

September, 2024



Sunday, September 15, 2024
♪ ♪ SFAC Accordions Live! ♪ ♪
Ron Borelli - Solo & with his Gypsy

Jazz Quartet

THE SFAC "JAM BAND" WILL GATHER
BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE
ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

Chetcuti Community Room - Millbrae, CA

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

\$10 members / \$15 non-members

Exact change appreciated

Youth free with parent

RON BORELLI & HIS GYPSY JAZZ QUARTET

Ron Borelli is a native of San Francisco. His interest in music and the accordion was received from his father, Al Borelli, a well-known bandleader. He studied accordion with Dino Benetti and the renowned Don Haas. In his early teens he began playing with his father's dance band, and then gradually started his own bands. From 2001 to 2009, Ron instructed and performed at the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention, a lifetime experience.

Ron continues to perform on accordion in a wide variety of musical settings. On the fun side, he has toured the Midwest and Italy with **Those Darn Accordions**. On the serious side, he has appeared with the **San Francisco Symphony**, the **Berkeley Symphony**, the **Santa Rosa Symphony**, and the **Diablo Ballet**; he was the accordionist for the **Three Tenors** in their 1999 Bay Area concert. He is called to perform for the San Francisco Opera and most recently for the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra's performance of MADCAP featuring accordion. He has also performed for many celebrities throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, including 25 years for actor Robin Williams' house parties. Ron appeared on the main stage for the 2024 Cotati Accordion Festival (photo at right).



For the San Francisco Accordion Club, Ron is planning a diverse program of music. He will perform first on solo accordion, including compositions of Richard Galliano, opera, and polkas, then with his Gypsy Jazz quartet the music of Django Reinhardt.

Ron sends out a special "thank you" to the San Francisco Accordion Club for continuing their good work throughout the community and keeping the accordion a major instrument for all to enjoy.

Ph: 415 203 6700

Email: ronborelli@aol.com

www.ronborelli.com



In Memory of Edward "Ed" Massolo

1924-2024



Ed Massolo, an esteemed long-time member of the Club, passed away peacefully on August 15th. We had just celebrated Ed's upcoming 100th birthday at our June 16 meeting. He beautifully performed several songs for us that day on his Excelsior accordion. We presented him with a congratulatory letter in leather-bound folio from Congressman Kevin Mullin (Dem, CA 15th District). Ed officially became a centenarian on June 27th.



Most of us knew Ed as a very active San Francisco Accordion Club member who had been with it since its 1990 reincarnation. He served on its Board of Directors and was the creator/builder of the sandwich board sign we place near the entrance of our Chetcuti meetings and also at our canopy at the annual Cotati Accordion Festival. He

also constructed the portable stage we used at Oyster Point for many years.



Beyond his immersion in the accordion world there was also a more serious side to Ed. Although he was very humble about his WWII history, it is a fact that he volunteered for active duty in WWII, flew 25 missions in B-17 heavy bombers over German territory, was shot down, was a prisoner of war, was awarded the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, and a Prisoner of War Medal.

Ed was a Bay Area native. He had a lifetime career in the hardware industry. He was an avid dancer, fisherman, snow skier, water skier, and craftsman in his free time. His

greatest love was his wife and partner Isabelle. He is survived by his daughter and son, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ed had numerous friends and admirers in our Club and will be deeply missed.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers or gifts, donations in his memory can be made to Ed's favorite charity, The Veterans of Foreign Wars: <https://heroes.vfw.org/donate>.



From Bobby Watson, Ed's oldest grandson

"Nonno's greatest tool was his accordion. In my mind the words "Nonno" and "Accordion" go together like peanut butter and jelly, or perhaps in his case like Hot Dogs and Ketchup. He used this tool, his instrument, to entertain his friends, his family, as well as complete strangers. He used it to build friendships, some of which blossomed only recently and others that were forged decades ago. He used his accordion to exercise. He exercised his body; that thing is amazingly heavy! and he exercised his mind having learned countless numbers of songs and probably millions of keystrokes. The most basic explanation is that an accordion works by using bellows to create air pressure and a vacuum, and then using buttons or keys to open valves and allow air to flow across reeds to produce sound. Nonno's presence in our lives is much like an accordion. Like air pressure, he filled our lives with endless love and happiness. His death leaves a vacuum in our hearts and lives. Thankfully, He is the music we will remember and cherish forever."



