

November, 2023

♪♪ SFAC Accordions Live! ♪♪

Tracey Collins

Online-only Musical Program

November 19, 2023 — 3:00pm (Pacific)

LIVE-STREAMED from New Zealand via [zoom](#)

♪ SFAC Members will receive ZOOM link via email ♪



Tracey Collins has earned extensive praise throughout New Zealand and Australia from her industry peers and audiences as an artist and entertainer.

Her amazing talent and beautiful, humorous, and engaging personality make her known as a highly sought-after professional musician who works passionately on showing audiences how vibrant and versatile the accordion is; proving that it is a very modern and relevant instrument for both the older and younger generations.

Tracey is a full-time artist performing at festivals and touring around the globe in such countries as Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Australia, Koala Lampur, and the United States. She has been a solo guest artist in her home country of New Zealand with the Auckland Symphony Orchestra and the Auckland Choir. When she isn't touring, Tracey is also a session musician for numerous artists and recordings and television. Tracey also has three albums to her credit: **Bonjour, Paris** (French), **Live at Pastis**, and **Fury**. She is currently working on a fourth - **A Musical Journey with Tracey Collins**.

In 2010 Tracey was approached by Roland Corporation, Australasia, to join their team as product specialist for the digital Accordion where she travelled extensively for several years throughout Australasia demonstrating at trade shows, conferences and workshops. Among Tracey's two principal accordions, one is fully digital, which allows her to experiment with sounds and styles of music not normally associated with the instrument, thereby bringing a wow-factor to her shows, where the audience is left truly amazed.

To learn more about Tracey and see videos of her performing, visit her website at: traceycollins.co.nz (<https://k7808uig4v.wpdns.site/>)



October Accordion Circle Review

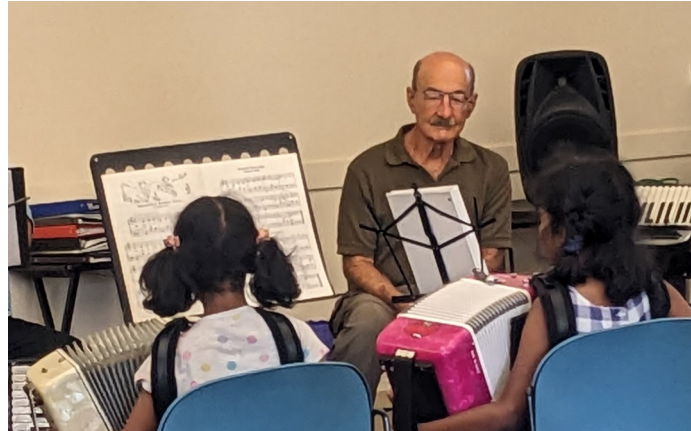
By Randy Hicks & Robert Cooperstein

Our October accordion circle meeting was all about quality over quantity. Eleven loyal members traversed the San Mateo bridge or navigated serious road construction on the 101 to participate. We had run into staffing problems and initially thought the meeting would have to be cancelled. However, board member Randy Hicks took the bull by the horns and made things work. We did not have the technical means to live-stream the meeting, but *there was a meeting* nonetheless. Thanks Randy!

Before the group worked their way through our book of Octoberfest selections, our leader, Lou Jacklich, gave a short tutorial on improvisation and embellishment. Though small, the group bravely played their way through the Octoberfest Jam Book to the enjoyment of those of us who came to listen. (Although I never got an answer to why they avoided the *In Heaven There Is No Beer Polka*, which was a standard where I grew up - maybe it was too depressing to consider?)

In the middle of the meeting, we were treated to several duets performed by member Anand Joseph's daughters, Annabelle and Juni. These youngsters are two ladies to keep your eye on as they continue to make excellent progress on the accordion. The meeting was wrapped up by a second run-through of the Octoberfest Jam Book. Though the assemblage was small, it appeared that everyone had a good time.

