

JANUARY 2015



San Francisco Accordion Club

**Next Meeting Sunday,
January 18, at 2 PM
Jam Band at 1:30 PM**

Also Performing this month:
Sunday Seven
Frank Montoro
The Great Morgani

Mike Marotta and Friends

Playing for us to start off 2015 will be some members of the Mike Marotta Band, one of the Monterey Peninsula's longest-running, most beloved dance bands. Seasoned veterans including **Mike Marotta, Jr., Dave Dally** on violin, **Erasmus Atello**, vocalist, **Steve Hanson** on bass, and friends will perform with some surprise players joining them.



Steve Hanson, Mike Marotta, Jr., and Dave Dally

The band was founded by Mike Marotta, Sr. who has been playing music for 74 years on the Monterey Peninsula. He first started playing

the accordion when he was 11 years old. His father, an Italian-born bricklayer who immigrated to Monterey, brought home an accordion one day. "The minute I picked it up I was playing," Marotta says.

Just a year later, the young accordion player was gigging around Pebble Beach in a group called the El Nido Strollers. "We were all Italians, but (Pebble Beach founder) Sam Morse thought we were Mexicans," Marotta says.

His story is part of the 100 Story Project which you can view at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dnssjkybibm>

The Band is known for its huge repertoire, covering everything from jazz standards to pop to country. They have built up a repertoire of thousands of songs including French tunes, classical pieces and "every Italian song that was written that made money".

With both male and female vocals, the Marotta Band has a sound all its own. Their fun energy and gracious, accommodating and flexible attitude will make their performance for our club very special.

In 2015, SFAC meeting dates will remain the 3rd Sunday of each month except for the February meeting which will be held on the 4th Sunday, February 22





Sunday Seven

The **Sunday Seven** band began about 6 1/2 years ago, with seven members of the 30-member South Bay Accordion Jam group. The band plays in numerous venues, from Italian festivals and holiday parties, to Oktoberfests, churches, retirement villages and even a school for Autistic students. They have a monthly gig in downtown Los Altos 's First Friday event in the evening.

The members really enjoy playing music together and are grateful and excited when invited to entertain others. Members of the current group are **Vic and Barbara Corsiglia, Scott Williamson, Don Brayton, Lyle Gilleson, Bill and Gloria Tapogna, Scott Stanfield** and **Bob Stanfield**, leader. Occasionally **Kate Froeberg** joins the group when her schedule allows. Even though they are called the Sunday Seven, there are currently 10 in the band.



From left to right are Bob Stanfield, Don Brayton, Scott Williamson, Dick Siudzinski, Lyle Gilleson (hidden behind Vic Corsiglia), Barbara Corsiglia and Scott Stanfield. Missing from the photo are Bill and Gloria Tapogna.

Frank Montoro

We are delighted to have **Frank Montoro** playing for us this month. Frank was not only a charter member of the reorganized SF Accordion Club, but he was president during 2008, 2009 and 2010. He began playing the accordion at age 11, and has had a long career as an accordionist playing in San Francisco and Marin at various venues.

Frank also participated in the ACE ensemble for many years, In fact, he recruited Lynn Ewing, our current president, into the club when he was the membership chair back in 1995. Frank and his partner Jonelle continued to serve the club for years by doing the mailing of the newsletter every month.



Frank Montoro

Frank will play a short set of his all-time favorite music. So glad you are still going strong, Frank!

The Great Morgani

The Great Morgani (aka Frank Lima) is an accordionist extraordinaire and a one man show. His repertoire includes over 1,000 songs.

He arrives in one of his more than 50 different costumes, which are hand crafted and cover him from the feet to the top of the head, as well as the accordion itself. He performs on a compact portable stage crafted to match the costume and raise him about one and a half feet about the floor... so everyone gets a good view



He has a new book entitled "The Great Morgani: The Creative Madness of a Middle-Aged Stockbroker Turned Street Musician" which is available at [Bookshop Santa Cruz](#).

December Meeting Report

by Deana McLemore

The Christmas meeting of SFAC was held on December 21 and was a great party with wonderful music to hear and goodies to eat.

Before the meeting, starting about 1 PM, **Lynn Ewing** led a practice of the *Star Spangled Banner* for those who want to participate in sending a recording to the S.F. Giants with the goal of performing at a game next year.



Then the Jam Band played some lively, well-performed Christmas music before the meeting began.

Gus Greyhosky acted as emcee, and after some business announcements, introduced **Bob Smith** who started playing the accordion at age 10. Bob spoke about some of the techniques for fingering that he has incorporated in his book entitled "Fingering for the Accordion".

Bob played three pieces, *The Foggy, Foggy Dew*, *Come Back to Sorrento*, and *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*. He said that the final song was one of Bach's favorites, and Bach based his chorale cantata *Wie schön leuchtet der*



Morgenstern on it and used single verses for other cantatas. It was originally composed as a hymn by Philipp Nicolai in 1597. Bob has copies of the Bach Chorale he played. Email him at bobsmith4@sbcglobal.net

Louis Rodriguez, who is originally from Chile and won a scholarship in Germany to study music and accordion, played next. He plays "classical accordion - serious music," he explained. He was the arranger on his first piece, *Rain over Santiago* by Astor Piazzolla. It had a beautiful haunting melody with continuous chords in the background. It has been described as one of the saddest of Piazzolla. Louis' playing showed it off brilliantly.

His second piece, *Scherzo* by Nikolai Chaikin, a Russian composer, was very light and jovial with a lot of fingering for the bass. Quite a contrast. Next he played another Astor



Piazzolla tune that he had arranged, *Jorge, Adios*. The audience really enjoyed this lovely, moving tango.

For his finale, Louis played *Zigeunerweisen* by Curt Mahr. Mahr became famous before WWII and has composed about 350 original works for the accordion as well as two concertos for accordion and accordion orchestras. *Zigeunerweisen* can be translated as Gypsy airs, and it was a very appealing melody exceptionally well-played by Louis.

The next performer was **Lynn Ewing**, who, according to Gus, bakes very good apple pies. Lynn's first song was *Oh Come All Ye Faithful* from a 1951 book of arrangements by Camini. It was a very deep-sounding arrangement requiring lots of bellows.

Next she played three Frank Morocco arrangements, the first being *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*. It was an outstanding arrangement and very well played. *The Christmas Song*, which she described as having luscious harmonies and being the hardest piece she had ever tried to learn, was next. It was another beautifully performed composition.

December Meeting Report, cont'd.

Lynn's final offering was *Christmas Time is Here* written by Lee Mendelson and Vince Guaraldi for the 1965 TV special *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.



I have listened to Lynn play since she picked up the accordion again in 1995, and she has become an exceptional musician and great artist.

After a break for coffee and Christmas goodies, **Mike Zampiceni** entertained with *These are a Few of My Favorite Things*. Mike is an accomplished accordionist having played since he was very young. His pieces were lively and engaging.



He continued with a Nat King Cole favorite, *The Christmas Song* (commonly subtitled *Chestnuts Roasting on an Open*

Fire), a classic Christmas song written in 1944 by Bob Wells and Mel Tormé. Mike played *Bluesette* and also *Espana Cani* with complex fingering, great pace and Bellow Shaking. He also played *Accordiana* by Charles

Magnante, which is a difficult piece and quite a show stopper. He finished with a number of Christmas songs so that the audience could sing along with his beautiful tenor voice.

The final performance was by the **Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE)** directed by **Joe Smiell, Jr.** The ensemble included **Vardit Benjamin, Reno Di Bono, Lynn Ewing, Grigoriy Krumik, Norman Ortiz, Nora Mazzara, Sharon (Walters) Greyhosky** on bass, **Anne Metais**, and **Sally Ann Smiell**. Joe explained that the Ensemble concentrates on classical music.



They first performed a Mozart Minuet. Joe said that Mozart was a very conservative composer who, nonetheless, pushed what he did to the max. His music was very pure, like Schubert's.

Next they played the *Mozart Serenade in E flat*. It was a significant work by Mozart and appeared in the movie, *Amadeus*. A Serenade is usually for playing outdoors. The Ensemble played the first two movements beautifully.

This was followed by the 2nd and 3rd movements of Antonin Dvorak's *Terzetto*. In the Holiday Spirit, the ensemble concluded with two Christmas pieces arranged by Joe Smiell, Sr. The first was a collection of Polish Christmas Carols. The second piece was entitled *Christmas Potpourri*, and included *O Come all Ye Faithful*, *March of the Three Kings*, and *Jingle Bells*.

The audience enjoyed this exceptional ending to a wonderful Christmas program.

SF ACCORDION CLUB 100 YEARS

When did the San Francisco Accordion Club first form?

This has been a question that your Board has been investigating seriously. We even checked in with the Library of Congress! The references tend to be somewhat circular, with everything going back to the book, "Golden Age of the Accordion," from which this picture was taken.

The first photos and articles we have been able to find are from 1916. However! In a newspaper article of 1920 in the online scrapbook of Guido Deiro, we find a reference that says the SF Accordion club will feature Guido Deiro for their Fifth annual picnic! We take this to mean that the club had their first picnic in 1915, and therefore we believe they were established by then.

We are looking for someone who reads Italian fluently, and might be interested in going back through old Italian language newspapers to see whether we can find more information about the beginnings of the club. If you know someone - please let Lynn Ewing know! Thanks to Jean Moshofsky Butler, Randall Hicks, and Joan Grauman for research into the club beginnings so far.

Other items of interest from the Deiro Scrapbook - the SF Accordion Club picnic of 1927 had an accordion band of 250 members. More than 8000 people attended this picnic at Fairfax park. Guido was one of the founding members of the club, and was voted their first president, and later was elected perpetual "Honorary President".



San Francisco Accordion Club, 1916



PLEASE REMEMBER:

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

THANK YOU!

Scholarship Information

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
408-569-2579

PLAY FOR US!

Playing warm up or during the break is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. Although our featured performers are scheduled in advance, we have lots of opportunities during the first part of the meeting for people who would like to play a short 10 or 15 minute set, or even just a couple of songs.

Contact:

Dominic Palmisano at (415) 587-4423
or accord47@gmail.com,

or **Lynn Ewing** at 650-453-3391 or
ewinglynn@gmail.com.

ACCORDION EXCHANGE

If you are seeking an accordion, or have one to sell, you are welcome to submit the details to the newsletter editor. This is strictly a service to our members, and SFAC cannot take responsibility for the condition of any accordion advertised.



SFAC OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY THE NATIONAL ANTHEM FOR THE S.F. GIANTS

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 were held before our club meetings in November and December. The last practice session will be held on January 18 at 1 PM before the jam band plays. 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 will 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.

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



Purchase the new Accordion Babes Calendar which includes a number of SFAC club members for only \$20 including a CD. Available at upcoming meetings. Please help by buying one for yourself and a friend!

IN MEMORY - JOHN GULLMES

John (Johan) Gullmes passed away peacefully on July 13, 2014, at the age of 79. He was born in Finland, lived in San Francisco most of his life and retired in Half Moon Bay.



John was passionate about accordion music and played his custom-made accordion every day. He and his wife, Marja, attended SFAC Club meetings regularly.

John will be remembered as a happy man with a great sense of humor.

When did you join SFAC?

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

If you have not yet let us know what year you joined the club (approximation is fine) please call or email:

Robert Cooperstein

Phone: 510-207-6009

drcoop@sbcglobal.net

NEW MEMBER

We welcome new member **Leslie Robertson** who is a beginning accordionist. Leslie grew up playing piano and only started playing the accordion about a month ago. She is just starting PH Book 2.

Leslie's grandfather was an accordion player who was wonderfully comfortable on any instrument with a keyboard. He was something of a savant where music was concerned. Leslie says she is no savant, but feels close to her grandfather when she plays the accordion. She looks forward to learning from other club members and exploring a variety of music styles. She is especially interested in learning some klezmer and conjunto.

Leslie found SFAC on the web and attended our last meeting which she really enjoyed. We are delighted to have her as the newest member of our Club!



