

# The BAAC Page



October 2002



## President's Message

I made an overnight trip home from Button Box Camp in the Sierras for the September meeting. It was the first of our new meeting schedule of the second Thursday, was the annual meeting with membership photo — and was a greater success than I expected!

Although attendance was a bit smaller than usual (it will take a while for people to adapt to the new schedule), we did have a great time! Look for the meeting writeup that follows in this newsletter.

While on the subject of the September meeting, I'd like to offer special thanks to Bob Berta, again this year, for taking our annual club photo, under less-than-ideal conditions: Trying to fit everyone in while still keeping everyone in focus—and fighting a bad cold to boot. Thanks, Bob! We're looking forward to seeing the result of your heroic effort!

We have some fabulous events upcoming, and still have room for some "open mic." time at most of the meetings already on the drawing boards. "Open Mic." is turning out to be a popular option for meeting time that is not scheduled in advance. Once the first person plays, the ice is broken and others join in. So, Remember to bring your accordion to the meetings!

See you October 10 when we have a special program featuring Mike Corino and Tom Cordoni and some more surprises.

Val

## September Meeting: Some Good Laughs!

First off was the club photo. Bob Berta, our excellent photographer, lined us all up, squeezing us together as much as possible so that the depth of our group front-to-back would be as small as possible for the best possible focus. He had wanted to take the photo outside, where we could spread out more, but it was impossible. Bob climbed up on a tall ladder on the stage and took the photo from there. Bob was feeling way under the weather with a bad cold but came to take the promised photo anyway, and we are so grateful to him.

The first player on the program was Valarie Morris' student **Shelli Joye**, who first played some wonderful and very old Scottish hornpipes; then some central mainland Europe 9th Century Hungarian music, repeating the melody several times in different styles to represent the centuries from the 1500's to the 1800's; and a composition by Valarie Morris, "From the Peacock," from Valarie's book *Accordion Solos Collection 2001*. Shelli is quite an accomplished player and played with enviable confidence.

**Bob Smith's** mom, Esther Smith, was out in California for her annual visit, and Bob arranged to play for us while she was here. Bob works very hard perfecting difficult arrangements, and he does a great job. First he played "Nola," a perennial accordion favorite — but his performance of this difficult piece is different: He does not let the piece "run away" with him! He manages to keep the speed under control and even throughout, a very pleasant change from the way you most likely have heard the piece played before. He played equally beautiful renditions of *Pietro's Return* and *Dark Eyes*.

Then it was time for the "Open Mic." portion of the program. Although I don't recall the exact order of the players, a brave **new member** was one of the first to volunteer: **Michele Boddicker Scheffler**—playing (Cont.)

**NEXT MEETING 7 PM THURSDAY OCT. 10 MOOSE LODGE DALY CITY**

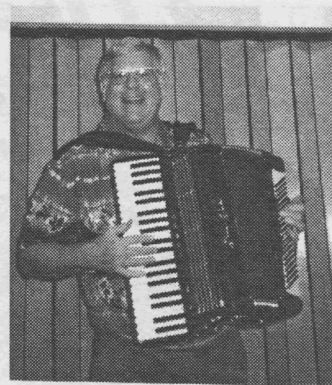
*button box!* Many of you already know Michele from various accordion conventions and Galla-Rini camp. She is the daughter of **Arlene Boddicker**, one of the country's foremost accordion teachers. Michele is an accomplished accordionist and teacher in her own right. Who would have suspected that she would take up the button box! She became intrigued with the button box through meeting Joe Smiell at Galla-Rini camp, and she signed up for this year's September camp. What she played for our meeting was what she had learned in only three days of camp! She played a couple of F row exercises and a waltz. I knew she would learn very fast because of her musical background, but I think she broke all records! In addition, she kept us all in stitches with her hilarious narration of what it was like being on the other side of the table—i.e. a total beginner instead of being the teacher. With regard to any beginner's performance "butterflies," she said *she* would tell *her* student to "get over it"—and tonight she found it is easier said than done! But she did it, and with grace, humor and total success! We are happy to welcome Michele as a brand new BAAC member.

Other "Open Mic." performers included Herb Meier, Ron Borelli, Bruce Metras, George Alves and John Marquette (duo), and of course, Dennis Stoscher. Every player played a different style and different music, for a great variety and lots of good music, fun and laughs.

