

# June, 2019

♪ ♪ SFAC Accordion Circle! ♪ ♪

**Sunday, June 23\*, 2019**

Chetcuti Community Room

450 Poplar Street, Millbrae, CA

2:00 — 4:30 pm

\$5 requested donation

*\* 4th Sunday in June*



*Just remember, anyone can join the Circle!*

## Accordion enthusiasts, present thyselfes!

**Maestro Lou Jacklich** will be leading our vaunted Jam Band during our June **Accordion Circle**. The jam book was recently expanded with several new pieces, so get ready for some new accordion adventures in group play / jam band!

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

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



# May 2019 SFAC Accordions Live! Event Review

## Cory Pesaturo!

by Ken Schwartz

photos by Steve Mobia



The San Francisco Accordion Club's May event rocked with the performance of twice world-champion Cory Pesaturo! Cory was nothing short of phenomenal, as were our own talented **Siyuan Donnelly**, who gave a short performance, and soprano **Divya Pillai**, a young singer who accompanied Cory for a portion of the program. The Chetcuti Community Room was filled to near capacity, including a number of individuals new to the club. Cory has been on a 5-week tour, with stops including several days in the Bay Area and the Indy 500, with several appearances at various venues and accordion clubs.

Cory opened the event on Lynn's magnificent Bugari acoustic accordion with *Jeanette*, a musette waltz, followed by unique versions of Klezmer music, including *Hava Nagila* and other songs. We were then treated to an unexpected bonus: Cory introduced Ms. Divya Pillai, who is a recent graduate of MIT, a talented software engineer (Google), and an equally talented soprano singer! Divya displayed her incredible talent, singing *Montichiari*, accompanied by Cory's dynamic accordion, with a range far beyond her young years. The audience was thrilled with her stunning performance! Switching to his one-of-a-kind digital accordion, Cory introduced us to the unique sounds and rhythms achievable on this instrument with the ballad piece *Laura*.



### Master Class

Cory presented a Master Class, which he has been doing for some 6 years now, based on the classic children's song *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, to demonstrate how a simple tune can be modified for virtually any style of music! He deconstructed and then reconstructed *Mary*

on the spot in response to impromptu requests from the audience: as jazz, French musette, Klezmer, rock, Italian tarantella, tango, Brazilian, electronic, Balkan; and of course finished with a bellows-shake finale! No matter what the genre, Cory embellished *Mary* with changes in key, scale (e.g., Freyghish for Klezmer), tempo (e.g., tango, French waltz musette), syncopation, jazz, advanced chords and chord changes, swing and pocket, lots of chromatics, walking bass lines, ornaments, arpeggios, and much more. The resulting versions of *Mary* were fascinating and fun to hear, and at Cory's concert level, only distantly related to the ancestral bland *Mary*. Cory's Master Class was very special, and we will never hear *Mary Had a Little Lamb* the same way again! Thanks, Cory!



### Intermission

Lynn Ewing emceed today's event and welcomed and encouraged the new members, first-time guests and attendees who had not been here in a long time to stand up and be recognized. There were many! Lynn encouraged the new guests to join the SFAC: a new membership goes through September 2020; it's a great opportunity!



### Siyuan Donnelly Performance

One of our best up-and-coming accordionists, 9-year-old Siyuan Donnelly, performed. Having taken lessons from Mike Zampecini for several years, he has been playing since age 4. Siyuan performed *Beautiful Days*, followed by *Sparkle* (Pietro Frosini). Mike assigned this piece at a recent lesson and Siyuan memorized the whole thing in just 2 weeks! Cory noted accordion playing needs to be crispy with nicely separated notes; Siyuan has already got this down pat at age 9! Cory congratulated Siyuan and also Mike for teaching him so well, adding he's "been told never to follow animals or children; this is dangerous!" As an aside, Mike is one of Cory's favorite players; some of us were privileged to hear Mike, Lou Jacklich and Cory perform as a trio on Friday evening at Lynn's home. We will never forget the wonderful music of that evening!



