# **July, 2017**

## SFAC Accordions Live! 1 Sunday, July 16, 2017 Chetcuti Community Room, Millbrae, CA 2:00 pm-5:00 pm





Our July 16 meeting is a window on the world of the accordion, uniting Denver's mile high Alicia Baker, International phenom Tom Torriglia, and Palo Alto's home town hero Adam Dohner for a once-in-a-lifetime mega-event for the San Francisco Accordion Club! Admission for this unique event is \$10. See you there! Remember, there will be <u>no SFAC musical program in August</u>, the month of the amazing Cotati Accordion Festival.



Alicia Baker—performing in July

Alicia Baker has been performing on the accordion professionally for many years with International accordion championship titles under her belt. Her musical versatility is astounding, performing styles that range from standard jazz and Parisienne cafe, to pop and techno. Alicia's real uniqueness comes from her classically trained accordion technique in combination with her classically trained voice. She graduated from OSU in 2013 with three bachelor of music degrees; vocal performance, piano performance, and music education.

Continued on page 2

# □ All-star performances coming July 16 → □

### (continued from page 1) **Featuring Alicia Baker**

Originally from Portland, Oregon, Alicia moved to Boulder, Colorado where she earned her Masters of Music degree in vocal performance and pedagogy in 2017. She currently works for Roland Corporation, where she demonstrates digital pianos and accordions all over the country as her schedule permits. Check out her website for recordings and more information: www.aliciajobaker.com



Tom Torriglia is a multi-Grammy-nominated songwriter; accordionist and musical entertainer. He was an original member of Those Darn Accordions, The Squeegees' Polka Band, and Bella Ciao. Tom is the world's foremost composer of Italian-American music and his past three albums (Legends of the Italian Lounge, Festivus Italiano and the just-released Antipasto Rock) contain many new classic Italian-American songs. Tom came up with the idea and spearheaded the effort to make the accordion San Francisco's official musical instrument, a measure that passed in 1990. Tom is also the sponsor of National Accordion Awareness Month (NAAM) which is June.

Tom was born in San Francisco and currently resides in Genoa, Italy. He can be reached via his website: www.ladyofspain.com



Garf's Uncle consists of Adam Dohner on accordion, Adam's sister, Emma Dohner, on violin, and percussionist Pat Rundell. All three grew up in Palo Alto and play music for fun. Their repertoire combines gypsy jazz, tango, klezmer, Irish reels, and other styles from around the world. Garf's Uncle performs regularly at the Freewheel Brewery in Redwood City and has also played for the Silicon Valley Accordion Society.

#### **Guess Who?**

The young man in this photo took up the accordion at ten and had lessons from Art Van Damme (what a lucky guy!) A regular SFAC monthly meeting attendee, he is pleased to be featured in our "Guess Who" column.

(Answer on Page 6)

We love getting your stories and are actively seeking more of them for future newsletter editions.



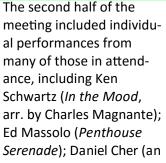
## June SFAC Accordion Circle

#### Review by Kenneth E. Schwartz

June's Accordion Circle provided a great opportunity for group and individual musical playing, education, and meeting fellow accordionists at our new location - the Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room. The outside afternoon temperature was toasty (~95° F), but our airconditioned facility was just right for a cool get-together. Many thanks to the volunteers who provided refreshments, including Rosemary Busher, Steve Marshall, Lynn

Ewing, and coffee courtesy of our

neighboring Starbucks Millbrae Square. Also, thank you to Ann for her box of accordion sheet music, free for the choosing, which she recently found







on Craigslist!

Lynn Ewing moderated the session, starting with introductions by everyone in attendance, including those new

to our meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> time attendee Marilyn, 1<sup>st</sup> time attendee Ann, and a family of four attending for the 1<sup>st</sup> time: Wang, Joan, Celia and Jon). The informality of the Cir-

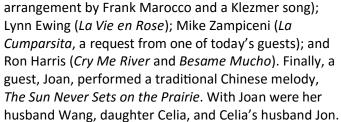


Four Leaf Clover; San Anto-

cle format provided opportunity for the group to perform and improvise on many of the selections in the jam books, including Baby Face; Five Foot Two; Beer Barrel Polka; Lupali Lupala (arr. by Harry Gay); Bye Bye Blackbird; I'm Looking Over a

nio Rose; Que Sera, Sera; Peg O' My Heart; Tennessee Waltz; Torna a Sorrento; and Tick Tock Polka.