Following "Open Mic." we had refreshments (provided by Jim Firpo in the absence this month of our refreshment gurus Fran and Dominic Benedetto). We thank Jim for filling the gap. We can always count on Jim who does countless jobs—both small and large—for the club. Along with refreshments we had a lively jam party that included at least two groups of people jamming until nearly 11:00 p.m. Moose Lodge was very accommodating in allowing us to stay well beyond the "normal" 10:00 p.m. VTK



**Bruce Metras**



**Herb Meier**



**Herb Meier, Michele Scheffler, Domenic Saso**



**Michele Scheffler, Dennis Stoscher, Anne Métais**



**Bob Smith & Mom Esther**



**Our Photographer,  
Bob Berta**



**Michele Boddicker Scheffler & Button Box  
(More Photos on Page 7)**



**Don't Miss October 10!!**

Our very special program will feature **Michele** [Pron. "Meekele"] **Corino and his Godfather Trio**, along with **Tom Cordoni** and (we hope!) **Ron Borelli**. **Kris Nelson** will also do some vocals, with Tom Cordoni on accordion.

Following is some **bio info on Mike Corino**, excerpted from "The History of Piedmont Emigration: Great Piedmontese Men Around the World."



**Mike Corino**

Michele Corino is a Piedmontese emigrant who became one of the most famous accordionists and light music conductors of Piedmont (Italy); now he is even the most famous of America. He attended primary school in the town of Castino. One day one of his sisters brought an accordion from San Francisco to Michele in Italy. Michele showed a natural bent for playing. He went on to study music and accordion. He captured the attention of Maestro Angelini, who recruited him for his orchestra, at that time one of the most famous in Turin. From there Michele made friends with Maestro Pavesio and Maestro Carlo Prati, composer of "Ciau Turin." The group, "Cetra," cut a series of disks. They created the orchestra "Gai Campagnoli" for Italian radio and television. These recordings spread throughout the world including America. When Michele went to San Francisco to visit his sister in 1947, the Italians there persuaded him to stay. There he met his bride Gloria, daughter of two Italians, and settled down. In San Francisco Michele became a conductor, and founded the Corino School of Music. He has participated in many, many official events and received many honors. Lawrence Mania, honorary

president of "Piedmontese People Around the World" in North Carolina, underlined how much Michele Corino contributed to the spread and enhancement of the great Italian and Piedmontese light music tradition, while keeping a remarkable typical element of Italian popular culture alive among emigrants. Michele was among five people awarded the international "Piedmontese People Around the World" prize at the Conference of the same name, which was held in November 1999. The prize is restricted to "those emigrants who honored their native country."

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The October meeting will also include our **annual honoring of board members and others who have put forth great effort to benefit the club**, along with our annual **party with extra-nice refreshments!** We'll hope to see you there!

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**Word Has It ...**

... that **Peter and Reno Di Bono's mom** has had some surgery and is on the mend.

... that **Walter Woodall** has also had some surgery and also is on the road to recovery.

We send best wishes for a rapid return to normal life for both these BAAC supporters.

... that the **BAAC Fun Band** is having its most active season ever, with a successful "gig" in Fairfax Park this past August, an upcoming one in the San Anselmo parade on October 6, and the Columbus Day (Italian Heritage Day) parade in San Francisco on October 13. The Fun Band now has about 15 regular members and would love to have **you** too!

## **A Tribute to Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini**

*By Rino Pucci*

Way back in the early thirties, when I was age nine, my mother took me to my first accordion lesson. The studio was an impressive Victorian located on Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. According to my uncle, Guido Simonini, a new accordion teacher had arrived in San Francisco from New York. His name was Anthony Galla-Rini.

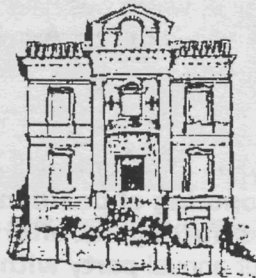
The first lesson and the many to come were devoted to learning to read musical notes. My first accordion was an 80-bass Cellini accordion, pink in color and Italian in origin.

I remained with Maestro Galla-Rini until he left to go East for higher achievements. He was then to be involved with the Detroit Symphony.

