

Newsletter of the

# *Silicon Valley Accordion Society*

September 2024

SVAS Next Meeting: Sunday October 13, 2024  
Christ Episcopal Church  
1040 Border Road, Los Altos  
Program begins at 1:30PM  
Doors open 1:00PM

## Featuring Adam and Emma Dohner

Adam and Emma have been playing music together for as long as they can remember. As siblings, it gives them a good excuse to hang out regularly, as well as a creative outlet from their work in the Silicon Valley. Emma enjoys playing violin in the Mission Chamber Orchestra and discovering new (and old) music in the library's CD archives. Adam enjoys arranging popular (and obscure) songs for their group, Garf's Uncle, where he mostly plays piano, but will occasionally break out the accordion by popular demand. They have performed several times for SVAS since Adam bought his Vignoni from our own Norma Parsons back in the early 2010's when meetings were held at Harry's Hofbrau.



Hello Accordion Friends -

Yesterday's meeting at Silicon Valley Accordion Club was a truly special experience. Though our gathering was small, it was filled with warmth, camaraderie, and exceptional talent. The Jam Band and our dedicated volunteers created an atmosphere that was both relaxed and intimate, allowing everyone to fully enjoy the music and each other's company. I am continually impressed by the diversity of talent within our group, from the various genres and cultures represented to the different styles of accordion playing. You all sounded wonderful, and it's clear that we have something truly unique in our club. Thank you to everyone who made it such an enjoyable day! Thank you, Bill Likens, for leading the Jam Band this month.

### **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:**

I hate to sound like a broken record, but our club is in serious need of more volunteers to keep things running smoothly. Every month, we find ourselves falling short, and it falls on just a few board members to pick up the slack. This is becoming increasingly difficult and overwhelming for those few who consistently assist. We need your help! Whether it's writing the newsletter, bringing snacks, or collecting raffles, every little bit makes a big difference. When one or two board members are out, it becomes nearly impossible to manage everything without extra hands. So please, if you can sign up to help - we are especially in need of assistance with the Newsletter, for which we are facing extreme shortage. Your support is vital to keeping our club vibrant and active. Thank you! Colette Ogata, President

Editor's Note: sorry, no one was available to write-up this months' meeting, therefore a shortened newsletter with mostly meeting photos.

## Our Pre-Program Players



Rudy Pivk



Bill Likens



Joseph Martin



Reno DiBono

## Raffle Winners



## A synopsis of Cotati from Colette

The Cotati Accordion Festival was a fantastic weekend filled with fun with so many talented accordionists across various genres and cultures. It is a wonderful place to relax on the lawn while listening to the music, and enjoy numerous food trucks, along with booths offering unique items for sale.

One of those talented accordionists entertaining us was our club member, Mike Zampiceni, who delivered a fantastic performance on the main stage at the festival, once again making us proud with his exceptional talent. His flawless music brought smiles to everyone in the audience. This year at Cotati, Mike was awarded Honorary Director. We are fortunate to have Mike in the Bay Area, always sharing his music with us. In addition to Mike playing for Cotati, four of his students competed in the Cotati Festival Student Fundraiser, demonstrating impressive skills they have learned from their teacher. Siyuan Donnelly won a scholarship prize with his submission from Seattle. Sisters Jennifer Aruldass age 8, and Annabel Selvaraj age 9, played separately, and then a duet together. They have shown remarkable growth since last year. Another student of Mike Zampiceni was Colin Kennedy 13, who also gave us a fabulous performance. We are so proud of you and hope to see you all next year performing in Cotati! Thank you, Mike, for your contribution to the Accordion world, and congratulations on being Honorary Director, well deserved.

It was so great to see our SVAS club members celebrating at Cotati! Tseli Wu, Joseph Martin, Reno Di Bono, Vic and Barbara Corsiglia, Roy Helsing, Rosemary Busher, Ken Schwartz and Jane Tan, Pam Tom, Robert and Elaine Cooperstein, Mike Zampiceni, Paul Cain, Luyuan Zhao.

## SVAS Jam Band



(L to R) Joseph Martin, Marcia Farnady, Tseli Wu, Bill Likens, Colette Ogata and Don Savant

### In Memoriam: George Ford

We are deeply saddened to share that our dear friend and longtime fellow member, George Ford, has passed away. George enjoyed listening to the SVAS players and visiting with other members. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family.



George Ford

### A tribute to Ed from his Grandson



Ed Massolo known to his grandchildren as “Nonno”

“Nonno’s greatest tool was his accordion. In my mind the words “Nonno” and “Accordion” goes together like peanut butter and jelly, or perhaps in his case like Hot Dogs and Ketchup. He used this tool, his instrument, to entertain his friends, his family, as well as complete strangers. He used it to build friendships, some of which blossomed only recently and others that were forged decades ago. He used his accordion to exercise. He exercised his body; that thing is amazingly heavy! and he exercised his mind having learned countless numbers of songs and probably millions of keystrokes. The most basic explanation is that an accordion works by using bellows to create air pressure and a vacuum, and then using buttons or keys to open valves and allow air to flow across reeds to produce sound. Nonno’s presence in our lives is much like an accordion. Like air pressure, he filled our lives with endless love and happiness. His death leaves a vacuum in our hearts and lives. Thankfully, He is the music we will remember and cherish forever.”

Bobby Watson, Ed’s oldest grandson



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Newsletter Reporters: Marcia Coullahan, Bill Tapogna,  
Joseph Martin and Georgia Sutherland **Volunteers welcome**

### Upcoming events

Free accordion lessons via Zoom, each Sunday at 11 am to 11:30am taught by Reno DiBono. Room for 2 more students. Study of Accordion technique, chord structure, bellow dynamics, how to improvise, how to analyze a song structure, classical music and jazz. email to [reno.dibono@gmail.com](mailto:reno.dibono@gmail.com) or call Reno at 408 806 8064.

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Silicon Valley Accordion  
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PO Box 1513  
Los Altos, CA 94023

To: