



# San Francisco Accordion Club

## JANUARY 2013

# NEWSLETTER

**Jan. 20, 2013**

### **Renee de la Prade & Whiskey and Women**

The Women are: Renee de la Prade, Joan Wilson, and Rosie de la Prade. Whiskey and women has a wide variety of folk influences and loves to play acoustic whenever possible. That said, they like to rock! They play Cajun music, old-time music, rocking Irish folk songs, tin-pan alley songs, and original folk-punk. Foot stomps are key with this band. So are harmony vocals. So is dancing while they play. Renee and Joan met at a gig, and realized that it was ridiculously fun to play music together. Rosie is Renee's little sister, a veteran of the Oakland indie art scene. Renee plays with a Celtic/zydeco band called Culann's Hounds. Joan used to play with a fabulous 5-piece all-woman country band called the Whoreshoes.

**Jet Black Pearl**, formerly known as Jetty Swart, a native of the Netherlands, was taking off in a career as a graphic designer when she fell in love with an old accordion, covered with dust, in a hidden corner of a second hand shop in Prague. She took it home, mostly for its flowered bellows and its woodcraft, but when she tried to play it, she discovered a beautiful melancholic sound. And her fingers seemed to like its mother-of-pearl keys much more than the plastic computer ones they were so used to... She now lives in Paris and San Francisco (not at the same time), and sings stories about slugs in love, criminal gurus, and hallucinating butterflies, while beatboxing and playing the accordion, loop station, toy piano and flute (almost at the same time).



*The Mad Maggies*

**Diana Strong** (left) began studying classical piano at age seven, and discovered the accordion in 2006. She plays and composes in a wide variety of styles, influenced by folk music from many corners of the world. Her duo project, Sweet Moments of Confusion released a debut album in 2012. She is also the accordionist for the Red Hot Chachkas (klezmer/fusion) and you can find her performing at Café Divine in SF every second Thursday, and at Saul's Deli in Berkeley most Saturdays.

**Skyler Fell** is the proprietress and repairwoman at The Accordion Apocalypse Repair Shop in San Francisco. In addition, she is a smokin' accordionist and a molten singer, playing with the Hobo Goblins and also fronting her own ensemble, The Tumbleweed Time Machine Trio.

**Maggie Martin** is the accordionist of The Mad Maggies. The Mad Maggies are musicians from the San Francisco Bay Area who play roots-driven, world rock, rowdy folk fusion with a dash of hot pepper and a swig of slivovitz — they kick up some dust.

*(see page 4 for more photos of the performers)*

## DECEMBER 2012

REPORT ON MEETING OF SF ACCORDION CLUB, Sunday Dec 16, 2012

**The Jam Group** played the welcome music, and three seasonal tunes to kick off the regular meeting. Wonderful music and the audience sang along on favorites like *Baby Face* and *White Christmas*. Lynn Ewing opened the meeting and one visitor introduced himself as a new accordion player and became a member - **Ed Salvador**. **Massimo Sciaroni**, a young player who is taking lessons from Gus Greyhosky, played *O Come All Ye Faithful*.

**Bob Smith** played four of his own arrangements, singing to *Perfidia* and *White Christmas*. He ended with the Intermezzo from Mascagni's opera *Cavalleria Rusticana*. This piece often makes it into lists of the most beautiful music ever, and Bob certainly did it justice. Bob brought a dozen copies of each of his arrangements which were immediately snapped up to the chagrin of a few unlucky latecomers.

The duo of **Taffy Steffen** and **Jim Shoemaker** played several Christmas-themed tunes, beginning with *Blue Christmas* and *Christmas Waltz*. They played the Willie Nelson tune *Pretty Paper*, *Christmas Island*, and finished with *Christmas Time Is Here* by Vince Guaraldi, better known as the theme music to A Charlie Brown Christmas. The audience responded with a huge ovation. Taffy is active in community band and theater, and Jim plays for the Alpentänzer Schuhplattler dancers of Sacramento, and occasionally for ACE as he did today. It is a long drive from the Sacramento area where both Taffy and Jim live, so we were especially grateful to have them play for the Club.

During the break, there was the door prize and the raffle. The wine was donated by Doug and Kay Patterson. Kay plays for occasions at the family winery, and she played with the jam group today. We also had one more prize – a full color picture book of The Great Morgani, donated by Frank Lima, the Great Morgani himself.

