



The World's First
Accordion Club
since 1912

San Francisco Accordion Club MAY 2012

NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting, **May 20 @ 2 p.m.**

TRIO DAVIDE

Trio Davide consists of **Dave Baioni**, (nephew of the late Rusty Bartoli) on accordion, **David Sturdevant**—Vocals, Guitar, Harmonica and **David Miotke**—Vocals and Accordion.

They played for us in April last year, and they brought down the house! Featuring two great accordionists, **Trio Davide** performs authentic Italian standards, French music with an eclectic twist, and music from the Great American Songbook. The sensational vocals of tenor David Miotke (in Italian and English), are propelled by his accordion in tandem with the brilliant playing of David Baioni. This unique combination is anchored by the guitar rhythms of David Sturdevant, also on mandola, chromatic harmonica and harmony vocals.



George Bachich and Sheri Mignano

George Bachich and Sheri Mignano Crawford met while she was editor of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods newsletter, the *Reedwooder*. George was a regular contributor with fascinating articles on accordion repair, maintenance, and travels to various accordion factories. They realized they shared a love of the old European dance music. George had been playing from Sheri's books on Italian ballo liscio dances, and in turn, he introduced her to some French bal musette he enjoyed playing.

In 2010, Sheri introduced her latest book on accordion players and the bal musette tradition. *French Soirée* provides historical background of musette accordionists and composers, biographical sketches, an appendix of the guinguettes (French dance halls), and a brief explanation about the musette accordion's evolution; in addition, it contains easy-to-read sheet music. The book contains some of the beautiful waltzes you'll hear during the May 2012 meeting. George, also, has produced a new book entitled *An Accordion Buyers Guide*. It will provide not only many helpful tips about how to avoid paying too much for an accordion but he includes stories and technical suggestions on how to examine and diagnose problems. Its publication date is set for summer 2012.

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also playing in May . . .

Rene Sevieri started taking lessons when he was 8 years old from Michele Corino on Columbus Ave. in North Beach, San Francisco. He started playing professionally at the age of 12 and his first job was at the Italian Village in North Beach for a fashion show. From there he started doing lots of music gigs including strolling at the old Montclair Restaurant on Green St.. Just before he graduated from Saint Ignatius High in 1973, he formed a band called *Hang Ten and The Surfmen*. They toured and played at many military bases and car shows. He is presently semi-retired and has begun playing the accordion on a regular basis again.



Please Remember!

To leave our meeting hall at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Clean up food or drink spills and recycle all trash.

Glen Hartman (upper right) started playing accordion in 1991 as a founding member of The New Orleans Klezmer Allstars. He has been playing accordion professionally since then and has played at most of the major festivals and clubs in the US and Europe, including Central Park Summer Stages, The Hollywood Bowl, July 4th on The Mall in DC, Krakow Jewish Music Festival, etc. He is known for blending Klezmer with New Orleans music, and considers himself a collector of folk songs and loves to play all styles of music.

Next JAM session

will be held before the May meeting, from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m..

Anyone who plays accordion is invited to come and join in the fun. All you need to bring is an accordion and a music stand.

We encourage performers of all levels to participate and if you don't play accordion, please come anyway and be our audience.

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration June 14 - 17, 2012

Come and enjoy lively accordion concerts/competitions in the Festhalle and FREE entertainment at the Gazebo and Grange by top local, national, and international accordionists in the Bavarian getaway town of Leavenworth.

This year we are featuring accordion superstars Jorgen and Lena Sundeqvist from Askar, Norway, Jelena Milojevic and the Victoria Accordion Orchestra from Victoria, BC and Mike and Margie Aman from Denver, CO.

Also featured are FREE introductory accordion lessons, vendor exhibitions, workshops, and the annual Accordion Parade down Front Street! Fun for all ages. Location: Leavenworth, WA Time: 9am- 10pm Call: 206-622-4786 Website: www.accordioncelebration.org .

April Meeting—Recap

Our meeting this month was a tribute to and a celebration of the life of **Valerie Keiser**, club member, friend and accordion lover who passed away after a long battle with cancer on Feb 27, 2012.

Frank Montoro played some of his favorite pieces as welcome music with over 100 people attending the meeting.

Lynn Ewing, Club President, talked about the many ways in which Val had helped the Club. An empty chair was set up with Val's accordion, her music stand and her gigantic tote bag (legendary for having at least one item of everything that anyone might suddenly need).