### Cory Pesaturo In Concert

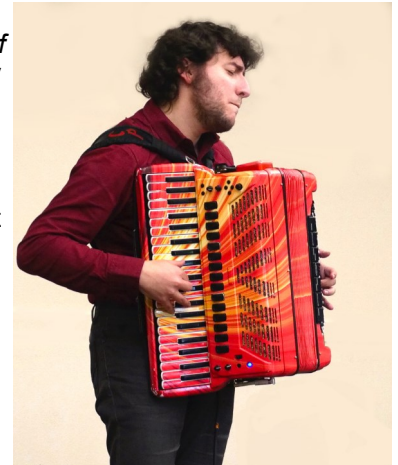
Cory opened on the acoustic accordion with a mazurka, *La Migliavacca*, followed by *La Vie En Rose*, and then his electronic vocal doo-wop version of *Moment's Notice* (John Coltrane); the doo-wop vocalizations are built into Cory's digital accordion. Next, he performed *Bella Chitarra* (Frank Marocco), followed by Divya Pillai returning to sing *La Danza: Tarantella Napolitana* (Rossini) with Cory's accompaniment. Divya was again absolutely sensational, and she hit all the high notes perfectly! Next was Cory's *Libertango* (Piazzolla), *La Cumparsita Tango*; and his version of *Smells Like Teen*

## (continued) May 2019 Event Review — Cory Pesaturo!

by Ken Schwartz

photos by Steve Mobia

*Spirit* (Nirvana), practically blowing the roof off with its exciting tempo and digital acoustics! Continuing the program, Cory performed *Theme from Zorba the Greek*, *Phantom of the Opera*, some Jewish wedding music (he plays many weddings), and a polka medley of *Beer Barrel Polka*, *The Clarinet Polka*, and *The Pennsylvania Polka*. Next was his jazzy rendition of *Spain* (Chick Corea), and finally, returning to the acoustic accordion, Dick Contino's version of *Lady of Spain*. As encores to a standing ovation, Cory performed *Sunny Side of the Street*, and finally to conclude the concert, an over-the-top, stunning, virtuoso performance of *Hora de Concert* (composer Lelo Nika). Rounding out the afternoon, Cory participated in the group jam session, both as accordionist and teacher, with tips for rhythms and technique.



Our many thanks to Cory for his wonderful workshop and sensational featured performance; Divya for her beautiful vocals; and Siyuan for inspiring us at his young age. Additional thanks are due to Lynn Ewing for extending the invitation to Cory, and to Lynn Ewing and Rosemary Busher for providing accommodations during his visit. Thanks as well to Randy Hicks for web support, and to Paul Cain and Steve Mobia for AV support.



**And thank you, members, for your membership and support, which enabled our club to provide this fine program!**



Bottom 3 photos: Lou Jacklich, Cory Pesaturo, & Mike Zampiceni  
Friday at Lynn's house

# My Week at Camp (Concerto™)

by Stephen Marshall

For years I was an accordion purist. I did, and still do, love the sound of reeds vibrating and sounding through an expertly crafted wooden box. I was harshly critical of the transistor-tinged sounds of electric accordions often trying, and failing, to match the beautiful sound of the real thing. After being a club member for a few years, I had the pleasure of seeing and hearing a number of accordionists. I saw some performers who used all electric accordions or MIDI-equipped acoustic accordions equipped with electronic sounds.

I dipped my foot in. I tried an old *Cordovox*. It was fun to play with, but had limited flexibility. It was kind of like having an organ attached to my chest. I found an accordion, manufactured by *SEM*. It was an accordion with a fairly simple design. It had buttons on the grill, with the names of certain instruments, guitar, vibes. I attempted to modernize. I got hold of a few MIDI accordions. To this day, I have been unable to get any useful electronic sounds out of my *Colombo*, *Borsini*, *Petosa*, or *Excelsior*. They all have more modern MIDI electronics added, but to say that they are not user-friendly is an understatement.

I came across a very interesting accordion. A *Petosa Millennium*. It is a reedless accordion. It is a full size *Petosa* accordion that weights 16 pounds! The electronics are stored in a separate box. The *Millennium* FEELS like a real accordion. The electronically-generated sounds are interesting, but none of the settings sound anything like an accordion. This accordion is a favorite of mine, due to its weight. I can pick it up and put it down several times a day with minimal effort.

Some time later, I was engaged in my most expensive recreation, searching eBay for accordions. I came across a rare find, a *Concerto*! As some of you members must already know, *Concerto* is a brand of MIDI accordion developed by SFAC-member Paul Pasquali, host of the Las Vegas Accordion Convention. The last time I attended the convention, I sat through a demonstration of the *Concerto* conducted by Paul himself. The accordion seemed interesting, but the price, prohibitive. After my frustrations with other MIDI technology, I decided to give it a try.

I purchased the *Concerto DA-100* for a reasonable price (plus import fees, as it came from Canada) and tried it out. Good news and bad. The acoustic accordion itself was in good condition. The electronics were still a bit of a mystery. I attempted to read the manual, without my eyes crossing and becoming glassy. Not much success. I discussed my dilemma with SFAC-member Pamela Tom, who knows everyone and just about everything accordion. She mentioned **Camp Concerto**, a camp run by Paul Pasquali specifically to train people on the use of his accordion. Almost 2 years after buying the accordion, I attended the camp in May.

The camp was held at the University of Utah campus in Salt Lake City. We set up in the Commander's House, built in 1875. Paul Pasquali and Gordon Kohl taught. The class was excellent! I learned a great deal about the instrument. It can produce a number of different sounds at the touch of a few buttons. I also learned a great deal about playing with a MIDI accordion. We learned about sound patterns and the decay rates of certain instruments. We learned about the ranges of orchestral instruments. One of the main reasons MIDI accordions can sound odd, is because the players may select instrument sounds and play them in registers too high, or too low for the actual instrument. I was also told to try something I had never thought of. Play the accordion with the bellows closed, to get used to using the expression (volume) pedal to control the sound. This is a bit more difficult than it seems for those of use who have been actually squeezing our squeezeboxes for years! After gaining some expertise, one can then use the bellows to blend the rich acoustic accordion sound to the electronically generated sounds. The camp ended with a small concert, finished by Gordon Kohl who has been playing electric accordions since he borrowed a *Cordovox* in middle school. His utilization of electronics is always understated and very musical. I was grateful to pick up practical playing tips from Gordon and Paul.



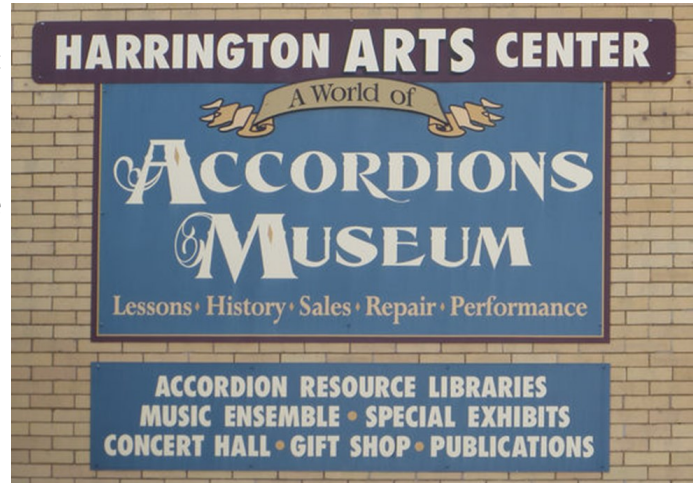
## World Accordion Day at the “A World of Accordions” Museum:

Paul Cain

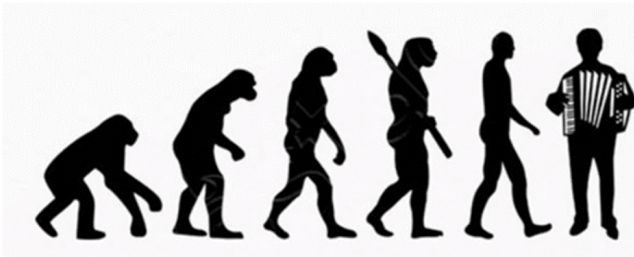
Since 2009, each May 6th, the CIA (Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes) has been promoting “World Accordion Day”, a unified global effort to celebrate and promote the accordion. As a proud accordion nut, I was eager to make sure this momentous occasion was properly celebrated right here in America. But where to go? A quick Google search yielded no local events associated with World Accordion Day. Well, the accordion requires serious dedication. I know this. I found out that if I was serious about celebrating the accordion, I would need to make the pilgrimage to Superior, Wisconsin ... **Helmi Harrington’s “A World of Accordions” museum!**

