

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

November 2019

**SVAS Next Meeting: Sunday December 1st,
at Christ Episcopal Church in Los Altos**



MURL ALLEN SANDERS is a musician, composer, teacher and recording artist who is active in the Seattle area music scene and across the United States, Canada, England, Brazil and Japan. Murl has worked with such diverse artists as Chuck Berry, Etta James, Il Divo, Glenn Yarbrough, Seattle Symphony, Brazilian accordion virtuoso Chico Chagas, virtuosos Stas Venglevski and Gary Blair, Leroy Bell, Peter Duchin, Alarm Will Sound, Seattle Modern Orchestra, Cascade Symphony, Everett Philharmonic, Orchestra Seattle/Seattle Chamber Singers, The Von Trapp Children, Theodore Bikel, Leslie Gore, Barbara Lamb, Susan Pascal, Warren Rand, Pearl Django, Michael Tomlinson and Kelly Harland, among many others.

Murl teaches piano and accordion privately and is also adjunct faculty at Cornish College of the Arts and Shoreline Community College in Seattle. He has received two grants from The Seattle Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs to compose *She Blows Hot and Cold* for chorus and symphony orchestra which premiered May 2, 2010, and a grant to compose his *Accordion Concerto No. 2* which premiered in 2007 with Orchestra

Seattle/Seattle Chamber Singers. His *Accordion Concerto No. 1*, a commission from Orchestra Seattle/Seattle Chamber Singers, premiered in 2003. Murl received a 2010 and 2009 ASCAP plus award for his concert compositions from The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Nowhere mentioned above: Murl also occasionally accompanies himself with vocals.

There will be a Jam Band session in December, led by Ken Caple with his Christmas music selection book. Let's make this really festive with a huge jam band!



President's Message, from Bill "The Prez" Tapogna

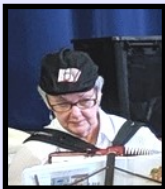
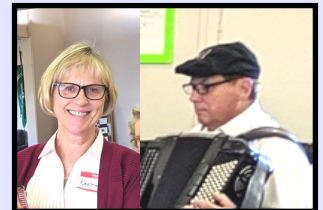
Hi, fellow music lovers and accordionists!

Well, "The Holidays" are about upon us--actually, judging from the store décor, they've already arrived! Hard to believe!

We sincerely wish you all a very enjoyable holiday season, good health and a safe year to come. Given all the political furor and the pending elections, 2020 will be a most interesting (and perhaps historically significant) year.

We enjoyed a great program on Nov. 3. Harriet, Steve and Peter really put on a great show! One of my all-time favorite tunes (and according to Peter, also one of Harriet's favorites) is "Ashokan Farewell." Harriet plays that tune so well--it brought tears to my eyes!

We also enjoyed a performance by Ken Caple's "Happy Days Band", including a new honorary member from Mendocino: **Roy Helsing**. It was nice to see **Lou and Karen Buonomo** back from Dallas, Texas. Ken certainly has a knack of pulling in players from distant spots! Lou joined in with the Happy Days Band, and Karen helped **Gloria Tapogna and Rosemary Miceli** run the welcome table/Raffle operation. Thanks, Karen! Karen also donated a charming Christmas cookie jar to the raffle assortment, which was accumulated by Gloria. A LOT of happy winners! And, thanks to all of you who bought tickets--it really helps provide funds for featured Performers, room rent, etc. -- so thank you!



Marcia playing
in HDB

Our sincere appreciation to **Rosemary Armanino and Rosemary Miceli** for the wonderful selection of "goodies." And **Scott Stanfield** did his usual masterful job of supervising the refreshment table! We were also lucky to have **Marcia Coullahan** as the reporter for this month. Marcia is a member of the Happy Days band. You might think it would be difficult to play and report, but no problem for Marcia, as you can see further on!

For the December 1st concert we have a new performer to the Society. Murl Sanders has appeared in many venues, including the San Francisco Accordion Club. He was proposed as our featured performer by an enthusiastic group of members who have already heard and seen him play. Murl has a phenomenally wide repertoire of accordion music, and, Murl also accompanies himself with lyrics, including some original compositions. **Don't miss this chance to see and hear him!** In addition to the main program, we will have a Holiday (Christmas) Jam session. Ken Caple has assembled the music books and hopefully he will be on hand to lead this great "Jam" session! **Do bring your accordion and join the fun!** *Bill*

Driving directions to Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos, CA 94024

From Hwy 280, San Jose area: North on Hwy 280, exit at El Monte Road, East (toward the Bay, away from the hills) at the 3rd signal, turn right on University Ave, (if you get to the Foothill Expressway, you have gone one block too far) approx. ¼ mile to end of University, turn right, go about 100 feet, turn left on Border Road. In one block you will see the Christ Episcopal Church sign, turn right into the driveway and go up the hill for parking.

