

Newsletter of the
Silicon Valley Accordion Society

March 2023

SVAS Next Meeting: Sunday April 2nd
At Christ Episcopal Church in Palo Alto
Featuring Norwegian Folk Music and Dance Group



This group of dancers is officially known as Nordahl Grieg Leikarring og Spelemannslag. This entertaining group of dancers is a non-profit social and performing group that meets for practice weekly at the Unitarian Universlist Church in Palo Alto on Wednesday Evenings, focusing on traditional Norwegian dances and dances from other Scandinavian countries. Led by Meg Laycock and Tom Sears, they welcome visitors to any of their weekly classes. For their performances, the dancers wear traditional Norwegian dress. The group takes their name from the Sons of Norway Nordahl Grieg Lodge, where they originally formed.

Nordahl Grieg was a Norwegian journalist, novelist, and popular poet who flew with RAAF during WWII as an observer and correspondent; his plane was shot down and he was killed along with the aircraft crew in 1943. Though the name is a bit unusual for everyday folk, definitions of the words are helpful: A Leikarring is a Norwegian folk dance group and a Spelemannslag is a group of folk musicians (ensemble). You won't want to miss their colorful dance and music presentations.

Hello Accordion Friends –

A very Happy Spring to all! It's here and it is finally time to thaw out. While I am not thrilled about losing an hour of sleep, it is just marvelous to get an extra hour of daylight in the afternoon. Be sure to take the time to enjoy our milder weather.

Thank you, Don Savant, Tseli Wu, Reno Di Bono and Bill Likens for playing for us at our last meeting. Each one of you have such incredible talent and contribute greatly to our accordion family. And, of course, thank you, Happy Days Band, Marcia Coullahan, Tseli Wu, Myself, and Sharon Teeter for a bit of Irish cheer.

Looking forward to seeing you all in April. Stay well and see you soon.

Colette Ogata, President

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	<p>La Plaza Park August 19th & 20th, 2023 Cotati, California</p>
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Raffle winners



The meeting on March 5 was notable for the fine performances that demonstrated a variety of genres and styles.



Our first performer was Bill Likens, who played Irish tunes. Some were polkas, some were reels, and one song was a ballad that included Bill singing along. He fielded questions about his Fismen accordion, which was a 72-bass instrument with a few of the bass notes sounding in a lower octave than normal. He has a wireless microphone installed inside the bellows, but didn't use that for this performance. I asked him about the California flag sticker that was on his instrument, and he said it was a mark of pride when he plays his accordion while visiting family in Austria.



Our second performer, Tseli Wu, caused several who were in attendance to say: "Why do we need featured guest performers when we have members who can play like that?" Tseli performed three numbers, including two waltzes and a very challenging piece called "Czardas." This last number had some very dramatic sections, some light and tender interludes, and a lively and dramatic ending. All these numbers were played from memory and were very impressive



Don Savant was our third performer, and he entertained us with familiar songs that are so wonderful to hear again. These included "What the World Needs Now," "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," "These Foolish Things," "Dream a Little Dream of Me," and "The Echo, My Shadow, and Me" which was made famous by a group called the "Ink Spots" in 1939. It is always a pleasure when Don plays for us and brings us these memories.



Reno DiBono was next with his music lesson for us. He started by playing the "William Tell Overture" and "If I Were a Rich Man" (from Fiddler on the Roof). He accompanied the latter song with a little singing as well. Then he explained about vamps. According to Wikipedia, a vamp is a repeating musical figure or accompaniment. Reno demonstrated two well-known vamps, one from "Chorus Line" and the other from "New York, New York." We all recognized those immediately. He then went on to demonstrate the idea of stacking chords and played some examples. Adding the 4th of the scale below the minor chorus adds tension and gets the audience to listen more intently before the chord resolves. Thanks for expanding our knowledge, Reno.

Our featured entertainment this month was a performance by the Happy Days Band, performing without Bill Tapogna and his wife Gloria, who are dealing with health issues. Members of the band include three accordionists (Tseli Wu, Marcia Coullahan and Colette Ogata) and a violinist (Sharon Teeter). They made a nice picture in their coordinated outfits with green Irish hats.



They played an entire program of Irish songs, eleven in all. Marcia said a few words to introduce each song, and then Tseli played the lead-in measures to get everyone started. Most of the songs were familiar to us and helped into the spirit for Saint Patrick's Day, coming up on March 17. Their song list included "My Wild Irish Rose," "When Irish Eyes are Smiling," "When you and I Were Young, Maggie." "Luck of the Irish Medley." "Harrigan," "Cockles and Mussels," "Peggy O'Neil," "I'm Looking over a Four Leaf Clover," "Macnamara's Band," "Sweet Rosie O'Grady," and "The Band Played On." I imagine that this group had a good time practicing together for this performance, which was very enjoyable indeed.

Georgia Sutherland

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>

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Other Accordion Happenings

Accordion Symposium

St., Warren, Ohio, 44484

April 26-30, 2023 – In Person

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

Kim and Dan Christian Orchestra in Branson MO

May 17-20, 2023

www.Squeezeplay.biz

May 22, 27, 2023 Jacques Mornet Workshops

May 29 – June 3, 2023

New Orleans, LA

Cnima.com/USA

2023 Rose City Accordion Club's

24th Accordion Camp

June 4-9, 2023

Website: collins.gocamping.org

Leavenworth, WA, International Accordion Celebration

June 22-25, 2023

Website: Accordioncelebration.org

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Silicon Valley Accordion
Society
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To: