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San Francisco Accordion Club MARCH 2012

NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting,

March 18 @ 2 p.m.

Stas Venglevski & Mischa Litvin



His artistry, sensitivity, creativity and dazzling technical command have brought **Stas Venglevski**, who hails from the Republic of Moldova, increasing acclaim as a virtuoso of the bayan. His repertoire includes his original compositions and a broad range of classical, ethnic and contemporary music. He has toured extensively nationally and internationally as a soloist and guest artist with symphony orchestras. Stas has produced numerous recordings and has published several books of original compositions. He recently conducted at the Frank Marocco Accordion Event, and will be the Guest Artist and Conductor at the American Accordionists Association (AAA) 2012 festival in Baltimore, MD in July.

Mischa Litvin is a master mandolinist and domra (Russian-style mandolin) player. He has soloed with chamber orchestras in Russia, Italy, Germany and elsewhere, and is a professor of mandolin at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. He is originally from Minsk, Belarus and holds a masters degree in orchestra conducting and music education. Mischa performs frequently with Stas and other duet partners in the US and around the world. Both Stas and Mischa currently reside in Milwaukee.



Opening the program will be **The Black Hats**—an Eastern European ensemble for all occasions!

**\$10 admission
for all at the door**



**Valerie Tognazzini “Val” Kieser
Sept.21, 1937 - Feb. 27, 2012**

Valerie T. Kieser (b. Sept. 21, 1937), resident of Oakland CA, passed away peacefully at her home on Feb. 27, 2012 at the age of 74. Beloved wife of the late John F. Kieser they had lived at their Oakland residence since 1973. She was an exceptional cook and an avid accordion aficionado, having played with numerous northern California accordion ensembles. She had a deep love for all animals, though she had a special affinity for horses, dogs and cats. Always a joy to those around her, she will be deeply missed by her friends and family all over the globe. She lived an exceptional life.

She has requested to be cremated and her ashes scattered over the San Francisco Bay.

At her own request, there will be no funeral service. However, family and friends are planning a memorial celebration of Val’s life at the San Francisco Accordion Club gathering on Sunday, April 15 at the Oyster Point Yacht Club - 911 Marina Blvd., South San Francisco. Further details will be forthcoming.

Regarding memorial funds or donations, while Val did not request anything specific, a donation to any animal cause - especially those related to dogs, cats and/or horses - would please Valerie—*as well as* donations to the San Francisco Accordion Club in her honor.

If you have any questions regarding Valerie Kieser, you may contact her nephew Jeff Trabucco directly at: jjtrabucco@comcast.net and/or you can view the Legacy Website he has created for her at: <http://memorialwebsites.legacy.com/valkieser>



John and Val on their horses Chulo and Chico

TRIBUTE to VAL

Please join us for a Musical Tribute and celebration of the life of Val Kieser at the regular April meeting of the San Francisco Accordion Club.

Please Remember!

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

Feb. Meeting Recap

The jam session which takes place approximately every 3 months was led by Vic and Barbara Corsiglia, who also provided the music. In the half hour before the main program, the group played several pieces and had a lot of fun doing so. Please think about joining us in a future Jam!

Peter DiBono acted as our MC introducing our first performers: **Don Nurisso** and **Ron Borelli** on accordion accompanied by **Steve Auerbach** on string bass, and **Marc Hinchman** playing drums.

Their first tune was . . .

I don't know, What do you want to play? . . . a good lead in to a very classy, impromptu program of jazz accordion with accompaniment.

They performed Steve Allen's *Gravy Waltz*, followed by *Tango of the Roses*, *Tangerine* and *Moon River*, (a Henry Mancini arrangement played as a cha-cha). **Vince Aguiar**, saxophonist joined them and they continued on with *Triste*, *Just Friends* and *Quando, Quando*. Their last piece was *Perdido* and true to style, it morphed into a second last piece, *Take the A Train*.

After the break, Peter introduced his brother **Reno DiBono**, and his group. There was some joking over the family connection, and a sports celebration from yester-year. Both the boys were happy to acknowledge their father Tony in the audience, 94 and sharp as a tack.

They were accompanied by **Steve Aurbach** on bass; **Brent McHenry** drums and vocals and **Dave Kawamoto**, clarinet and saxophone. The program featured jazz solos from memorable and well known pieces. Reno began with *Jambolaya* and followed with *How High the Moon*. Brent sang *Fly me to the Moon* and *Mack the Knife*. They also played and sang *Sweet Georgia Brown*, *Under my Skin*, and an old Dean Martin classic, *Mambo Italiano*. Reno outdid himself with *C'est si bon*, by singing it in French and Italian!

Finally, singing in Italian, Reno launched into *Volare*, encouraging the audience to join him. Thanks again to all of our performers for making our monthly meeting another memorable experience.



Brent McHenry and Reno DiBono



Steve Auerbach, Marc Hinchman & Ron Borelli

From our President Lynn Ewing

Dear friends,

It is with sadness and regret that we inform you of Frank Marocco's death. He passed away in his sleep on Sunday, March 4th. More to come at a later date. You may send a note or card to his family at:

Frank Marocco
7063 Whitaker Ave.
Van Nuys, CA 91406

SFAC Scholarship Program

March 31 Deadline is coming up!

The deadline for Scholarship applications to be awarded in April is March 31. The Scholarship requirements and application forms will be available at the March meeting or by contacting Randy Hicks at hickr01@sprintmail.com or calling 510 583-1581. The application forms must be returned by the end of March to:

Mike Zampiceni
1220 Tasman Drive,
#106 Sunnyvale, CA 94089

CONVENTIONS GALORE

If you are looking for something fun, interesting and accordion related to do this year, here are some of the Accordion Conventions and gatherings taking place.

There still may be time to get in on the **National Accordion Association's National Accordion Convention** held at the Westin Park Central Hotel in Dallas, Texas from March 14 – 17. Visit their website: <http://accordions.com/naal/convention/index.html>

The Accordion Heroes 2012 Celebration, June 20-23 held at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House, Fredericksburg, VA – this year celebrating Accordion Heroes Anthony Galla-Rini and Dick Contino. 10% early registration discount available through March 31 – phone 1-855-266-9847. Visit the Accordion Heroes 2012 Celebration @ www.accordionheroes.com/EVENTS.html

The Annual American Accordionists' Association Festival, July 11-15 held at the Sheraton City Center, Baltimore, MD. Guest Artist and conductor of the AAA Festival Orchestra this year will be Stas Venglevski. www.ameraccord.com/festival.html

The 72nd Annual Competition and Festival of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International July 25-29 held at the Lisle Hyatt Hotel, Lisle (Chicago), IL. For the latest Festival details, check the ATG's <http://www.accordions.com/atg/>

Lastly, don't forget to mark your calendars for the **13th annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention**, September 24-27 at the Gold Coast, Las Vegas, Nevada. www.accordionstars.com

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FRANK MARROCO ACCORDION EVENT

From Rita Davidson, from ACCORDION USA

The FMAE event took place at the Arizona Golf Resort from February 16-20th in sunny Mesa, Arizona. Fifty accordionists from around the world gathered to share the music composed/arranged by accordionists Frank Marocco, Stas Venglevski, Joan Cochran Sommers, Amy Jo Sawyer, Peter DiGiovanni, and Judy Starr. The group came from 14 states, 2 Canadian provinces, and Italy. Unfortunately, due to illness, Frank was unable to attend. His colleague, noted accordionist Stas Venglevski, assumed the role of FMAE Orchestra Conductor, Soloist, Workshop Presenter plus more!

Everyone enjoyed the full orchestra rehearsals, sectional rehearsals, workshops, demonstrations, and evening concerts. It was a friendly atmosphere where one could feel comfortable playing together. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were times of seeing old friends and cultivating new accordion friendships while being entertained by the attendees who ranged in age from 15 year old Canadian accordionist, Emmanuel Gasser, up to 90+! No one cared how old anyone was. The emphasis was on playing together and sharing musical experiences.

Thursday evening featured a wonderful concert by duet partners, **Stas Venglevski** and internationally renowned domra and mandolin player, **Mischa Litvin**, followed by participant performances. Friday evening also featured participant performances.

Workshop presenters included:

Elke Ahrenholz from Italy

Jana Maas: "The Best Things I Learned at Camp"

Lenny Feldmann: "How to Stroll"

"Teaching the Accordion Using Skype" with

Vladimir Mollov presenting a lesson.

Master teacher, **Llmar Kuljus**, was available for lessons.

Stas Venglevski composed a beautiful orchestral piece, "Memories of Joe", to honor the memory of accordionist, **Joe Smiell**, who recently passed away. Its World Premiere was performed at the Saturday evening concert by 11 FMAE participants, who had played under Joe's baton over the years.

On the final Sunday evening concert, attended by about 400 people, the accordion was presented in many unique combinations. Domra virtuoso, **Mischa Litvin**, played a concerto with the FMAE orchestra. Judy Starr performed Mozart's "Oboe Concerto in C". (see article in this month's news). 2010 AAA Virtuoso Champion **Gabe Hall-Rodriguez** with **Ocotrillo** members **Sean Brogan**, and **Wes Anderson** entertained. They were joined by jazz artists **John Simkus** and **Frank Petrilli**. **Stas Venglevski** took the stage with them and all were entranced by the four wonderful accordionists with **Wes** on drums and **Sean** on bass.

Stas Venglevski and Mischa Litvin delighted all with their lively duets. Several soloists including **Jana Maas** and **Emmanuel Gasser** also performed.

Special thanks goes to FMAE organizers **Joan and Dan Grauman** whose enthusiastic dedication resulted in all being happy and busy from morning until night either playing, listening to, talking about and learning our favorite instrument..... the accordion!



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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

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359
gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com

The Vacaville Golden State Accordion Club meets monthly on the second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Courtyard by Marriott • Vacaville 120 Nut Tree Parkway Vacaville, CA 95687 707-451-9000

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 Keifer (916) 652-0836

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

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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.



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Club & Musical Meeting • March 18 @ 2 p.m.

MARCH SPECIAL PERFORMANCE • Stas Venglevski & Mischa Litvin & The Black Hats, an Eastern European Ensemble
(**\$10 admission for all at the door**)

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

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.

NOTICE

Parking behind the Oyster Point Yacht Club will be disrupted while a ferry boat terminal is being built. We can no longer park behind the building and there is limited parking in the lot alongside the OPYC. PLEASE do not park in the Commodore's designated space in the front of this lot! Overflow parking must go to the next lot down the line, where the \$10 parking fee is being waived.

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 Randall Hicks, 21071 Gary Drive, #212, Castro Valley, CA 94546. 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
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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