From Hwy 280, San Mateo and other northern locations, take 280 south to El Monte Road and go east away from the hills and toward the bay. At the 3rd signal, turn right on University Ave, drive approx. ¼ mile to end, turn right, go 100 feet, turn left onto Border Road. In one block, you will see the Christ Episcopal Church sign, turn right into the driveway and go up the hill for parking.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE at SVASociety.org and visit us on Facebook
Watch Pam's Videos of SVAS meetings on YouTube at: [accordionpam](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8p8p8p8p8p8p8p8p8p8p8)**

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Report of the September Meeting—Marcia Coullahan.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Think of all the many things we all have to be grateful for. One being, that once a month we get to hear truly fine music and meet with people with like tastes in music. Of course, it goes without mentioning that we also enjoy the goodies provided by our group members.

It was a real treat to hear from two of our members that we have not heard in ages. Norma Zonay-Parsons and Don Pandori put on a stunning performance. They started their program with Norma singing, *Going Along With The Breeze* and Don filling in with a light accompaniment. We loved their rendition of *Moonglow*. The smile comes so easily for Norma. She is a professional. It is amazing how she keeps that beautiful alto voice so sharp. Don has a very pleasing jazz style that is so easy to listen to. He has mastered the digital Roland and makes his changes easily. Norma played her new Ottavianelli. These two accordions make a mellow sound, just like they belong together. We enjoyed *I Can't Give You Anything But Love Baby* and *Taking A Chance On Love*. Norma and Don really compliment each other. They finished their program with *When You're Smiling*. Norma put her "all" into the last measures. The whole piece sounded super. Sing it to yourself and you will see it requires a crescendo at the finale.



Norma singing and Don accompanying

We owe a lot to these two. SVAS was formed in March of 2003. Don Pandori was the first president and Norma Parsons was vice president. Norma was responsible for getting a contract with Harry's Hofbrau which lasted 16 years. In the early years they sometimes had a full house of 120! I guess we can say these two worked well together and we know they play well together. A heartfelt Thank You! Hope we hear from you again soon!



Mei

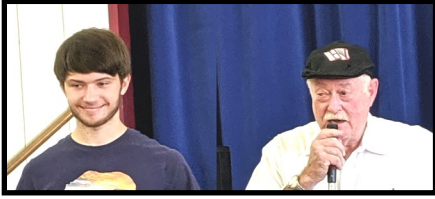
Mei Liu treated us to a variety of tunes, beginning with a classical arrangement of *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*. Mei did an excellent job. She followed this with *Beer Barrel Polka*, a must for the accordion. And she concluded with *The Merry Widow* with that fine waltz tempo and a very smooth ending. Thanks Mei!



Bill, Tseli, Hubert, Ken, Roy, Marcia, Sharon (violin), Gloria (recorder), Colette and Lou make up the HDB. 8 accordions!

Next, it was the turn of the Happy Days Band. Ken Caple introduced the band members, and honorary member Roy Helsing (who played his digital Concerto accordion, making 3 electronic accordions playing at this meeting: Roy, Ken Caple and Don Pandori!) Roy flew

down from Mendocino. And Lou Buonomo flew in from Dallas, Texas. The band played their Oktoberfest selection. All the tunes were well-known favorites: 6 (count 'em!) polkas—*Barbara*, *Beer Barrel*, *Just Because*, *Liechtensteiner*, *Pennsylvania* and *TickTock*. There were even more famous waltzes—*Ach Du Lieber Augustine*, *Blue Danube*, a particularly beautiful version of *Blue Skirt*, and a medley of *Du Du Leigst Mir im Herzen* and *You are the Only One*, *Edelweiss*, and *Schneewalzer*. The last one has been played by the André Rieu orchestra, but the Happy Days Band almost put them to shame! The hardcore Oktoberfest selection included *In Heaven there is No Beer*, *In Munchen There Is a Hofbrau*, *Deep In Bohemia*, And the selections were peppered with golden oldies like *Wooden Heart* (actually a German folk song, but made famous internationally by Elvis Presley). It was a glorious performance, and clearly much appreciated. Afterwards, Hubert Kallabis and Bill Tapogna played their two latest favorites, *Rancherfest* and *In Den Bergen*, such lively tunes. We really enjoyed it!



Just before the break, Bill announced a recognition of Misha Studenkov. Misha is a high school student, and like many of his cohorts very interested in music. However, Misha is also an accomplished accordion (and piano!) player. Bill pointed out that Misha is the future of the accordion in this area, and that it is great to see a young person at meetings. When time permits, Misha now practices and plays with the Sunday Seven band.



The Peter Di Bono Trio: Harriett, Steve and Peter

The Peter Di Bono Trio has played many times for SVAS. We always look forward to their return and we are never disappointed. They entertained us for over an hour and we would have loved another hour. They began with *La Vie En Rose*, followed by *Ashokan Farewell*, both of which are among Harriett's favorites. This group plays with such great feeling. Peter mentioned that the feeling is created by the left arm. He stressed how important it is to listen to what you are playing. They played some requests, *All I Ask of You*, *You Belong To My Heart*, the theme from the Shogun series, *La Paloma*, *The Anniversary Waltz*, *Time After Time*, and *The Tennessee Waltz*. The Di Bono Trio got our dancers on their feet for the tangos and waltzes. They rounded out their program with a medley from the Musical "Sound of Music," *Edelweiss*, *Do-Re-Mi*, *Climb Every Mountain*, *The Hills Are Alive*, and *My Favorite Things*. The violin and bass are perfect with the accordion as the expression can be so intense. Yes! We wanted more!

This Trio have played together for over 30 years, but also do separate gigs. Peter and Harriett played the Crown Room at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco for 6 years. Peter Di Bono has put in many 12 hour days performing, and enjoys passing his knowledge on to his students. Harriett Newhart has her own business, Starlite Strings. She provides music tailored especially for each bride and groom, 22 piece ensembles for dignitaries, and 13 strolling violins for corporate parties. Steve Hanson adds so much to the trio. Steve supports many groups, and drives over 60,000 miles going to the 300 or so music dates. As a young man, Steve got his start in music when he served in the Navy.

New Member News

A new member joined at the meeting: Matthew Noorenberghé from Mountain View. Matthew plays the accordion. We're happy that you found us and joined, Matthew. Next meeting, December 1st, please bring along your accordion for the Holiday Jam session, and introduce yourself to everyone.

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.)

ACCORDION TEACHERS:

Ernie Beran: Aptos, 831.238.4961
reeds@baymoon.com
 Gary Breitbard: Palo Alto
 650.493.0693, gary@breitbard.com
 Peter Di Bono: San Francisco,
 415.699.8674
 Reno DiBono: Lessons at Cupertino Senior Center every Tuesday, 1:30pm
 Lou Jacklich: San Lorenzo,
 510.317.9510
 Marian Kelly: Cupertino,
 650.954.3711
 Pamela Tom: Davis,
accordionpam@gmail.com
 Mike Zampiceni: Sunnyvale and Hayward, 408.569.2579
Mikezamp.com

Coming Events at SVAS:

December 1: Doors open at 1:00pm for setup.

1:30—2:15 Scheduled open mic—
call Pam
 2:20—2:55 Christmas Jam band
 3:00—3:20 Break and raffle
 3:25—4:30 Murl Sanders

Jan 5: Roberto Rosa

**Feb 2: Norwegian Dance group
 (Nordahl Grieg Leikarring og
 Spelemannslag.)**

Mar 1: Reno Di Bono Trio

SVAS BOARD of Directors / Officers

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Who's Playing???

William DeMichelis - Music with an accent, 408-375-0001. Or contact William at accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net

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 accordionpam@gmail.com

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.

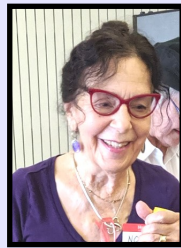
San Francisco Accordion Club (SFAC) meets on the third Sunday of the month 2:00 PM . Chetcuti Community Room, Civic Center Plaza, 450 Poplar Ave., Milbrae, CA 94030. Contact Ken Schwartz Kenneth.e.schwartz@gmail.com

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 Topogna (408) 984-5290.

The Raffle

As always, thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. It definitely helps the Society's finances.

George was the first winner, and chose an Aussie red wine. Nora preferred the Cabernet. Sandra went for the giant Christmas cookie jar. Pam, who always gets tickets for herself and her Mum, Frances, chose a can of nuts for herself and a red Merlot for Mum. Roy, who flew in from Mendocino to play in the HD band, took a Cabernet. Rosemary, who regularly provides delicious cakes and other treats, finally won and chose a Merlot. Karen, making a flying visit from Dallas, TX, won a can of nuts. Stan took the second last prize—a box of chocolates. And Colette won the last prize of a CD by Mike Alongi, a current accordion “great” who has played with Stas Venglevski and others.



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. Musicians, singers and listeners are all invited. A core group including Bill Likens (who has played at SVAS) picks the tunes, and provides a strong leadership. The session is a singalong, with handed out words. Two items to bear in mind: (i) Space in Esther’s is quite constrained. It may be standing room only on occasions. (ii) Parking can be a hassle. But it is great to find a regular, local event that includes accordions, as well as other instruments.
- Lou and Karen Buonomo attended the recent (Oct 14—17) Las Vegas International Accordion Convention. The theme was “The Roaring 20s.” Karen sent this photo, including several SVAS members that you may recognize?



- Looking forward to Sun, February 16, 2020 at 7pm, Hanzhi Wang will give “An Evening of Accordion” at the Bing Studio, Stanford University. Ms Wang’s awards and prizes are amazing, including the only accordionist to ever win a place on the roster of Young Concert Artists in its 59-year history. She has played in concert at Carnegie Hall. She lives in Copenhagen, and teaches at the famous Royal Danish Academy of Music. Thanks to Don Savant for forwarding the news. For more information, go this link:

<https://live.stanford.edu/calendar/february-2020/hanzhi-wang?>

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

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**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.**

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