



The San Francisco Accordion Club



World's First Accordion Club 1912-2009



Newsletter for May 2009

*The
official instrument of San
Francisco*

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Newsletter

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President's Message

Many organizations have a person known as a "Historian" whose job it is to maintain a written account of activities along with photographs and other items of interest. It is a way of documenting events of the past which demonstrate how the organization is fulfilling its purpose as a guide to current members.

While we have not maintained such a position, we have served the same function principally through the use of our newsletter. Since 1990 we have maintained a steady accounting of our club's activities on a monthly basis thanks to the work of the editors and contributors over these past nineteen years. Some of us kept all of the issues of the newsletter and last year member Bob Smith turned these into a single DVD so that we

have a complete account of our club's history.

A second way of recording our activities was by videotaping our monthly music programs. For many years one of our members, Ed Zaro, produced VHS tapes on his own and made these available to individuals who requested them for a small fee. When Ed died a few years ago, he left them for the club. As you can imagine, there were many boxes of the tapes which accumulated over these years, and again it was Bob Smith to the rescue. He has been working at changing these to DVDs for us. Many of the tapes are too old but he is doing what he can to restore the more recent ones.

We tried to interest someone else to continue taping our music programs, and a few people have done these from time to time, but it was not until friends

of one of our members, Sally and Don McKenzie, volunteered to take up the project recently, that we once again began having our musical performances recorded. Their equipment is much more professional than any we have seen and they have been experimenting with lighting as well as the audio aspects of producing DVDs of a higher quality.

Knowing that some performers may have reservations about being recorded for whatever personal reason, we have decided to ask their permission before proceeding. A copy of our video recording agreement can be found under Executive Board Notes on page 6.

Frank Montoro



Our Musical Meeting!

President Frank Montoro welcomed new members Mrs. & Mrs. Hilbert Werner of San Lorenzo, Aldo Didero of San Francisco, and Dana & Allen Klein of San Francisco, all of whom signed up today.

It was good to see Jane and Lou Di Maggio, just back from a long cruise around the tip of South America!

The first musical performance was the Reno Di Bono and Friends Trio, always a special treat. The group features Reno Di Bono on accordion and vocals, Brent McHenry on drums and vocals, and Dave Kawamoto on Sax and Clarinet. In their great



The Reno Di Bono Trio: Reno, Brent and Dave style, with some terrific vocals, they started with a great jazzy tune *Cute* by Neal Hefty ; then followed with ***Volare; In The Mood; Don't Get Around Much Anymore*** (Duke Ellington) with vocal by Brent; *Honeysuckle Rose* featuring Dave on Clarinet; *Darktown Strutters Ball, dedicated to Reno's dad Tony, who was present; a "Dixieland" version of Just a Closer Walk With Thee* featuring Dave on Clarinet; Irvin Berlin's *Dancing Cheek to Cheek; The Woodpecker Song* (La Reginella Campagnola); the *Giulietta Polka; C'est Magnifique* with a Maurizio Cavaliere impersonation by Reno; ***Que Será, Será; S'Wonderful; That's A-Plenty from the 20's; Anema e Core*** with vocal by Brent; ***C'E La Luna Mezzo Mare;*** and, as a grand finale, joined by brother Peter, *Begin The Beguine*.



Dad and the Boys: Reno, Tony and Peter

As always, this group brought the house down. You can count on Reno for great entertainment!

On a side note, Dave Kawamoto is no **stranger to one of our club's "founding fathers"** - Jim Holliday. Jim was an airline Captain for Pan Am and Dave was also a pilot assisting in the same cockpit on flights to Hawaii. Small world?



Gus Greyhosky (our MC for the day) with Mary Alice & Dave Eldon

Following the break, including the drawing for door prizes and 50/50 and an excellent lunch, the musical program resumed with the San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble, conducted by our own Joe Smiell, who also arranged all the pieces.

Our Musical Meeting!



The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble
Directed by Joe Smiell

The Ensemble played the beloved march *Repasz Band* by C. C. Sweeley; *Variation* by Cécile Chaminade, a female composer (a fact that most people **don't realize**); **Johann Strauss Jr.'s famous *Emperor Waltz***; selections from the great American musical *Oliver!*; ***Le Carillon* from Bizet's *l'Arlésienne Suite***; a medley tunes of the American West that Joe named *Prairie*; another medley of cowboy songs beautifully arranged; and a wonderful *Paso Doble* that is loads of fun to play.

