



Dear Accordion Friends –

I hope you are all doing well. As we approach the holiday season and look back on these past two years, I want to give thanks to each of you for your camaraderie. I so appreciate you all, your support in keeping our club alive and well during these very trying times.

After careful consideration, the SVAS Board has decided we will start 2022 off with an in-person meeting! We are very excited to announce Sunday, January 2, 2022, there will be an open mic club meeting in-person! We already have a wonderful lineup started! We have Don Savant, Bob Stanfield, Bill Tapogna, Vic and Barbara Corsiglia, Bill Likens, Rudy Pivk, Tseli Wu, Misha Studenkov, Colette Ogata, Sunday Seven Band, and Happy Days Band. Please contact me at colette.ogata@gmail.com, or send an email to Pamela Kawashima at pamk@svasociety.org to be put on the list to play a few songs for us. In addition, we will have a jam band session and we will bring music for all who would like to play, so please bring your accordions, and play with us! We have been waiting nearly two years for this.... Looking forward to starting the New Year off right.

Doors will open at 1:00pm PST, and the meeting will start at 1:30 PST. Please note church services are still taking place until 1:00pm, therefore, we ask you kindly to come at 1:00 or after.

There will be a few changes while inside the church due to COVID19, the church policy, and the fact we will be indoors:

Firstly, we will have to check vaccination records, so please bring your records, or take a picture of it and have it ready on your cell phone. Everyone must have completed at least two vaccines. Secondly, everyone must wear a mask. We will ensure all the chairs are spaced out 6ft for everybody. We can sit next to each other if we are family or live together.

PLEASE, do not come to the meeting if you are not feeling well, have a fever, cough, cold, or any flu like symptoms. Please do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. When you cough, please turn your head and cough into the inside of your elbow, (like a vampire), so germs will not be on your hands. Please bring personal sized sanitizer and use it during the meeting. We will also have some at the front desk.

There will also be a Zoom meeting set up for those who would prefer to attend virtually or can't make it in person. We will send the Zoom link out later. It will be different in the fact that there will not be a host narrating the meeting via Zoom, but you will be able to see and hear the performers. We will give it a try and see how it goes.

If we all respect each other's space and have some social distancing while being together, we can have a great time in our very long-awaited meeting.

We are very excited to see you all and we hope you all can attend. Be sure to dress in layers, as the church is very large, and we may have a few doors open to help with ventilation.

Meanwhile, on behalf of myself, and the Silicon Valley Accordion Society Board, (Bill Tapogna, Bob Stanfield, Pamela Kawashima, Rosemary Miceli, Bernie Coullahan), we very much wish you all a very happy, healthy, Holiday Season.

Colette Ogata



**Bring your Accordion for SVAS Open Jam Band
Sunday, January 2, 2022, at 1:30pm PST**

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

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November 15, 1929 – October 15, 2021

Frances Lam was born November 15, 1929, in Suisun, CA and passed peacefully in San Jose, CA on October 15, 2021, one month before her 92nd birthday.

Frances grew up on a farm in Suisun, CA with her immigrant parents from China, the fifth of six children. She spent her formative years in Suisun and always spoke fondly of her days growing up on her family fruit orchard farm. After graduating from Armijo High School, Fairfield, she attended UC Berkeley where she met her future husband Forrest Lam. Soon after they married and settled in San Leandro, CA, where they would spend the next 50 years together raising their four children till Forrest's passing in 1997. Her early years of married life were full of school and PTA events and many family dinner parties.

As the children grew older and less dependent on her care, she embarked on new challenges. She acquired her real estate license, and following that, she moved on to property management.

Frances was a vibrant, energetic, and independent woman who was loved by all. Even after retiring she was always busy. She volunteered her time at the local library and other charitable organizations, took part in bowling, mahjong games, and line dancing with friends. Plus, her love of gardening beautified any garden where she lived. She had a circle of tennis friends and played regularly until she was 80! Her passion for the sport never waned.