Superior, Wisconsin, just across the Bridge from Duluth, MN, is a little out-of-the-way. It’s actually pretty far from just about anywhere. I thought I was earning bragging rights by being willing to fly out from California, but the folks I met at the museum showed me the true meaning of accordion fanaticism. Mortie and Charles drove 12 hours from St. Louis, Hanni drove up from Austin, Murl traveled from Seattle, Mike flew in from Germany ... You see where I’m going with this. This event was a BIG DEAL to accordion enthusiasts, and I knew instantly that I had picked the right venue for WORLD ACCORDION DAY.

The Harrington Arts Center, home of the accordion museum, is a re-purposed church. It is a lovely performance space, not too “churchy”, with perfect acoustics for accordion performances. It is to the accordion what the Magic Castle is to magic ... A place for accordionists to perform for other accordionists at the highest level, surrounded by all things accordionistic. And, it has a basement that is just about the right size for 1400 (or so) accordions. They are actually piled up everywhere. From the moment you enter the building, you



are literally tripping over accordions of every imaginable sort. If they built it, Helmi has one! Guido Diero’s accordion? Charles Magnante’s accordion? Willard Palmer’s accordion? They are all there. Want to see a Hohner Gola? She has 14 of them, including a free-bass prototype. Every facet of accordion innovation is represented in the collection, from the sheng (1100 BC), to the flutina (1850s), to the Roland V-Accordion (2019). I spent three days wandering around the basement and didn’t see it all!



Well, since May 6th didn’t fall on a weekend this year, Helmi held her World Accordion Day event on Saturday, and staged an event called the Dr. Willard A. Palmer Festival on Sunday. Both events featured back-to-back performances all day. Mary Tokarski, Murl Allen Sanders, Betty Jo Simon, Joan Sommers, Stas Venglevski, UMKC Accordion Ensemble, Dee Langley, Mike Middleton, Jane Christianson, Henry Doktorski, Bill Palmer... and more. In addition to the superb musical offerings, there were panel discussions on the future of the accordion, workshops, and even a bit of pomp and circumstance. The President of the CIA traveled from New Zealand to officially sanction the event, and the Mayor of Superior issued a proclamation naming May 6th as the city’s “Accordion Day”. But most importantly, the event was a place for the accordion community to come together to appreciate one another, reminisce about past times, and look toward the future.

The accordion may be San Francisco’s official instrument, but the heartbeat of the accordion in America can be clearly felt in Superior, Wisconsin.





**Anna Maria Di Bono** [July 24, 1941 – May 21, 2019]

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to long-time club member, Reno Di Bono, whose wife Anna passed away on May 21st.

Anna was born to Armando and Gina Cembrano in Genova, Italy, July 24, 1941, an Italian war baby. The Cembranos had a delicatessen where through hard work they prospered. When Gina died in 1962, Anna came to the USA and entered Santa Clara University.

Upon entering a small Italian class, Anna met her future husband Reno Di Bono, who became a teacher at Monta Vista High School, Cupertino. The couple married September 7, 1963 and were married for 56 years.

Anna built her own home in Cupertino and was a successful realtor at Alain Pintel. She was expert in Genovese dinners, “Pesto”.

Anna died May 21, 2019 after a 25-year struggle with Parkinson’s disease.

The Di Bono’s three sons Reno, Jeff, and David, all graduated from Santa Clara University. Anna has 9 grandchildren, Andrew, Isabella, Gianna, Gullianna, Daniela, Gabriella, Reno, Mia, and Paola.

Sympathy cards can be sent to Reno Di Bono, 10675 Clubhouse Lane, Cupertino, CA 95014.



**Las Vegas International Accordion Convention**

**20-YEAR CELEBRATION**

October 14 – 17 we will celebrate our 20th year in Las Vegas with an accordion party of a lifetime! There are a few great reasons to attend, but perhaps the biggest reason is this year’s lineup of Accordion Stars including **Professor Frederick Lips!** Of course we will also feature the BEST of the BEST – with talent like **Cory Pesaturo** and MORE, plus **Professor Sommers** conducting the Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra!