Lest we run into this staffing problem again, lacking an individual with enough experience to conduct an in-person live stream using the ZOOM platform, please contact us at info@sfaaccordianclub.com to let us know whether you might be able to step up for future meetings. If you are that person, you know it doesn't require much experience to attend the meeting and point your personal device (smart phone, tablet, or laptop) toward the front of the room!



Houston Accordion Orchestra Retreat 2024

with Stas Venglevski

GAMERS MUSIC GALORE

January 11-14, 2024

*From vintage to Contemporary video game melodies
inspired by the sights & sounds of video game
throughout the years*

Enjoy 3 full days of Orchestra rehearsals & 2 public concerts.
Open mic and jam sessions every night and Workshops at
Kemah Boardwalk Inn, Kemah, TXC

Limited number is available. Contact Megumi to
participate the retreat to secure your spot.
More Info: Megumi Hada (meghada33@gmail.com)



Guest Artist



Having been an SFAC Board member for almost a decade, I can testify to having been part of countless discussions about how to get more *young people* involved in accordion music, to ensure perpetuity of the instrument and its culture even when we ourselves move on - in one way or another. Frankly, it is a good idea for organizations to have a succession strategy to populate the base even as we older folks, well move on.

Strategies for getting younger people involved almost always hinge on some sort of outreach – getting accordions in their hands, offering scholarships for lessons, talking up the instrument to music teachers in public schools, having kids sit down with little accordions at street fairs or at the Cotati Accordion Festival. All of this is good, moving in the right direction.

However, surprisingly, one almost never hears discussion of what these young people would want to *do* with the instrument. Is belting out the *Beer Barrel Polka*, or *The Girl from Ipanema*, or perhaps *Just Because* what they want to do? It is almost as though we think tossing the musical hardware at them will suffice, paying little attention to the musical software they might want to render.

Enter the Stas Venglevski event in Houston we are publicizing in this newsletter. Stas and his orchestra will be playing musical scores associated with the video games almost all youngsters have been playing since childhood. Bravo, what an idea! Many of the scores for these games have been written by legitimate, talented composers, who have adapted the universal cultural experience of youngsters to that stodgy old instrument, that need not be relegated to the tunes that *we senior citizens* grew up with! As Jimi Hendrix may have put it, “Hey Kid, where you goin’ with that accordion in your hand?” Kid answers: “Oh I’m goin’ down to play my favorite tune from Super Mario!”

And that is how to make accordion culture universal and immortal. Insert it into the fabric of today’s world, rather than try to bend the minds of young people to appreciate musical relics. One of these days, sooner rather than later, these young ones will suddenly discover what has gone before, when they are mature enough to appreciate music archeology.

~Robert Cooperstein

Something New!

Time & Place for February 2024 SFAC 'East Bay Accordion Circle'

Despite our name and use of the Golden Gate logo, the San Francisco Accordion Club has many members residing outside of San Francisco, including in the East Bay. So, in response to requests from some of our East Bay members, we're going to change our venue for the February 25, 2024 meeting. The February venue will be the **Piedmont Middle School, Orchestra Room 503**. Piedmont is basically an island city surrounded by Oakland.

The musical program will run from 2-5pm, with a jam session and probably a few solos, time permitting. The room accommodates up to 30 people, so an RSVP to info@sfaceclub.com will be appreciated. We will live-stream the meeting on the ZOOM platform. This is a one-time-only venue change, something of an experiment for us, a bold move for SFAC - hopefully this change will not confuse people!

In addition to the venue change, please note we are meeting on the 4th Sunday of the month in February, not our usual 3rd Sunday. Here is the location, which you will be reminded of in our subsequent newsletters and emails: Piedmont Middle School, Orchestra Room 503, 740 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont, CA 94611

More details, including a map of the campus, will follow in our January 2024 newsletter.

~The SFAC Board of Directors



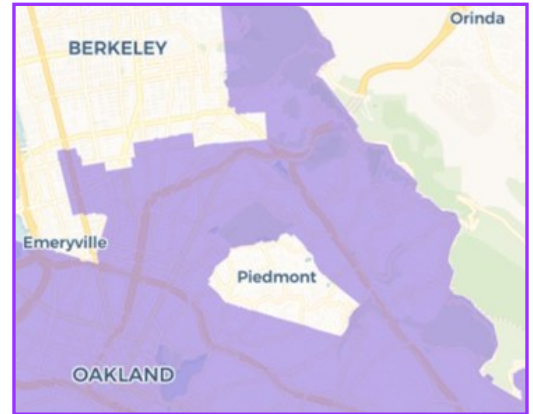
Membership Update

by Robert Cooperstein

In the last few months many new people have joined the SFAC, including 5 whom we met at the Cotati Accordion Festival in August. Please join me in welcoming **Michael Schillaci** (San Francisco), **Yongyu Gao** (San Mateo), **Michael Hensey** (San Francisco), **Lucia Mampieri** (San Francisco), **Peter Nye** (Berkeley), **Nadia Poskatcheva** (Mountain View), **Nancy Jalonen** (Burlingame), and **Lorraine Inaudi** (Redwood City).

In follow-up correspondence, we learned that Yongyu Gao is a piano accompanist and currently accompanies elementary schools in Burlingame School District, Serra High School in San Mateo, and Ragazzi Boys Chorus in Redwood City. She played accordion through high school before switching to majoring in piano. She recently got access to an accordion from one of the choirs that she accompanies and decided to pick up playing the instrument again. She is very happy and grateful to have met folks from the SFAC at the Cotati festival, and we are delighted to welcome Yongyu to our Club!

On another note, we have concluded a very successful membership renewal drive for 2023-24. That stated, there are still some individuals yet to renew. Although some of them no doubt have decided to move on without us, looking over some of the names, we see some individuals who we are pretty sure intend to remain with the Club. If you are one of these people, please take care of business at this time to continue receiving our newsletter, as well as invites to our in-person and live-streamed musical programs. I won't be seeing you in person, since Elaine and I now reside in The Sunshine State, but then again, there's (almost) always the ZOOM platform for us to be together.



SFAC contributes accordion to Mobile Accordion Classroom Project

In our September newsletter we announced a new project just starting to take shape under the leadership of SFAC member Laura Jean Niland, to introduce the accordion to children and young adults at various workshops in Texas. The organization working toward this goal, Innovative Accordion Music Productions (IAMP), intends to place accordions in schools, churches, and community events. These instruments are for the Mobile Accordion Classroom Project (MACR). Upon learning of this, the SFAC decided to use scholarship funds toward a brand new Hohner Bravo 48 bass accordion.

Laura subsequently contacted us in mid-September to confirm that IAMP had acquired several donated Hohner 48 Bass accordions. In the photograph, the SFAC donation purchased the RED HOHNER BRAVO II at the far right. It bears an inscription identifying the SFAC as having donated this instrument. The organization is about half-way there on this phase of its project and is working on acquiring more 48-bass and 12-bass accordions. The next phase also involves curriculum writing. Needless to say, donations are always welcome!

For further information about the project, please visit Innovative Accordion Productions:

<http://www.innovativeaccordion.org/>



September 14, 2023

Kenneth Schwartz
511 Virginia Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94402

Dear Ken,

We received the San Francisco Accordion Club donation check in the amount of \$750.00 for the IAMP Mobile Accordion Classroom (MACr). This donation, along with additional IAMP funds, will be used to purchase one 48-bass Hohner Bravo II accordion, hopefully a red one! The MACr will be used to bring on-site, hands-on accordion lessons and demonstrations in Texas to students of all ages.

IAMP will provide a small, engraved plaque for display on the accordion with the engraving: "In Honor of the San Francisco Accordion Club." In addition, a photo of this instrument and the club name as donor will be printed in the commemorative MACr Project Booklet, which will travel with the Mobile Accordion Classroom acknowledging your generous donation for this project. A photo of the accordion and the SFAC club name will also be posted on our website www.innovativeaccordion.org. We will print a short history of the San Francisco Accordion Club on the website as well, honoring your club's continuing legacy.

Again, please extend our sincere gratitude the SFAC Board members and your club members, for your generous tax-deductible donation to IAMP, a 501(c)3 non-profit charity EIN # 87-2181287, in support of the MACr Project. We hope to launch the MACr Project sometime in 2024.

Sincerely,
Laura J. Niland
Laura Niland, IAMP Secretary
Shirley Johnson, IAMP President

12907 Humphrey Dr. — Austin, TX 78729-7339



Ron Borelli, Accordionist

Contact information:

- Email: RONBORELLI@AOL.COM
- WEBSITE: RONBORELLI.COM
- TEXT/PHONE: 415-203-6700

Weltmeister Rubin Piano Accordion, \$1200

Like-new condition. Lightweight yet versatile piano accordion (12.5 lbs). Made in Germany. 30 treble keys, 12.75" key-to-key, 60 bass buttons. Clarinet and violin (musette) voices. Reeds 2/3 MM with "wet" musette tuning. Includes ergonomic straps, Weltmeister hard case with keys, manufacturer's instruction booklet. Single owner, played gently and never outdoors. Always kept in climate-controlled spaces such as the living room - never in an attic or garage. Link to video showing this model being played: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=FJOY9njkoio>



Contact: Marilyn Valentino, mvalentino@alumni.stanford.edu, 650-325-8580

SFAC Board of Directors

Ken Schwartz, President
Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

Rosemary Busher, Vice-President
(510)220-2931, rosemary@busher.org

Paul Cain paulrussellcain@gmail.com

Robert Cooperstein (510)207-6009, drrcoop@sbcglobal.net

Elaine Cooperstein (510)921-9323, elainedc@sbcglobal.net

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

Dominic Palmisano (Honorary) accord47@gmail.com

Webmaster & Bookkeeping: Randall Hicks

Newsletter: Content, Layout, Edit, Printing, Labeling, Mailing
Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Pamela Tom, Rosemary Busher (and credited contributors each issue)

Scholarship:

Mike Zampiceni (408)569-2579, eclecticguy@comcast.net

The San Francisco Accordion Club is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization whose purpose is to enhance, promote and stimulate an appreciation for the accordion within the membership and throughout the general public.

*Donations are tax-deductible and gratefully accepted by using the **Donate** button at www.sfaccordionclub.com*

President's Report

Ken Schwartz



Hi all – Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving!

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, our Club has grown in recent years with members all over the country and the greater Bay Area. So, we'd like to try something a bit new for February. In response to requests from our East Bay members, our February 2024 meeting will be held in Piedmont. This is a one-time only venue, so all of our other 2024 meetings will remain at our usual Millbrae venue or on-line via ZOOM.

[Ed: see our companion article on this new venture, page 4]

The Club is busy preparing for next year's schedule. We welcome your comments and suggestions for performers, venues, and anything else which comes to mind.

Best regards, Ken

Thank You, Donors!

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. These members have made extra donations during our current membership year (October 2023-September 2024):

Ron Borelli; Gail Campanella; Raymond Celentano; George Chavez; Elaine & Robert Cooperstein; Edward Crnich; Xavier & Candace de la Prade; Ed Gorzynski, Jr.; John Lister; Linda Lonay; Franco & Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi; Ed Massolo; James Murdoch; Laura Jean Niland; Colette & Casey Ogata; David Perry; Robert D. & Dil Pisani; Nadia Poskatcheeva; Don Savant; Kenneth Schwartz; James Shoemaker; Bill & Gloria Tapogna; Pamela Tom; Jane & Frank Tripi; Frank Venturelli; Carol Whitehead; Barbara Winter; Mike Zampiceni; Marlen Zhagel

If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact elainedc@sbcglobal.net. We greatly appreciate the support and want to be sure you are recognized.

SFAC Scholarships

Your Club has scholarship funds available to support 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. eclecticguy@comcast.net 408-569-2579

SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place 1/8-page (business-card size) free of charge for one month each year.

Additional ads are \$10/issue or \$100/year.

Monthly ad prices **for members:**

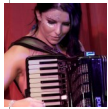
1/8 page: \$10; 1/4-page: \$25; 1/2-page: \$50; Full-page: \$100.