The years of study with Mr. Galla-Rini were the fulfillment of quite a repertoire beginning with "Neapolitan Nights," "Il Sirio," "Ho Detto Al Sole," and a college medley including Stanford, St. Mary's, and California. Early standards were: "Rose Room," "Santa Lucia," "Song of the Islands," "Alice Blue Gown," "Sharpshooters March," "The Old Spinning Wheel," "Tango Delle Rose," "Lonely Lane," "Hand Me Down My Walking Cane," "Golden Slippers," "Under the Double Eagle," "Mexicali Rose," "Nola," "Over the Clouds" (by Galla-Rini), "La Sorella," "Estudiantina," "Hungarian Dance No. 5" — to mention just a few! Most of these selections are included in my playing engagements to this day.

In conclusion, I would like to suggest to the new and upcoming accordionist to learn, to perfect, to memorize good musical selections, and in the long run you'll never have to worry about what to play when you are called on to do so.

Many thanks to Maestro Galla-Rini who not only taught me my first lesson in music and accordion playing, but also for his life-long contribution to the accordionists of our generation and of those to come. Thank you, Maestro Galla-Rini.



**Maestro  
Anthony Galla-Rini  
in earlier days**

## **Your Executive Board met ...**

... on Tuesday, 3 September 2002. We are just ending the fiscal year, so new money will be coming in soon from dues. Although a financial report could not be prepared in time for this board meeting, we are in sound financial shape, and balances are very close to last month's. The board confirmed the awarding of three scholarships recommended by the Scholarship Committee.

The board voted to allow Val to take up Fast Print's offer to format our newsletter for \$70 per hour (est. between 2 and 3 hours), should she find the need. The date for the picnic will most likely be either Saturday, July 12 or Sunday, July 13. Val will set it up as soon as possible.

The board amended our advertising policy to allow enclosing a flyer with the newsletter for \$10. Such flyers would advertise an event only, not merchandise.

### **BAAC Officers**

**President: Valerie T. Kieser**  
**(510) 531-4836** [vtkacc@value.net](mailto:vtkacc@value.net)

**Vice President: Frank Schlotter**  
**(510) 339-1163**

**Treasurer: Bob Pisani**  
**(650) 347-2559** [grnduster@aol.com](mailto:grnduster@aol.com)

**Secretary: Richard Schiller**  
**(510) 832-3002** [richards38@aol.com](mailto:richards38@aol.com)

### **Directors**

**Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707**

**Vince Cirelli (415) 467-2208**

**James Firpo (415) 648-3674**

**Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938**

### **BAAC Advertising Policy**

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$5.00 per issue. The charge for a business-card-size ad is \$5.00 per issue or \$50.00 per year; for a quarter-page ad, \$10.00 per issue; for a half-page ad, \$20.00 per issue; and for a full-page ad, \$35.00 per issue. The cost for ads placed by non-members is twice the above quoted prices. A flyer advertising an *event* may be included in the newsletter for \$10 for one issue

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[www.accordions.com/garydahl](http://www.accordions.com/garydahl)



**Accordionist Accompanies Famous  
Mormon Tabernacle Choir**

*Edited from article submitted by  
Jay M. Todd of Salt Lake City*

The Salt Lake City, Utah accordion community is still abuzz about the positive impact for the accordion world-wide, due to the September visit of nineteen-year-old Vietnamese classical accordionist Ms. Nguyen Trang (we would say Trang Nguyen), and her accompanying the world-renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir with her accordion during the Choir's weekly "Music and the Spoken Word" program, broadcast by over two thousand radio and TV stations and shortwave worldwide.

Winner of the internationally prestigious Hong Kong Competition for Young Asian Musicians and its \$20,000 first prize, Ms. Nguyen won over three other finalists: a soprano, a violinist, and a cellist—and was thus assured a professional engagement contract for a year to help launch a career. Chief adjudicator of the competition (of over 300 entries from over 20 countries) was Sir Neville Marriner, founder of the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. Ms. Nguyen's solo U.S. engagement was to perform a concert at the Assembly Hall on Temple Square in Salt Lake City on Saturday, Sept. 7, and then perform a solo and accompany the Mormon Tabernacle Choir during their half-hour program.

At her Saturday evening concert, Ms. Nguyen impressed an audience of 900 with her stellar performance of eleven difficult classical pieces.

Sunday morning at the Mormon Tabernacle on the half-hour program, and in front of the usual 5,000 international and national tourists, she played an abbreviated "Scene de Bal" by Hellmesberger (due to time constrictions), and then accompanied the Choir as they sang "Sweet and Low" (music by Barnby, words by Tennyson).

Ms. Nguyen was accompanied on this trip by her accordion professor Mr. Luu Quang Minh (we would say Minh Luu), who is also the deputy director of the Hanoi National Conservatory of Music. They were hosted for six days in Salt Lake City by Jay and Janet Todd of the Temple Square Concert Series Committee. They immediately struck a bond with Janet Todd, herself one of America's former accordion champions who previously toured the world and southeast Asia on a five-month tour under U.S. State Department auspices and is well known regionally for her accordion performances.

While in Salt Lake City, the Vietnamese guests also met with Paul Pasquali, creator of the Concerto digital accordion, which wowed Mr. Luu, who is a promoter of jazz studies at the Hanoi Conservatory. Mr. Pasquali, as many of you know, is also the founder of the very popular annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention. With these and others of the local accordion community encouraging them, the visitors indicated through interpreters their pride in seeing others who knew the accordion intimately.

But wait—there more! Before coming to the US.,

Trang and her professor communicated that they would like to know if there were universities in the U.S. that would accept the accordion as an instrument of study. So, following their Salt Lake City visit they flew to Detroit, for Jay Todd had arranged for them to meet with Peter Soave, world renowned accordionist and a teacher at Wayne State University. Peter and his wife Mady, herself a very gifted accordionist, hosted Ms. Nguyen and Mr. Luu for four days. Ms. Trang gave a mini recital before a panel of the music faculty at Wayne State University—and was unanimously awarded a four-year full tuition scholarship, pending a language proficiency test, and other normal requirements.

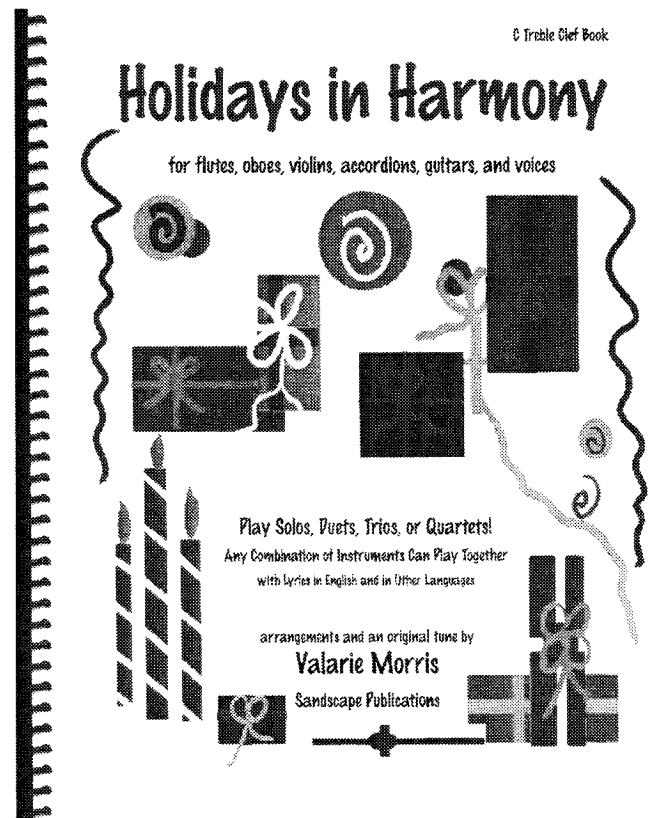
Maybe it's time to dream about the famous Mormon Tabernacle Organ becoming—the Mormon Tabernacle Accordion!

**Free-to-Members Workshop**

BAAC members are entitled to a second free workshop for 2002. The first was given last spring by Ron Borelli. Peter Di Bono has offered to give the second one, which will take place on a weekend day in November, exact date still to be determined. So, keep it in mind!

**New book by Valarie Morris**

You'll love this book! It contains holiday music from around the world, arranged to be played (or sung) in four parts — or, the songs can be played as solos, duets or trios. Valarie also offers the same book arranged for solo accordion. Val (Kieser) will have a limited supply of both of these books on hand at the upcoming BAAC meetings, or call her at (510) 531-4836. Price is \$20 for the 4-part book, \$16 for the solo accordion book.