When – October 14-17, 2019 – Rooms only \$47 per night on our block with a special \$12 per night resort fee savings! Plus we will take \$50 off your registration when you book on the convention block. For registration details contact event organizer Paul Pasquali at [paul@AccordionStars.com](mailto:paul@AccordionStars.com)

**ATG Meets in Denver, July 24-27, 2019**

By Pamela Tom

**The Accordionists and Teachers Guild International (ATG) Festival** takes place in Denver, Colorado July 24th - July 27th. Accordionists and accordion enthusiasts are welcome to attend the annual ATG Festival.

The organizers have a great lineup of concerts and guest artists as well as competitions, workshops, food and the opportunity to be a member of the ATG Festival Orchestra under the direction of the renowned Joan Cochran Sommers. This is also a wonderful opportunity to network and broaden your horizon with accordionists and exchange ideas and experiences.

For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.atgaccordions.com/2019-festival>



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**Accordion Center**

**SFAC Meetings — Looking Ahead!**

- **June 23**  
SFAC Accordion Circle, participation meeting
- **July 23**  
SFAC Accordions Live! — featuring **Joe Domitrowich**
- **August 17-18**  
NO SFAC MEETING  
Cotati Accordion Festival – visit the SFAC booth!
- **September 15**  
TBA Featured Accordionist, performance meeting
- **October 20**  
SFAC Accordion Circle, participation meeting
- **November 17**  
SFAC Accordions Live! — featuring **Ron Borelli**
- **December 15**  
Holiday Accordion Circle, participation meeting
- **January 19, 2020**  
SFAC Accordions Live! — featuring **Bonnie Birch**



### DISCOUNTED COTATI TICKETS

The SFAC is delighted to offer discounted tickets purchased in advance for the Cotati Accordion Festival, August 17-18, 2019.

The reduced rate will be **\$15 for 1-day tickets** (\$19 at the gate) and **\$25 for 2-day tickets** (\$29 at the gate), available for purchase in-person at the SFAC meetings in June and July.

Here is a great opportunity to save some money and increase the public presence of the SFAC at this great accordion event! Many thanks to Linda Conner, Scott Goree and the other hard-working staff at the Cotati Festival for extending this offer to our members.

Please do take advantage of it!



The SFAC's vendor booth banner for Cotati!

## SFAC Will Once Again Host Vendor Booth at Cotati Accordion Festival

**Attention Members:** The SFAC will have a vendor booth at this year's Cotati Accordion Festival! We will have sheet music and accordion-themed figurines available, and maybe even some accordions for sale. Having this table will be a great opportunity to get our name out there, and maybe make some new friends. We would love to have our members volunteer to staff the table for brief periods of time, so no one person has to spend so much time representing the SFAC that they forget to enjoy all the other fun things going on at Cotati. If you can step up for an hour or two on either day, please talk to any board member (see page 11), or drop Elaine a line at [elainedc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elainedc@sbcglobal.net).



## 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](mailto:dcdacapo@gmail.com)

### Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

[gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com](http://gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com)

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

**GSAC Napa Valley Chapter** (formerly Vacaville)  
2nd Thursday at 6:00 pm.  
The Runway Restaurant  
2044 Airport Road, Napa

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

**GSAC Sacramento Chapter**  
3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm  
Elks Lodge No. 6  
6446 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento

### 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

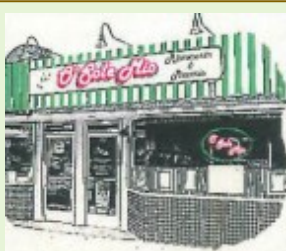
### Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

1st Sundays at Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border  
Rd., Los Altos, CA  
Doors open at 1:30pm. [www.svasociety.org](http://www.svasociety.org)

### Mike Zampiceni

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[www.ronborelli.com](http://www.ronborelli.com)

**RICHARD DENIER** Carmel - [rjd.denier@gmail.com](mailto:rjd.denier@gmail.com)

**PETER DI BONO** San Francisco [www.peterdibono.com](http://www.peterdibono.com)

**RENO DI BONO** South Bay - [ourhike@aol.com](mailto:ourhike@aol.com)  
[www.italianaccordion.com](http://www.italianaccordion.com)

**JOE DOMITROWICH** South Bay [www.alpinersusa.com](http://www.alpinersusa.com)  
or [www.capricious-accordion.com](http://www.capricious-accordion.com)

**ED GORZYNSKI, JR.** East Bay - [edspolkas@yahoo.com](mailto:edspolkas@yahoo.com)

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**BIG LOU**, aka LINDA SEEKINS San Francisco  
[www.accordionprincess.com](http://www.accordionprincess.com)

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**MIKE ZAMPICENI** East Bay & South Bay  
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### Got Straps?