She moved to San Jose about 8 years ago to be closer to her daughters. She joined her daughter Pam Kawashima in all the local SVAS meetings and seeing other live performances by many of the accordion club professionals. She always delighted in winning a raffle prize! She died of complications from Alzheimer's at home with her family and her beloved caregiver. Even in her failing health, she always had a smile for you. She was in good spirits and never lost her sense of humor. Frances is survived by her daughter Pam and other family members. She is predeceased by her husband Forrest (1997) and son Dennis (1981).

A Celebration of Life won't be held until it is safer to meet in groups, hopefully in the spring. Frances will be interred at Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland, CA. We will truly miss Frances. She was a very special mom, auntie, grandmother, and friend to so many.

Pamela Kawashima

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Accordion Happenings Live and Virtual Events

Gordon Kohl's New Year's Eve/Dinner Music
Workshop December 19, 2021

Zoom Contact: gkohl5890@gmail.com

LA Accordionaires December 21, 2021
North Hollywood, CA Contact: dnoferi@aol.com

Silicon Valley Accordion Club Meeting January 2, 2022
Los Altos, CA Colette.ogata@gmail.com

San Antonio Accordion Society January 11, 2022
Zoom Contact: LauraJNiland@outlook.com

Houston Accordion Orchestra Concert with Stas
Venglevski January 15, 2022

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas
Live and video streaming.

Contact: meghada33@gmail.com

SFAC Meeting January 16, 2021
Zoom Contact: kenneth.e.schwartz@gmail.com

IDEAS*Virtual Symposium 4.0 January 21-30, 2022
*International Digital Electronic Accordion Society
Zoom www.gr8ideas.org

Silicon Valley Accordion Society Meeting February 6,
2022 Los Altos, CA
Colette.ogata@gmail.com

ATG Professional Development Workshop February
13, 2022

Zoom Contact:
ATG.AccordionistsTeachersGuild@gmail.com

National Accordion Association Convention March 16-
19, 2022
Richardson, Texas. www.accordions.com/naa/

Accordion Happenings Live and Virtual Events continued

ATG Professional Development Workshop March 27,
2022. Zoom Contact:
ATG.AccordionistsTeachersGuild@gmail.com

A World of Accordions Museum World Accordion Day,
Willard Palmer Festival and Polka Service May 6-8, 2022,
Live and Video Streaming. Sign up on AWAM's email list;
receive link 24 hours before event:
worldofaccordions.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/worldofaccordions/survey.jsp?surveyId=1&

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration June
16-19, 2022
Leavenworth, WA www.accordioncelebration.org

ATG 80th Anniversary Festival July 20-24, 2022
Chicago (Lisle), IL www.atgaccordions.com

AAA Festival July 13-17, 2022
Conshohocken, PA www.ameraccord.com

AAA Accordion Master Class (a.k.a. the Seminars 2022)
July 29 - 31, 2022. Too Much Information, So Little Time
But We Do It Anyway"
New York, NY Contact: Accordionbill@gmail.com

Cotati Accordion Student Stage Scholarship Fundraiser
August 19, 2022 Cotati, CA Contact:
cotatiaccordionstudentstage@yahoo.com

Cotati Accordion Festival August 20-21, 2022
Cotati, CA www.cotatifest.com

Oregon Alpenfest September 29- October 2, 2022
Joseph, OR Contact: alpenmeister@mail2oregon.com

Mid-Western Oktoberfest Concert October 2021 Pamela Tom

“A World of Accordions Museum” (AWAM) hosted a live and simultaneous Internet (YouTube) Oktoberfest. Melodious reed sounds of accordions emanated from the Hanni Strahl Concert Hall of AWAM located in Superior, WI. (The nearest airport is Duluth, MN.) About 100 enthusiastic attendees were present and collectively over 245 viewed within 24 hours of streaming live on AWAM’s YouTube channel. AWAM’s entertainment was excellent with a wunderbar selection of European and American polkas, waltzes, marches, beer, and folk tunes that make Oktoberfests special. Fortunately, you can watch this recorded 3-hr program at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcsigJ3FsEdsCk19E2Pt31g>. Get your favorite beverage and pretzels while you hunker down to a fine Oktoberfest program in the comfort of your home!

The program started with the Accordion-Concertina Music Studio Band played a wide assortment of familiar and new (to my ears) tunes. One of the Band’s segments included “Original Compositions for Accordions” that highlighted some of the loveliest traditional sounding Alpine and Bavarian music. Intricate arrangements demonstrating how spectacularly the accordions create melodies of different syncopations harmoniously.

Did you miss a meeting performance? You can view some of it on YouTube. To View Pam’s Videos from past meetings: Go to youtube.com, type in accordionpam in the search field (next to the magnifying glass on top) for videos from the club.

Even though we are planning to go in-person in January 2022, SVAS would still like to try to stream the meeting via Zoom, for folks who are not able to make it in-person. It will be different in the fact that there will not be a host narrating the meeting via Zoom, but you will be able to see and hear the performers. We will give it a try and see how it goes.

Mid-Western Oktoberfest Concert October 2021 Pamela Tom continued

An all-piano accordion sextet playing “Das Kufsteiner Lied” took the listeners on a musical journey through the Alpine region and was an example of the many fine orchestrated selections that the band played.

Paul Vargason demonstrated his versatile accordion skills by performing a variety of American (Cleveland Style) and Eastern European polkas and other ethnic tunes with diatonic and piano accordions. Shelby Setnikar joined Paul with a few duets on her diatonic accordion.

Completing Oktoberfest was Florian Chmielewski (accordionist and former Minnesota State Senator) who entertained the audience with polka and standard tunes that were announced by his daughter, Patty. Florian is with the encouraged Midwest’s most well-known polka entertainers, the “Chmielewski Fun Time Band.”

Note: AWAM now has 1400 accordions on display and another 305 were recently donated. AWAM is scheduling its largest event: Annual World Accordion Day, the Annual Willard Palmer Festival, and a polka service during May 6-8, 2022. Schedule a trip to Superior, WI to see this amazing treasure trove of accordions and hear accordion music at its best! Check the AWAM web site next year for details. www.worldofaccordions.org



(Photo) Members of the Accordion-Concertina Music Studio Band conducted by Tracey Gibbens



Pamela Lister

The last weekend of August, accordionists of varying skill levels gathered in Oregon for a fun week of accordion playing. There was a joyful buzz in the air as we greeted old friends. This camp has become a tradition and formed to continue the legacy of the “Galla-Rini Accordion Camps” of times gone by. Our usual early June camp at Silver Falls, Oregon was cancelled in 2020. It was recreated in a new location, Alton Collins Retreat Center in Eagle Creek, OR. The committee of club members were joined by an orchestra conductor and two workshop instructors. We were prepared with our orchestra parts for eight concert pieces, and a trio piece, along with whatever we chose to play in the evening informal gatherings. All campers followed Oregon Covid protocols, with masks and required vaccinations.

Several years ago, I first attend this camp with my mom, Gwyneth Lister and brother, John Lister. Coincidentally this year’s camp was during the week that

would have been mom’s 92nd birthday. We toasted to her together. At the last camp in 2019, we had a small surprise 90th birthday celebration for her, which was a delight. If mom was here, she would be writing this article for you and encouraging you to attend next time in 2022. Everybody is welcome and encouraged.

Some of our participants are beginners and others are highly skilled professionals. The Club offers scholarships to a couple of campers and to young accordion students. A live stream of our accordion concert(edited)is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=CifgUYpCKIE&t=7s The instructors and conductors vary every year. This year Gabe Hall-Rodriquez of Seattle, WA was our conductor. Gabe is a talented conductor, arranger, and excellent player who works at Petosa Accordions. Workshop instructors were Courtney Von Drehle (3 Leg Torso band) and Toby Hanson (Western Swing & Polka) who are experts in musicology and created informative workshops.



Keep an eye on the Rose City Accordion Club website www.rosecityaccordionclub.org/ for the announcement and registration of the 2022 camp. You will have a great time! Meanwhile, keep squeezing!

