

July, 2024



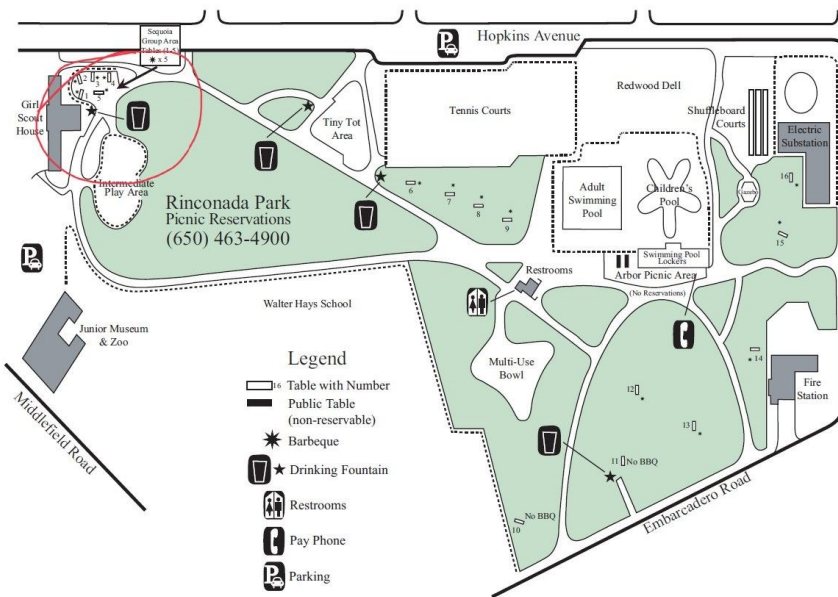
SFAC Picnic in the Park!
 11:30 am—2:00 pm PDT
 Sunday, July 28th
****Rinconada Park, Palo Alto****
 RSVP: info@sfaccordionclub.com

Update on SFAC Annual Picnic - date and venue change

Due to unforeseen circumstances at the prior venue, we are meeting at the **Sequoia Grove** picnic area at **Rinconada Park** in **Palo Alto** on **Sunday, July 28th**, from **11:30-2:00** (see below map). Since the sun canopy at Beresford Park in San Mateo was not available this year, on relatively short notice we had to locate an alternative venue that included ample shade, convenient parking, and rest rooms. Fortunately, Rinconada Park fit our needs.

We hope you can join the picnic for some wonderful conversation, snacks, and of course accordion music – and be in this year’s group photo! Bring your accordion and a brown bag lunch. Seating is available at the picnic tables, or bring a chair. The Club will provide cookies from Antoine’s Cookie Shop and Arnold Palmers (the legendary golfer is also famous for the Arnold Palmer, a non-alcoholic beverage that combines iced tea and lemonade). Alcohol and glass of any kind is prohibited.

Kindly *RSVP* at info@sfaccordionclub.com .



See www.sfaccordionclub.com for larger map image.

We will gather at the **Sequoia Grove** picnic area, near the Girl Scout House and parking lot (circled on the map in red). Street parking is also available on Hopkins St., which runs parallel to the park. The area is nicely shaded so no canopy is necessary. Seating is available at the picnic tables, or you may bring your own folding chair.

A Truly Special Father's Day Event!

By Ken Schwartz

This year's June event on Father's Day offered a very special opportunity to celebrate the centennial of one of our most esteemed members and the music of a renowned accordion duo.

Our jam session was led by **Joseph Martin** and featured 9 players, including 2 guest players – **Gary Blair** and **Robin Hyland**! Our jam sessions are improving with each month, and it shows! Congratulations to the players who participated.



We celebrated **Ed Massolo's** upcoming 100th birthday (June 27th). Most of us know Ed as a very active Club member, who has been with it since its 1990 reincarnation as the "Bay Area Accordion Club". He served on its Board of Directors and was the creator/builder of the signage we see at the entry to each of our Chetcuti meetings. He also constructed the portable stage we used at Oyster Point for many years.

