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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16: DON'T MISS . . .
RICH KUHNs with Guitarist **STEVE ENQUIAGA**
Rich is a very accomplished accordionist, pianist, and vocalist. This duo is very much in demand.
AARON SIEMAN who plays many musical styles and types
MIKE ZAMPICENI, a treat whenever we can get him—and he sings too!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
 November 2008

One of my favorite car bumper strips is the one that says, "If you can read this you can thank a teacher." I suppose this thought can apply to almost any skill that is learned, from art to architecture. It takes one to teach one as the saying goes. And so, when I was browsing through my copy of *The Golden Age of the Accordion** I was struck by how many famous accordionists of the past have also been great teachers of our instrument. It wasn't enough that these fine musicians were great performers, but they also found a need to pass on their skills to others.

Three fine gentlemen, Ronald Flynn, Edwin Davidson and Edward Chavez spent years compiling a book that was a collection of facts, figures, photos and memoirs of the early days of the accordion. It was published in 1984 and revised in 1992. Our own Vince Cirelli also was a major contributor to this book. The pages of the book tell about great musicians such as Pietro Deiro, Anthony Galla-Rini, John Molinari, the Pezzolo

brothers and countless others who were teachers as well as performers. Many of their students are still around, and have become stars in their field, and many have chosen to devote a part of their lives to passing on their art to others through teaching.

Today we still have those in our community who continue the tradition. It takes a special skill to be a teacher. You need to divide an element into segments which progress from the simple to the more complex. Encouragement and patience are prerequisites to being a successful teacher. Not all of us are endowed with these. Those who are, play a key role in keeping our instrument a vital part of the music world.

We will probably never have the numbers we once had when music schools gathered at Fairfax Park in Marin County in the hundreds for their annual picnic. The music field has changed, but there are still interested students and gifted teachers around. See page 5 to locate some of them close to home.

Frank Montoro

* For more information about the book, *The Golden Age of the Accordion*, contact Flynn Publication, 917 Antler Drive, Schertz, TX 78154-1101

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

Our Website is again active and growing—check it out! www.sfaccordionclub.com

October Music

By Val Kieser and Lynn Ewing

It's truly amazing how much talent is out there and how fortunate we are to get these wonderful musicians to play for our club!

Yours Truly (Val) was flattered to be accompanied by **Mario Pedone** in playing some German tunes before the meeting, honoring Oktoberfest.

President **Frank Montoro** presented visitors, including SFAC member **Herb Meier's** wife **Sabine** and her son **Andi** visiting from Germany.

Frank reminded everyone that Val Kieser will be retiring from formatting the newsletter after the March 2009 issue (see article about this elsewhere in this issue). Frank also reminded us that it is rude to talk during performances, and asked that those who need to talk do it in another room. Then he announced that **Lore Warren**, our Secretary, provided us with lots of prizes and Oktoberfest decorations through the courtesy of **Chrissa Imports**.



Lynn Ewing

Lynn Ewing played some tunes for us to show off her new Bugari accordion, which she just received from Italy. She ordered it through Tom Bruno, and says "It's the most exciting thing I've ever bought in my life." She played *Liechtensteiner Polka*, *Sharpshooters March* (to show off the tone chamber in the bass),

and then, joined by Sharon

Greyhosky playing her own beautiful Bugari, together they played *Cats' Ball* by **Stas Venglevski**, in minor and then in major, a really entertaining piece that ends with a big "Meow"!!!

A special treat, rare indeed, were four members of the

Almenrausch Schuhplattler Bavarian dancers, again arranged for by **Lore Warren**. The dancers were **Jim Zimmerman**, **Carmen Williams**, **Kurt Williams** and **Stefanie Williams**, and what a show they gave us! And such beautiful, colorful costumes! The dances



The Almenrausch Schuhplattler

included *Trantaler*; *Zillerthal* (the story of a guy climbing a ladder to an upstairs window to flirt with a girl); the *Böhmerwald* forest; *Rippapier*, *Schnockwalzer*. Well, I hope I got them right! The important thing is that the dancers were absolutely



Lynn Ewing and Sharon Greyhosky

fantastic! I've seen the *Almenrausch Schuhplattler* many times and never tire of watching them. The group is much larger than the four who were able to come and dance for us, but these four put on a tremendous show. The society (www.gauverband.com) is dedicated to preserving the traditional Bavarian dance, music and costume. Wow! These people can move! They were leaping, stomping, slapping, clapping—and the audience clapped right along. Many thanks to all the dancers and to **Lore Warren** for arranging for their appearance.

What a tough act to follow! But there was much more to come! The **Russian Kaleidoscope** did follow, and knocked our socks off. This trio consists of our own **Grigoriy Krumik** playing the bayan; **Klark Welsh** domra, sapilka (flute), and balalaika; and **Vladimir Zagatsky**, Tenor, in traditional Russian costume. Wow! What a show! They opened with a wonderful Russian march, then spoke a bit about the bayan. The Bayan has a very special sound, considered closest to the human voice; it is much more than just a chromatic accordion.

The songs they played: *Oh My Darling* in Russian, with vocal, about a handsome young man and his beautiful maiden out on their first public promenade; *How Brightly Shines the Moon*, with Klark on balalaika, with the audience clapping, with vocal and then back to clapping—

repeated and repeated again; a Russian folk song *By the Valley*; a Ukrainian folk song familiar in Eastern Europe, *Farewell Minka*, depicting Cossacks riding along the Danube; another dance that became faster and faster, with a familiar strain that resembled "Who Stole the Kishka"; a piece familiar to most of us, *Moscow Nights*, with vocal, depicting lovers walking along the river; an old Gypsy song, also familiar to us, *Those Were the Days*, slightly altered from the original, and including vocal and much clapping; and for an encore, *Longing for Katyusha*, which told a story (vocal) and more clapping by the audience.

The group got a well-deserved standing ovation. We certainly want to hear them again soon. And don't forget they have a great CD for sale!

After Intermission with Tuti's great food, to which **Lore Warren** added some special German cookies, and the drawings for prizes and cash, the music continued with **Mario Pedone**, on tour in California. Mario and his beautiful wife **Marbella** (who also is a dancer and teacher of dancing) live in Sugar Land, Texas. They have enchanted us twice before, and we always look forward to their return. Mario is an amazing player of any style of music you can imagine. He has made dozens of CD's



Russian Kaleidoscope: Klark Welsh, Grigoriy Krumik, Vladimir Zagatsky



Mario Pedone

and also teaching books, all available for purchase. He is a true musician in every sense of the word, and besides that he is one of the nicest people you could ever meet. It has been my great pleasure to have Mario and Marbella as my houseguests during most of their stay in California.

After entertaining us with some talk before the music, and a beautiful waltz, "Study in D minor," Mario embarked on a world tour that included France (*La Seine*), Portugal, Holland, Sweden, Finland (minor key here), German (*Oktoberfest*), Czech (the original authentic version of the piece that we now know as *Beer Barrel Polka*); Turkey (*Constantinople*), Russia, Italy (*Arrivederci Roma*), Spain (*España Cañi* and *Granada*), Israel (*Hava Nagila*, with Marbella dancing and Sol Fenster joining her, Mexico (*Jalisco* and *Cielito Lindo*), Brazil, Colombia (I'm not even going to try to put down the names of these pieces), Pennsylvania (*Pennsylvania Polka*), *America the Beautiful*, and a medley of the American service songs—absolutely beautiful, and reflecting Mario's deep appreciation of what the USA has to

offer. Other pieces he played: *Star Dust*, *Give my Regards to Broadway*, *Fly Me to the Moon*, *Cabaret*, *I Could Have Danced All Night*, *La Vie En Rose*, *Jalousie*, *Pigalle*, *Orange Blossom Special*. Well, I'm sure I've left some out, but you get the idea—lots of beautiful music!