Continuing on the theme from Jana Maas' April workshop addressing techniques to enhance repetitions of a song, Lynn distributed sheet music for Bionda, which was previously played as part of Jana's workshop. Individual accordionists in today's Circle were assigned the various fills and embellishments noted on the second accordion line, providing very nice harmonies in a hands-on lesson.



Joan learned accordion in her native China and has visited accordion shops in Salt Lake City and New York City and attended various accordion meetings throughout the USA. Today was the family's first time attending our accordion club. Celia also was one of the winners of the raffle and will enjoy a memento from today's Circle - a bottle of fine





red wine, donated by Marcucci Farms! Today's Accordion Circle

provided an enjoyable, informal setting for everyone to play music as a group, pick up some new techniques, and enjoy fine playing by

members and guests. We hope and encourage everyone to participate in future Accordion Circles!

And a reminder: please bring a friend to July's special event, which will feature well-known accordionist and singer, Alicia Baker. Also appearing will be Tom Torriglia, as well as Adam Dohner. See July meeting information on pages 1-2.

# OTHER CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS AGAINST ACCORDION HUMANITY (Bellows—part 3) By Mike Zampiceni

There are a few other traits that some players and students engage in that may not be as dire as the dragon antagonists described in "Slaying Two Prominent Bellows Dragons" (See SFAC Newsletter, May 2017) but are nonetheless impairments to achieving optimum musicianship.

#### **Pulsing**

Simply stated, make sure you don't keep time with the bellows. This misdemeanor seems to be particularly prevalent with polka players, who incessantly let the bass buttons influence the flow of the bellows so that every beat, or every other beat, has a slight accent. What the bellows are doing in relationship to a given phrase should be completely independent of the basses being played.

#### **Tugging**

This is related to the pulsing problem, in that the auditory effect is much the same, but this subset of pulsing is more selective, and I've termed this as "tugging". This refers to any extraneous emphasis typically at the ends of measures on longer notes. Some players have a tendency to engage in slightly accenting notes where no accent would be logically intended. As a matter of fact, often the note should be emphasized when initially played, not at the end of its duration. Yet many players do the opposite by emphasizing what should be the unstressed segment of the note's time value.

For instance, if you play a half-note at moderate tempo, it may be appropriate to slightly accent the initial stroke of the note on the first beat and taper back on the second beat of the note. Yet, some players do the opposite and emphasize the unstressed beat that should be unstressed.

#### **Engaging in Dynamics Unassociated with a Phrase**

This trait refers to playing a phrase of music, such as four measures, without regard or knowledge about portions that should be subdued and those that should be emphasized. This player seems to engage in dynamic undulations irrespective of what the music is trying to convey.

#### **ACCORDION CAMP**

What a wonderful week of accordions and accordion players

SFAC members Gwyn, John and Pamela Lister just returned from a week at the Rose City Accordion Club camp at Silver Falls State Park in Oregon: fifty wonderful accordion players, a chance to play in one of the Bands – led by Beverly Fess from Canada and Murl Allen Sanders from Seattle — and outstanding workshops. The workshop leaders were Mary Tokarski and Lillian Jones – both covering many subjects so we can become better players. The conference center is beautiful – set in the Oregon forest, very good accommodations, great food and lots of fun with performances at night, followed by the Jam band. We have been going for several years, so the highlight is not only playing great music in the Band but seeing accordion players from all over the U.S. and Canada. You are invited to join us



next year – contact for the Camp is Wayne Tiusanen, email: <a href="wittusanen@yahoo.com">wittusanen@yahoo.com</a> or phone: (503) 263-2912. THIS IS VERY SPECIAL – PLEASE JOIN US NEXT YEAR.

Submitted by Gwyn Lister



### **SATURDAY AUGUST 19, 2017**

STUDENT STAGE! Saturday at 9:45am to noon in the Social Hall of Church of the Oaks - Located just south of the polka tent at the corne West Sierra and Page Sts.

West Sierra and Page Sts.	
9:45-10:15	Golden State Accordion Club Band
10:20-10:55	Gordon Kohl
11:00-11:35	Squeezy Peezy with Roxanne Oliva
11:40-12:20	Gail Campanella
12:25-12:40	The Great Morgani
12:45-1:25	Tila Karttunen - Finland
1:25-1:35	Honorary Director - Marjorie Konrad student stage winners announced
1:35-1:50	Lady of Spain-A-Ring  Audience Participation
1:50-2:30	AlpenBand California
2:35-3:15	Cory Pesaturo
3:20-3:35	The Great Morgani
3:40-4:20	En Canto with Jamie Maschler
4:25-5:00	Oddjob Ensemble
5:05-5:45	the Mad Maggies
5:50-6:30	Royal Jelly Jive
6:40-7:25	Thee Hobo Gobbelins
12:00-5:00 Saturday Cajun/Zydeco Dance Party Friar Tucks	Friar Tucks, 8201 Redwood Hwy. 12:00-1:00 - Instruction <b>Ted Sherroc</b> 1:00-5:00 Mark St. Mary
1:00-5:00  Polka Dance Party & Zydeco 5:30-7:00 in the Polka Tent on site	9:30-Noon Jim Gilman 1:00-5:00 Steve Balich Polka Band 5:30-7:00 T-Luke and the Tight Suits
in the rolla tent on site	

#### Please Remember...

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

### **SUNDAY AUGUST 20, 2017**

	1000
9:45-10:15	The Golden State Accordion Club Band
10:20-10:55	Future Accordion Stars
11:00-11:35	The Truccos
11:40-12:20	Big Lou's Dance Party
12:25-12:40	The Great Morgani
12:45-1:25	Ljubinka Kulisic - Serbia
1:25-1:40	Lady of Spain-A-Ring Audience Participation
1:40-2:20	Ginny Mac & Cory Pesaturo
2:25-3:05	Amy Jo Sawyer
3:10-3:25	The Great Morgani
3:25-3:35	Raffle Drawing
3:35-4:15	La Familia Peña-Govea
4:20-5:10	Lizeth Olivo
5:15-6:30	GRAND FINALE!  a true ACCORDION EXTRAVAGANZA.
12:00-5:00 Sunday Cajun/Zydeco Dance Party Friar Tucks	Friar Tucks, 8201 Redwood Hwy.  Dance Lessons 12:00-1:00 by <b>Ted Sherrod</b> 1:00-5:00 Motorbude Zydeco
1:00-5:00 Polka Dance Party 5:30-7:00 Zydeco	9:30-Noon Jim Gilman 1:00-5:00 Steve Balich Polka Band
Dancing in the Polka Tent on site	5:30-7:00 The Wild Catahoulas

#### PLAY for your club!

Playing warm up or during the break for the SFAC's 3rd 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 <u>accord47@gmail.com</u> OR Lynn Ewing (650) 453-3391 <u>ewinglynn@gmail.com</u>



Dominic was born on August 9, 1930, to immigrant parents from Italy, in Chicago, Illinois. At the age of 10 he took up playing the accordion with lessons from Art Van Damme. He played till the age of 14 when his family picked up stakes and moved to San Francisco to be with his mother's eight siblings. His father had purchased a Guerrini accordion 3 months into lessons and paid for it by adding a couple of dollars to the cost of the lesson, which was \$2 -- the accordion cost \$200. From 1944 to 1951, he didn't play much, and in 1951 he was drafted into the army, serving 2 years, of which one was in Korea. Dominic served in the 5<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team until they sent him home February 1953. After arriving home he looked in the closet where the accordion was stored and didn't find it. He asked Mom "where is my accordion?" and got the bad news. She said that they had sold it because they didn't think he had any more interest in playing. He did not play again until turning 75 and decided to try again. He met with Vince Cirelli when an accordion he bought for \$150 needed some work. Vince took him on as a student for two years every 2 to 3 weeks depending on how busy Vince was repairing accordions. That is when Vince had an unfortunate accident and was laid up for a long time. When he recovered he said he did not feel like giving lessons again. So after about 1½ years without any lessons, Dominic contacted Peter Di Bono at the San Francisco Accordion Club, and asked him if he would take him on. Dominic took lessons with Peter for about two years, until his wife took ill with Parkinson's disease and he was busy caring for her. She passed away May 2016 and the urge to pick up the accordion again is coming back, despite some finger problems. Dominic joined the San Francisco Accordion Club in 2006 and is still an active member. We love to see you playing again, Dominic! Thank you for sharing part of your story.