Non-member rates are double.

Contact info@sfaccordionclub.com

SFAC COMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars!



November 19 - Tracey Collins (*Auckland, NZ*) -
via ZOOM only

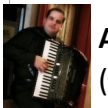
December 2023 – No SFAC meeting - Holiday break



January 21, 2024 – Gordon Kohl (*San Diego*)
(Live at Chetcuti Community Center!)

February 25, 2024 – East Bay Accordion Circle!
(*Piedmont Middle School*) See page 4 for preliminary details.

March, 2024 – *To be announced*



April 21, 2024 – Steve Albini
(Live at Chetcuti Community Center!)

SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

RON BORELLI *San Mateo* - RonBorelli@aol.com
www.ronborelli.com

RENO DI BONO *South Bay* - ourhike@aol.com
www.italianaccordion.com

JOE DOMITROWICH *South Bay* - www.alpinersusa.com
or www.capricious-accordion.com

ED GORZYNSKI, JR. *East Bay* - edspolkas@yahoo.com

PAMELA TOM *Yolo & Solano Counties*
accordionpam@gmail.com

MIKE ZAMPICENI *East Bay & South Bay*
eclecticguy@comcast.net, www.mikezamp.com

ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

East Bay

- ◆ Lou Jacklich* 510-317-9510
- ◆ Joel Weber* www.ioeastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/
- ◆ Mike Zampiceni* www.mikezamp.com
- ◆ Anand Joseph* 614-329-9384 (beginner students)

Peninsula/South Bay

- ◆ Reno DiBono Reno.DiBono@gmail.com
- ◆ Joe Simoni* jsimoni2000@gmail.com, 650-867-1122
- ◆ Mike Zampiceni* www.mikezamp.com
- ◆ Anand Joseph* 614-329-9384 (beginner students)

Outside the Bay Area

- ◆ Gail Campanella* GailCampanella@gmail.com 805-895-0457 (Santa Barbara)
- ◆ Bonnie Birch* www.bonniebirch.com (Seattle)
- ◆ Pamela Tom* accordionpam@gmail.com (Davis)
- ◆ Lorna Anderson* 910-215-5757 (Pinehurst, NC)

* = remote lessons (ZOOM, Facetime, Skype) available



<https://www.amazon.com/Vintage-Accordion-Thanksgiving-Musical-Instruments/dp/B0B6774JQY>

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October Program

Review by Lynn Ewing

I'm always amazed at the talent we have in the San Francisco Accordion Club. Our October meeting was put on completely by our members, with a little help from their friends. The meeting opened with Serena Skye, with accordionists Jean Moshofsky Butler, one of our intrepid Board members, and Caroline Grannan, supported by violinists Stephanie Costanza and Naomi Aizawa Ralph.



Frank Turns 90!

Please join us in celebrating Frank Montoro's birthday. Frank was a past president of the San Francisco Accordion Club. He began playing the accordion at age 11 and has had a long career as an accordionist playing in San Francisco and Marin at various venues.



We are thrilled to feature the Peter DiBono Trio at this month's meeting. Peter DiBono, accordion, Harriet Newhart, violin, and Steven Hanson, bass, have been entertaining audiences for over 25 years.

In case you were wondering who was featured in the SFAC's newsletter 10 years ago, November, 2013...



Our final performer for the first section of the meeting was my very dear friend Jana Maas, longtime president of the Good Times Accordion Club in Modesto. I got so wrapped up in listening to Jana's beautiful tone and technique that I forgot to take notes!



After the break, Tangonero came up to play, and they were absolutely great! Member Alex Roitman plays Bandoneon and has a wonderful band ... He describes the traditional bandoneon keyboard as "designed by a mad man", with no discernible pattern to the arrangement of the buttons.

ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

Houston Accordion Orchestra Retreat 2024

Gamers Music Galore, with Stas Venglevski

January 11 - 14, 2024

<https://www.facebook.com/HoustonAccordionRetreat/>

Contact: Megumi Hada 631-764-4958

meghada33@gmail.com

Kokkola Winter Accordion Festival

Kokkola, Finland

February 10 - 17, 2024

<https://festivals.fi/en/festivals/kokkola-winter-accordion-festival/>

Rose City Accordion Camp

Conductors: Gabe Hall-Rodrigues & Gail Campanella

Instructors: Jamie Tischler & Courtney von Drehle

June 2 - 7, 2024

rosecityaccordionclub.org

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

Northwest Accordion Society

June 20 - 23, 2024

Leavenworth is Washington's "Bavarian Village"

www.accordioncelebration.org

Accordionists & Teachers Guild International (ATG) 2024 Festival—Honoring Joan C. Sommers

Kansas City, Missouri

July 23 - 27, 2024

<https://www.atgaccordions.com/2024-festival>

Cotati Accordion Festival

LaPlaza Park, Cotati, California

August 17 - 18, 2024

<https://cotatifest.com/>

Online/Virtual Events:

Monthly: 1st & 3rd Monday - Joseph Natoli

JANPress University - Topics vary monthly (\$)

janpressmusic@yahoo.com

Monthly: 2nd Tuesday 4:30-6:30 PM (free)

Hosted by Laura Niland LauraJNiland@outlook.com

Monthly: 3rd Sunday - Gordon Kohl Workshop

Topics vary (\$) gkohl5890@gmail.com

Members - If you know of an accordion-centric festival or event in 2024 that your fellow SFAC members may be interested in, please contact us at info@sfaaccordions.com

Friends of SFAC— Accordion Groups/Clubs

Check each club's website and/or club contacts to verify meeting schedules

Accordion Club of the Redwoods¹ (Santa Rosa)
Meetings 3rd Wednesdays—Cibo Rustico Pizzeria
(707) 318-0474, dcdacapo@gmail.com

Accordion Lovers Society International (ALSI)¹
2nd Sundays—Mt. Miguel Covenant Village
Spring Valley, CA
gkohl5890@gmail.com (619) 395-0454

Accordionaires of Los Angeles
Online 4th Sundays³ - Meetings 3rd Tuesdays¹
Victorio's Ristorante, North Hollywood, CA
dnorferi@aol.com or "Accordionaires" on Facebook

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)¹
2nd Saturdays—Roseville, CA
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Jerry Kiefer, President (916) 652-0836

San Antonio Accordion Society
2nd Tuesdays online³ - Meetings on last Tuesdays¹
Chester's Hamburgers, San Antonio, TX
LauraJNiland@outlook.com

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)¹
1st Sundays
Christ Episcopal Church, Los Altos, CA
www.svasociety.org

¹ In person meeting only

² mixed: in-person and ZOOM meeting

³ ZOOM only meeting

Event Reviews:

Volunteers are *very much* needed to assist with the monthly event summaries. This is a great opportunity to express your creative writing skills while assisting your Club! Please volunteer to write up a meeting review for an upcoming newsletter.

Contact: Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com



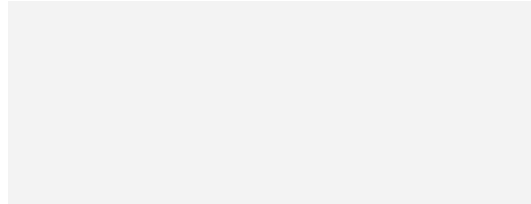
Happy Thanksgiving!

San Francisco Accordion Club
Newsletter

c/o 10233 Bay Avenue
Englewood, FL 34224
www.sfaccordionclub.com

First Class
Postage

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



Upcoming Events: *November 19* Tracey Collins (via ZOOM) from Auckland, NZ; *December*
No meeting-Happy Holidays! *January 21* Gordon Kohl (from San Diego) Live at Chetcuti

SFAC Online-only Sunday Meeting

Accordions Live! (Via ZOOM)

Tracey Collins

Sunday, November 19 - 3:00 pm

Come join us for fun and great music!

SFAC members will receive ZOOM link via email

See email for details, or

contact info@sfaccordionclub.com



fb.com/sanfranciscoaccordionclub

