

# SILICON VALLEY ACCORDION SOCIETY

January/February 2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS

SVAS

SUNDAY, MARCH 5,  
2023, HAPPY DAYS  
BAND

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023,  
NORWEGIAN DANCE  
GROUP

## HELLO ACCORDION FRIENDS – HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY!

So happy to see so many wonderful members for our January and February 2023 meetings! We have had incredible wintery weather with very much needed rain, and yet, we still had quite a few folks come to see Sheri Mignano Crawford and Steve Hanson. Sheri and Steve, we very much appreciated your beautiful music and hope you will come back and join us again...Thank you all for braving the weather.

Our February was very enjoyable as well with Mike Marotta, Dave Dally and once again... Steve Hanson on bass, (he cant get enough accordion just like us). We had 40 people here in person for the meeting... a number we haven't seen in such a long time.

March we will have the Happy Days Band, April will be The Norwegian Dance Group. Get your dance shoes ready for some good exercise!

I have to say, I for one, am so very proud of our incredibly talented members here at SVAS. As soon as the doors open, we have volunteers lined up playing an assortment of tunes. The accordion means different things to different people. You just can't get so much diversity from any other single instrument! Looking forward to having some wonderful music in 2023 with trios, Volunteers, Groups, Professionals, Beginners. The beauty of the accordion is the rich variety of ethnic and cultural styles from absolutely all over the world!

Colette Ogata



Wonderful to see Ed Massolo back at our club to enjoy the performances. Pam Says, "We Miss ED!"



Rudy Pivk



Reno Di Bono



Bill Likens



**So many people...  
like old times.**



**Mike Marotta, Dave Dally  
and Steve Hanson**

Sunday, February 5, 2023 - Our program started with Joseph Martin playing "Anytime" and "La Romanina," on his flashy instrument bearing his name. Joe has just started again and has taken 10 lessons from Lou Jacklich. He is an accomplished musician. On request he played an encore. We hope he will become a regular performer at SVAS.

Bill Liken played "Bohmischer Traum," (Bohemian Dream) and "Bohmische Liebe," (Bohemian Love). Bill really knows how to make those bellows play their part. He plays with great expression and has great endings to each song. Bill explained how his Fismen is Alpine tuned which allows it to make a beautiful low tone that is not part of all accordions. Very enjoyable performance, Bill.

Wayne Lavengood played his Excelsior with Valentine's Day in mind. He played "As Time Goes By" with great expression. We also were treated to "Somewhere over the Rainbow," with unusual fills, and a beautiful minor ending.

Rudy Pivk played his gorgeous Hohner. It is black with beautiful gold trim, truly elegant! Rudy certainly knows his way around an accordion. He said he started in the wrong key and made a switch which certainly was not detected by this reporter. We enjoyed "Oh Marie Polka," "Give Back My Heart," and "Silk Umbrella."

Reno Di Bono played "VA Pensiero" from the Nabucco opera. It is so enjoyable the way the song goes off in different directions and comes back to the part that we all know. He also played "Olive Blossoms," definitely an Italian tune. We olive lovers think of Italy and great olives and oil. Reno finished with Scott Joplin's, "The Entertainer," using lots of right-handed chords.

