

# May, 2018

## ♪♪ SFAC Accordions Live! ♪♪

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Chetcuti Community Room  
450 Poplar Street, Millbrae, CA  
2:00 pm—4:45 pm



This month we have a great musical line-up with a Latin flair we think you'll love. Here are the basics about our featured performers; there is so much to say about them, but mainly we want to welcome you to hear them play live and in person on **Sunday, May 20th**.

Two different groups have songs in their heart to share with us, **Tangonero** and **Il Duetto Musica**, both accompanied by – you guessed it - the accordion!

First in the line-up are Paul Aebersold and Gloria Mendieta Gazave of **Il Duetto Musica**, who will perform a delightful mix of opera and popular Italian street songs. You may remember seeing them at our old stomping ground (Oyster Point), but this is their first SFAC Millbrae appearance.



*Tangonero*

After the intermission, complete with announcements & raffle items, we welcome **Tangonero** to the stage; it isn't every day Argentine Tango music is performed live, at least not here in Northern California! **Claudio Ortega** is Tanginero's singer from Buenos Aires, known for his uniquely mysterious and velvety voice. He loves to bring to life the extraordinary magic captured in so many songs of his homeland. **Celeste Chiam** on piano earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is a winner of several piano competitions. Accordion man **Alex Roitman** studied with Peter DiBono; later came Alex's passion for Argentine Tango, which led him to study the bandoneon, first on his own, then with Ville Hiltula and Hector Del Curto. Tangonero offers this description below, but please come and see it for yourself to get the full effect!

*With members from Russia, Malaysia, and the United States, Tangonero is a San Francisco based ensemble dedicated to preserving the tradition of Argentine Tango. From the folk styling of Roberto Grella to the jazz infused grandeur of Astor Piazzolla, their arrangements cover the broad scope of tango history. Overflowing with intense passion, lust and sorrow, their performance captures the fire of the dance and the essence of a culture.*



**Il Duetto Musica** will perform a delightful mix of opera & popular Italian street songs for the SFAC in May, 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 afternoon of musical treasures.

**Gloria Mendieta Gazave** is a classically-trained soprano from San Francisco with a background in musical theater. Ms. Gazave is an alum of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and sings in Italian, French, German, and Spanish. She also performs as a soloist with orchestras and other ensembles. Her "Aria Bella Trio" featuring voice, harp, and violin specializes in classical & contemporary music.

**Paul Aebersold** realized his love for music as a child listening to his mother play the piano and accordion. He took accordion and clarinet lessons as a child and played clarinet in his high school concert band. He began performing accordion at a French restaurant during his college years at UC Berkeley. Years later in Washington, D.C., Paul established three multicultural ensembles: German band "Die Drei", Italian duo "Il Duetto", and French duo "Les Duex" specializing in music sung by Edith Piaf. For the last three years, Mr. Aebersold has been spending half his time in Redwood City and is enjoying his collaboration with Gloria as **Il Duetto Musica**.

## Invitation . . .

### Golden State Accordion Club of Napa Valley Debut Accordion Party! Thursday, May 10

At **The Runway** restaurant (formerly Jonesie's)  
2044 Airport Road, Napa, CA.

All accordion players and music lovers are welcome.

3-6 pm - **Happy hour** at The Runway bar

6 pm - The fun begins with **strolling accordionists**

6:30 - 8 pm - **open mic** for accordion and ensembles with accordion

8 - 9 pm - **Live entertainment by InVoice**, an eclectic quartet that plays American selections featuring rich harmonic vocals and a multitude of various acoustic instruments including accordion, guitar, banjo, bass, saxophone, dobro and percussion.



So bring your accordion, your main squeeze, and your appetite, or just come and enjoy the party. No cover charge, but we will pass the hat for the musicians.

Dinner reservations highly recommended.

Call The **Runway** (707) 258-6115

The Runway menu: [www.the runway bypatrick.com](http://www.the runway bypatrick.com)

See you there!

