

SVAS Next Meeting: Sunday January 5th, 2020 at Christ Episcopal Church in Los Altos



Roberto Rosa was born in Puerto Rico in 1958. He began the accordion at the age of eight with a German teacher from church. At the age of 15, he won the first place prize at a contest for musical schools in the soloist category. In 1976, Roberto went to the university to study electronic engineering. He became the first accordionist to play with a university band. After a period of four years of musical inactivity, he began to play group dance music including merengue, salsa and folkloric music from Puerto Rico.

In 1985, he began to play as a solo player for large hotels in the islands. Roberto was the only solo singer in the islands who used the accordion as his main instrument. He also made recordings with some prominent Caribbean artists, and traveled to different parts of Latin and South American. He is the first Caribbean musician to play Latin Jazz on the accordion. Pietro Deiro, Jr. said, "I never thought that it was possible to find a fine accordion player like Roberto in the Carribean."

Roberto now plays a customized Bell accordion with

three and four sets of reeds with a double tone chamber and the latest contactless midi system. In addition, he also owns a La Melodiosa tone chamber midi accordion.

He makes his own arrangements for the Latin Jazz music. Roberto will be giving a complete performance playing acoustic only, midi and will also sing some Latin standards. If you like accordion music, you must come out and hear this great accordion maestro.

NO Jam Band session in January. But there is an open mic session. Please sign up with Pam, and let's hear your latest pieces!



SEASON'S GREETINGS!---Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Melegaya Pasco and Mele Kalikimaka!

I sincerely wish you all an enjoyable, healthy and safe holiday season. Thanksgiving is technically over, but we have so much for which to be thankful that it should last the entire year! (And this coming year will be memorable in SO many ways!!!)

Our program last Sunday was magical--truly special! Marybarbara Zorio is doing the write-up, (which she does SO well!), but please allow me to add my personal comments. First off, thank you all who attended the meeting. The weather presented some challenges and it was a joy to see so many folks who at-



bringing the great entertainment which we enjoy so much.



Bill shows the accordion-playing doll donated by Doris.

Our side-bar of appetizers and desserts was amazing! What a spread! Many thanks to all of you who brought goodies to eat. Rosemary Armanino, Rosemary Miceli, Gloria Tapogna and several other

folks added to this lavish display of gastronomic delights!! It really made this meeting extra special.

Thank you all.

I'll let Marybarbara tell all about the entertainment, but I want to mention that we were treated to hearing Rudy Pivk play his Hohner Gola machine! We don't get to hear Rudy that often, and it is a treat indeed.

Our Jam Band played a great selection of holiday music from books that Ken Caple provided, and Marybarbara collated and assembled. That was a big job! Thanks, "Mb"!

Murl Sanders, our "Featured Performer" was new to many of us, but he's not new to us any longer! What a fabulous entertainer! Scott Williamson met Murl at a music camp where Murl was the director. Scott suggested to Pam Kawashima (our hard-working entertainment director) that he be considered for one of our programs. And it came together! What a show! A special thanks to Scott and Pam for making this happen! Murl lives in Seattle, and occasionally comes to the Bay Area to visit. I surely hope we can get him to return for a repeat performance! Murl was met by an enthusiastic audience, and received a well-deserved "Standing O" at the completion of his program.

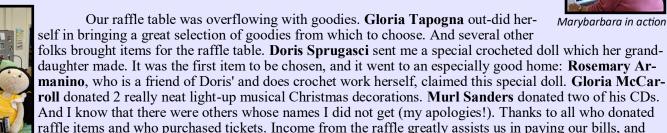
Next month, starting 2020 with a bang, **Roberto Rosa** is our featured performer. He was booked to appear in January of this year. But Harry's Hofbrau closed its doors, and we lost a meeting. Hope you will come to hear his distinctive Latin style, sunshine when it can be cold and wet outside.!

OK, I've rambled on long enough. Again Happy Holidays!

A new member! We are happy to announce that Randy Matteis from Cupertino joined the Society. Randy plays the accordion. Welcome Randy! We hope you'll join in playing, either as an individual performer —contact Pam for a slot, or remember the upcoming jam band session in Feb. And please keep attending the monthly meetings.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE at <u>SVASociety.org</u> and visit us on Facebook Watch Pam's Videos of SVAS meetings on YouTube at: accordionpam

Marybarbara in action





DECEMBER 2019



Page 4

Meeting Report—Marybarbara Zorio



fingers on his Sonola accordion.

Some of us are still hunting for Halloween candy between the couch cushions and have yet to order the Christmas goose— but "The Italian Accordionist" **Reno DeBono** quickly propelled us into the holiday spirit with some lively medleys of quick-paced accordion favorites and rarely heard popular Broadway favorites including tunes from A Chorus Line, Cabaret and Fiddler on the Roof.

If you came to the December 1 SVAS meeting anticipating some festive holiday music and lots of good cheer you weren't disappointed! Thanks to the fine organizational skills of our president, **Bill Tapogna**, SVAS's resident Jam Band offered up one hour chock-filled with hol-

iday cheer and ho-ho-ho enthusiasm! At the start, the band was challenged to keep time together—not an unusual problem for a group spread out over a large area. But once Barbara Cosig-



Center, and ...

The Christmas Jam band: Left, with Barbara marking time ...

the problem disappeared. Well done Barbara!

Right

lia and her base guitar joined in,

You can't beat those old-time favorite holiday songs that are always just perfect for an audience sing-a-long. And by 2:30, when the seasonal melodies concluded there was plenty of good cheer to go around.

The spirit of the holidays continued with **Rudy Pivk** with quick visits to the music of Russia, Italy and New Orleans. Rudy's Russian music was an invitation to journey deep inside the Russian soul. The audience had no trouble finding its Italian heart with *Marina, Marina*. And . . . if you didn't have enough to eat at this meeting's over-



Ed, listening as he played Flight of the Angles.

flowing "treat table" you were hungry for crawfish pie and fillet gumbo as Rudy served up a delicious portion of *Jambalaya*. Rudy's accordion is a Hohner Gola. As Bill Tapogna notes in his monthly letter, it had been too long since Rudy last played for us, and we can't let that happen again.

Ed Massolo not only played in the Jam Band holiday extravaganza but also soloed during the open mic portion treating us to a selection of Italian favorites including *Luci e Ombre* and *Bel Viso* and one of the most famous tangos: *Jalousie*. Finally, Ed took us to heaven in *Flight of the Angels*.

Intermission was a sweet and savory feast for the palate thanks to the many members who shared their culinary skills with us! Lots of prizes were raffled off thanks to the generosity of **Gloria Tapogna** and other **SVAS members**.

As an early holiday gift to all of us, **Murl Sanders** hitched a ride on Santa's sleigh to Los Altos all the way from his home town of Seattle. Putting his own spin on traditional American standards, Murl shared his musical renditions with his very unique characteristic jazzy flair, often accompanying himself with vocals and harmonica. As with any instrument, "wow-worthy" technique is what makes expert accordionists stand out and Murl's eclectic mix of familiar songs filled the room and our hearts with good music and lots of holiday cheer! It's definitely not surprising that Murl has been invited to work with many superstars including Etta James, Il Divo, and Chuck Berry. Murl actually started his



His performance dazzled us with his unique accordion style and energy - a mix of zydeco, blues and jazz. From Sinatra's classic *I Could Write a book* to the Brazilian bossa nova favorite *Estamos Ai*; to the Beatles *O-Bla-Di*, *O-Bla-Da* to Gershwin's *They Can't Take That Away from Me*, to Murl's own composition *Life Took Away Ma Bone*, his technical mastery of his Petosa was on full display.

In many cities, including this Sunday in Los Altos, the weather outside was pretty frightful but this Sunday inside at Christ Episcopal Church the weather was just right! Just ask anyone who attended the December SVAS meeting!



The holiday season delivers many reminders of why music matters and all were evident in this Sunday's holiday performances. SVAS wishes you and your families a joyful holiday season!

Merry Christmas, Mele Kalikimaka, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year to all!

The Mayor of Alvarado Street

Mike Marotta Sr. passed away on Sunday, November 17 in Monterey where he had lived his whole life. From a moving obituary in the Monterey Herald, and email notes from Mike Jr, leader of the Monterey International group that plays regularly at SVAS, here are some notes about Mike Sr's life and times.