On this day we also celebrated a much more serious side to Ed. Although he is very humble about his WWII history, it is a fact that he volunteered for active duty in WWII, that he flew 25 missions in B-17 heavy bombers over German territory, was shot down, was a prisoner of war, was awarded the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, and a Prisoner of War Medal! The Club was so honored to celebrate the 100th birthday of this American hero. He also received on this day a **Letter of Congratulations** from Congressman Kevin Mullin (CA-15th district), which was beautifully presented in a leather-bound case.

Ed has been playing the accordion since age 9! The only time he stopped was during his military service. Ed thrilled us on his incredible Excelsior and perfectly played several songs: *El Rio Drive Polka*, a favorite of his which he first played for the Club **30 years ago**; *Sun and Shade Waltz* (to which a couple happily danced in our hall); and finally, two famous Italian love songs (recorded by Perry Como, Andrea Bocelli and others), *Anima e Cuore* and *Malafemmena*. Any one of these songs would have been challenging; Ed performed them both flawlessly and with precision. Ed's skills on the Excelsior were mesmerizing. So Ed, having played the accordion longer than most people will live, YOU STILL HAVE THE RIGHT STUFF! Congratulations and many thanks for all that you've achieved and are continuing to achieve in your career.

Our musical program continued with our featured performers, the renowned Scottish accordionist **Gary Blair** and second accordionist **Robin Hyland**. Many thanks to Rosemary Busher, who invited them, provided housing, meals, and tours as they prepared for our Club, and earlier this week for the United Irish Community Center of San Francisco. Those of us who attended this earlier Friday evening Irish event enjoyed an awesome celebration of great music and dance.

This was Gary's third appearance for our Club (once at Oyster Point, once via Zoom, and this day). First up was a tune he had composed after his first appearance in the early 1990's and will play again at the upcoming Leavenworth (WA) Accordion Festival, entitled *Leavenworth Polka*. In Gary's typical style, it was joyful and fast. Next up was a wonderfully melodic waltz Gary wrote in honor of his late friend, titled *For John and Dave Waltz*, followed by a waltz he wrote for his late mother and father, *Lola and Jimmy Blair's Waltz*. So wonderful were these waltzes that a couple happily and elegantly danced away in our Chetcuti entry way! The Musette tones for both Robin's and Gary's accordions were so beautiful! Next was *Reginella Campagnola (The Woodpecker Song)*, which they recently performed at a Castelfidardo festival. Everyone was tapping their toes to this one. This performance reminded us just how powerful and versatile our favorite instrument is.



Next were some of Gary's favorite tunes: *Norwegian Hymn/Anna's Visa* and *The Hen's March to the Midden* and *The Chicken Reel* (musically, we could hear and envision the hen in this terrific piece!). This was followed by an American tune, *Whistling Rufus*, followed by another Gary Blair composition, *Waltz for Domi*, which Gary composed in honor of

Continued on next page ...

Domi Emorine, a young French accordionist who was a senior world champion at age 15. Next was *Alpine Slopes*, which was composed by an Irishman as a Swiss tune, performed at our Club by two Scots in America on an Italian Accordion! So very, very international! Next were a couple of Scottish tunes and a couple of Irish jigs, then a waltz, then *Flick-Flack*, a true fingerbuster! It is one of Gary's signature songs, one that has made him such an admired performer, beautifully and flawlessly performed with Robin's superb accompaniment.



A bit slower was a lovely *Heidi's Waltz* (Gary Blair) followed by a riveting medley of multiple several reels, including the *Glasgow Reel* and *Jungle Reel*. (A Scottish reel is genre of social folk dance, Celtic in origin.) Just as we were settling in, Gary and Robin switched keys, keeping us on edge to thrilling rhythms, leaving us breathless! Next was the wonderfully crazy *Fisarmonica Impazzita* (*Crazy Accordion Polka*, composed by Michelle Corino).

The first time Gary performed in America, Leavenworth 2001, Dick Contino also performed. Gary and Robin played a compilation of songs Gary arranged for American audiences at that time, which he's performed ever since. Entitled *American Express*, it opens with the familiar *Theme from Bonanza* (David Rose) and follows with a medley of favorite Americana songs, mostly 19th century and a few 20th century. It was a rousing way to end this duo's terrific performance.



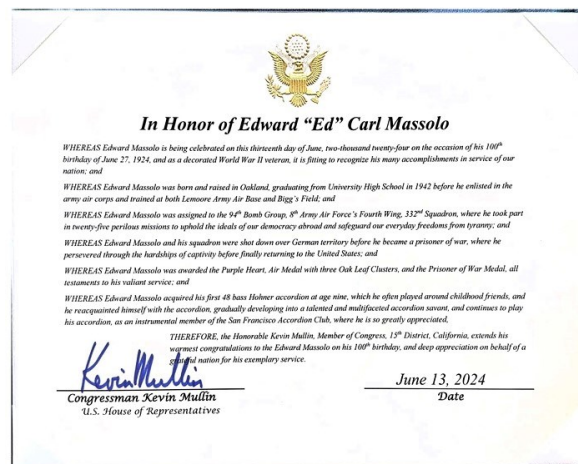
Many thanks to Gary and Robin for a stunningly mesmerizing and uplifting performance. It doesn't get any better than this blastoff! And best wishes for a successful performance at Leavenworth Accordion Circle.

Thanks to Joseph Martin, for leading the jam session and providing/setting up the velvet purple backdrop for the meeting. And thanks to Pamela Lister, for assisting with table setup and for providing a generous supply of table grapes. And, of course, Happy Birthday wishes to our centenarian, **Ed Massolo**!

Finally, and most importantly, let us join together in a loud shoutout to *Rosemary Busher*, to whom we extend many thanks and hugs for making this day's musical program a most memorable reality! She invited our guests, provided them lodging, and took them on a daylong tour of the Bay Area.



Photo by Steve Mobia





Photos by Steve Mobia

Rose City Accordion Camp Report

By Chris Boris-Esteban

Accordion music all day and all night! What's not to love for accordion enthusiasts? The Camp, in its 25th year, was held at the Collins Retreat Center in Eagle Creek, Oregon and the facility did not disappoint. Nestled in the woods with comfortable accommodations and beautiful surroundings, everyone was treated to a supportive community of accordionists who ate meals together, played accordions together, and learned together. Delette Huffman, the RCA Club camp director, kept everything running smoothly from dusk to dawn and beyond!



Gabe Rodriguez conducted the orchestra with grace, patience, expertise, and interesting arrangements. He treated us to his accordion and vocal talents nightly in open mic with his lovely wife Jamie, who is an extremely skilled accordionist and singer herself. We enjoyed workshops from Jamie on bass patterns, rhythms, and secrets to playing by ear. Courtney Von Drehle, another highly talented accordionist from the Portland area, also gave workshops and focused lessons in musicality from the Jacques Mornet methodology and treated us to rhythmic understanding through tapping, clapping, counting, and playing. There also were opportunities to schedule a one-on-one lesson with Gabe, Jamie, or Courtney. Each night after dinner (following a full day of orchestra/small ensemble/independent practices, 1:1 lessons and workshops) there was time for open mic where accordionists could play a solo, duet or trio for the rest of the group. And after open mic, there was a jam session with music books for all to play.



The last evening of camp culminated in a concert by the orchestra and solo performances by Gabe, Jamie, Courtney, and Gail Campanella. Gail not only delighted us with her solos for the concert and open mic, but also led one of the jam sessions, using her bass accordion to anchor the orchestra and keep all of us in proper time! We left camp as better accordionists and with new life-long friends.