Being one of the players in the ensemble, I (Val) am not qualified to critique it, but I can say **that it was lots of fun playing the program!** (Editor's note: and it was a fun program to listen to as well. Kudos to Joe and the members of the ensemble for a job well done!)

Following the musical program, several of us **went on into the lounge for some "afterglow."**

Val and Randy



Gwyn Lister, Ellen Karel and Xavier de la Prade

*Food for the Body
And
Food for the Soul!*



Cliff Chocol

More Photos and Fun!

Welcome New Members!

It is so exciting to report we had 5 new members join last month.

Dana and Allen Klein of San Francisco. Allen plays



Dana and Allen Klein

both guitar and accordion and likes Jazz, Classical, Tango and French/Italian music. Aldo Didero, also



Aldo Didero with Vince and Violet Cukar

of San Francisco, enjoys all kinds of good music. He once played a while back, but now is content to sit back and enjoy. Mr. and Mrs. Hilbert Werner of San Lorenzo. The Werners enjoy all good accordion music. It was Reno Di Bono who invited the Wern-



Reno Di Bono with new recruits Mr. and Mrs. Hilbert Werner

ers to come, and it must have been a double treat for them to see Reno AND Joe Smiell, who played at their wedding—49 years ago! Welcome to all new members and thank you Reno for introducing us to the Werners.

Afterglow!!!



Pat Morehen, Anna and Henry Nicora & June and Ciro Landi

News and Announcements

About this month's performers:

Due Zighi Baci (Two Little Gypsy Kisses) - Tenor



songs, the romantic ariettas, passionate tangos such as O Sole Mio as well as the beautiful, heartbreaking ballads written during the 1930s. *Due Zighi Baci* will bring along some song books so that everyone can join in on their favorite Italian song. We'll have some fun and be touched by the Italian and French repertoire. For more information about the group, visit www.zighibaci.com

Tangonero is a new Argentine Tango band based in San Francisco. They specialize in classic tango — a genre that fuses intense passion with quiet tenderness, alternating sharp percussive rhythms with slow nostalgic melodies. It squeezes your heart to tears and then sets your feet to dancing. The group features Michele Walther on violin, Jim Shearer on upright bass, Zac Selissen on guitar and Alex Roitman on accordion. For further information visit *Tangonero*'s website: www.tangonero.com


SFAC Scholarship Program

Scholarships are awarded each April and October. Requirements will be given to area teachers soon. Applications are available at the monthly meetings or from any board member and must be returned by the end of either March or September to be considered for award the following month.



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News and Announcements (continued)

Our Sincere Thanks!

To those who generously donate to the Club.

Each year we start a new cumulative list of donors. If you have donated and your name doesn't show up in this column, please contact Val at (510) 531-4836 or vtacc@ifn.net and let her know. Your donations are greatly appreciated and we want to be sure you are recognized. As of publication, we have learned of donations from: Maryanne Romanowski and her company Care2.com Inc., Amil Samayoa, Randall Hicks, Alexander Roitman, Bruce Kirschner, Michael Sanossian, André Paris & Ivan Sarkany.

Mark your Calendars

The following Accordion events are coming up:

Rose City Accordion Club Accordion Camp June 7-12
Silver Falls State Park, OR. For more info visit
www.rosecityaccordionclub.org/Bulletins_Events.html

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration
June 18-21 Leavenworth, WA email
info@leavenworth.org

Celebrate the Accordion June 20-21 Petaluma Con-
tact Tom Cordoni (707) 762-2231 or cordacc@aol.com

Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Cham-
pionships (KIOTAC) July 6-11 Kimberley, B.C. Call
800-4KIOTAC email info@KIOTAC.ca or visit

www.KIOTAC.com

Joe Smiell's Button Box Camp July 12-18 Soda Springs in
the High Sierras. Contact Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938 or
(707) 751-0525

Galla-Rini Accordion Camp—20th Anniversary July 26-31
Campus of San Domenico Music Conservatory in San Anselmo.
Watch for details!

19th Annual Cotati Accordion Festival August 22-23 Co-
tati, CA with headliner Flaco Jimenez. Those Darn Accordions
will also be celebrating their 20th anniversary this year.
www.cotatifest.com info@cotatifest.com

La Vegas International Accordion Convention October 19-
22 Gold Coast Hotel and Casino. Phone (800) 472-1695 or
email vegas@AccordionInfo.com

Executive Board Notes

One of the important topics of discussion at the last Executive Board meeting was the drafting of a Video Recording Agreement. The agreement is replicated below:

San Francisco Accordion Club Video Recording Agreement

Article II: Purpose states that the purpose of this club shall be to enhance, promote and stimulate an appreciation of the accordion within the membership and the general public.