Val's group known as the Fun Band (or the San Francisco Accordion Club Band) played 4 pieces, including one of Val's compositions: Boarischer, a dance from the Tyrol region, and ended with Val's arrangement of Amazing Grace.

We then heard a reminiscence from Val's cousin, Sandie Edwards, which provided a new window on Val's life for many of us, particularly her love for *Coconut Island* in Hawaii.

Michael Sanossian accompanied Barbara Winter as she made her singing debut with *Just a Closer Walk with Me*, and Mike followed up with a lively *Polka 76*. Bob Smith played his arrangement of *Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes*, one of Val's favorites, and also played his special arrangement of *Val's Waltz*, another of Val's original compositions. Bonnie Birch made a trip down from Seattle in Val's honor, and played a selection of tunes, all dedicated to Val and her husband John: *A Man and A Women*, *Midnight in Moscow*, and finally *Vanessa*.

Just before the break, Val's nephew Jeff Trabucco presented a slide show of Val's life, and accompanied it playing *Edelweiss* on guitar.

Anne Metais shared some great stories about Val. Their first encounter was at a dog training class—an unusual place for musicians to meet. Ann is a fine pianist, but Val talked her into trying out the accordion, and the rest is history. Her stories of Val included vivid recollections of a shared weekend at a country cottage replete with tarantulas as doormen, and a memorable evening at the San Francisco Waltz ball.

After the break, Mike Zampiceni played, and his selections included *Under Paris Skies*, *That's Amore*, and *Liechtensteiner Polka*.

Bart Beninco played a musical tribute to Val, first a tango entitled *Chitarra Romana*, next, a very short *Don't Forget Me*, and finished with *The Lost Chord* by Arthur Sullivan.

Ed Massolo paid a short verbal tribute to Val, remembering the time that they worked together on the Club board.

Joseph Smiell Jr. directed the Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE) who played *the* ninth variation *Nimrod* from Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, and continued with *Slave's Chorus from Verdi's opera Nabucco*. They concluded with their "trademark" overture from South Pacific: beginning and ending with Bali Ha'i.

Val's dear friend Jacqueline, who catered the lovely dinner that followed the meeting, introduced herself and explained how she and Val used to plan theme dinner parties based on a letter of the alphabet: choose a country starting with that letter, then create a meal based on food from that country. Our dinner was amazing, with several international items: quiche, caprese salad, satay chicken skewers. Val would certainly have applauded the afternoon's events as well as the dinner.

As the meeting came to a close, Michelle Scheffler from Oregon, yet another friend of Val's, offered a lovely reminiscence about Val's support for their club, and her amazing friendliness. During dinner, Anne Metais and Mike Zampiceni strolled with their accordions and added just that crowd pleasing note that was so dear to Val. Valerie Keiser surely was a woman who touched the lives of many, and she will be remembered for the energy and love she gave to all.



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Accordion World loses Sylvia Marie Barber June 8, 1938 - April 23, 2012

To anyone attending the annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention, Sylvia was well known as an accordionist, an entertainer and a comedienne, with a sparkling and energetic personality. Sylvia succumbed to a serious infection and passed away on April 23rd.

Sylvia was born just outside the small town of Kendallville, Indiana. Though her family was not musical, Sylvia remembered very much wanting to make music from early on - not really caring on what instrument. At the age of 4, Sylvia began piano lessons. Her father had already determined that there was going to be an accordion player in the family, and that it was going to be Sylvia, so at age 5, against her mother's protests, she gave up the piano and took up the accordion. By the age of six, she was already performing in public, and started competing in the local competition circuit in Indiana and surrounding states. She decided it was time to go professional, when she was paid by the contest judging staff to not compete (lest there be a walk-out by the other contestants and their families). Sylvia appeared on the Horace Heidt Show for two tours, the Grand Old Oprey show at Buck Lake Ranch in Angola, Indiana and the Lawrence Welk Show for a summer.

In adulthood, Sylvia set the accordion aside for about 5 years when she worked as a stewardess for United Airlines, got married and started a family. It wasn't long until Sylvia realized she could earn a nice income playing accordion and be free during the day to take care of her son, Scott. The rest is history—throughout several moves around the state of California, Sylvia has been teaching, performing and entertaining on the accordion ever since.

The San Francisco Accordion club offers its deepest sympathy to the family and friends Sylvia Barber.



CONVENTIONS GALORE

If you are looking for something fun, interesting and accordion related to do— here are some of the Accordion Conventions and gatherings taking place.