We are so fortunate to have been provided a [link](https://youtu.be/oDHIUH4alBg?si=CrKdUF_db_z4EIVT) to Celebrating 25 years of Rose City Accordion Camp - June 6, 2024, a video recording of this year's concert: https://youtu.be/oDHIUH4alBg?si=CrKdUF_db_z4EIVT. Thanks Rose City!



SFAC members in the orchestra: Gail Campanella, Chris Boris Esteban, Pamela Lister, John Lister, and Taffy Steffen.

Accordion Happenings

Accordionists & Teachers Guild International (ATG)

2024 Festival—Honoring Joan C. Sommers

Kansas City, Missouri

July 23 - 27, 2024

<https://www.atgaccordions.com/2024-festival>

Cotati Accordion Festival

LaPlaza Park, Cotati, California

August 16 - 18, 2024

<https://cotatifest.com/>

Online/Virtual Events:

2024 Accordion Seminars-Dr. William Schimmel, Curator

Online, July 26-28, 2024

Details: www.accordionusa.com (see *Future Events*)

Registration: Accordionbill@gmail.com

Monthly: 1st & 3rd Monday - Joseph Natoli

JANPress University - Topics vary monthly (\$)

janpressmusic@yahoo.com

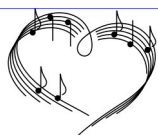
Monthly: 2nd Tuesday 4:30-6:30 PM (free)

Hosted by Laura Niland LauraJNiland@outlook.com

Monthly: 3rd Sunday - Gordon Kohl Workshop

Topics vary (\$) gkohl5890@gmail.com

Members - If you know of an accordion-centric festival or event in 2024 that your fellow SFAC members may be interested in, please contact us at info@sfaaccordionsclub.org



SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

RON BORELLI San Mateo - RonBorelli@aol.com

www.ronborelli.com

JOE DOMITROWICH South Bay -

www.alpinersusa.com

or www.capricious-accordion.com

ED GORZYNSKI, JR. East Bay -

edspolkas@yahoo.com

PAMELA TOM Yolo & Solano Counties

accordionpam@gmail.com

MIKE ZAMPICENI East Bay & South Bay

eclecticguy@comcast.net, www.mikezamp.com

SFAC Board & Key Club Functions

Ken Schwartz, President

Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

Rosemary Busher, Vice-President

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

Paul Cain paulrussellcain@gmail.com

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

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

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

Dominic Palmisano (Honorary) accord47@gmail.com

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Newsletter: *Content, Layout, Edit, Printing, Labeling, Mailing*

Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Pamela Tom, Rosemary Busher (*and credited contributors each issue*)

Accordion Rentals: Rosemary Busher

Live Meeting Sound & Amplification: Paul Cain

Live Meeting ZOOM camera & sound: Ken Schwartz

Membership Drive & Recordkeeping: Robert Cooperstein

Event Photography: Steve Mobia

Searching for Lou Soper's Easy Musical Chord Retention Method, Volumes One & Two

If your collection of sheet music includes these volumes, please let us know. It would be greatly appreciated.

info@sfaaccordionsclub.com

SFAC Scholarships

Your Club has scholarship funds available to support accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference is given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion.

Contact **Mike Zampiceni** for a scholarship application.

eclecticguy@comcast.net 408-569-2579

Event Reviews:

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

Contact: Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com





As usual, the SFAC will not be holding a meeting in August, so as to not conflict with the **Cotati Accordion Festival (CAF)**, *the Greatest Accordion Show on Earth*, August 16-18. It will take place at La Plaza Park, Cotati, CA. It begins early on Friday evening with a fundraiser for student scholarships, at the Church of the Oaks, followed by two glorious days of accordion music in the park. Our Club will host our own vendor space where we will have sheet music and accordion-themed figures available

for a donation. We hope our Club members will stop by and hang out with us from time to time, and that we will meet and greet lots of accordion fans as they stroll La Plaza Park. We will be announcing a generous donation for the CAF student scholarship fund.