In keeping with this purpose we videotape our Sunday programs at the club, with the permission of the performers, for educational purposes. We make videotapes available to our members and guests for their enjoyment and to provide musicians an opportunity to view their performances. The DVDs are not to be sold or distributed to the public at large but are solely for the enjoyment of the San Francisco Accordion Club members and their guests. Music contained herein is not the property of the videographer.

Permission is granted on _____ to videotape my performance as stated above. _____.

San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble News

The SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble presented an outstanding concert Sunday, April 26th in Redwood City, to a packed house. They will be performing for the Roosevelt Elementary School in Redwood City on May 18th.

San Francisco Accordion Band News (aka The Fun Band)

Cheer on the Fun Band when they perform at the Silicon Valley Accordion Society's musical meeting, Sunday June 7th, at 1:30 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose. *Band members please note the extra rehearsal June 3rd!*

News and Announcements (continued)

Who is performing around the Bay?

Steve Balich, North Bay (707) 874-3494

Ron Borelli, Peninsula (650) 574-5707
rborelli@aol.com

Renée de la Prade, **Culann's Hounds**,
San Francisco www.sfhounds.com

Richard Denier, Carmel rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono, San Francisco
peterdsf@gmail.com

Reno Di Bono, South Bay
ourhike@aol.com

William De Michelis, South Bay
wdd777@comcast.net

Bruce Kirschner and The Klezmakers,
kirschner@aol.com
www.klezmakers.com

Joe Domitrowich, South Bay
www.capricious-accordion.com or
www.alpinerusa.com

Don Nurisso, nurisso@mindspring.com

Mike Zampiceni, South Bay electricguy@comcast.net

Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano) San Francisco
www.zighibaci.com or
zighi@sonic.net



Please Remember!

To leave our meeting hall at the beautiful Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Please clean up any food or drink spills and toss out paper plates, napkins, cups, etc. before leaving. Thank you!

SF Accordion Band Practice

Wednesdays, May 13 & 27, AND June 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Val Kieser's home in Oakland. Please CALL AHEAD in case there is a change. Everyone is welcome to join. For more information, contact Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net

Our Neighboring Bay Area Accordion Clubs

Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR) meets monthly on the third Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Hermann & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Contact: Kris Nelson krisnelson@aol.com or (707) 795-4860

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) **meets monthly on the first Sunday, 1:30 at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue between Keily Blvd and Stevens Creek Blvd, San Jose.** Contact: Bill Toponga (408) 984-5290

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC). The Vacaville Chapter meets monthly on the second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main Street, Vacaville. The Humboldt Chapter meets monthly on the third Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta. The Sacramento Chapter meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd, Sacramento. Contact for all three Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC) meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS) meets monthly on the first Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas, Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay, CA. Contact: Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041

Your Club Wants YOU!!

Don't panic— we want you to play for our musical meetings! If you think you aren't ready for the "big time" (stage) just yet, please consider playing a piece or two before the meeting and/or during intermission! Don't be shy—we are a very forgiving, appreciative and supportive audience! Just contact any of our friendly board members listed on the front of the newsletter.

SFAC Membership

\$30.00 per year for individual or family membership. Meeting admission is \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for guests. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Valerie Kieser, 3437 Crane Way, Oakland, CA 94602. For new members, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if available

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Accordion Instruction

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Bart Beninco (707) 769-8744
Irving Cardoza (408) 264-9755
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Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502
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SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$6.00 per issue. A business-card-size ad costs \$6 per issue or \$60 per year for members; a quarter-page ad costs \$15.00 for members; a half-page ad costs \$25 for members. A full-page ad costs \$50.00 for members. Discount available for ongoing ads. Ads placed by non-members will cost twice the above-quoted prices. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

NEXT MEETING:



Sunday, May 17, 2009

2:00 p.m. Oyster Point Yacht Club



Entertainment:

Due Zighi Baci with Sheri Mignano and Michael Van Why

Tangonero with Alex Roitman

Directions to Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco:
From 101 traveling either North or South, take the Oyster Point exit. Turn right onto Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right onto Gulf Drive, just before Marina Blvd.). Continue past the gate house to the sign "Oyster Point Yacht Club." There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

And come visit us online at our newly upgraded website: www.sfaccordionclub.com

*Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club*

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