Mario announced an accordion cruise that he and Nick Ballarini are putting on next April, sailing out of Galveston, TX for 7 days in the Caribbean. There is a small form that anyone even slightly interested is invited to fill out, so that Mario can send those people further information. It sounds like great fun and a real learning experience: you are invited to bring your accordion, and the cruise will be conducted something like a camp, with an orchestra and musical instruction, and lots of playing for fun. One of the teachers will be our own Lou Di Maggio. (Anyone wishing a copy of the form can contact Val, or e-mail Mario at mario_accordion@yahoo.com.)

With a standing ovation and everyone shouting "More!!!", it was nevertheless time to end this enchanting afternoon. Some good camaraderie followed in the lounge. This was an afternoon that will never be forgotten, that's for sure!

Val and Lynn



Marbella Pedone and Sol Fenster



More of the Schuhplattler



...and still more



Alexander and Daniel Wilson
In traditional Russian costume



In Remembrance of the
SAN FRANCISCO ACCORDEON CLUB

The original San Francisco Accordion (Accordéon) Club. A few can be identified.
Front center is Pietro Deiro. Photo thanks to Vince Cirelli



More about Angels from Kids: "Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows!" Jack (6) ** "Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to Heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead." Daniel (9) ** Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter." Jared (8) ** Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets, and if they don't make the animals get better, they help the child get over it." Vicki (8)

Word Has It . . .

. . . That our float in the **SF Columbus Day Parade** won second prize again this year in our category, which included nine floats. We'll be receiving a check for \$300!! Congratulations to the **S.F. Accordion Band ("Fun Band")** for a job well done, and special thanks to **Barbara and Vic Corsiglia** who provided costumes and grandchildren, and to **Judy Dale** who also provided a granddaughter. (See photo and names)



Our dancers in Columbus Day Parade: Camille Smallwood (7), Chloe Smallwood (9), Santiago Weschler (6), Max Weschler (8) and Brennie Dale (10)

. . . That, according to the *SF Chronicle*, the late **Jack Castor**, the lion keeper at the S.F. Zoo for over 48 years, who passed away recently at the age of 84,

often brought home with him sick or rejected animals, including lion cubs, a baby pig or a raccoon, and he "...was fond of playing polkas on his **accordion** in the living room for a troubled lion cub in need of extra pampering. On one occasion, a visiting raccoon, perhaps not the musical kind, returned Mr. Castor's hospitality by turning on all the water faucets and flooding the house."

. . . That, according to the AAA magazine *VIA*, when people were polled: "If you needed to evacuate your home fast, what would you grab?" Among various mementos mentioned, the one that struck me was from a lady in Citrus Heights: "My late grandfather's **accordion**—handmade for him in the 1930's."

. . . That there is a new CD out from the gypsy jazz group "**Hot Club of Detroit**," (five times Detroit Music Award winners) called "Night Town." Julien Labro, whom many of us know as a virtuoso player of the C system chromatic accordion, plays for Hot Club of Detroit and wants to make sure everyone hears about this terrific CD. Val has a copy of it if you'd like to hear it. Or contact Casey Conroy at casey@weareflex.com or call (415) 235-9370. (Interesting that this is an SF area code!)

Membership Dues

Dues keep coming in—many thanks to those who have renewed! If you haven't paid yet, just send \$30 to S.F.A.C. and mail to Val Kieser, 3437 Crane Way, Oakland, CA 94602. If you don't know whether you have paid or not, call Val at (510) 531-4836 or email vtkacc@ifn.net. For those who haven't paid by the time the December issue is mailed, that



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** A Further Message From Your Club Newsletter Editor **