Here is a list of the performers that were listed at the [CAF](https://cotatifest.com/) website <https://cotatifest.com/>. It may be subject to changes at this point, but we expect that by the time of our August newsletter we will be able to post the final schedule with times and links to bios of the performers.

5 Cent Coffee
Alejandro Brittes Trio
Andrew Cohen
Art Peterson Trio
Balkan Laikus
California Blue Runners
Califas
Cila Puccadella
Cory Pesaturo
Future Stars
Iko Ya Ya
Innuendo
Jelena Milojevic
Junk Parlor
Les Amis Zydeco
The Mad Maggies



Discos Resaca Collective
Mark St. Mary
Michael Zampiceni
Nathan & Jessie Netta Skog
Pete Contino
Ron Borelli
Sergei & Maria Teleshev
Sheri Mignano
Sonomussette
Sourdough Slim
Stas Venglevski
Steve Balich Band
Two Tribes
USAF Band
Wind Weavers
ZLA VILA

SFAC returns to Cotati Accordion Festival

The San Francisco Accordion Club is the last club standing to have a presence at the Cotati Accordion Festival - not as a barnacle hanging on, but rather a thriving, growing presence at this amazing accordion festival.

It does take considerable effort to get our stuff there – the canopy, tables and chairs, sheet music, accordion-themed figurines, sundries galore and more. But yep, we got that covered. Less covered is having some of our Club members who are attending the CAF (some 10-20 every year) occasionally peopling the canopy, allowing our 3 consistent mainstays (Rosemary, Elaine, and Robert) some time to wander the festival just like all the other people there. Hanging out from time to time involves protecting our stuff from “wandering off” or being broken, and talking to passers-by who are interested in the SFAC or just about anything else related to accordion music and culture. **Your mission, should you choose to accept it . . .** just be yourself, a harmonious, lovely, fascinating representative of accordion excellence! You could even grab a seat or stroll nearby playing an accordion!

SFAC Accordion Sightings: Joseph Martin at Duffy's Tavern, Chico, CA



SFAC member, Joseph Martin, writes: “....Chico, California is such a great place - a Tree City USA, home of California State University, Chico, and the famous Duffy’s Tavern. Born and raised in Chico, I recently visited (June 2024) the Tavern and played about dozen melodies on my Columbo Grande Vox accordion. It’s a great local pub, think of ‘Cheers’. It was a blast to perform and entertain the customers.”

As it turns out, one of the patrons also played the accordion as a young girl. I invited her to play a few songs on my accordion and she did great. Everyone had a good time, and we all created a nice novel memory of a hot summer eve in Chico with cool accordion music.





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Membership Report

Robert Cooperstein



Please join me in welcoming two new members this month. **Fiana Lau** lives in Mountain View, and **Cole Walker** in Henderson, Nevada. Cole used to live in San Francisco, and did attend SFAC meetings in the late '80s and early '90s. Pleasure to have you back, Cole!

🎶 Thank You, Donors! 🎶

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. These members have made extra donations during our current membership year (October 2023-September 2024):

Paul Aebersold; Lorna Anderson; Scott Anderson; Ron Borelli; Rosemary Busher; Gail Campanella; Raymond Celentano; George Chavez; Elaine & Robert Cooperstein; Edward Crnich; Xavier & Candace de la Prade; Ed Gorzynski, Jr.; Lou Jacklich; John Lister; Linda Lonay; Franco & Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi; Ed Massolo; James Murdoch; Laura Jean Niland; Peter Nye; Colette & Casey Ogata; Paul Pasquali; David Perry; Robert D. & Dil Pisani; Nadia Poskatcheeva; Don Savant; Kenneth Schwartz; James Shoemaker; Bill & Gloria Tapogna; Pamela Tom; Jane & Frank Tripi; Frank Venturelli; Carol Whitehead; Barbara Winter; Mike Zampiceni; Marlen Zhagel

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.