After the break, **the Great Morgani** made a characteristic entrance in an impossibly riotous costume. He introduced himself from behind his mask as Santa's oldest elf. After he got his accordion out from the Santa-approved garbage sac carrier, we could see that the keyboard was cov-

ered with black material. Wearing gloves to boot, this was how he played *Jingle Bells* in a seasonally-adjusted minor key (the Santa Cruz version), zipping along too. Frank also played a medley of *Frosty the Snowman*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and *Musetta's Waltz* from Puccini's La Boheme. It worked amazingly well. After a few more jokes about his four Santa suits, the Great Morgani finished with a medley that included *Silver Bells* and a Jazz Waltz in minor keys, *Under Paris Skies*, the famous tenor aria *E lucevan le stelle* from Puccini's Tosca, ending with *I Feel Happy*. It was an amazing performance by a consummate entertainer.

Before the San Francisco Accordion Ensemble (ACE) played, two of their members, Peter Di Bono and Lynn Ewing, brought us a surprise kind of Christmas. Peter sang Walking Round in Women's Underwear which could be grounds for arrest in another setting. The all-important music was *Winter Wonderland*. Then Lynn sang *Santa Baby* while Peter accompanied her.

Joseph Smiell Jr. led the performance of ACE, beginning with a Polka composition written by his father, Joe Smiell Sr. Their performance included three pieces from The Nutcracker: Overture, *March* and *Trépak* (Russian Dance), a winter tune supplied by Grigoriy Krumik: *Carol of the Bells*, and another arrangement by Joe Sr. of *White Christmas* that features a wonderful, long introduction before finally getting to the familiar tune. With Joseph Jr.'s direction of the many parts, the ensemble comes close to a full-orchestral sound. Finally, they ended with a medley that included *Adeste Fideles (Oh Come All Ye Faithful)*, *March of the Kings* (an 18th century Provencal folk tune often associated with the incidental music composed by Bizet for Daudet's play: *The Girl from Arles*), and *Jingle Bells*.

It was yet another memorable meeting.



*Jim Shoemaker and Taffy Steffen*



*Peter Di Bono and Lynn Ewing*



*Frank Lima*



*Bob Smith*



*Jam Band*



*Massimo Sciaroni*

## PLAY FOR US!

Playing warm up or during the break is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. Although our featured performers are scheduled almost all the way through June, we have lots of opportunities during the first part of the meeting for people who would like to play a short 10 or 15 minute set, or even just a couple of songs. Contact Dominic Palmisano at 415-587-4423 or email [accord47@gmail.com](mailto:accord47@gmail.com), or Lynn Ewing, 650-453-3391, or [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com)



*Jet Black Pearl*

## Scholarship Information

Twice a year, our club awards scholarships to accordion students who have a financial need and demonstrate dedication to pursuing their study of the accordion. Students must study with a teacher who is an SFAC member in good standing. Completed applications should be returned to Mike Zampiceni, 220 Tasman Dr, #106, Sunnyvale, CA 94089. Scholarship Guidelines and application forms may be obtained from current club secretary, Mike Zampiceni at: [eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net)

### Please Remember!

To leave our meeting hall at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Clean up food or drink spills and recycle all trash.

## ACCORDION EVENTS

**AccordionUSA.com** is an information packed web site featuring articles about worldwide and local events music, theater and art. Check it out!

## SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card-size) for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$10 per issue or \$100 per year.

**Monthly ad prices for members:** quarter-page ad \$25.00; half-page ad \$50, and a full-page ad \$100. Non-member rates are double the member rates. A flyer (no larger than 5" x 8") advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members.

## **PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

Happy New Year to all the members and friends of the SF Accordion Club! Hope this year features lots of great tunes, great friends, and great squeezin'!

Your Board has been investigating the roots of the original San Francisco Accordion Club, which we believe was founded in approximately 1914, which means we will be coming up on the 100th anniversary next year! In the meantime - we thought it might interest you to read some recollections of our Vice President, Dominic Palmisano, one of the founders of the present Accordion club, which was originally named BAAC.

We're BAAC!... The San Francisco Accordion Club was revived at City Hall during the time when a petition was presented to make the accordion the official instrument of San Francisco. It was an exciting and entertaining day, many other advocates for their favorite instrument were also present... cable car bell ringers, fog horn players, even guitar enthusiast who were pronouncing that Billy Graham had brought their instrument back in favor during the '50s and '60s in our city. Nevertheless, the accordion was the issue and was given the status of the instrument of the day. On that eventful occasion, 5 accordion enthusiasts among a lot of others, showed up to support the petition, Walter Traverso and his best friend Rusty Bartoli, Jim Holliday and his close accordion buddy Lou Soper, and Dominic Palmisano who knew both Walter and Rusty from his roots growing up in SF. By chance these men all started talking to each other - and then, Walter invited this new group of friends to his house where they played the accordion a little, chatted about their musical backgrounds, and also talked emotionally about what a terrific day they had just witnessed at City Hall. As the conversation gained momentum about the possible impact of having the accordion being chosen for the honor, they decided to start a club, naming it the Bay Area Accordion Club and coined the phrase We're BAAC. This name had a dual meaning, one being to acknowledge the renaissance of the accordion in 1990 and the

other, the humorous side of the "aching backs" from playing such a powerful and heavy instrument!

