



San Francisco Accordion Club
NEWSLETTER
NEXT MEETING Sept. 18 @ 2 p.m.

The World's First
 Accordion Club
 since 1912

Performing this month . . .
 Mel Cohen, Vince Rinaldi, Algis Ratnikas,
 Grigoriy Krumik, Sheri Mignano and
 Michael Van Why.



Algis Ratnikas See Algis' article on pg. 7
 (continued from last month).
 He plays with the Cafe Barbar
 Jug Band.



Grigoriy Krumik Grigoriy was a featured performer
 with the Castro Valley Chamber
 Orchestra on May 29, 2011.



Sherry Mignano & Michael Van Why

This Duet has performed for us before
 and is sure to be a crowd pleaser again!

*"Due Zighi Baci performs mostly Neapolitan
 canzone sung by a tenore lirico, with accordion,
 and sometimes with mandolin and acoustic
 guitar."*

from their website: www.eurocafemusic.com

COME OUT & VOTE!

It is time for our annual meeting and
 election of new Executive Board Members.
 (see page 4)

September • 2011

COTATI ACCORDION FESTIVAL

The large number of attendees at this year's Cotati Festival enjoyed a day filled with fun and great performances. The crowd was especially impressed with headliner **Guy Klucevsek** from New York, who brought the crowd to its feet with his own compositions, some new age, some jazzy and all expertly executed.

Later **Ginny Mac** from Fort Worth on accordion and vocals with her brother on guitar performed some of the best country western swing music around as well as big band and some old classic tunes. **Limpopo**, dressed up as Russian women, gave a quirky and amusing performance that the crowd loved.



Guy Klucevsek



Ginny Mac



Skylar Fell



Tangonero



The Great Morgani aka Frank Lima



Limpopo

The **Georges Lammam Ensemble** played Mediterranean sounds and of course **Frank Lima** as **The Great Morgani** played in two different hand-made outfits. See him above in his blue butterfly costume. **Skyler Fell** was seen playing at her booth, Accordion Apocalypse.

For sale were: accordions, sheet music, straps, food, beer and wine. People of all ages were enjoying the perfect, lovely weather for this year's COTATI ACCORDION FESTIVAL.

THE GREAT AMERICAN POLKAFEST

to be held at CIRCUS, CIRCUS in RENO
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Must be booked by 10/09/2011.

From Your President

On behalf of the SF Accordion Club, I would like to express my very sincere thanks to the outgoing Executive Board members. This has been the Board of Presidents! Frank Montoro, Val Kieser, and Marian Kelly are all former Presidents of the Club who have continued to offer their time and talents in service to our wonderful organization. In particular, Val Kieser has served continuously on the Board for 14 years and has really gone so far above and beyond the call of duty that we can hardly imagine our Board without her. Gus and Sharon Greyhosky have also offered stellar service to our Club as Board members for the last 4 years, and Sharon has been a Board member more than once before this stint. I'm very glad that Skyler Fell and Randy Hicks will continue to serve on the Board. It has been my pleasure to work with this fine group of folks, and I look forward to working with the incoming Board members who will be elected at our September meeting.

Lynn Ewing



Left to right: back row—
Sharon Greyhosky, Gus Greyhosky, Lynn Ewing, Randall Hicks
front row—Marian Kelly, Skylar Fell, Valerie Kieser and Frank Montoro

Peter Soave to Play in Stockton

Peter will be playing (bandoneon) with the Stockton Symphony Nov. 10 and 12. A native of Detroit, Peter learned piano then chromatic accordion (bayan), and has won many international prizes and titles. He lives now in France with his wife Mady, also a very accomplished accordionist and performer. He has played for our club twice.



Peter Soave

For ticket info and options, please contact:
The Truccos and Judy Burke
(judy@lbproductioncenter.com)
www.stocktonsymphony.org/concerts

Membership Renewal Time is here!

September is the last month of our current membership year. Inserted in this newsletter, you should find a renewal form and a pre-addressed return envelope. For members who receive the newsletter online, a membership renewal form will be posted on the newsletter index page. We hope that you will complete the form and return it to us at your earliest convenience.

We'd love for you to deliver it in person at the September musical meeting, but the renewal can also be mailed to our new Membership Chair: Don Nurisso, 1166 Allicante Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044.