With music as his spark, Mike Marotta Sr. was a force for good in the Monterey area as a businessman, musician and community leader. Since 1932, when he became the youngest member of the Musicians Union at age 11, Mike Sr. radiated his love for the Monterey Peninsula through innumerable hours and endless energy dedicated to community service. The Chamber of Commerce named him as 1982 Citizen of the Year.

After Mike Jr. took over leadership of Monterey International, Mike Sr. regularly joined in to play some tunes. His most recent appearance at SVAS was in November 2014 at the age of 93.

He served as a director for the (Internationally famous) Monterey Jazz Festival. He was honored to be named a Fellow for Cal State University Monterey Bay for his contributions in art and music. He once said that "Life should be lived like a good musical score...you need a good beginning, a good middle, and a good end. Most important are the beginning and the end. You can make a lot of mistakes in the middle and still pull it off- that's music and that's life." His honorary title of Mayor of Alvarado Street was his choice, and says a lot about his outlook on life.

He was an entertainer, musician, businessman, civic leader and all around fun fellow to be around. Entertaining people is what he enjoyed most. He was proud of his Sicilian heritage. He certainly achieved a comfortable life through his successes as a businessman, yet his greatest joy came from playing his accordion and entertaining folks.



Mike Marotta Sr. surrounded by members of Monterey International, at Harry's Hofbrau in Nov, 2014.

Did you miss a meeting performance? You can view some 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.)

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

DECEMBER 2019

Page 6

| Ernie Beran: Aptos, 831.238.4961 reeds@baymoon.comsetup.PRESIDENT: 408 984.5290Gary Breitbard: Palo Alto 650.493.0693, garv@breitbard.com1:30—2:20 Sunday Seven Band 2:30—3:00 Open mic—please contact Pam for a slot. 3:00—3:25 Break and raffle 3:30—4:30 Roberto RosaVICE PRESIDENT: TREASURER: ROSEMARY MICELI, rosemarymiceli@sbeglobal.netPROGRAM SCHEDULE: PAM KAWASHIMA pamk@svasociety.orgmamk@svasociety.orgVice president: bono: San Francisco, 415.699.86743:00—3:25 Break and raffle 3:30—4:30 Roberto RosaReno DiBono: Lessons at Cuper- tino Senior Center every Tuesday, 1:30pmSetup.Lou Jacklich: San Lorenzo, 510.317.9510Feb 2: Norwegian Dance group (Nordahl Grieg Leikarring og Spelemannslag.)WEBMASTER: PAM KAWASHIMA pamk@svasociety.orgPamela Tom:: Davis, accordionpam@gmail.comMar 1: Reno Di Bono Trio. Apr 5: Rene Sevieri.NL REPORTERS: MARCIA COULLAHAN, MARYBARBARA ZORIOBoard Committe: Norma Parsons Dick Siudzinski |
|---|
|---|

√ Who's Playing???

5

William DeMichelis - Music with an accent, 408-375-0001. Or contact William at <u>accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net</u>
Reno DiBono - Teaches accordion lessons at Cupertino Senior Center every Tuesday at 1:30pm.
Joe Domitrowich/AlpinersUSA - see www.alpinersusa.com or www.capricious-accordion.com or call 408-255-1259
Happy Days Band - Schedule Concerts with Ken Caple (408) 892-2760
Ernie Beran - Plays at the Tyrolean Inn Restaurant in Ben Lomond, CA every Saturday 6:00-9:00 pm
Sunday 7 Band - Plays every first Friday of the month in Los Altos in front of Le Boulanger bakery on Main and Second in the down town area. Schedule Concerts with Bob Stanfield (650) 888-3701
Mike Zampiceni - Plays at O Sole Mio restaurant, Millbrae, 6:00-8:30 on Sundays. Also from April - Oct at the Tee Nee Thai restaurant, San Jose, on Friday nights.
Gloria Gazave and Paul Aebersold, "Il Duetto Musica" - Contact Gloria at 415.845.0772, or email mazurkaman@yahoo.com.
Pam Tom—Plays at Farmers Market, Davis, every Sat. For private events, contact <u>accordionpam@gmail.com</u>

ACCORDION CLUB MEETING SCHEDULES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR) meets on the third Monday of every other month Herman & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma CA 94952. Contact: (707) 795-4060.