The Accordion Heroes 2012 Celebration, June 20-23 held at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House, Fredericksburg, VA – this year celebrating Accordion Heroes Anthony Galla-Rini and Dick Contino. phone 1-855-266-9847. Visit the Accordion Heroes 2012 Celebration @www.accordionheroes.com/EVENTS.html

The Annual American Accordionists' Association Festival, July 11-15 held at the Sheraton City Center, Baltimore, MD Guest Artist and conductor of the AAA Festival Orchestra this year will be Stas Venglevski. www.ameraccord.com/festival.html

The 72nd Annual Competition and Festival of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International

July 25-29 held at the Lisle Hyatt Hotel, Lisle (Chicago), IL. For the latest Festival details, check the ATG's <http://www.accordions.com/atg/>

Lastly, don't forget to mark your calendars for the **13th annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention,** September 24-27 at the Gold Coast, Las Vegas, Nevada. www.accordionstars.com

From our President—Lynn Ewing

I am delighted to announce that the accordions (10 of them!) which were donated to the Accordions for Japan project were shipped and have arrived in Japan. As I write, they are still in customs, but they will be continuing their journey during the course of the next few weeks. Although we have no definite information as yet, word has it that the arrival of the accordions to their recipients is going to be quite a celebratory and newsworthy event! We will inform you of details as they emerge!

The long wait was worth it: the shipment is being processed by the Humanitarian Supply Chain of UPS and is a donation. A special THANK YOU to Anthony Bologna, one of my students, for connecting us with UPS. There were many people who have assisted with this project, but I would personally like to also give a special Thank you to Richard Yaus, who conceived this idea and has followed through with the MANY details. I wanted to share with you the following email from Tsukasa Nishibori, a neighbor of Marian Kelly who has helped us with translations and communications with the Japanese Accordion Association.

Dear Richard,

Thank you so much for letting us know a great news.

I'm so happy to hear that. I believe the accordions makes Japanese people smiles and courage to go forward.

Thanks again for your all effort.


*Best regards,
Tsukasa*

Scholarship Awards

Twice a year, in April and October, our club awards scholarships to accordion students demonstrating promise to further their study and knowledge of the accordion. Scholarship Guidelines and Application forms are available at the monthly meetings or can be obtained from the club secretary, Randy Hicks—by emailing: hickr01@sprintmail.com. Completed applications are to be returned to: Mike Zampiceni—220 Tasman Dr., #106, Sunnyvale, CA 94089 by the end of either March or September to be considered for an award the following month.

Mike Z., Scholarship Chairman

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Nearby Club Meetings

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Hermann Sons Hall • 860 Western, Petaluma, CA
\$3 admission donation Contact: Tony Mustaro—
President (707) 318-0474; dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359
gsaccordionclub.net/firms.com

The Vacaville Golden State Accordion Club meets monthly on the second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Court-yard by Marriott • Vacaville 120 Nut Tree Parkway Vacaville, CA 95687 707-451-9000

The Humboldt Chapter meets monthly on the third Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta.

The Sacramento Chapter meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. Contact for all three Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 7 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: Jerry Keifer (916) 652-0836

Silicon Valley Accordion Club (SVAC)

meets 1st Sun. of each month at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, corner of Kiely. 1 p.m. \$5, under 16 - no charge.

Accordion Instruction

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Marjorie Konrad (707) 539-5308
Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896
Vincent Rinaldi (415) 824-7609
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Joe Simoni (650) 867-1122
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SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card-size) for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$10 per issue or \$100 per year.

Monthly ad prices for members:

quarter-page ad \$25.00; half-page ad \$50, and a full-page ad \$100.

Non-member rates are double the member rates. A flyer (no larger than 5" x 8") advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members.

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Club & Musical Meeting • May 20 @ 2 p.m.

**TRIO DAVIDE, George Bachich and Sheri Mignano
and others!**

**Join us on the third sunday of the month
at the Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco**

DIRECTIONS:

From 101 traveling either North or South, take the Oyster Point exit. Turn right onto Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right onto Gull 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.

Visit us online @ www.sfaccordionclub.com

NOTICE

Parking behind the Oyster Point Yacht Club will be disrupted while a ferry boat terminal is being built. We can no longer park behind the building and there is limited parking in the lot alongside the OPYC. PLEASE do not park in the Commodore's designated space in the front of this lot! Overflow parking must go to the next lot down the line, where the \$10 parking fee is being waived.

SFAC Membership is

\$30.00 per year for individual or family. Meeting admission is \$6 per member & \$8 per guest. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Randall Hicks, 21071 Gary Drive, #212, Castro Valley, CA 94546. NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you wish.

**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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