After parties at the CAF

Robert Cooperstein

Just about every year the Co-tati Accordion Festival leads to some after parties - Friday night at Volpi's Ristorante & Bar in Petaluma, and Saturday night at Cibo Rustico Pizzeria in Santa Rosa. The innocent bystanders at these evening soirees, merely there for some fine Italian food and drink, actually seem enthralled to find themselves unexpectedly in the presence of accordion greatness. Frozen in their seats, enraptured by the raucous serenade, they do not leave until we do, clapping and radiant on the way out. Let's let the photos speak for themselves!



Accordion Scholarships Awarded to SFAC Student Members

By Pamela Tom, Accordionist

Congratulations to our student members (see last month's August issue for a list and photos of our 5 talented members) who were each awarded generous scholarship prize money for entering the annual Cotati Accordion Student Stage competition. Included in this photo are 3 SFAC members: Jennifer, her sister Annabelle, and Colin. The competitive pieces of the students are available for [viewing](https://www.youtube.com/@CotatiAccordionStudentStage/videos) on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@CotatiAccordionStudentStage/videos>



Performances included (from youngest to oldest student):

- ◆ **Annabelle:** *Fast Train, French Card, Little Brown Jug Polka, Turn Around Tune*
- ◆ **Marion:** *Marines' Hymn, Minka, Over the Waves, and Raindrops*
- ◆ **Jennifer:** *Little Brown Jug Polka, Sweet Treats, There's No Place Like Home, Vegetables on Parade*
- ◆ **Colin:** *Evening in Paris, Sharpshooter's March, Skogens Blomster, Trickling Keys*
- ◆ **Siyuan:** *Chilli Billy, Dizzy Fingers, Poor Butterfly, Vivo*

On the main stage Sunday morning, they wowed the crowd with their stage presence and playing ability. From left to right, SFAC members Colin and sisters Annabelle and Jennifer playing a duet. At right, Nicholas is not a Club member, but has been a recipient of the SFAC scholarship. His playing has become more extraordinary each year at Cotati!



These young players were honored Sunday afternoon, when they received their scholarship cash awards. SFAC President Ken Schwartz is on-stage presenting contributions to the Cotati scholarship fund.



Op-Ed from a non-player: Promoting accordion culture among our youth

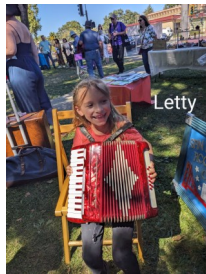
Robert Cooperstein

Endeavors worth preserving will disappear, their merits nonetheless, without a succession strategy. It has been said that in America the accordion milieu barely survived the ascension of the Beatles and the guitar music it popularized. Well, it did survive, but mostly in smallish ethnic enclaves here and there. The accordion had faded into the background.

We SFAC Board members devote a lot of our time discussing ways to re-popularize the instrument and the culture it embodies, largely by reaching out to young people. However, it was evident at Cotati this year that reports of the death of the accordion had been greatly exaggerated. The median age of attendees was clearly way lower than in the city of Englewood, Florida, where Elaine and I now live, sometimes called "Wrinklewood". But it still remains expedient to introduce young folks to accordions where we can.

Enter the student stage at the Cotati Accordion Festival. Accordion students were encouraged to apply to compete for scholarships consisting of cash awards. Those selected performed either in person or virtually on Saturday morning at a church in Cotati. SFAC member Pamela Tom covers this event on Page 5. On Sunday morning the winners performed musical selections onstage in La Plaza Park, and later in the day were honored with their scholarship awards. The SFAC was proud to have contributed to the CAF scholarship fund, as did Judy Contino.

SFAC member Laura Niland has made exemplary efforts to procure accordions and get them in the hands of young folks where she resides, in Texas. Our Club supported her efforts by donating a small accordion, optimized for young students. SFAC Board Member Rosemary Busher has also been exemplary in getting learner accordions for test runs into the hands of inquisitive youth, for example at the annual Italian Festival in San Francisco, and at the CAF. Here are some radiant youth at this year's CAF trying out an accordion for the first time!



Luca, Letty & Eloise at the SFAC vendor tent - Cotati 2024

September President's Report

Ken Schwartz



Welcome Back! The Club enjoyed a busy summer season, starting with June's Festa Italiana in San Francisco, then our fourth July annual picnic, and finally our huge and successful presence at the Cotati Accordion Festival. September will mark our return to our usual live meeting, this month featuring the Ron Borelli quartet. In October, we'll return to our East Bay venue in Piedmont. We're pleased to welcome a growing number of new members from the East Bay!

September marks the beginning of our membership renewal drive. Your support enables the Club to thrive and provide quality entertainment, education, accordion rentals, scholarships, and an important venue to support our talented musician community. It requires an accordion village to make it all happen. Thank you!

See you shortly!



SFAC Board & Key Club Functions

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Accordion Rentals: Rosemary Busher

Live Meeting Sound & Amplification: Paul Cain

Live Meeting ZOOM camera & sound: Ken Schwartz

Membership Drive & Recordkeeping: Robert Cooperstein

Event Photography: Steve Mobia

Ear Candy At Cotati Student Scholarship Fundraiser

By Pamela Tom, Accordionist

A full-house audience was treated to a delightful fundraiser concert presented by SFAC member accordionists **Mike Zampiceni** and **Gail Campanella** plus Paul Betken (Arizona).

Mike opened with great expression performing Charles Magnante's *Waltz Allegro*. He then played an animated tango arrangement of *La Cumparsita* that segued into *El Choclo*. He went on to play *Call Me*. He entertained audience requests and played *Lover*, *Arrivederci Roma* and sang with his pleasing tenor voice. *Tea for Two* was melodically performed. And at the conclusion of this year's fundraiser, he played (by special request) Lawrence Welk's signature tune, *Bubbles in the Wine*.



During the transition to Gail, the next performer, Mike and Gail extemporaneously complemented each other's arrangement of *Dizzy Fingers* as a duet. Their skillful performance of this challenging tune at lightening-speed was first rate and a treat for the audience. You had to be there!

Gail then entertained the audience and showcased her command of the accordion and versatility of this instrument with international favorites including as *La Moto-*

cicletta, *Black Light*, *Vivo*, *Säkkijärven Polka*, *The Godfather* medley, *Tico Tico* and her signature tune, *Angelo di Pippo's Wrong Note Polka*.

The final performer was Paul who treated the audience to his jazz interpretation of Broadway and pop standards: *All of Me*, *Cabaret*, *Embraceable You*, *Falling Leaves*, *Hello Dolly*, *Mame*, *Misty*, *Sentimental Journey*, *Tea for Two*, *Up Up and Away*, *When You're Smiling*, and a medley of Burt Bacharach tunes.

This was the fundraising concert's 10th year. An intimate audience of nearly 60 lucky attendees heard a wide range of music expertly performed by three talented veteran accordion artists. Plan to attend next year's free concert which is traditionally held on Friday at 4 PM on the day before the Cotati Accordion Festival goes into full swing. Admission is free; donations are gratefully appreciated and support the student scholarship fund. This year SFAC members Lorna Anderson and Gail Campanella donated the proceeds from their CDs sold at this event to the concert's scholarship fund, which altogether raised \$500.



Former SFAC Members on the Accordion Apocalypse Stage

Robert Cooperstein

It was great seeing some former members of the SFAC performing on the Accordion Apocalypse stage. The stage was immediately behind the SFAC canopy, so that we could always hear what was transpiring on both the CAF main stage and the Apocalypse stage - accordion cacophony at its best! We would like to single out **Duckmandu** (aka Aaron Seeman) for his astute selections, including the symbiotic tunes *California Über Alles* and *Danka Shein*. In the center photo, let's give a shout-out to Art Peterson and friends, whom Elaine and I used to go see when he played with the **Polka Cowboys** before we had ever heard of the SFAC. On the right is **Big Lou** (aka Linda Seekins) who played with pioneering bands **Those Darn Accordions** and **Polkacide**, and now fronts **Innuendo**.



Western Swing Jamboree Review

By Laura Niland

On July 27th, 2024 Innovative Accordion Music Productions (IAMP) presented *The Western Swing Jamboree* concert at the Brauntex Theatre in downtown New Braunfels, TX, with accordionist Lori Beth Brooke and *The Derrieres* (Roger and Leo Eilts) and Cameron Bradfute, cowboy poet sharing stories and original music about the pioneering spirit of those who settled the West. Families brought their children dressed in western outfits complete with cowboy hats and boots. Each attendee received a bandana in honor of *The National Day of the Cowboy* and celebrated with a great evening of music, comedy, and family fun. Visitors came from across Texas and Mexico. The audience celebrated with resounding YEEHAW, waving their bandanas throughout the show!

This was the first collaboration for Lori Brooke from Austin, Texas and brothers Roger and Leo Eilts from Kansas City, who are an outstanding back-up group, hence their name, **The Derrieres**. With Brooke on accordion and **The Derrieres** combining their vocal harmonies with their talent on upright bass, guitar, and fiddle, a fabulous new sound was created with Lori Brooke known as the "Female Yodeler of the Year" and "Academy of Western Artists Female Western Performer Awardee". This unique collaboration will undoubtedly be repeated in the future. The reviews from the show are still arriving, with many stating it was one of the best shows they had ever seen, giving special recognition to these talented musicians, their performance and professionalism.

Brooke included many original songs from her latest CD, **The Light of the Moon**, including *Texas Star*, *Bride of the*



Roger Eilts (bass), Lori Beth Brooke (accordion) and Leo Eilts (guitar)

Continued on next page ...

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Brazos, Guys love Chicks that Yodel, Light of the Moon, and others. Lori's music tells a story about the pioneering spirit of women and their contributions to settling the West, in a both humorous and poignant presentation. Also included were special performances by **The Derrieres**, including *Home on the Range* in both English and Italian, as they were scheduled for a performance gig in Italy in August! **The Derrieres** perform regularly with the award-winning **3 Trails West** band also producing a weekly program on the Internet Radio entitled "*The American Road Show*" where they explore the many facets of American music.

Many thanks go to Lori Brooke, Roger and Leo Eilts, Cameron Bradfute and to the Brauntex Theatre and their staff for creating a memorable experience for all. In addition, IAMP thanks The City of New Braunfels Arts and Heritage Commission for partial funding for this project.

You can learn more about Innovative Accordion Music Productions, a 501(c)3 non-profit at www.InnovativeAccordion.org

Mike Zampiceni: Heart and Soul of Cotati 2024

Robert Cooperstein

In a way SFAC member **Mike Zampiceni** was the very heart and soul of the 2024 Cotati Accordion Festival. First and

San Francisco Accordion Club Scholarship in Honor of Michael Zampiceni

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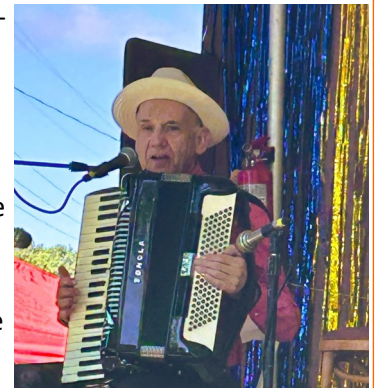


Having more accolades than we can list here, Mike has been gigging and teaching in the bay area for many decades. At 8 years old, he began taking lessons from his father, Joseph Zampiceni, a noted bay area accordionist and teacher during the golden age of the accordion. Today he is known for his musicianship and flawless technique and as a dynamite player that many aspire to emulate. As his long list of students would attest to, Mike values above all the proper use of the bellows. Indeed, students from his teaching career routinely appear on stage at this very festival to dazzle and delight. He himself has been a featured performer multiple times at the Cotati Accordion Festival, Las Vegas Accordion Convention, and Leavenworth Accordion Celebration. He enjoys many musical genres, with jazz a favorite. An accordion teacher to treasure, Mike is the rare accordionist who happens to also be a vocalist, blessed with perfect pitch to boot.

The San Francisco Accordion Club is proud to present the 2024 student scholarship award in your honor, Mike!

www.sfaccordionclub.com

foremost, he was named as this year's Honorary Director. In the words of the festival program notes, "We are proud to present Michael Zampiceni as our 33rd annual Cotati Accordion Festival Honorary Director. We select members of the accordion community that have spent their lives promoting the accordion, as a brief look at our past list of Honorary Directors will attest. Michael is not only a top-level accordionist, but he gives back by being one of the very top accordion teachers in the Bay Area. It is because of accordionists like Michael Zampiceni that the accordion is going to continue to flourish in the Bay Area."



Mike was also the first performer on the main stage Sunday morning. He was formally honored on Sunday afternoon in two ways, first as the Honorary Director, and second as the accordionist in whose name the SFAC made a significant contribution to the Cotati Accordion Festival's scholarship fund.



Searching for *Lou Soper's Easy Musical Chord Retention Method, Volumes One & Two*

If your collection of sheet music includes these volumes, please let us know. It would be greatly appreciated.

info@sfaccordionclub.com

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

SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

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

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 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

Membership Report

by Robert Cooperstein

We have 2 new members to introduce to you this month.

Joana Ayala resides in Berkeley. She found the SFAC at our canopy at the Cotati Accordion Festival, and joined our Club within approximately 2 minutes. On her enrollment form she listed a predilection for playing European-Ethnic music and Latin/Tex-Mex/Cajun-Zydeco, and indicated she would like to play during one of our musical programs. Can't wait! **Brandon Bartch** of San Francisco also joined in August. As of now we know less about Brandon, beyond that he plays a 120 Soprani. Welcome Joana and Brandon!



Our annual membership drive begins this month. You will be receiving a mailed form to renew your membership, with a pre-addressed envelope to return your form and a check, if you prefer to renew that way. As an alternative, you will be invited to log in to the SFAC webpage and renew using PayPal. If you intend to keep on keepin' on with us, it would be great to do so promptly, so the membership committee (*i.e.*, me) will have less nagging to do!



ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

East Bay

- ◆ **Joel Weber** www.joelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/
- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com
- ◆ **Anand Joseph*** 614-329-9384 (beginner students)

Peninsula/South Bay

- ◆ **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

🎵 **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):

Paul Aebersold; Lorna Anderson; Scott Anderson; Ron Borelli; Rosemary Busher; Gail Campanella; Raymond Celentano; George Chavez; Elaine & Robert Cooperstein; Edward Crnich; Xavier & Candace de la Prade; Ed Gorzynski, Jr.; Lou Jacklich; John Lister; Pamela Lister; Linda Lonay; Franco & Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi; Ed Massolo; James Murdoch; Laura Jean Niland; Peter Nye; Colette & Casey Ogata; Paul Pasquali; 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.



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Accordion Happenings

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 2024-25 that your fellow SFAC members may be interested in, please contact us at info@sfiaccordionclub.org



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.sfiaccordionclub.com

San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o Cooperstein

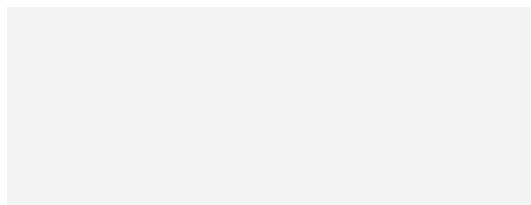
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Upcoming Events: **September 15 Ron Borelli** - *Live, in-person at the Chetcuti Community Center!*

October 20 East Bay Accordion Circle, Piedmont Middle School; **November 17 via ZOOM** **Monica Ambalal**

SFAC Sunday Program

September 15, 2024

Ron Borelli - *in Solo & with his Gypsy Jazz Quartet*

Live In-Person + Online (ZOOM) access

\$10 members / \$15 non-members

Youth free with parent



Chetcuti doors open at 2:00 PM, performances

begin approximately 2:15 PM

See email for link to online streaming

See email for details, or

contact info@sfaccordionclub.com

Chetcuti Community Room

450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae

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