Do you have a spare set of **accordion straps** sitting around? The club owns accordions in need of strap assemblies. We will gratefully accept gently used straps as a tax-deductible donation to SFAC.

Contact Lynn at [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com)



## ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

### Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

June 20-23, 2019

Leavenworth, Washington

[www.accordioncelebration.org](http://www.accordioncelebration.org)

### AAA Festival—American Accordionists' Association

July 17-21, 2019

Valley Forge Casino Resort (Radisson Hotel)

King of Prussia, PA

<http://www.ameraccord.com/festival.php>

### ATG-Accordionists & Teachers Guild International

29th Annual Festival

July 23-27, 2019

Denver, Colorado

[www.atgaccordions.com/2019-festival](http://www.atgaccordions.com/2019-festival)

### 29th Annual Cotati Accordion Festival

August 17-18, 2019

<https://www.cotatifest.com>

### 72nd Coupe Mondiale Festival & Competitions

Shenzai, China

August 12-17, 2019

[https://www.coupemondiale.org/coupe\\_index.htm](https://www.coupemondiale.org/coupe_index.htm)

### Las Vegas International Accordion Convention

LVIAC—20th Anniversary

October 14-17, 2019

<http://accordionstars.com>

Paul Pasquale (801) 485-5840

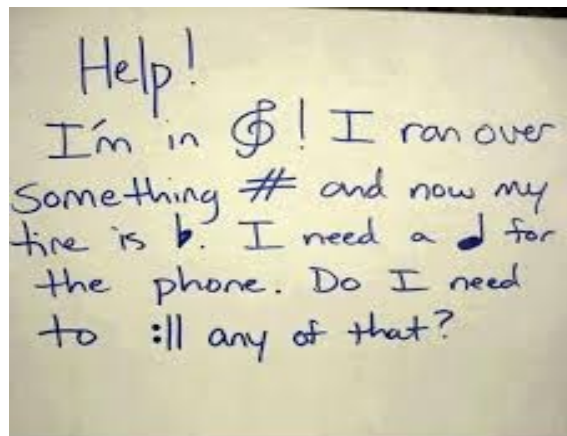
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## Ron Borelli

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To connect with Ron:

- ◆ 415 203 6700 cell
- ◆ or [ronborelli@aol.com](mailto:ronborelli@aol.com)

### SFAC Directors

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

**Newsletter team:** Content Coordination, Layout, Copy Editing, Print shop pick-up, Labels/Stamps, Mailing

Elaine Cooperstein, Rosemary Busher, Pamela Tom, Robert Cooperstein *[Layout (Microsoft Publisher) volunteers needed]*

### Scholarship Awards

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San Francisco Accordion Club

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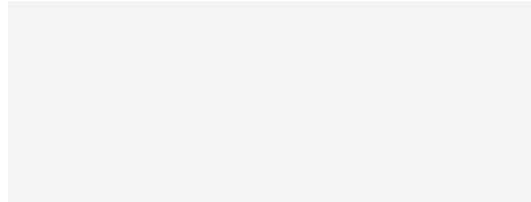
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## FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



3rd Sundays (except 4th Sunday in June 2019)—Monthly Musical Meetings

**SFAC Accordion Circle**

***Jam Band + Open Mic***

**Sunday, June 23\*** \*4th Sunday

Come for fun and great music!!

**June 23, 2019 2:00—4:30pm**

*All are encouraged to participate!*

**\$5 Suggested Donation (Under 13 free)**

**Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room**

**Civic Center Plaza/Library Plaza**

**450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA**



Chetcuti Community Room

*Plenty of free parking in Library lot*

*Accessible location*

*Close to public transit*



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