This year we would like to emphasize how helpful it is to the club, and will be to you, to provide us with an email address, if you have one. Email is one of the most efficient and effective means of communication nowadays. We won't leave anyone in the dark, but with email, we can better keep you informed about what is happening in the club. We promise not to be sending you advertising, and we will not share your information outside the club—in fact, you can designate on your renewal form that your email address not be shared with anyone.

Did you know that a large part of your membership dues goes toward producing the newsletter in hard copy? Would you like more of your dues to go towards bringing in international performers like Vincenzo Abbracciante or our local favorites? If so, and you aren't already, would you consider receiving the Newsletter online? You will be able to see the Newsletter in color, you will be able to easily find back issues, you can access the Newsletter from any computer on the internet, you can save a copy on your computer AND you can still print out a copy for yourself or to share with friends. All you have to do is provide your email address and circle the letter "Y" on your renewal form. Please email sfacnewsletter@earthlink.net with any questions you might have. If you did not receive a membership renewal form in your Newsletter, please email: sfacnewsletter@earthlink.net or call Randall Hicks at 510 583-1581 and leave a message, we'll be glad to send you one.

SFAC General Elections • September 18 - Please Vote!

Elections for the Executive Board will take place at the beginning of our monthly meeting on Sunday, Sept. 18. **At present, the nominating committee has received the following nominations:**

President—Lynn Ewing; Vice President—Dominic Palmisano; Secretary—Randall Hicks;

Treasurer—Maryanne Romanowski; Directors at large—Skyler Fell, Don Nurisso, Scott Williamson and Mike Zampiceni.

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting, prior to taking the vote. Show your support for the club and the nominees by coming out to vote—we have some great entertainment lined up to make it all worthwhile!

Scholarship Awards

Twice a year, in April and October, our club awards scholarships to accordion students demonstrating promise to further their study and knowledge of the accordion. Scholarship Guidelines and Application forms are available at the monthly meetings or can be obtained from the club secretary, Randy Hicks—by emailing: hickr01@sprintmail.com. Completed applications are to be returned to: **Lynn Ewing, 80 Loma Road, San Carlos, CA 94070** by the end of either March or September to be considered for an award the following month.

Please Remember!

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

Receive Your Newsletter On-Line! Help our Club SAVE MONEY!

**Not only will you be able to view
and read it
IN COLOR,
you will save us the cost of printing
and postage fees, and
you will have less
paper lying around your house to re-
cycle.**

to sign up for this service
send an email to:
sfacnewsletter@earthlink.net

Accordion Band News

Band Practice is the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, monthly @ 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's home in Oakland. Please CALL AHEAD in case there is a change. Everyone is welcome to join. For more information, contact Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net

SFAC Membership

\$30.00 per year for individual or family
Meeting admission is \$6 per member & \$8 per guests. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Valerie Kieser, 3437 Crane Way, Oakland, CA 94602.

NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you want.

SFAC Officers

Lynn Ewing, President
(650) 365-1700 ewinglynn@gmail.com

Frank Montoro, Vice President
(650) 574-4757 frankmontoro@gmail.com

Randall Hicks, Secretary
(510)583-1581 hickr01@sprintmail.com

Marian Kelly, Treasurer
(650) 854-1896 kelly.marian@gmail.com

SFAC Directors

Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952
accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com

Gus Greyhosky (415) 621-8284
gusgrey@me.com

Valerie Kieser, Copy Editor (510) 531-4836
vtkacc@ifn.net

Sharon Walters-Greyhosky
(415) 621-8284
swaltersgrey@comcast.net

Newsletter

Christina Knapp,
Graphic Design
snapp.chris@gmail.com

JAM session Before the Sept. meeting, from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m..

Anyone who plays accordion is invited to come and join in the fun. All you need to bring is an accordion and a music stand.

We encourage performers of all levels to participate and if you don't play accordion, please come anyway and be our audience.

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

\$2 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 Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main Street, Vacaville.

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: Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Lauren Carley—a singer & voice coach who recently decided to pick up the accordion. She studies with Lou Jacklich in the East Bay. Check out her website: www.lcarley.com

Performing Around the Bay

Steve Balich • North Bay
(707) 874-3494

Ron Borelli • San Mateo
(650) 574-5707
rborelli@aol.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

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 Gobbelins
Oakland
www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins

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

Don Nurisso • Pacifica
nurisso@mindspring.com

Mike Zampiceni • South Bay
eclecticguy@comcast.net

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

Play at our Meeting!