A continuation of my announcement last month that I'll be leaving the newsletter Editor/Formatter job after the March 2009 issue: Till now I have been doing it *all*—formatting, photography and photo editing, writing, proof-reading, and folding/taping/labeling/stamping/mailing (I've had help with the latter category). These could all be separate jobs, making light work for each person. Most important for now is that we get someone to do the formatting. It's a simple matter to supply the photos and material to the formatter, and it's very easy to transfer from one month to the other the ongoing items such as ads and the front and back pages (you just alter the content as needed). I'll help as much as needed. All you need is a computer. I've also received a generous offer from Tom Shamp of the *Reedwooder* (Accordion club of the Redwoods) to help in the transition. It's really lots of fun doing the formatting—it's just doing *everything* that has become too much for me. Please contact any board member (see back page of the newsletter). Thanks.

The following **TEACHER LISTING** is posted on our Website:

Gene Bartolomei (209) 886-5532; Bart Beninco (707) 769-8744; Irving Cardoza (408) 264-9755; Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707;
Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502; Lynn Ewing (650) 365-1700; Sharon Walters Greyhosky (415) 621-8284;
Lou Jacklich (510) 317-9510; Marjorie Konrad (707) 539-5308; Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896; Richard Yaus (650) 734-1565;
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**When Do Our Fellow Accordion Clubs in the Bay Area
(and slightly beyond) Meet?**

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

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) meets on the first Sunday of the month, 1:30 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue between Keily Blvd. and Stevens Creek Blvd. Contact: Bill Topogna (408) 984-5290.

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC) has three chapters: The Vacaville club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30, at Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main street, Vacaville. The Humboldt club meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551. The Sacramento group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. Contact for all the GSAC Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359.

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC) meets on the second Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m. in the Music Auditorium, Escalon High School, Escalon (just east of the Community Center). Contact: (209) 545-3603.

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



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- * Renée de la Prade Culann's Hounds, San Francisco www.sfhounds.com.
- * Richard Denier in Carmel rdenier@sbcglobal.net * Peter Di Bono San Francisco peterdsf@gmail.com
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- * Mike Zampiceni South Bay eclecticguy@comcast.net
- * Zighi Baci San Francisco (Sheri Mignano) www.zighibaci.com or e-mail zighi@sonic.net

SF Accordion Band Practice

Wed., Nov. 12 and 26, 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's Home in Oakland
CALL AHEAD because sometimes there are changes!! Please join us!
Info: call Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163
or Val (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net

Our Sincere Thanks

To those who generously donate to the Club.

Each year we start a new cumulative list of donors. If you donate and your name doesn't show up in this column, please call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net and let me know. We want to be sure you are recognized! Thanks! These donations are very much appreciated. So far this year your Editor has learned of donations from:

Ray Abinanti, Leo Aquino, Barbara Ann Barnett, Thelma Bartoli (mem. Lou Soper), Lawrence Caserza, Gene & Judy Dale, Peter Di Bono, Lynn Ewing, Lou Fabbri, John Graziano, John Gullmes (2), Don Haga (mem. Lou Soper), Randall Hicks, Sue & Mike Hirigoyen (2), Val Kieser (2; mem. Lou Soper & Mem. Lee Woodall), Bruce Kirschner, Carley Koliha, Gwyn Lister (2), Herb Meier, James Monfredini (2), Herb Meier, Frank Montoro (2), Ken Nimmo, Sundi O'Mara (2), Larry & Paula Re, Vincent Rinaldi, Maryanne Romanowski, Amil Samayoa (mem. Lou Soper), Michael Sanossian, Paul Thiel (2), Louis Traverso, Walter Traverso (lots of music and accordion accessories and memorabilia); Lore Warren (2; mem. Kevin McCarthy); Scott Williamson, Barbara Winter, Lee & Walt Woodall, Richard Yaus (2), Mark Zhagel (4)—and unnamed people who made cash donations for Walter Traverso's donated items at the April meeting

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\$7 for each guest

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.

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NEXT MEETING:

**Sunday, November 16, 2008
2:00 Oyster Point Yacht Club**



***Newsletter of the
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