Performing Around the Bay

Ron Borelli • San Mateo
RonBorelli@aol.com,
www.ronborelli.com

Richard Denier • Carmel
rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono • San Francisco
www.peterdibono.com

Reno Di Bono • South Bay
ourhike@aol.com
www.italianaccordion.com

William De Michelis • South Bay
wdd777@comcast.net

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

Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobelins Oakland
www.myspace.com/hobogobelins

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

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

Big Lou, aka Linda Seekins • San Francisco
www.accordionprincess.com

Rob Reich • East Bay & San Francisco
robbyreichmusic@gmail.com
www.robreich.com

Rene Sevieri * East Bay & San Francisco
rene@accuratefirestop.com
www.facebook.com/rene.sevieri?fref=ts

Diana Strong • Pacifica
dianajstrong@gmail.com
http://www.dianastrong.webs.com/DianaStrong_accordion/Home.html

Tangonero <http://tangonero.com>

Whiskey and Women •
www.whiskeyandwomenmusic.com
or Facebook, MySpace and
You Tube to view videos

Mike Zampiceni • Sacramento
eclecticguy@comcast.net

SFAC CHARTER MEMBERS

This month, we will honor the Charter Members of the BAAC, the Bay Area Accordion Club, the re-establishment of the San Francisco Accordion Club in April of 1990.

From the President's Column by Lou Soper, June, 1990 -

*"Here is the who, what, when, where and why of BAAC: **Who** - A group of fun loving accordion lovers, players, and listeners. **What** - our objective is to bring the world's best accordionists into the Bay Area schools. **When** - We meet the first Monday of every month. **Where** - Woodlake Joes, San Mateo. **Why** - we have hundreds of accordion lovers starving for a place to get together here in the Bay Area. If you love the accordion, you'll really love BAAC. If you haven't joined us yet, we invite you to join us as a charter member."*

Charter Members:

Mary Casey, Walter Traverso, Jim Holliday, Joe Catalano, Josephine Hornbrook, Reno Pucci, Lou Soper, Leo and Rae Lembi, Rusty Bartoli, Frank Montoro, Tom Serafini, George Poli, John Fiore, Florence Del Turco, Evelyn Baulch, Clyde Forsman, Michelle Gallandre, Dominic Palmisano, Tom Sarnigola, Louise Leininger, Tom Torriglia, Linda Seekins, Peter Di Bono, Reno Di Bono, Geroge Meirer, Tim Tyree, Jenny Lembi, Gary Pacini, Lee Woodall, Leon Broussal, Joe Smiell, Joe Grado, Dan Cooper, Domenic Saso, Anatoliy Makhlin, Eunice Hartley, Joy and Bob Biagini, and Eldo Bianchi.

The Club also voted to elect the following honorary members: **Anthony Galla-Rini, Art Van Damme, Dick Contino and Myron Floren,**"for what these artists have done for the accordion." Many of us were privileged to know these amazing accordionists personally. Twenty five years later, it is wonderful to look back on the exciting beginnings of the re-established San Francisco Bay Area Accordion Club!

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.

ACCORDION EVENTS

There are events happening all over the US. Check out AccordionUSA.com for all kinds of cool festivals and performances.



**Rose City Accordion Club's
Annual Accordion Camp
June 7 - 12, 2015**

**Silver Falls State Park Conference Center
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BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUBS

Accordion Club of the Redwoods 3rd
Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Hermann Sons Hall • 860 Western, Petaluma, CA
\$3 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@netfirms.com

The Vacaville Chapter meets monthly on the second
Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at Pietro's No. 2 at
679 Merchant Street, Vacaville, CA 95688
(707) 448-4588

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: Jerry Choate (530)
345-2031

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.

Accordion Instruction

Bart Beninco (707) 769-8744
Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707
David Chelini (916) 428-8764
Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502
Lynn Ewing (650) 453-3391
Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952
Lou Jacklich (510) 317-9510
Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896
Vincent Rinaldi (415) 824-7609
Big Lou (Linda Seekins) (415) 468 5986
Joe Simoni (650) 867-1122
Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (650) 731-6010
Richard Yaus (650) 832-1740
Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579
Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

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ewinglynn@gmail.com

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accord47@gmail.com

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Newsletter

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deeanamc@yahoo.com (this month only)

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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 sign Oyster Point Yacht Club. There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

Visit us online @ www.sfaccordionclub.com



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-San-Francisco-Accordion-Club/325637150827>

SFAC Membership is

\$30.00 per year for individual or family.

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