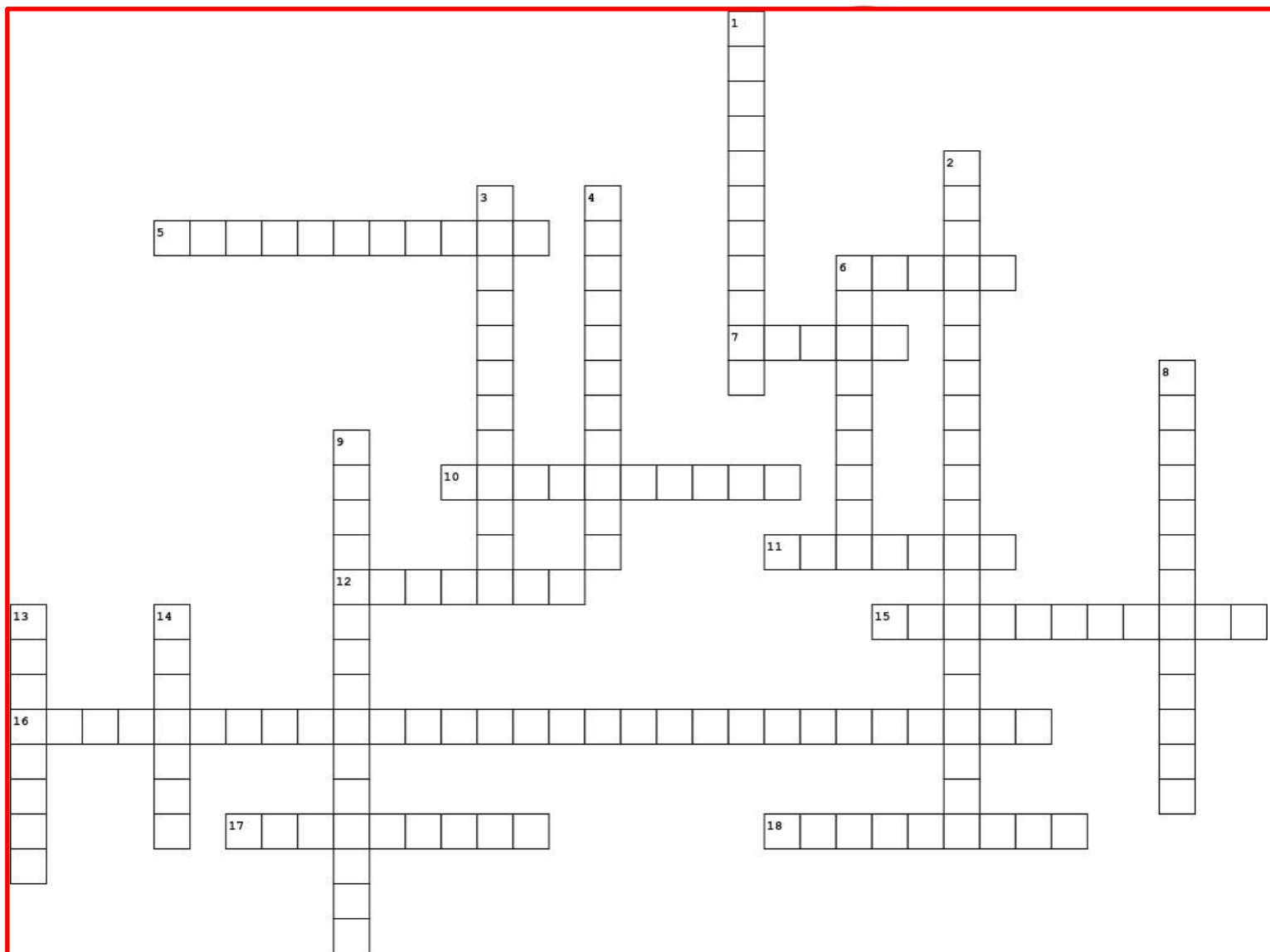
Mike Marotta and his student, Diane Salmon, played the most beautiful rendition of "Blue Skirt Waltz." Lovely.

Dave Dally, Mike Marotta, and Steve Hansen truly put on an outstanding performance. No matter what your preference in music they played it. Dave and Mike have played together for several years. Steve played a tune or two sight, unseen. It is incredible how he never misses a beat playing his bass and symbols. All three have developed the skill of listening to other players as well as to themselves. We were treated to about 30 songs starting with Glen Miller's, "In the Mood," "String of Pearls," and "Take the A Train." We enjoyed the haunting music by Brian Tyler that was played during the TV series, "Yellowstone." The Beatles tune, "Octopus's Garden" is a snappy tune. We enjoyed lots of easy listening, like the theme from "Love Boat," "How Deep is Your Love," which Dave played on his trumpet, "I've Got You Under My Skin," and "Moon River." I love the way Mike and Dave take turns playing the melody. It reminds me of the give and take of a pleasant conversation. The trio finished with "Saber Dance," a song well known to accomplished accordionists. Thanks for a terrific afternoon of fabulous music.

Marcia Coullahan



MAIN SQUEEZE



Across

- 5. Promoted himself as the daddy of the accordion
- 6. First free reed instrument from China
- 7. Typically, three or more notes
- 10. Popeye played one on a ship
- 11. Hungarian dance in double time
- 12. The breath of this instrument
- 15. Made Lady of Spain Popular
- 16. The best accordion club in the world
- 17. A free reed portable musical instrument
- 18. Stas Venglevski plays one

Down

- 1. Accordionist who played in vaudeville and on Zoom
- 2. Fisharmonica gigante, the world's largest accordion was built by \_\_\_
- 3. Famous Jazz accordion player
- 4. German Festive month
- 6. Bass layout of the accordion
- 8. Town in Italy where accordions are made
- 9. A very popular polka
- 13. Tone chamber aka
- 14. .... Highest reed



*Pam enjoyed seeing Monterey International at Lugano's Swiss Bistro in Carmel Valley and their holiday show! Fabulous! Mike Marotta on accordion and Dave Dally on violin. Dave plays regularly on Thursdays and Mike joins when he can. Don't miss it if you can get down there!*



*Colette and Casey, and club members Elaine and Robert Cooperstein enjoyed dinner and music by Steve Albini at the Restaurant, San Rafael Joe's. Steve plays there most Friday evenings. Good food, good friends, good music. Call San Rafael Joe's to find out when he plays and make a reservation!*

## “Voices of the Earth,” Accordion Solos Released by Megumi Hada

By Pamela Tom

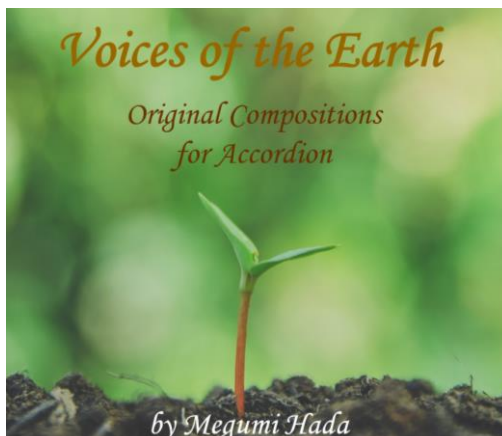
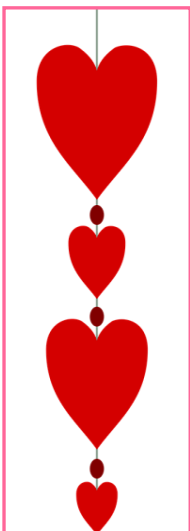


Megumi Hada, PhD., accordion music composer, poet and student scholarship sponsor has released her fifth volume of compositions for accordion, “Voices of the Earth.” “Voices of the Earth” contains 13 original compositions written for solo and duet accordion with an accompanying CD. An added bonus are Megumi’s thoughtfully penned poems attributed to each composition and conveying the mood of the music. Stas Venglevski, world renowned accordionist, interprets and performs the melodic compositions on the CD. “Winter Sky” from the CD is a beautiful example of Megumi’s music and poetry posted on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/iwLZQKpCoDA>.

Full length audio recordings (MP3) of the compositions can be heard, and individual purchases of sheet music are available through [sheetmusicplus.com](http://sheetmusicplus.com). Proceeds from the sales of Megumi’s music are entirely donated to support student scholarships for young accordionists participating at the annual Houston Accordion Orchestra Retreat. The 13 nature-based tunes debuted at the Houston Accordion Orchestra Retreat mini-concert last month by duo Gabrielle Peck (cellist) and Stas Venglevski (bayan) accompanied by a touching 40-minute slide and poetry presentation by Ms. Hada. “Voices of the Earth” combined as a spiral-bound book with CD is a good deal for the accordion enthusiast and can be ordered directly from Megumi: [meghada33@gmail.com](mailto:meghada33@gmail.com).

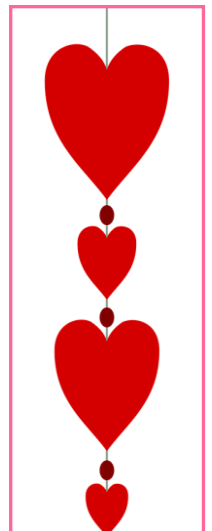
### Titles from “Voices of the Earth, Original Compositions for Accordion” CD by Megumi Hada



1. *Voice of the Earth*
2. *Voice of the Spring*
3. *Sunny Afternoon*
4. *Voice of the Summer*
5. *Voice of the Autumn*
6. *Winter Sky*
7. *Voice of the Winter Forest*
8. *Voice of the Night Air*
9. *Tango at the Dawn*
10. *Voice of the Deep Ocean*
11. *Voice of the Rain Drops*
12. *Voice of the Sky*
13. *Walk Down Memory Lane*

“Voices of the Earth” is a compilation of 13 original compositions, all written for solo and duet accordion by Megumi Hada. All tracks are performed by Stas Venglevski.

CREDITS  
 Producer : Stas Venglevski  
 Recorded at DV Production,  
 Milwaukee, WI  
 Mastered and edited by  
 David Vartanian



## SVAS Board of Directors/Officers

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Newsletter Reporters: Marcia Coullahan, Georgia Sutherland, Volunteers from Club

### NAA Accordion Convention

March 15-19, 2023

Hilton Hotel, Richardson, Tx

[Accordions.com/NAA](http://Accordions.com/NAA)

### Accordion Symposium

IDEAS Hybrid Symposium 5.0! 2023 5<sup>th</sup> Annual GR8 IDEAS Symposium. The Grand Resort, 9519 E. Market St., Warren, Ohio, 44484

April 26-30, 2023 – In Person

Our Symposium 5.0 will be a hybrid combination of a week-long virtual piece, followed immediately by a 3-day live event that will include follow-up classes to enhance what was learned virtually, as well as completely new information, and our usual spectacular LIVE concerts held once again at the [Avalon Inn & Resort](#)

For more information

<https://www.gr8ideas.org/events>



**La Plaza Park**  
**August 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Cotati, California**

**Kim and Dan Christian Orchestra in Branson MO**  
**May 17-20, 2023**

We are excited to announce that the Branson Accordion Extravaganza and Band Camp is a go!! It is going to be such a blast!! Our intention for this event is that you will have the most fun that you have ever had with your accordion and that you will be very proud to be a part of this Awesome Accordion Orchestra! Come and be a part of this fun.

For Information, [www.Squeezeplay.biz](http://www.Squeezeplay.biz) Click on Branson Band Camp 2023

**Would you like to visit the**  
**'Home of the Accordion' in Castelfidardo, Italy?**  
**May 16th-20th, 2023**

Since 2012, Peter Le Geyt has arranged several visits to Italy from the UK offering accordionists the opportunity to experience Castelfidardo, the 'Home of the Accordion.' Some people have enjoyed the experience enough to attend a few times. **If you have not visited Castelfidardo, here is the perfect opportunity.**

Please email Peter Le Geyt for more information: [plg@plgmarketing.com](mailto:plg@plgmarketing.com)

May 22, 27, 2023 **Jacques Mornet Workshops**

May 29 – June 3, 2023

New Orleans, LA

[Cnima.com/USA](http://Cnima.com/USA)

**2023 Rose City Accordion Club's**

**24th Accordion Camp**

June 4-9, 2023

Collins Retreat Center Eagle Creek, Oregon

Website: [collins.gocamping.org](http://collins.gocamping.org)

Conductors: Gabe Hall-Rodrigues and Gail Campanella  
Workshop Instructors: Toby Hanson and Dee Langley

Enrollment is limited! Please reserve early.

Contact Fran Maddox:

[Maddox43@gmail.com](mailto:Maddox43@gmail.com)

**Leavenworth, WA, International Accordion**  
**Celebration**

June 22-25, 2023

Website: [Accordioncelebration.org](http://Accordioncelebration.org)

### Alpine Sound, Silicon Valley's German Music Band

Our very own SVAS member, Bill Likens, with his band, Alpine Sound, plays at Esther's Bakery, Los Altos, and around the Silicon Valley area! When you are in need of your German Music fix, log on to their website to find out when and where they are playing next!! Lots of fun! <https://alpinesound.net>

Webpage: <https://folkaccordion.webs.com/musikantenstammtisch.htm>



Silicon Valley  
Accordion Society  
Presenting

Sheri Mignano Crawford  
Steve Hanson on Bass



Sunday, January 8, 2023  
Doors open at 1:30pm PST  
Featured performers at 3:15pm PST

Location:  
Christ Episcopal Church  
1040 Border Road  
Los Altos, CA 94024

2023

Happy New Year

### Sherri Mignano Crawford and Steve Hanson SVAS Meeting - January 8, 2023

About a dozen people were in the room at 1:30, and while I was waiting for the setup to be completed, I got acquainted with Joseph Edward Martin, a first timer at our meeting. Joseph has restarted his accordion playing after a hiatus of 47 years and has been taking lessons from Lou Jacklich. He's even acquired a nice black shirt with an accordion embroidered on it along with his name. I enjoyed meeting Joseph, and he was full of smiles as he left the meeting three hours later.

Lou Jacklich was our first entertainer. He played three numbers for us, all from memory. The first was fast, with incredibly fast fingering. The second was a Latin number with lots of interesting variations, including an emphatic bellows shake. The third number was played in Ernie Felice style, using all five fingers of the right hand in his medley of *I'm In the Mood for Love* and *Fly Me to the Moon*. It is always a treat when Lou plays for us.

Our next performer was Reno Di Bono, who brought his Sonola Accordion and played four numbers for us, all from memory. The first number was quite speedy, followed by a simple and lovely version of *The Rose* as made famous by Bette Midler. He followed this with Charlie Chaplin's *Smile* which started out slowly but included a jazzy rendition as well. The final number was an Italian song I didn't recognize, and Reno sang this in Italian as well.

Our third entertainer was Bill Likens, playing his 72-bass brown Fisner accordion.

His four-song selection was quite varied, starting out with an Australian song entitled *Highway to Hell*, singing along as he went. He followed this with an Irish jig set, which would have been great for dancing as the beat was quite relentless. I was tapping my foot most of the time. The third number was *Wind of Change* which was made popular by the **Scorpions** in the 1990 timeframe, around the time that the Berlin Wall came down and the Soviet Empire broke up. His final number was a Norwegian reel, which was like a polka. I was impressed by Bill's ability to jump around the bass buttons quite a bit in this song and enjoyed his performance very much.

After that, we had the always-popular raffle. I was the tenth winner (out of 10) and was delighted to pick up a Hallmark ornament of a chicken holding an accordion with a push-button that caused it to play *The Chicken Dance*. Thanks to whoever donated this – I will have fun with it in my collection.

Our featured performers on this day were Sheri Mignano Crawford (accordionist) and Steve Hanson (bass and cymbals). They played for well over an hour and delighted us with sixteen numbers, each of which was introduced with interesting information about the song.

Cont. on page 7



**Mr. Lou Jacklich sure had us all mesmerized with his incredibly fast, flawless fingers and very complicated arrangements! Keep it up, Mr. J., You are pretty darn good at what you do!!!**



Cont. from page 6

Sheri told us she usually plays accompaniment for singers, so it was a bit of a challenge to have her right hand do the melody, but she did a beautiful job, and Steve's accompaniment was wonderful too. It was clear they had played together often, as there were no glitches apparent at any time. Sheri told us she likes to play French songs, and that many were actually composed by Italians who came to Paris. Subsequently, Americans adopted the songs for themselves. In fact, all the songs were familiar to me, which just proves how right she was about the American adoptions. Their performance included *C'est Si Bon*, *Autumn Leaves*, *Speak Softly Love* (featured in **The Godfather** movie), *Midnight in Paris* (featured Woody Allen's film of the same name), *C'est Magnifique* (signature song of Maurice Chevalier), a Latin number called *Perhaps. I Wish You Love* (recorded by Barbra Streisand), *More* (the theme from the Italian movie **Mondo Cane**), *Aux Champs Elysees* (also known as *A Man and a Woman* and sung by Frank Sinatra), *Domino* (a familiar waltz), *Brazil* (a Latin Samba), *What is This Thing Called Love* (sung by Edith Piaf), *I Will Wait for You* (from the opera movie **The Umbrellas of Cherbourg**),

and *Mack the Knife* (from **The Three Penny Opera**). They finished up with a quick rendition of *Those Were the Days*.

If you've been reading my meeting writeups over the past few years, you will know that I usually don't list all the numbers, but it was so enjoyable to hear these familiar tunes played so well that I couldn't resist. The entire performance was very competent and totally enjoyable, with wonderful accompaniment by the bass. It was impossible for me to not do a lot of toe-tapping to many of the numbers.

Sheri had a chance to talk a bit about a book she has compiled and published called **Italian Mandolin Heroes in America**. The book was her response to frequent questions about how she learned to play this music. Sheri grew up in San Jose where she was exposed to it and decided to publish this book. I found the book [listed on eBay](#), or you can contact Sheri for a copy.

The meeting concluded around 4:15 and if you weren't one of the two dozen in attendance you really missed something special!



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**Next SVASociety meeting will be Sunday, March 5, 2023  
Happy Days Band and Volunteers**

**SILICON VALLEY ACCORDION  
SOCIETY  
PO Box 1513  
Los Altos, CA 94023**

**Recipient Name**  
Street Address  
City, ST ZIP Code