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#### **SFAC Scholarships**

The SFAC awards two scholarships a year to accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact Mike Zampiceni for a scholarship application.

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

# Join In the Fun!

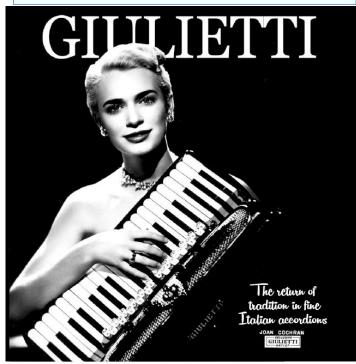
*Helping* with the monthly music programs is a great way to meet new people and make the program run smoothly. We welcome people to help emcee the program, take photos or write a lively report about the music program. You don't need experience—just a willingness to help while you have fun with your club.

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!

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. If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact Elaine (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, Evelyn Baulch, Karol Blackaby, Ron Borelli, David Braun, Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Bruno, Gail Campanella, Xavier de la Prade, William Demichelis, Lynn & Gail Ewing, John Fiore, 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!

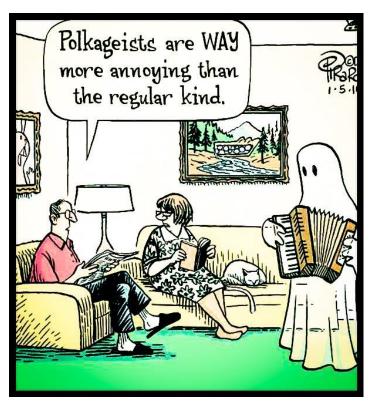
SFAC members are invited to list Greater Bay Area performances in our monthly newsletter. Send print-ready information, 100 words or less, at least 6 weeks in advance, to newsletter coordinator Rosemary Busher (rosemary@busher.org). Size and detail of notice will depend upon space available in the issue.



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### ACCORDION HAPPENINGS AROUND THE WORLD



# Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

June 21-24, 2018

Leavenworth, Washington

Sponsored by the Northwest Accordion Society

www.accordioncelebration.org

# Accordionists & Teachers Guild International (ATG)

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CASTELFIDARDO ACCORDION LOVERS' TRIP OF A LIFETIME September, 2017

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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.

#### UK/USA Visit to Castelfidardo

For more information, contact:

Peter Le Geyt (member of Guildford Accordion Club UK)

#### **PLG Marketing Associates**

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## Support the Businesses That Support the SFAC!

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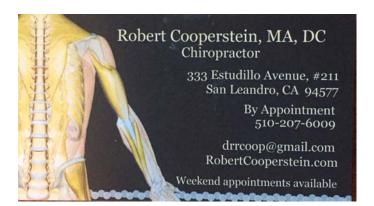
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#### **SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy**

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.

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JOHN CASTIGLIONE Director

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Tel: 586 755 6050 Fax: 586 755 6339 Email: johncast@bignet.net www.castiglioneaccordions.com







## **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

## PLAY WITH THE JAM BAND

Bring your accordion, other acoustic instrument, or your singing voice, and join the traditional jam session held during our 3rd-Sundays music program.

