

January, 2017

ACCORDIONS BY THE BAY

♪ ♪ **RENO DIBONO** ♪ ♪

♪ ♪ **PETER DIBONO** ♪ ♪

♪ ♪ **STEVE HANSON** *BASSIST* ♪ ♪

PLUS

MIKE ZAMPICENI

PAUL AEBERSOLD & GLORIA MENDIETA GAZAVE

2:00PM SUNDAY, JANUARY 15



January 15 will be the final SFAC *feature performance* at Oyster Point! Our February Accordion Circle will also be held at OPYC.

Mike Zampiceni will lead the Jam Band beginning at 1:15pm. Mike will also play for us during the opening half, as will accordionist Paul Aebersold with vocalist Gloria Mendieta Gazave. For our featured performance, bassist Steve Hanson will accompany **Peter & Reno DiBono**.

Our March 2017 meeting will take place at the Chetcuti Community Room in Millbrae. Be sure to check out Ken Schwartz's description of this convenient and comfortable new space (*page 4*).



Peter DiBono requires little introduction to SFAC, but deserves lots of acclaim. Peter has played accordion for people of all backgrounds and callings: from presidents, royalty, Supreme Court Justices, Hollywood actors, opera stars, to families who want something special for their daughter's wedding or parents' anniversary. According to Peter, "It doesn't matter where I play or for whom ... Playing music is such a joy both for me and my audience. Music is a way to communicate with one another, on a deeply personal level." Peter started playing at age 9 when his older brother started playing accordion. He became hooked, and throughout his career as a police inspector, he never abandoned his passion for playing. In time, Peter left the police department to pursue his love of music full time. He also teaches at the CMS Community Music Center and gives private lessons in his home.



Reno Di Bono is well known in Northern California and the Bay Area as an extremely talented accordionist who plays and sings Italian and French melodies with great flair and warmth. His musical styles include Louie Prima, Dean Martin, Al Martino, Jerry Vale, Pavarotti and Bocelli. Reno's

specialty is Italian music, with over 30 songs in Sicilian, Neapolitan and Piedmontese dialects in his repertoire. He has played at Italian weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and a few funerals. He has produced two CDs: *Songs of My Father*, an Italian CD and *The Jazz Accordion*. Reno has an exciting website at <http://www.italianaccordion.com/>. We look forward to hearing Reno play for us again.

Steve Hanson has played his bass as well as the tuba and trombone all over the world. In 1973, while part of the US Navy Band, he was out in the Pacific for Skylab III's return to earth. Two years later his brass ensemble performed at the Vatican for the canonization of the first American saint. He also appeared all over Europe and Japan. Closer to home, he spent several years in New York, playing with Puerto Rican salsa groups, Italian festivals and other ethnic events. One of his groups, a Chinese funeral band, appeared in the film, *The Year of the Dragon*. Steve also played tuba in Woody Allen's Dixieland group.



Please come and enjoy these three fine musicians when they play January 15!

Continued next page...

♪♪ Don't miss these other fine performers in January ♪♪



Paul Aebersold grew up as a young child listening to his mother playing piano and accordion, and he started accordion lessons at the age of six. He dropped accordion in high school, where he played clarinet in the concert band, but went back to accordion and began performing in a French restaurant during his graduate school years at U.C. Berkeley. In the years that followed, Mr. Aebersold became enamored with various types of European music and he has performed for a decade on the east coast in a German oom-pah band called "Die Drei" and more recently in the Italian "I Due" and in the French "Les Deux". In 2015, he was honored to perform at the Résidence de France for the ambassador's holiday party. He has recently begun splitting his time between Washington DC and Redwood City and is enjoying a new collaboration with soprano Gloria Mendieta Gazave, playing Italian "street" songs and opera arias.

Gloria Mendieta Gazave is a classically trained soprano from San Francisco with a background in musical theater. Her repertoire spans opera, oratorio, art songs, Broadway, and popular ballads. Experienced in singing sacred music including Latin chant, she has cantored for many events for the San Francisco Archdiocese, including being selected to sing for Pope John-Paul II. Ms. Gazave is an alum of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and sings in Italian, French, German, and Spanish. She also performs as a soloist with orchestras and other ensembles. Her Aria Bella Trio featuring voice, harp, and violin specializes in classical and contemporary music. Ms. Gazave enjoys singing for special events and was chosen to be the 2015 featured opera singer for the Kettle Chips Company for the promotion of their new Italian flavor, Peperoncini!



Mike Zampiceni was raised with accordions from birth; his father, Joseph Zampiceni, was a noted accordionist, teacher, composer, arranger, and music publisher several decades ago. At age 8 Mike began formal accordion studies, and by 11 was playing for paid engagements. He joined his father's orchestra at 14, playing accordion and drums, and by 17 he joined the musician's union and became the leader of his own band. Mike went on to earn both a bachelors and masters degree in music from San Jose State University, with performance concentrations in voice and classical organ. Throughout his career as a technical writer from which he recently retired, Mike found time to continue performing and teaching. His passionate genres revolve around classical music and jazz, but he also has a penchant for Latin music, particularly Brazilian jazz. He also has a repertoire of ethnic European music.

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration June 15-18, 2017

Concerts, Competitions, Jam sessions, Workshops, and More!

The 2017 Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration, organized by The Northwest Accordion Society, will be an exciting event-full of talented musicians, enthusiastic music lovers, friendly competitors of all ages and lots of surprises including the Annual Accordion Parade down Front Street.

For the Love of the Accordion!

For information, see www.accordioncelebration.org or call 206-622-4766.

December Accordion Circle

Review by Shirley Brim

Our 2016 holiday program was the second SFAC **Accordion Circle**, a new format that offers members the opportunity to perform short sets for our friendly audience.

See page 3 for full review.

December Accordion Circle

— Continued from page 2 —

First up in the Accordion Circle was Ed Massolo flawlessly performing *Jalousie* for the first time before an audience. He followed with *Pennsylvania Polka* and *Sun and Shade*.

Nora Mazzara played next with her enjoyable renditions of *Miami Beach Rhumba*, *Begin the Beguine* and *Just Say I Love Him*.

Scott Anderson followed Nora with his entertaining arrangements of *Fascination*, *Il Caio (Because of You)*, and *Besame Mucho*.

Former President Lynn Ewing, always a favorite, played *Winter Wonderland* and *Christmastime is Here*, and finished with her humorous and fun *Nuttin' for Christmas*, which she both sang and played!

Long-time member Jana Maas closed the first half with *White Christmas*, a medley of *Besame Mucho* and *Sway*, *White Ribbons* and *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas*, which Jana both played and beautifully sang!

Thank you Ed, Nora, Scott, Lynn and Jana for making our first half so special!

As our special Christmas entertainment, the **Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE)** presented an engaging selection of classical and holiday music for the second half of the program. The first part of the program included classical pieces arranged by Joseph Smiell, Jr., its current director. The group played four movements from Mozart's light opera, *La Finta Giardiniera*, and then two movements of one of Beethoven's earlier works, *Opus 3*. Their holiday portion included three potpourris of Christmas music arranged by Joe Smiell, Sr., ACE's first director. Some of the carols were *The First Noel*, *Joy to the World*, *O Tannenbaum*, *March of the Kings*, *O Come all Ye Faithful* and *Silent Night*, as well as some lighter fare, *Jolly Old*

St. Nicolas and a fantasy arrangement of *Jingle Bells*. Also included was one of Joe Senior's favorite pieces from his childhood, the *Polish Christmas Carol*.

The next SFAC **Accordion Circle** will take place February 19, 2017. *Hope to see you there!!*



Ed Massolo



Lynn Ewing



Jana Maas



Scott Anderson



Joseph Smiell, Jr. and ACE—
The Accordion Chamber Ensemble

We're Moving!

Spring marks change, and your Board of Directors is delighted to inform you our San Francisco Accordion Club is changing too - we're moving!!! Recent changes in catering at the Oyster Point Yacht Club necessitated a new location for our meetings, so we're pleased to inform you we have secured what we believe will be a wonderful new venue for meetings going forward, commencing in March. Starting with the March meeting, we'll meet at the **Chetcuti Community Room** [1], part of the Millbrae Civic Center complex, which includes the Community Room, City Hall, and the Millbrae Public Library; all three face a common forum. The room [2] is spaciouly light-filled, and features as well a kitchen, storage area, and its own restrooms. There is ample free parking [3]. The Community Room is just across a small roadway from *Millbrae Square* [4], which features cafes, restaurants, coffee houses, a delightful high-end sit-down bakery [5], pizzeria, Trader Joe's, Safeway, Walgreens and other fine shops. The downtown Millbrae shopping district is only 1 block away, featuring numerous additional cafes and restaurants.

Easy Access via Public Transit: The new venue is just 1 short block west of El Camino Real in Millbrae and is easily accessible via public transportation – the Millbrae BART/Caltrain station is only a little more than ½ mile from the Community Room, so it's an easy walk and/or a few minutes via SamTrans bus headed north on El Camino Real. Highway 101 is also a short distance.

Schedule Changes: There will be some schedule changes to accommodate the Community Room's schedules, so starting in March, our full-featured meetings will run from 2:00 – 5:00 pm, while Accordion Circle meetings will run from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Our April Accordion Circle will be on the 4th Sunday, April 23rd to avoid a conflict with Easter.

Finally, our new venue will be significantly more expensive than the Oyster Point Yacht Club, so your attendance, dues, donations and other support will be important to ensure a smooth transition. Our new venue will open a wealth of opportunities, so we hope you'll share our enthusiasm and will make future SFAC meetings a Sunday afternoon destination for lunch, fine accordion music, shopping and even dinner!

Cheers to a new chapter for the San Francisco Accordion Club!

[Ken Schwartz]



[1]



[2]



[3]



[4]



[5]

Avoiding the Accordion Hiccups

Mike Zampiceni

The following article appeared in our club newsletter many years ago. Since that time, I've written workshop materials on bellows issues, which I plan to include as a series in successive issues, space permitting. The following article provides introductory material that describes a common problem area in playing the accordion and how it can be resolved.

After hearing many professionals and students changing air direction indiscriminately and incorrectly for many years, I felt it was time for a pedagogical discussion on this topic. By indiscriminately, I mean changing air directions whenever it is convenient for the player, rather than according to what is musically correct. I hate to burst some bubbles out there, but I'd estimate that at least half of the players are using the bellows incorrectly and severing the air flow.

First of all, let's remember that the accordion is a wind instrument. Although most of us play the piano accordion, the mechanics of producing sound on the accordion has no relationship to how you produce sound on the piano or organ. The accordion is just as much a wind instrument as any instrument from the reed or brass family, or even the human voice, for that matter.

The basic problem I've observed is that accordionists often change bellows direction regardless of the note value they happen to be playing at the time. As a simple illustration, suppose you're a singer who's now currently singing a note that has a whole-note value in 4/4 time. Would you think of taking a breath in the middle of the note? Not likely, because you would know that doing so would abruptly terminate the note and add another note that the composer did not originally intend. That is, you would now be singing two half notes instead of one whole note.

Despite the implausibility of such a scenario for a singer, accordionists do this frequently, and not just once or twice, but continually throughout songs. Suppose you're holding a note on the pull direction and you've decided to now push. If you're still holding down a treble or bass note when you change pull to push, you've cut off the air supply to the original note value and have divided it with another note following the first of a different value. For instance, if you're holding a whole note on the pull and change to a push on the fourth beat, you have now played a dotted-half note followed by a quarter note instead of a whole note as it was originally written. Besides changing the original note value in this manner, you've also produced a hiccup by this sudden reversal of motion, which can never sound as smooth as not doing this in the first place. This process of abrupt note termination and resumption cuts the air supply, and is often just called "air cutting" in accordion circles.

So how do you avoid the accordion hiccups? The first thing to do is not change direction while you're holding a

note, and waiting to change after you've completed the full value of the note. To master directional air changes, the trick is to coordinate three things simultaneously: change to the next treble and bass notes, and change air direction at precisely the same time. The change to a new note or notes and the change of air direction must be instantaneous. If you change direction even a split second before you move to the next note(s), it will sound like a hiccup, and you've engaged in "cutting air."

This trait has undoubtedly existed since people began playing accordions. Often, teachers haven't instilled this important principle to their students, and when some of these students become teachers, this trait is further perpetuated. Once you've been playing this way for many years, it's very difficult, though not impossible, to correct. I've once coached an adult student who exhibited this trait when we first worked together. He had played this way for over 50 years, but after he became cognizant of this and learned the proper technique, he's now "hiccup-free."

If you have any questions or comments on this issue, you can contact me at eclecticguy@comcast.net.

Mike Zampiceni

www.mikezamp.com

B.A. and M.A. in music, San Jose State University

Fiddle & Squeeze Musique

Fiddle & Squeeze Musique is a duo of Davis musicians, Catherine Heusner (violinist) and SFAC member Pamela Tom (accordionist). Their 2016 engagements include: Davis Farmers Market; Sacramento Farm-to-Fork Tower Bridge Dinner; California State Capitol's Holiday Music Program and private events. Their versatile repertoire of melodic selections include: French musettes, Broadway, classical, country western, European, Latin, pop, rock, Beatles, spirituals, children's songs and other genres.



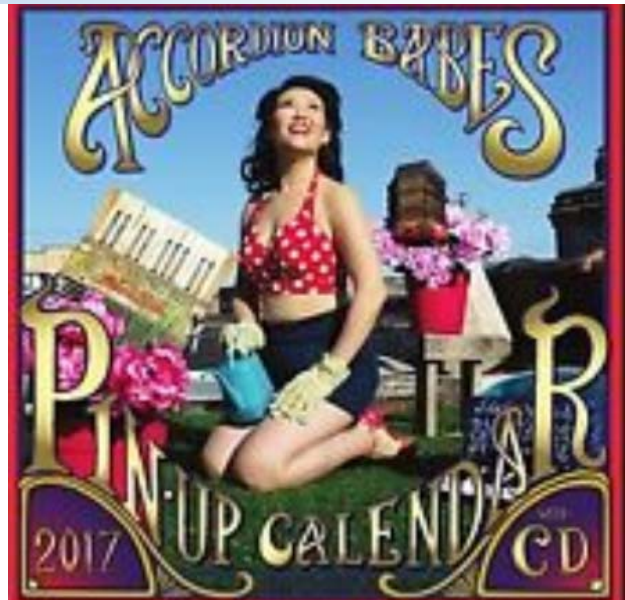
Fiddle & Squeeze Musique Duo

Catherine Heusner, violinist — Pamela Tom, accordionist
Both musicians perform statewide and teach in Davis.

E-mail: FiddleAndSqueezeMusique@gmail.com

More News

Our Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to the Club. With each new membership year (Oct. 1—Sept. 30) we start a cumulative list of donors. To date, we have received \$1380. If you have donated and your name doesn't show up in this column, please contact Elaine at elainedc@sbcglobal.net or 510-921-9323 and let her know. We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized. We gratefully acknowledge donations from: Chris & Tor Arild, Karol Blackaby, Ron Borelli, David Braun, Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Bruno, Gail Campanella, Xavier de la Prade, William Demichelis, Lynn & Gail Ewing, Marja Gullmes, Bruce Kirschner, Franco Lucchesi, Mr. Mike Marotta, James & Lee Ann Monfredini, Anna Nicora, Kenneth Nimmo, Gisele Oakes, Paul Pasquali, Douglas & Kay Patterson, Joseph Petosa, Diana & Bruce Prurucker, Vinny Rinaldi, Alexander Roitman, Ed Salvador, Don & Mary Savant, Leslie Selfridge, Hilbert & Hilde Werner, Barbara Winter, & Mike Zampiceni. **Thank you, all!**



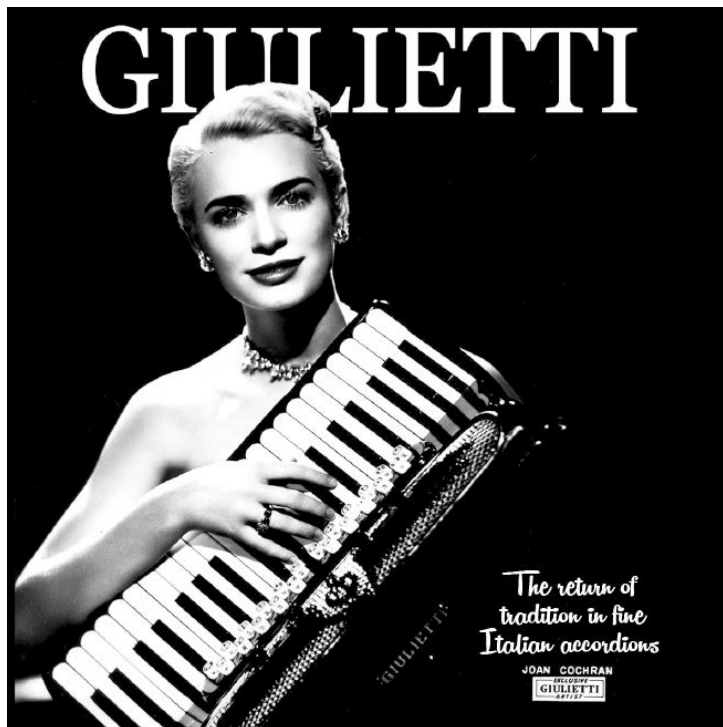
2017 Accordion Babes are here!

We still have a few copies of this gorgeous full-color pin-up calendar featuring 13 accordion-playing women in sexy and fun poses, and including a compilation CD of their music. **Available while they last - \$15 at the SFAC January 15 program.**

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James Stewart's mother was an excellent pianist but his father discouraged the boy's requests for lessons. When his father accepted a gift of an accordion from a guest, young Stewart quickly learned to play. Stewart enrolled at Princeton in 1928 as a member of the class of 1932. He excelled at studying architecture, but he gradually became attracted to the school's drama and music clubs. His acting and accordion talents at Princeton led him to be invited to the University Players, an intercollegiate summer stock company in West Falmouth, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod. Stewart and his accordion became a fixture offstage during his acting career. [Wikipedia]



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Helping with the monthly music programs is a great way to meet new people and make the program run smoothly. We welcome people to help emcee the program, take photos or write a lively report about the music program. You don't need experience—just a willingness to help while you have fun with the group. Discover your inner entertainer, photographer or writer and help us host our monthly events.

Contact Lynn Ewing, ewinglynn@gmail.com, 650-867-2633 to find out how to get in on the action!



High Cotton Food Styling & Photography

Recipe: Accordion Potatoes

Combine ¼ cup butter, crushed garlic clove, salt & pepper.

Peel 4 medium baking potatoes then slice each potato crosswise, leaving about 1/2 inch at the bottom still attached. (Place pencils on each side of the potato when cutting to ensure that you don't slice all the way through.

Smear with butter mixture, carefully working it between the slices and coating all sides.

Place potatoes on a nonstick baking sheet and bake 45 minutes at 375F or until golden brown and tender. [source: www.relish.com]



Back in November, Elaine was visiting Texas, when of all people accordionist extraordinaire Alex Meixner just happened to show up! Actually, he was there for the world-famous annual New Braunfels' **Wurstfest** sausage and music festival, as was Elaine. Anyway, as they were talking, Robert was able to capture the moment.

Each year, Alex is featured on the main stage several times throughout the 10-day festival and can be seen sitting in with other bands as well as lending his image to promote Wurstfest!



