



San Francisco Accordion Club
January 2014
NEWSLETTER

Join us on
January 19, 2014
At 2 p.m.
RENE SEVIERI

Meet **Rene Sevieri**. His singing and accordion playing are deeply rooted in his Italian heritage, but his music repertoire has been influenced by many bands and styles over the years. Rene recently played for an olive harvest in the Carmel Valley for 7 1/2 hours straight, without taking a break, and he never repeated a song.

Rene started taking accordion lessons in 1963 at the young age of 8 from **Michele Corino** at North Beach Music in San Francisco. He played his first professional gig at the age of 12 for a fashion show at the Italian Village in North Beach. Right before he graduated from Saint Ignatius High School in 1973, Rene formed a band called **Hang Ten and The Surfmen**. They toured most of the military bases and car shows playing surf music while Rene continued playing for weddings and dinner dances whenever the band wasn't booked.

In 1997 he quit playing professionally because his business was flourishing, and he wanted to spend more time with his wife and three young sons.



Rene sold his business two years ago and is presently semi-retired with time to play the accordion on a regular basis again. Also, about 5 years ago, while in Hawaii, he purchased a ukulele and has been playing it ever since.



Some cuts from Rene's latest CD (Canzoni di Babbo) can be heard on his YouTube page:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/sevieri55>

Big Lou, the Accordion Princess, fell passionately in love with the accordion 25 years ago. The love affair has never dimmed.



From the waltzes of France to beer-drinking songs from Germany, from Polish Polkas to Norteno Corridos, Big Lou plays it all.

Big Lou was Ms. September in the 2012 Accordion Babes Calendar. She also plays with the *Baguette Quartette*, a San Francisco Bay Area group that plays music that was heard in Paris between 1920 and 1940 on street corners, in cafes, and in popular dance halls.

At this month's meeting, she will be playing with **Kit Robberson** who specializes in early bowed instruments, specifically vielle and violas da gamba. She studied at The University of Texas in Austin, where she became involved with performing, teaching, and promoting early music.

In California, Kit has performed on viola da gamba with the **San Francisco BATS** improv comedy troupe. She studied viola da gamba with **Jordi Savall** and **Rosamund Morley**, and has recorded with **Heliotrope** on the Koch label.

We are pleased that our San Francisco Accordion Club President, **Lynn Ewing** will be playing for us in January.

Lynn was born and raised in San Diego, California, where she started playing accordion at age seven. Later, Lynn directed five accordion bands and taught more than a hundred young children to play accordion with the **Robert Mitchell Accordion Studio**. Lynn received certification in the Orff Method of Music Instruction and taught as the Music Specialist at El Granada Elementary School for several years.

Currently Lynn plays and entertains with the wonderful **AbsolutAccord**, led by **Richard Yaus**, who performed for us at our December meeting.

Lynn also teaches private accordion students and devotes a lot of time to the health and growth of SFAC.



The program started splendidly with long-time member and former ACE ensemble player **Bob Smith**, who rather somberly stated that this may well be his last performance for our club. We're hoping that this isn't the case, but we've appreciated Bob's performances over the years.



Bob was dressed in a seasonal red shirt that his mother made for him. He shared "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star,"

which was a hymn composed in 1597 by Philipp Nicolai as harmonized by Johann Sebastian Bach.

This is a very placid and stoic harmonization so emblematic of the Baroque period. Bob played very elongated phrases expressively and beautifully. He also played and sang the iconic "White Christmas," including the seldom heard verse. Bob is a dedicated musicologist, and has bestowed many educational materials upon us over the years both as handouts and within the newsletter. He has also written a book called "Fingering the Accordion," which was endorsed by Anthony Galla-Rini.

Our next performer, **Scott Anderson**, is a relatively new member, and gets the perseverance award for studying with **Lou Jacklich** for 15 years! He started his portion of the program by playing a piece from the Philippines called **Dahil Salyo** that means "Because of You," which he dedicated to his wife Camilla who is originally from the Philippines.



The song was performed by **Nat King Cole** at the

Aranta Coliseum in Quezon City in 1961. Scott dedicated his second piece, the German *Fur Elise*, to **Richard Yaus** for his outstanding generosity in running the Orchestra Program in 2013. Scott ended with *The Girl from Ipanema*, composed by Antonio Carlos Jobim after he saw a beautiful woman walking in the seaside neighborhood of Ipanema near Rio de Janeiro.

