, joy and delight, every day!

*This poem is computer generated through Artificial Intelligence!
The Club takes no credit for its composition nor does it vouch for its originality or content.*

Voices of the Earth, Accordion Solos

Digital sheet music released by Megumi Hada

By Pamela Tom



Megumi Hada, PhD, accordion music composer, poet and student scholarship sponsor has released her fifth volume of compositions for accordion, **Voices of the Earth**. It contains 13 original compositions written for solo and duet accordion with an accompanying CD. An added bonus are Megumi's thoughtfully penned poems attributed to each composition

and conveying the mood of the music. Stas Venglevski, world renowned accordionist, interprets and performs the melodic compositions on the CD. *Winter Sky* from the CD is a beautiful example of Megumi's music and poetry, and is [posted](#) on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/iwLZQKpCoDA>.

Full length audio recordings (MP3) of the compositions can be heard, and individual purchases of sheet music are available through sheetmusicplus.com. Proceeds from the sales of Megumi's music are entirely donated to support student scholarships for young accordionists participating at the annual Houston Accordion Orchestra Retreat. The 13 nature-based tunes debuted at the Houston Accordion Orchestra Retreat mini-concert last month, performed by duo Gabrielle Peck (cellist) and Stas Venglevski (bayan), was accompanied by a touching 40-minute slide and poetry presentation by Ms. Hada. **Voices of the Earth** - combined as a spiral-bound book with CD - is a good deal for the accordion enthusiast and can be ordered directly from: meghada33@gmail.com.



Friends of SFAC— Accordion Groups/Clubs

Some clubs are on hiatus or meeting virtually (online) only. Check each club's website and/or club contacts to verify meeting schedules

Accordion Club of the Redwoods¹ (Santa Rosa)
Meetings 3rd Wednesdays—Cibo Rustico Pizzeria
(707) 318-0474, dcdacapo@gmail.com

Accordion Lovers Society International (ALSI)³
2nd Sundays—Mt. Miguel Covenant Village
Spring Valley, CA
gkohl5890@gmail.com (619) 427-4344

Accordionaires of Los Angeles
Online 4th Sundays³ - Meetings 3rd Tuesdays¹
Victorio's Ristorante, North Hollywood, CA
dnorferi@aol.com or "Accordionaires" on Facebook

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)¹
2nd Saturdays—Roseville, CA
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
cvalashan@aol.com (610) 209-4496

San Antonio Accordion Society²
2nd Tuesdays online - Meetings on last Tuesdays
Chester's Hamburgers, San Antonio, TX
LauraJNiland@outlook.com

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)¹
1st Sundays, online (in person schedule TBD)
Christ Episcopal Church, Los Altos, CA (pending)
www.svasociety.org

¹ In person meeting only

² mixed: in-person and ZOOM meeting

³ ZOOM only meeting

The San Francisco Accordion Club is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization whose purpose is to enhance, promote and stimulate an appreciation for the accordion within the membership and throughout the general public.

*Donations are tax-deductible and gratefully accepted by using the **Donate** button at www.sfaccordionclub.com or by mailing your contribution to the SFAC Treasurer, Elaine Cooperstein, 539 Elsie Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577*

SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place 1/8-page (business-card size) free of charge for one month each year.

Additional ads are \$10/issue or \$100/year.

Monthly ad prices **for members**:

1/8 page: \$10; 1/4-page: \$25; 1/2-page: \$50; Full-page: \$100.

Non-member rates are double.

Contact info@sfaccordionclub.com

The benefits of taking Accordion Lessons

Memory Capacity

After receiving accordion lessons, students spatial-temporal skills increased by 34%



Comprehension Skills

Reading music involves a large amount of comprehension, increasing overall comprehension skills

Mathematical Abilities

Studying music therapy has been shown to have a positive correlation with math grades



Concentration

Accordion students have high concentration skills because of the amount of focus needed while practicing & performing

Discipline

Accordion students learn to take responsibility for daily practice. This teaches perseverance and discipline.