*George Bachich*



# April Accordion Circle—Review

By Lynn Ewing

What a fun meeting we had for our Accordion Circle in April!

I hope everyone is beginning to feel the rhythm of our new routine for SFAC, where we have an informal Accordion Circle meeting on the even months of the year (except August), and a performance meeting in the odd months of the year. You should feel free to bring your accordion to every meeting, as each meeting will have a jam, with the jam coming at 2pm on Accordion Circle months, and after the featured performers at our performance meetings.



**Ed Massolo** created a beautiful ambiance before the meeting, favoring us with his wonderful accordion stylings as people drifted in. We really appreciated his contribution!

In addition, we had a guest from Washington, Regina Mansfield, who brought along a fantastic selection of classic accordion sheet music from her uncle who recently passed away. Judging from the music, he must have been a very fine accordionist, as there was a selection of arrangements by Magnante, Deiro, Galla-Rini, Frosini, and others. People had a great time browsing through the

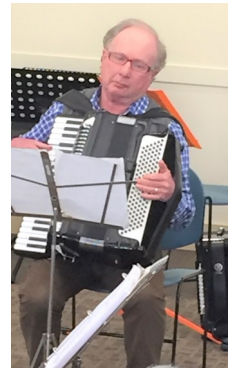
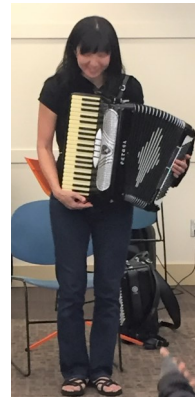


music, which Regina invited us to take as we wished. We will continue to bring this music to meetings, and you are welcome to take some yourself.

We had a strong group of approximately 20 accordionists, and had a lot of fun playing through the newly updated jam book. Thanks to Robert Cooperstein for doing that. We had people in the group who had been playing accordion from 6 months to 80 years!

After the break, we had a nice selection of solos from people attending, some who were expecting to play, and some who weren't!

**Georgia Sutherland** started us off with *Wonderland by Night*, a lovely little piece she played for SVAS with her group. **Scott Anderson** played two songs for us, a charming Philippine song translated as *Because of You*, which he dedicated to his wife, and then *Besame Mucho*, arranged by his teacher, Lou Jacklich.



Our friend **Clarence** did a nice rendition of *Day-O*, which he described as from the movie "Beetlejuice" but which many of us remembered from our song books in grade school, or the great single by Harry Belafonte. **Allan Schwartz** did a fine job of two unusual and very lovely pieces, *Tango Waltz*, and *Romance of the Barrio*.

**Barbie Wong**, who has only been playing accordion for 6 months, but was trained as a classical pianist, played a French piece called *Style Musette*. Ed Massolo consented to play another piece for us and did a great job of *Pennsylvania Polka*, where he demonstrated many variations on the basic melody. Georgia popped in to tell the story that this song refers to a series of moves involving the Philadelphia Eagles and the Pittsburgh Steelers in the NFL in 1941, when a mini draft took place between the two teams which resulted in the Eagles acquiring seven players formerly of the Steelers, and the Steelers obtaining eleven players formerly of the Eagles.

Continued on next page ...

## (continued) April Accordion Circle Review

By Lynn Ewing

Taking the stage next was **Ray Celentano**, who took lessons for a year when he was a child, and then gave it up for many years, until he happened across an accordion in a pawn shop, which he purchased for \$90. He performed his own arrangement of *Arrivederci Roma*



We were delighted to welcome **Yifan Tong**, who was the winner

of the elementary age contest at the ATG festival when it was held here in San Francisco in 2014. He performed for us back then, and he has come a long way! Now in 7th grade, Yifan has grown past my recollection of the young boy who was such a wonderful surprise at that event. He is now taking lessons through Skype with Stas Venglevski, and



played two original pieces composed by Stas - *Meg Tango*, and *Oktober Rondo*. One of the fun things about Stas is that he loves to compose songs for people, and I happened to know both of the people these songs were written for, Megumi Hada and Jim Tobler.