Pamela Lister

Please note - Effective January 1, 2022, SVAS Membership dues are due. Please send dues via PayPal located on our website, SVASociety.org, click more, click contact us/membership, scroll to bottom, and click PayPal, OR you can send a check to SVAS, PO Box 1513, Los Altos, CA, 94023, with enclosed dues renewal slip.

Houston Accordion Orchestra Retreat 2022

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January 13-16, 2022

Stas Venglevski and Houston Accordion Orchestra Event present a Spectacular Collage of European Music

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- ✓ 3 full days of orchestra rehearsals
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Contact
Megumi Hada
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Stas Venglevski



Gail Campanella



Al Haghshenas



Daniel Hartnett

Featuring the music of Russia, France, Italy, Moldova, Finland, Azerbaijan, and the World Premiere of a new orchestral Overture by Stas. A bonus includes the ever popular Bohemian Rhapsody written by Freddie Mercury performed by the orchestra.



**Silicon Valley
Accordion
Society
Proudly
presented
VIA ZOOM...
Gail
Campanella**

**Sunday, November
7, 2021 3:15pm
PST**



**Gail Campagnella was absolutely TERRIFIC!!!
What a talent! And it was such fun being there
with you all. Many thanks!**

**Thank you for today! What talent there is in
her flawless playing. Gail is amazing.**

**Gail is one of the cleanest players I've
known. Her articulation is perfect and there's
no mush here. Every note is clearly heard.**

**Wonderful playing and choice of repertoire!
Gail's concerts are always a treat.**

**Love to hear the history of a song and what
the story is behind it!**

Terrific playing!!!!

Wow!!

**This is a perfect piece for Gail... great mood
music**

It is always a treat when Gail Campanella comes to play for our club, and our November 7 meeting was no exception. Even though we love to hear her play in person, Zoom has several advantages. First, she really knows how to position herself and her camera so that we get a wonderful view of her and her instrument, both hands! And second, we get the advantage of the wonderful comments that people include in the Zoom chat. I'll include some of those in this article.

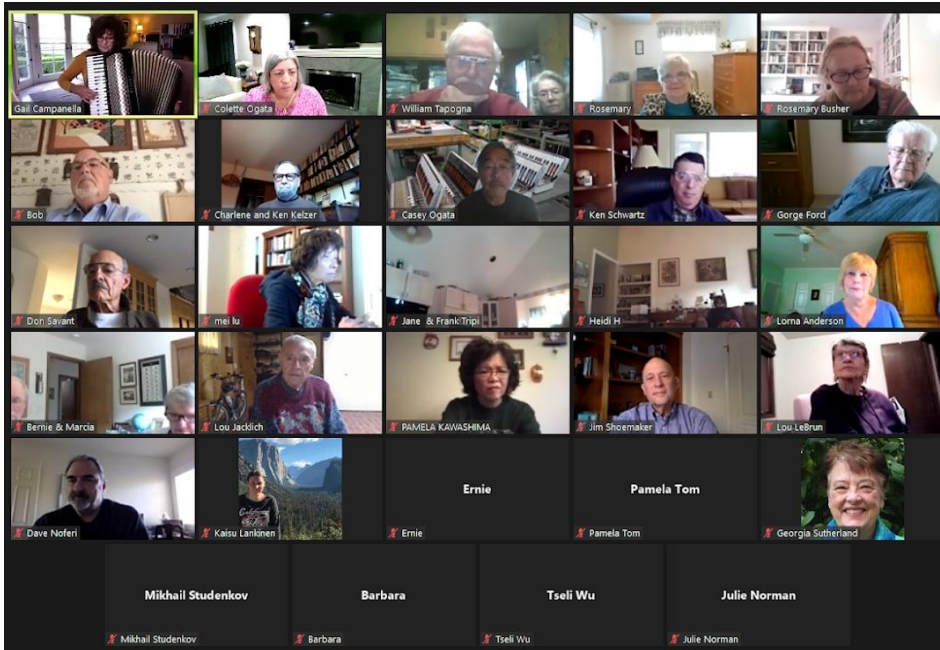
Gail's first song was "Scherzo," by John Gart. This was a very pleasant song featuring lots of tempo changes. The second piece was "Achtung Los Polka" by Walter Wild, arranged by Michael Belitz. The name translates to "Attention, Go!" and this was a new one for me with a lively melody and interesting bass runs. Gail shared that this polka was a duet, but she combined both parts to make it a solo.