***DUES ARE DUE FOR 2002-2003!!***

***BAAC Membership ...***

***Dues are \$25 per year, \$30 for a family***

***Send check to BAAC***

***P.O. Box 318175***

***San Francisco, CA 94131-8175***

***More Photos from the***



***September Meeting***

***Shelli Joye***



***Ron Borelli***

***John Marquette & George Alves***



***Who Is Playing Where ...***

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***Saturday, October 5 11:30-3:30***

***"Rotarion Bavarian Bash" Oktoberfest***

Dixon May Fairgrounds, 655 S. First St., Dixon, CA

(707) 678-5529

***Sunday, October 6 Noon-6:00***

***Lugano Swiss Bistro Oktoberfest***

3670 The Barnyard, Highway 1, Carmel, CA (831) 626-3779

***Fri.-Sat.-Sun. Oct. 11-12-13***

at Tyrolean Inn, 9600 Highway 9 in Ben Lomond.

For reservations/time schedule call (831) 336-5188

***Oct. 19 2-6 p.m.***

Little Switzerland, El Verano (Sonoma)

(707) 938-9990

***Mike Zampiceni***

Plays on Saturday nights at Di Cicco's Italian Restaurant

2509 Bascom Ave., San Jose

For reservations call (408) 377-5850

***The Internationals*** ([www.theinternationals.com](http://www.theinternationals.com))

***Oct. 4-5-6 Fort Mason Oktoberfest***

Buchanan St. & Marina Blvd, San Francisco

(408) 292-0291

***Oct. 11-12, & 18***

Teske's Germania, 261 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, San Jose

(408) 295-4484

***Button Box Camp September 2002***

***Heidelmann Lodge, Norden, CA***

Camp included BAAC members Chris and Tor Arild, Mary Ann Field, Val Kieser and brand new BAAC member Michele Boddicker Scheffler as students and, of course, Joe Smiell and Joseph and Sally Ann Smiell who put on the camp. Others came from other parts of California and the country. The kitchen crew was headed up by Glenda Cisney, who provided outstanding food and cuisine.

For each camp, Joe gets a "feel" for the group and then writes music expressly for that group. As he does with the ensembles, Joe stresses *phrasing, articulation and dynamics* so that, as we learn the notes, we also learn the play them musically (i.e. horizontally rather than vertically). This year's beginning students made tremendous progress and were even playing ensemble style, conducted by Joseph Smiell, and they did a tremendous job!

Michele Scheffler, as noted earlier in the article about the BAAC September meeting, surely set a new record in speed of learning button box. It was relatively simple for her to understand the general layout of the buttons because of her



extensive musical background.

Camp wasn't all work! 10-month-old Franz Joseph Smiell kept us in stitches with his antics. He holds the record for crawling the length of Heidelberg Lodge, and gets around very well on two feet while holding onto something—preferably someone's pant leg—and reaches for a button box whenever he has a chance. He even "helped" Joe give a button box class.



Wednesday afternoon is R&R time when everyone takes off for half a day. Some go hiking, some go to Reno, some (as Michele and Val did) drive around locally and visit places of interest, such as Donner Museum and Squaw Valley. In the evenings there was both live and recorded music, great food, wine, beer, and dancing. — and lots of laughter! Vtk

(Note: Joe Smiell's band will be playing every Friday evening in October at Shroeder's Café, 240 Front St., SF)

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### **BAAC's Music Groups** **The BAAC Ensemble**

... resumes practices on October 9, following a summer hiatus. Everyone is welcome! The schedule is the **second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month, 7:00 pm at Moose Lodge. It's a learning experience, great fun, and it's free! Music director is Joe Smiell; administrative director is Frank Montoro (650) 574-4757.

### **The BAAC Fun Band**

... is working on its program for the San Anselmo Parade on October 6 and the SF Italian Heritage Day (Columbus Day) parade on October 13. Our regular practices are on **the first and third Wednesday of the month**, and if there is a fourth Wednesday in the month, we practice that day too. Come and play with us! Our music director is Sharon Walters, and our administrative director is Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163.

### **ACE Ensemble**

... is back at work, getting ready for our next concert, at Waterford (Rossmoor) in Walnut Creek on November 18. We are also beginning work on our spring 2003 concert.