We closed out the individual performances with two great selections by **Don Savant**, *Stormy Weather*, and *Early Autumn* which he heard on the KCSM jazz station. Don was jamming a bit with Steve Marshall during the break, and he convinced Steve to come up and play the *Nola Blues* with him, which they played together for the first time that day! This is what is great about the circle meetings!



Finally, we had some time left, so the jam band re-assembled, and finished the hour playing some more pieces, including Pennsylvania Polka - this time the basic version, sans frills from Ed!

We invite you to come and participate with us at our Accordion Circle meetings - you will have a ball!

### Event Reviews:

We are seeking a few members to assist with the monthly event summaries. Here's a great opportunity to express your creative writing skills while assisting your club! Please contact Ken Schwartz at [Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com](mailto:Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com)



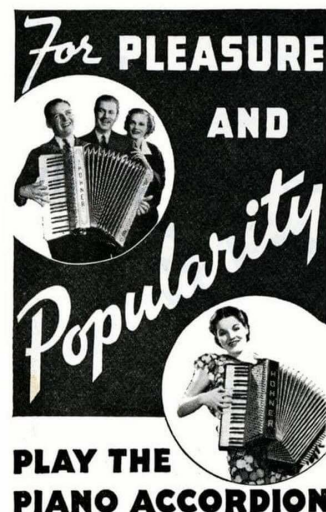
At age 15  
Hare Krishna Festival  
Berkeley, CA

### Guess Who?

Our mystery guest was born in Paris, as his parents were visiting anthropologists in Europe. As a kid he observed a boy playing accordion in a Latin Quarter café. Later, as an adult, he decided to take up a musical instrument, and the accordion came to mind. Our mystery guest likes the instrument because of its versatility, portability, link to different cultures, and the astonishment it often seems to evoke in those who have never seen the instrument in use.

**Can you guess who this SFAC member is?**

(answer on page 11)



### Welcome New SFAC Member!

The SFAC is delighted to welcome our newest member, **Lou Buonono**, of Mountain View. Lou enjoys playing oldies and standards and we sure hope to hear him play at one of our upcoming Accordion Circle meetings.

# *How Many Accordions Are Enough?*

## **Joe Domitrowich — Accordion Memoirs — Part 1**

As a youth in the 1950s, after playing a loaner 12-bass accordion for a couple months, I graduated to my 120-bass red and white *Scandalli*, which I was frequently called upon to play at family gatherings. Some years later, I graduated again, this time to my *Magnante* model *Excelsiola*. The price tag was about \$1,500, or more than a year's tuition when I attended college at a major engineering school a few years later. While my parents could not afford the full-blown *Excelsior* costing just about \$2,200, I was thrilled with my new professional model *Excelsiola*. It was far superior to a couple of used accordions we considered in the process of shopping. I never imagined needing to buy another accordion ... ever. And, it is still a prized possession today.

I still remember Dad telling the father of a fellow accordion student that he would have to forego buying a new car to buy my accordion. Thank you, Mom and Dad.

That *Excelsiola* served me well in life, it was the key to many years of enjoyment and wonderful life experiences. As a school kid in the 1950s, I earned my cab fare home from my accordion lesson by opening my accordion case and playing a couple tunes in the back seat of the cab while riding home. (No, there were no seatbelts!) I guess that could qualify as a first gig of sorts. And, then there was the time my uncle sent a cab to transport me and my accordion to a bar to play where he was cavorting with friends.

During the 1960s in Phoenix, where I played after work six nights a week in a restaurant frequented by young German pilots training at Luke Air Force Base and the tourists who came to hear them sing, I learned on that *Excelsiola* every German military song in the books. I remember one young Texan woman coming into the restaurant wearing a holster and two six-shooters! (Gun control was not in the public consciousness at that time in the history of our great country, at least not in the Southwest.)

And, going all the way back to the early 1960s, in my last years in high school and in my college years after that, I was in one band that played country (we had a steel guitar) and contemporary music of the sixties, including lots of Elvis. We often played in a club reminiscent of a speak-easy, with the only entrance from a narrow back alley. We started playing at 12 midnight on Friday night until 3:00 am on Saturday. (That was the tough part...throughout college I had Saturday classes starting at 8:00 am and sometimes I'd return home after the gig to study for a test I would take in just a few hours!). And, sometimes there were floor shows with strip tease acts ... interesting to me as a 16-year old. Those were different times. Nobody ever asked how old I was.

While still an accordion student in the 1950s, I played some variety shows where, as a soloist, I deployed what I learned in lessons. But during college and beyond, I played mostly polkas and waltzes starting at my first real gig on a New Year's Eve. I love polkas! My roots are in an eastern Pennsylvania enclave populated with blue collar workers who immigrated post World War I from Burgenland, Austria, on the Hungarian and Slovenian borders. In that part of Pennsylvania, many Roman Catholic churches had a social hall with a dance floor, a kitchen serving up halupki, pierogi, (yes, there were lots of Slavs, too) and strudel, and a bar licensed to sell liquor. These were open to the public for Saturday night and Sunday afternoon dances. And, the weddings where grandma did the cooking, the band played for dancing, and all attendees brought their kids who, during band breaks, ran and slid on the raised wooden dance floor dusted with shuffle board wax, were the best.

I once got to sit in for a whole gig playing second (well, maybe 'third') accordion with Frankie Yankovic. In fact, against the leanings of my accordion teacher, I had my *Excelsiola* middle reeds tuned to musette to produce a sound prevalent in polka music. Though, today when people ask me what is my favorite music to play, I can never decide. While polkas are closest to my heart and part of my heritage, there are so many interesting genres of music and, today, my favorite genre changes with my latest music project.

(To be continued)

*Editors note: Joe's memoir will be continued in segments in upcoming SFAC newsletters.*

## Grayson Masefield, An Accordion Star

By Lynn Ewing

Grayson Masefield, who is 30 years old, has recently been on a US tour, which started in Texas at the NAA, continued in Los Angeles, and following that, I had the privilege of hosting him and arranging a private concert for him at "The Hamilton" Retirement venue in Palo Alto. To my delight, he suggested that we play a couple of duets together to lighten up his program. Following his concert here, he continued up to Oregon and Washington state, where he gave several additional concerts.

Grayson has a specialty in classical accordion, and played works by Mozart, Scarlatti, and Pachelbel at this concert. He also played several classical works composed especially for the accordion. He concluded his program with several lighter jazz and folk pieces, all superbly performed.

Grayson is a 5-Time World Accordion Champion, who comes from a prominent accordion family in New Zealand. His grandfather imported accordions into New Zealand, and his mother currently has a studio with three accordion orchestras.

In 2009, Grayson became the first person ever to win the prestigious *Coupe Mondiale Virtuoso Classical* and the *Coupe Mondiale Virtuoso Entertainment* awards back-to-back in the same year. In addition, he won the *Roland International Competition* in Rome, the *Primas TV Competition* in Finland, and the *Trophee Mondial World Accordion Championship* before retiring from competitions. Grayson has become a sought-after musician and has performed all over the world.

Grayson debuted at the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention in 2015 and was an immediate sensation.



He has since returned several times. Those who were in attendance are still talking about the amazing young man from New Zealand!

Grayson has played at a number of prestigious venues in the United States, including the American Accordionists Association Convention and The Accordionists and Teacher's Guild (ATG) convention. He has been invited to perform in many countries, including France, Spain, Germany, the UK, Portugal, Slovakia, Italy, Canada, Russian, Lithuania, China, Switzerland, Austria, Australia and Finland. He studied with famed instructor Frederic Des-Champs, and is currently enrolling in a 2<sup>nd</sup> Master's program for a degree in pedagogy.

Many examples of Grayson's work can be found online:

Website: <http://www.accordions.com/gmasefield>

YouTube: <http://www.accordions.com/gmasefield>

## Thanks to our Donors!

**Sincere Thanks** to those who generously donate to the Club. We would like to thank the following regular and lifetime members who enclosed a donation during the past renewal campaign (October 2017- September 2018 membership year):

Chris & Tor Arild, Evelyn Baulch, Dave Braun, George Chavez, the Coopersteins, William DeMichelis, Aldo Didero, Lynn and Gail Ewing, Ed Gorzynski Jr., Dominic Granelli, Johan & Marja Gullmes, Ron & Mary Jo Harris, Lou Jacklich, Bruce Kirschner MD, Gwyn Lister, the Lucchesis, Michael A. Marotta Jr., Deena McLemore, James Monfredini, Frank Montoro, Anna Nicora, Colette Ogata, Kay Patterson, Joe Petosa, Yakov Puhachevsky, Diana Purucker, Vincent Rinaldi, Leslie Robertson, Alexander Roitman, Ed Salvador, Michael Sanossian, Don & Mary Savant, Allan & Judy Schwartz, Kenneth Schwartz, Richard & Leslie Selfridge, Lucy Smiell, Bill & Gloria Tapogna, Pamela Tom, Jane & Frank Tripi, Mr. & Mrs. Hilbert Werner, Barbara Winter, and Mike Zampiceni.

If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact [elainedc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elainedc@sbcglobal.net). We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized.

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NORMA ZONAY-PARSONS (408) 246-3073

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED

As many of you know, Elaine Cooperstein has been doing our newsletter layout since February 2016. As much as she enjoys it, her growing responsibilities at work require her to give up – or at least share - this position as soon as possible. Volunteers knowledgeable or willing to learn Microsoft Publisher might be able to each handle one newsletter every 3 or 4 months. If you have any experience with moving things around in MS Word or PowerPoint, MS Publisher is easy to learn. The task requires minimal writing, and involves laying out content written and collected by other volunteers. For more information, contact [elainedc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elainedc@sbcglobal.net) or 510-921-9323 .

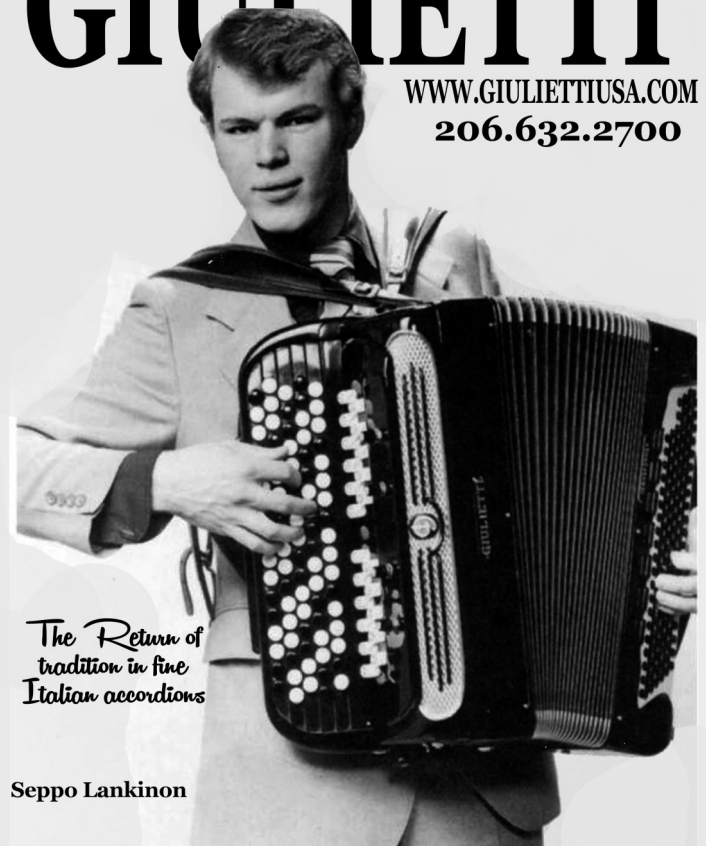
## SFAC Scholarships

The SFAC awards 2 scholarships a year to 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.

Mike Zampiceni, [eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net), 408-569-2579

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## An Accordionist's Day at the Farmers' Market

by Pamela Tom



My friend, Siu-Kwan, snapped this photo of me today (April 28) at the Davis Farmers Market. I perform 6 or more times a year. I get a small honorarium and I collect tips. My tip jar is a plastic cookie container in the shape of a teddy bear.

The director of the Farmers Market enthusiastically greeted me twice today! I am glad that she heard me while I was playing *Espana Cani*. [A Farmers Market employee told me that I am at the top of their substitute list.] Ordinarily we have to reserve our spots one year in advance. But my schedule is so crazy and also the weather is unpredictable. So after reserving a year in advanced for 3 years, I asked if I could just be placed on the substitute list. With the last minute approach, I will probably get more gigs with the Farmers Market. I compiled 3 binders of music and covered 2 binders during my 4-hour gig. When I see a bunch of kids, I will break into a short set of popular Nursery Tunes because they can relate to it. And the director likes to see the kids gather around me and dancing. I had adults dancing today, too.

The weather started chilly this morning, but warmed up as the day progressed.

And my tips to accordionists are:

Focus on melodies that people grew up on. The French musette, polka and Italian classics in the accordion world did not bring in the tips and served as background music. Tunes from the 40s to 60s, movies, and Latin tunes were popular.

Have a list of easy tunes to play when children pass by. I would play about 3 popular tunes from the set for the youngsters.

If you use a teddy bear plastic cookie jar for a tips, weigh it down with a roll of quarters or a marble slab. My tip jar blew off the table twice.

I put together a set of Disney music. A passerby said, "Oh, I see your music is Mickey Mouse." I had just played the *Mickey Mouse Theme* and was launching into *Heigh-Ho*. I had fun playing the Disney set but it was not recognized by the group of shoppers in their 20s to 40s. The bottom line is that people enjoyed the music.

## ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

### Accordion 5-Day visit to Castelfidardo, Italy

May 22-26, 2018

Contact Peter LeGeyt [plg@plgmarketing.com](mailto:plg@plgmarketing.com)

Tel: +44(0)20 8977 6680

<https://www.accordionists.co.uk/viewtopic.php?t=5039>

### Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

June 21-24, 2018

Leavenworth, Washington

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

### The Rose City Accordion Club Camp

Sunday, June 10 – to Friday, June 15, 2018.

At Silver Falls State Park Conference Center, Sublimity, Oregon. For information contact: Wayne Tiusanen, President, Rose City Accordion Club @ (503) 263-2912 or [wjtiusanen@yahoo.com](mailto:wjtiusanen@yahoo.com)

### AAA 80th Anniversary Festival

July 11-15, 2018 — Alexandria, VA

[www.ameraccord.com/festival.html](http://www.ameraccord.com/festival.html)

### 78th Annual ATG Festival

July 25-28, 2018 — Lisle, Illinois

Featuring: Matthias Matzke, Cory Pesaturo, Stas Venglevski, Donna Dee & Dennis Ray, Mike Alongi, and more!

[www.accordionists.com/atg](http://www.accordionists.com/atg)

### AAA 24th Annual Accordion Master Class

July 27-29, 2018 — New York, New York

<http://www.ameraccord.com/annualmasterclass.html>

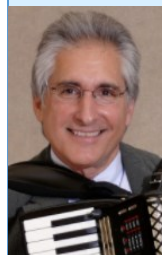
### 28th Annual Cotati Accordion Festival

August 18 & 19, 2018 — Cotati, California

<https://www.cotatifest.com>

Ron Borelli performs at the DoubleTree Hotel,

835 Airport Blvd, Burlingame 6-9PM



1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays: Art Van Damme Tribute

1<sup>st</sup> Fridays: Hot Club, Gypsy jazz.