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@sfaaccordionclub.com

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.sfaaccordionclub.com



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July President's Report

Kenneth Schwartz



Summer is officially now in full swing, and the Club is gearing up for seasonal activities.

As noted elsewhere in this issue, our picnic (the 4th annual!) has had to be rescheduled from July 21 to July 28 due to unforeseen circumstances at the prior venue. We also had to find a new venue - and we did, thanks to Rosemary, our clutch hitter! The picnic will take place at the **Sequoia Grove picnic area at Rinconada Park in Palo Alto, Sunday, July 28th**. It's a lovely tree-lined area, which we hope you'll enjoy. Thank you for your understanding of this last-minute venue change. Directions and more are provided on page 1 and at www.sfacordionclub.com.

Location: Sequoia Grove picnic area at Rinconada Park in Palo Alto,

Date: Sunday, July 28th (NOT July 21st, as originally scheduled)

Time: 11:30-2:00

In addition, we're looking forward to having you join us at our tent at the **Cotati Accordion Festival**. This year's event promises to be great fun.

We'll resume meeting at Chetcuti in September!

Cheers,

Ken



Ron Borelli, Accordionist

Contact information:

- Email: RONBORELLI@AOL.COM
- WEBSITE: RONBORELLI.COM
- TEXT/PHONE: 415-203-6700

ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

East Bay

- ◆ Joel Weber www.joelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/
- ◆ Mike Zampiceni* www.mikezamp.com
- ◆ Anand Joseph* 614-329-9384 (beginner students)

Peninsula/South Bay

- ◆ Joe Simoni* jsimoni2000@gmail.com, 650-867-1122
- ◆ Mike Zampiceni* www.mikezamp.com
- ◆ Anand Joseph* 614-329-9384 (beginner students)

Outside the Bay Area

- ◆ Gail Campanella* GailCampanella@gmail.com 805-895-0457 (Santa Barbara)
- ◆ Bonnie Birch* www.bonniebirch.com (Seattle)
- ◆ Pamela Tom* accordionpam@gmail.com (Davis)
- ◆ Lorna Anderson* 910-215-5757 (Pinehurst, NC)

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

CONCERTO - COLOMBO - PIERMARIA

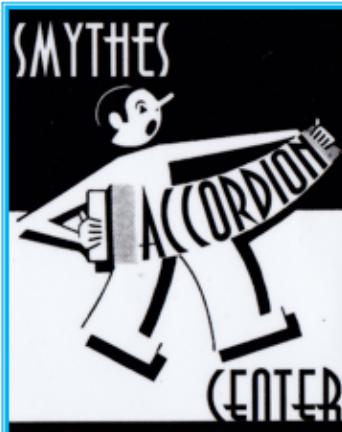
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San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o Cooperstein

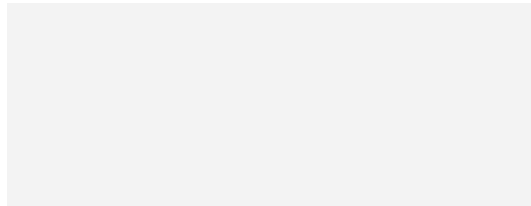
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Upcoming Events: **July 28** SFAC Club Picnic - Palo Alto, Rinconada Park (See page 1 for details)

August 16-18 Cotati Accordion Festival - La Plaza Park, Cotati, CA (www.cotatifest.com)

September 15 Ron Borelli - Live, in-person at the Chetcuti Community Center!

SFAC Members' Picnic!

Picnic in the Park

Rinconada Park — Palo Alto, CA

Sunday, July 28, 2024

RSVP for details info@sfaccordionclub.com

Join fellow club members for good food, good conversation and good music at the **Sequoia Grove picnic area** at Rinconada Park, 777 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto on Sunday, July 28th, from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm



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