**All three of our music groups will play at the BAAC Christmas meeting/party on December 12!**

*Come and join in ...*

### **Bay Area Accordion Club**

Meets 7 p.m. the second Thursday of the month  
Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St. Daly City/Colma  
For information call Val (510) 531-4836  
Website: [www.baaccordionclub.org](http://www.baaccordionclub.org)

### **East Bay Accordion Circle**

Meets the second Thursday of the month  
1517 – 5<sup>th</sup> St., Berkeley. Bring your accordion!  
For information call (510) 548-2822

### **Accordion Club of the Redwoods**

Meets 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month  
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma  
For information call Harry (707) 838-2859

### **Golden State Accordion Club**

Meets 7 PM the second Tuesday of the month  
At Pietro's #2, 679 Merchant St. in Vacaville  
For information call (707) 864-2359

### **Good Time Accordion Club**

Meets 7 p.m. the second Wednesday  
of the month  
Community Center  
1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon  
For information call (209) 545-3603

### **South Bay Accordion Jam**

Meets 2:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month  
Seventh Day Adventist Church  
5265 Carter Ave., near Camden & Kooser

### **BAAC Ensemble Practice**

Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.  
Moose Lodge  
7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City  
For information call Frank (650) 574-4757

### **BAAC "Fun Band" Practice**

First and Third Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Moose Lodge  
7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City  
For information call Frank (510) 339-1163

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### **Accordion Teacher Listings** **San Francisco/North Peninsula**

Peter Di Bono  
Theory/Technique/Performance  
(415) 753-1502

Lou Soper  
Every Tuesday 3:00-6:30 p.m.  
Moose Club, Colma/Daly City  
(510) 841-6745

**Upcoming Events Not to be Missed!**

Sharon Walters  
All levels (415) 621-8284

**North Bay**  
Steve Albini  
Marin/Sonoma  
Private (415) 897-4131

Bart Beninco  
Accordion and Piano  
Petaluma (707) 769-8744

Marjorie Konrad  
Button Box, Piano Accordion  
& Chromatic  
Santa Rosa (707) 539-5308

**East Bay**  
Valarie Morris  
Group & Private; Theory, Technique,  
Composition; all levels/ages  
(510) 222-8442

Lou Jacklich  
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Arranging & Chords  
(510) 317-9510

**Peninsula & South Bay**  
Lynn Ewing  
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(650) 365-1700  
  
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(916) 966-8384

**Correspondence**  
Gary Dahl  
Technique/Musicianship  
Mel Bay Arranger/Author  
Phone/FAX (253) 770-9492  
[www.accordions.com/garydahl](http://www.accordions.com/garydahl)

**Birthday Bash for Anthony Galla-Rini's 99th!**

January 17-18, 2003 Clarion Hotel Bay View  
in San Diego

On Friday late afternoon/evening, there will be a short rehearsal for the accordionists volunteering to perform at the Saturday evening dinner honoring Mr. Galla-Rini.

The Maestro has graciously agreed to conduct this group, and he will probably want another rehearsal sometime on Saturday as well. Anyone with any ensemble experience is invited to join in and play with this group. However, you DO NOT have to play in order to attend the birthday dinner celebration on Saturday evening. **Tentative schedule:**

**Friday, Jan. 17:** 5:00 p.m. Registration; 7:00 p.m. ATG Birthday Orchestra rehearsal.

**Saturday, Jan. 18:** 9:00 a.m. ATG Birthday Orchestra rehearsal; visit and possible concert at NAMM in Los Angeles; 6:00 p.m. Social Hour; 7:00 p.m. Galla-Rini Birthday Banquet; 8:00 p.m. Concert performance by Birthday Orchestra and others. **Sunday, Jan. 19:** free for sightseeing and departure. For more details and the reservation form, visit [www.accordion.scom/atg](http://www.accordion.scom/atg) or see Val for a copy of the form.

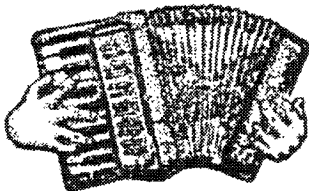
**A Special visit to the Bay Area for BAAC by long-time BAAC member Sev Garcia**

Sev, who now lives in Porterville, will come up to give us a special 30-minute presentation in the second half of our **April 10, 2003 BAAC meeting**, where he will play Jazz and Big Band for us in grand style.

**In addition to the above,** Sev will stay a couple of days and give a **special workshop** on Saturday, April 12 on "**How to Memorize.**" Anyone who has ever attended one of Sev's workshops already knows what a pro he is and how interesting and productive his workshops are. Details will follow in upcoming issues, but **mark your 2003 calendar now!**

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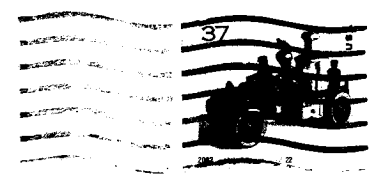
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**(Submissions to BAAC PAGE are due 2 weeks after the 1st Wednesday of the month)**

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