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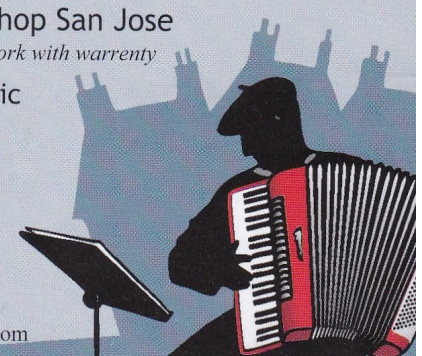
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Members may place one small ad (business-card size) free of charge for one month, once a year. Additional ads are \$10 per issue or \$100 per year.

Monthly ad prices **for members**:  
1/4-page: \$25; 1/2-page: \$50; Full-page: \$100.  
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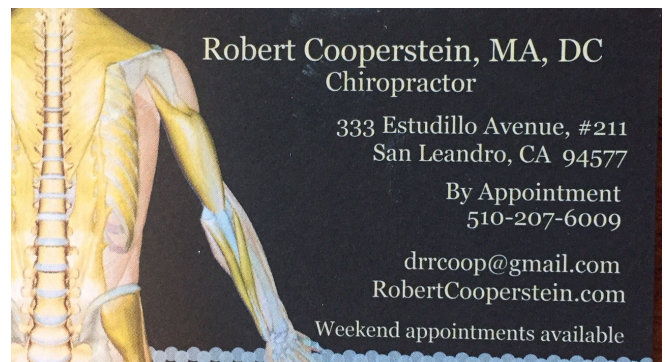
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RobertCooperstein.com

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## 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  
4th 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 Sunday at 1pm. Harry's Hofbrau,  
390 Saratoga Avenue (corner of Kiely), San Jose  
[www.svasociety.org](http://www.svasociety.org)  
\$5 for members, no charge under 16



#### ◆ **Mike Zampiceni**

Sunday evenings, 6:30-9pm  
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Serving old-school Italian fare with a nostalgic  
ambiance, including a juke box

## Performers Around the Bay

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**ANSWER: Guess Who?** (from page 4)

### Scott Anderson!

Now approaching his sixtieth birthday, Scott enjoys the accordion for family parties, and on frequent trips to foreign countries with **Para Ti Global**, a charitable organization devoted to assisting kids in underprivileged settings.

Carrying an accordion on a plane is challenging, but worth the effort. Contrary to popular perception, the accordion is always warmly received as an instrument, from Mexico to the Philippines. The *San Francisco Accordion Club* is vital in keeping this tradition alive. Scott's day job is as a physician, on clinical faculty at the *University of California at Davis*.



The new **San Francisco Accordion Club** T-shirts have arrived! They're just in time for summer and will be perfect for Cotati! The shirts will be available for pick-up by those members who pre-ordered at the upcoming May meeting. In the meantime, Ken Schwartz will contact each of you with payment information. *Enjoy!*

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Elaine Cooperstein, Rosemary Busher, Pamela Tom, Robert Cooperstein, Barbara Bruxvoort, Dominic Palmisano  
 (Positions open, volunteers needed!)

### Scholarship

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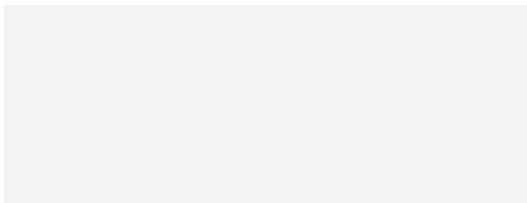
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**Accordions Live!**

**Sunday, May 20**

Come for fun and great music!!

2pm—4:45pm

**Tangonero**

**Il Duetto Musica**

*The SFAC Jam Band*

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Chetcuti Community Room

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