Confidence

Learning to overcome the anxiety that comes with performing fosters confidence in students

Grit

Learning to play the Accordion takes many years and a tremendous amount of work. Studying the Accordion will help students to develop the grit it takes to get through many of life's challenges.

Reference: "The Happiest Piano Teacher in Town," by Doreen M. Hall, 2019. Adapted by Al Terzo (Accordion Pops Orchestra Director, New Jersey), 2023. Printed with permission from A. Terzo.

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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/>

ROBERT KENNEDY
robertkennedymusic.com, missionhotclub.com

PAMELA TOM Yolo & Solano Counties
accordionpam@gmail.com

MIKE ZAMPICENI East Bay & South Bay
eclecticguy@comcast.net, www.mikezamp.com

SFAC COMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars!

February 19 – Accordion Circle

March 19 – [Matt Tolentino](#) (ZOOM-only)

April 16 - [Duo Two Accordions](#) (Teleshevs)

May 21 – Accordion Circle (open mic & jam band)

June 18 - TBA

July – Annual SFAC Picnic - *Date TBA* - Beresford Park, San Mateo

August 19-20 – [Cotati Accordion Festival](#), SFAC will host a canopy at the festival. No Millbrae meeting.

September 17 - TBA

October 15 – Accordion Circle - Oktoberfest Edition

November 19 - TBA

December 10 – Accordion Circle - Holiday Edition

SFAC Performances & Accordion Circle meetings will take place in the Chetcuti Community Room, Millbrae, unless otherwise indicated (ZOOM-only, Picnic, & Cotati). Members will receive ZOOM link via email.

ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

- ◆ **Gail Campanella*** GailCampanella@gmail.com
- ◆ **Reno DiBono** 30-minute group lessons* - Sundays 11am, request link from OurHike@AOL.com
- ◆ **Lou Jacklich*** 510-317-9510
- ◆ **Marian Kelly** 650-954-3711
- ◆ **Joe Simoni*** jsimoni2000@gmail.com, 650-867-1122
- ◆ **Pamela Tom*** accordionpam@gmail.com
- ◆ **Joel Weber*** www.joelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/
- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com

* = remote lessons (ZOOM, Facetime, Skype) available

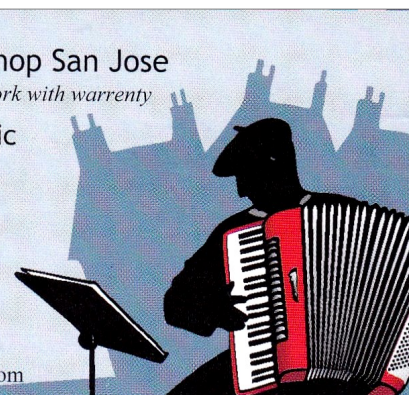
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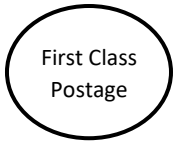
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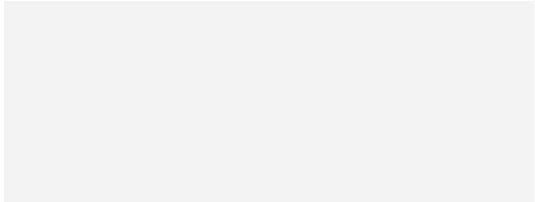
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Fax. 408-238-7637
vjakubovic@yahoo.com
<http://www.accordionrepairshopsanjose.com>





FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



Upcoming: **March 19** Matt Tolentino *via ZOOM only*
April 16 Sergei Teleshev & Maria Telesheva - *In-Person (Millbrae) & ZOOM*

SFAC Sunday Meeting

Accordion Circle!

Open Mic/Solos + Group Play/Jam Band

Live In-Person + Online Access

Sunday, February 19



Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room
Civic Center Plaza/Library Plaza
450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA
SFAC Monthly Meetings:
Plenty of free parking in Library lot
Accessible location
Close to public transit

Join us for fun and great music!
Chetcuti doors open at 2:00 PM
\$5 donation to defray expenses
SFAC members will receive ZOOM link via email
See email for details, or contact
info@sfaccordionclub.com
fb.com/sanfranciscoaccordionclub 