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

### **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

GLENN HARTMAN San Francisco glenndhartman@gmail.com

**BRUCE KIRSCHNER & THE KLEZMAKERS** kirschner@aol.com www.klezmakers.com

NADA LEWIS East Bay & San Francisco folkloric@value.net www.folkloric.net

BIG LOU, aka LINDA SEEKINS San Francisco www.accordionprincess.com

KAY PATTERSON Napa Valley & Surrounding AccordionKay@comcast.net

RENE SEVIERI East Bay & San Francisco Sevieri1955@gmail.com www.facebook.com/rene.sevieri?fref=ts www.youtube.com/user/sevieri55

TANGONERO www.tangonero.com

PAMELA TOM accordionpam@gmail.com

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

#### **SFAC Directors**

Lynn Ewing, (650)867-2633, ewinglynn@gmail.com

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

Allan Schwartz, ALL07@aol.com

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

Rosemary Busher, (510)-220-2931, rosemary@busher.org,

Robert Cooperstein (510)207-6009, drrcoop@sbcglobal.net

Ken Schwartz (650)344-6116, kenschwar@yahoo.com

Shirley Brim (650)201-7660, shirleyb77@gmail.com

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

#### Webmaster

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

#### Newsletter Layout, Content Coordinator

(Positions open, volunteers needed!)

#### **Scholarship**

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

# Out and About in the Bay Area PERFORMANCES

#### Il Duetto Musica

Wednesday, July 12, 2017 - 7:30PM Angelica's in Redwood City

They performed for the SFAC in January, and you can catch them **July 12** at **Angelica's** in Redwood City (ticket information at <a href="http://angelicaswm.tunestub.com/event.cfm?id=263078">http://angelicaswm.tunestub.com/event.cfm?id=263078</a>)

Il Duetto Musica is a delightful mix of Opera & Popular Italian Street Songs featuring the talents of soprano Gloria Mendieta Gazave and accordionist Paul Aebersold. Enjoy a nostalgic tribute to the charm of Italy as you listen to such favorites as Arrivederci Roma and Puccini classics from La Bohème and other great operas. Gloria & Paul take you on a Gondola ride through Venice with romantic songs, lively music, and colorful costumes for an evening of musical treasures.

#### Mike Zampiceni

Select Friday evenings throughout summertime (call for schedule), al fresco dining at **Tee Nee Thai** in San Jose with accordion music played by **Mike Zampiceni** 6:30-8:30 pm

Tee Nee Thai 1423 The Alameda

San Jose, Ca 95126 (408) 947-7927

http://www.teeneethaisanjose.com/



June meeting coffee kindly provided by Starbucks®
Millbrae Square



#### **ACCORDION INSTRUCTION**

BART BENINCO (707) 769-8744

RON BORELLI (650) 574-5707

DAVID CHELINI (916) 428-8764

MYRLE DAHL (415) 897-2283

PETER DI BONO (415) 699-8674

LYNN EWING (650) 453-3391

LOU JACKLICH (510) 317-9510

MARIAN KELLY (650) 954-3711

NADA LEWIS (510) 243-1122

KAY PATTERSON (707) 666-2849

VINCENT RINALDI (415) 824-7609

BIG LOU (LINDA SEEKINS) (415) 468-5986

JOE SIMONI (650) 867-1122

MIKE ZAMPICENI (408) 569-2579

NORMA ZONAY-PARSONS (408) 246-3073

## Join us the 3rd Sunday of each month!

Remember—There will be no SFAC meeting in August—see you in Cotati!

## SFAC Sunday music program

# **Accordions Live!**

# Sunday, July 16

Chetcuti Room, Millbrae Come for fun and great music!!

### Alicia Baker

Tom Torriglia
Garf's Uncle
Jam Band

\$10 suggested donation (Under 13 free)

Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room Civic Center Plaza/Library Plaza 450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA Plenty of free parking, ramp access. Close to public transit

Directions & Map in March 2017 Newsletter



### Amp up the fun-join the SFAC!

Current membership valid through September 2017 First-time new membership valid through <u>September</u> 2018

Join or renew with PayPal or credit card at: <a href="https://www.sfaccordionclub.com/membership.html">www.sfaccordionclub.com/membership.html</a>, 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



AT COTATION THE