Napa Valley Accordion Club meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM, Runway Restaurant, 2044 Airport Rd, Napa, CA 94558. Contact George Bachich for more information, (707) 738-5276.

Humboldt Accordion Club meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 PM., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551. The Sacramento Accordion Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Elks Lodge No.6, 6446 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento, CA.

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC) meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM, Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave., Escalon, CA 95320. Contact Ed Sciarini (209) 545-3603.

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS) meets on the first Wednesday of the month 6:30 PM 6365 Douglas Blvd., Lutheran Church Social Hall, Granite Bay, CA 95746.

San Francisco Accordion Club (SFAC) meets on the third Sunday of the month 2:00 PM. Chetcuti Community Room, Civic Center Plaza, 450 Poplar Ave., Milbrae, CA 94030. Contact Ken Schwartz Kenneth.e.schwartz@gmail.com

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) meets on the first Sunday of the month, Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos, CA 94024. Contact: Bill Tapogna (408) 984-5290.

Page 7

The Raffle

There were prizes galore this month. In addition to those that Gloria provided, Doris Sprugasci sent in a special crocheted, accordion-playing doll which her grand-daughter made. Gloria McCarroll donated 2 really neat light-up musical Christmas decorations. Murl Sanders donated two of his CDs. As Bill says, apologies if we forgot to mention anyone who brought prizes – it can become quite chaotic around the raffle prize area.

Rosemary won first prize, and chose Dorris' grandaughter's crocheted doll. Kathleen, one of our most loyal attendees preferred the Barefoot Chardonnay. Norma took the Aussie Merlot. Rudy settled for one of the light-up Christmas decorations donated by Gloria McCarroll. Then the next three prize winners are anonymous - extreme apologies! The photographer was sure he would remember the names, but should have made a note. Next time for sure. Marcia won a bag of candy and nuts. Arsey and Ed chose the last white wine. John, another of our most loval attendees, took the Whitman Sampler chocolates. We were getting towards the end. George and Luisa took the tin of Christmas-themed cookies, Casey (almost always a winner) chose a CD donated by Murl Sanders, and Bruce got the last prize: the can of nuts.



Around the accordion world—Events and happenings that help make our world an interesting place.

The "Musikantenstammtisch" is a regular music meeting at Esther's German Bakery on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Esther's is located at 987 N San Antonio Rd, Los Altos. It was a cold and



drizzling evening on November 14th, but warm, festive and crowded inside Esther's. The band staked out a small area on one side of the floor, barely enough for the 6+ instruments. These included 2 accordions, a guitar, saxophone, bass, recorder, and a whole percussion section in the form of a single home-made instrument that combined a drum, cymbals, bells and a tambourine, as you can see in the photograph.



The percussion section

The songs and music were selected from a book of German, mostly folk, music that Bill Likens has collected. November is only just past the Oktoberfest season. If you, dear reader, have ever had the opportunity to visit Munich in late Septemeber/early Oktober, you would immediately recognize Ein Prosit (played every 15 minutes like clockwork in the beer tents, and every 30 min at Esther's-beer in steins is available!) and In Munchen steht ein Hofbrau Haus. They may even have played Hey Baby, a newer traditional Oktoberfest song, and they most certainly did play Auf und Nieder (Stand up, sit down) and people were bobbing up and down! Sheets with lyrics and music were available for every piece. With all that fun, there was no neglect of regular German folk music. Aus Böhmen (From Bohemia ... comes music) and Einsiedler Mädschen (Hermit girl) to name but two. It would be a severe injustice to Esther's to skip mentioning that the eats were terrific—cakes, cookies, simple meals, good coffee, wine and German beer in steins. This is THE place to come for a light-hearted taste of German culture.

NEWSLETTER OF THE



P.O. Box 1513 Los Altos, CA 94023

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE 🎜



Silicon Valley Accordion Society meets first Sunday of each month, at CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos, CA 94024. Doors open at 1:00. \$5 for members, \$10 for non members, 16 years and under free. • JOIN THE CLUB • Annual Memberships: Regular \$35, Gold \$125, Platinum \$200