ACCORDION HAPPENINGS AROUND THE WORLD



Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

June 15-18, 2017

Leavenworth, Washington

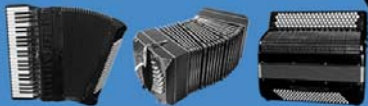
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www.accordioncelebration.org

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Richardson, Texas 75081
March 8-11, 2017

Welcome to the 30th Anniversary
National Accordion Convention

Celebrating
30
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American Accordionists' Association

www.ameraccord.com
www.ameraccord.com/festival.html

Join the AAA for the 2017 Festival at
The Westin Princeton, Forrestal Village, New Jersey
July 12-16, 2017

August 19 & 20, 2017 www.cotatifest.com

The Cotati Accordion Festival

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ACCORDION LOVERS' TRIP OF A LIFETIME
MAY 16-20, 2017

Trips Depart London Heathrow

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For more information, contact:

Peter Le Geyt (member of Guildford Accordion Club UK)

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This is a bucket-list trip for all true accordion aficionados! Come to Castelfidardo, Italy—the spiritual home of the accordion—and renew your love affair with this amazing instrument. Wander the streets and sample the culture of Castelfidardo. Learn more about the artistry of accordion design and manufacture. Revel in the company of accordion lovers from all over the world. Enjoy jam sessions with your fellow travelers.

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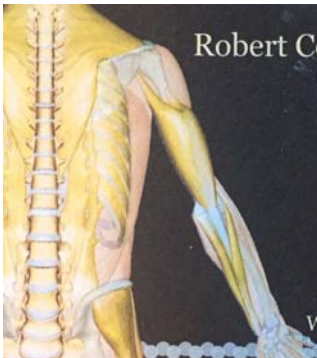
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Members may place one small ad (business-card size) free of charge for one month, once a year. Additional ads are \$10 per issue or \$100 per year. Monthly ad prices **for members**: 1/4-page: \$25; 1/2-page: \$50; Full-page: \$100. Non-member rates are double.

Bay Area Accordion Clubs

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

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

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com

Contact: Jean Stevens, President (916) 872-8081
accordionriffs@gmail.com

Vacaville Chapter

2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm.
Pietro's No. 2,
679 Merchant Street, Vacaville

Humboldt Chapter

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

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: Ed Sciarini (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: Jim Shoemaker (916) 443-0974

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

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

Performing Around the Bay

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

WILLIAM DE MICHELIS *South Bay*
accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net

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

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

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glennhartman@gmail.com

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kirschner@aol.com www.klezmakers.com

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TANGONERO www.tangonero.com

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Contact a member of the board to volunteer. See February Newsletter for descriptions of tasks, small or large, remote or on-site, that you can do to help the SFAC continue its excellent programs and activities!



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(Positions open, volunteers needed!)

Scholarship

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eclecticguy@comcast.net

PLAY for your club!

Playing warm up or during the break for our Sunday music program is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. Our scheduled performers are drawn from professional players and groups, and from 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

Play with the Jam Band

Join us 1:15-2:00 pm for a traditional jam session before the 3rd-Sunday music programs.

Our informal jam band is open to everyone, regardless of experience. Learn new riffs, make new accordion friends and have **WAY TOO MUCH FUN!**

Please Remember...

Help keep our meeting space clean! Wipe up food or drink spills and recycle all trash.

THANK YOU!

Join us the third Sunday of each month!

SFAC SUNDAY MUSIC PROGRAM

Come for fun and great music!!

January 15 at 2pm

Peter & Reno DiBono

in Trio, with bassist Steve Hanson

Plus, Mike Zampiceni

Paul Aebersold & Gloria Mendieta Gazave

Admission: \$8 members, \$10 guests

1:15pm Jam Band



Amp up the fun with the SFAC!

Current membership valid through September 2017

Join or renew with PayPal or credit card at:

www.sfaccordionclub.com/membership.html, or send

check payable to "SFAC" to Elaine Cooperstein, 539

Elsie Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577

- ◆ \$35 per year for individual or household
- ◆ -\$5 discount for online newsletter option

OYSTER POINT YACHT CLUB*

Plenty of **free parking**, ramp access.

DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 (North or South) in South San Francisco take the Oyster Point Blvd exit & follow signs to Marina Blvd. Avoid turning right at Gull Dr. immediately before Marina Blvd.

Turn right onto Marina Blvd and continue 0.7 mile, past the Oyster Point Marina gatehouse to the Oyster Point Yacht Club on the left.

***Beginning in March 2017, we will meet at the Chetcuti Community Room in Millbrae! More details on page 4.**

San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter

P.O. Box 318175

San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

www.sfaccordionclub.com

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