When our next performer took the stage, we knew that his program would probably be anything other than traditional, considering his attire that featured multi-colored tennis shoes. Then again, eccentric **Aaron Seeman** (aka **Duckmandu**) is a founding member, arranger, and vocalist with San Francisco's Punk Rock Orchestra.



Aaron is a quality player and composer as exemplified in his performance for us and his numerous creative compositions. His first piece was a lively klezmer song called *A Broken Life*. He then emphasized atypical musical forms from Sweden for his next pieces. In Sweden, the polska (yes, polska, not polka) music

tradition is continuous, "with tunes and styles passed down through families, relatives, and neighbors." He followed with another polska that sounded like a lively march. Then he played a Swedish Christmas song and the traditional American Christmas song of "*Oh Holy Night*." He finished with his own composition of "Itty Bitty Snitty Little Frenchman" from his Duck-Tempered Clavier series of compositions, featuring rather whimsical songs in all 24 major and minor keys.

Our first featured group was **AbsolutAccord**, our premier bay area seven-piece accordion group conceived and directed by **Richard Yaus**. The other members of the group are **Lynn Ewing, Randy Hicks, David Perry, Joe Simoni, Norma Zonay**, and **Marian Kelly** on the bass.

DECEMBER MEETING, Cont'd

This is what excellent accordion playing is all about – whether from the entire ensemble or each individual performer. The group exudes dynamic excellence that makes their performance travel down a musical highway that embodies impeccable synchronization, shimmering brightness and crispness, articulation, and precision.

They played *Magnificent Seven* (and it was truly magnificent), *Latin-American Impressions*, *Gladiolus Rag*, *It's Only a Paper Moon*, *Mattinata*, *Jalousie* and *Chattanooga Choo Choo* before the break. Richard, who also arranges the music, announced a new Orchestra program starting in March and a special one-day Bass Accordion workshop in February.



After an intermission where Christmas cookies and goodies were plentiful, **AbsolutAccord** continued their performance with *The Skaters Waltz*, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, *Malaguena*, *Jazz Pizzicato*, and *Manhattan*. They closed the program with a musical medley that included songs from "Annie Get Your Gun" and "Oklahoma".

Our second featured performance was **Steve Albin** and **Tatiana Semichastnaya**, who played their “passion and fire” Italian music fused with jazz and world rhythms. Steve is a multi-instrumentalist and singer well-known in our area for his stellar musicianship and entertainment ability. Tatiana, originally from Russia, has performed as an accordionist in the Las Vegas Cirque du Soleil show. Steve’s cousin, **Amanda Albin**, joined them on drums. Amanda is still

only in high school, but is already a professional-grade drummer.



The trio gave us an up-tempo, scintillating performance. Steve and Tatiana, who both played Roland electronic accordions, opened with *Brazil*, in which Steve sang. Steve sings very well and strongly, and is fortunate because he knows the lyrics to many songs. As a matter of fact, he sang every song on the program. Additionally, he also speaks Italian, so this obviously helps him to sing so many Italian songs, such as *Al Di La*, which was their second piece. *Sway*, a rhythmically energetic and intense Latin piece was next, and the performance was top-drawer. They closed with a Christmas medley which included *I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm*, *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*.

Condolences

We would like to extend our sincere sympathy to long time club member and ACE Accordionist Mary Alice Eldon, whose husband, Dr. Dave Eldon, passed away recently. Cards can be sent to Mary Alice at 1004 Edgewood Rd, Redwood City, CA 94062. Funeral mass and Celebration of his life will be held at St. Matthias Catholic Church, 1685 Cordilleras Rd, Redwood City at 11 AM on Friday, Jan 17.

Founding Member - Jim Holliday By Jean M. Butler

Jim Holliday is one of the five original founders of the **San Francisco Accordion Club**, along with **Rusty Bartoli, Walter Traverso, Lou Soper** and **Dominic Palmisano**. Jim's sweetie and devoted partner, **Evelyn Baulch**, was a quiet but important part of that founding and a stalwart fan of the Accordion Club from the beginning.

Growing up in Chicago, Jim often went to Vaudeville shows and listened to the radio. "It was a gentler time back then," he said. He would listen to accordion music on the radio, and became fascinated by the sound of it. "When I was a little kid, I had two obsessions: flying and the accordion," he said. But he had never actually seen the instrument. One day he was with his family at a picnic in the country, and coming from the woods was the sound of an accordion. Captivated, he walked until he found the source of the sound, a trio of musicians playing at another picnic. One of them was an accordionist. "I sat there against a tree and listened all day. I told myself that I would play it some day."

That day was long in coming. Accordions were expensive even then. But luck was on his side, and one day, while he was working as a swimming instructor for a swanky club in Chicago, a club member who was in the trucking business started up a conversation with Jim about music. When Jim mentioned he was saving for an accordion the man said he had a barn full of accordions a client had never paid for. Fifty dollars later, Jim had his first accordion. He started taking lessons right away, making up for lost time and practicing incessantly, stopping only when Pearl Harbor was bombed and everyone was signing up to join the army.

One night he was walking by a bar in Chicago when he saw a picture of an accordionist who was the featured musician inside - Art Van Damme who was 19 and playing around town. "That guy made some sound with an accordion! *Nobody* knew how he did it! Art Van Damme became an accordion hero to Jim. and an inspiration for his own playing.

Eventually Jim realized his other dream, that of flying, and became an airline pilot. He began flying

around the world and loved it. When Jim retired, he and Evelyn connected again after a brief, but never forgotten, meeting 25 years previously. Jim brought the love of accordion into Evelyn's life, and Evelyn brought him to the world of dancing. Dancing and accordion became a magic combination for them, but something was missing.

"I was dying to talk with somebody about the accordion," he said. One day they met Lou Soper, an accordionist (and soon-to-be founder of the Accordion Club) and his girlfriend Mary Casey. Jim talked of his longing to meet other accordionists. He was in luck: Lou had friends in San Francisco who played also. Soon there were others he could play with and talk to about the accordion, most of them Italians. Before too long they began talking about starting a club. "Every Italian accordionist knew some other Italian guy that wanted to hear the accordion," he said. He knew the owner of a restaurant in San Mateo where everyone could meet and made all the arrangements. Their first meeting had twenty-five people, and the club soon grew.

The Accordion Club has brought Jim immense joy throughout the years. He loves the players, he loves the music and he loves the company of his friends who feel the same way. "The thing that holds the club together is the relationships," said Jim. Evelyn added, "When you have friends that are accordion players you have friends for life."

Jim worries about the future of the accordion—"None of that rock and roll stuff! There's nothing like listening to Begin the Beguine. Why doesn't everyone love that?"—but was reassured when hearing that children and young people adore the instrument these days. Jim was born in the same year as Ronald Reagan. "So when you toast Reagan you can toast me too!" he said.

Jim's health has prevented him from attending meetings recently, which for him is a tremendous loss, but perhaps more of a loss for the club, who continue to miss his presence and his passion for all things accordion.

**Two-In-One:
Bass Accordion & Accordion Ensemble Workshop**
Saturday, February 8, 2014 from 10:30 AM until about 3:30 PM



For Registration Form or questions about qualifications,
call Richard Yaus at (650) 832-1740 or
e-mail ryaus@earthlink.net.
Or go to: www.absolutaccord.com



Location:

Pelican Cove Clubhouse, 1 Pelican Lane, Redwood Shores, CA 94065

Why Two-In-One?

This workshop is intended for any accordion player interested in playing in an ensemble. The focus will be on the bass accordion and the fundamentals of ensemble playing. So we'll need Bass Accordion participants AND other accordionists to join in and form an ensemble to make the experience complete. All participants, even those playing bass, should bring their "regular" accordions along.

The Workshop will be directed by **Richard Yaus**, the leading force behind the successful accordion ensemble **AbsolutAccord** and the Accordion Orchestra Project in 2013. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to get a sneak-peak of the Accordion Orchestra Project in March and April 2014.

Music parts and bass accordions will be provided at the Workshop.