The third song was "Green Light," by Charles Magnante. A novelty piece, this was motivated by the sounds of busy traffic in a large city. It alternated fast and lively passages with slower and chorded sections. I could hear horn sounds and the patter of feet running across the street.

Her next song, by Toots Thielemans, arranged by Frank Marocco was "Bluesette" which Gail said was as close to jazz as she comes. This was a familiar song with nice pacing and tempo changes. It featured a jazzy ending. Her fifth number, also arranged by Frank Marocco, was written by C. A. Bixio and entitled "Parlamid' Amore Mariu," ("speak to me of love, Mariu"). This song evoked a sweet melancholic feeling with some minor chords.

Gail next treated us to her rendition of "Sicilian Tarantella" by G Balsamo. It was definitely danceable, lively with a strong beat. She remarked afterwards that she had imagined some of us accompanying the song with our tambourines.

The seventh number in her program was "Latin Tinge" by Wolfgang Russ. This was another song arranged by Frank Marocco. This nice song made me wonder if it had words to sing along. It faded to barely audible near the end, which is quite a technique. At this point in the program, Mike posted to chat: "Gail is one of the cleanest players I've known. Her articulation is perfect and there's no mush here. Every note is clearly heard."



SVAS Upcoming event – Join us in-person and via Zoom Sunday, February 6, 2022,

Lou Jacklich and Colette Ogata will be playing American standards for Valentines Day



The next two songs were written by Luciano Fancelli, an artist who sadly had a short life. The first song was *“AcquarelliCubani”* which had a very interesting rhythmic introduction, lots of bass runs and an emphatic ending. I looked up this song on the internet and there is a YouTube video of the composer performing it, but unfortunately all the text was in Italian! The second Fancelli number was *“10 Km al Finestrino”* which Gail translated for us as “10 kilometers through the window of a train.” The train sounds made it fun to imagine what was outside the window of that train. At this point Pam commented: “I love to hear the history of a song and what story is behind it.” The next number was called *“You’ve Got Gail”* and was written for her by Stas Venglevski. She arrived for a small retreat where he told all the attendees he would write a song for them, but they had to provide the title. It was around the time of the hit movie *“You’ve Got Mail”* and the resulting Ragtime piece was absolutely delightful.

Gail followed this with the familiar *“Flight of the Bumblebee”* by Rimsky-Korsakov, arranged by Sanford Hertz. Her performance was wonderful, and I can’t even imagine what it takes to move fingers on the keyboard so quickly. She told us that she will be playing the accordion solo of this piece with orchestra backup at the Houston Accordion Camp next January.

Stas also sent her another piece which he titled *“La Campanella Musette.”* Gail provided a lovely rendition and Laura commented: “This is a perfect piece for Gail. Great mood music.” Her penultimate number was *“Nola.”* by Felix Arndt, arranged by Pietro Deiro. This was a familiar number, syncopated and lively with several changes of volume. Gail commented at the end: “Those doggone switches!” but if she had any trouble with them, it was barely noticed by her appreciative audience.

Her final number, sort of her signature piece, was the *“Wrong Note Polka”* written by Angelo di Pippo. Yes, he really wrote all those dissonant chords. It is fun to listen to because you are never quite sure when the next weird sound will occur. We all enjoyed it very much, and it evoked several comments on chat. Laura: “I may accidentally have played this piece before.” Collette: “Mmmm, me too!” and Mike: “What a difference a half step can make!”

There is often a nice discussion at the end of a Zoom performance, with attendees sharing memories. Someone encouraged Gail to play us some honkytonk piano when she comes to SVAS in person next time!

Kudos to the audio “engineers” who set up this program. Everyone agreed that the sound was excellent.