We are always grateful and accepting of anyone who wishes to play for warm up, intermission, or the first part of the meeting. Share your talent and hone your performance skills! Contact Val Kieser to sign up.

**Umbria Sunset:
Just another accordion story
by Algis Ratnikas
(cont. from August)**

Two weeks before departure to Italy I purchased a new “used” hard case for the new “used” accordion. I got scared that my airline might not allow the accordion as carry on. Just before departure I packed it well with lots of cushioning and bid it bon voyage.

Upon arrival in Umbria the days were quickly filled and I did not get a chance to open my accordion case until 2 days before the wedding. I was aghast to find that the whole base mechanism was imploded. I had planned to spend a bit of time practicing, but now faced an apparent disaster. This checked baggage did include my Swiss army knife and I proceeded to take the base section apart. Down in level one I managed to re-align the buttons to fit their orifices. I found that three screws on one side holding the bass mechanism to the wood block structure had come loose. All three screws were there rolling loose. I managed to reset 2 of the screws, the third would not hold due to a crack in the wood. However, the two were sufficient to get the bass section working. After putting it all together I found a loud droning bass note that made the instrument unplayable. I again took it all apart searching for the source and ultimately tracked it down to a misaligned valve. After 3 hours I managed to get my “Mr. Contino Model” into playable shape.

Rain had fallen throughout our first few days at *Passignano sul Trasimeno*. We all desperately kept all limbs crossed for a rain free wedding, scheduled to take place outdoors. As the guests gathered on Saturday for the ferry to take us to an island on the lake for the ceremony, rain poured and continued to pour all the way to the landing.

As the ferry hit *Isola Polvese* the rain stopped and rainbows appeared on the horizon. Guided by our master of ceremonies, a true wizard from New Zealand, we all headed up to the ceremony site, where small hillock, blessed with a tiny old stone chapel and courtyard, awaited. Just as everyone settled together the bride appeared strolling up the hillock from the water’s edge. Under more rainbows she and her intended exchanged specially prepared vows as thunder rolled under bright sunshine.

The whole ensemble then moved up through an old olive grove to the Porcinai water pond where guests were invited to present their best wishes to the newly-wed couple. Here is where I played “*Umbria Sunset*,” my present to Aldo and Dalia.

Algis Ratnikas


*PS: I am tentatively scheduled to play for the September meeting of the SF Accordion Club. **Umbria Sunset** will be included as part of my set.*



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) 365-1700
- 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
- Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (415) 621-8284
- Richard Yaus (650) 832-1740
- Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579
- Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

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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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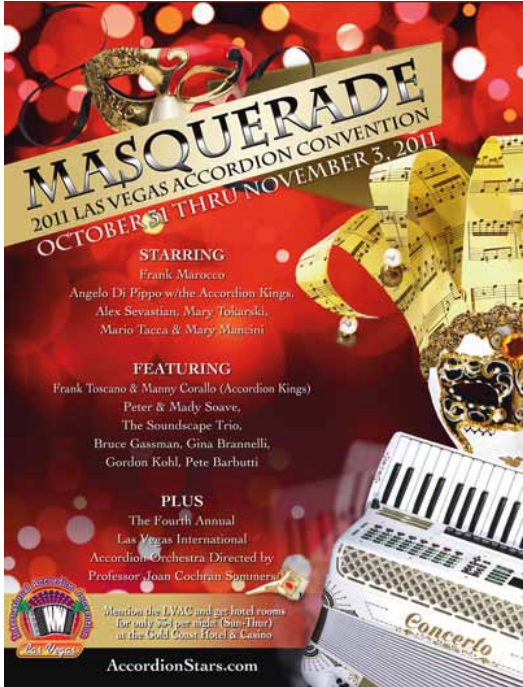
It is not too late to register for the Las Vegas Intl. Convention. Masquerade attire for the first evening, which begins on Halloween! Join us for the 12th year of this event—workshops, concerts, jam sessions and the final performance which includes the *International Accordion Orchestra* led by Joan Sommers. www.accordioninfo.com/convention/



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Our Annual Club Meeting & Musical Meeting • Sept. 18 @ 2 p.m.

Performing in September: Mel Cohen, Vince Rinaldi, Algis Ratnikas, Grigoriy Krumik, Sheri Mignano and Michael Van Why.

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.

Visit us online @ www.sfaccordionclub.com

NOTICE

Parking behind the Oyster Point Yacht Club will be disrupted through September 2011, 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.

Newsletter of the San Francisco Accordion Club

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