- All participants must be able to read music.
- Ability to play at a level equivalent to Palmer Hughes Accordion Course Book Number 5 or Sedlon 3A or higher.
- Should be comfortable playing scales and chords in the keys of C-major/minor, G-major/minor, F-major/minor, D-major/minor, B-flat-major, A-major/minor, E-flat-major, E-major/minor, etc.
- Basic familiarity with the bass clef if you're interested in the bass accordion.
- An understanding of music terminology, music notation, time signatures, articulation, and the ability to translate these into your music playing.
- Understanding of bellow techniques helpful; instruction will be given on advanced use of bellows.

Please bring a sturdy music stand and your regular accordion to the Workshop.

Bass accordions will be provided. Or, if you have one please bring it along. No prior ensemble/orchestra playing skills are required, but if you've played with others before that's a great plus.

This event is endorsed by the **San Francisco Accordion Club (SFAC)** and the **Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)**.

San Francisco Bay Area Accordion Orchestra Project II

Rehearsals - Saturdays March 1, 15, 22, and
April 5, 2014 from 10 AM to 2:30 PM
Final Rehearsal - Saturday, April 12, 2014



PERFORMANCE at SFAC
Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 2 PM

For Registration Form or questions about qualifications, call (650) 832-1740 or send an e-mail to ryaus@earthlink.net. Or go to: www.absolutaccord.com

The Project will be directed by **Richard Yaus**, the leading force behind the successful accordion ensemble **AbsolutAccord** and the first Accordion Orchestra Project in 2013. The goal is to bring accordionists together to create a one-of-a-kind orchestra experience that will conclude with a performance at the San Francisco Accordion Club (SFAC).

You must be able to attend at least three of the first four rehearsals; attendance is mandatory at Final Rehearsal and the SFAC performance.

Proposed music pieces:

- “**A Media Luz**” (Tango) by Edgardo Donato
- “**Those Were The Days**”, a popular 60’s tune
- “**Fiesta Mexicana**”, a fun and upbeat Medley
- “**A Walk In The Black Forest**”, another famous 60’s melody
- Other fun and exciting pieces may be introduced depending on overall rehearsal progress and capabilities.

Music parts will be provided. There is no cost associated with attending or performing. The rehearsal site is located close to Hillsdale Shopping Mall and public transportation in San Mateo; the venue also provides plenty of parking:

Laurel Elementary School Library
316 36th Avenue, San Mateo, CA

This event is endorsed by the **San Francisco Accordion Club (SFAC)** and the **Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)**.

There are events happening all over the US.
Check out AccordionUSA.com for all kinds of cool festivals and performances.

Be sure to **Save the Date** for the 2014 National Accordion Association Convention: **March 5-9, 2014!**

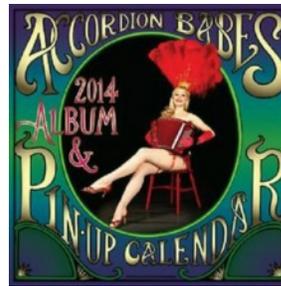
As always, it promises to be packed with informative workshops, exciting concerts with extraordinary musicians, reunions with friends and new friends to meet, and just plain fun.

It will be held again in Plano, Texas, this time at the Southfork Hotel.

For further information:
natlaccordion@sbcglobal.net

Accordion Babes Calendar for SALE

It is that time again when the newest, coolest and most awesome calendar is for sale! Purchase yours at the upcoming meeting and help spread the word. Many of the BABES in this calendar are members of our club and most all have played for us at one time or another.



Scholarship Information

Scholarship Applications are due in MARCH to be awarded in April. 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.

Applications can be obtained by emailing:
Mike.Zampiceni@eclecticguy@comcast.net
and should be returned to him at:
220 Tasman Dr, #106, Sunnyvale, CA 94089

Performing Around the Bay

Steve Balich • North Bay
www.stevebalichband.com

Ron Borelli • San Mateo
rborelli@aol.com,
www.ronborelli.com

Renée de la Prade
Culann's Hounds, San Francisco
www.sfhounds.com

Richard Denier • Carmel
rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono • San Francisco
www.peterdibono.com

Reno Di Bono • South Bay
ourhike@aol.com
www.italianaccordion.com

William De Michelis • South Bay
wdd777@comcast.net

Joe Domitrowich • South Bay
www.capricious-accordion.com or
www.alpinersusa.com

Due Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano) San
Francisco www.eurocafemusic.com or
zighi@sonic.net

Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobelins Oakland
www.myspace.com/hobogobelins

Ed Gorzynski, Jr. • East Bay
edspolkas@yahoo.com

Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers
kirschner@aol.com
www.klezmakers.com

Big Lou, aka Linda Seekins • San Francisco
www.accordionprincess.com

Rob Reich • East Bay & San Francisco
robbyreichmusic@gmail.com
www.robreich.com

Diana Strong • Pacifica
dianajstrong@gmail.com
<http://www.dianastrong.w>
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accordion/Home.html

Tangonero
<http://tangonero.com>

Whiskey and Women •
www.whiskeyandwomenmusic.com
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You Tube to view videos

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eclecticguy@comcast.net



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; halfpage 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.

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 May 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, or **Lynn Ewing**, 650- 453-3391, or ewinglynn@gmail.com

ACCORDION EVENTS

ATG FESTIVAL COMES to San Francisco - July 23-26 2014 By Joan Sommers

The Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) President Betty Jo Simon invites everyone to attend the 74th Annual Festival which will be held at the Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel in Burlingame. The featured guest artists will be Stas Vangelvski and Frank Petrilli.

The ATG was founded by several men, but it was the vision of Anthony Galla-Rini and Sydney B. Dawson from the West Coast who really set it in motion and made it a reality. The ATG and the AAA are National Organizations working for the advancement of all aspects involving the accordion, whether it be piano or button, classical or entertainment, free-bass or stradella.

While the word “Teachers” is included in the ATG title, members do not have to be teachers or professional musicians to be members. The goals of the organization are to serve as many different accordionists as possible, including young and old, professional and amateurs, players and admirers of the instrument, and, of course, those who teach the instrument.

The ATG does hold competitions during its Annual Festival held each summer, but it also does much more! There are categories for those who wish to play for a private critique of their playing as well as for those who are competing to see how they rank alongside other players, or even to represent the USA in the Coupe Mondiale (World Competition) held by the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes, the world organization in which the ATG has always been an active member.

It is becoming ever more important for accordionists to embrace all kinds of music and to use other instrumentalists

and vocalists in their groups. And these groups, from duo to large ensembles and everything in between, may select their own music; not all categories have required repertoire. Some categories have trophies and a bit of prize money; others have certificates of participation. The whole idea is one of sharing with one another and learning about new and interesting repertoire. There will be concerts featuring all kinds of music and numerous performers!

The Workshops, for which ATG has always been noted, include topics of importance to one and all, regardless of the particular interest one might have in the accordion. Be sure to attend one or all of the numerous concerts, workshops, or competitions, as well as visit the exhibits being held during the festivals.

You are especially invited to participate in the ATG Festival Orchestras, one of which will be of an elementary level, while the other will be more particularly for those musically experienced players. These groups may include other instruments, too, so there is a place for everyone. Both groups will receive their music before the Festival, then rehearse a couple of times and perform during one of the Concerts.

The ATG cordially invites everyone who enjoys the accordion to attend its Annual Festival; everyone is welcome!

More information:

<http://www.accordions.com/atg>

Welcome our New Member

We are pleased to introduce **Kate Cameron Froeberg** who plays the accordion and enjoys Modern Jazz (Improv), Classical, and Great American Song Book. She plays mostly solo novelty but has been playing with an orchestra for *Fiddler on the Roof*.

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

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359
gsaccordionclub@netfirms.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
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
Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

SFAC Officers

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(415) 587-4423 - accord47@gmail.com

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(408) 734-1565 - eclecticguy@comcast.net

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threehummingbirds@gmail.com

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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
January 19, 2014 @ 2 p.m.
Admission: \$6 members, \$8 guests**

Note: The February meeting
will be held on the 4th
Sunday, February 23

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.

SFAC Membership is

\$30.00 per year for individual or family. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C.,
C/o Treasurer Elaine Cooperstein,
539 Elsie Ave,
San Leandro, CA 94577
NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address.

JAM BAND

Everyone is invited to the jam session at 1:15 led by Vic and Barbara Corsiglia. Music will be provided, and no expertise is necessary. Bring your accordion or other instrument, a music stand and join in the fun.

**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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