Within days they started gathering what was needed to make the first public meeting happen. Jim found a little banquet room at Joe's of Woodlake, Walter and Rusty, both knowing most of the accordion players in the area, started making contact with them. Lou lead the charge to bring it together and Dominic, who just purchased a computer, wanted to create a newsletter. The first meeting of the BAAC was in May of that year with 17 in attendance - a week later a newsletter was sent out, and copies were distributed to Gordon Piatanesi of Colombo & Sons, who generously provided a place to practice when the first accordion orchestra was soon started. Copies of the newsletter were also distributed to Vince Cerilli Accordion Sales and Repair, who got the word out through his daily contacts. Within 2 months they had outgrown their original meeting place and moved to a new location called The House Of Parties. The charter members of BAAC were: Jim Holliday, Lou Soper, Walter Traverso, Joe Catalano, Reno Pucci, Clyde Forsman, Leo Lembi, Rusty Bartoli, Frank Montoro, Tom Serafini, George Poli, John Fiore, Florence Del Turco, Michelle Gallandre and Dominic Palmisano.

Then, Walter and Rusty organized the first annual BAAC picnic - which was beyond anyone's expectation - the Elk's Club in Mountain View was packed! There were other key members like Frank Montoro, who stepped up and carried his share of getting the club on track during the early days. Within a year's time the Club was firmly on its feet and made a strong contribution in starting accordion clubs, everywhere. As the years passed the members realized that we were not a new club but the "reincarnation" of a very old one that started back in the early 1900s. Thus, the membership decided to change our name to SFAC... yes, we're back!!

## Nearby Club Meetings

### Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.  
Hermann Sons Hall • 860 Western, Petaluma, CA  
\$3 admission donation Contact: Tony Mustaro—  
President (707) 318-0474; [dcdacapo@gmail.com](mailto:dcdacapo@gmail.com)

### Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359  
[gsaccordionclub.net/firms.com](http://gsaccordionclub.net/firms.com)

*The Vacaville Chapter* meets monthly on the second  
Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at Pietro's No. 2 at  
679 Merchant Street, Vacaville, CA 95688  
707 448-4588

*The Humboldt Chapter* meets monthly on the third  
Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403  
Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta.

*The Sacramento Chapter* meets monthly on the fourth  
Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401  
Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. Contact for all three  
Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

### Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 7 p.m. at  
Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave,  
Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603

**Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)**  
meets monthly on the first Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at  
Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas, Blvd, off Hwy  
80, Granite Bay, CA. Contact: Jerry Choate (530)  
345-2031

### Silicon Valley Accordion Club (SVAC)

meets 1st Sun. of each month at Harry's Hofbrau, 390  
Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, corner of Kiely.  
1 p.m. \$5, under 16 - no charge.

## Accordion Instruction

Bart Beninco (707) 769-8744  
Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707  
David Chelini (916) 428-8764  
Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502  
Lynn Ewing (650) 453-3391  
Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952  
Lou Jacklich (510) 317-9510  
Marjorie Konrad (707) 539-5308  
Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896  
Vincent Rinaldi (415) 824-7609  
Big Lou (Linda Seekins) (415) 468 5986  
Joe Simoni (650) 867-1122  
Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (650) 731-6010  
Richard Yaus (650) 832-1740  
Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579  
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## SFAC Officers

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(650) 453-3391 [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com)

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## SFAC Directors

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gmail.com](mailto:threehummingbirds@gmail.com) phone 415-377-9266

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## Newsletter

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**Join us on (almost every!) third sunday of the month  
at the Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco**

**Club & Musical Meeting • next meeting Jan. 20 @ 2 p.m.  
and come to the Jam Session at 1:15**

**DIRECTIONS:**

From 101 traveling either North or South, take the Oyster Point exit. Turn right onto Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right onto Gull Drive, just before Marina Blvd.) Continue past the gate house to the sign Oyster Point Yacht Club. There is plenty of parking and ramp access.  
Visit us online @ [www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)

**SFAC Membership is**

\$30.00 per year for individual or family.  
Meeting admission is \$6 per member & \$8 per guest. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Mike Zampiceni, PO box 62484, Sunnyvale, CA 94088  
NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you wish.

**Newsletter of the  
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